

Israel and the Middle East

The Last Six Thousand Years

Two Parts

1. From 3800 B.C. to the birth of Jesus Christ
2. From the birth of Jesus Christ to the present

Lay the Groundwork for This Historical Survey

Israel and Its Neighbors Today





Ancient Near East and Modern States



Modern Day Israel



Modern Political Boundaries



Theological Framework

1. The Bible indicates that God is the sovereign ruler of all human history.

Isaiah 46:9-11

- 9 “Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
- 10 “Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, “My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure”;
- 11 “Calling a bird of prey from the east,
The man of My purpose from a far country.
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.
I have planned it, surely I will do it.”

Theological Framework

1. The Bible indicates that God is the sovereign ruler of all human history.
2. The Bible provides us with an historical account of God and His relationship with especially one group of people, Abraham and his descendants, the Jews.
3. The land of Israel, “Eretz Yisrael” in the Hebrew scriptures, has been an important part of this relationship.
4. Through Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah God is fulfilling His promises to His people, the Jews, and including Gentiles who believe in Jesus.

Two Important Terms Regarding the Middle East

- Fertile Crescent
 - The land from Egypt to Iraq, excluding Jordan and northern Saudi Arabia, that is useable for growing food
 - Because of three great rivers - Tigris, Euphrates, and Nile
 - Because the area receives at least 200 mm of rain each year

Fertile Crescent



Mesopotamia and Fertile Crescent



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- Levant
 - The land in the Middle East made up basically of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Israel

