

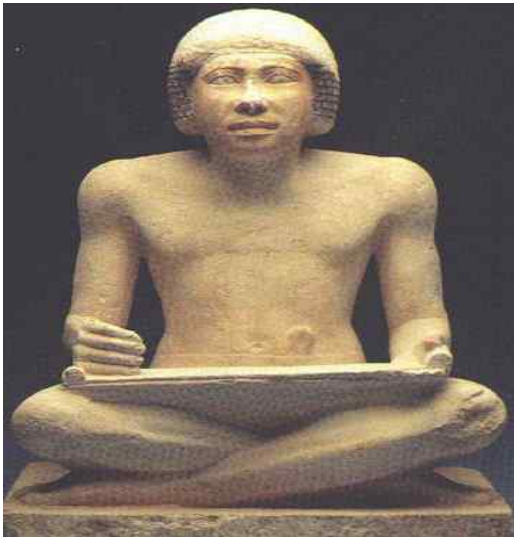
BIBLE 101 –CLASS 4 – Histories the Serious Business of God's WORD.



Isaiah 8:1-4

¹ Moreover the LORD said to me, "Take a large scroll, and write on it with a man's pen concerning Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. ² And **I will take for Myself faithful witnesses to record**, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah." ³ Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz; ⁴ for before the child shall have knowledge to cry 'My father' and 'My mother,' the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria."

THE HISTORIES



OBJECTIVE: To expose some of the ways in which ancient history in the Bible was recorded and to discover some ways the scribes throughout the centuries organized the Bible for reading and learning.

INTENSE WORDS OF LIFE

The script from the Bible was never intended to be read like pulp fiction. It was intended as textbook history and in fact training in the law. The book of Numbers is a very good example of the procedures and process of the Levitical law and the way the camps were to be set up around the Tabernacle. We should remember that the LORD killed people who would not follow the written procedure that God had set up in the wilderness. Aaron's sons were killed and even later Uzziah was killed by touching the Ark of the Covenant.

NUMBERS 3:1-9

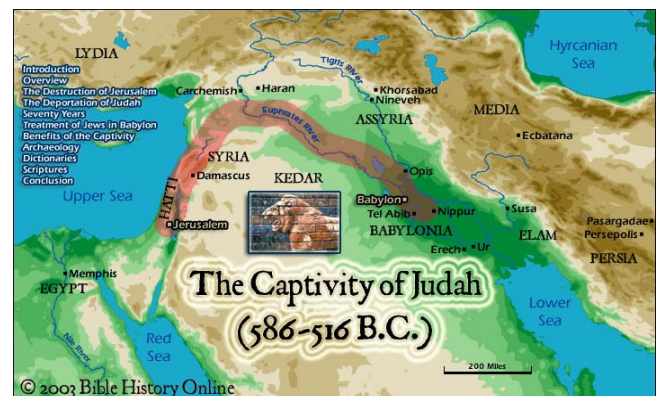
¹ Now these *are* the records of Aaron and Moses when the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai. ² And these *are* the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ³ These *are* the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests. ⁴ Nadab and Abihu had died before the LORD when they offered profane fire before the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests in the presence of Aaron their father. ⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may serve him. ⁷ And they shall attend to his needs and the needs of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of meeting, to do the work of the tabernacle."

DIVISIONS AND ORGANIZATION

Prior to the captivity of Judah by Babylon the first divisions of the Bible were made. There is a strong possibility this came during the reforms of JOSIAH the good King.

2 Kings 23

¹ And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. ² And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. ³ And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all *their* heart and all *their* soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.



So it seems that prior to the captivity of Judah that Josiah was responsible for instituting a special education plan for the people of Judah.

SCRIBES & DIVISIONS

- **SEDARIM** – time of Josiah (previous to 588 BC) the 5 books of Moses were divided into 154 groupings designed to be a curriculum for a 3 year learning program administered by the Levitical Priests to the young men of Israel.
- **PARASHIYOTH** - During the Captivity and exile to Babylon, the books of Moses were re-divided for learning into 54 sections and then subdivided into 669 sections for reference purposes. These 669 sections were for studying and learning. Each section was used for a 1 year reading cycle. This was the training of the Pharisees.
- **THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS** – about 165 BC during the reign of the Macabees after the revolt against the Greeks, the PROPHETS of the Bible were sectioned off for learning about the future of the coming Messiah. This division of the LAW AND THE PROPHETS continued to exist in the times of Jesus. The WRITINGS were considered FACTUAL HISTORY and never questioned. The fact that the Gospels of Matthew and Luke record the genealogies on both sides of Jesus' earthly parents demonstrates the tacit knowledge of the Kings and the Chronicles.
- **JAMNIA – A.D. 90.** Following the Jewish revolt of A.D. 70 the Jewish leaders were in crisis mode and redefined their HEBREW BIBLE. What was offensive to them was that the Christians had more knowledge of the Jewish scriptures than the Jews did.



SCRIBES

The word "SCRIBE" in the Hebrew language is a word that means "TO COUNT" (SOPHAR). It also means "TO TELL" and "TO SEND". It was the highest level of skill

anyone could acquire. In the times of the ancients many pagan kings and poets would write and would make sure that their words were COUNTED and TOLD throughout history.

The difference in the Hebrew culture was the DRAMATIC and shocking events of God's power in making sure the writing was accounted for. For example, God first wrote a note on Cain's head to literally protect his life. Spoken WORD had much more impact than it did today. However spoken word following a DIVINE SCRIPT meant life or death.

Scribes were...

- Lawyers – Jer. 32:12
- Recorders of legal transactions – Jer. 36:26
- Historians – 2 Ch. 24:11
- Chief Secretary of State – 2 Sam. 8:16; 1 Ki. 4:3
- Royal advisers -1 Ch. 27:32
- Ambassadors to nations – 2 Ki. 18:18, 19:2; Is.36:3
- Military recorders – Jdg. 5:14
- Principles of state or "Principle Scribe" indicates levels and structure of many – 2 Ki. 25:19; Jer. 52:52.
- Royal officials with their own offices in the palaces of kings – Jer. 36:12-21.
- Reporters to the King – 2 Ki. 22:8.
- Interpreters of the Bible – Ezra 7:6

The scribe was a person of high education and skill. He was known and respected. He wore his equipment, which often included reed-pens, (Jer. 8:8) and a small knife for erasures and cutting papyrus (Jer. 36:23). Scribes tended to come in family lines (1 Ch. 2:55). The Old Testament was not a book of fables pieced together by a haphazard group of imaginary men. It was in fact a hard-core history that even JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF fully endorsed as the covenant of God Almighty.

Luke 11:51

⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. ⁵² Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

Reading and Memory Verse assignment – 2 Peter 1:18-21