

CONTENTS

Introduction9



In the beginning 11
 TIMELINE: Creation to the Flood 12
 Who are the Patriarchs? What about Job?..... 14
 Map of Abraham’s World..... 15
 TIMELINE: Abraham to Joseph..... 16
 A slave and a prince..... 18
 Map of Israel’s wanderings..... 19
 TIMELINE: Moses to Joshua..... 20



The special cities..... 25
 TIMELINE: Judges..... 26
 The “ites” and “stines”..... 28
 What’s with those long lists of names?..... 29
 TIMELINE: Samuel and Saul 30
 Saul: the king who got it wrong..... 32
 David: the soldier/musician King..... 33
 TIMELINE: King David..... 34



Solomon the builder 37
 TIMELINE: King Solomon 38
 Solomon the writer..... 40
 The Kingdom 41
 TIMELINE: Kings and prophets (part 1)..... 42
 What makes a prophet? 44
 The Assyrians are Coming!..... 45
 TIMELINE: Kings and prophets (part 2)..... 46



**PART 4:
EXILE AND RETURN 48**

Down with the Assyrians and up with the
Babylonians 49

TIMELINE: Israel in exile: Judah remains..... 50

Welcome to the exile 52

Those Persians 53

TIMELINE: Exile and beyond 54

The story so far 56

The Hammer..... 57

TIMELINE: Between the Old
and New Testaments..... 58



**PART 5:
THE MESSIAH 60**

The silence is broken..... 61

TIMELINE: John the Baptist to Jesus' ministry .. 62

Follow Jesus' footsteps 64

Who's who 65

TIMELINE: Jesus' ministry continued 66

How the Passover became the Lord's Supper.... 68

Follow Jesus' footsteps from the upper room
to the cross 69

TIMELINE: The Transfiguration to the
Ascension 70



**PART 6:
THE EARLY CHURCH 72**

How the Romans helped spread Christianity .. 73

TIMELINE: The church begins..... 74

Map of Paul's journeys, but not his
journey to Rome 76

The Jews, the Gentiles and the church..... 77

TIMELINE: The first missionaries 78

Women in the early church..... 82

Paul's journey to Rome..... 83

TIMELINE: The church grows 84

Acknowledgements 88

Bibliography 89

Image index..... 90

About the author..... 93