

Old Testament World



Water Bodies

Land Areas

History

**Mountains & Other
Features**

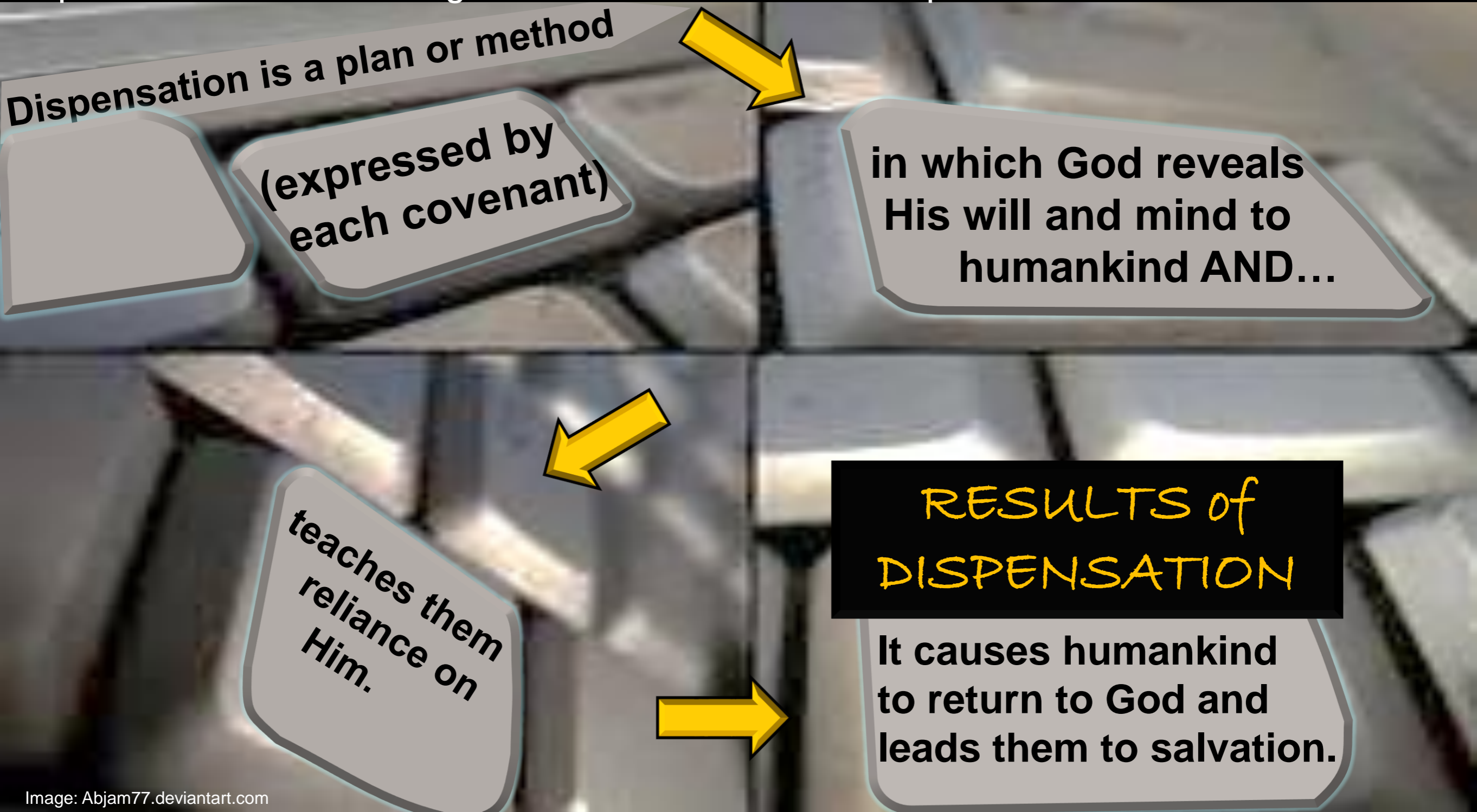
Let's go behind biblical text and learn about the people of the Old Testament World!

In this presentation, you'll uncover Old Testament geography and history according to covenant and dispensation!



covenant & dispensation **Key Points**

A covenant is a legal relationship God ordains through an oath to fulfill His specific purpose for humankind because of their frailty. God's fulfills his purpose in covenant (Gen 14:4-6). Further, God establishes us as His own people through covenant (Exod 19:5; Deut 17:6), choosing us to know Him through it (Isa 43:10). The covenant drives the dispensation. There are eight covenants with seven dispensations



Jesus, the Cornerstone

All covenant promises are to be fulfilled in Him, the Son of God -- God in flesh

Flow →

New Covenant

Dispensation of **Grace**

Davidic Covenant

Palestinian Covenant

Mosaic Covenant

Dispensation of Law

Abrahamic Covenant: Dispensation of Promise

Noahic Covenant: Dispensation of Human Gov't

Adamic Covenant: Dispensation of Conscience

Edenic Covenant: Dispensation of Innocence

Timeline of Old Testament Events

Image: coghomeschool.org

c. 3960 BC	Adam and Eve created.	971 – 931 BC	Solomon is king over Israel.
2305 BC	Noah's Flood.	931 BC	Israel splits into two kingdoms – the northern kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) led by Jeroboam and the southern kingdom of Judah (2 tribes) led by Rehoboam.
1952 BC	Abraham is born.		
1877 BC	God calls Abraham out of Ur to go to the land of Canaan.		
1852 BC	Isaac is born.		
1792 BC	Jacob (Israel) is born.	870 – 850 BC	Ahab rules Israel with Jezebel, Jehoshaphat rules Judah and Elijah is prophet in Israel.
1662 BC	Jacob's family moves to Egypt.		
c. 1550 BC	Egypt makes slaves out of the Israelites.	721 – 718 BC	Assyria takes the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity. They become the "lost" 10 tribes.
1447 BC	God brings the plagues on Egypt and frees Israel under Moses.	716 – 687 BC	Hezekiah rules Judah.
1407 BC	God brings Israel into the Promised Land under Joshua.	640 – 609 BC	Josiah rules Judah.
1400 – 1050 BC	The time of the Judges including Gideon, Samson and Samuel.	604 – 585 BC	Babylon takes Judah (the Jews) into captivity. This is also the time of Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.
1051 – 1011 BC	Saul is chosen as king and rules Israel.	538 BC	Cyrus of Persia after conquering Babylon issues decree allowing Jews to return to Palestine.
1011 – 971 BC	David is king over Israel.		

