

# Contents

Introduction . . . . . viii

## Section 1: Getting to Know the Ancient World

Chapter 1: The World of the Bible . . . . . 1  
*Jared W. Ludlow*

Chapter 2: Archaeology . . . . . 14  
*Jeffrey R. Chadwick*

Chapter 3: The Earliest Civilizations and Cities of the Near East . . . . . 27  
*Edward Stratford*

## Section 2: Old Testament Backgrounds

Chapter 4: Early Mesopotamia . . . . . 40  
*Monica Louise Phillips*

Chapter 5: Egypt's Old Kingdom . . . . . 52  
*Kerry M. Muhlestein*

Chapter 6: Egypt's Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period. . . . . 65  
*Kerry M. Muhlestein*

Chapter 7: Genesis and the Ancient Near East . . . . . 77  
*David Rolph Seely*

Chapter 8: The Canaanites. . . . . 88  
*George A. Pierce*

Chapter 9: Egypt's New Kingdom. . . . . 102  
*Krystal V. L. Pierce*

Chapter 10: The Exodus . . . . .	116
<i>Kerry M. Muhlestein</i>	
Chapter 11: Sea Peoples and Philistines . . . . .	129
<i>George A. Pierce</i>	
Chapter 12: Israel's Conquest and Settlement . . . . .	138
<i>George A. Pierce</i>	
Chapter 13: Early Israel in Canaan . . . . .	149
<i>Andrew C. Skinner</i>	
Chapter 14: Israel's United Monarchy (1030?–931 BCE) . . . . .	162
<i>Dana M. Pike</i>	
Chapter 15: Temples in the Near East and Israel . . . . .	175
<i>David Rolph Seely</i>	
Chapter 16: The Neo-Assyrian Empire . . . . .	186
<i>Edward Stratford</i>	
Chapter 17: Ammonites, Moabites, Phoenicians, Arameans, and Edomites . . . . .	198
<i>Aaron P. Schade</i>	
Chapter 18: Israel's Divided Monarchy, Part 1 (930–841 BCE) . . . . .	213
<i>Dana M. Pike</i>	
Chapter 19: Israel's Divided Monarchy, Part 2 (841–722 BCE) . . . . .	226
<i>Dana M. Pike</i>	
Chapter 20: Judah Alone (722–586 BCE) . . . . .	237
<i>David Rolph Seely</i>	
Chapter 21: The Neo-Babylonian Empire . . . . .	250
<i>Edward Stratford</i>	
Chapter 22: The Fall of Judah and the Exile . . . . .	261
<i>Jared W. Ludlow</i>	
Chapter 23: The Persian Empire and the Restored Jewish Nation . . . . .	272
<i>Andrew C. Skinner</i>	

### **Section 3: New Testament Backgrounds**

Chapter 24: The Greeks and Alexander the Great . . . . .	286
<i>Cecilia M. Peek</i>	

Chapter 25: The Hellenistic Age . . . . .	298
<i>Cecilia M. Peek</i>	
Chapter 26: The Romans . . . . .	309
<i>Eric D. Huntsman</i>	
Chapter 27: The Time of Herod the Great . . . . .	322
<i>Matthew J. Grey</i>	
Chapter 28: Roman Palestine after Herod the Great . . . . .	336
<i>Matthew J. Grey</i>	
Chapter 29: Intertestamental Literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls . . . . .	350
<i>Jared W. Ludlow</i>	

## **Section 4: After the Bible**

Chapter 30: Early Christianity . . . . .	365
<i>Gaye Strathearn</i>	
Chapter 31: The Byzantine Period . . . . .	379
<i>Eric D. Huntsman</i>	
Chapter 32: Palestine and the Arabs . . . . .	395
<i>William J. Hamblin</i>	
Chapter 33: Medieval Palestine and the Crusades . . . . .	408
<i>William J. Hamblin</i>	
Chronology of the Ancient World . . . . .	421
Authors and Acknowledgments . . . . .	429
Index . . . . .	432