

Genesis 12-14

The Abraham Cycle

Journey Through Genesis

Genesis 15-17

The Abraham Cycle

Journey Through Genesis

In the beginning

Genesis 1:1 (narrative)

Toledot of Sky and Land

Genesis 2:4 (narrative)

Toledot of Adam

Genesis 5:1 (genealogy)

Toledot of Noah

Genesis 6:9 (narrative)

**Toledot of Shem, Ham,
and Japheth**

Genesis 10:1 (genealogy)

Toledot of Shem

Genesis 11:10 (genealogy)

Toledot of Terach

Genesis 11:27 (narrative)

Toledot of Ishmael

Genesis 25:12 (genealogy)

Toledot of Isaac

Genesis 25:19 (narrative)

Toledot of Esau

Genesis 36:1 and 36:9 (genealogy)

Toledot of Jacob

Genesis 37:2 (narrative)

Overview

This section of Genesis begins the
"Abraham Cycle"

Genesis 12: Abram Called
Abram and Sarai in Egypt (1)

Genesis 13: Abram and Lot Separate
Abram covenant renewed

Genesis 14: Abram Saves Lot/
War of Nine Kings
Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

Finished
Primeval
History

Beginning
Ancestral
History

Overview

This section of Genesis begins the
"Abraham Cycle"

Abraham's story = chiasm.

Begins and Ends with Genealogy,
Egpyt Stories, Lot, Ages, Births

17:1-17

Covenant, Name, Son

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This section of Genesis begins the

"Abraham Cycle"

Hagar-Ishmael

Abraham's story = chiasm.
Begins and Ends with Genealogy,
Egypt, Stories, Lo, Angels, Births
is center

17:1-17

Covenant, Name, Son

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Alternate Chiasm

A. Prologue (11.27–30)

B. First challenge: call for Abraham to leave family of origin (12:1–3)

C. Wife-sister story 12:10–13:1

D. Separation from Lot (13:2–18)

E. Covenant of pieces with Abraham (14–15)

F. Hagar-Ishmael story (Gen 16:1–14)

E'. Covenant of circumcision with Abraham (17)

D'. Hospitality/progeny episodes; Abraham contrasted with Lot (18–19)

C'. Wife-sister story (20)

B'. Final challenge: calls for Abraham to let go of family of future (21.8–21 and 22.1–19)

A'. Epilogue 22.20–24

Abram Chiasm

A. Genesis 11:27-32 The Genealogy of Terah

B. Genesis 12:1-9 Promises Made — Test of Faith

C. Genesis 12:10-20 The Sister Fib, Part 1

D. Genesis 13-14 The Rescue of Lot, Part 1

E. Genesis 15-17 Walking with God by Faith in Covenant

D'. Genesis 18-19 The Rescue of Lot, Part 2

C'. Genesis 20:1-18 The Sister Fib, Part 2

B'. Genesis 21-22 Promises Kept — Test of Faith

A'. Genesis 22:20-24 The Genealogy of Nahor

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17:1-17

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Brief Background

This section of Genesis begins the
"Abraham Cycle"

We need to put on our "scholar hats"

And then we can take them off.....

We will be less nerdy and more "devotional"
moving forward.