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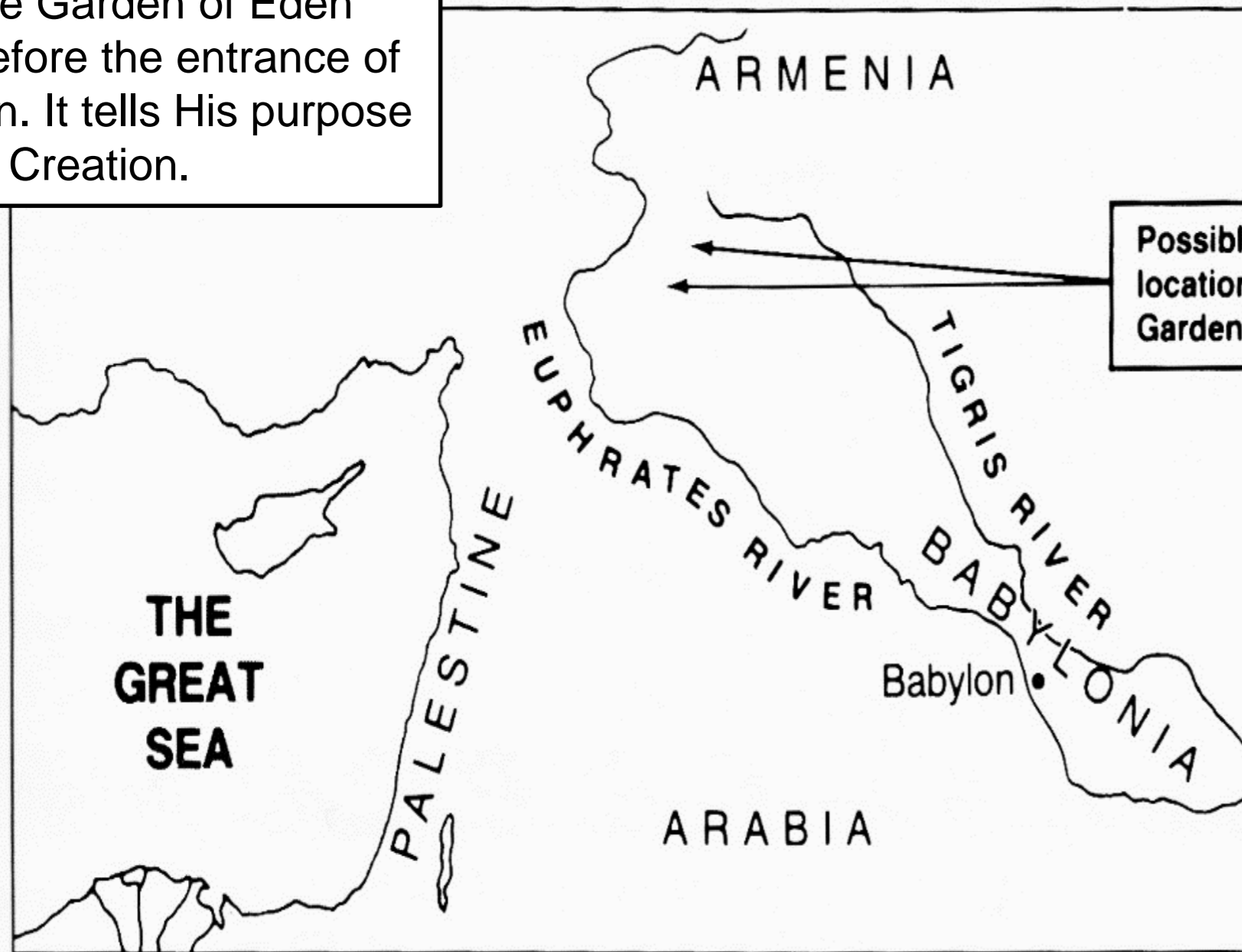
Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:26-31)

←Adam in the Garden about 33 years→

Dispensation of Innocence (1:28-3:6)

Covenant God made with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before the entrance of sin. It tells His purpose in Creation.

been located near the Tigris River, which the Bible calls Hiddekel (2:14).



GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS

Different theories exist about the Garden of Eden's location. Possibly, it was in the Armenian highlands at head of the Persian Gulf: Modern day northeastern Iraq--bordered by Syria (west), Turkey (north), Iran (east) and Saudi Arabia (south)

BODIES OF WATER

Pishon (or Wadi Batin system) (2:11) Gihon (or Karun) (v. 13), Hiddekel (or Tigris (v. 14) and Euphrates (v. 14) Rivers, in addition to the Great Sea

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES

Kurdistan (northeast) Zagros (east), Syrian Desert (west) and Mount Ararat to the northeast

Arable

Every seed and fruit “on the face of the land” (Gen 1:29 AMP).

Finished work

God completed the heavens and earth, and all its company (2:1 NIV) – A finished work

Eastward

And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east (2:8)

All to be desired

It had every tree that is pleasant to the sight *or* to be desired...for food (2:9a)

Ample water

A river with four heads watered the garden (2:10)

The TREE

Two trees: Tree of life & tree of knowledge of good and evil--Adam could not eat the latter (2:9;17a)

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

Gen 1:26-27

Gen 2:18; 21-24

Gen 3:6-7

Gen 2:8; 15-17

Gen 2:25

Gen 3:16-19; 22-24

God created man in His image and likeness

God created a helper for Adam comparable to him

Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil...Knew they were naked

God planted a garden eastward in Eden and put man whom He formed to tend and keep it; He commanded man not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil

Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed

When God discovered they ate the forbidden fruit, He gave them curses and expelled them from the Garden

THE RESULTS. God created Adam from the dust of the earth according to His will to procreate and rule the earth (Gen 1:28). Then, He placed him in the Garden. Adam was to “tend and keep the garden” (2:15). There, God provided food. Adam could eat from every tree in the Garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He could neither eat, nor touch this tree (vv. 16-17).



**What
does it
all
mean?**

The Garden also had ample water reserves, one river even holding rich resources (Pishon: gold, Bdelium, onyx stone (2:11, 12b). Most likely, the garden was a lush area.

Yet, despite God’s provisions, Adam and Eve failed His test of faith and ate from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (3:6-7).

Adamic Covenant (Gen 3:14-19)

← Adam to Noah about 1,600 years →

Dispensation of Conscience (3:7-6:7)

God made this covenant with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after the entrance of sin. It told His purpose in redemption.



God expelled them from the garden “to till the ground from which he was taken” (3:23) He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden (3:24a).

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS

Pastures, plains, valleys, farmland, land of Nod

BODIES OF WATER

Pishon (or Wadi Batin system) (Gen 2:11) Gihon (or Karun) (2:13),
Hiddekel (or Tigris) (v. 14) and Euphrates (v. 14) Rivers, in addition
to the Great Sea

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES

Kurdistan (northeast) Zagros (east), Syrian Desert (west)
Mount Ararat to the northeast

East of Eden

Adam and Eve lived east of the Garden (Gen 3:24), which was Mesopotamia

Contained pastures

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep” (4:2 AMP). Sheep need plains and valleys to graze.

