

GENtoREV

EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER & JOB | LESSON 11
MONTH, DAY, YEAR

WELCOME!

- Prayer, Quick review: **“Fallen Kingdoms”**
11:00-11:15
- Discussion Groups: **Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther & Job**
11:15-11:40
- **“Return from the Exile”** Lecture, Prayer
11:40-12:10



BIG IDEA...

...from Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther & Job: “Return from the Exile”

When you wait on God and follow Him, He will bring you home...

CROSS POINTS

...from Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther & Job: “Return, Rebuild, Reform and Restore”

- ***Passover Lamb***

Ezra 6:20b

“...all of them were clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves.” ... “For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

...1 Peter 2:25

- ***Seek God’s City***

Neh. 1:9b

“...I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.” ... “...Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”

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- ***God Restores***

Job 33:26

“then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness..” ... “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

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7 ERAS OF GOD'S PLAN

- 1. **Harmony**—Genesis 1-2. In God's perfect creation, God the Father is in perfect harmony and relationship with man and woman. All mankind, created in His image, are assigned to be His overseers in charge of all creation.
- 2. **Rebellion**—Genesis 3-11. Tempted by Satan and evil, man, woman and all who succeed them fall into selfish temptation and sin against God and others. Perfect harmony with God, others and nature is broken.
- 3. **Redemption**—Genesis 12-Ruth. God makes a Covenant of Redemption with Abraham and all of Israel, to bless them. Through this covenant the whole world will be blessed.
- 4. **Fallen Kingdoms**—1 Samuel-Malachi. God allows His chosen people of Israel to self-govern with kings like all the other sinful nations. They rise and fall dramatically, but through chosen leaders and prophets He gently calls them to Himself, to follow Him in faith, waiting for a new Redeemer King.

7 ERAS OF GOD'S PLAN

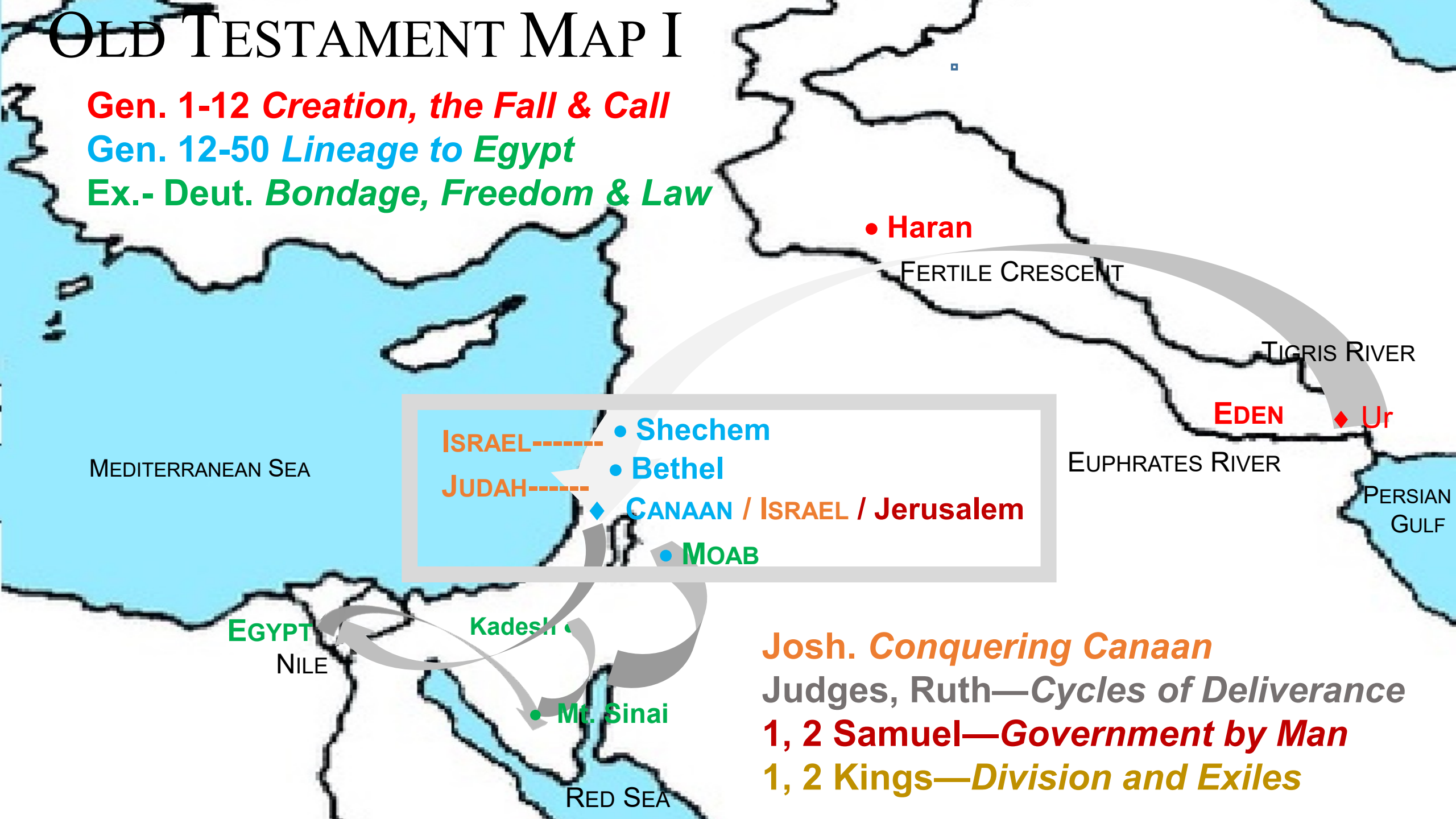
- **5. *The Kingdom of God***—Matthew-John. Christ comes as mankind's Servant and completes His redemptive work on the cross. He acclaims and proves Himself the Son of God, Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Resurrected King of Kings.
- **6. *The Church Shares the Gospel***—Acts-Jude. God the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, and counsels and guides Christians and His church in all truth throughout the world.
- **7. *Eternal Harmony with God***—Revelation. In God's final story of redemption of His people, Christ gives John and us visions of Christ's return, His final defeat of Satan and all evil on earth, and of glory in Heaven with perfect harmony for us.