Levant



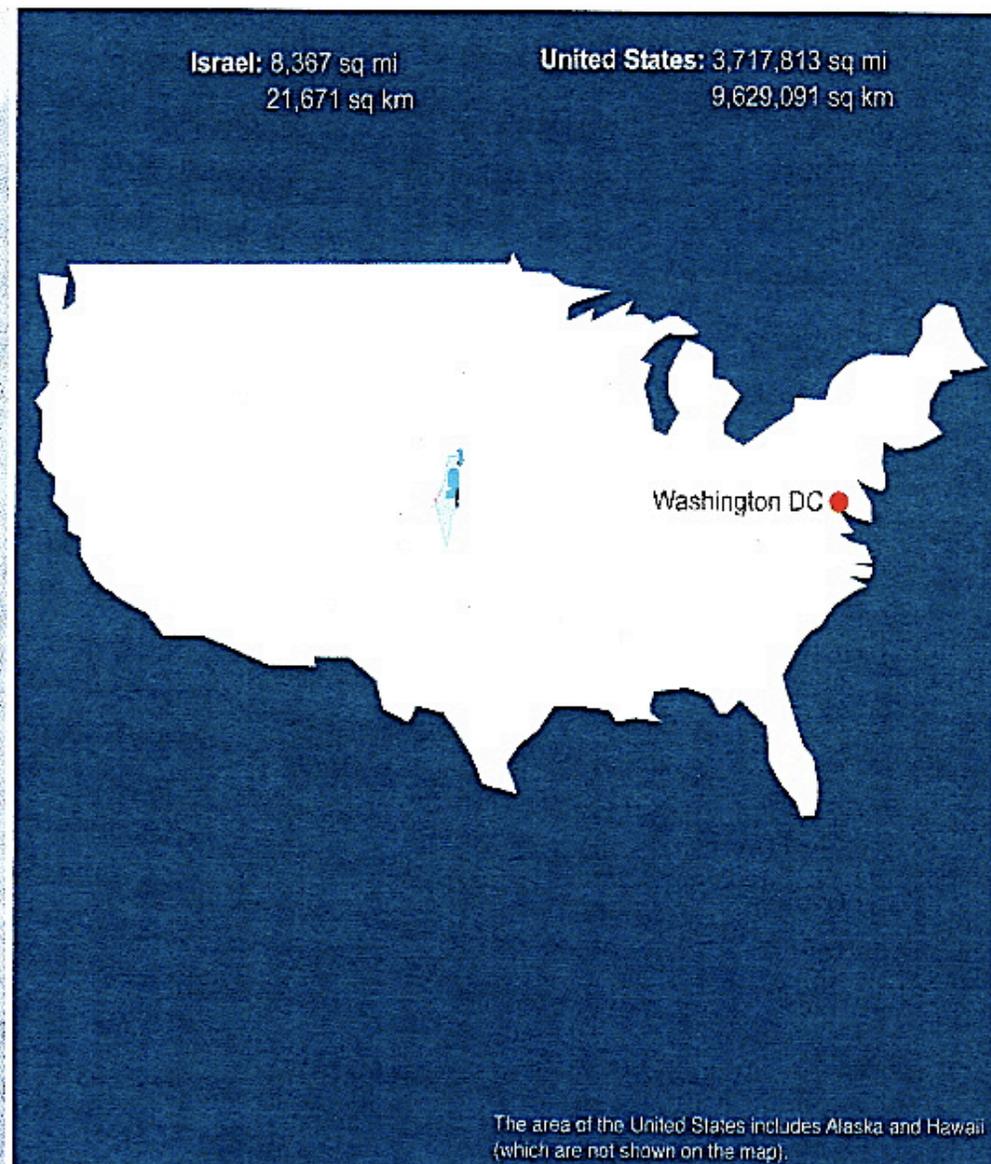
Modern Day Israel



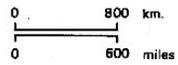
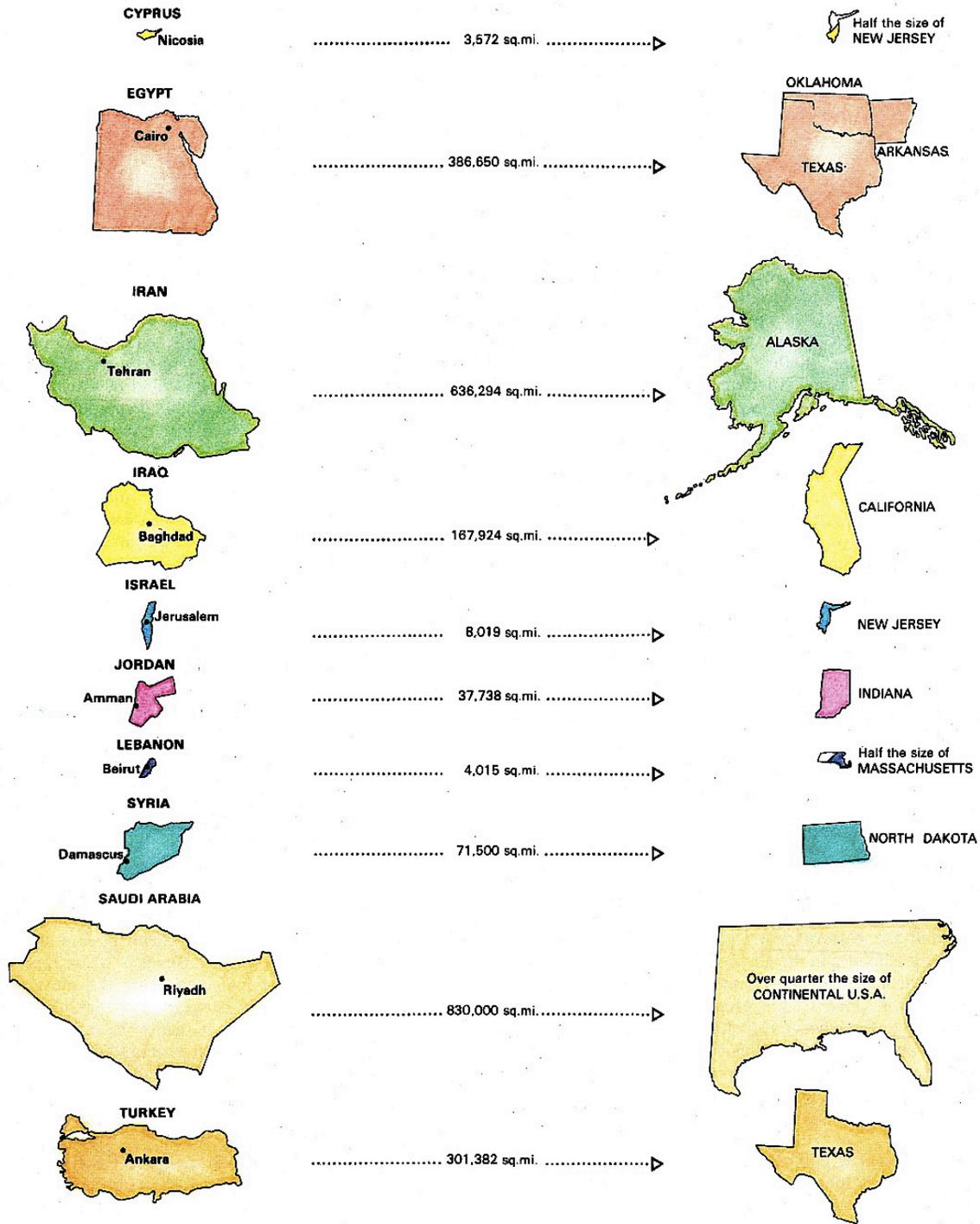
Modern Day Israel

- At the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa
 - The land bridge and trade route between the Mediterranean Sea and the desert of Jordan and Arabia
- 290 miles long
- 85 miles wide at its widest point, 35 miles wide at its narrowest point