Cursed land

Cain (tiller of the ground) brought the Lord a fruit offering” (4:3b), which displeased God who had cursed the ground (3:17b)

Land of exile

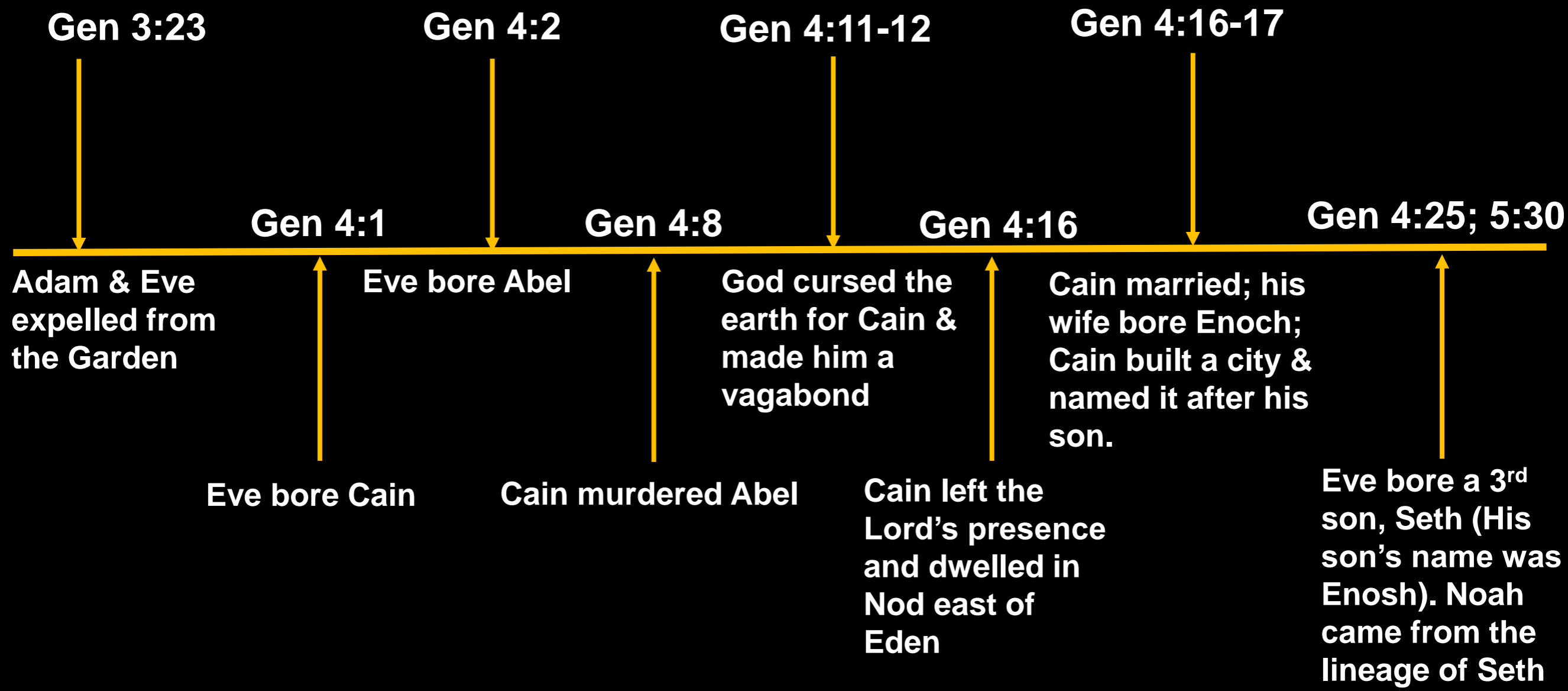
“Cain dwelled in Nod (east of Eden) after murdering Abel (4:10) in a nomadic lifestyle migrating to a far country.

City Builder

“And Cain built a city while in Nod” (4:17a) Noah did not descend from Cain’s lineage, rather that of Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve.



HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY



THE RESULTS. Unlike when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they lost their close fellowship with God upon expulsion from the Garden. During the dispensation of conscience, Adam and Eve's descendants scattered across the Mesopotamian region. They tilled the land, tended livestock and developed other trades.

God gave humankind the promise of redemption to restore them back to covenantal relationship with Him. He saw great wickedness and evil across the land. Humankind did not walk with Him, except for Enoch.-- (6:5). Later, Noah found grace with God (6:8).

Note: Jesus, the second Adam, fulfilled God's promise at the cross reversing Adam's disobedience (Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor 15:45)



**What
does it
all
mean?**

Noahic Covenant (Gen 8:20-9:6)

←Noah to Abraham about 430 years→

Dispensation of Human Gov't (Gen 9-11)

God made this covenant with Noah in the Garden of Eden after the Flood. It involved all creatures and future generations of humankind to confirm and add to His purpose of redemption.



And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed (Gen 5:29).

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS

Armenian plain in Turkey

BODIES OF WATER

The Flood, Tigris, Euphrates, Aras (Araxes), Choruk rivers (that flow from Mt. Ararat) and Lake Van (southwest of the mountain).

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES

Mount Ararat (Gen 8:4), one of the world's largest mountain tablelands that stands 16,945 feet high (Corbin, B. J. & Geissler, R, n.d.).

The Flood

The Lord destroyed the world and its inhabitants, not just Mesopotamia. It rained 40 days and 40 nights in downpour conditions (Gen

7:12, 18-19). The ark itself measured 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high (6:16). It had three stories and could hold an estimated 43,000 tons (Thomas Nelson, 1993, p. 11).

