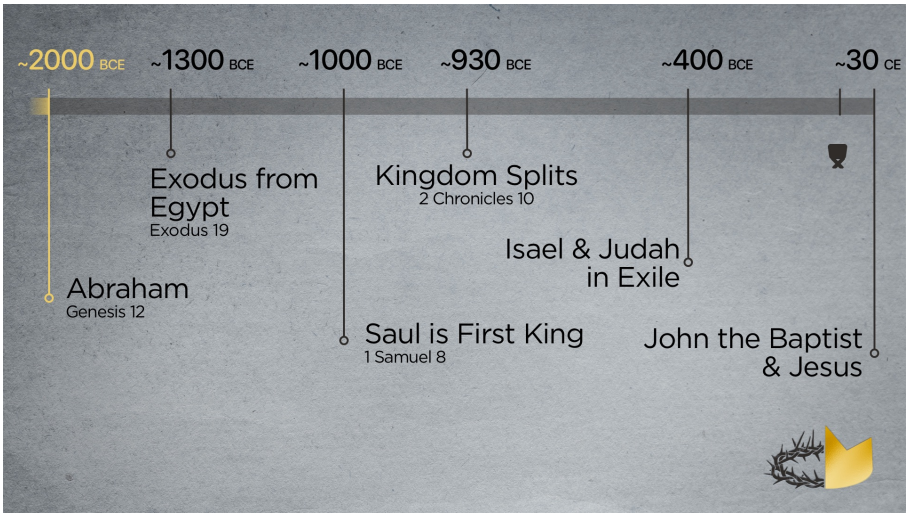
What is the Kingdom of Heaven?
June 6, 2021

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

The 5 Elements of a biblical "kingdom" (Scot McKnight)

1. There must be a King.
2. The king must rule.
3. The king must rule a people.
4. The people must live by an ethic.
5. The people must live in a land.

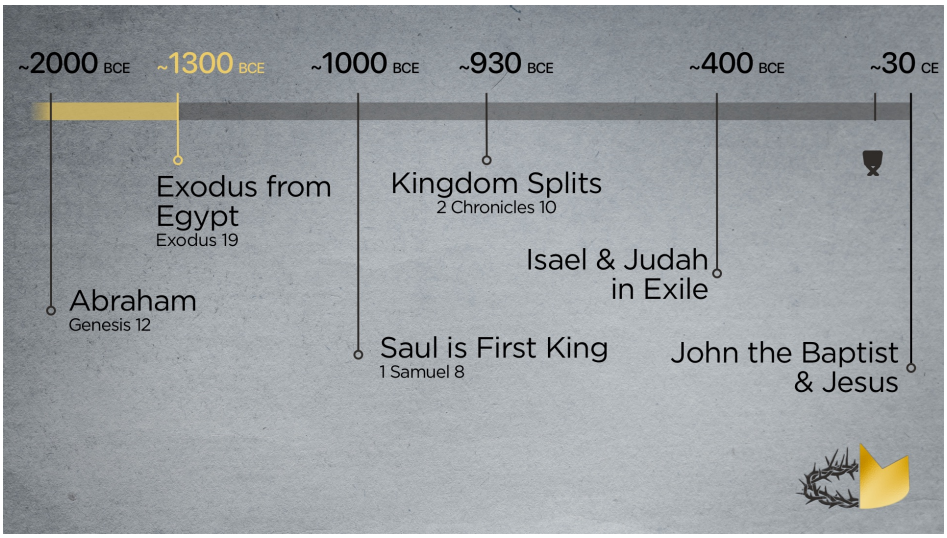
Defined: The Kingdom of Heaven is "wherever we see the rule or the reign of God."



