AN OUTLINE OF FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE KNOWLEDGE
A Study Guide for the Biblical Literacy Entrance Exam of the
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

Revised September 24, 2007

General

- The number of canonical books in the Protestant English Bible, and how many in each Testament.
- The names and order of all the books in the Protestant English Bible.
- The meaning of canon, apocrypha, and pseudepigrapha.
- Which languages the Bible was originally written in and which books contain these languages.
- Know the names, significance, and order of the Jewish festivals mentioned in the Old and New Testaments.
- The major events and developments of the Intertestamental Period (based on the article, "The Period Between the Testaments" in Volume 5 of the SDA Bible Commentary).
- The kinds of translation (literal, dynamic equivalence, paraphrase).
- The production of Biblical manuscripts
- The purpose of textual criticism.
- General geography of Bible Lands (map knowledge; see "Old Testament Place List" and "New Testament Place List" below).
- The nature and use of the following Bible study tools: Bible Handbook, Bible Dictionary, Lexicon, Concordance, Bible Atlas, Bible Commentary, marginal notes and footnotes (What kind of information would be sought and found in each?).

Old Testament

- The four major divisions of the Septuagint/English Bible.
- The three major divisions of the Hebrew Bible.
- What was created on each day of the creation week.
- The Three Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) and their stories.
- The Twelve Tribes.
- Memorize the Ten Commandments and where they are found (any translation, but all the pieces must be there in proper order).
- General sequence of the major events, persons, and eras of the history of Israel (in relative chronology; see "OT Timeline").
- Identification of all persons listed on the “OT Timeline” (including not only persons listed under the “People” column, but also persons in the names of Biblical books and those in the “Events” column of the Timeline).
- Approximate dates of major periods in Old Testament history (see OT Timeline).
- The events of the Exodus (date: ca. 1450 B.C.).
- The events and lives of David and Solomon.
- Memorize Psalm 23.
Major kings of Israel (see supporting lists below): identify major events during their reign and list in chronological order.

The events and ministries of Elijah and Elisha.

Major kings of Judah (see supporting lists below): identify major events during their reign and list in chronological order.

The events of the Exile and Return (dates: B.C. 722, 605, 586, 539, 457).

The basic ideas in each chapter of Daniel.

The work of Ezra and Nehemiah

The tabernacle and two temples (builders, layout, services and major festivals).

Major and Minor Prophets: identify and list in order of Biblical books (Protestant English Bible)

New Testament

The five major divisions of the New Testament.

The general chronology and major events of the life of Jesus.

The names of the Twelve Apostles.

The basic ideas and parts of the Sermon on the Mount

Memorize the beatitudes as found in Matthew 5: 3-12

Memorize the Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13

Know the parables of Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 15.

The relationships and differences found between the Synoptic Gospels and John.

Know the difference between Herod’s temple and the synagogues and their basic functions.

The work and writings of the Apostle Paul; the classification of his writings.

The authors and general contents of the General Epistles.

The basic ideas and parts of the book of Revelation.

The basic events and contours of Apostolic History, based on the book of Acts.

Memorize the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 and know where they are found.

Main events and figures in the history of Palestine and the Roman Empire in the first century A.D. (see supporting lists below).
### Supporting Lists

#### Old Testament Lists

#### Place List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nile River</td>
<td>Samaria (city)</td>
<td>Red Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphrates River</td>
<td>Dan (city)</td>
<td>Haran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan River</td>
<td>Beersheba</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Sea</td>
<td>Heshbon</td>
<td>Assyria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Sinai (Sinai Peninsula)</td>
<td>Shiloh</td>
<td>Babylonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Carmel</td>
<td>Shechem</td>
<td>Canaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babylon (City)</td>
<td>Hebron</td>
<td>Persia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineveh</td>
<td>Ammon (country)</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>Moab (country)</td>
<td>Jericho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Edom (country)</td>
<td>Philistia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Major Kings of Judah (in chronological order)

- Rehoboam
- Asa
- Jehoshaphat
- Joash
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah
- Manasseh
- Josiah
- Jehoiakim
- Zedekiah