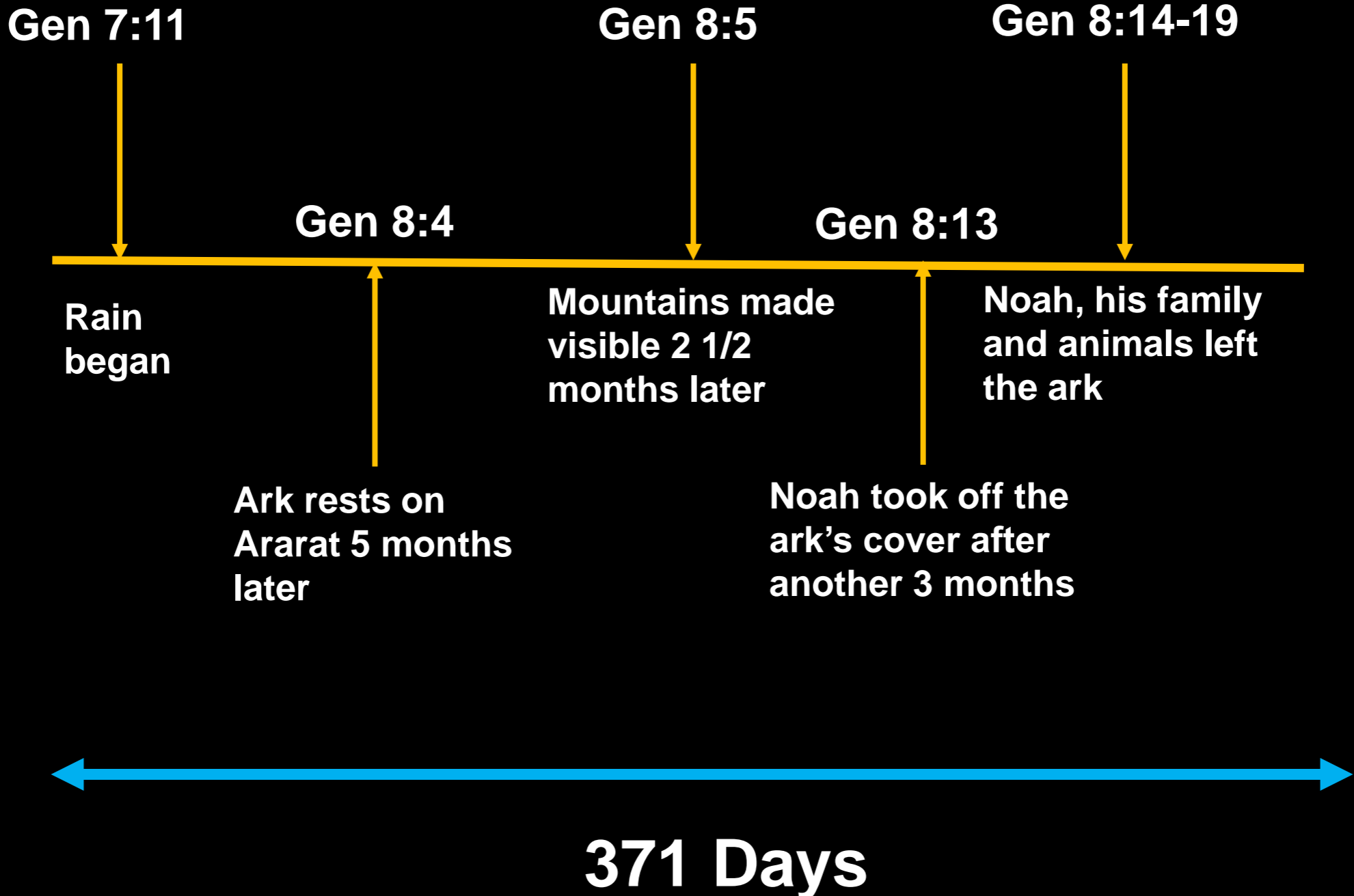
Mt. Ararat

To gauge how high the flood waters rose, consider that Mt. Ararat stands 16,945 feet high (noahsarksearch.com).

First plant

Noah saw a plucked olive leaf as the sign the waters had decreased from the Flood (Gen 8:11) when a dove returned with it in his mouth (Gen 8:8-11).

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY



THE RESULTS. God revealed His judgment and mercy with the Flood. He destroyed wickedness and evil, but preserved righteousness through Noah and his family for the sake of future generations of humankind. However, Noah failed the test of faith and obedience despite the Flood when he laid bare in a drunken state after tending his vineyard (Gen 9:21). Then, Ham, the son of Noah, brought a curse upon his

own son Canaan because Ham dishonored his father and looked at Noah's nakedness (Gen 9:25; 7:5; Heb 11:7; 1 Pet 3:20; 2 Pet 2:5).



**What
does it
all
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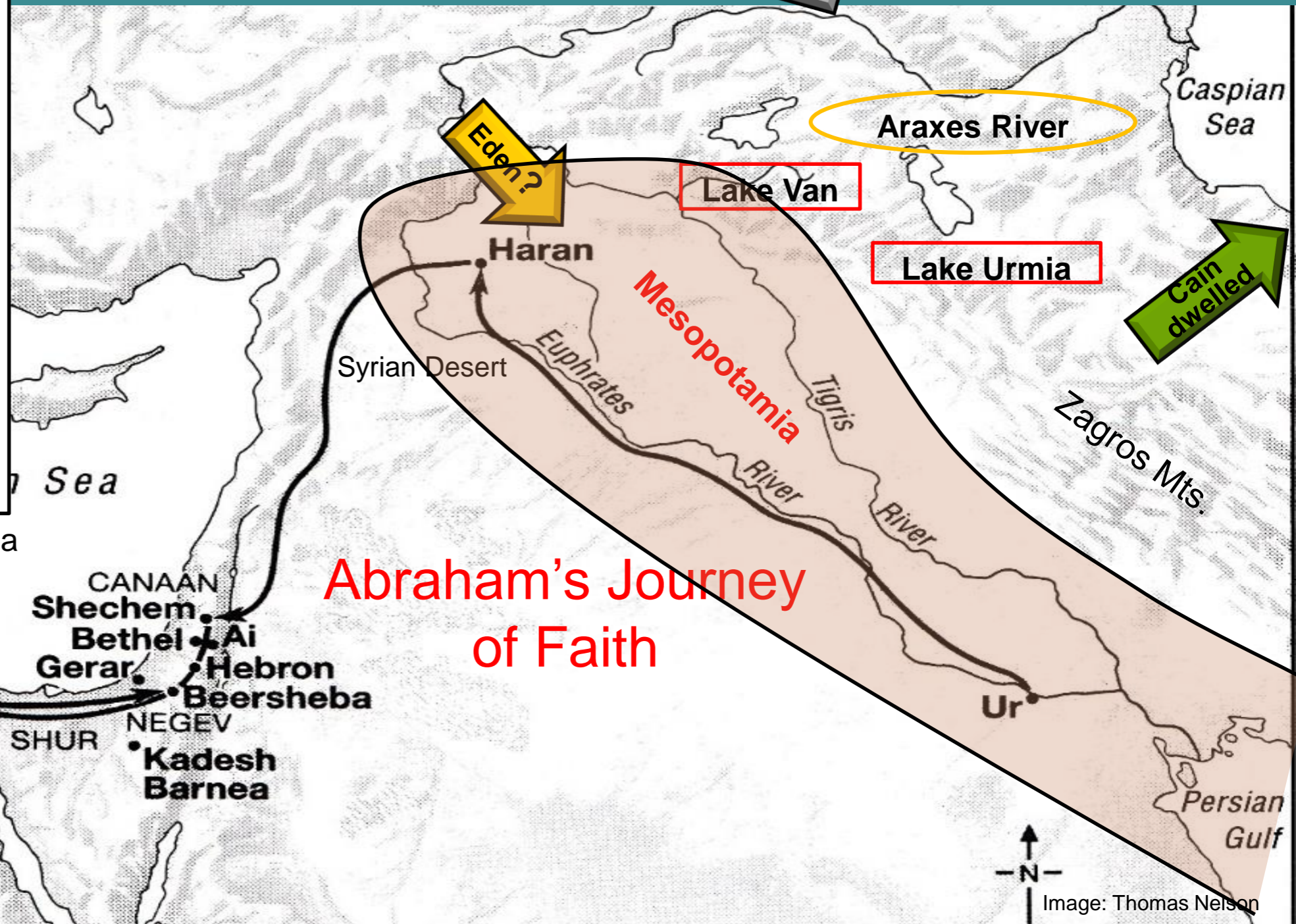
Later, people wanted to make a name for themselves and built a structure (Tower of Babel) to reach heaven (Gen 11:4). God intervened and confused their language and scattered them to all nations (11:7-8).

Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:1-4)

← Noah to Moses about 1,600 years →

Dispensation of Promise (Gen 12-19)

God made this unconditional covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob following the events of the Tower of Babel and scattering of Noah's descendants. It concerns the nation of Israel, the seed Messiah & all believers of all nations.



