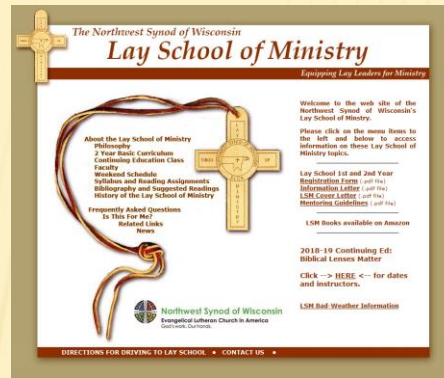


GPS: God's Positioning System

Reading the Bible through a Geographical Lens



Session 3

From Eden to Promised Land Geography of Genesis-Exodus

Archaeological Periods in Palestine

Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) 700,000–15,000 BC

Stone: pre-4500 BCE

Neolithic (New Stone Age) 8300–4500

Chalcolithic: 4500-3150 BCE

Bronze Age

Early Bronze Age 1 3150–2850

Early Bronze Age 2 2850–2650

Early Bronze Age 3 2650–2350

Early Bronze Age 4 2350–2000

Bronze: 3150-1200 BCE

Middle Bronze Age 1 2000–1750

Middle Bronze Age 3 1750–1550

Late Bronze Age 1 1550–1400

Late Bronze Age 2 1400–1300

Late Bronze Age 3 1300–1200

Iron Age

Iron Age 1A 1200–1150

Iron Age 1B

Iron (I & II): 1200-586 BCE

Iron Age 2B 900–800

Iron Age 2C 800–586

Babylonian/Persian: 586-332 BCE

Hellenistic Period

Hellenistic: 332-37 BCE

Hellenistic 2 (Ptolemaean) 132–37

Roman Period

Roman: 37 BCE – 324 CE

Late Roman 180–324

Byzantine Period

Byzantine: 324-640 CE (~>1453)

Byzantine 2 451–640

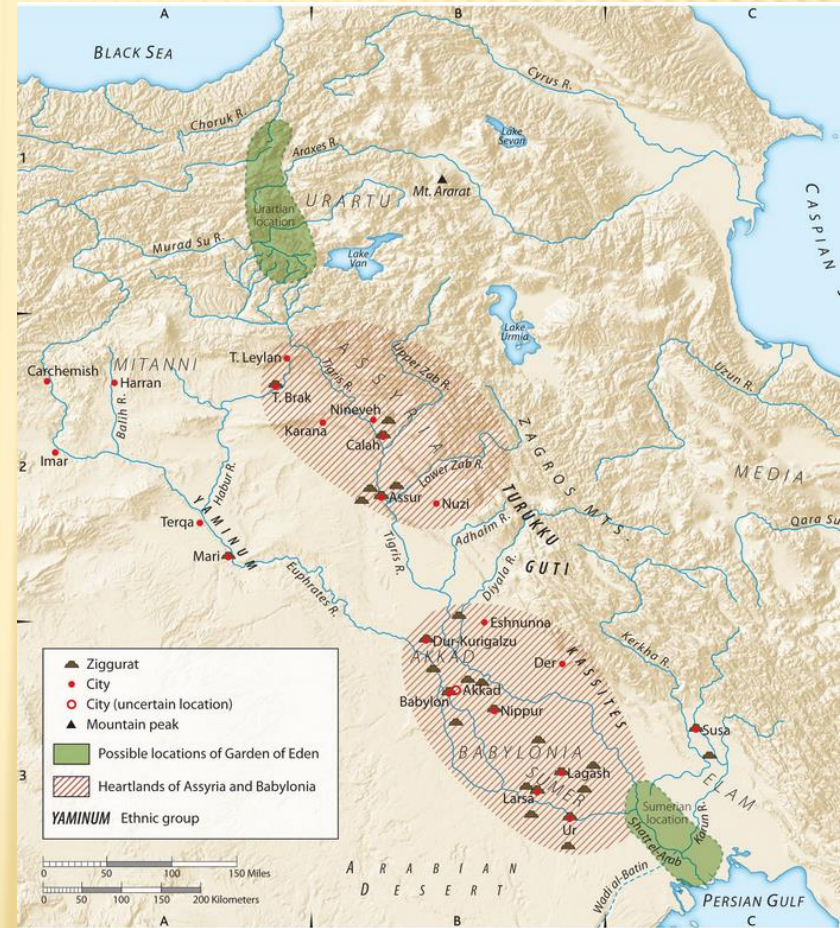
Islamic: 640-1099 CE

Crusader: 1099-1291 CE

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the *adam* whom he had formed.

- גַּן-בְּדֵדֶן = *gan-b'eden*
 - *gan* = plain? garden? orchard?
 - *eden* > ~luxury, delightful things
- LXX: παράδεισον ἐν Εδεμ = *paradeison en Edem*
- “paradise” from Old Persian *paridayda* = walled garden (cf. פְּרִדִּים = *pardes* in Hebrew)
- Jewish late 2nd Temple (e.g., 1st CE Apocalypse of Moses), restored Eden = paradise ~ = (3rd) heaven
- Irenaeus (2nd CE): heaven > paradise > restored Jerusalem
- Origen (3rd CE): paradise as “school” for righteous dead preparing for heaven
- Augustine (4th/5th): paradise = Abraham’s bosom



THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east...

http://www.londonstrategichouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/middle_east_map_rivers.jpg

Where was it?

“in the east” (east of what?)

- 2:10: “A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.”
 - Pishon in Havilah? (Ganges??)
 - Gihon in Cush? (Nile? Mesopotamia?)
 - Tigris, east of Assyria
 - Euphrates

Where is the biblical author picturing it?

Does it really matter?



THE GARDEN OF EDEN

http://www.londonstrategichouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/middle_east_map_rivers.jpg

Where was it *really*?

