

The Patriarch Period ("Ancestor" Period) (Beginning c. 2100 B.C.)

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Praise and Worship

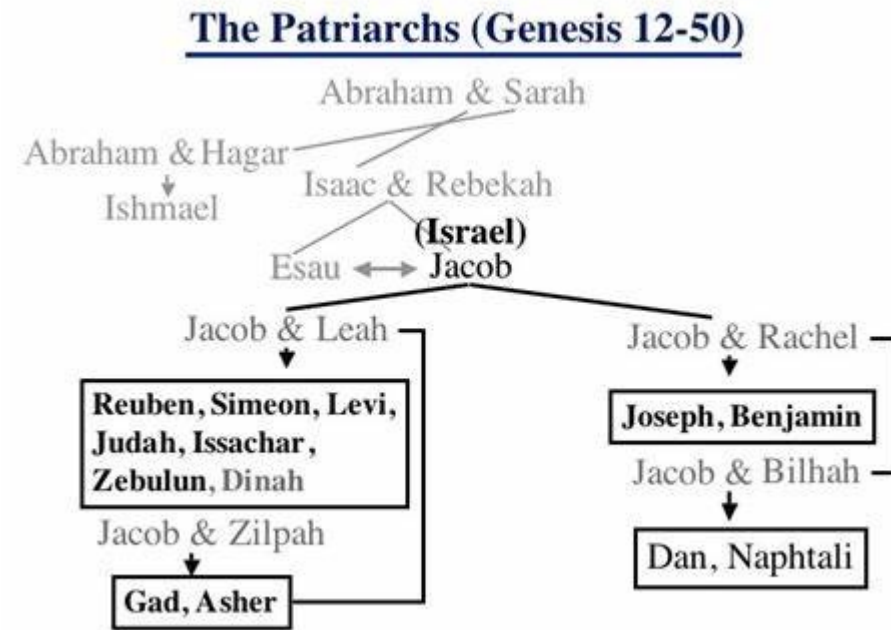
Old Testament Freak

Dating is difficult...

- Note the scholarly disagreements about dating events in the Old Testament.
- A lot of controversy between Biblical scholars about things such as the date of Abraham's journey and the date of the Exodus.
- Kaiser continues with his theme of laying out the scholarship, and the various scholars who have advanced the various debates.
- Note how the sources of others (like the Egyptians) are often utilized to verify the existence of cities, peoples and events that we read about in passing in the Biblical text. The Egyptians as a more established monarchy (monarchies) and "nation" kept many records, albeit biased ones.

Who are considered the "Patriarchs?"

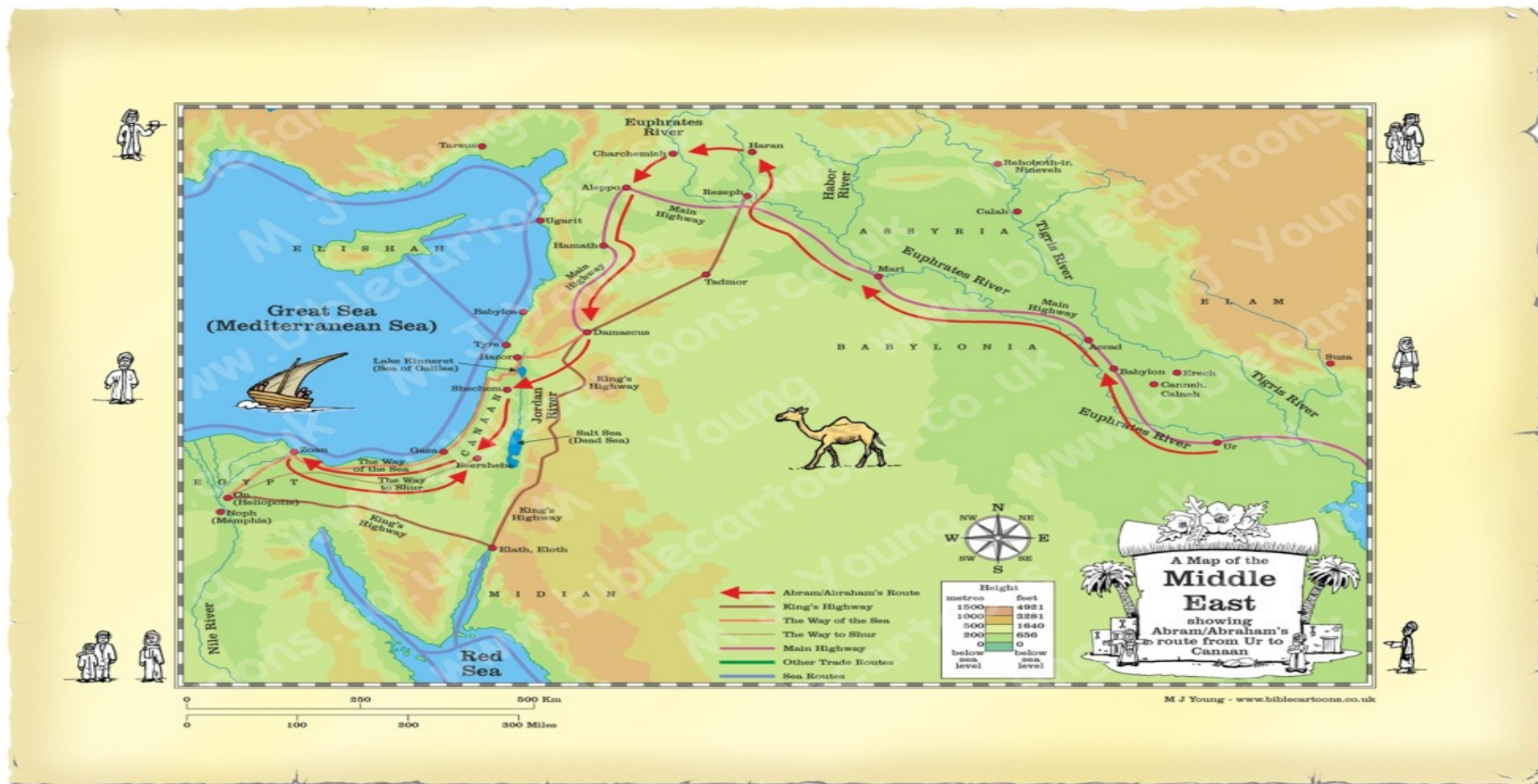
- Certainly, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the traditional view
- 12 Tribes of Israel have been widely considered to be part of the patriarch age.
- Most teachers of Ancient Israel today tend to include Moses and Joshua in the list of "Patriarchs" which is what we do here.