- 8,367 square miles

Israel/Britain/U.S. Comparison



COMPARATIVE SIZES OF MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES



Comparative Populations

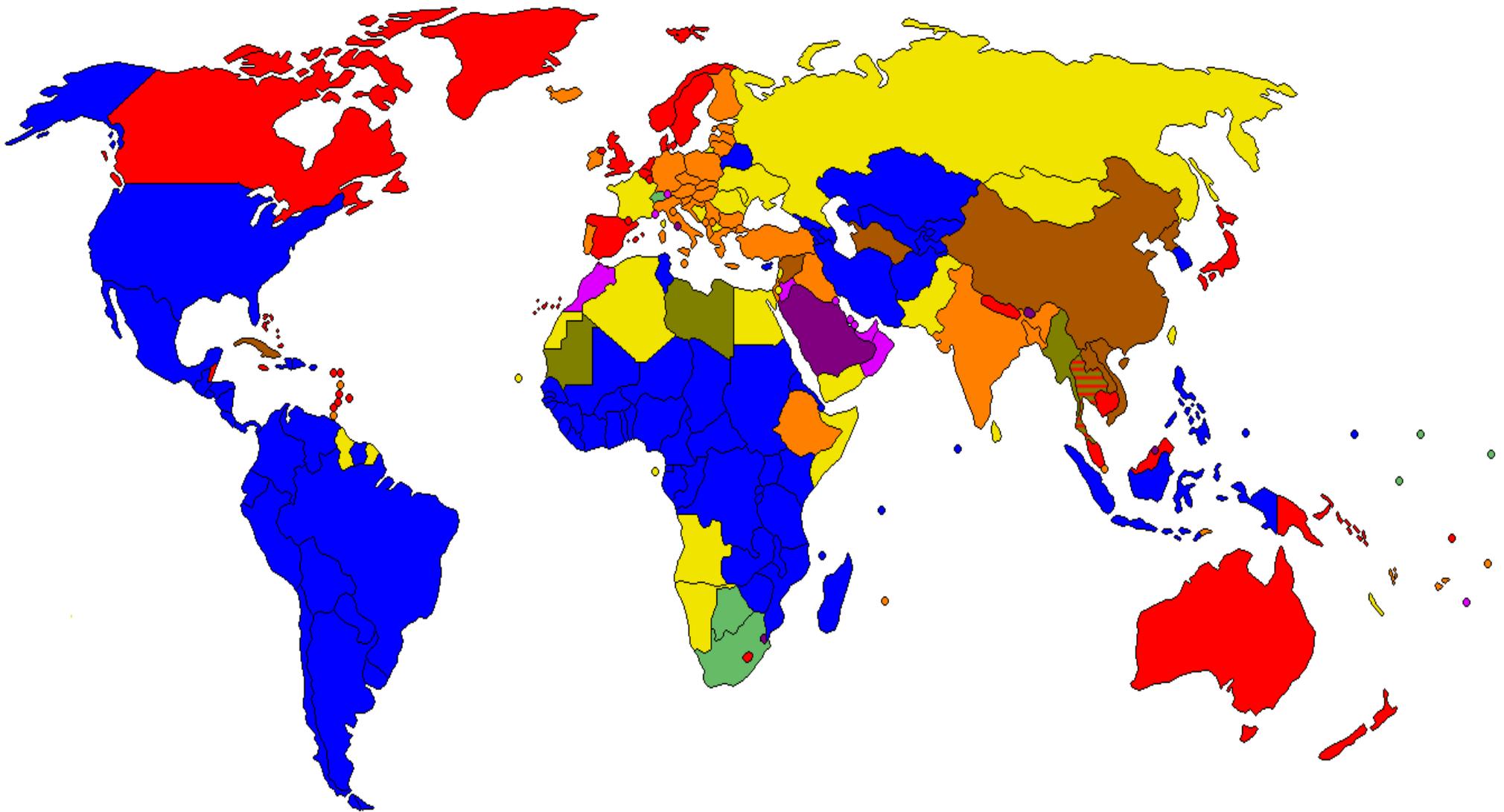
- Israel 7 million
- Syria 19 million
- Lebanon 4 million
- Jordan 6 million
- Iraq 29 million
- Iran 70 million
- Egypt 74 million
- Saudi Arabia 25 million
- Turkey 73 million