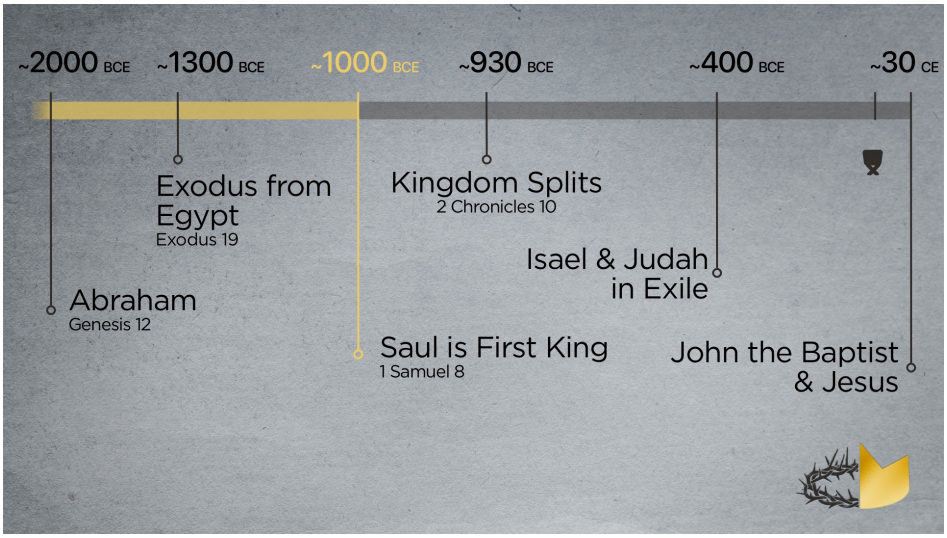
Genesis 12:1-3 "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.[a] 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

We see three elements in this promise:

- God promises land.
- God promises people.
- God promises to bless Abraham.



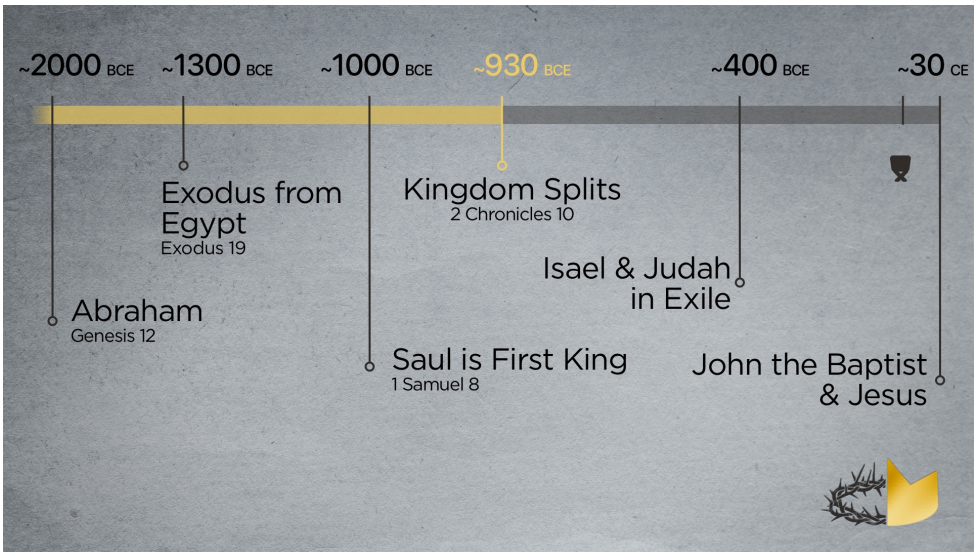
Exodus 19:3-6 “Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

