

The Old Testament Holy Lands

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Culture, Geography & Archaeology



In the News

Pool of Siloam



LONDON DAILY MAIL

January 3, 2023

A screenshot of a news article from the London Daily Mail. The article title is "Biblical site in Israel where Jesus is said to have healed a blind man will be opened to the public for the first time in 2,000 years". The article includes a sub-header "FIRE EXTINGUISHER DEPOT" and an image of a fire extinguisher. The article text is partially visible, mentioning "Small pool originally labeled as Pool of Siloam was located at the end of the Tunnel of Hezekiah. Now renamed the Byzantine Pool."

- Small pool originally labeled as Pool of Siloam was located at the end of the Tunnel of Hezekiah. Now renamed the Byzantine Pool.

In the News



"After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. Go, he told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam'. So the man went and washed, and came home seeing."
John 9:6-7

New Pool of Siloam is located just 70 feet off the smaller pool.

It was discovered (stumbled upon) in 2004 by a construction crew fixing an ancient Turkish water pipe.

Coins and pottery also found date to clearly the 2nd temple period and most likely to 10 to 50 AD.

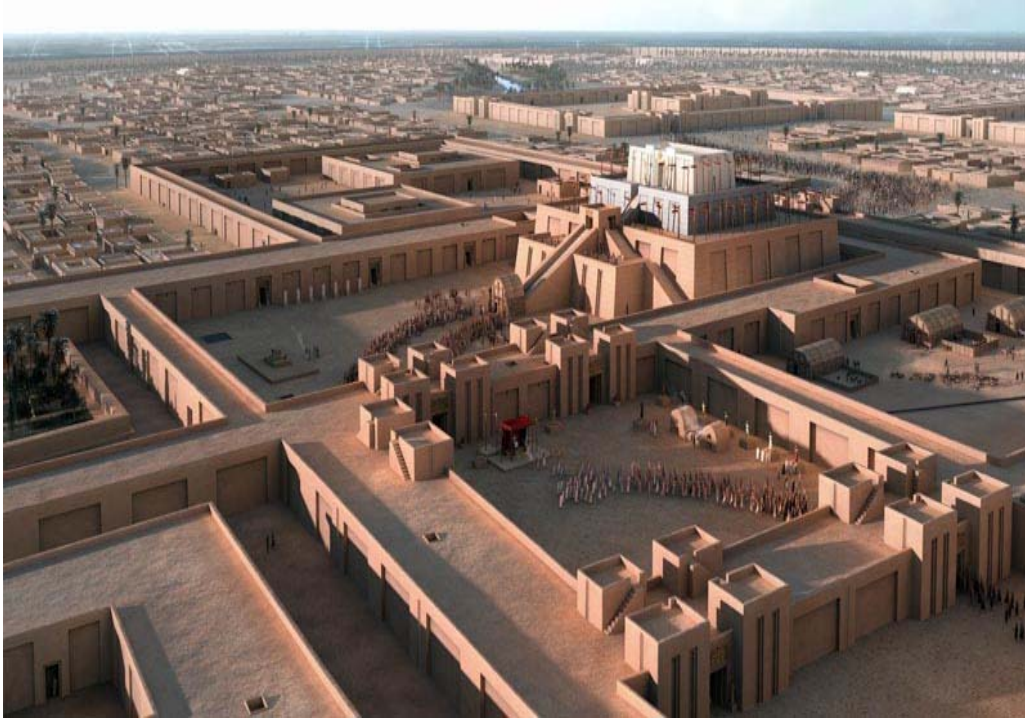
In the News



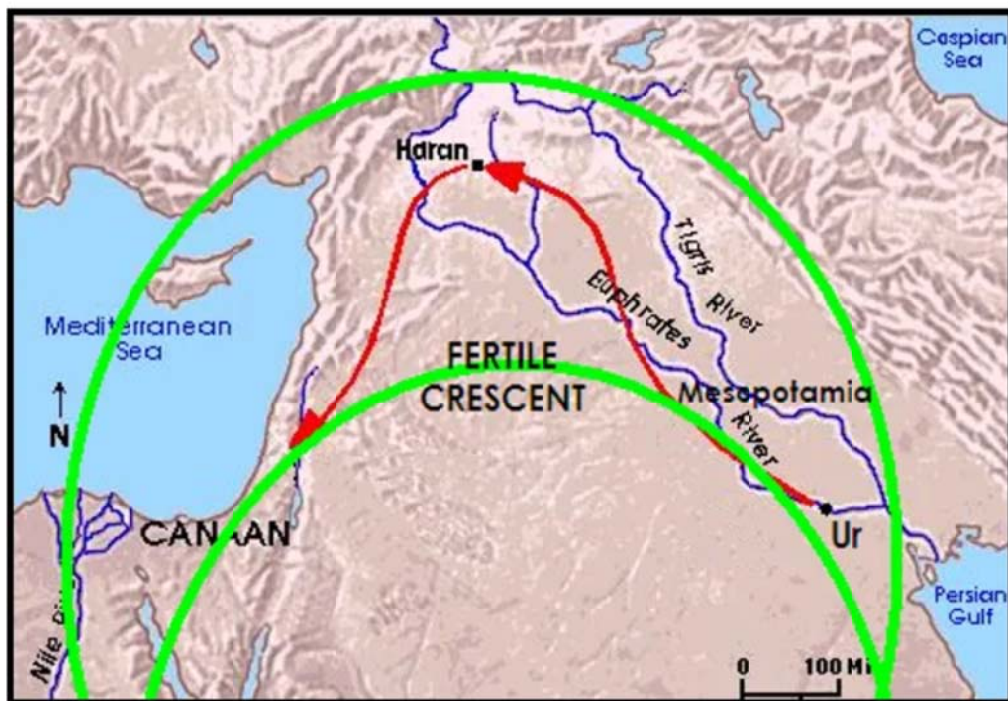
Adam & Eve to Noah



Noah to Abraham



Noah to Abraham



Noah to Abraham

What does the Bible tell us about Abraham?

- 1) Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran (father of Lot – died in Ur)
- 2) Bible doesn't say who the family worshiped or if they continued to worship the one God of Noah
- 3) **Terah** made the initial decision to travel to Canaan, not Abram. (Took Abram, his wife Sarai & grandson Lot) (Genesis 11:31)

“Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there.”



Stelle from Ur depicting Ur-Nammu (King) offering fruit from the Tree of Life to Moon Goddess Ningal and Moon God Nannar -Univ of Pennsylvania

Noah to Abraham

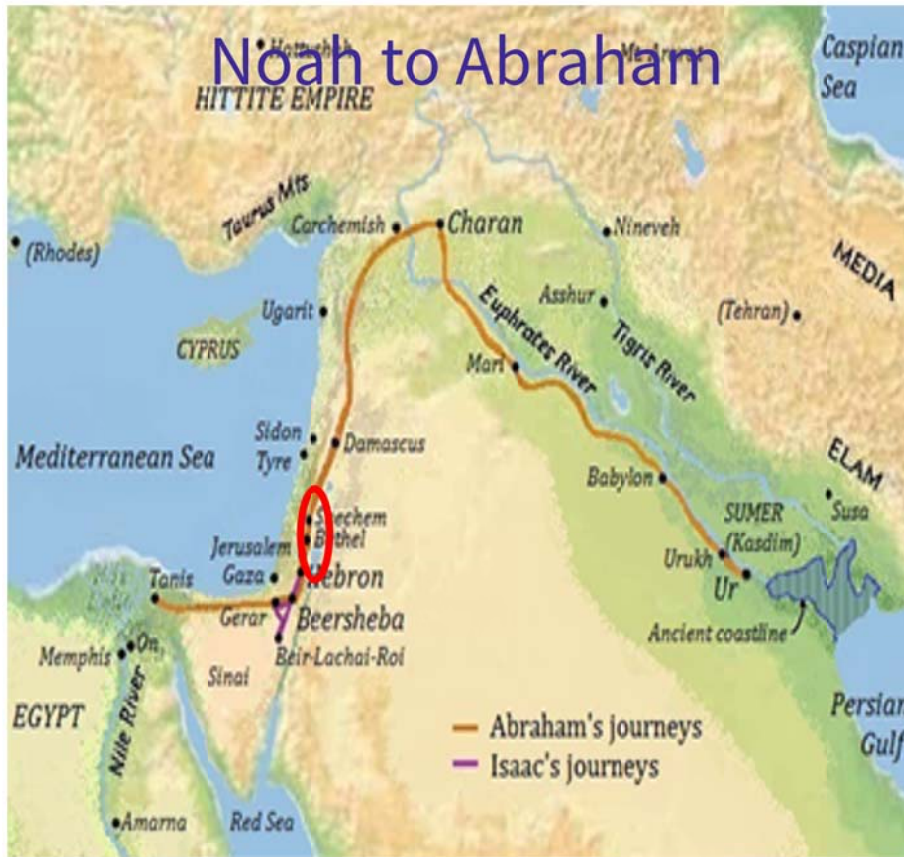
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- 4) Actually made sense: Ur was in upheaval and war with Edam / archaeological suggestions of drought and famine in this time period.
- 5) Ended up settling in Harran (meaning “crossroad”) where Terah later died