Comparative Populations

- Israel 7 million
- Surrounding Arab Countries 217 million
 - Excluding Turkey (73 million)

Types of Governments

- Israel Parliamentary Democracy
- Syria Presidential Republic
- Lebanon Republic
- Jordan Constitutional Monarchy
- Iraq Parliamentary Democracy
- Iran Islamic Republic
- Egypt Republic
- Saudi Arabia Absolute Monarchy (Sharia)
- Turkey Republic



- blue - presidential republics, full presidential system
- green - presidential republics, executive presidency linked to a parliament
- yellow - presidential republics, semi-presidential system
- orange - parliamentary republics
- red - parliamentary constitutional monarchies in which the monarch does not personally exercise power
- magenta - constitutional monarchies in which the monarch personally exercises power, often alongside a weak parliament
- purple - absolute monarchies
- brown - republics whose constitutions grant only a single party the right to govern
- olive - military dictatorships



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An Important Fact

- Land has always been an important commodity to man.
 - First, because in the ANE people believed the land belonged to their gods so that if an invader sought to take a people's land, the battle took place not only on earth between the human combatants but also in the heavens between their gods with the more powerful gods prevailing and determining the outcome of the battle on earth.
 - Second, because land is not only the most important tool for survival as the means to grow food and feed livestock, but it also provides an element of permanence and security in order to establish a nation or empire with cities and homes.

Four Important Questions To Ask

1. Who has ***ruled over*** the land of Israel during the course of history?
2. Who has ***lived on*** the land of Israel during the course of history?

Who has <i>ruled over</i> the land of Israel?	Who has <i>lived on</i> the land of Israel?
1. Canaanites (3800-2000 B.C.)	Canaanites
2. Canaanites (2000-1800 B.C.)	Canaanites, Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob)
3. Canaanites (1800-1400 B.C.)	Canaanites
4. Israelites (1400-740 B.C.)	Israelites, Canaanites (Joshua, David, Isaiah)
5. Assyrians (900-609 B.C.)	Israelites, various Canaanites (Isaiah, Obadiah)
6. Babylonians (609-539 B.C.)	Mixed group
7. Persians (539-330 B.C.)	Israelites, Samaritans (Ezra, Nehemiah)
8. Greeks (330-320 B.C.)	Israelites, Samaritans
9. Ptolemies/Seleucids (320-160 B.C.)	Israelites, Samaritans
10. Hasmoneans/Maccabees (160-60 B.C.)	Israelites, Samaritans
11. Romans (60 B.C-A.D. 313)	Jews, but sparsely populated after A.D. 135
12. Byzantines (313-630)	Jews, but sparsely populated
13. Arab Muslims (630-1099)	Jews, Arab Muslims & Christians
14. Crusaders (1099-1291)	Jews, Arab Muslims & Christians, Crusaders
15. Mamluk Muslims (1291-1516)	Jews, Arab Muslims & Christians
16. Ottoman Muslims (1517-1917)	Jews, Arab Muslims & Christians
17. British (1918-1948)	Jews, Arab Muslims & Christians
18. Israelis (1948-Present)	Israeli Jews, Arab Muslims & Christians

Four Important Questions To Ask

1. Who has ***ruled over*** the land of Israel during the course of history?
2. Who has ***lived on*** the land of Israel during the course of history?
3. Who has ***the theological right*** to rule over and live on the land of Israel now?
4. What ***effect*** does a nation's/people's past have on their current mentality?