“An he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,...for he waited for the city which has foundations, who builder and maker is God” (Heb 11:8-10)

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS

Mesopotamia (Gen 11:31-12:3); Egypt (12:10-13:1) -- both fertile and well watered by the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers -- as compared to Canaan -- a barren land (24:10), Haran (an urban center) and Ur

BODIES OF WATER

Mediterranean Sea, Euphrates River, Tigris River

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES

Zagros Mountains, Assyrian Desert, (Arid to hyper-arid desert climate: Annual rainfall is 4 to 8 inches)

Land promises

Land plays a prominent role in this covenant.
God's land promises:

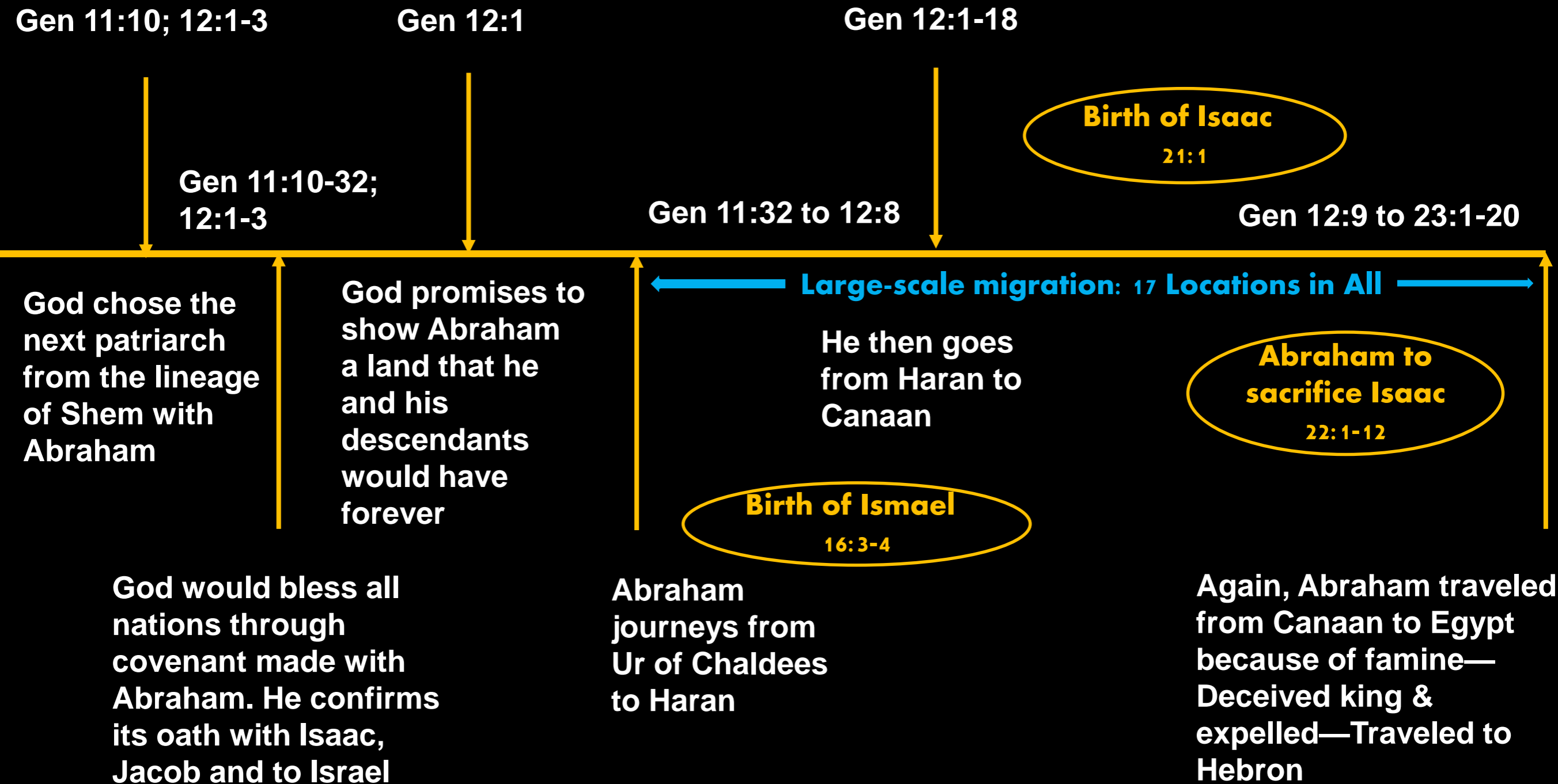
*To Abraham and his seed a land from the Euphrates to Egypt; land of Canaan would be an everlasting possession (Gen 12:1; 15:7-21; 17:7,8).

*To Isaac that He would give "all these countries" to him and his seed (26:2-4).

*To Jacob that his seed would spread abroad to the north, south, east and west (36:11, 12); the nation and company of nations (36:11-12) and Canaan to his seed for an everlasting covenant (48:3,4).

Note: Canaan is an earthly shadow for the heavenly country (Heb 11:8-16). The geography of Canaan holds both natural and physical fulfillment of the land promises.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY



THE RESULTS. Abram was the son of a wealthy patriarch. He could have inherited wealth and prestige through land in Haran; but, God called him to “the land that I will show you” (Gen 12:1). Although older, childless and without a home base (a semi-nomad), he and Sarai, with Lot, journeyed to the unknown. He followed a regular route that took him through Mesopotamia to Egypt and into Canaan from the northeast. They camped on the peripheries of Shechem and Bethel (12:4-8). From there, Abram went to southern Canaan to Negev in Sinai. A famine forced Abram to the Nile Delta in Lower Egypt (Lied to the pharaoh and had to leave; 12:10-31:1). He returned to Canaan and split his family. Lot chose Sodom and Gomorrah and farther east away from the land of promise, which was Canaan (36:1-43) (Conner & Malmin, 1995).



**What
does it
all
mean?**

Mosaic Covenant (Exod 19-31)

← Moses to Joshua about 430 years →

Dispensation of Law (Exod 19:1-8)

God made this conditional covenant with first-generation children of Israel at Mt. Sinai after He delivered them from Egypt. If they obeyed His laws they would become a special treasure to God above all nations and kingdom of priests and a holy nation. This covenant shadows better things to come.