Finished
Primeval
History

Beginning
Ancestral
History

Brief Background

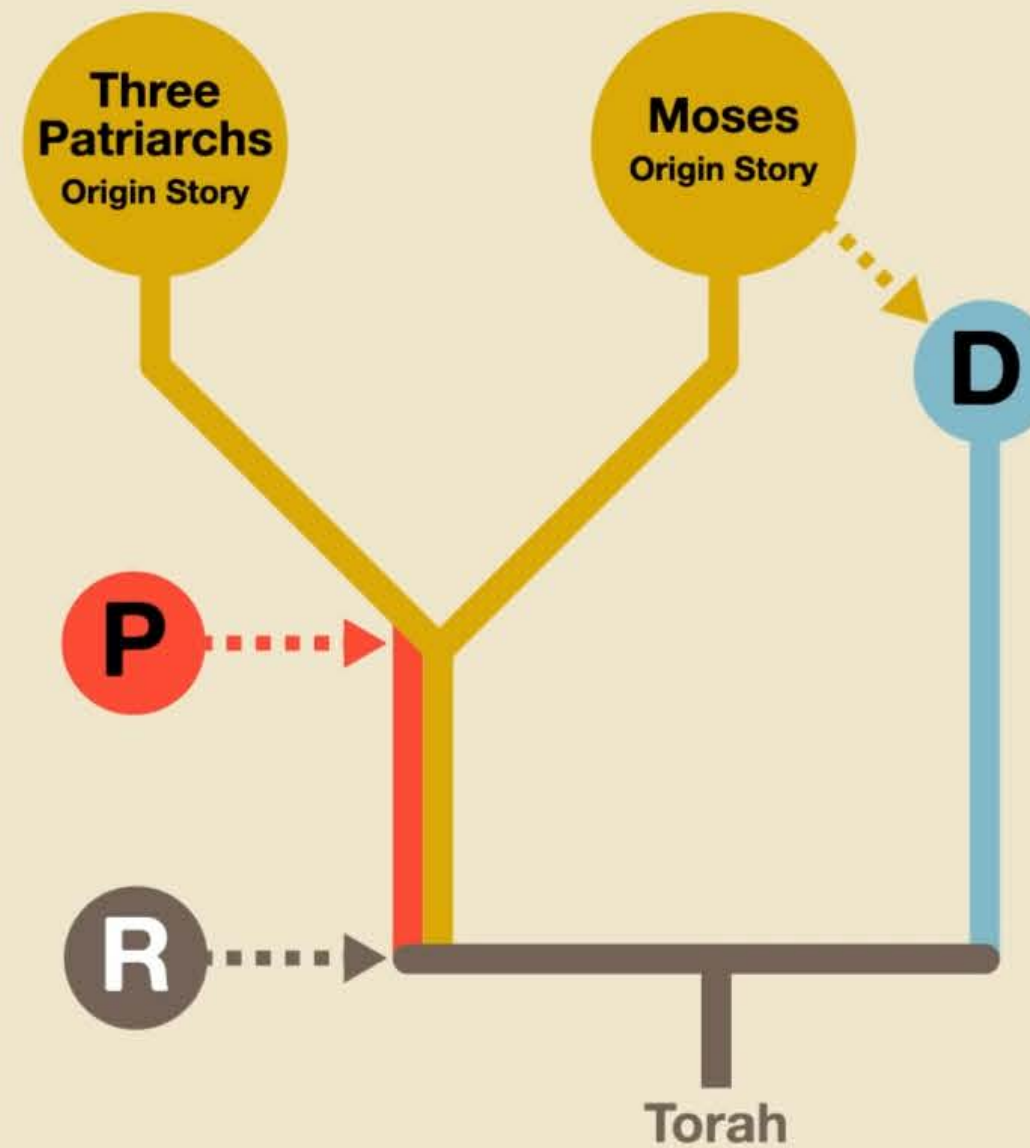
Theory #3 - The Dual Origins Hypothesis

Material
previously
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J or E

Deuteronomist
D

Priestly
P

Redactor
R



Finished
Primeval
History

Beginning
Ancestral
History

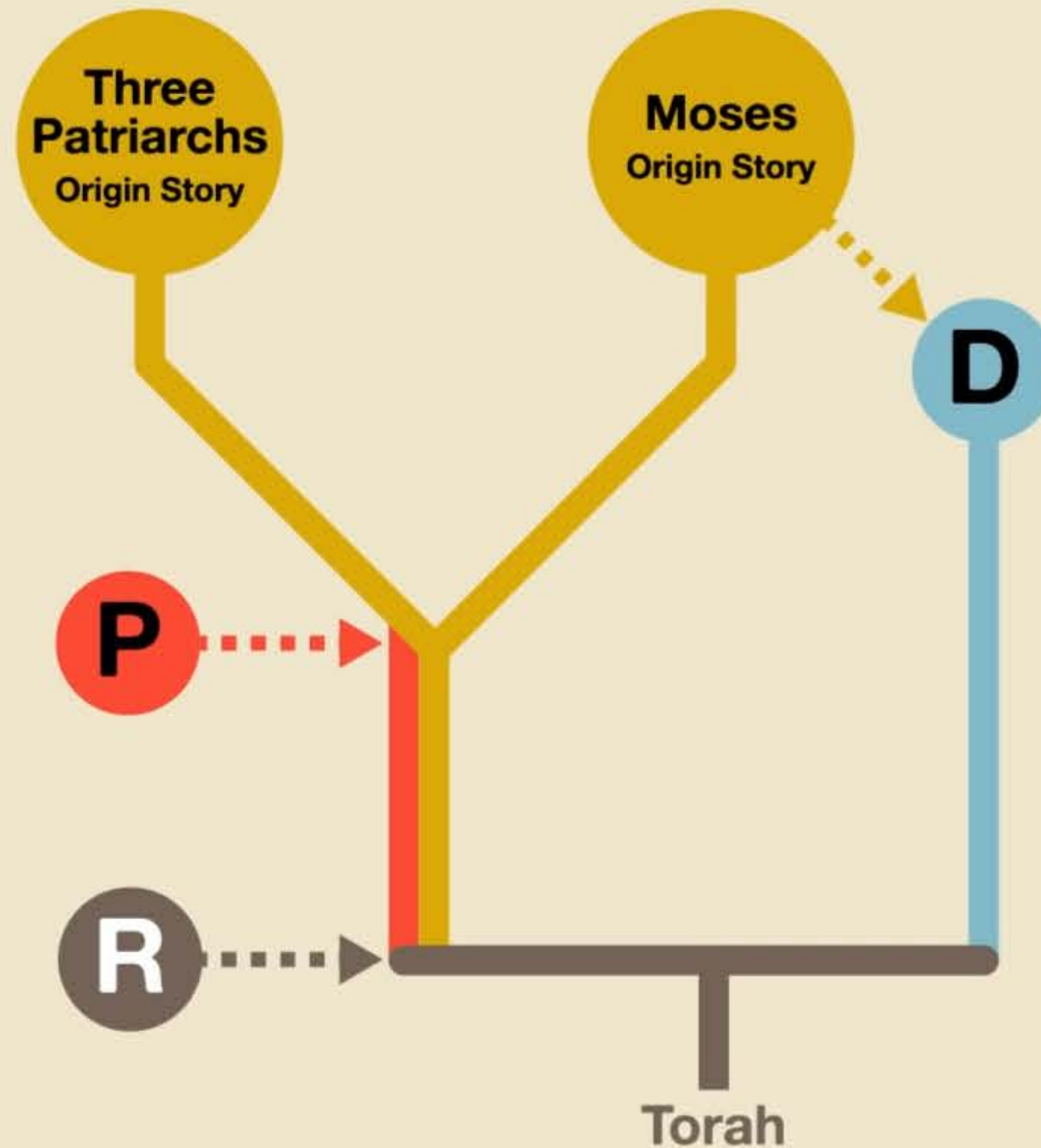
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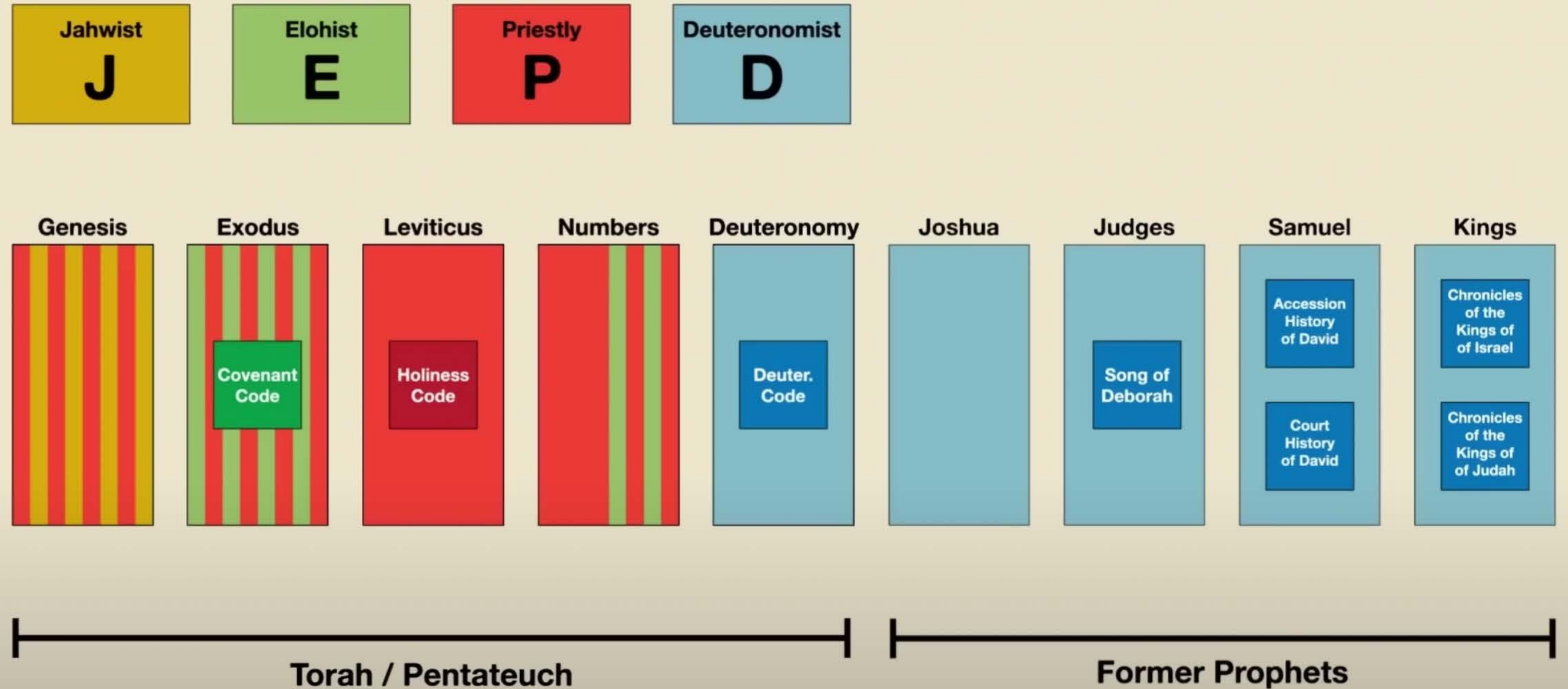


Brief Background

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**Finished
Primeval
History**