Ten Divisions of History

1. Pre-Patriarchal Period (3800-2000 B.C.)
2. Patriarchal Period (2000-1800 B.C.)
3. Egyptian Sojourn (1800-1400 B.C.)
4. Exodus and Settlement of the Land (1400-1050 B.C.)
5. Monarchy and Exiles (1050-539 B.C.)
6. Return and Pre-Roman Period (539-60 B.C.)
7. Roman/Byzantine Period (60 B.C.-A.D. 630)
8. Muslim/Christian Period (630-1917)
9. British Period (1918-1948)
10. State of Israel (1948-Present)

Ever-Widening Circle of Influence on the Land of Israel

- Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia (Asia Minor, Turkey), and Immediate Neighbors (3800-539 B.C.)
- Persia (539-330 B.C.)
- Greece (330-60 B.C.)
- Rome and Constantinople (60 B.C.-A.D. 630)
- Arabian Peninsula (630-Present)
- Asia (Turks and Mongols) (1071-1917)
- Europe (1099-Present)
- United Nations (1947-Present)
- America (1948-Present)

Ancient Mediterranean World



Ancient Near East

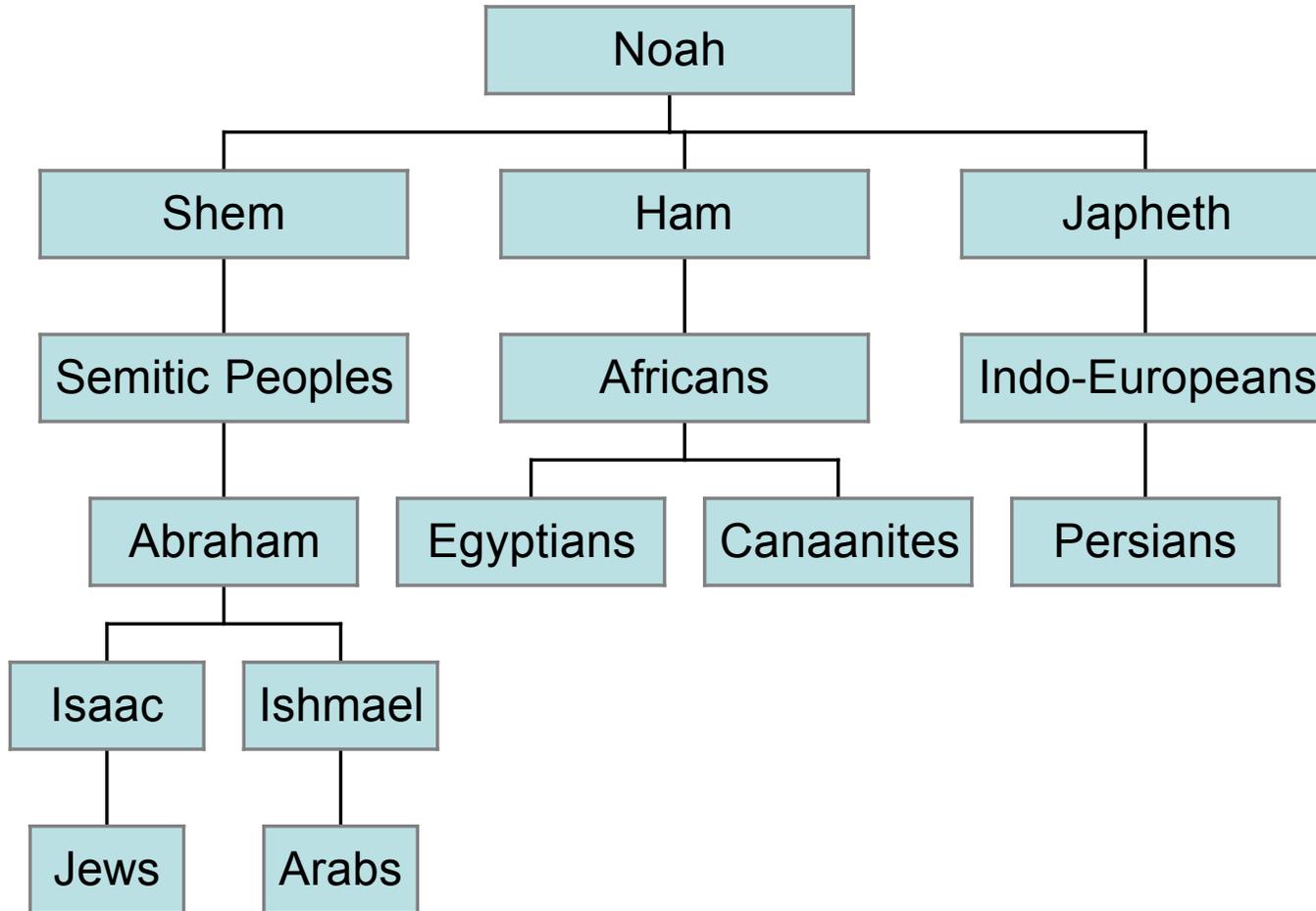


MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



Table of Nations

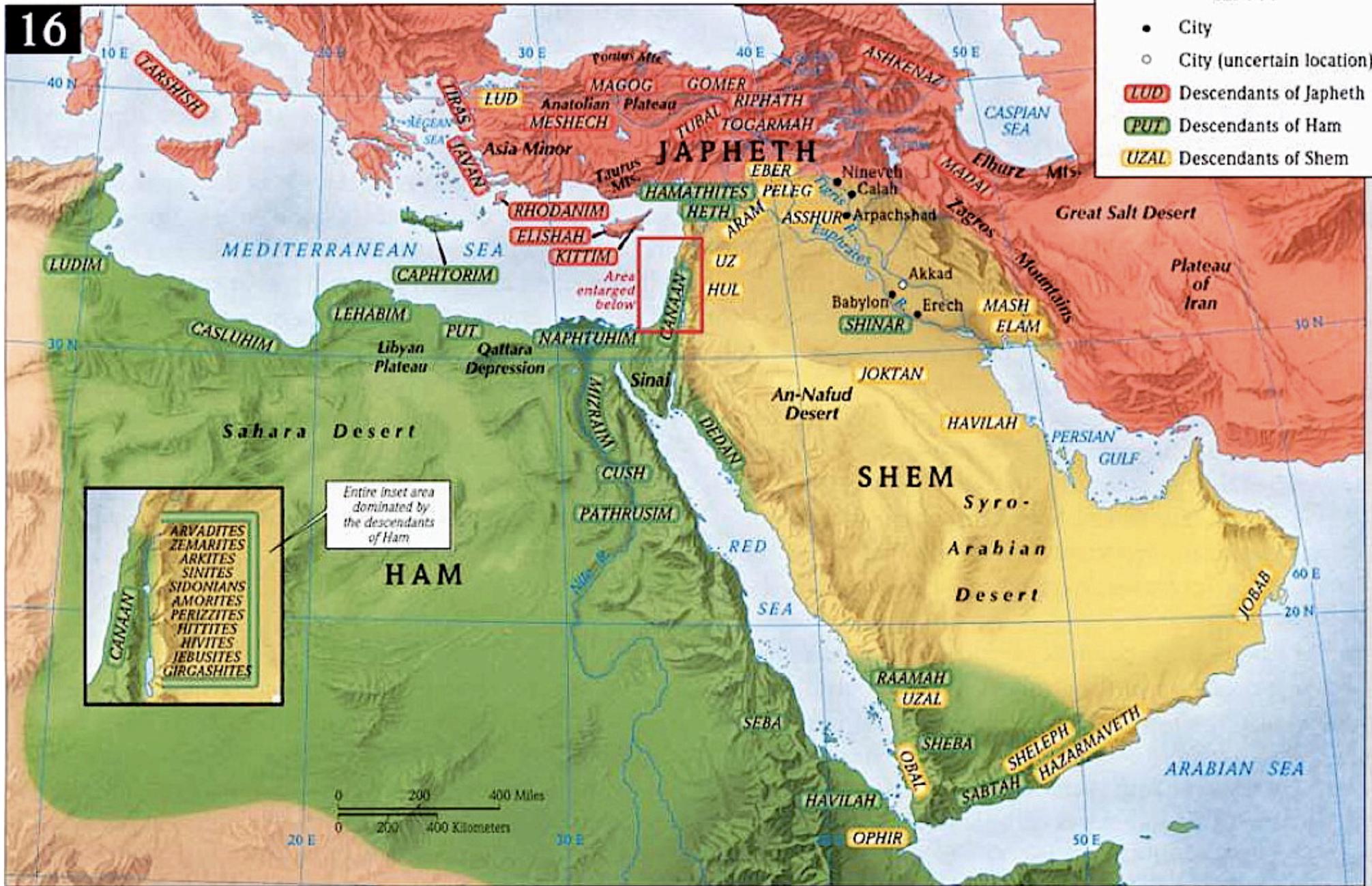
Genesis 10



THE TABLE OF NATIONS

GEN. 10

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- LUD** Descendants of Japheth
- PUT** Descendants of Ham
- UZAL** Descendants of Shem



Entire inset area dominated by the descendants of Ham

- ARVADITES
- ZEMARITES
- ARKITES
- SINITES
- SIDONIANS
- AMORITES
- PERIZZITES
- HITTITES
- HIVITES
- JEBUSITES
- GIRGASHITES

Historical Survey of the Middle East

Part 1

(3800 B.C.-the birth of Jesus Christ)
From the Sumerians To the Romans

First Division of History

1. Pre-Patriarchal Period (3800-2000 B.C.)
 - “Patriarch” comes from the Greek words *pater* = father and *arche* = ruler, leader
 - The Patriarchs of the Jewish faith were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

General Flow of Slides Within Each Division of History

- First Section
 - Areas of Outside Influence on Palestine/Israel
- Second Section
 - Palestine/Israel

Ever-Widening Circle of Influence on the Land of Israel

- Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia (Asia Minor, Turkey), and Immediate Neighbors (3800-539 B.C.)

Three Areas of Outside Influence
during the
Pre-Patriarchal Period (3800-2000 B.C.)

1. Mesopotamia (Iraq)
2. Egypt
3. Anatolia (Turkey)

MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



Mesopotamia

- Means “Land Between Two Rivers”
- Modern Iraq
- Baghdad is on the Tigris River
- Babylon was on the Euphrates River
- Eventually in constant conflict in the ancient world for control of the land of Israel for economic and trade purposes

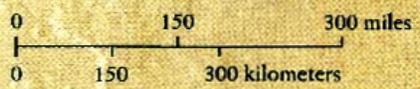
Mesopotamia

- Sumerians
- Akkadians

MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



-  Hittite empire
-  Mesopotamian empires
-  Area of Mesopotamia conquered by Hittites
-  Egyptian empire (New Kingdom)
-  Extent of Egyptian New Kingdom



Sumerians

3800-2350 B.C.

- Southern Mesopotamia - southern Iraq
- Invented the wheel and plow
- Invented writing
 - Cuneiform (from the Latin *cuneus* = wedge) on clay tablets
- Polytheists and syncretists

MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



Akkadians

2350-2000 B.C.

- Central Mesopotamia - central Iraq
- Conquered the Sumerians
- Religiously similar to the Sumerians so that Abraham may have begun his life as a pagan polytheist around 2000 B.C.

MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



-  Hittite empire
-  Mesopotamian empires
-  Area of Mesopotamia conquered by Hittites
-  Egyptian empire (New Kingdom)
-  Extent of Egyptian New Kingdom

Egyptians

3200-520 B.C.

- **Thirty-One Dynasties of Kings**
(3200-520 B.C.)
 - Kings were called Pharaohs (from per aa = Great House) who were considered gods
 - Polytheists like the others of the ANE
 - Hieroglyphics – means priestly writing; pictographs, i.e., picture writing
 - Eventually in constant conflict with Mesopotamians for control of the land of Israel
 - Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx built around 2500 B.C.

MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



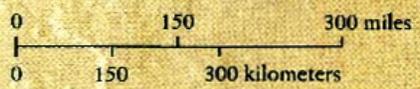
Anatolia

- Modern day Turkey or Asia Minor
- Hittite Kingdom
 - Descendants of Heth, son of Canaan, son of Ham, son of Noah (Genesis 10:6-15)
 - Mentioned also in Genesis 15 as inhabitants of the land of Canaan
 - So a group must have migrated north from the land of Canaan to form this empire

Hittite Empire



MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



Palestine/Israel
during the
Pre-Patriarchal Period (3800-2000 B.C.)

- The biblical “land of Canaan”
 - Mentioned first in Genesis 11:31 in the midst of God’s call to Abraham
 - Inhabited by Canaanites
 - Descendants of Ham, son of Noah

Second Division of History

1. Pre-Patriarchal Period (3800-2000 B.C.)
2. Patriarchal Period (2000-1800 B.C.)

Ever-Widening Circle of Influence on the Land of Israel

- Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia (Asia Minor, Turkey), and Immediate Neighbors (3800-539 B.C.)

Three Areas of Outside Influence during the Patriarchal Period (2000-1800 B.C.)

1. Mesopotamia (Iraq)

- Old Assyrian Empire (2000-1750 B.C.)
with capital at Nineveh in northern Iraq
(now occupied by the Kurds)

2. Egypt

- Middle Kingdom

3. Anatolia (Turkey)

- Hittites

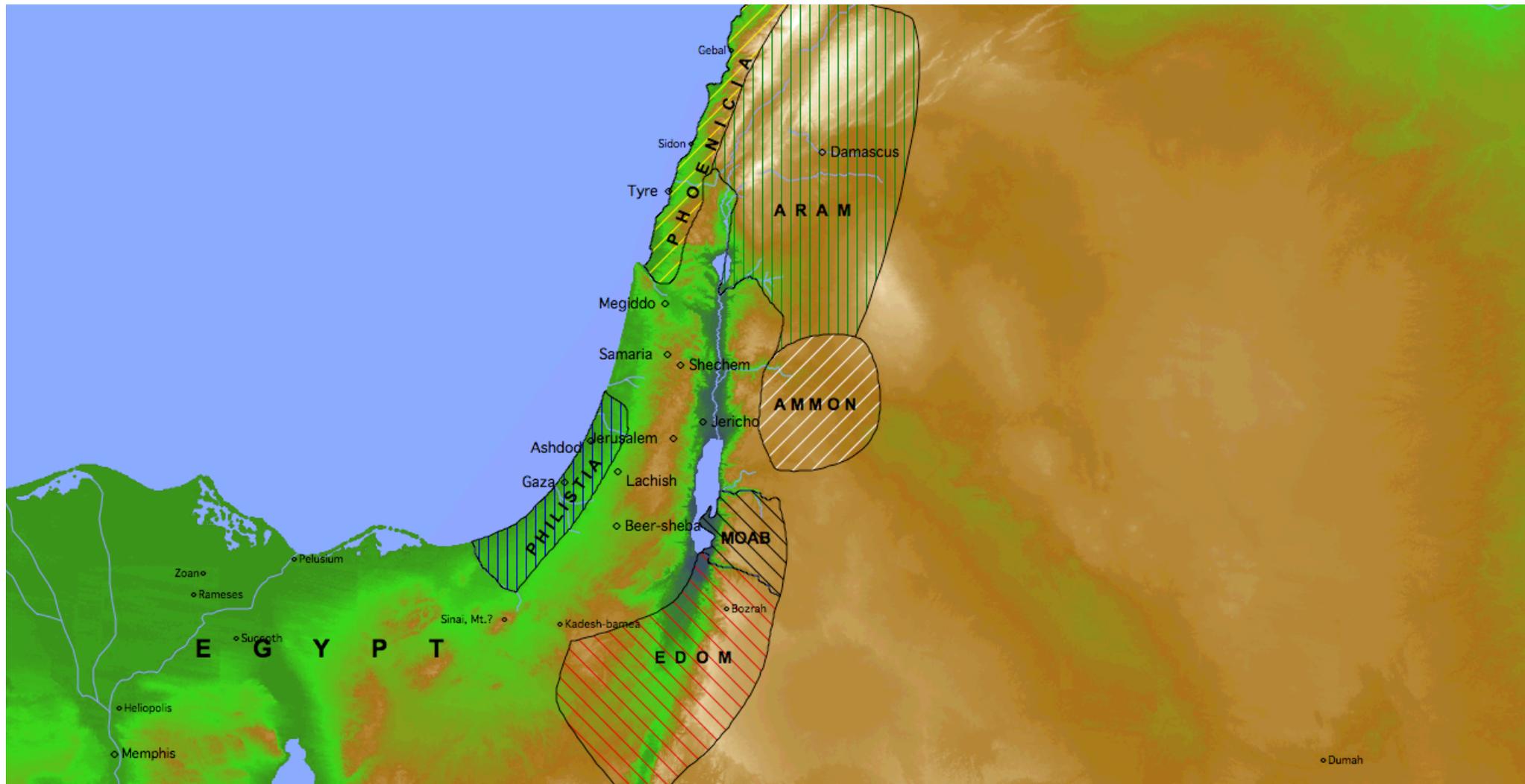
Palestine/Israel
during the
Patriarchal Period (2000-1800 B.C.)

- Inhabited mostly by Canaanites

Canaanite Nations



Canaanites' Neighbors



Palestine/Israel during the Patriarchal Period (2000-1800 B.C.)

- Inhabited mostly by Canaanites
- The Patriarchs of the Jews
 - Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
 - Isaac (Genesis 25-28)
 - Jacob (Genesis 25-50)

Abraham

Genesis 12-25

- The first Jew
- Called by God in Genesis 12:1-3 out of Ur of the Chaldees (southern Iraq) to the land of Canaan
 - Given four promises by God

Genesis 12:1-3

- 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you;
- 2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;
- 3 And 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 will be blessed.”

