

# How to Use the Red Letters - PART 2

## *Understanding Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John*

“... though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more”

– 2 Corinthians 5:16

### 1. Their Prophetic Place

- a. It was the appointed time – Gal 4:4, Isa 61:1-2 (Luke 4:17-20)
- b. Israel's history bears out the 5 courses of punishment promised in Lev 26:14-39
- c. But prophecies foretold of an everlasting kingdom – Amos 9:11, Zec 14:8, Gen 13, 17
- d. Daniel figures out the times appointed for him, then is given the prophetic timeline
  - i. Prophecies of kings & kingdoms already given – Dan 2:30-45 & 8:19-27
  - ii. 70 years of captivity calculated – Jer 25:7-13 & 29:10 (*v.11!*)
  - iii. Confessional prayer for the sins of the nations – Dan 9:2-19
  - iv. Lev 26:40-46 answered & 70 week prophecy given–Dan9:20-27, 2Ch 36:21
- e. Including a famine of God's words (400-year silence) – Mic 3:6-7, Amos 8:11 (*Jn 1:1*)
  - i. Where Israel will wander – Amos 8:12 (*Mat 9:36*)
  - ii. And faint for thirst – Amos 8:13 (*John 7:7-14 & 7:38*)
- f. Leaving Israel needing the law (& a healing) before facing the wrath of God – Mal 4

### 2. Their Prophetic Perspectives

- a. Israel's prophecies were not always clear before Jesus Christ came – 1Pet 1:10-11
- b. A promised, anointed deliverer is clear – Dan 9:24-26, Hab 3:13, Isa 11:1-4 & 61:1-2
- c. But they had a promised person(s) problem:
  - i. A prince, ruler, king? – 2Sam 7:8-16, Mic 5:2, Jer 23:5, Isa 11:10
  - ii. A suffering servant? – Isa 52-53, Zec 12:10, Psa 22 & 69, Isa 49:7, Zec 3:8
  - iii. Is he just a (one) man? – Zec 6:12, Isa 55:1-5, Ezk 37:21-28 (*Num 23:19??*)
  - iv. Is he God himself? – Isa 9:6 & 12:2, Psa 18:2 & 102:16, Jer 50:34
- d. MMLJ provide 4 different perspectives of Jesus to help make sense of the prophecies
- e. Mt = Jesus as King | Mk = Jesus as Servant | Lk = Jesus as Man | Jn = Jesus as God

### 3. Their Prophetic Preaching

- a. Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah & King – Mt 16:20, Mk 8:29, Lk 22:67-71, Jn 1:41-45
- b. The gospel of Israel's earthly kingdom at hand – Mt 9:35, Mk 1:15, Lk 10:11, Jn 3:3
- c. To Israel only (not Gentiles) – Mt 10:5-6 & 15:24, Mk 7:25-27, Lk 24:47, Jn 4:22
- d. Under the law – Mt 5:17 & 23:2-3, Mk 1:44, Lk 10:25-28 & 16:17, Jn 7:14-24
- e. According to the covenants made w/ the fathers – Mt 8:11, Mk 12:26, Lk 1:72, Jn 8:56
- f. Water baptizing for the remission of sins – Mt 3:6, Mk 16:16, Lk 7:29, Jn 4:1
- g. Healed of sickness, disease, & death – Mt 10:1, Mk 6:13, Lk 10:9, Jn 6:2
- h. To be priests of God over the nations – Mat 19:28, Mk 10:42, Lk 22:30, Jn 20:21-23
- i. Who survive God's wrath & judgment on the world–Mt 3:7, Mk 6:11, Lk 21:23, Jn 3:36
- j. To receive salvation in the future – Mt 24:13-14, Mk 13:13, Lk 13:23-24, Jn 10:9

# The Gospel Accounts Provide Four Different Perspectives Showing the Many Prophecies Fulfilled in One Jesus Christ as...

Two accounts that speak the most of God's coming judgment & wrath—shows authority over man as God & King

Two accounts that are most similar—shows the prophesied king & suffering servant to be one & the

Two accounts with the most post-resurrection events—helps show Jesus as fully God and fully man

MATTHEW

MARK

JOHN

LUKE

## KING

2Sam 7:8-16, Mic 5:2, Jer 23:5, Isa 11:10

- **Royal Genealogy** (Mat 1:1-16) - “son of David” (2Sam 7:12-13), “son of Abraham” (Gen 12:7)
- **Focus:** teachings, sermons, parables, doctrine, rules/laws of the kingdom
- **Ends:** All power given to Christ, commanding to go teach His commandments to all (Mat 28:19-20)

*Uses the words “king”, “kingdom”, and “fulfilled” more than any other gospel account. Only book the phrase “kingdom of heaven” appears in the Bible*

Zec 9:9

Isa 52:13-15

## SERVANT

Isa 52-53, Zec 12:10, Psa 22 & 69, Isa 49:7, Zec 3:8

- **No Genealogy** - fitting for a despised and rejected servant (Psa 22:6, Isa 53:2)
- **Focus:** miracles and works Jesus performed
- **Ends:** Disciples going forth, preaching, the Lord working miracles & signs with them (Mk 16:20)

*Little emphasis on teaching (only 4 parables in the book)*

*Concentrates mostly on the work Jesus did*

*(Mark 10:45)*

Isa 43:15  
Psa 24:7-8

## GOD

Isa 12:2, & 45:21, Psa 10:16 & 102:16, Jer 50:34

- **Statement of Deity** (John 1:1-5) - “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God.”
- **Focus:** Jesus is the Christ; Life only through Jesus Christ; Jesus is God (John 20:31, 5:23, 8:54, 10:30-33)
- **Ends:** 2 entire chapters recording post resurrection happenings of Jesus, including giving the apostles the authority to remit and retain peoples' sins

*Resurrection was the greatest proof Jesus is God.*

*Most “salvation” verses found in John because only God can save, and Jesus claims to be able to save.*

Isa 7:14

Isa 9:6

## MAN

Zec 6:12, Isa 55:1-5, Ezk 37:21-28 (vs. Num 23:19?)