Allegorical?

Origen:

Eden as “paradise of the soul” – Rivers =

- Prudence
- Courage
- Justice
- Self-mastery

Metaphorical?

Mythological?



PRE-ABRAHAM & SARAH

Paleolithic – pre-10,000 BCE

- Hunters & gatherers, stone tools, cave dwellings
- Amud Caves (~7mi NW of Sea of Galilee)
- Qesem Caves (~7mi E of Tel Aviv)

Epi-Paleolithic – 10,000-8000 BCE

- Begin to domesticate plants and animals, beginning of permanent settlements

Neolithic – 8000-4000 BCE

- ‘Urbanization’ but then decline
- Pottery begins to be used at end of this period
- Jericho: first known fortification



Jericho Neolithic Tower
~7000 BCE

PRE-ABRAHAM & SARAH

En Gedi
Chalcolithic Temple

Chalcolithic – 4000-3200 BCE

- Increase in Near East population
- More trade
- Metal (**copper**) used for tools
- En Gedi Temple
- Beersheba group



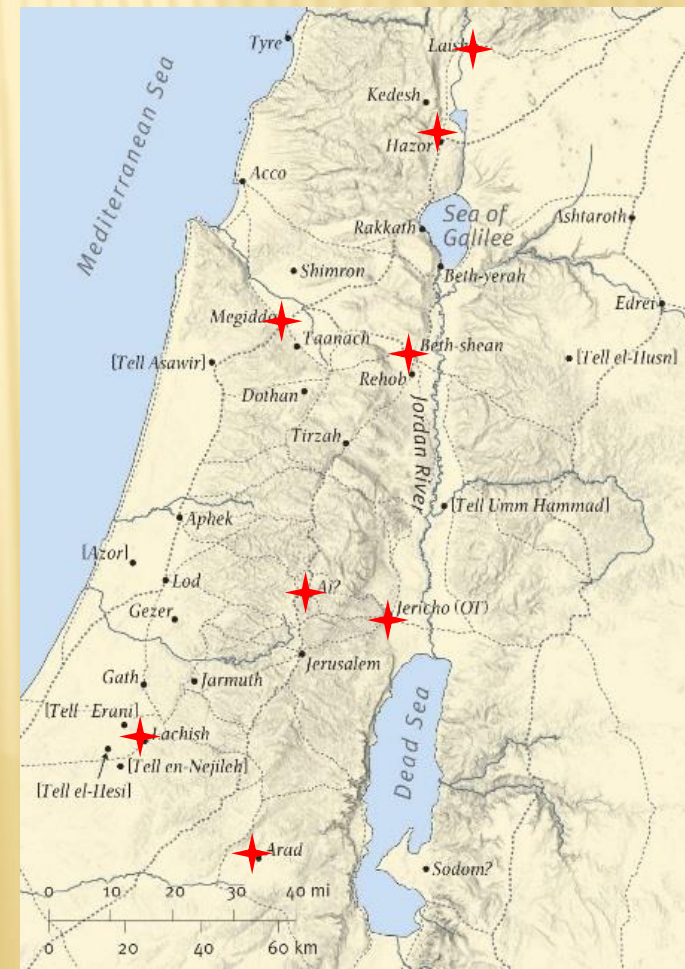
Beersheba
Group

En Gedi

PRE-ABRAHAM & SARAH

Early Bronze Age – 3200-2200 BCE

- Villages > Cities
- Full-fledged agriculture (especially wine & olive oil)
- International trade
- Beginning of empires in Egypt and Mesopotamia
 - Egyptian pyramids
 - Sumerians (writing) >> Akkadians (2350-2150 BCE)
- Syria-Palestine
 - Urbanization: Arad, Lachish, Ai, Jericho, Megiddo, Beth-Shean, Hazor, Laish (Dan)
 - Major decline 2350-2200: urbanism > nomadism