Stelle from Ur depicting Ur-Nammu (King) offering fruit from the Tree of Life to Moon Goddess Ningal and Moon God Nannar -Univ of Pennsylvania

Noah to Abraham



Noah to Abraham

The Journeys of Abraham in the Promised Land



Noah to Abraham

- 5) Genesis 12:1 – Leave father's household w/ Sarai & Lot (Abrahamic Covenant) ... But which God told him? (El or Elohim) – El (singular) and Elohim (plural in oversight, not in number – first use in Genesis). אלוהים



Noah to Abraham

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- 6) Gods of Sumer (Ur & Haran) were numerous, specialized and not personal ... no real recounts of these Gods having spoken directly to mankind or having a personal relationship of any kind.
- 7) No suggestion that God ever spoke directly to Terah. (Genesis 11:31 & 32)
- 8) Abram – 75 year old (??)
- 9) Next stops Shechem & Bethel (Built altars) - Canaanites occupied land
- 10) Famine in land led to Negev desert and then to Egypt (Genesis 12)
- 11) Did well in Egypt due to Sarai pleasing Pharaoh
- 12) Pharaoh discovers Sarai is Abram's wife
- 13) Sent packing due to Pharaoh's illness

Noah to Abraham

- 14) Returns to Negev desert and to Bethel (well off)
(Genesis 13)
- 15) Separates from Lot (quarrels among herders)
- 16) Lot heads East (towards Jordan) Abram in Canaan
- 17) Moved headquarters to Great Trees of Hebron
- 18) Massive wars of the kings in Dead Sea Valley
(Genesis 14)
- 19) Rescues Lot from Capture
- 20) Abraham promised to have heir of his own flesh & blood (Genesis 15)
- 21) Second Covenant – Offspring shall be like stars in the sky
- 22) Sarai promotes Hagar to bore Abraham's heir
(Genesis 16)
- 23) Hagar runs away due to treatment from Sarai

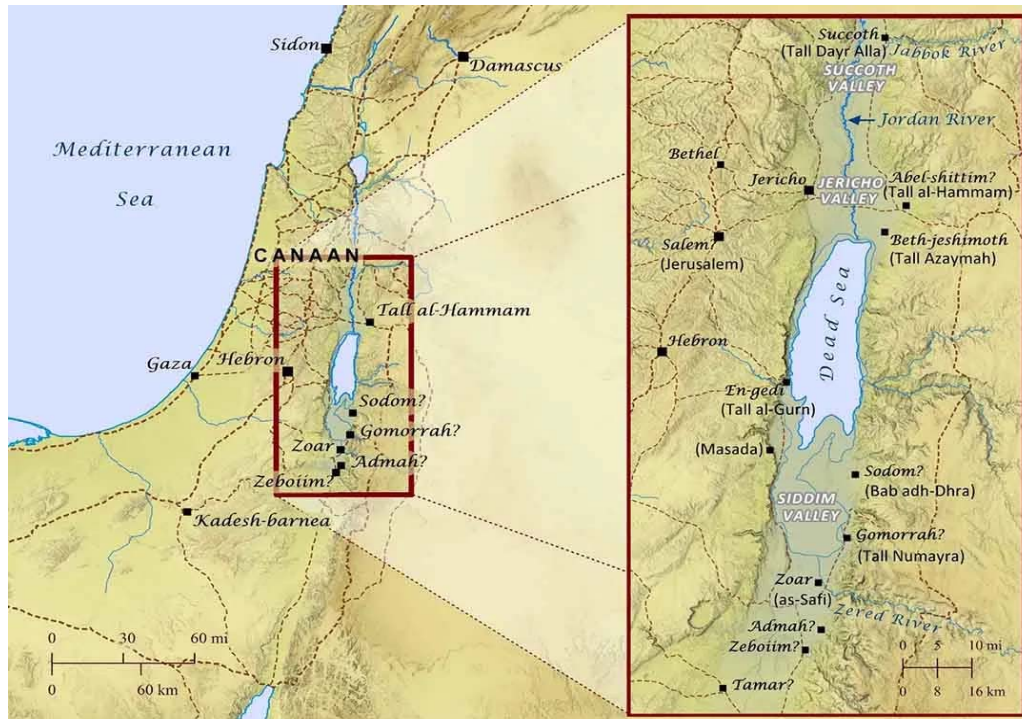


Noah to Abraham

Continuing w/ Abraham

- 24) Hagar returns and gives birth to Ishmael
- 25) Third Covenant – renamed Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 17)
- 26) Sarah promised to have a son – Abraham laughs
- 27) Three visitors again promise son – Sarah laughs (Genesis 18)
- 28) Abraham pleads for Sodom and then rescues Lot from Sodom (& Gomorrah)
– (Genesis 19)
- 29) Travels to Zoar (saved nearby town)

