Clarifying the Bible: Developing a Better Understanding of the Bible as a Whole

The Main Focus

1. The Bible is the _____, _____, and _____ Word of God.
    a. Inspired -

    b. Inerrant -

    c. Authoritative -
2. The Bible is _____ book which consists of _____ individual books.
    a. Consider the Bible was:
        i. Written over a period of _____ years.
        ii. Written by over _____ different authors from various walks of life.
        iii. Written in _____ different languages.
        iv. Written on _____ different continents.
        v. Written utilizing many different types of literary _____.
    b. Yet amongst all that diversity, from Genesis to Revelation, the Bible demonstrates an incredible unity that leads us to the truth that it was written by a single author!
3. The Bible's 66 books are divided into ___ testaments, the Old Testament with ____ books and the New Testament with ____ books.
4. The Big Picture of the Bible can be understood in terms of 5 _____ divisions:
    a. _____ (Genesis - Malachi)
    b. _____ (Matthew - John)
    c. _____ (Acts)
    d. _____ (Romans - Jude)
    e. _____ (Revelation)
5. The Old Testament consists of _____ books written _____ the birth of Christ.
6. The 39 books of the Old Testament are divided into _____ historical books, _____ poetic books, and _____ prophetic books.
    a. _____ Historical (Pentateuch) = Genesis - Deuteronomy
    b. _____ Historical (Israel) = Joshua - Esther
    c. _____ Poetic = Job - Song of Solomon
    d. _____ Prophetic (Major) = Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel
    e. _____ Prophetic (Minor) = Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

7. The key to understanding the Old Testament is to realize that the first 17 Historical Books cover the entire _____ of the Old Testament, from creation to approximately 400 B.C., while the remaining 5 Poetic Books and 17 Prophetic Books _____ at proper places within that storyline.
8. The major storyline of the Old Testament, while foreign to many, is not difficult to learn, as its 4,000+ year history can be understood by learning Max Anders' nine eras of the Old Testament: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
9. Concerning the Poetic Books (Wisdom Books), Job is about _____, Psalms is about _____, Proverbs is about _____, and Song of Solomon is about _____.

10. The first thing to realize about the Prophetic Books is that the descriptions Major and Minor refer to _____ and not _____, and the reference to length is inconsistent…..thus the labels are unfortunate.

11. Concerning the Prophetic Books, there are 3 major categories to keep in mind: _____, _____, and _____, thought _____ of the Prophetic books do not fit into these categories.

[Fig. 5]