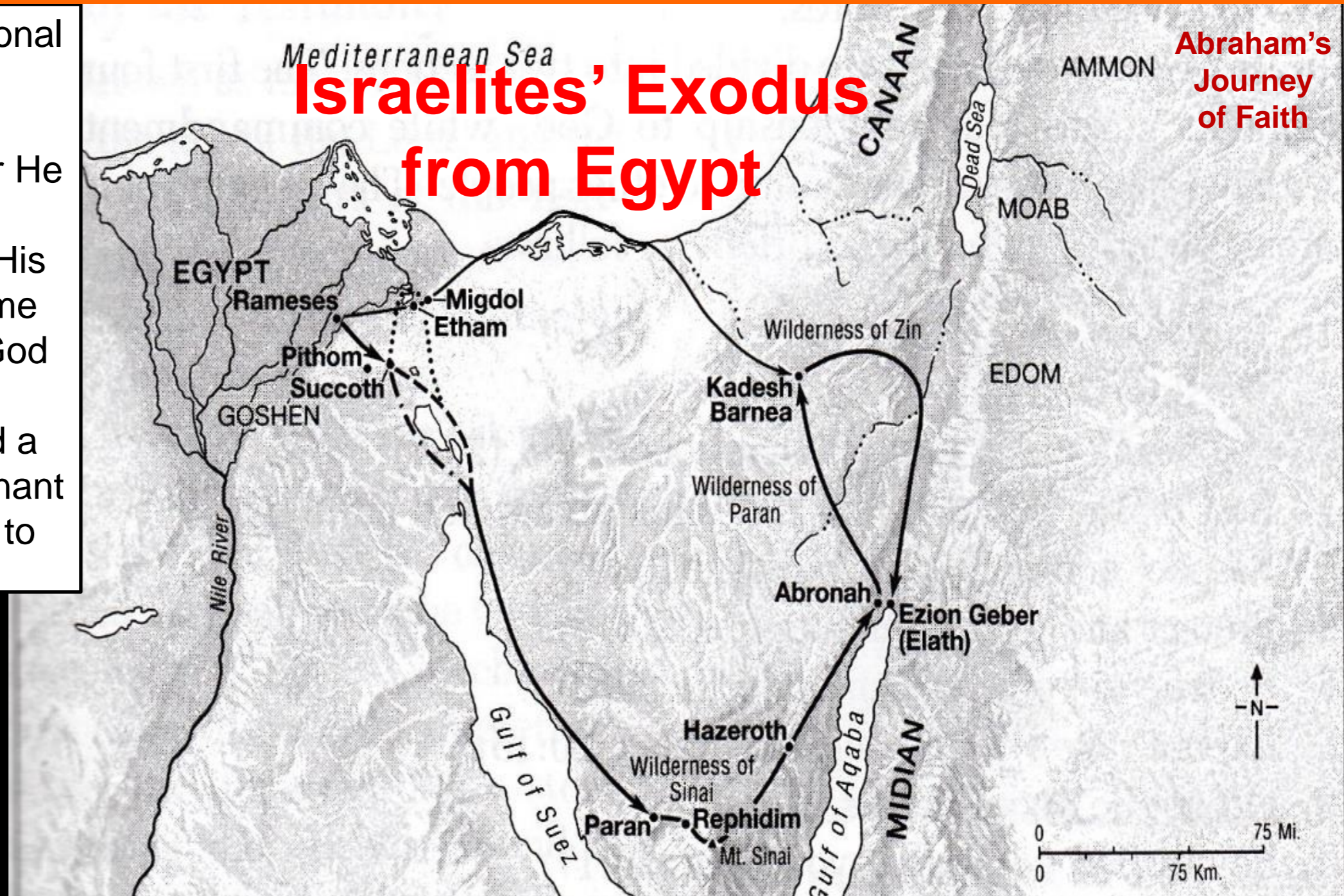


Image: Thomas Nelson, 1990

“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, ‘All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.’ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words’” (Exod 24:7-8).

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS

Egypt, Mt. Sinai (“Mountain of God;” Exod 18:5), Raphidim (possibly Wadi Feiran)

BODIES OF WATER

Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Nile river, Sinai peninsula (located in Israel and sandwiched in between modern day Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan), Marah (In the Sinai peninsula)

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES

Wilderness of Sinai Peninsula (Deuteronomy 1:19 describes it as great and terrible)

Egypt vs. wilderness

The Israelites faced a stark contrast between two land types: Egypt was fertile with an ample water supply, while the wilderness surrounding Sinai had desert conditions (Exod 19:1-2). If they camped at Jebel Serbal (6,791'), the Israelites could access an oasis (Walton, Matthews & Chavalas, 2000, p. 93).

Plagues of Egypt

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself” (19:4). Six of the ten plagues God inflicted on the Egyptians involved land or water such as turning water into blood (7:14-25), setting frogs loose across the land (7:25-8:11), changing the dust of the land into lice (8:16-19), raining hail on the land of Egypt (9:13-35), covering the face of the earth with locusts (10:1-20), darkening the sky (10:21-29). Note: An eagle carried its young on its wings when they were weary. (Walton Matthews, Chavalas, 2000, p. 94)

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

The Lord made the Israelites wander in the desert 40 years
(Deut 8:2; Josh 5:6; Num 32:13)



Moses born in Egypt, from the house of Levi. Raised in Pharaoh's household, and fled to Midian after killing a man

NEW BEGINNINGS: Moses led the children of Israel out of captivity from Egypt. When he raised his staff, the sea parted for the Israelites to cross.

ISRAELITES FAILED FOUR TESTS:

- 1) Red Sea
- 2) Waters at Marah
- 3) Wilderness of Sin
- 4) Test of Rephidim

God reminded the children of Israel that they **MUST** be obedient to His law

The people agreed that, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."

ISRAELITES PROVOKED the Lord ten times Num 14:22

First generation wandered in the desert until their death because they did not have an obedient heart

THE RESULTS. “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself” (Exod 19:4b). “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel” (vv.5-6). Having seen God demonstrate that He is God to the Egyptians, God gives them the promise of being a special treasure (a royal seal) and kingdom

of priests (They would serve a priestly role among the nations, giving them a highly sacred status.) Since the children of Israel did not keep this covenant, they wandered the wilderness for 40 years (and died in unbelief, without entering the promised land; Num 13, 14). **Note:** Only Jesus Christ kept all the law’s requirements.



**What
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all
mean?**

Palestinian Covenant (Deut 28-30)

←Joshua to David about 390 years→

Dispensation of Law (Exod 19:1-8)

God made this covenant with second-generation children of Israel at Moab. This generation still was under the Mosaic covenant, but received an expanded covenant with the Second Law (moral and civil codes) giving them conditions for living in His promised land from the Abrahamic covenant.