OLD TESTAMENT MAP I

Gen. 1-12 *Creation, the Fall & Call*

Gen. 12-50 *Lineage to Egypt*

Ex.- Deut. *Bondage, Freedom & Law*



• Haran

FERTILE CRESCENT

TIGRIS RIVER

EDEN

◆ Ur

EUPHRATES RIVER

PERSIAN GULF

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ISRAEL-----• Shechem

JUDAH-----• Bethel

◆ CANAAN / ISRAEL / Jerusalem

• MOAB

EGYPT
NILE

Kadesh

• Mt. Sinai

RED SEA

Josh. *Conquering Canaan*

Judges, Ruth—*Cycles of Deliverance*

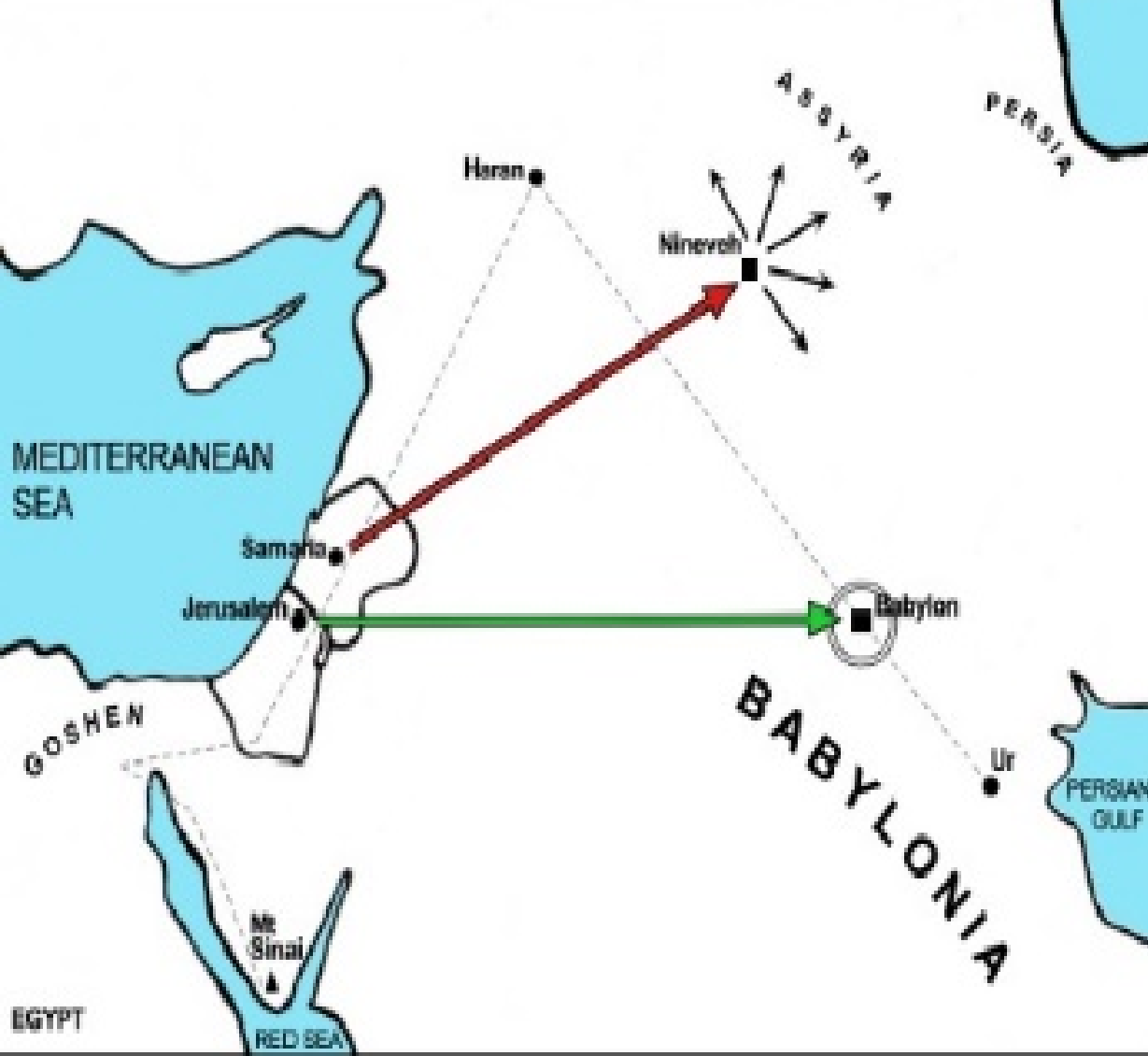
1, 2 Samuel—*Government by Man*

1, 2 Kings—*Division and Exiles*



1 Kings 12-2 Kings—*Division and Exile*

- ◆ Solomon's son **Rehoboam** was named king. He threatened forced labor.
The North revolted, **Jeroboam** became King of Israel's Northern tribes, and King Rehoboam over Judah (South). ch. 12