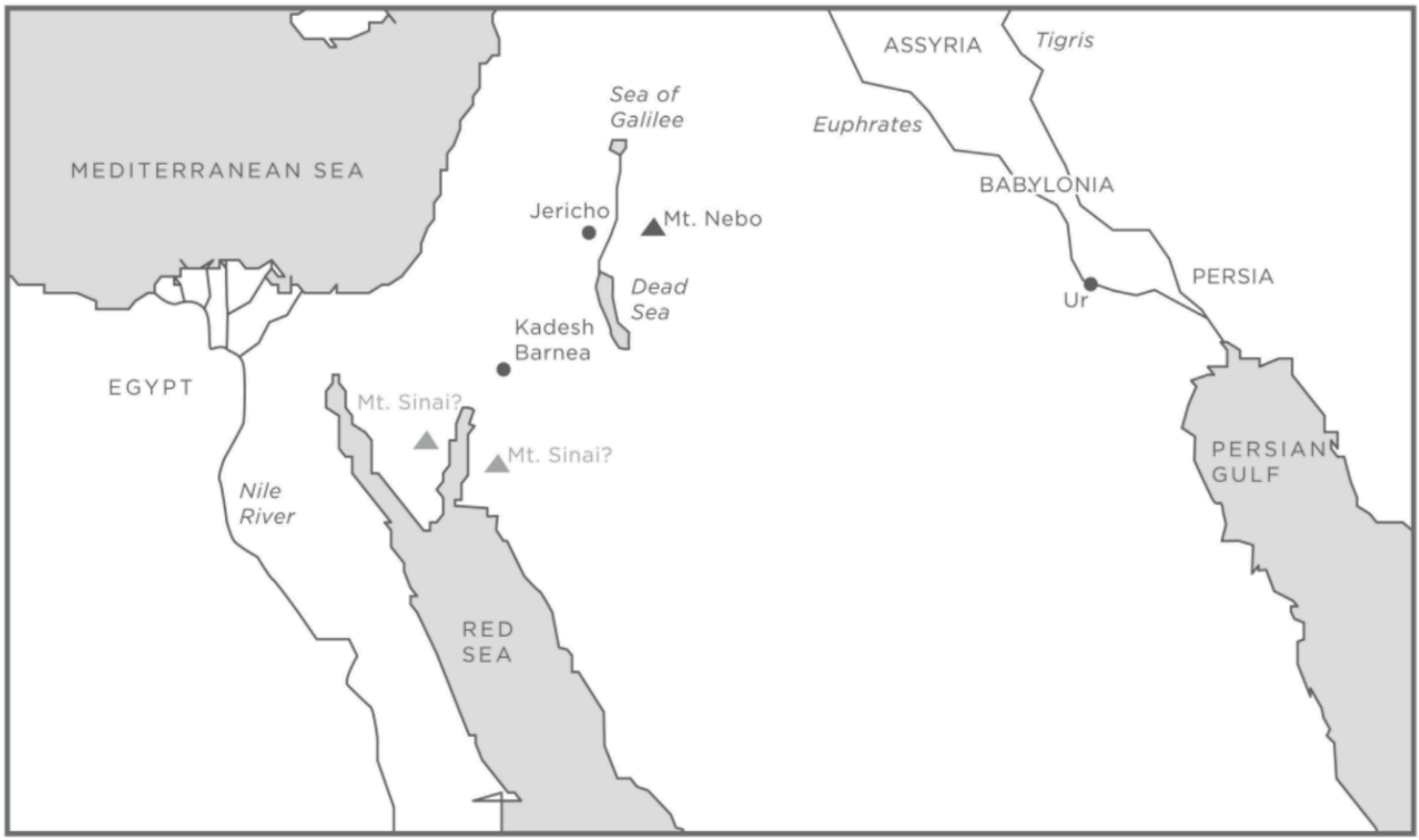
12. The period between the Old Testament (approximately 400 BC) and the beginning of the New Testament (approximately 4 BC) is often referred to as the _____, though God was greatly at work behind the scenes preparing the way for His Son.