**Beginning
Ancestral
History**



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Priestly
P

Deuteronomist
D

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

Samuel

Kings

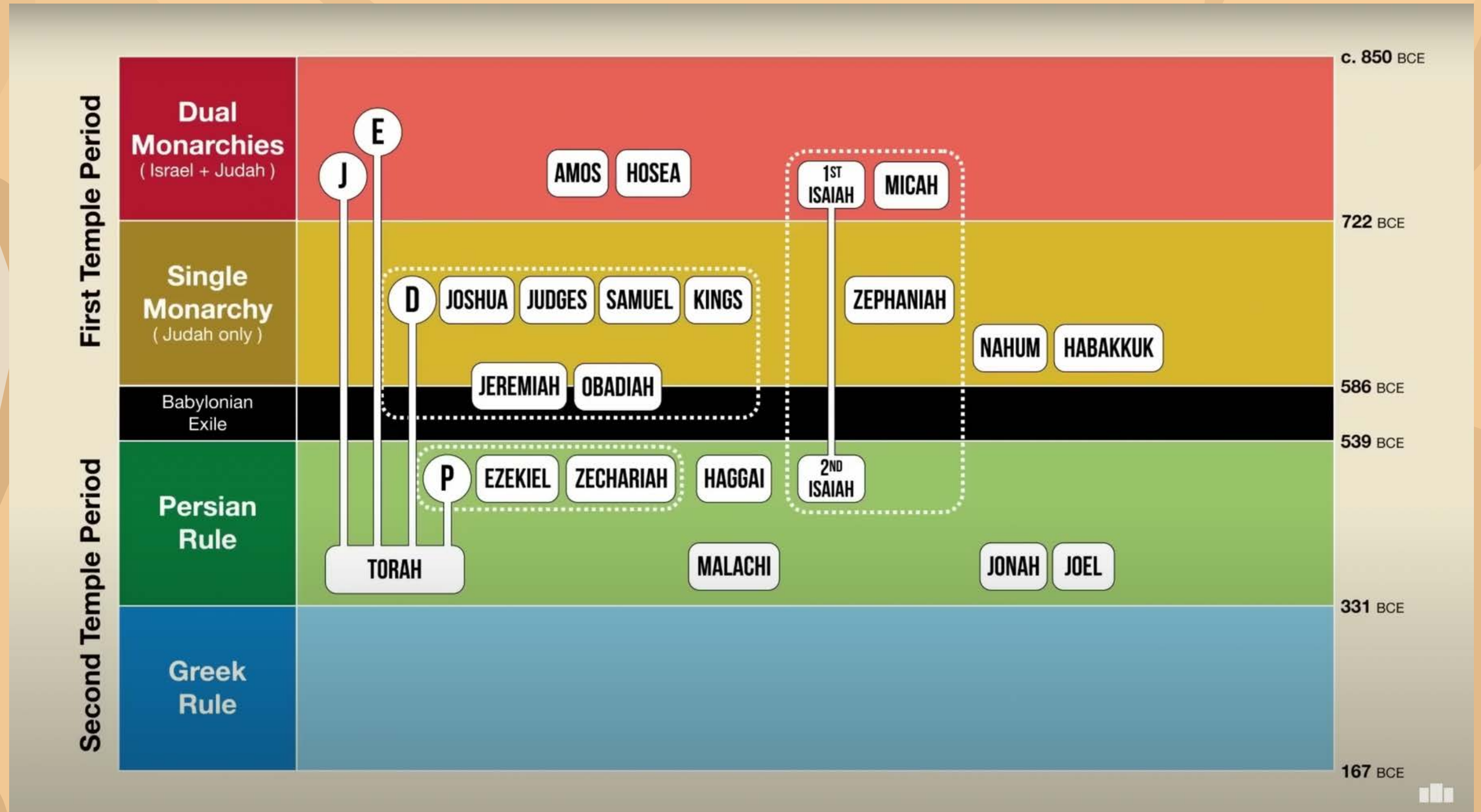
Torah / Pentateuch

Former Prophets

Brief Background

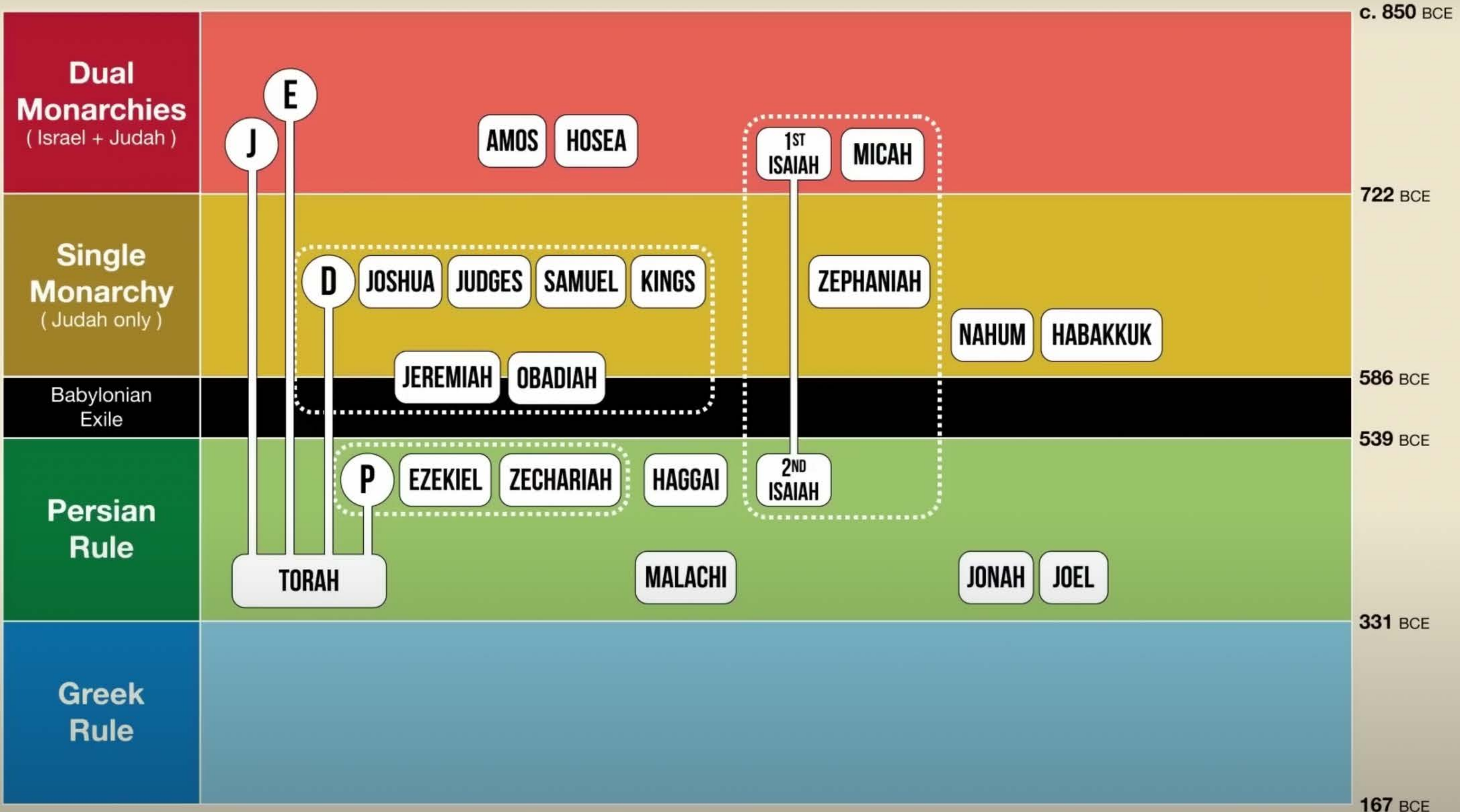
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History

Beginning
Ancestral
History



First Temple Period

Second Temple Period



c. 850 BCE

722 BCE

586 BCE

539 BCE

331 BCE

167 BCE



Brief Background

This section of Genesis begins the
"Abraham Cycle"


Let's take off our "scholar hats"

And look at chapter 12!

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**Finished
Primeval
History**

**Beginning
Ancestral
History**



Chapter 12: Calling of Abram

All begins with Genesis 12:1-3

Abram

**Father
of
nations**

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, **so that you will be a blessing**. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Chapter 12: Calling of Abram

10th "descendant" from Adam;
5th from Noah

Abram is called from Ur/Haran
(Mesopotamia)

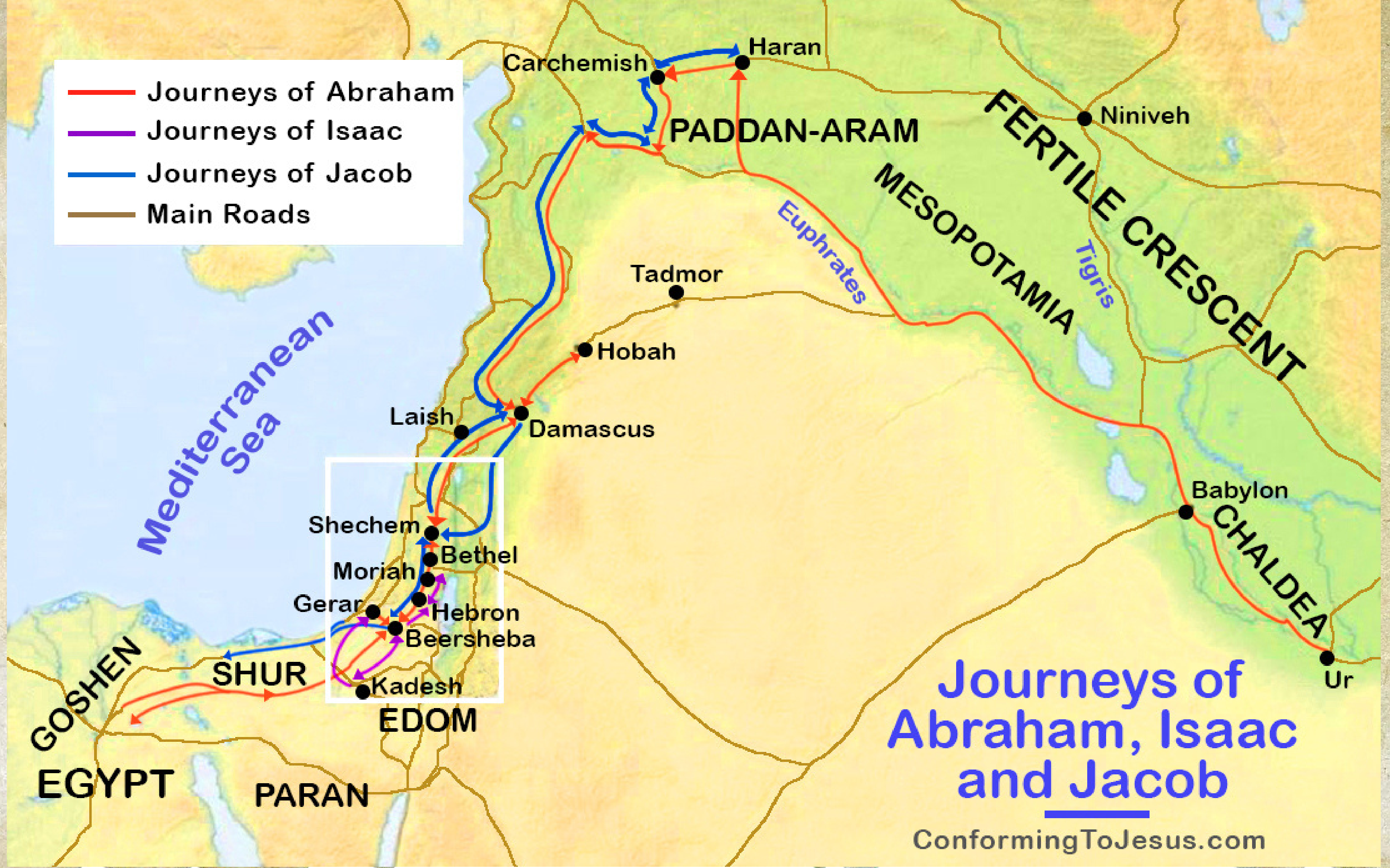
Brings **Lot** (cousin-nephew) and **Sarai**
(half-sister wife)...plus slaves and stuff

Calls on the name of the Lord/makes an
altar in Schechem and God promises the
land

Abram

**Father
of
nations**

- Journeys of Abraham
- Journeys of Isaac
- Journeys of Jacob
- Main Roads



Journeys of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

The Life & Journey of Abraham, Part 1

Genesis



Haran

2 Called by God
12:1-3



Babylon

3 Arrives in Promised Land
12:5

Shechem

Hebron

5 Returns to Promised Land
13:1

4 Moves to Egypt
12:10-20

EGYPT

1 Leaves Ur
11:31

Ur

Chapter 12: First trip to Egypt

Famine - Egypt - Plagues (sound familiar?)

Pharaoh, Sarai and Abram's lie.