What is a Patriarch?

- Term means "father"
- The male head of a family or tribe
- Male head of the human race
- Word has become controversial in Post-Modern age of today as sexist, oppressive, and discriminatory
- Over 370 references to women in the OT alone
- Very rare to find any women specifically mentioned, let alone elaborated upon outside of their role as mother, wife or sexual object in ancient texts of most societies. OT demonstrates how God holds all people as His creation in high regard as he often has women in important roles doing a variety of things, not just gender specific things.

Route of Abraham



Ziggurat of Ur (archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley in the 1920's and 30's, located in modern day Iraq)



Ebla (Syria) tablets



- 1800 complete tablets, 4,700 fragments
- Discovered by Italian archaeologist Paolo Matthiae in 1974.
- First known reference to "Canaanites", "Ugarit", and "Lebanon".
- Include both Sumerian and Eblaite inscriptions.
- Make specific references to places that are referenced in the Biblical text in the context of Abraham, David, Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Wikipedia concludes though that "the present consensus is that Ebla's role in biblical archaeology, strictly speaking, is minimal."
- It is common for many to view the history of Israel through the non-Israelite sources, rather than THE Israelite source found in the OT narrative
- Ahh, the minimalists are so good at...minimizing.

Abraham

- Abraham's arrival in Canaan pre-dates the establishment of Jerusalem
- Those who lived in the area of Jerusalem prior to the Jews arrival were known as the Jebusites (who had not yet arrived at the time of Abraham). He arrives in Shechem (35 miles from where Jerusalem would be) and this is where God tells him in Gen. 12:7 "To your offspring I will give this land.")
- Abraham received the covenant 5x in Genesis from God.
- Story of Abraham and Sarah, a fertility story. Means a bit more when we understand the Canaanite obsession with fertility.
- Near sacrifice of Isaac takes on a new meaning within the context of God "setting Israel apart" from Canaan. Previewing that ultimately God would do the sacrificing for us, but the Jews would not have seen that foretelling.
- Abraham had to search for a non-Canaanite wife for Isaac, servant went to Haran to find Rebekah.

Isaac

- Genesis 25:9–26:35, least known of the three
- No daring action or exploits that we know of
- Known as either the "son of Abraham" or "father of Isaac"
- He lived a longer life than Abraham or Jacob
- He, like Abraham lied about the identity of his wife to protect her from the Philistines ("Sea People")
- Isaac successful in Philistia
- God confirms the covenant with Isaac that he made with Abraham (Gen. 26:2–5)
- Another common theme we see with Isaac is that his wife would conspire to have a younger son receive the blessing (Bathsheba will do the same...you'll have to wait a couple weeks for that.