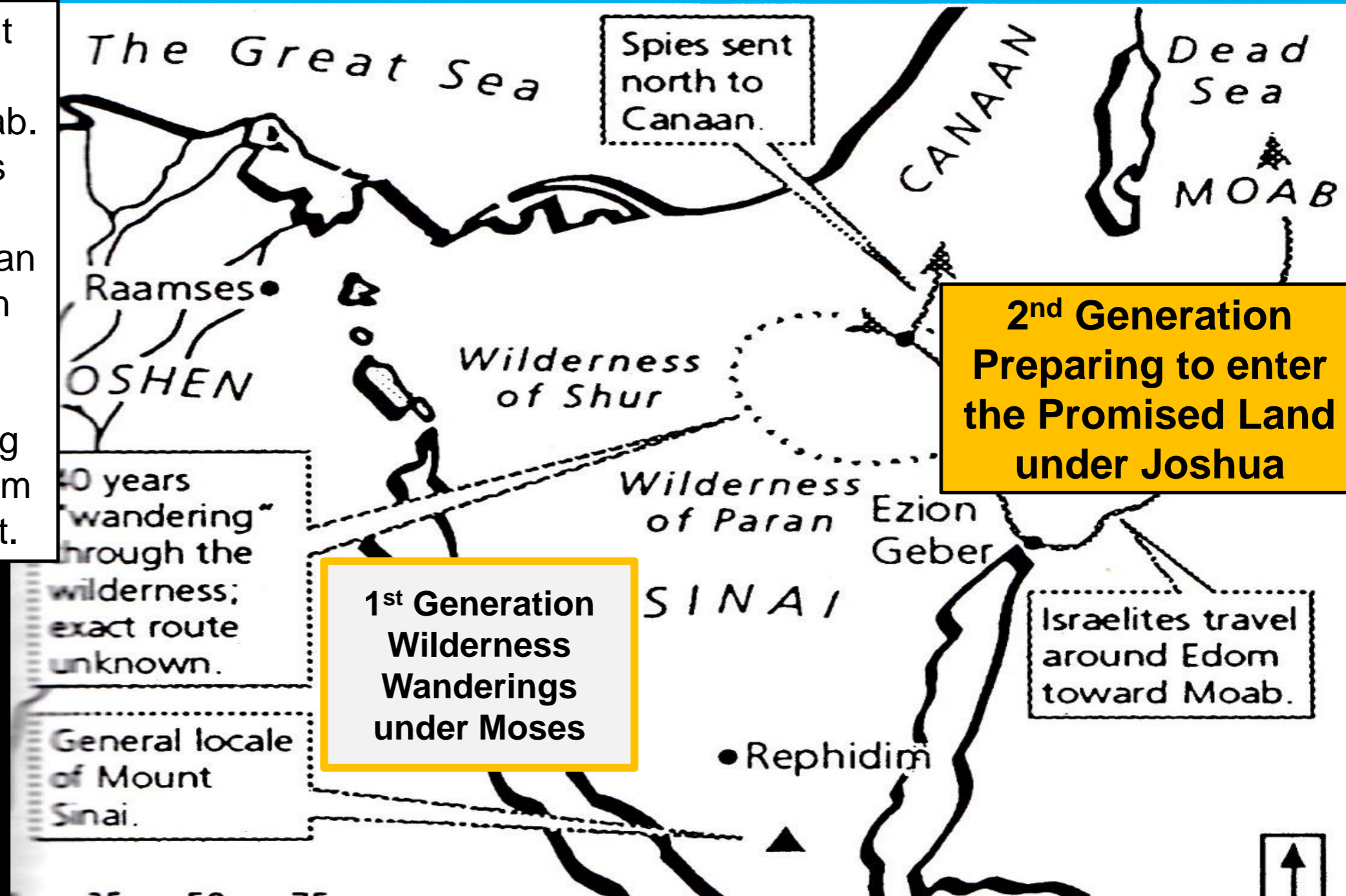


Image: Thomas Nelson, 1996)

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:” (Deut 28: 1,2).

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS

Plains of Moab, Mt. Nebo, Jericho, Gilgal

BODIES OF WATER

Jordan River, Dead Sea (Sea of the Arabah)

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES

The Egyptian empire bounded the promised land to the south and Mesopotamia to the north.

Focus on the land

Deuteronomy mentions the word *land* 180 times, which emphasizes that the primary focus of the Palestinian Covenant is the promised land. To be noted, this covenant also is called the Land Covenant.

Vision of the land

God promised the Israelites (Deut 8:8) "a good land..., a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey" (cf. Num 14:8)

Manna ceased

After crossing Jordan, the Lord commanded Joshua to circumcise the 2nd generation males at Gilgal (Josh 5:7) -- The manna ceased and the Israelites ate from the food of the land from Canaan (Josh 5:10-12).

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

Israelites suffered the curses of the Palestinian Covenant after turning from God to idols, beginning in Judges

2 Kings; 2 Chron
Ultimate fulfillment of the curse!

Deut 28:1-30:9

Moses dies in Moab (Deut 34:5)

Josh 1; 3:9-17

Joshua takes over for Moses (Deut 31; 1-8; 34:9)

Deut 34:1-4

2 Kings 17:1-18; 24:1-25-25:11

God gives the 2nd generation children of Israel the Palestinian covenant

The second generation Israelites prepare to enter and conquer Canaan under Joshua

God allowed two houses to be taken captive: Israel (by the Assyrians) and Judah (by the Babylonians).

NEW BEGINNINGS:
Ark of the covenant goes ahead into Jordan—Israelites cross to Canaan on dry ground

God cast out the children of Israel from Canaan

God showed Moses the “whole land”--Gilead to Dan, Naphtali, Ephraim and Manasseh, Judah to the Mediterranean Sea, Negev, Valley of Jericho, City of Palms to Zoar—but He wouldn't let Moses cross over to it

Joshua battles Jericho to Hazar to conquest Canaan

THE RESULTS. Palestinian Covenant amplifies the Abrahamic Covenant, emphasizing obedience. God stated the “land is Mine” (Lev 25:23-24). The children of Israel did not keep to the conditions of His land covenant – Land vastly contrasting the wilderness: the good land, the land of milk and honey. God expelled them from the land and dispensed the curses from this covenant: sicknesses, plagues of the land, overthrown from the land, rooted out of the land and cast to a different land (Deut 29:16-29; Lev 18:24-28). The curses from the Palestinian Covenant (Deut 28:15-68) were fulfilled beginning during the time of the Judges.



**What
does it
all
mean?**

Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:11-15)

←David to Christ about 680 years→

Dispensation of Law (Exod 19:1-8; Eph 1:10)

God extends the land covenant from the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. He also promised David and Israel kingship through the seed from the lineage of David and house of Judah that would lead to Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. It had no conditions, rather rests on God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises.