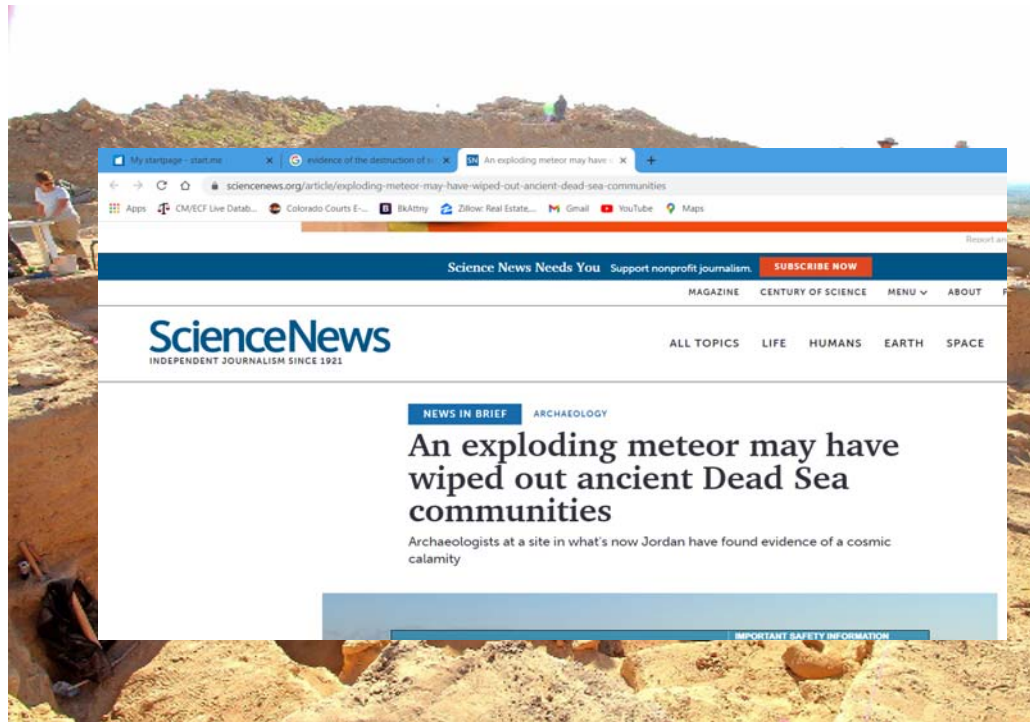
Noah to Abraham



Noah to Abraham



Noah to Abraham

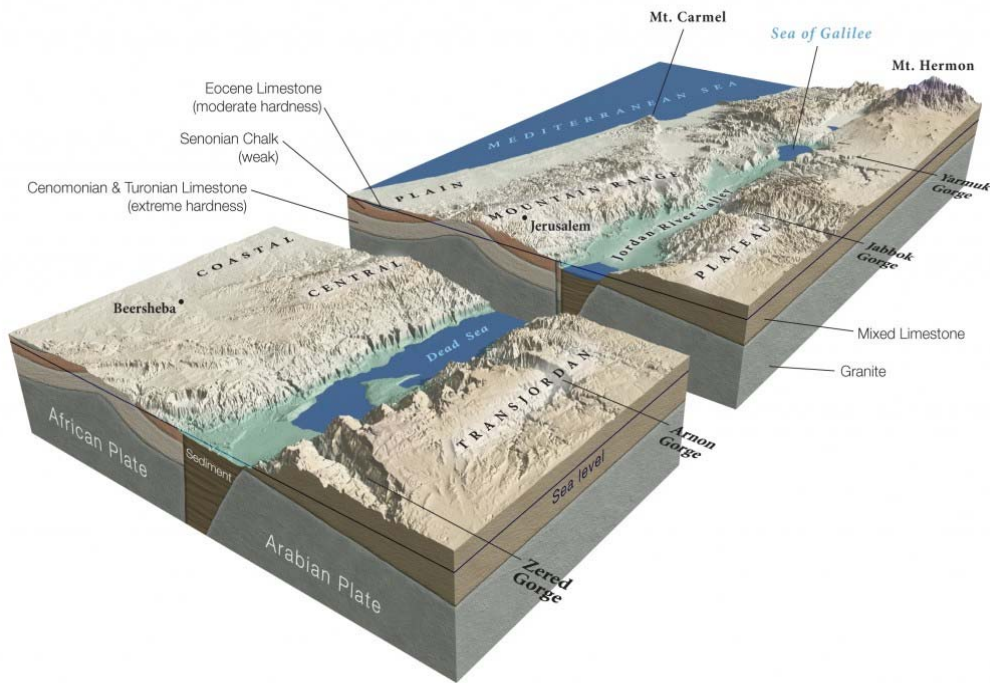


Noah to Abraham

EARTHQUAKE?



Noah to Abraham

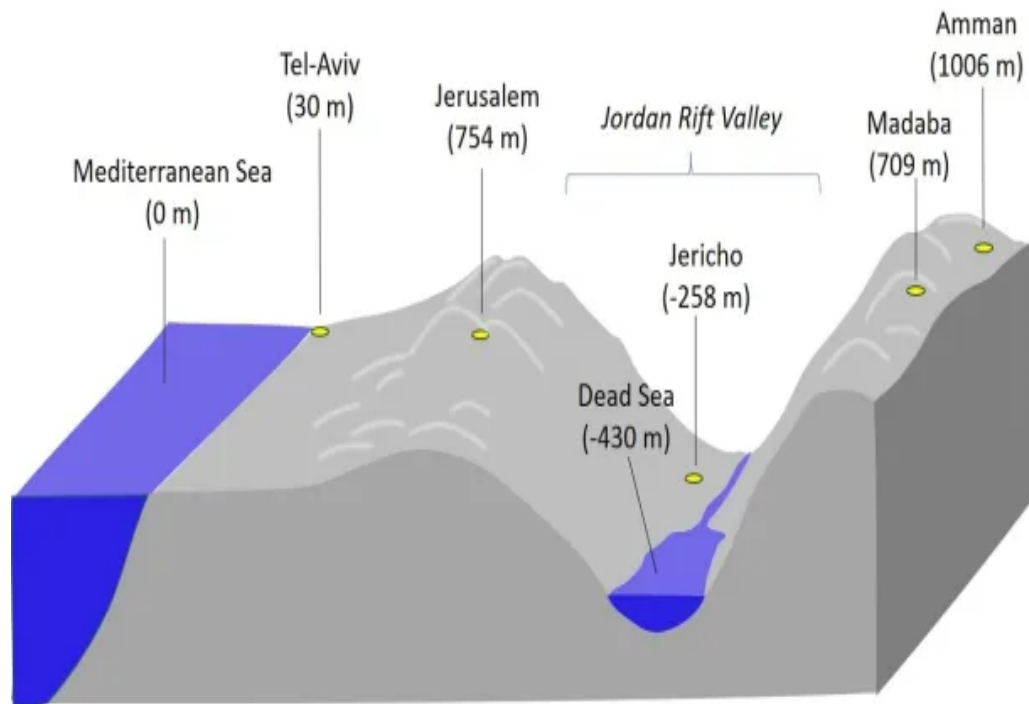


Noah to Abraham



The
“Great Rift Valley”

Noah to Abraham



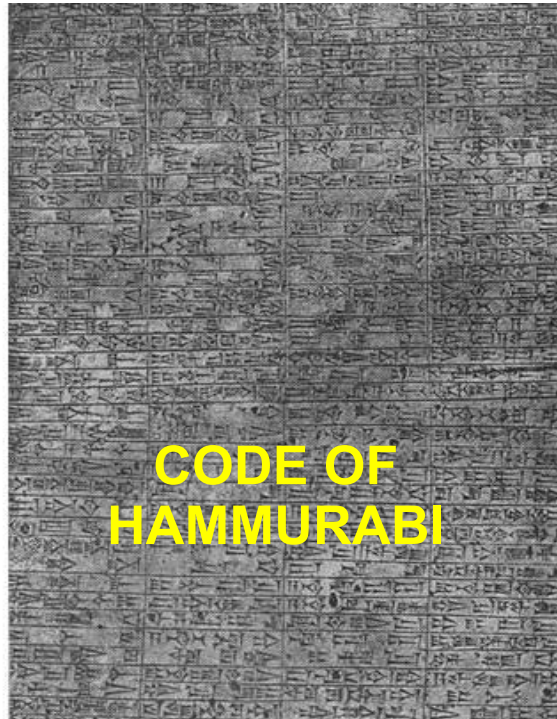
Noah to Abraham

23 By the time Lot reach Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. **24** Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur (fire & brimstone) on Sodom and Gomorrah – from the Lord out of the heavens. **25** Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities – and the vegetation in the land.”