EARLY BRONZE AGE – 3200-2200 BCE



EARLY BRONZE- 3200-2200 BCE

Megiddo
Round stone altar
~2500 BCE



THE TABLE OF NATIONS: GENESIS 10

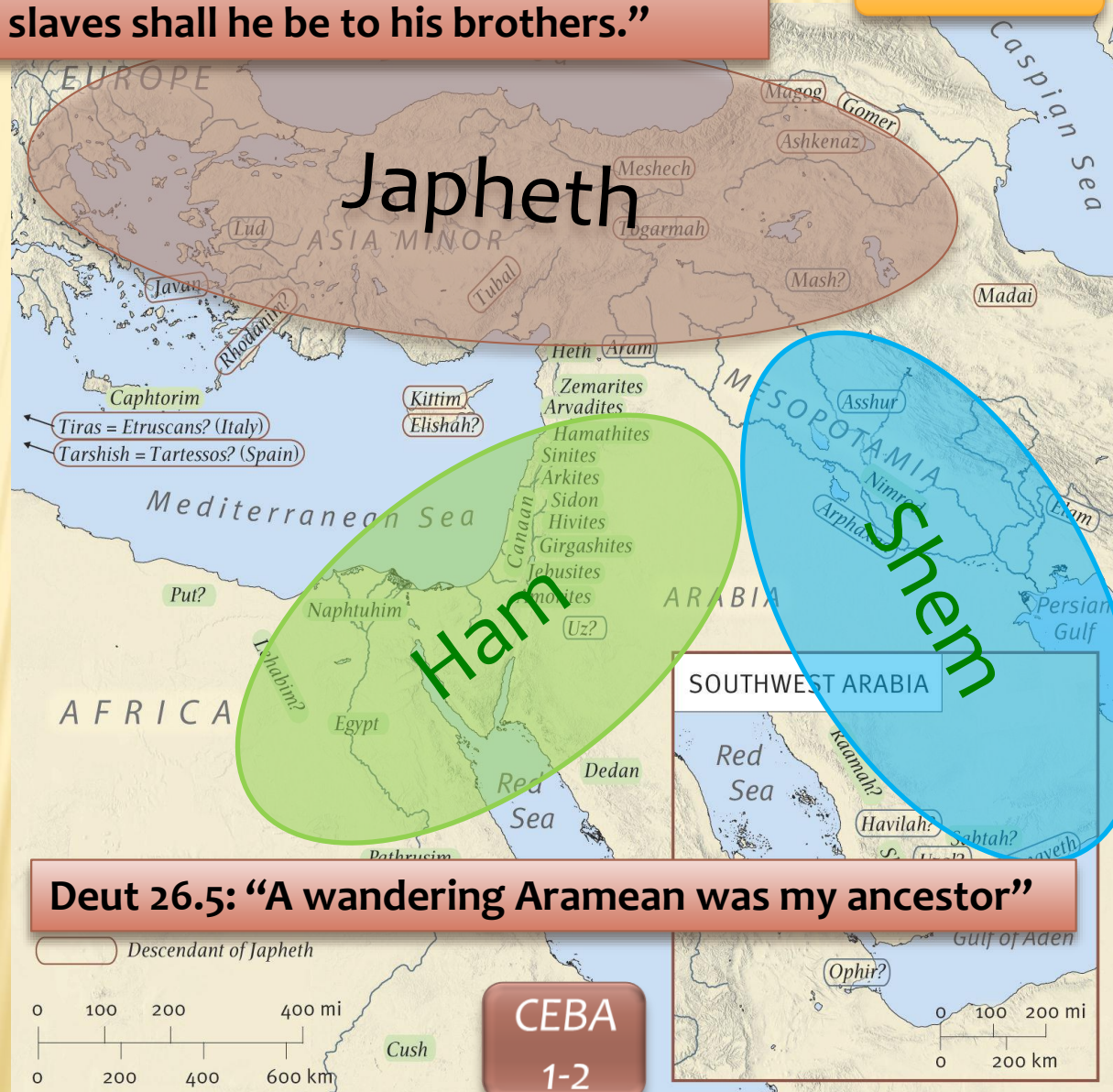
These are the descendants of Noah's sons...

Gen 9:25 Noah said [to Ham], "Cursed be Canaan; lowest of slaves shall he be to his brothers."

Cf. NMA B 28

Three Parts

- 14 descendants of Japheth: Magog, Tarshish, Kittim...
- 30 descendants of Ham: Cush, (> Nimrod > Babel, Nineveh), Canaan, Egypt (> Philistines)...
- 26 descendants of Shem: Asshur, Aram...



Deut 26.5: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor"

Genesis 9.18-27!

Noah & his sons

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE: 1850-1550 BCE

- ✘ Ziggurats in Ur (21st century BCE Sumerian ~> Tower of Babel)
- ✘ Amorites (1950-1800 BCE) >>
- ✘ Babylonians: Code of Hammurabi: 1792-1750 BCE
- ✘ Fortified cities: Megiddo, Hazor, Laish/Dan, Shechem
- ✘ Hyksos in Palestine > Egypt (1640-1550)



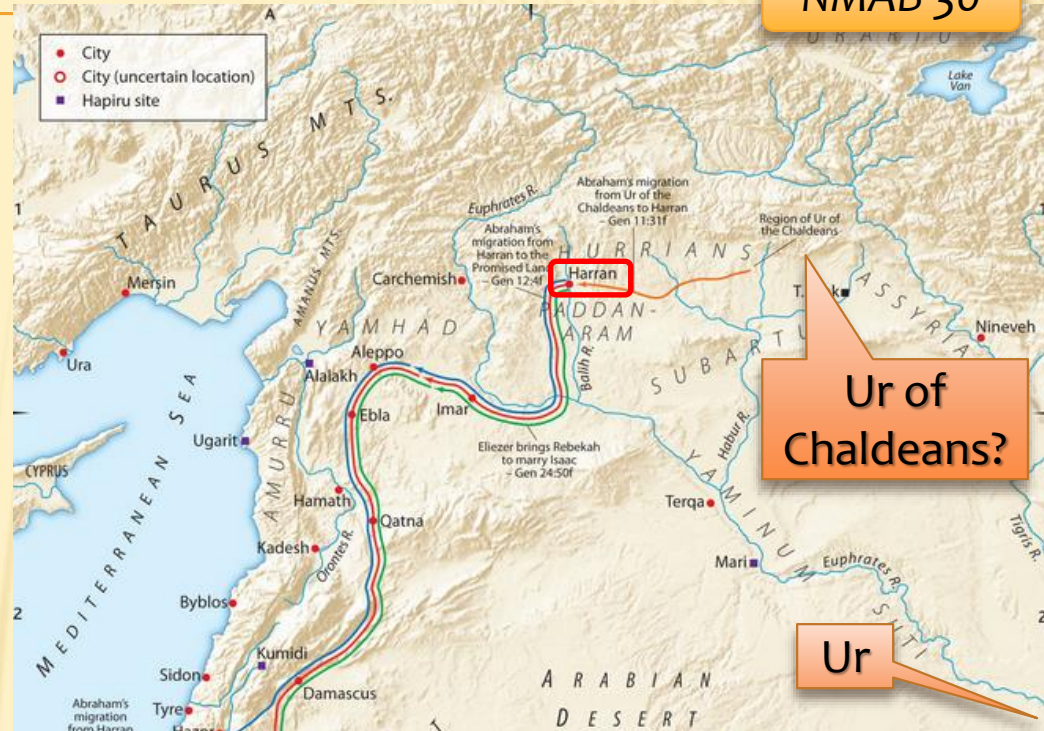
Laish / Tell Dan
19th-18th century BCE gate