Promises of God in Genesis 12:1-3

1. Land of Canaan (Palestine/Israel) - to Abraham and to his descendants
2. Descendants
3. Blessing to him personally
4. Blessing to those associated with him

Description of the “Promised” Land Genesis 15:18

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.”



Ankara
TURKEY

Nicosia

CYPRUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Beirut
LEBANON

West Bank
Gaza Strip

ISRAEL

SYRIA

Damascus

JORDAN

RED

Baghdad

IRAQ

Tehran

IRAN

KUWAIT

Kuwait City

PERSIAN GULF

BAHRAIN

Manama

QATAR

Doha

Riyadh

SAUDI ARABIA

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

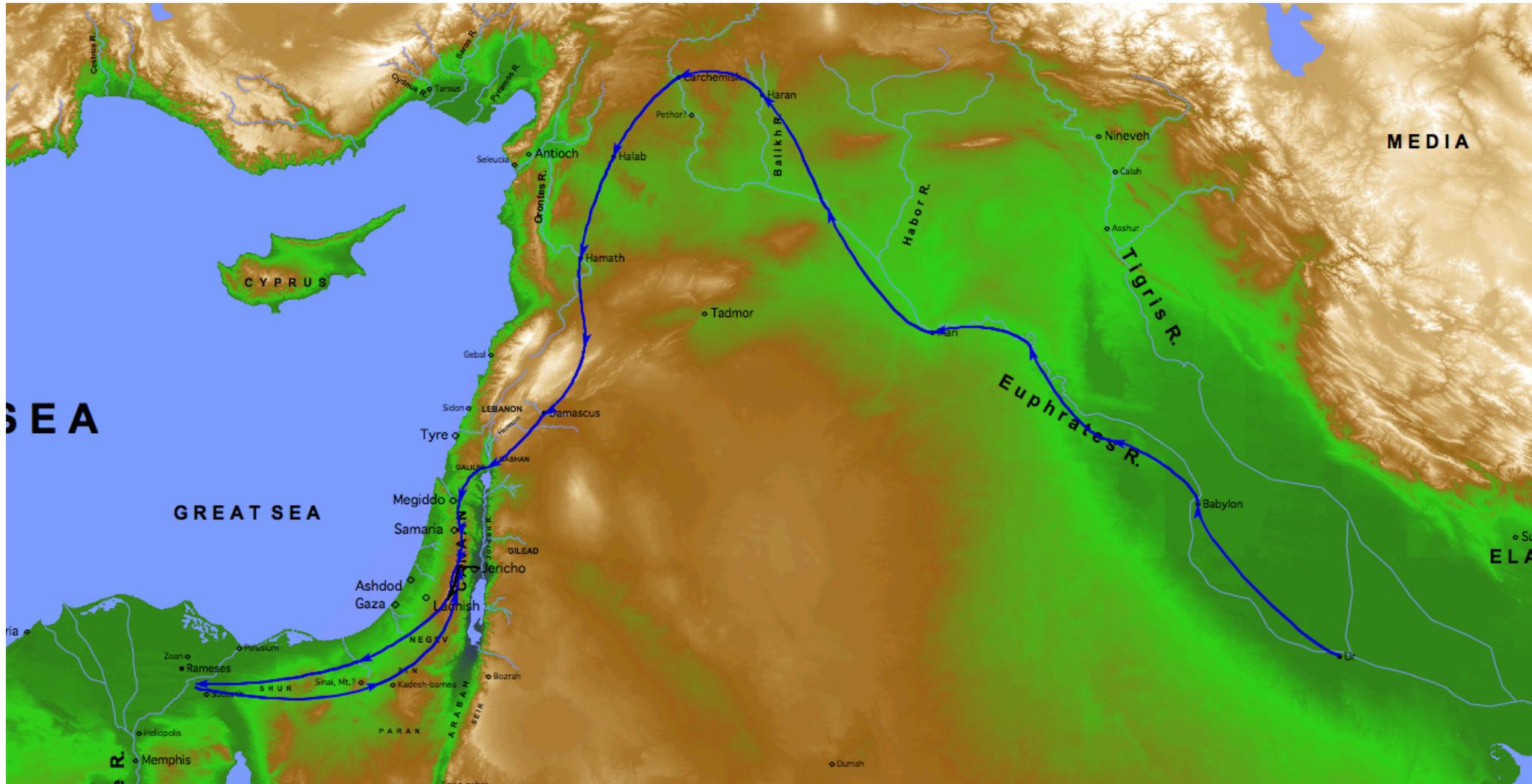
EGYPT

Abraham

Genesis 12-25

- Called by God in Genesis 12:1-3 out of Ur of the Chaldees (southern Iraq) to the land of Canaan
 - Given four promises by God
- Journeyed from Ur to Canaan

Abraham's Journeys



Abraham

Genesis 12-25

- Called by God in Genesis 12:1-3 out of Ur of the Chaldees (southern Iraq) to the land of Canaan
 - Given four promises by God
- Journeyed from Ur to Canaan
- Had two sons
 - Ishmael
 - Isaac

Genesis 21:10-12

10 Therefore she [Sarah] said to Abraham, “Drive out this maid [Hagar] and her son [Ishmael], for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac.”

11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son.

12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.