Genesis 23 - 25

- **Brimstone** – “sulfur” - found in volcanic and geologically active sites
- But it “rained down” - Possible eruption?
- Lots of sulfur found in the Dead Sea area. Sulfur burns!
- Bitumen (similar to asphalt) is also found near sulfur & salt and is found throughout the Dead Sea. It also burns easily and hot!
- Sulfur typically found with salt deposits (Lots of Salt at Dead Sea!)
- Nothing found to suggest anything nuclear – land would have been uninhabitable for a period of time
- Both asteroid and earthquake theories would have regionally destroyed cities, people and vegetation and would likely cause lots of fire & debris

Noah to Abraham



Noah to Abraham

CODE OF HAMMURABI

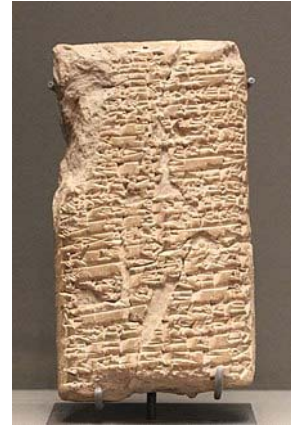
- Proclaimed by the Babylonian king Hammurabi, who reigned from 1792 to 1750 B.C.
- Black stone stele containing the Code of Hammurabi was carved from a single, four-ton slab of diorite, a durable but incredibly difficult stone for carving.
- Top is a two-and-a-half-foot relief carving of a standing Hammurabi receiving the law
- The rest of the seven-foot-five-inch monument is covered with columns of chiseled cuneiform script.
- Stele found 1901 in the Elamite capital of Susa (about 250 miles from Babylon)
- Currently housed in the Louvre, Paris.



Noah to Abraham

CODE OF HAMMURABI

- Hammurabi (an Amorite) was the sixth king in the Babylonian dynasty, which ruled in central Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq) from c. 1894 to 1595 B.C.
- Code included 282 rules / laws governing culture, relationships, commerce, and rights to divine obedience.
- The Code was apparently published on a number of Stele throughout the empire.



Included two relational laws that may give a little authority, history and understanding of Abraham & Sarai.

- 1) “If a woman could not bear her husband a child, it is her duty to find a substitute woman who could.”
- 2) “If a female slave claims equality with her mistress because she bore children, she may not be sold.”
- 3) If both the primary wife and slave bear children the children of the primary wife can be favored.

Prologue to Code

Also in the Louvre
Deals with the benefits
of being annexed to
Hammurabi's empire

Noah to Abraham

Continuing w/ Abraham

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- 29) Travels to Zoar (saved nearby town)
- 30) Lot's daughters give rise to the Moabites and the Ammonites
- 31) Abimelek takes Sarah and then returns her after a dream (Genesis 20)
- 32) Isaac born יִצְחָק (Yitzhak) - “one who laughs/rejoices”
- 33) Sarah sends Hagar & Ishmael away (Genesis 21)

Noah to Abraham

Continuing w/ Abraham

- 34) Hagar told that God “was with the boy” and would make Ishmael into a great nation - lived in the Desert of Paran. (Genesis 21)



Noah to Abraham

Continuing w/ Abraham

- 35) Abraham & Abimelek argue over well – Treaty of Beersheba – Abimelek returns to the land of the Philistines.
- 36) Abraham sent with Isaac to “region of Moriah” (Genesis 22)
- 37) Ram spares Abraham from sacrificing Isaac.
- 38) Sarah dies, Abraham buys land with cave in Hebron for burial (Genesis 23)
- 39) Abraham searches for wife for Isaac from his own clan
- 40) Isaac marries Rebekah, descendant of his brother Nahor (Genesis 24)
- 41) Abraham remarries and has numerous other heirs, but leaves his estate to Isaac. (Genesis 25)
- 42) Abraham dies at the age of 175 years. Isaac & Ishmael bury him.
- 43) Genesis 25 then goes on to describe the 12 tribes of Ishmael’s descendents, but clearly indicates that “**they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them**” (Gen 25:18)