#### Major Kings of Israel (in chronological order)

- Jeroboam I
- Baasha
- Omri
- Ahab
- Jehu
- Jehoahaz
- Jereboam II
- Menahem
- Pekah
- Hoshea
### Old Testament Time Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES*</th>
<th>BOOKS</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+/-4000BC</td>
<td>Genesis 1-11</td>
<td>The World Before Abraham</td>
<td>Creation; The Fall The Flood The Tower of Babel</td>
<td>Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth Enoch, Methuselah Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Genesis 12-50</td>
<td>The Age of the Patriarchs</td>
<td>Call of Abraham</td>
<td>Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Lot, Esau, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah, Dinah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Job</td>
<td></td>
<td>Migration to Egypt</td>
<td>Jacob's 12 Sons, Hammurabi, Hyksos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>Exodus 1-11</td>
<td>Egyptian Bondage</td>
<td>Oppression in Egypt</td>
<td>A new line of Pharaohs (18th Dynasty?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>Exodus 12-40</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Exodus</td>
<td>Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Balak, Balaam</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Leviticus</td>
<td>Wilderness Wanderings (ca. 1450-1410 BC)</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai Sanctuary</td>
<td>Caleb, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300</td>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>Time of the Judges (ca. 1375-1050 BC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deborah, Gideon, Jael, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah, Boaz, Naomi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Deuteronomy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Samuel, Hannah, Eli Saul, David, Jonathan, Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite, Michal, Abigail, Hiram King of Tyre, Jezebel, Naaman, Baruch, Huldah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jerusalem as capital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Judges</td>
<td></td>
<td>Temple Built</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>Ruth</td>
<td>United Monarchy (ca. 1050-931 BC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I-I Samuel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I Kings, I Chron. Psalms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>II Chronicles Prov., Eccl. Song of Sol. II Kings, Joel</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
<td>Divided Kingdom (Israel: ca. 931-722 BC; Judah: ca. 931-586 BC)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Revolt of Jeroboam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Century</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 800     | Jonah, Amos  
        | Hosea  
        | Isaiah, Micah  
        | Nahum  
        | Jerem., Zeph.,  
        | Hab., Obad.,  
        | Lamentations  
        | Ezekiel, Daniel,  
        | Haggai, Zech.  
        | Exile (ca. 605-536 BC)  
        | Return from Exile  
        | Destruction of Samaria  
        | By Sargon II or  
        | Shalmaneser V  
        | Finding Book of the  
        | Law  
        | Destruction of  
        | Jerusalem  
        | Decree of Cyrus  
        | Decree of Artaxerxes  
        | Close of Old  
        | Testament History  
        | Jehovah, Elisha  
        | Tiglath-pileser III (Pul)  
        | Hezekiah, Sennacherib  
        | Manasseh  
        | Josiah, Necho  
        | Nebuchadnezzar  
        | Zerubbabel, Belshazzar,  
        | Joshua the High Priest  
        | Esther, Mordecai,  
        | Ahasuerus (Xerxes)  
        | Ezra  
        | Nehemiah |
| 700     | Esther, Ezra  
        | Nehemiah  
        | Malachi |
| 600     | Nehemiah  
        | Malachi |
| 500     | Nehemiah  
        | Malachi |
| 400     | Intertestamental Period  
        | (ca. 400 BC-Birth of  
        | Christ) |

* All dates are approximate.
New Testament Lists

Place List

Sea of Galilee                Nazareth                Greece
Jordan River                  Capernaum               Italy
Mediterranean Sea            Caesarea Maritima        Antioch
Dead Sea                     Cyprus                  Ephesus
Jerusalem                    Crete                   Corinth
Bethlehem                    Asia (Roman Province)   Rome
Jericho

Main Events and Figures in the History of Palestine and the Roman Empire in the First Century A.D.

Please be prepared to identify the roles that the following play in Biblical events.

Roman emperors (in order)

Augustus                     Claudius                Titus
Tiberius                     Nero                    Domitian
Gaius Caligula               Vespasian

Local rulers (in order)

Herod the Great               Herod Philip            Herod Agrippa I
Archelaus                     Herod Antipas           Herod Agrippa II
Philip the Tetrarch

Roman governors (prefects/procurators)

Pilate            Felix            Festus

High Priests

Annas I            Caiaphas
Other Important New Testament Characters

Anna
Ananias and Saphira
Apollos
Aquillus
Barrabus
Barnabus
Bernice
Damaris
Demetrius
Diotrephes
Dursilla
Epaphroditus
Eutychus
Gaius
Gallio
Herodias
Jairus
James and Jude
John the Baptist
Joseph Junia
Lazarus
Luke
Mary (wife of Joseph)
Lydia
Mary and Martha
Mary Magdalene
Philemon
Phoebe
Prisca/Priscilla
Rhoda
Salome
Sergius
Paulus
Silas/Silvanus
Stephen
Theophilus
Timothy
Titus
Zacharias
Zaccheus
Zebedee

Jewish sects and movements

Zealots
Sadducees
Pharisees
Essenes and Qumran
community

John the Baptist

Events

Roman conquest of Palestine
Beginning of the Roman Empire
Death of Herod the Great
Building and completion of the Temple
Birth-baptism-crucifixion-
resurrection-ascension of Jesus
Death of John the Baptist
Baptism of the house of
Cornelius
"Council" of Jerusalem
Nero's persecution and death
of Peter and Paul
Death of James the Just (the Lord's brother)
Jewish Revolt and Destruction of Jerusalem/Temple
Domitianic persecution

Dates

4 B.C. (death of Herod the Great);
A.D. 27 (Jesus begins his ministry)
31 (Jesus crucified), 34 (stoning of Stephen)
51-52 (Gallio’s term as proconsul [Paul in Corinth])
70 (destruction of Jerusalem and Temple)