- **Human Genealogy** (Luke 3:23-38) - “Jesus...the son of [the first man] Adam, which was the son of God.”
- **Focus:** life events, people, & compassion
- **Ends:** Disciples waiting for power from on high, returning to Jerusalem with joy, worshipping in the temple, praising God (this is what humans do...)

*Accounts found only in Luke: Good Samaritan, Mary & Martha's House, Parables of the Prodigal Son & Rich Man/Lazarus, Penitent Malefactor on the Cross*

Isa 49:1-5  
Isa 53:10-11

Only two accounts to record the ascension—shows the glorification of the servant/man Jesus Christ

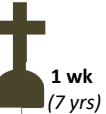
# Basic Chronology

Old Testament Books with Highlights from Israel's History & How Matthew, Mark, Luke & John Fit into the Scope of Prophecy

## DANIEL'S 70 Weeks (of years) Prophecy

Daniel 9:24-27

Daniel receives prophetic timeline for Israel's Messiah and coming kingdom after accepting Israel's punishment according to the terms of the covenant Dan 9:1-19, Lev 26:40-46

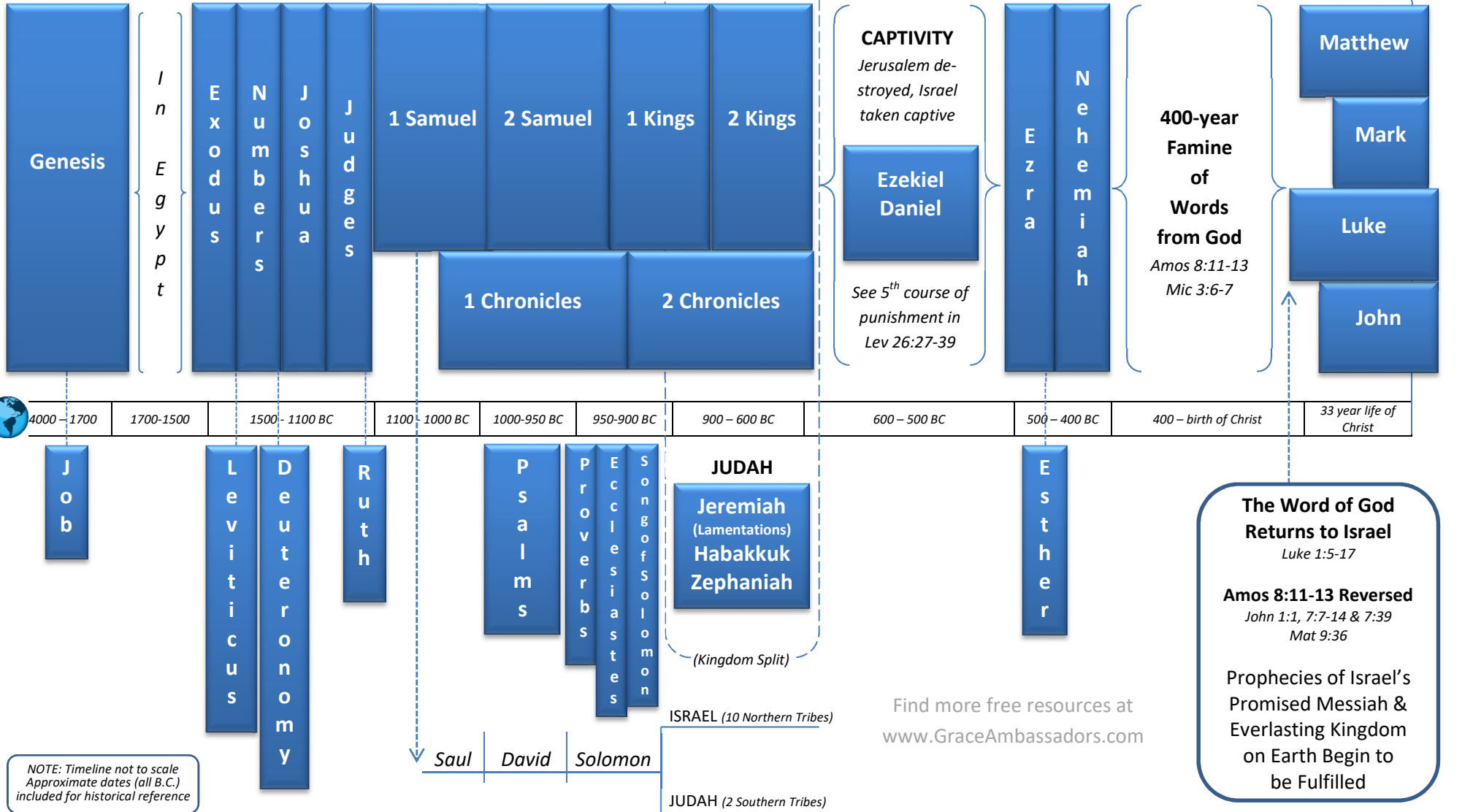


70 years  
Exile in Babylon

Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

7 weeks  
(49 years)

62 weeks until Messiah is cut off  
(434 years)



NOTE: Timeline not to scale  
Approximate dates (all B.C.)  
included for historical reference