THE WORLD OF THE PATRIARCHS

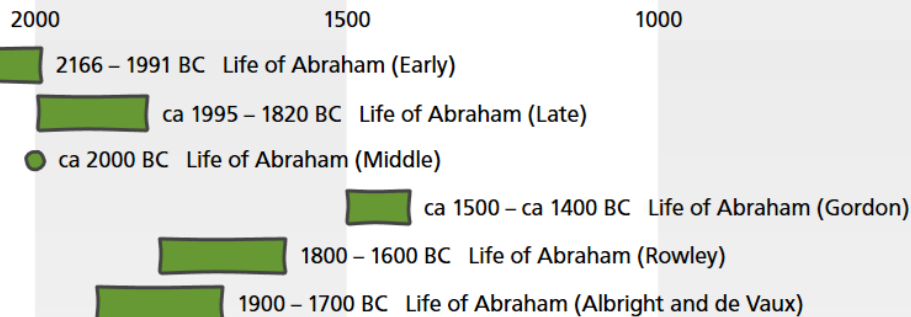
NMAB 30

Abraham & Sarah

- ✗ Reality or Myth?
- ✗ When? > ~1800 BCE
- ✗ Ur or Ur of Chaldeans?
- ✗ Pastoral semi-nomads
- ✗ Time of weak political control >> Middle Bronze: 1850-1550 BCE



Gen 11.31: Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from **Ur of the Chaldeans** to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to **Haran**, they settled there.



ABRAHAM & SARAH

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.”

*How is the ‘call’ of Abram similar to and different from
the ‘curse’ upon Cain in Genesis 4.12-16?*

How has your own ‘call’ been both blessing and pain?

ABRAHAM & SARAH

~2000-1800 BCE

Shechem: Middle Bronze Age walls
Mt. Gerizim in distance



Gen 12.6: Abram passed through the land to the place at **Shechem**, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

In Accordance, use *Outlines of Bible Books*
In BW, use dropdown at top of Browse Window

B. The Covenant with Abraham ([12:1-22:19](#))

1. God Calls Abram to the Promised Land ([12:1-9](#))
2. Abram Sojourns in Egypt ([12:10-20](#))
3. Abram and Lot Separate ([13:1-13](#))
4. God Promises Abram Land and Seed ([13:14-18](#))
5. Abram Defeats the Five Kings ([14:1-24](#))
6. God Makes a Covenant With Abram ([15:1-21](#))
7. Hagar Gives Birth to Ishmael ([16:1-16](#))
8. God Commands Abraham Regarding Circumcision ([17:1-27](#))
9. The Lord Promises Sarah a Son ([18:1-15](#))
10. God Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah ([18:16-19:38](#))
11. Abraham and Abimelech ([20:1-18](#))
12. Sarah Gives Birth to Isaac ([21:1-7](#))
13. Hagar and Ishmael are Banished ([21:8-21](#))
14. Abraham Makes a Covenant With Abimelech ([21:22-34](#))
15. God Tests Abraham's Faith ([22:1-19](#))

C. Transition to Isaac ([22:20-25:11](#))

1. Rebekah's Family Background ([22:20-24](#))
2. Abraham Buries Sarah ([23:1-20](#))
3. Isaac Marries Rebekah ([24:1-67](#))
4. Abraham Gives All That He Has to Isaac ([25:1-6](#))
5. Abraham Dies and is Buried With Sarah ([25:7-11](#))