- ◆ King Jeroboam and his **18 successor kings** "*all did evil in the sight of the Lord.*"
2 Kings 17
- ◆ Assyria invaded and exiled Israel in 722 B.C.
- ◆ Rehoboam's **19 successor kings** included 8 who followed God, and **12** who "*did evil in the sight of the Lord.*"
- ◆ Judah was exiled to Babylon in 586 B.C.
2 Kings 23



2 Kings, 2 Chron.—*Decline and Exiles to Assyria and Babylon*

- ◆ Assyria invaded and exiled **Israel** in 722 B.C. 2 Kings 17
- ◆ **Judah** was exiled to Babylon in 586 B.C. 2 Kings 23

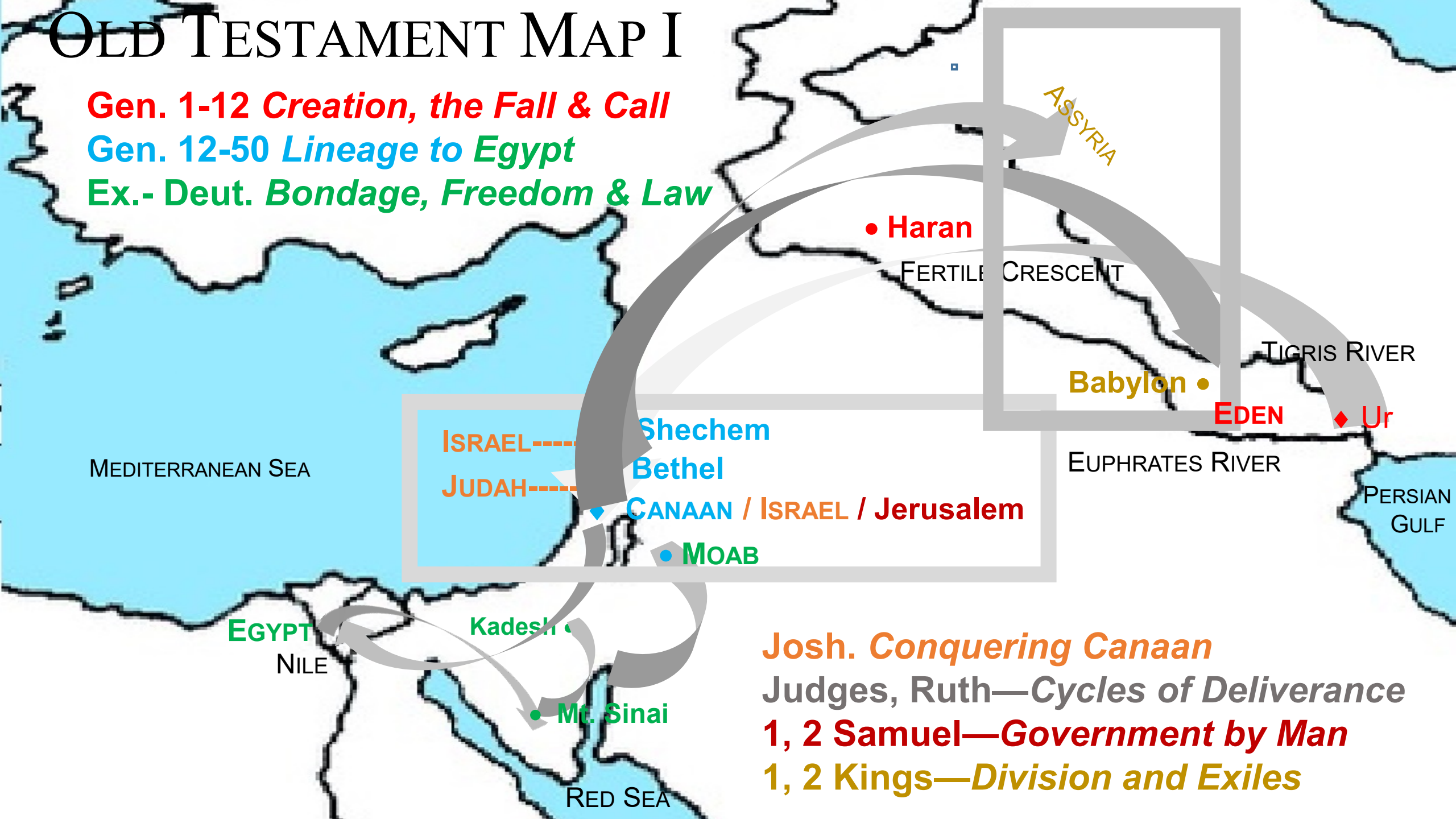
- KEY:
- From Ur to Mount Sinai
 - People of Northern Kingdom (Israel) taken to Assyria and dispersed
 - People of Southern Kingdom (Judah) taken to Babylon

