

OLD TESTAMENT
4000 TO 400 B.C.
GARDEN OF EDEN TO NEHEMIAH

ERA SUMMARY – OLD TESTAMENT

Bible stories rewritten for children are always a favorite of elementary school students, and many are so well done that a solid understanding of all the major stories of the Bible is accessible to school-aged children. Younger students are surprisingly adept at picking up ironic, moral, or humorous anecdotes. One only needs to read [*Aesop for Children*](#) to a kindergartener to realize how sensitive youngsters are to moral lessons.

From the first sin in the Garden of Eden to the heroic lives and adventures of the Apostles, the Young Readers' collection of Bible stories offers a vibrant and entertaining take on traditional Biblical tales, without reducing the moral and spiritual impact of these stories. These tales focus mainly on Biblical heroes and heroines, retelling their lives and stories in a similar manner to popular fairy tales.

One of our favorite Children's Bibles is Steedman's beautifully illustrated [*Nursery Book of Bible Stories*](#). It was the primary source for the Young Readers' Biblical **Study Questions**, but many Children's Bibles feature similar stories. Evan's [*Heroes of Israel*](#) and Chisholm's [*Stories from the Old Testament*](#) also provide an excellent selection of Old Testament stories rewritten for young readers. Several other Children's Bibles, including [*The Story of the Bible*](#), [*The Story of the Chosen People*](#), and [*Children's Bible - New Testament*](#) are available in the Heritage History collection, but they are significantly longer and more detailed than those included in the Young Readers collection.



FIRE AND BRIMSTONE SHALL BE RAINED
UPON THE CITY

CHARACTERS – OLD TESTAMENT

Dates associated with many Old Testament characters, especially those who lived before 1000 B.C., are estimates.

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS

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| Adam | ~ 5500 BC | First Man, father of mankind, ate an apple in the Garden of Eden. |
| Noah | ~ 4000 BC | Built and Ark and survived the Great Flood with his wife and children. |
| Abraham | d. 1800 BC | First Prophet in the Hebrew bible. Traveled from Ur in Mesopotamia and founded the nation of Israel. |
| Jacob | ~ 1900 BC | Biblical patriarch. His sons by two wives and their handmaids formed the twelve tribes of Israel. |
| Moses | ~ 1400 BC | Prophet who led the Hebrews out of Egypt, and authored the first five books of the Old Testament. |
| Joshua | ~ 1350 BC | Warrior who became leader of the Israelites after the death of Moses, and conquered Canaan. |
| Gideon | ~ 1100 BC | Early Judge who led the Israelites to victory over the Midianites |
| Ruth | ~ 1050 BC | Biblical heroine who accompanies her mother-in-law to Bethlehem and becomes the grandmother of David. |
| David | ~ 1000 BC | Second King of the united Kingdom of Israel. Great warrior and musician, righteous and pious. |
| Solomon | ~ 950 BC | Third King of Israel, known for wealth and wisdom. Built the first temple of Jerusalem. |
| Jonah | ~ 800 BC | Biblical Prophet who was called by God to preach to Nineveh and was swallowed by a whale. |
| Isaiah | ~ 700 BC | Biblical prophet of the 8th century B.C. Author of the book of Isaiah. |
| Nebuchadnezzar | 645–561 BC | King who conquered much of Assyria and made his capital at Babylon. |
| Daniel | 620–520 BC | Taken as a hostage to Babylon as a youth. Minister of Babylon, interpreter of dreams, and prophet. |
| Esther | ~ 585 BC | Persian Queen who protected the Jews in the kingdom. |
| Judas Maccabee | d. 160 BC | Lead a Jewish rebellion during the reign of the Syrian King Antiochus V. |

TIMELINE – OLD TESTAMENT

Dates associated with Old Testament events, especially those before 1000 B.C., are estimates.

- ~5600 Creation, Adam and Eve
- ~3950 [Noah's Flood](#)
- ~2000 Life of [Abraham](#), Birth of [Isaac](#)
- ~1300 Life of [Moses](#) and Exodus from Egypt
- ~1000 Life of [King David](#)
- ~930 [Solomon](#) builds first Temple in Jerusalem. Kingdom is divided shortly afterward.
- ~587 [Nebuchadnezzar](#) conquers Judea, destroys Temple, Babylonian Captivity.
- ~538 [Cyrus the Great](#) conquers Babylon, allows Jews to return to Judah.
- ~516 Nehemiah rebuilds Jerusalem, begins construction of a New Temple.
- ~160 Rededication of the Temple during Revolt of the Maccabees (commemorated by Hanukkah).

RECOMMENDED READING – OLD TESTAMENT

- Steedman - [Nursery Book of Bible Stories](#) [The Beautiful World](#) to [Nehemiah Warrior Builder](#) (24)
- Evans - [Heroes of Israel](#) *entire book*
- Chisholm - [Stories from the Old Testament](#) *entire book*