Noah to Abraham

Sarah & Abraham's Cave - Hebron



Noah to Abraham

Sarah & Abraham's Cave - Hebron



Noah to Abraham

Sarah & Abraham's Cave - Hebron

- Now referred to as the Cave of Machpela
- Covered by large Herodian structure
- Numerous changes to the building over time to cover the entrance to the cave
- 1993 Oslo Accords gave Muslim control of the building and cave
- Cave is totally off limits and the building is off limits to Jews except for 10 days a year
- During those 10 days is Shabbat Chayei Sarah, a Jewish holiday where the building is surrounded and the portion of the Torah that describes Abraham's purchase of the land and cave is read.
- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, an amateur archaeologist, tried to seek information regarding the underground caves. Within the large hall, under a brown monument, there was a hole in the floor rumored to be the entrance, however the diameter of the hole was extremely narrow. A 12 year old girl named Michal agreed to be lowered through the hole, where she proceeded to describe the entrance to the cave and its dimension to Dayan. She went no further into the cave.



Noah to Abraham

So, what archaeological evidence do we have of Abraham?

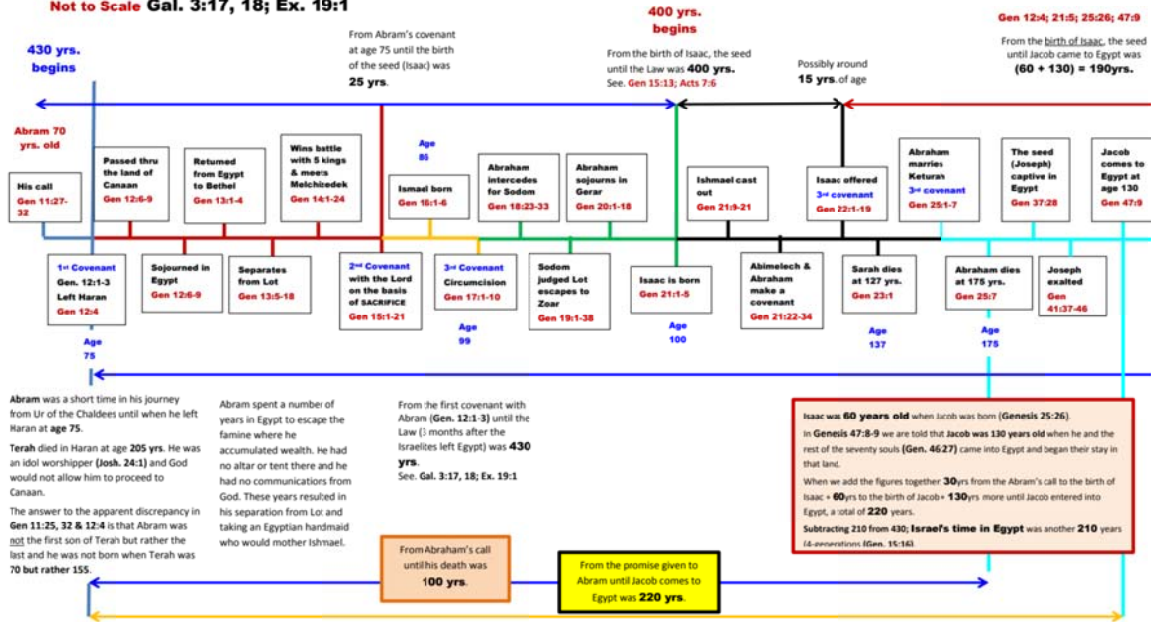
- Nothing directly naming him
- Large number of geographical places disclosed or correctly referred to in Abraham's biblical story
- Large number of historical events correctly referred to
- 3 major religions (Jewish, Christian, Islamic) refer to him as the first prophet or patriarch.
- Lots of later historical (written) referrals
- Points to otherwise unknown events and places in Sodom & Gomorrah.