Pharaoh gets an STD/STI

They leave Egypt

Remember this story is a chiasm...

Abram

**Father
of
nations**

Chapter 12: First trip to Egypt...why?

Serves the "meta-narrative" as a precursor to the Exodus AND Issac-Rebecca AND the chiastic structure.

Abram

**Father
of
nations**

1. Abraham and Sarah in Egypt (Gen 12);
2. Abraham and Sara in the Philistine city of Gerar, with king Abimelech as the antagonist (Gen 20);
3. Isaac and Rebekah, again with Abimelech in Gerar (26:1–11).

Chapter 12: First trip to Egypt...why?

Evidence this was written AFTER Genesis 26 which came from the E source (came first)

12:9 "And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb (**south**)."

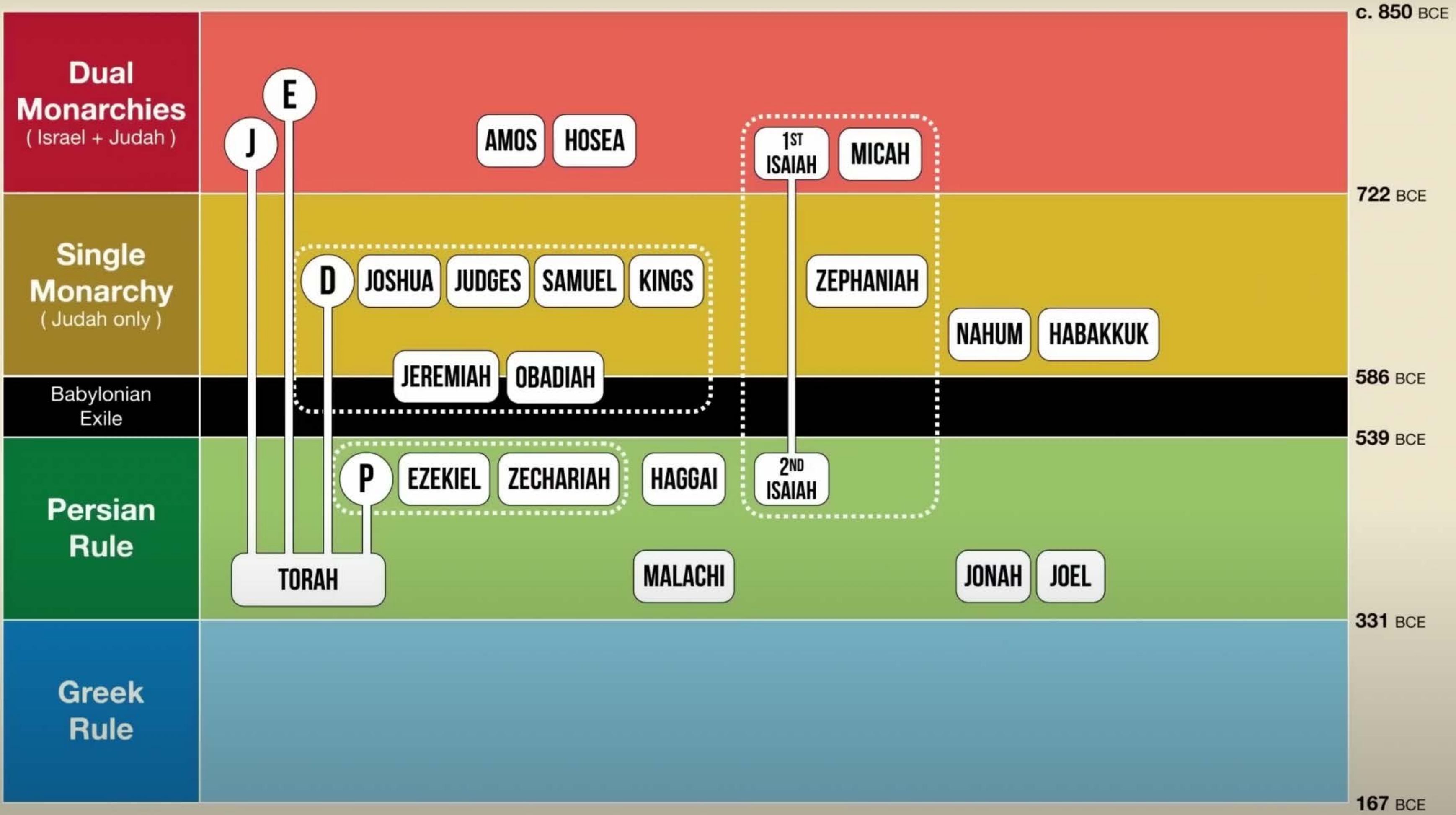
13:1 "So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had and Lot with him, into the Negeb (**south**)."

Abram

Father
of
nations

First Temple Period

Second Temple Period



Chapter 12: First trip to Egypt...why?

Connects Abram to Issac and the Exodus &

Shows Abram's lack of faith in God's protection.

Shows how the human relationship is still damaged.

Testament to God working through broken people.

Abram

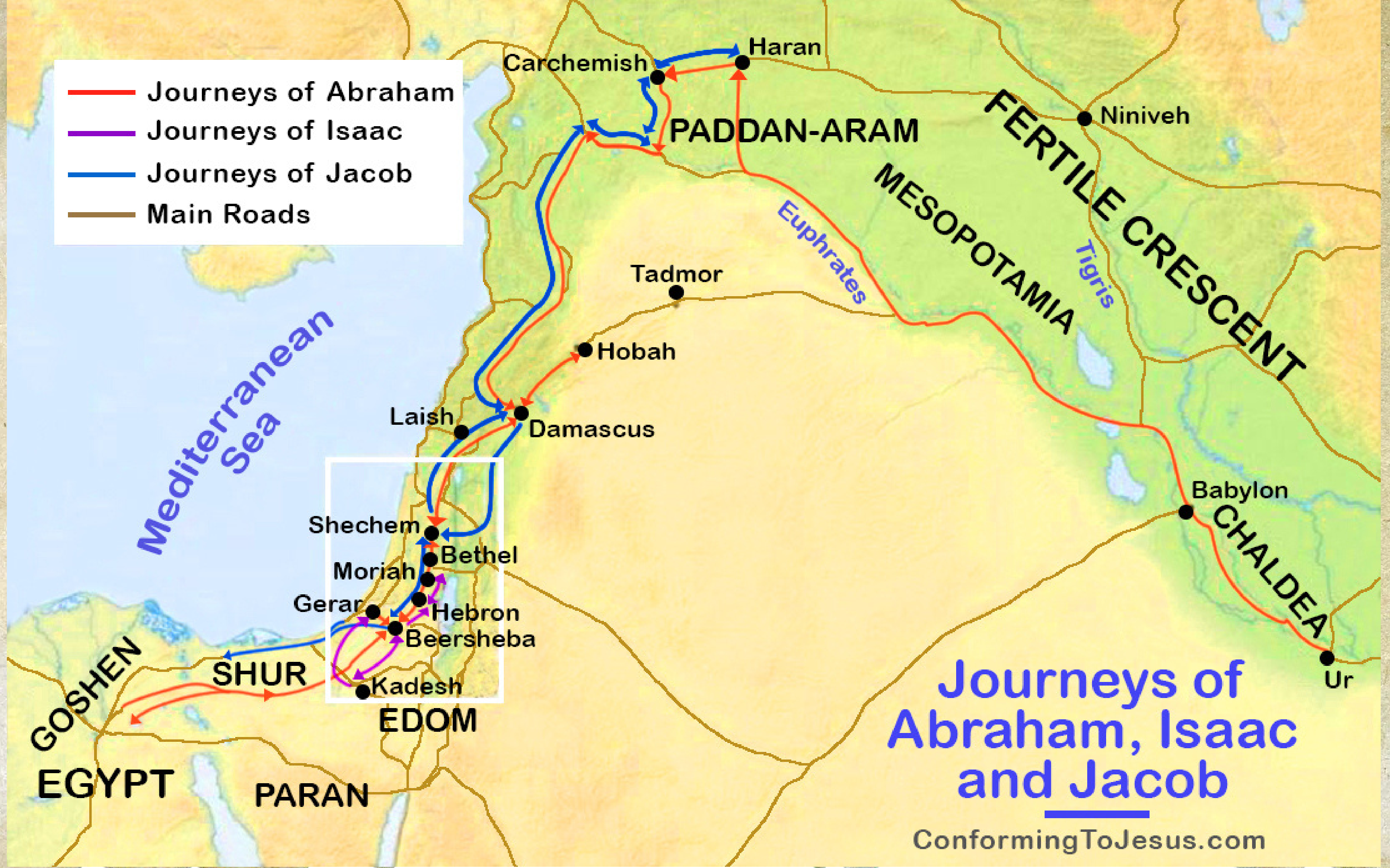
**Father
of
nations**

The Life & Journey of Abraham, Part 1

Genesis



- Journeys of Abraham
- Journeys of Isaac
- Journeys of Jacob
- Main Roads



Journeys of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Chapter 13: Abram and Lot Separate

Leave Egypt into the Negev (south) after the famine

Abram is suddenly wealthy and his company too large (mirroring Exodus) Goes to Schechem and there came to be infighting so he lets Lot choose a land for himself

Lot settles in the "cities of the Plain" (East) near Sodom while Abram settles in the land of Canaan.