Abraham's Two Sons

Genesis 16-22

- Ishmael
 - Born to Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian maid
 - Therefore **outside** the promises of God according to Genesis 21:10-12
 - Descendants are the Arabs
- Isaac
 - Born to Sarah
 - Therefore **inside** the promises of God according to Genesis 21:10-12
 - Descendants are the Jews

Isaac's Two Sons

Genesis 25-27

- Esau
 - Declared by God not to be the one who would inherit the promises of Abraham
 - Descendants are the Edomites
- Jacob
 - Declared by God to be the one who would inherit the promises of Abraham
 - Descendants are the twelve tribes of Israel, the Jews
 - God changed his name to Israel (*Yisrael*), which means “He Who Struggles With God”

Jacob's (Israel's) Twelve Sons

Genesis 28-50

- The twelve tribes of Israel
- Joseph
 - The second youngest
 - Sold into slavery and taken down to Egypt
 - Became Vice-Pharaoh of Egypt
 - His father, Jacob, and his brothers moved to Egypt during a famine
 - The Israelites spent 400 years there, from about 1800-1400 B.C.

Third Division of History

1. Pre-Patriarchal Period (3800-2000 B.C.)
2. Patriarchal Period (2000-1800 B.C.)
3. Egyptian Sojourn (1800-1400 B.C.)

Ever-Widening Circle of Influence on the Land of Israel

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Three Areas of Outside Influence during the Egyptian Sojourn (1800-1400 B.C.)

- Mesopotamia
 - Old Babylonian Empire (1780-1400 B.C.)
 - Code of Hammurabi, one of the earliest sets of laws (in the Louvre Museum in Paris)
- Anatolia
 - Hittites
- Egypt
 - Intermediate Dynasties (1750-1550 B.C.)
 - New Kingdom (1550-1300 B.C.)

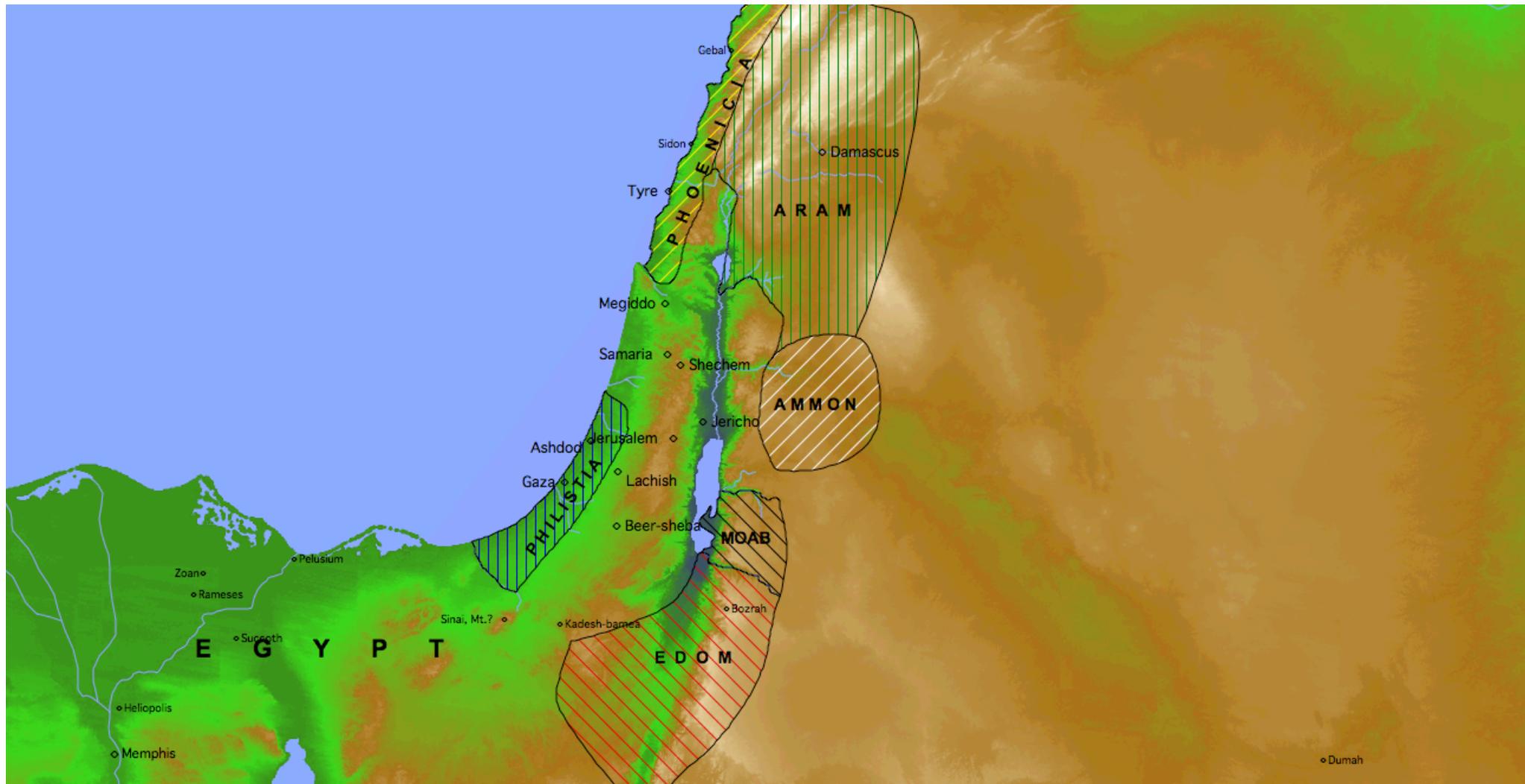
MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT, c. 4000 BCE – 1000 BCE



Palestine/Israel during the Egyptian Sojourn (1800-1400 B.C.)

- Inhabited by Canaanites
 - Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites,... (Genesis 15:19-21)
 - Phoenicians (Semites?)
 - Name means purple - sold a purple dye
 - Coastal cities of Lebanon and Syria (Tyre, Sidon, Byblos, Beirut)
 - Planted trading colonies as far away as Carthage
 - Philistines (Hamites according to Genesis 10:14)
 - “Sea Peoples” - from northern Greece (?) around 1500 B.C.

Canaanites' Neighbors



Migration of Philistines