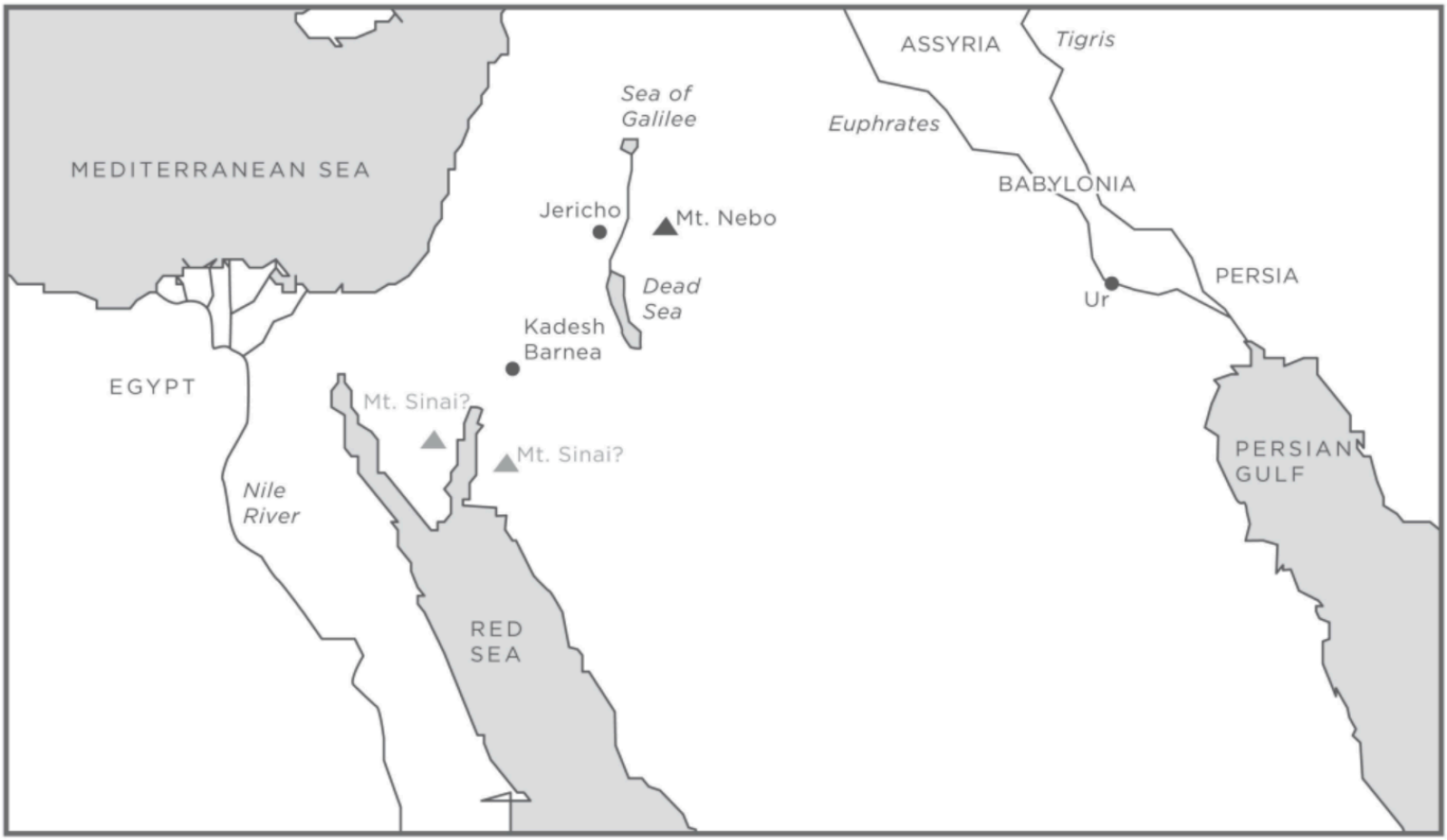
Resources

- Downline Institute, downlineministries.com
- Mitch Mayer, Clarifying the Bible: A Media Experience to Make Sense of it All, clarifyingthebible.com
- Richard Booker, The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread, Destiny Image Publishers, Shippensburg, PA. 1981.

Creation	Patriarchs	Exodus	Conquest	Judges	Kingdom	Exile	Return	Silence
Creation Fall Flood Tower	Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	Delivered Law Kadesh-Barnea 40 Years	Jordan Jericho Conquest Dominion	Judges Rebel Cycles Ruth	United Divided Northern Southern	Prophecy Prophets Exiles Power-Change	Disrepair Temple People Walls	Changing Guard Pol. Sects Rel. Sects Messianic Hope
Gen 1-11	*Gen 12-50*	*Exodus, Lev, Num, Deut*	*Joshua*	*Judges & Ruth*	*Samuel Kings Chronicles*	*Kings*	*Ezra Nehemiah Esther*	*400 Years of Silence*

[Fig. 2]




MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sea of Galilee
Jericho
Mt. Nebo
Dead Sea
Kadesh Barnea
EGYPT
Mt. Sinai?
Mt. Sinai?
Nile River
RED SEA
ASSYRIA
Tigris
Euphrates
BABYLONIA
Ur
PERSIA
PERSIAN GULF