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as diam. Ut tortor

Chapter 13: Abram and Lot Separate

Shows God already blessing Abram (he has grown to big)

Shows God's intention for humanity to spread and not accumulate (not big civilizations)

Abram/Lot mirrors Jacob/Esau with God promising a land **after** a split and chosen heir.
"Zooming In"

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Chapter 13: Abram and Lot Separate

Lots "looks and sees" the land is "good"

This connects back to the Garden and later in Egypt when the people of Israel long to go back

This is a warning of arousing desire we are prone too

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as diam. Ut tortor*

Chapter 13: Abram covenant Renewed

Just as Abram let Lot look now God calls Abram to look. Here we see God rewarding the faith of Abram.

God calls on Abram to look in all directions and promises to "give" Abram the land as far as the eye can see. God promises Abram's descendants will be as innumerable as the dust.

Builds another altar in Hebron.

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cilisi cras. Mi bi
as diam. Ut tortor*

Where has Abram been?

The Life & Journey of Abraham, Part 1

Genesis



Hebron
is one of
4 "holy
sites"
in Islam
and
Judaism



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This section of Genesis begins the
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Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

Genesis 14

War in the Valley of Sidim

- ¹ In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,
- ² these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).
- ³ And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴ Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.



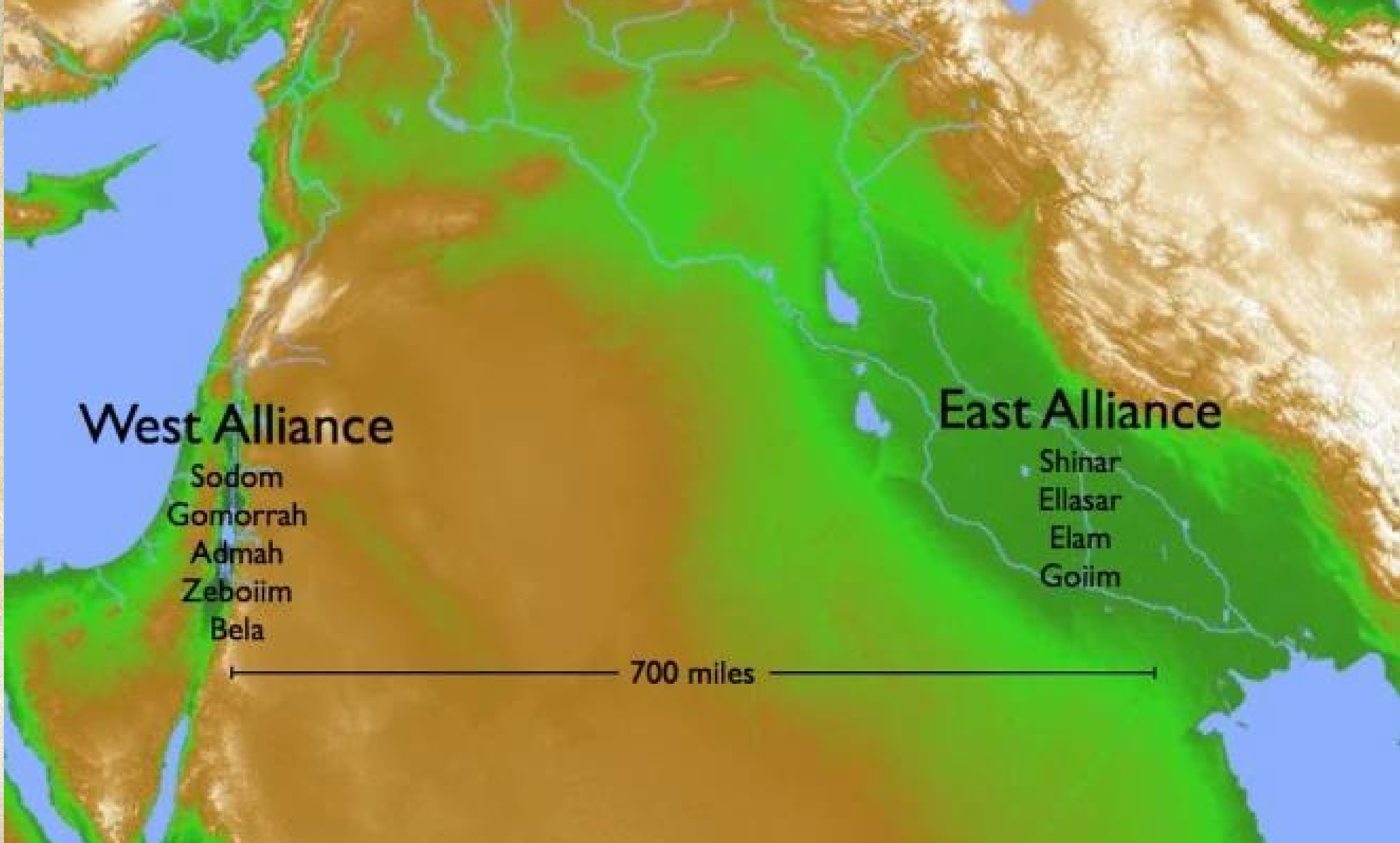
West Alliance

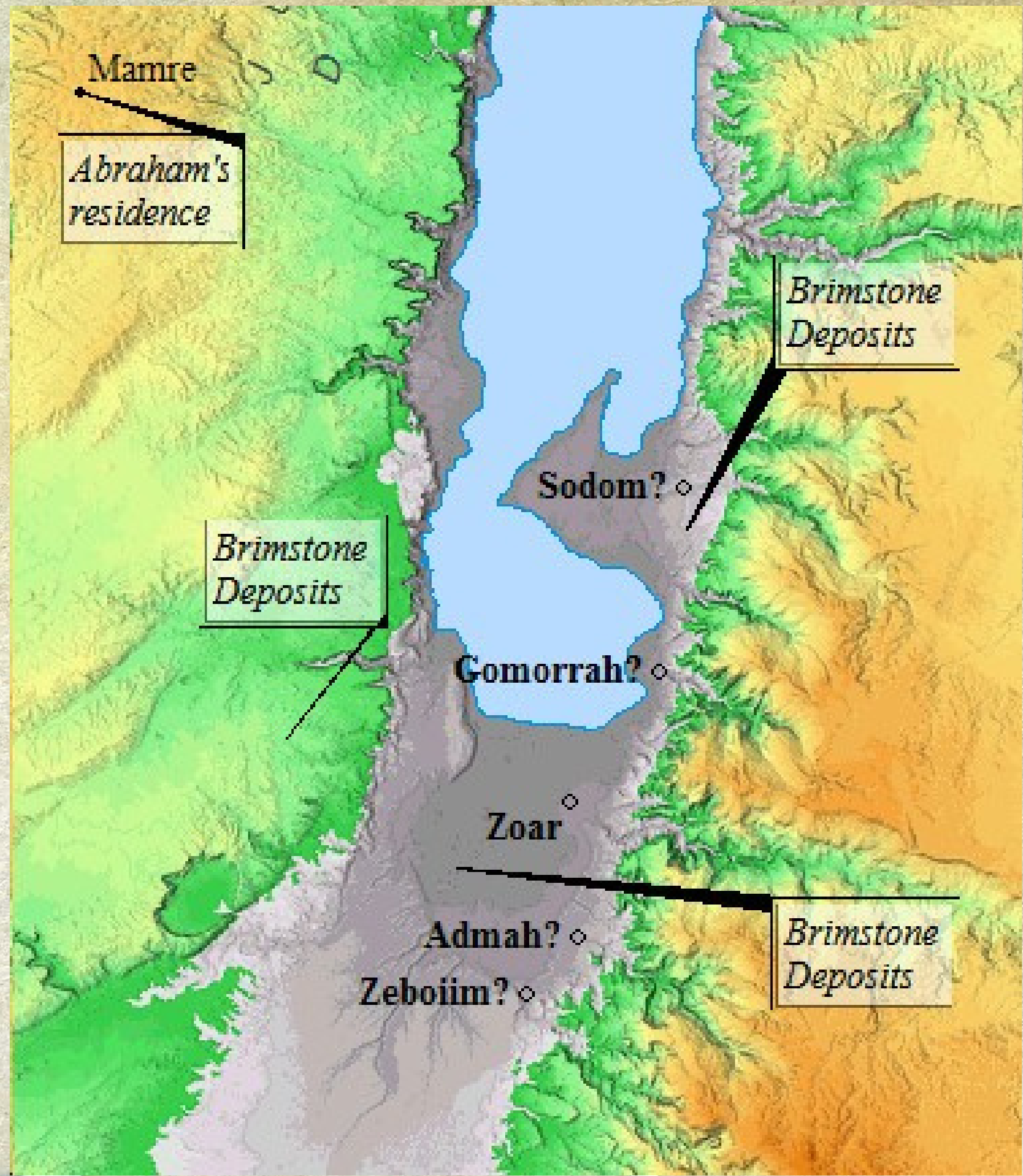
Sodom
Gomorrah
Admah
Zeboiim
Bela

East Alliance

Shinar
Ellasar
Elam
Goiim

700 miles





Chapter 14: War of the Nine Kings

Tells of Canaan's captivity "12 years they served" pointing toward the later years Israel is under Assyria/Babylonian captivity

Commentary on Abram having "allies" in the land

All of "Mesopotamia" defeats and plunders the Valley of Siddim/Cannan and then Abram single handily defeats and frees everyone. (making fun)

God's favor is still with Abram

Chapter 14: Abram Saves Lot

Here we see Abram saving Lot. The family of God sticks together and is there for one another in need.