ABRAHAM & SARAH

A) 12.4f: A&S from Haran

F) 14.12: Abr rescues Lot

B) 12.6: Shechem

C) 12.10: Egypt

D) 13.3f: Bethel

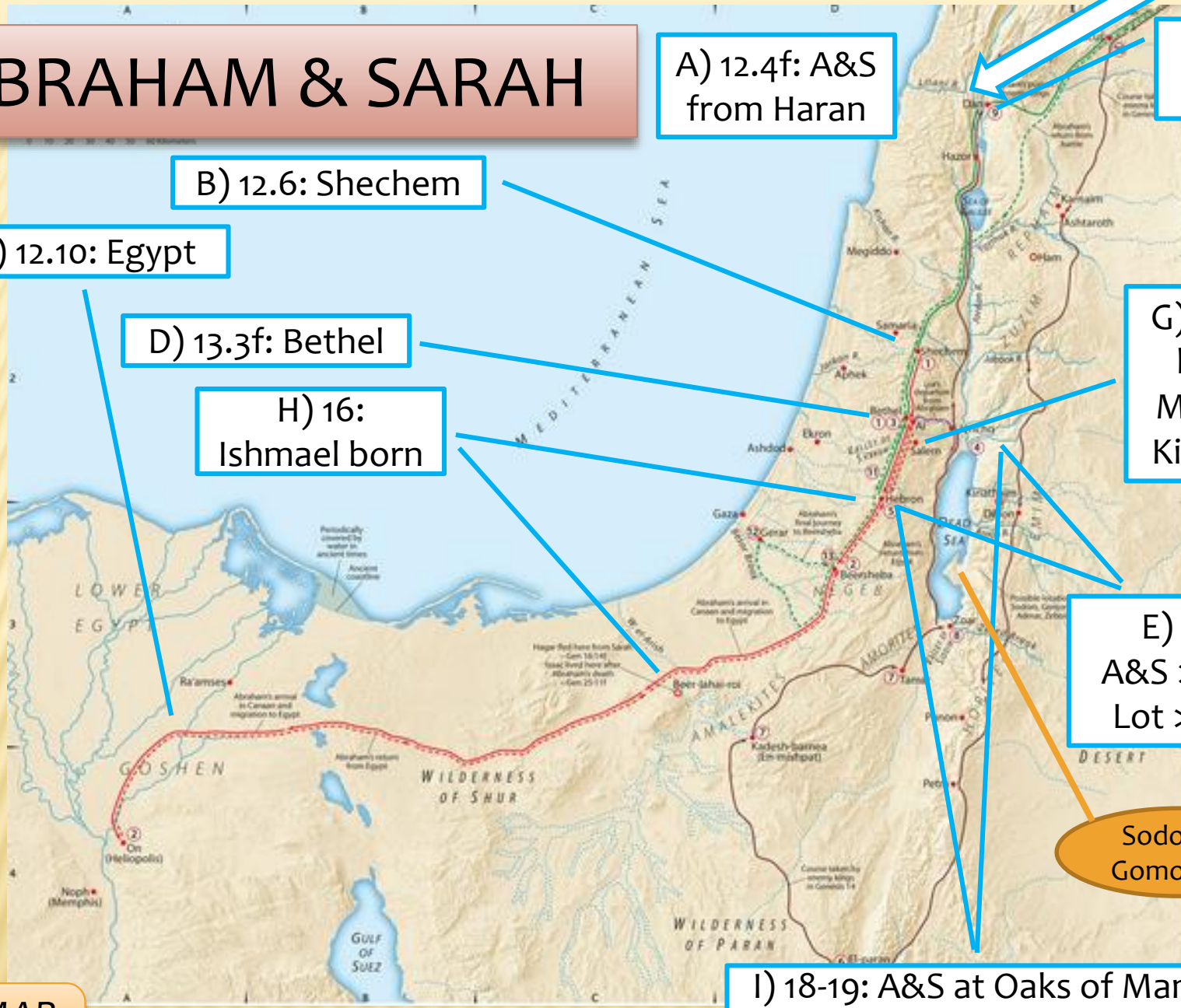
H) 16: Ishmael born

G) 14.17ff: Abr blessed by Melchizedek, King of Salem

E) 13.11ff: A&S > Hebron
Lot > Sodom

Sodom & Gomorrah?

I) 18-19: A&S at Oaks of Mamre > Sodom & Gom. destroyed



ABRAHAM & SARAH

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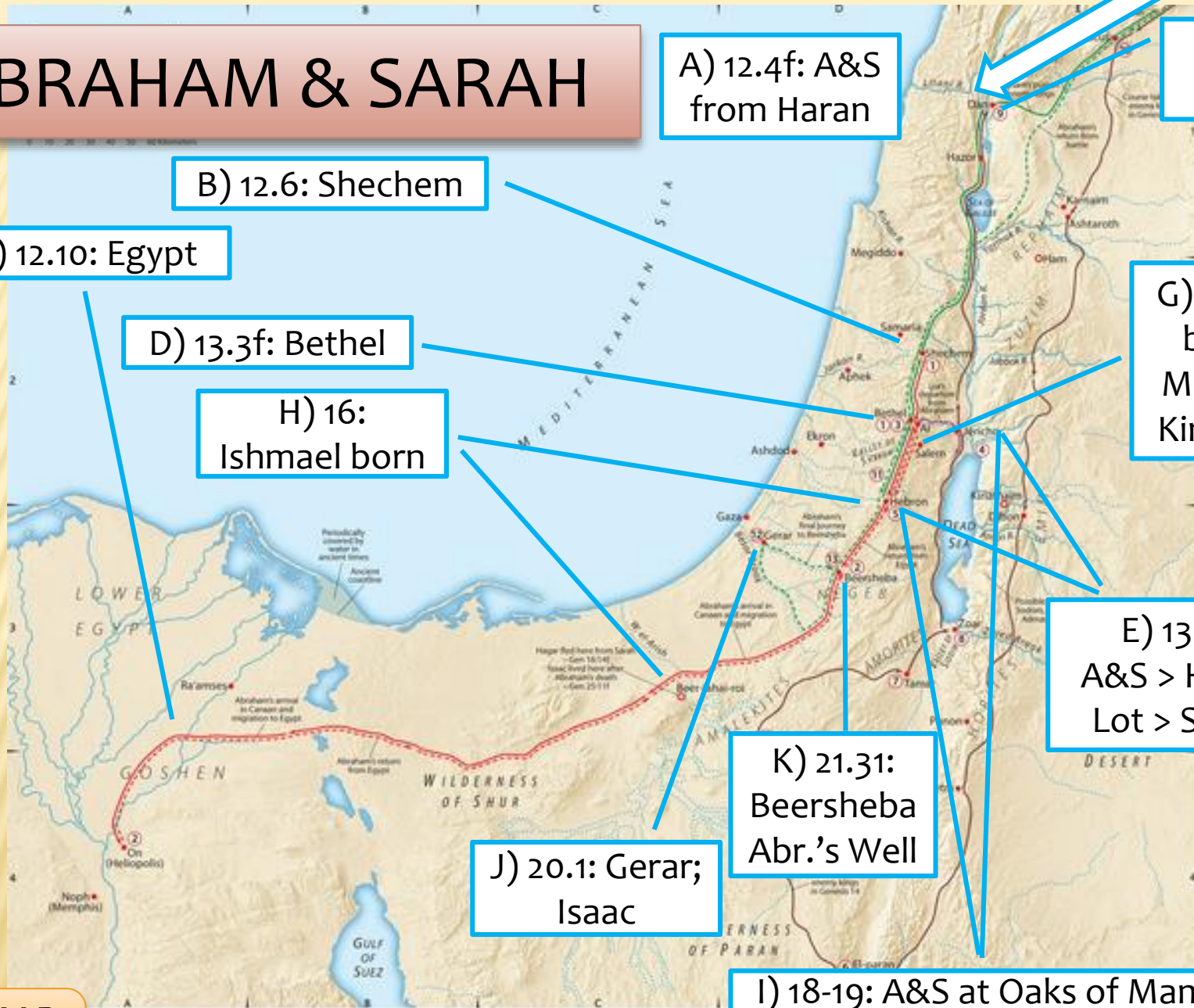
G) 14.17ff: Abr blessed by Melchizedek, King of Salem

E) 13.11ff: A&S > Hebron
Lot > Sodom

K) 21.31: Beersheba
Abr.'s Well

J) 20.1: Gerar;
Isaac

I) 18-19: A&S at Oaks of Mamre
> Sodom & Gom. destroyed



ABRA



Genesis 21.30-34: Abraham to Abimelech (Philistine):
May you be a witness for me that I dug this well.“ Therefore that place was called Beer-sheba; because there both of them swore an oath... Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. And Abraham resided as an alien many days in the land of the Philistines.