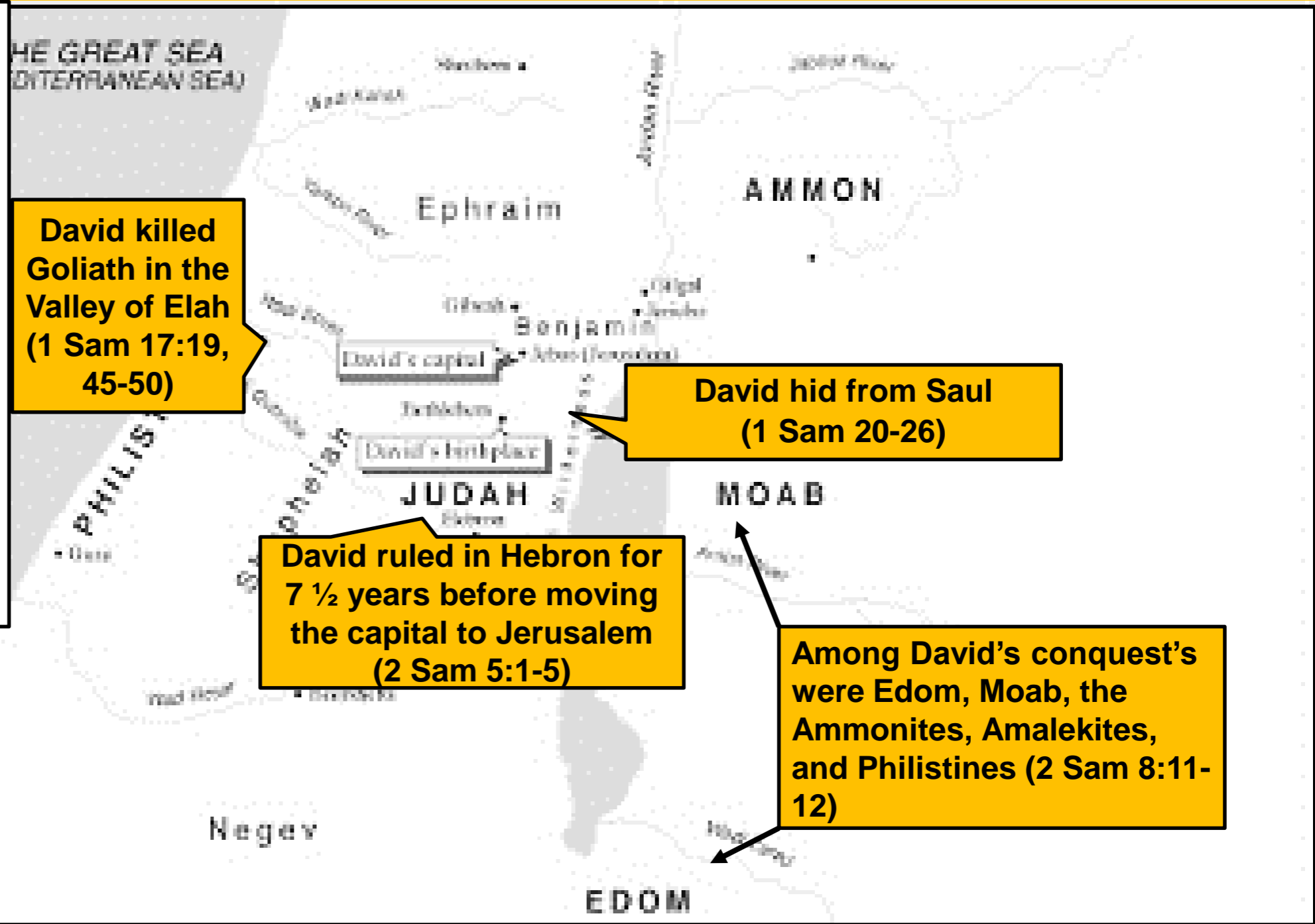


Image: <http://barrybandstra.com>

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Sam 7:12-13 NKJV).

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

LAND AREAS:

Jerusalem (Capital of Israel, 2 Sam 5:1-5), **Palestine** (Land of Emmanuel, Is 8:7-8; cf. God's sanctuary, Exod 15:17-18), **Edom, Moab, Philistia, Ammon and Negeb**

BODIES OF WATER:

Great Sea, Dead Sea, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee

MOUNTAINS AND OTHER FEATURES:

Kidron Valley, Hinnon Valley

NOTE: These geographical features are spiritual provisions for this covenant, as opposed to its physical characteristics.

House

A royal dynasty from the lineage of David (biological descendants who will rule the throne through eternity)

Seed

Seed refers to the male descendant heirs, beginning with Solomon and ending with Jesus Christ (2 Sam. 7:12; Ps 89:4,29,36). David's seed will build a house to the name of God.

Kingdom

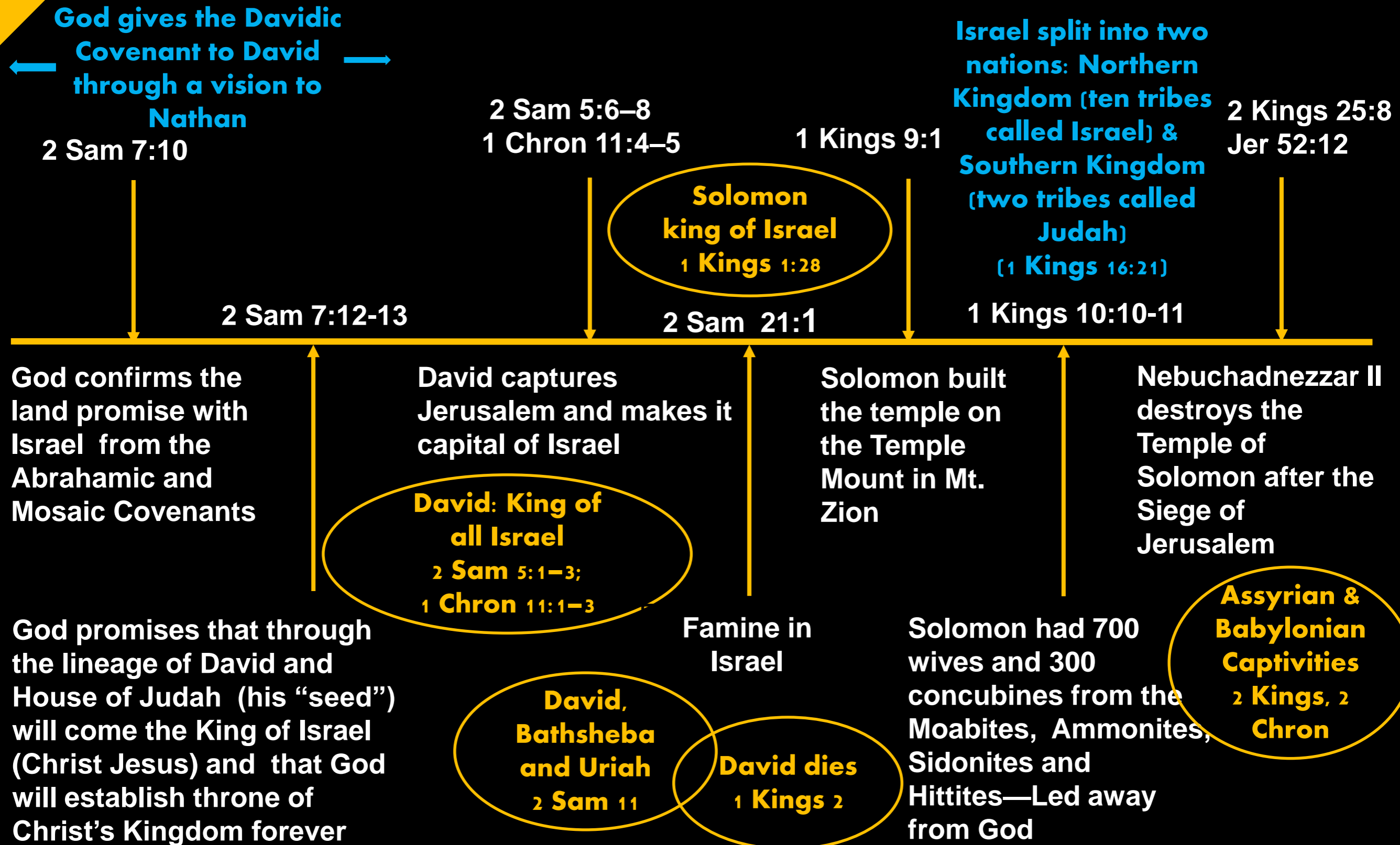
People of whom the king governs.

Throne

Authority of the king's rule over the kingdom designated by the land promise (geographical positioning) from the Abrahamic Covenant (2 Sam 7:13,16; Ps. 89:4;29;36). The throne of Christ will be established forever.

Davidic

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY



THE RESULTS. God used King David for many feats. Humankind's frailty and inability to be faithful to obedience recurs in this covenant. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah. Within David's own family, his son Amnon raped his sister Tamar. In turn, Absalom murdered his brother Amnon. This resulted in God's judgment upon which Absalom usurped control of the kingdom from David and took his wives and concubines

(Note: God's divine ordinances never sanctioned polygamy). Israel also went through a plague (1 Sam 24:15). God met David's disobedience with chastisement, but His mercy did not depart from him and his descendants.



**What
does it
all
mean?**

Summary

The geographical and historical backgrounds of the covenants and dispensations not only uncover the Old Testament World, but more importantly, progressively reveal Who God is and tell about His desire for relationship with humankind.

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Walking Through the Word 1

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