Jacob (aka "Israel")

- Twin with Esau (Jacob was younger)
- Survival and inheritance rites in Judaism (eldest son to inherit)
- As will become a theme, God will work in non-human "unconventional" means by choosing a younger son (Jacob, Joseph, Gideon, David, Solomon) to inherit was man considered not to be theirs by "right."
- Theme of "barren" woman in Rachel, but would ultimately bless her with Joseph
- Jacob's transformation from a schemer and deceiver to ardent follower and advocate for Yahweh is a common theme of the Patriarchs.

Joseph

- One of Jacob's 12 sons
- God chose to only give us selected narratives of selected people
- He has the faith of Abraham, the gentleness of Isaac, and the courage of Jacob
- Sold into Egypt. How does the Bible deal with slavery? God deals with the world of sinful men, He never condones or encourages slavery of any type.
- Sale by his brothers indicates the importance of male sibling rivalry for favor and inheritance (like Jacob/Esau, sons of David, etc.)
- God puts many in proximity to do great things (Joseph to Pharaoh, David to Saul, etc.)

Moses and the Exodus

- Controversy of the date and how long it lasted (early-15th century/late-13th century & 430 years vs. 215 years)
- Often attempted to correlate Israel's history with Egypt's in this regard (early-Thutmose III and others or late-Ramses II?)
- How large was it? 600,000 men over 20, so likely 4x+ that number.
- Why the parting of the sea? Needed a strong impression of the greatness of Yahweh's power after so long in Egypt surrounded by worship of false god's
- In the 10 plagues, God directly takes on the deities of Egypt

The 10 Plagues - Jehovah Versus the Gods of Egypt

PLAGUE	GODS OF EGYPT	INTERESTING NOTES
1 WATER TURNED TO BLOOD Exodus 7:14-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khnum - Guardian of river's source. • Hapi - Spirit of the Nile. • Osiris - Nile was his bloodstream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicated by the Egyptians. • Occurs in Goshen where Israelites lived. • Dead fish — putrid smell
2 FROGS Exodus 8:1-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hapi } Frog goddess to Egypt. • Heqt } Both related to fertility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicated by the Egyptians • Occurs in Goshen where Israelites lived.
3 LICE Exodus 8:16-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seb The earth god of Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not duplicated by the Egyptians • Occurs in Goshen where Israelites lived. • Attributed to the "finger of God."
4 FLIES Exodus 8:20-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uatchit - The fly god of Egypt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God now makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites. • No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.
5 DISEASE ON CATTLE Exodus 9:1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ptah } Egyptian gods associated • Hathor } bulls and cows. • Mnevis • Amon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affects property. • Death of livestock.
6 BOILS Exodus 9:8-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sekhmet - Egyptian goddess of Epidemics • Serapis } Egyptian gods of healing. • Imhotep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affects physical bodies. • Pharaoh's magicians cannot even appear in court.
7 HAIL Exodus 9:13-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nut - Egyptian sky goddess. • Isis & Seth - Egyptian agriculture deities. • Shu - Egyptian god of the atmosphere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical uniqueness for such a storm in Egypt. • Pharaoh confesses his sin but later changes his mind.
8 LOCUSTS Exodus 10:1-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serapia - Egyptian deity protector from Locusts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharaoh offers a compromise. • The compromise is rejected. • Pharaoh again confesses his sin.
9 DARKNESS Exodus 10:21-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re } Egyptian sun gods. • Amon-re • Aten • Atum • Horus • Thoth - Egyptian moon god. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark in Egypt at midday. • Apparently light was still provided for the Israelites in Goshen.
10 DEATH OF FIRSTBORN Exodus 12:29-36	This plague was a judgment on all of Egypt's gods, including Pharaoh himself. In Exodus 1, Pharaoh had killed the sons of Israel. Now the Lord kills the firstborn sons of the Egyptians (Exodus 11-12). Pharaoh will now let Israel go. He will later loose his army to death in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:4-31).	

Route of the Exodus



Mt. Sinai

- St. Catherine's Monastery located at a site that was frequented by many early "hermits" and is still inhabited by a few Orthodox monks.
- St. Anthony widely considered the first "monk" and St. Catherine was an early martyr of the church.
- Justinian ordered the monastery in her name much later, supposed to be the site of Moses bringing the commandments down from the mountain.



Patriarchal Period summary

- Really closes with the death of Joseph
- All four principals (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph) displayed a rather simple faith in God
- They built altars and offered sacrifices which suggests God had given general directions concerning sacrifice even though the Mosaic Law had not yet been revealed
- The patriarch acted as a priest for the family, prayer was simple and direct
- Revelation came to them in different ways (dreams, directly, appearances of angels, etc.)
- Principal requirement in all this was true obedience to God's revealed will
- This contrasts other societies of the ANE as the patriarchs knew their responsibility consisted in proper ethical conduct
- The blessings of the covenant would come as they kept His commands