ABRAHAM & SARAH

A) 12.4f: A&S from Haran

F) 14.12: Abr rescues Lot

B) 12.6: Shechem

C) 12.10: Egypt

D) 13.3f: Bethel

H) 16: Ishmael born

G) 14.17ff: Abr blessed by Melchizedek, King of Salem

E) 13.11ff: A&S > Hebron Lot > Sodom

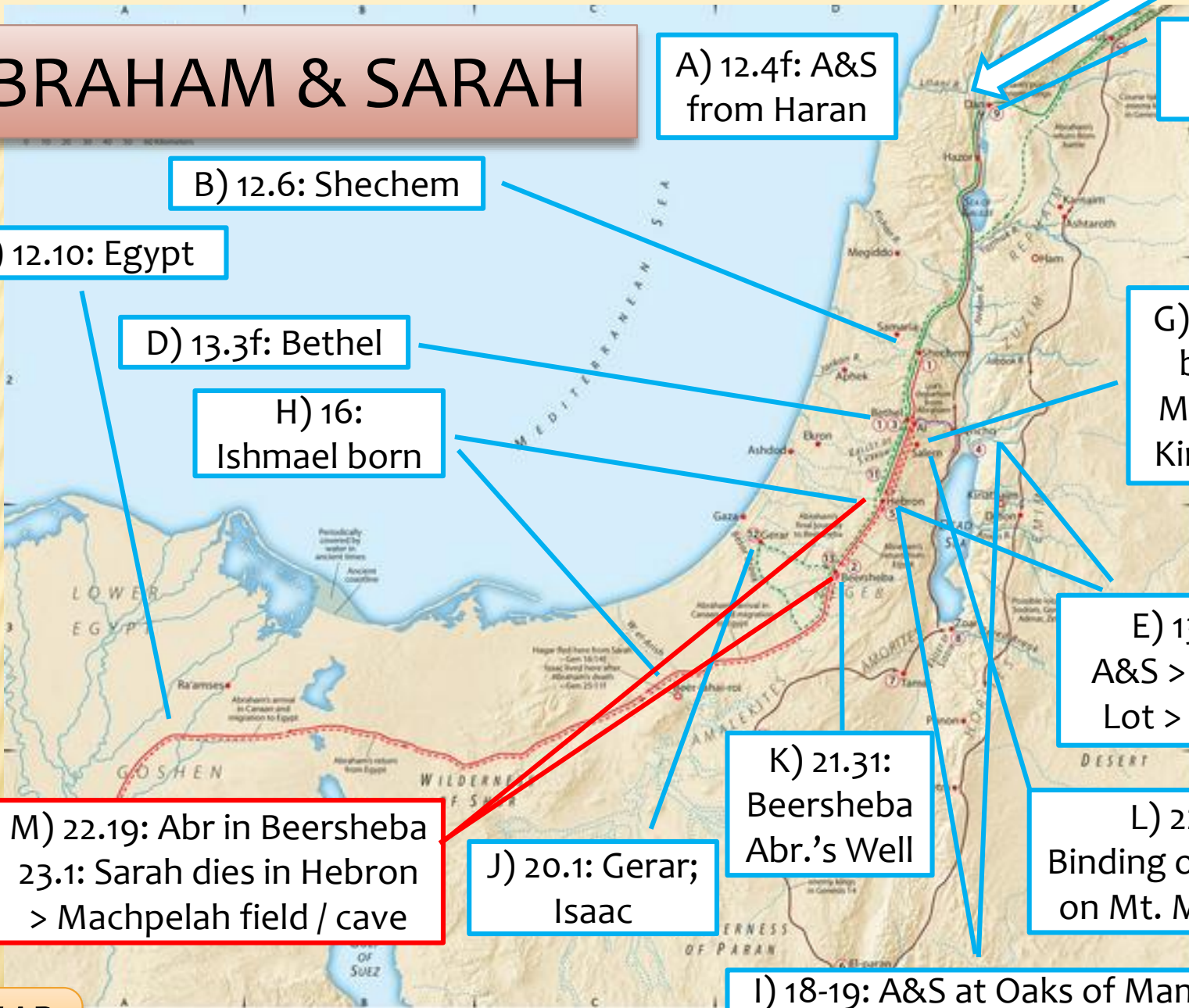
K) 21.31: Beersheba Abr.'s Well

L) 22: Binding of Isaac on Mt. Moriah

M) 22.19: Abr in Beersheba
23.1: Sarah dies in Hebron > Machpelah field / cave

J) 20.1: Gerar; Isaac

I) 18-19: A&S at Oaks of Mamre > Sodom & Gom. destroyed





ABRAHAM & SARAH IN PALESTINE



<http://holylandphotos.org/browse.asp?s=1,2,6,15,86&img=ICHJHB10>

How much land did
Abraham end up owning?
Gen 23:19, 20; 49:30; 50:13



Genesis 49:28ff

"I [Israel] am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my ancestors-- in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave in the field at Machpelah, near Mamre, in the land of Canaan, in the field that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as a burial site. ³¹ There Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried; there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried; and there I buried Leah--³² the field and the cave that is in it were purchased from the Hittites."