This is also a powerful lesson about God's favor and should be up there with "David and Goliath" in how God works through the "weaker ones" as long as we stay faithful

Chapter 14: Abram & Melchizedek

And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High (El Elyon). He blessed him and said,
“Blessed be Abram by God Most High (El Elyon),
maker of heaven and earth,
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Chapter 14: Abram & Melchizedek

Melchizedek

King: ruler of a city-state

Salem: Jubusite stronghold of modern-day Jerusalem

Priest: "El Elyon" & bread and wine

Chapter 14: Abram & Melchizedek

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I LOVE THIS STORY

Chapter 14: Abram & Melchizedek

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Priest: "El Elyon" & bread and wine

Psalm 110 identifies David as being in "order of"

Chapter 14: Abram & Melchizedek

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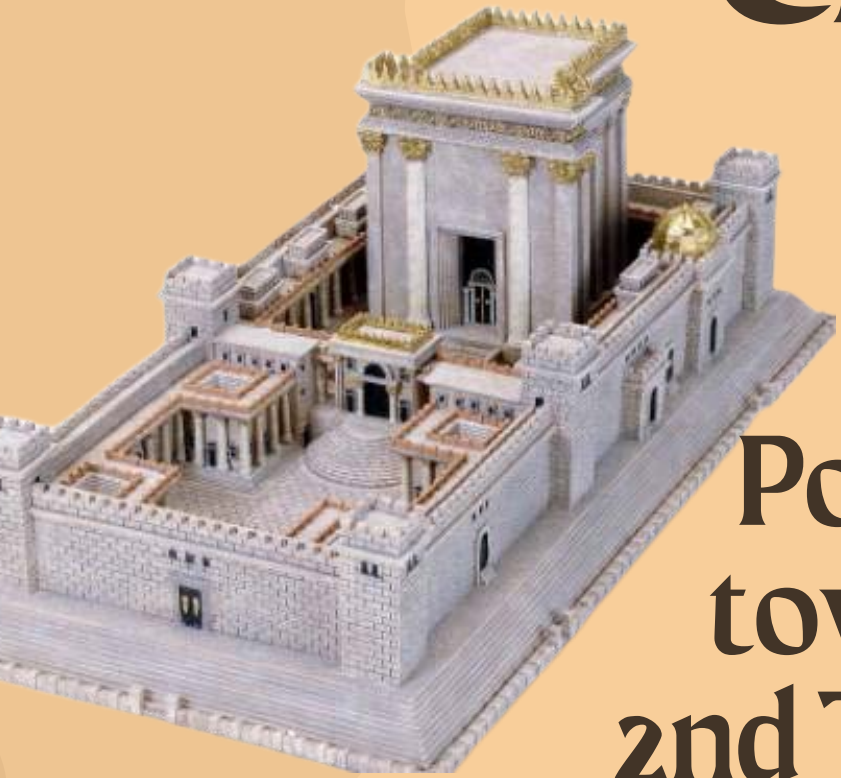
Connects Abram to Second-Temple Judaism
and Priestly practices (tithing)

Chapter 14: Melchizedek



OR

Chapter 14: Melchizedek



Points
toward
2nd Temple

OR



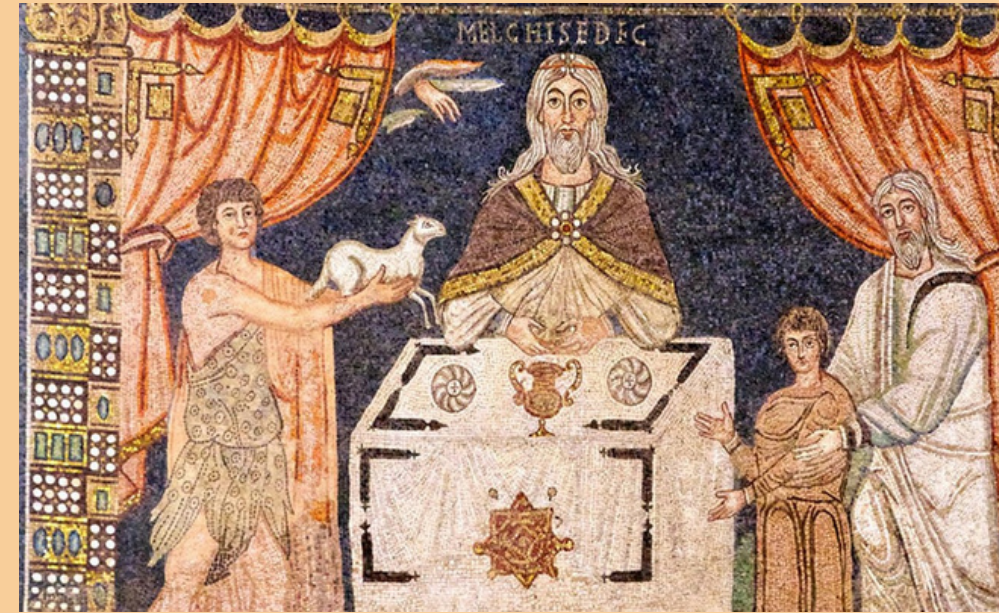
Zedek
(head pantheon)
meanings
righteousness

Chapter 14: Melchizedek



Points
toward
2nd Temple

OR



Pre-
Incarnate
Christ

OR



Zedek
(head pantheon)
meanings
righteousness

Chapter 14: Melchizedek



Points toward 2nd Temple

OR



Pre-Incarnate Christ

OR



Zedek
(head pantheon)
meanings
righteousness

OR

C^{*}o[♀]e[♂]is[†]t

God Working
besides Abram's
story

Chapter 14: Melchizedek

Looking Ahead to Temple System

Precursor of Christ

ONE example in Scripture of God
working EVERYWHERE



righteousness

story

Genesis 15-17

The Abraham Cycle

Journey Through Genesis

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Overview Pt 2

This section of Genesis continues the
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Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Genesis 16: Abram and Hagar/Ishmael

Genesis 17: Abraham and Covenant Circumscion

**Questions/
What stood out/
Let's read!**

Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Seeing Abram and God in a new way

Prophetic: "Word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision"

Relational: "But Abram said.....And (God) said..."

Theophany: "a visible manifestation to humankind of God."

Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Seeing Abram and God in a new way

Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Summary

Abram is concerned about not having offspring and assumes his "lead slave" will be his heir.

God calls Abram to look at the skies and count the stars saying his descendants will be as numerous.

Then God gives a future promise about Israel in Egypt (we will discuss this in a moment)

Then Abram has a special dream about covenants

Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Summary

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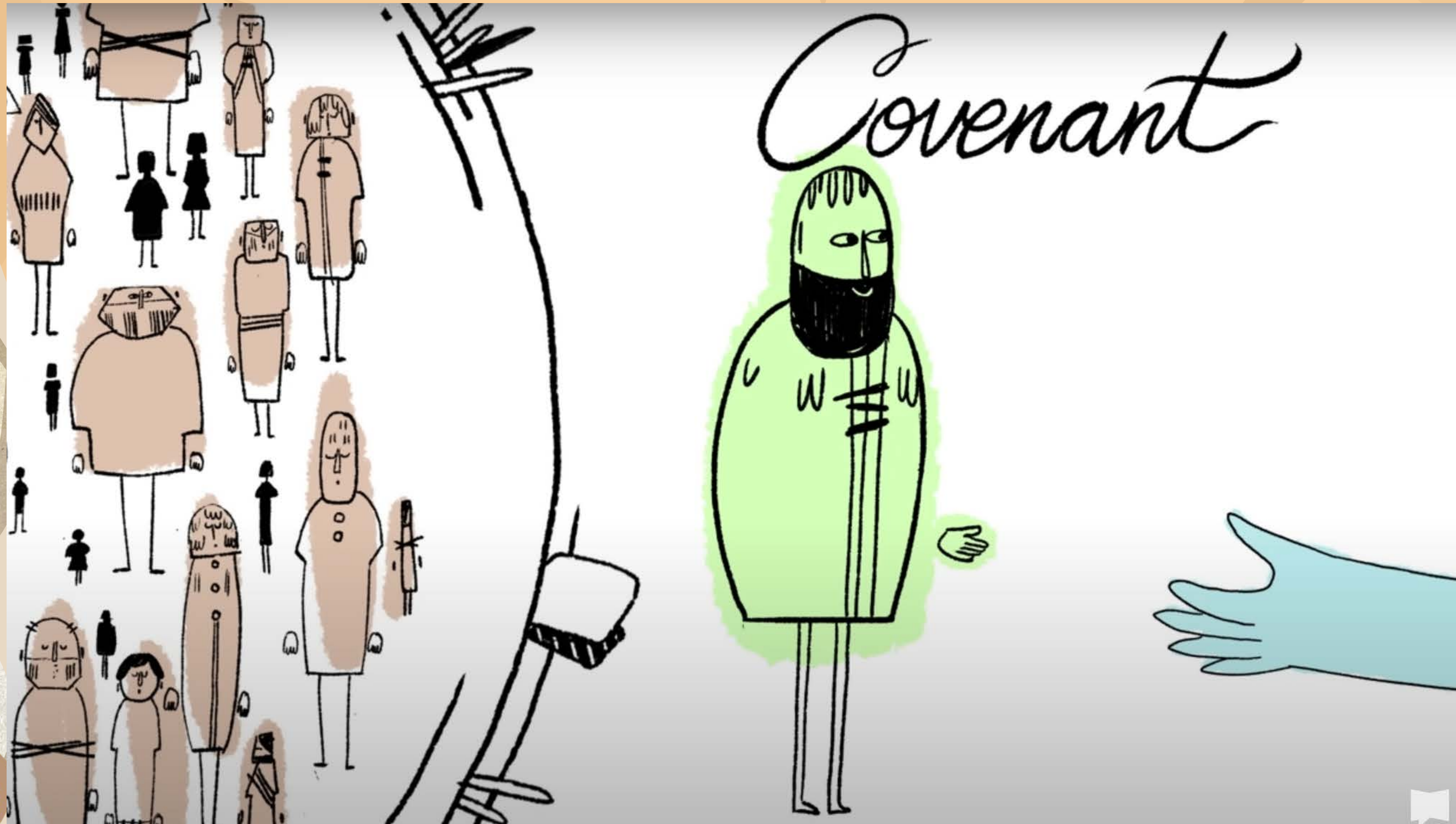
to your children, I "have given" present tense meaning now