There is no evidence to disprove his existence or story

Noah to Abraham

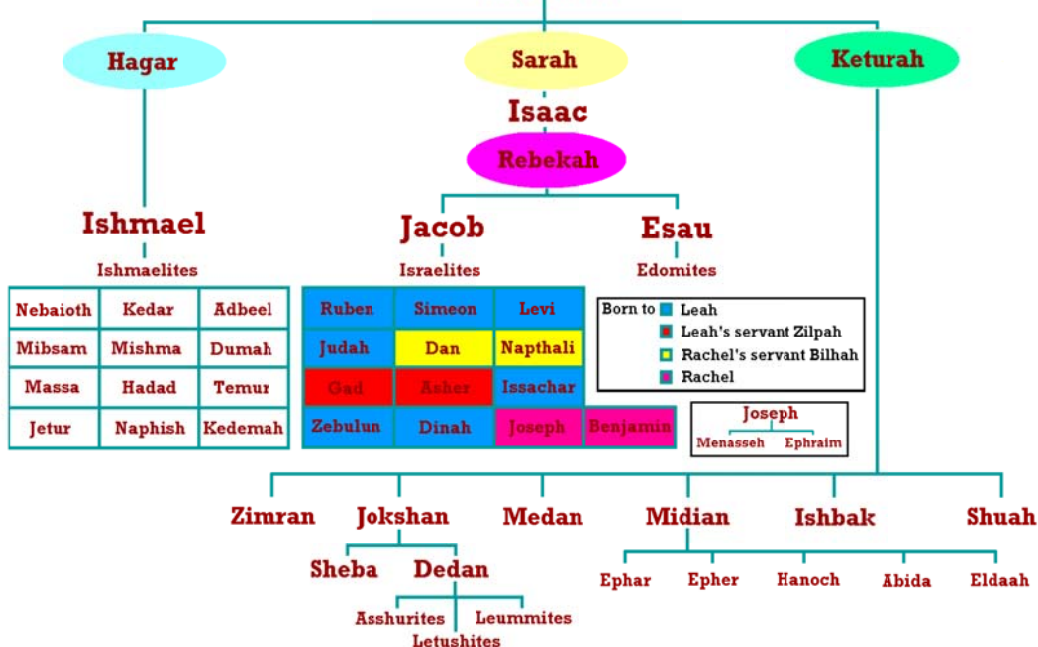
TIMELINE FOR ABRAM (ABRAHAM) from the promise given at age 70 (Gen. 12:1-4) until JACOB ARRIVES IN EGYPT - 220 YEARS

Not to Scale Gal. 3:17, 18; Ex. 19:1

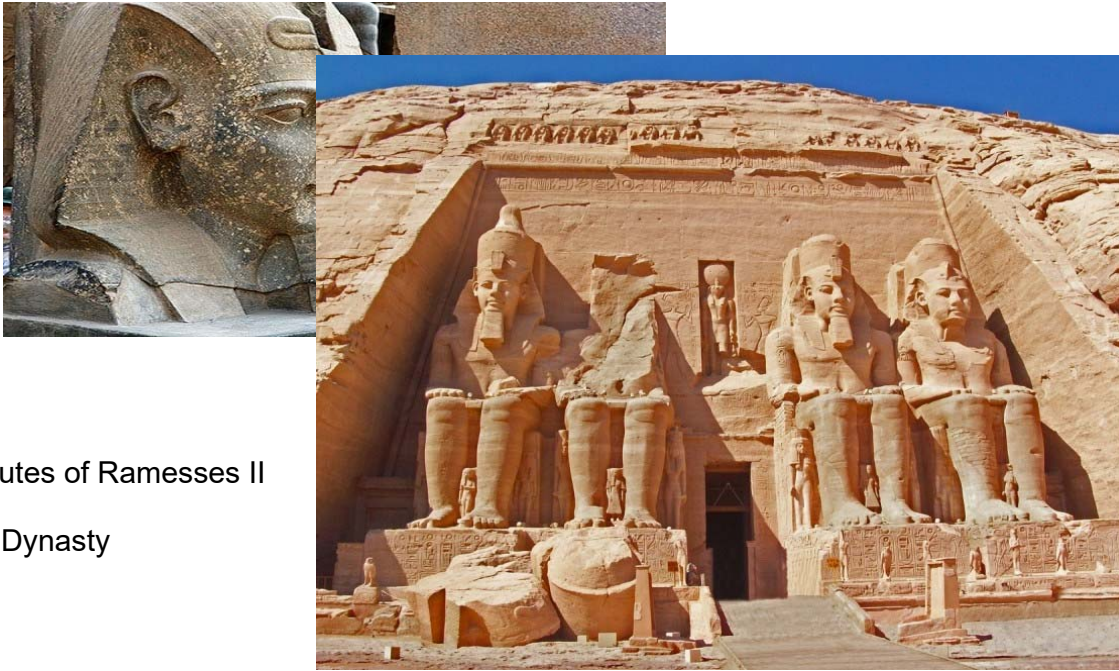


Abraham to Moses

The Genealogy of Abraham



Egypt in 17th to 18th Dynasty



Statues of Ramesses II

19th Dynasty

The Old Testament Holy Lands

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