PATRIARCHS IN PALESTINE

~1900-1700 BCE

- ✘ Isaac in Negeb
Gerar > Beersheba
- ✘ Jacob & Esau
- ✘ Jacob > Bethel > Haran
(550 miles!)
- ✘ > Jabbok / Penuel
- ✘ Altars in Shechem,
Bethel, Hebron
- ✘ Rachel dies in
Bethlehem
- ✘ Joseph & his brothers
(Hebron>Shechem>Dothan)

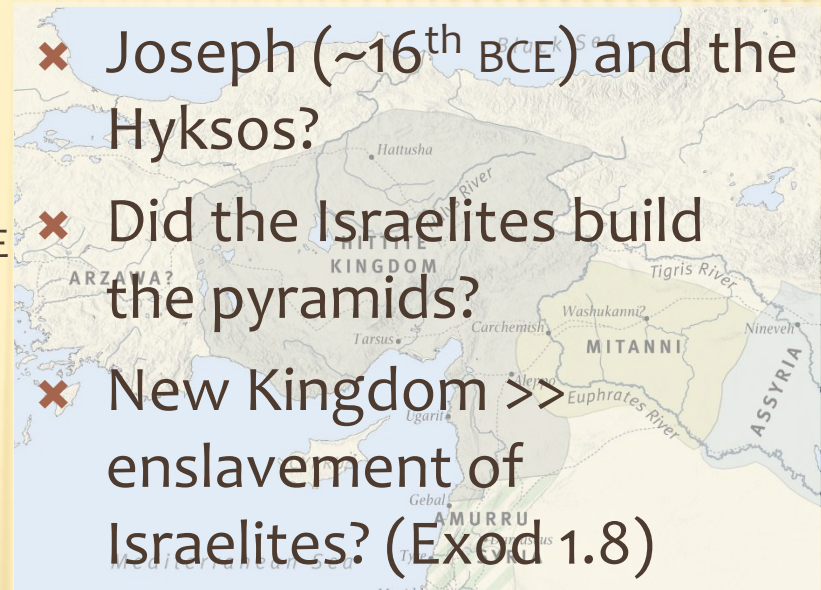


- Family? Nation? Monotheistic?
- What was Israel supposed to learn/realize from this foundational story?
- What might a church learn from the story?

ANCIENT EGYPT

Late Bronze Age
(1550-1200 BCE)

- ✗ Dynastic Period starts ~3150 BCE
- ✗ Pyramids built ~2670-1750 BCE
- ✗ Hyksos come to power ~1640-1550 BCE
- ✗ 1550 BCE: Hyksos defeated, start of dynastic rule of New Kingdom (18th-20th Dynasties = 1550-1077 BCE)
- ✗ 18th Dynasty:
 - + Ahmosis I (1550-1525)
 - + **Thutmose III** (1458-1425)
 - + Tutankhamun (1332-1324)
- ✗ 19th Dynasty:
 - + **Seti I** (1290-1279)
 - + **Rameses II** (1279-1213)
 - + **Merneptah** (1213-1203)



Exodus 1.8-11: Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.

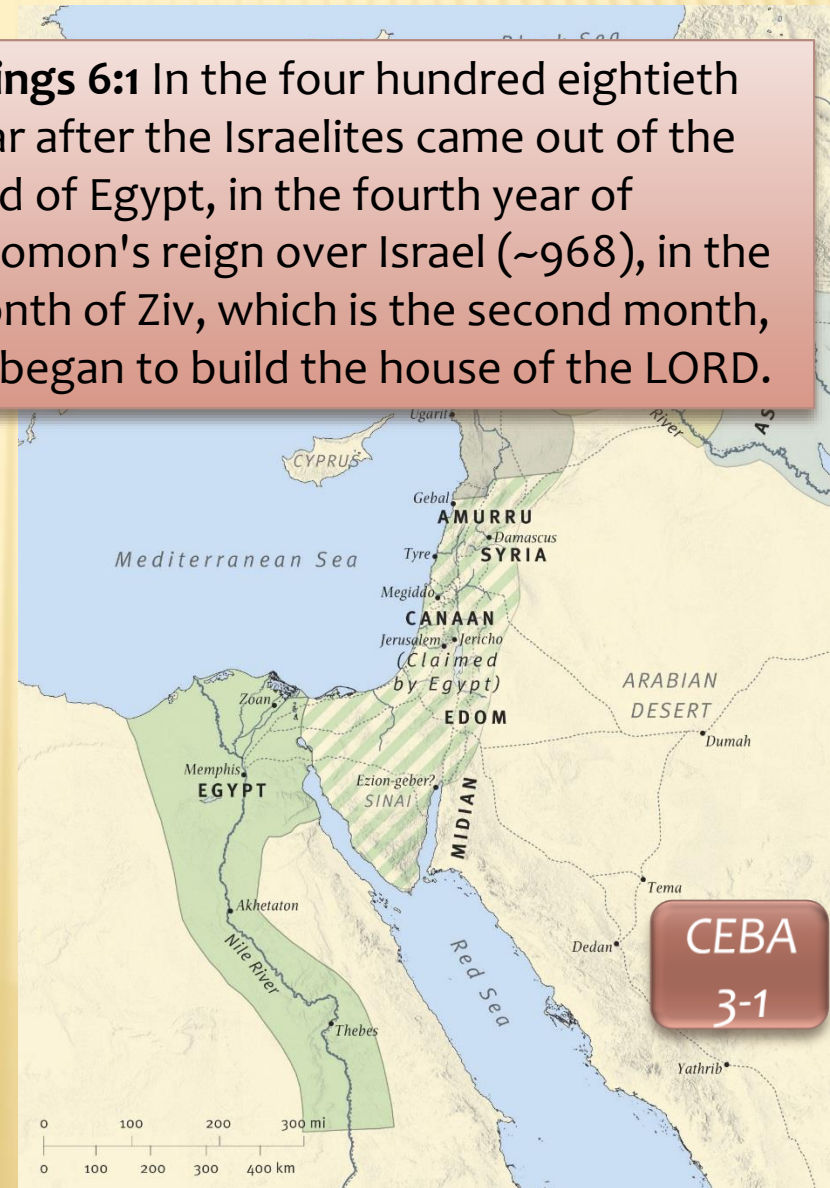
EGYPT AND THE EXODUS

Late Bronze Age
(1550-1200 BCE)

