



Timeline Project Instructions



The student will research and present an Old Testament Timeline in seven steps over the course of all seven modules.

The goal of this project is for the student to understand how the Old Testament fits into real history, and how all the events, characters and books of the Old Testament fit together as a whole. The resulting resource will serve as a reference for the student to review the entire Old Testament in one view.

The final timeline will include these three items:

- Major Old Testament events in proper chronological order (deciding which events are “Major,” and should be included, is part of this activity).
- Major Old Testament characters in proper chronological order (deciding which characters are “Major,” and should be included, is part of this activity).
- Every Old Testament book. The books of the primary and secondary histories (Genesis-Esther) will be placed according to their historical contents. The remaining books (Job-Malachi) will be placed according to the time of their writing.
- A fourth item is optional – major secular events and people that parallel Biblical events, which will help the student see the relationship between Biblical history and other world history.
- Artwork is not necessary, but can be included as the student is inclined.

The timeline should follow this format:

- The placing of events should be as accurate as possible. As dates become uncertain (before 1000 BC) choose a reasonable date and mark it with a question mark. For instance, there are two general time periods possible for the Exodus. You must choose one of the two and be consistent, but either choice is acceptable. It is more important to mark the correct, consistent chronological relationship between people and the events than to have an absolutely accurate date (for the uncertain dates).
- Keep the time periods proportionate. For instance, the 400 years between Genesis and Exodus would be indicated with 10 times more space than the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.
- The timeline may be on paper, or in an electronic format – whichever format the student finds convenient. A web search will find a number of free timeline creation resources which may be helpful (remember, the point of this activity is not to learn software, so if it is difficult to use, consider a different format). The timeline should be in a format that is workable and allows the final project is legible and accessible for the student to keep for their long-term reference.

Your class notes and Textbook are the first resource for research. Other resources should be used to supplement when necessary. Study Bibles and Bible dictionaries, as well as online resources can be helpful.

Keep a working copy of the timeline, because timeline activities for each subsequent module will build on previous modules. Therefore, the student will add more information to the same file or paper when completing this activity for subsequent weeks.