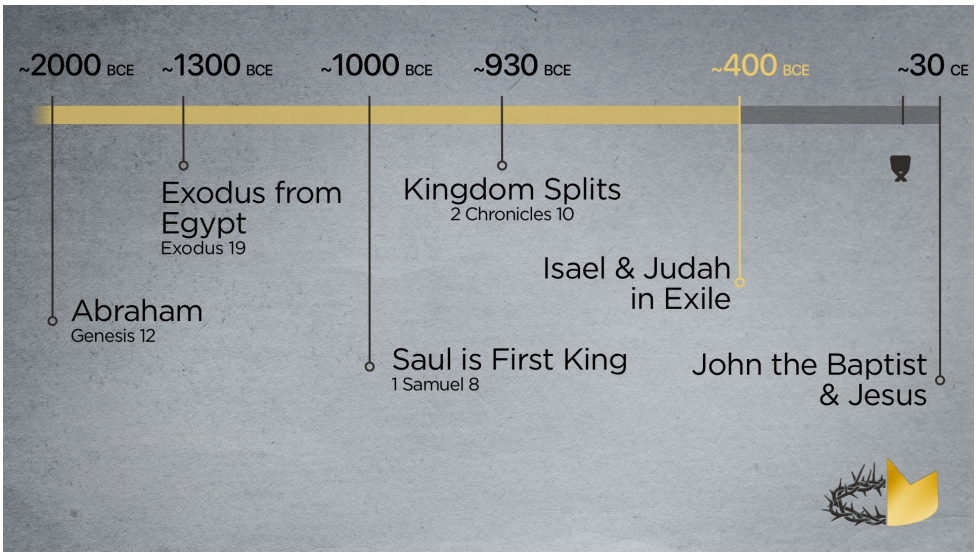


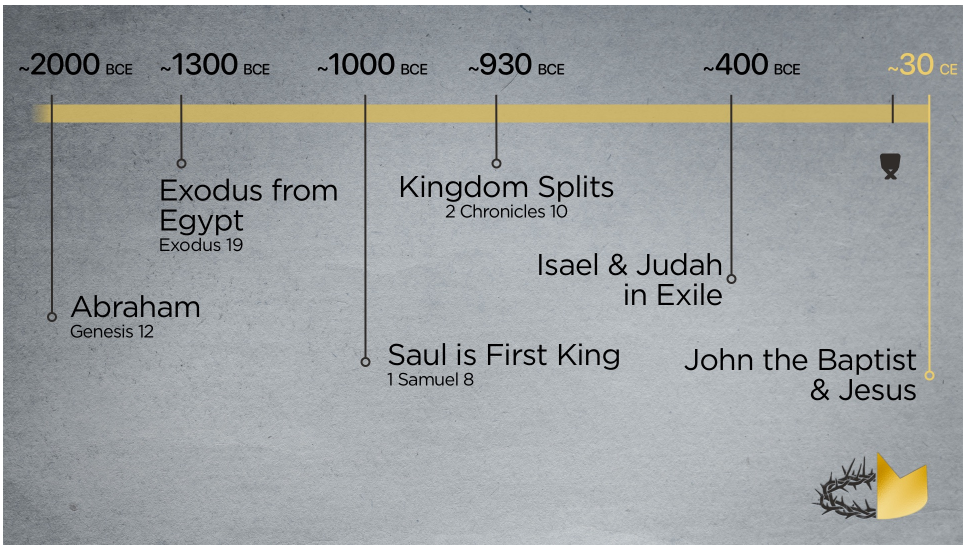
1 Sam 8:1-9 “When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders.[a] 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. 4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at

Ramah. 5 They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead[b] us, such as all the other nations have." 6 But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord.

7 And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. 8 As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you 9 Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."







The first thing Jesus calls people to do in his kingdom is <u>repent</u>.

Matthew 4:17 “From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Luke 3:3-11
3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
6 And all people will see God's salvation.'"[a]

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. 11 John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Lesson 1: God wants us to leverage our <u>assets</u> for the good of those in <u>need</u>.

Luke 3: 12-13
12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Lesson 2: God wants us to simply do the <u>right</u> <u>thing</u>.

Luke 3:14
14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Lesson 3: God wants us to be <u>content</u>.

Philippians 4:12-13 "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.