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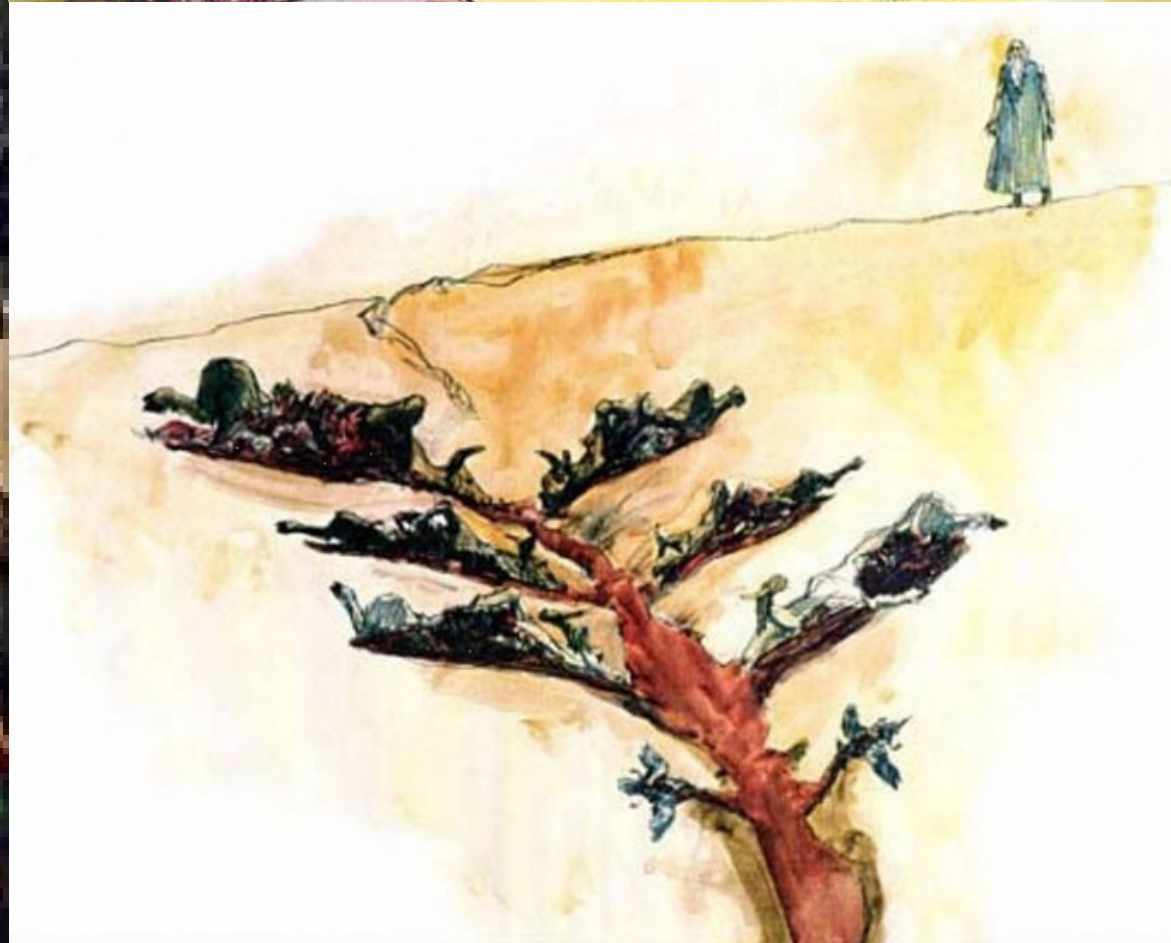
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Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces



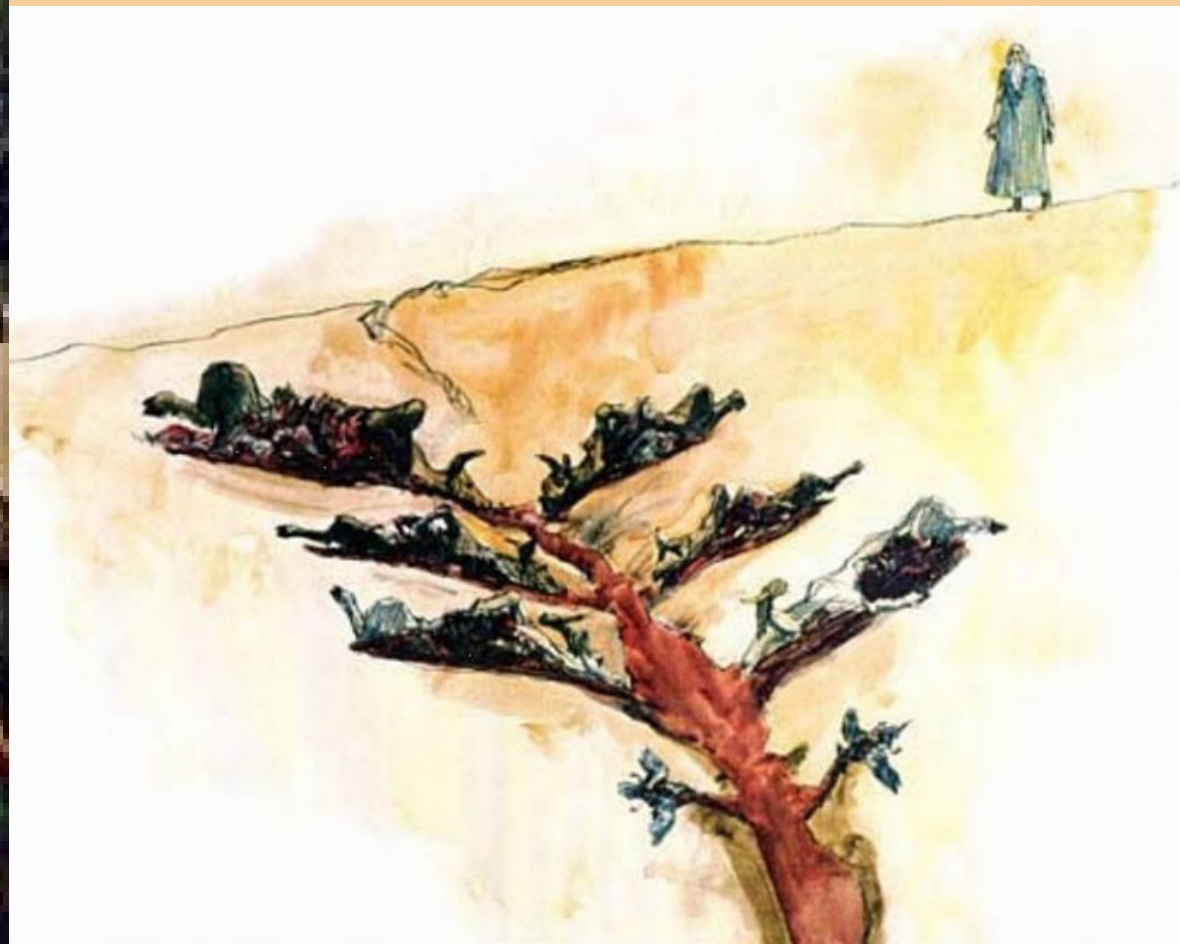
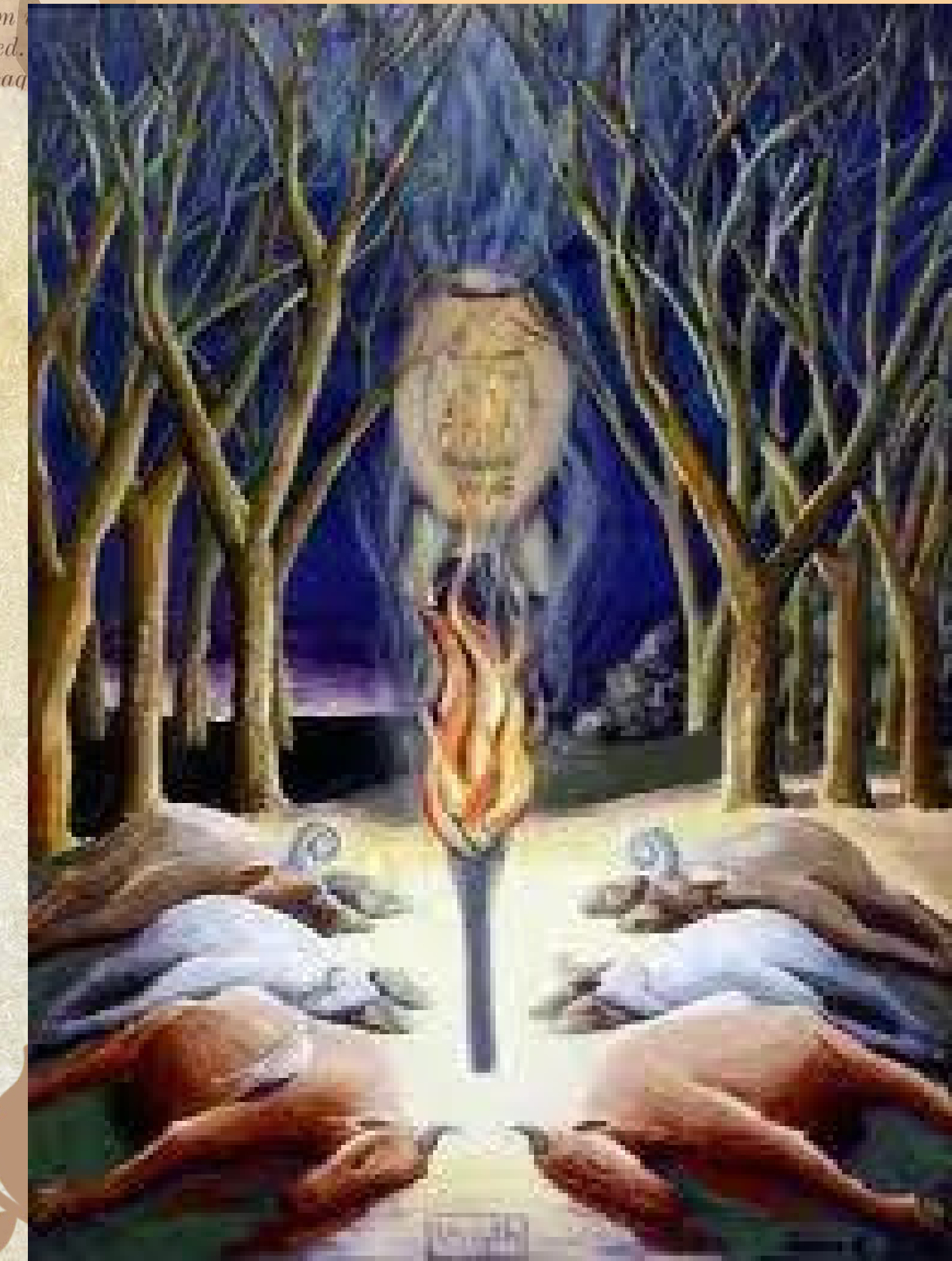
Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces



Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Smoking Pot and Flame were used in Mesopotamian rituals to ward off evil. Here they are used as a "theophany" for God's own self.

This is a typical covenant (called "cutting" a covenant) that ONLY God "walks" through



Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Comment about future history

Clearly added by the final editor/redactor.

Set off by the repetition of the sun setting

Narratively out of place

Uses words and language that "don't belong"

Heb word for "Property" ONLY found in "P" source and once in Genesis 14
"alien in the land" and "will degrade them" is only used in Exodus (written from a different source)

"400 years of slavery" copies "30 and 400 years" in Exodus

Genesis 16: Abram and Hagar/Ishmael

Summary

After 10 years in the land, Sarai gives Abram Hagar as a wife.

Hagar is pregnant and flees from Sarai's wrath.

God "sees" Hagar (so she calls the place El-roi) and says name your son Ishmael (God hears)

Ishmael is born.

Genesis 16: Abram and Hagar/Ishmael

Hagar is from Egypt Hagar and maybe a "princess."

She wasn't given as a concubine but as a wife (Adam and Eve).

Christian/Jewish/Muslim views of Hagar differ.

She may have married Abram after Sarai died.



Genesis 16: Abram and Hagar/Ishmael

Hagar

This story may be the central point of the Abraham cycle (as well as the two covenants).

It paints God as merciful and one who hears the hurting.

God listens to Hagar and protects her and her son.



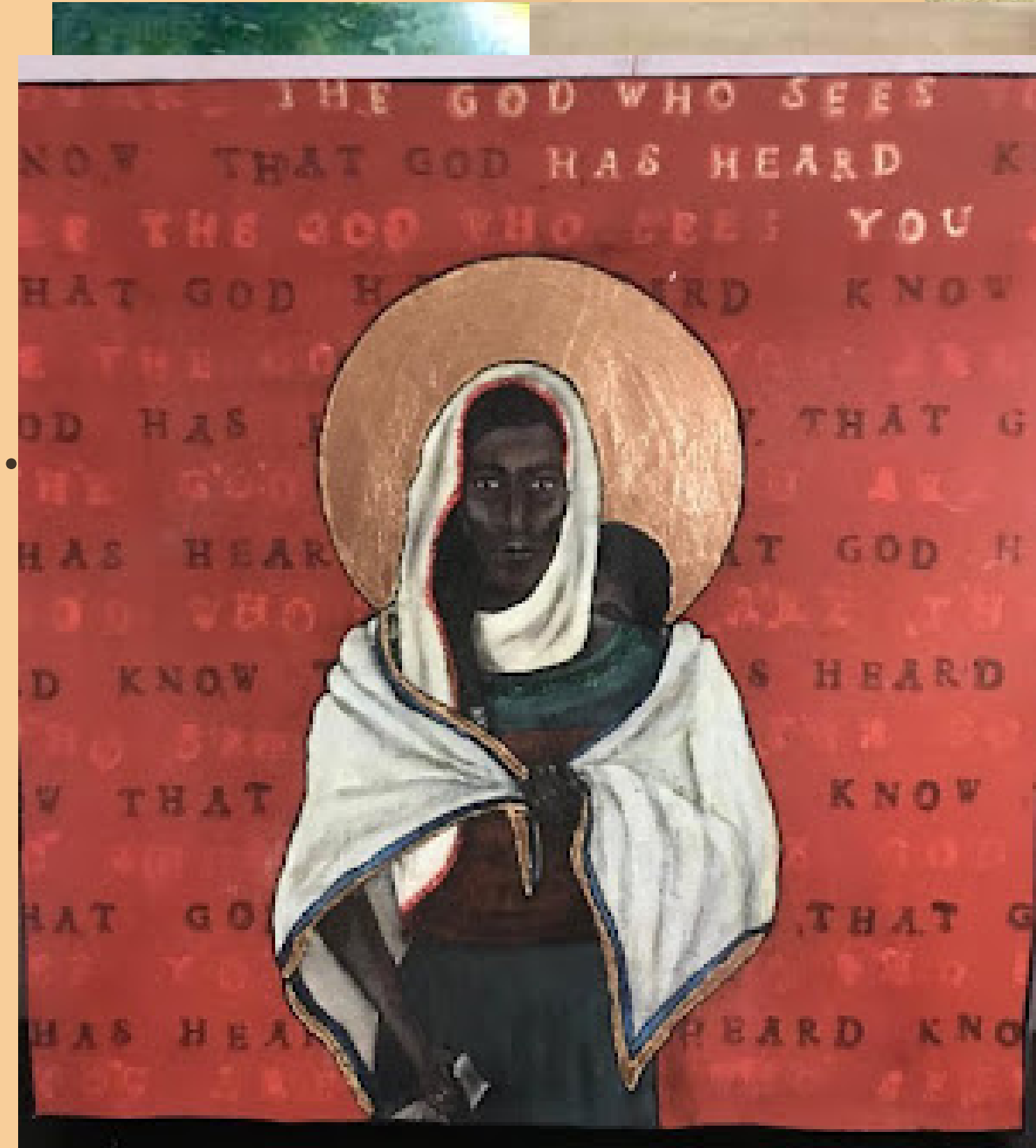
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Genesis 16: Abram and Hagar/Ishmael

Genesis 17: Abraham and Covenant Circumscion

Genesis 17: Abraham and Covenant Circumcision Summary

Abram is 99 and God renews (cuts) the covenant with him through circumcision (cutting) or they will be "cut off"

Their names are changed from Abram to Abraham (great father - great"er" father or father of many nations) and Sarai to Sarah (princess/queen)

Genesis 17: Abraham and Covenant Circumcision Summary

God promises Abraham and Sarah will have a son named Issac (he laughs).

All are circumcised and Abraham asks God to bless Ishmael which God agrees to saying he will have twelve princess.