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EGYPT
NILE

RED SEA

ISRAEL
JUDAH

Shechem

Bethel

CANAAN / ISRAEL / Jerusalem

MOAB

Kadesh

Mt. Sinai

Haran

FERTILE CRESCENT

ASSYRIA

Babylon

EDEN

Ur

TIGRIS RIVER

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PERSIAN GULF

Josh. *Conquering Canaan*

Judges, Ruth—*Cycles of Deliverance*

1, 2 Samuel—*Government by Man*

1, 2 Kings—*Division and Exiles*



RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

- 1. Ezra and Nehemiah—Israel returned to Jerusalem to Rebuild the City of David.**

Ezra, Nehemiah

RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

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Ezra, Nehemiah

2. **Esther**—God used **Esther and Mordecai** to **protect Jews** still under Persian Exile.

Esther

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Esther

3. **Job**—subject to **sin, trials and troubles**, Job **sought only God** for answers.

Job

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RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

1. Return, Rebuild, Reform & Restore

Ezra, Neh.

- a. **God inspired King Cyrus** of Persia to **release the exiles** and **rebuild Jerusalem** (Ezra Ch. 1-2).
- b. **Zerubbabel** led the **Temple rebuilding** (Ch. 3-6), and **Ezra returned to teach the Law** (Ch. 7-9).
- c. **Nehemiah returned to rebuild the wall** (Neh. Ch. 1-6) and **Ezra restored the Covenant** (Ch. 7-13).

RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

KEY VERSES

*“Thus says **Cyrus king of Persia**: The Lord, the **God of heaven**, has given me **all the kingdoms** of the earth, and **he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem**, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and **let him go up to Jerusalem**, which is in Judah, and **rebuild the house of the Lord**, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem,” ... “**Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites. Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign**, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, O my God, for good,**”
Ezra 1:2-3 ... Neh. 13:29-31*

RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

2. **God used Esther and Mordecai to protect Jews still under Persian Exile.**

Esther

- a. **Esther** was picked as **new Queen** (Ch. 1-2). **Mordecai** revealed **Haman's murder plot** (Ch. 3-6).
- b. **King Ahasuerus** ordered **Haman's death** (Ch. 7), and made **Mordecai his new executive** (Ch. 8).
- c. The King made a **new decree protecting Israel** (Ch. 9-10).

RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

KEY VERSES

“On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.”... “And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them,”

Esther 8:1-2 ... 17

RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

3. Subject to sin, trials and troubles, Job sought only God for answers.

Job

- a. **God allows suffering. We all sin, and Satan tempts even the righteous** (Job Ch. 1, and see James Ch. 1).
- b. **Job's friends debate** his innocence (Ch. 4), **wickedness** (Ch. 15), and **God's roles** (Chs. 5, 7, 12, 24).
- c. **Job firmly trusted God** (Chs. 31, 40), **confessed, repented, and God restored him twofold** (Ch. 42).



RETURN, REBUILD, REFORM & RESTORE

KEY VERSES

“Then Job answered the Lord and said: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.’ ... ‘therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes,’” Job 42:1-2 ... 6

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NEXT WEEK

- Read and Answer Questions: **Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon**
- Discussion Groups
- **“Worship, Wisdom, Preaching and Song”** Lecture