Date of Exodus:

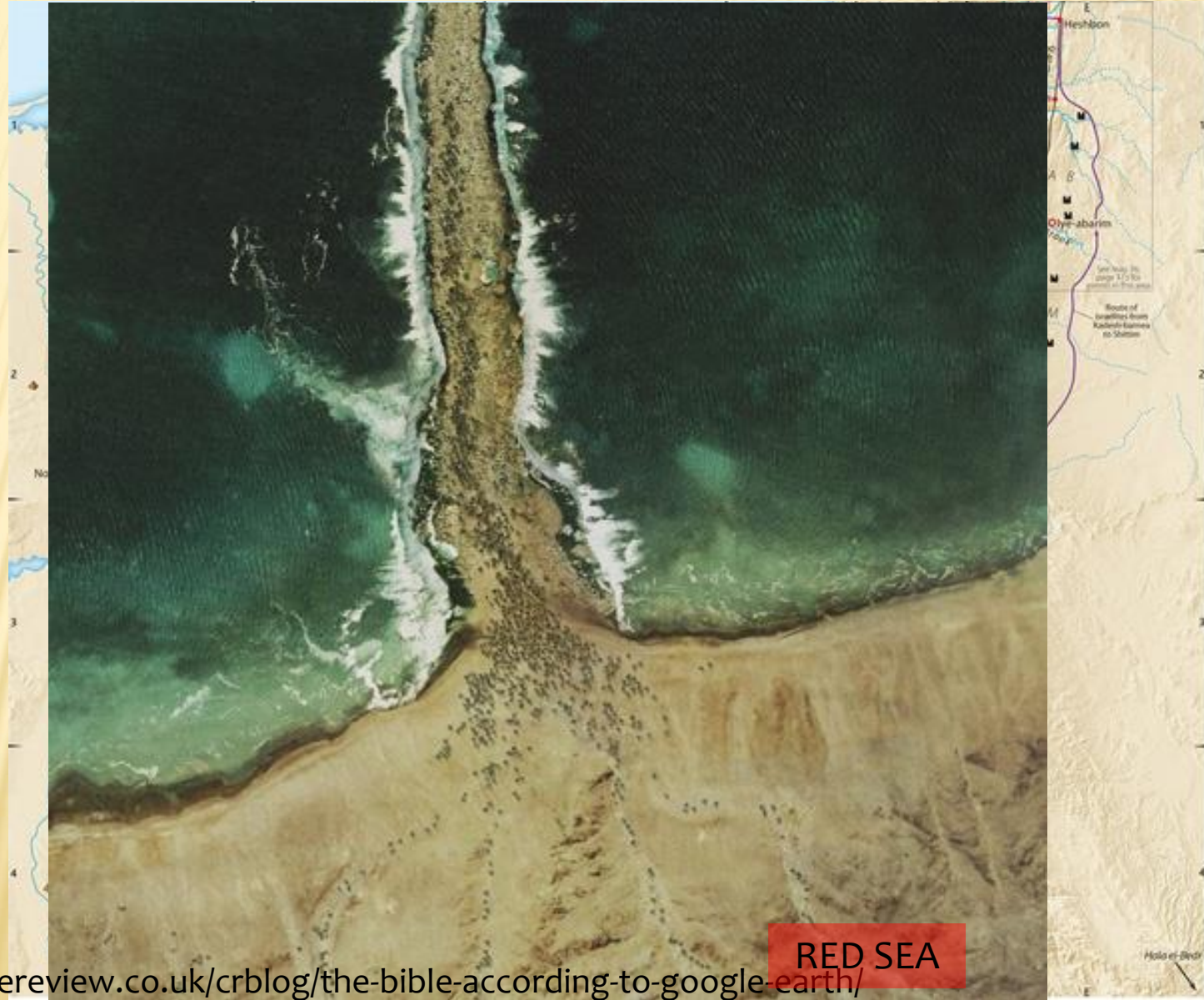
- ✘ Early: Starting from the biblical text (1 Kings 6.1 is key) points to an early date ~1450/1440 BCE under Thutmosis III
But Egypt in control at this time; requires shift of ~150 years in archaeological reckoning
- ✘ Late: Starting from archaeology points to ~1270 BCE under Rameses II
But mismatch w/ biblical dating (if literal); lack of destruction levels

1 Kings 6:1 In the four hundred eightieth year after the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel (~968), in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD.



EGYPT AND THE EXODUS

✘ Red /
Reed
Sea?



EGYPT AND THE EXODUS

- ✘ Red / Reed Sea?
- ✘ Exodus route?
- ✘ Location of Mt. Sinai? (= Mt. Horeb?)
- + NW Saudi Arabia (Gal 4.25)
- + Northern Sinai
- + Southern Sinai



THE EXODUS: LIBERATION?

- ✘ Israel's Exodus from Egypt is commonly held up as paradigmatic in a variety of liberation theologies. (Think of the slave spirituals; Central and South American Liberation Theology)

How is it a good model?

How is it an unsatisfactory model?

How does the Exodus relate to Jesus?

- ✘ How we do proclaim 'liberation' today?