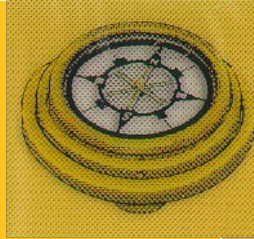


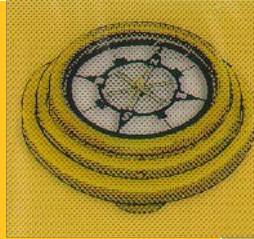
Biblical Archaeology, Apologetics, and Interpretation

See the **House Visual Study Bible** for more discussion of archaeology and the Bible, hvsb.app.

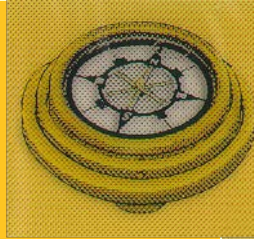
**REASONS WHY SOME
QUESTION THE RELIABILITY
OF THE BIBLE**



- Rise of Historical Criticism in Biblical Studies
 - Presupposition that the writings of the Bible are only human documents and went through an evolutionary process.
 - View that the various biblical documents of the Old and New Testament were not written by eyewitnesses or reliable sources.
 - Conviction that they are unreliable historically and theologically.



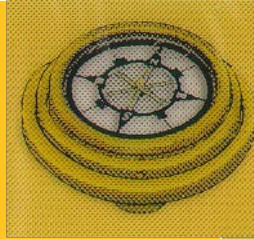
Due to the interpretive differences between biblical conservatives and biblical critics, archaeological interpretation relating to the Bible has produced two separate schools of thought. Those who belong to these schools are classified as “Minimalists” and “Maximalists.”



Archaeology and the Bible

Minimalist: Sees little correspondence between the Bible and archaeological data; the archaeological data has priority in interpretation.

Archaeology provides little - but often contradictory - evidence concerning the question of biblical historicity



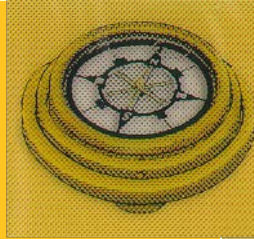
Archaeology and the Bible

Maximalist: Correspondence is sought between the Bible and archaeological record; the biblical data has priority in interpretation.

Archaeology provides evidence that the Bible is a reliable historical document

Purposes of Biblical Archaeology

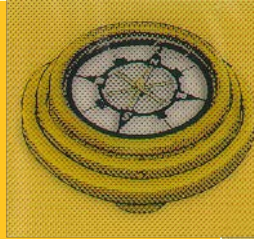
1. *Confirming* the word of the Bible.
2. *Correcting* the words of the Bible.
3. *Clarifying* the world of the Bible.
4. *Complementing* the witness of the Bible.



The Value of Archaeology

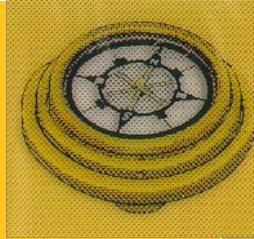
- ① It frequently illustrates and illuminates the Bible.
 - It may assist in determining fixed *dates* for biblical events (e.g. Patriarchs, Exodus).
 - It may clear up the interpretation of *obscure texts* (e. g. horns of the altar).





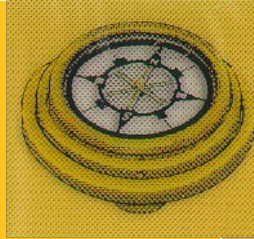
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 - **It can contribute information concerning *customs* and cultures of Bible times (e.g. city gates, the Canaanites).**



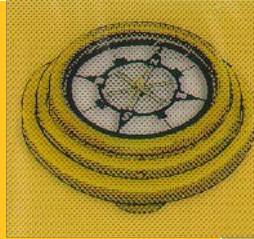
The Value of Archaeology

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 - It can contribute information concerning *customs* and cultures of Bible times (e.g. city gates, the Canaanites).
 - **It can help us to correct *misinterpretations*.**



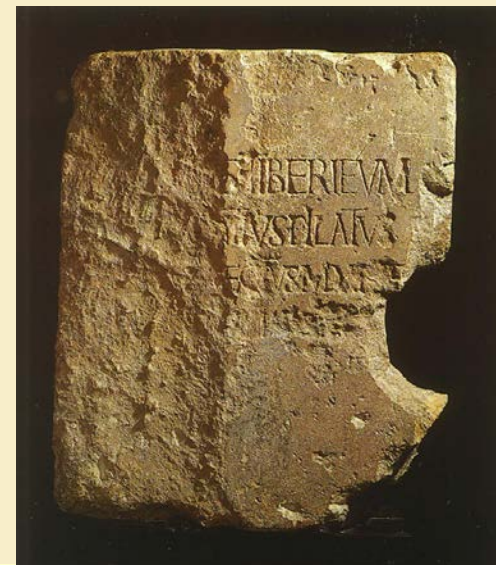
The Value of Archaeology

- ② It often supplements the information given in the Bible.
 - It sometimes supplies *details missing* in the biblical account (e.g. Sargon II, King Mesha of Moab).
 - It often provides *information not found* in the Bible at all (e.g. Battle of Qarqar, Battle of Carchemish, intertestamental period).



The Value of Archaeology

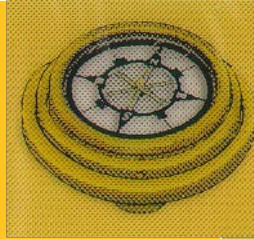
- ③ It regularly authenticates the Bible.
 - It has destroyed *false theories* concerning the Bible.
 - It has demonstrated the *accuracy* of the Bible (e.g. Solomonic gates, Hittites, Pilate inscription, MT).



*Biblical Archaeology, Apologetics and
Interpretation*

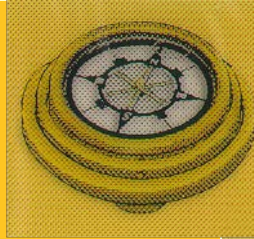
*Dr. H. Wayne House
M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Research
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THE NATURE OF HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION



The Nature of Historical Investigation

**The Problem of Indirect Access to the
Subject Matter of History (importance
of eyewitness testimony)**

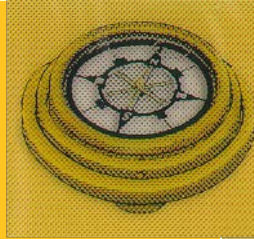


The Importance of Eyewitness Testimony

The importance of
close contact in
eyewitness
testimony

Credible eyewitness
testimony requires a
sustained, up-close
type of exposure.





The Importance of Eyewitness Testimony

“For we did not follow cleverly contrived myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; instead, we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

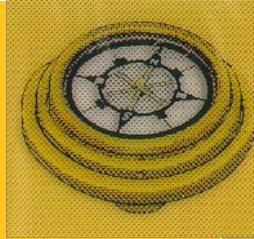
For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, a voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!

And we heard this voice when it came from heaven while we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word strongly confirmed. You will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dismal place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.” (2 Pet 1:16–19 HCSB)

"What was from the beginning, what we have **heard**, what we have **seen** with our eyes, what we beheld and our **hands handled**, concerning the Word of Life."

1 John 1:1

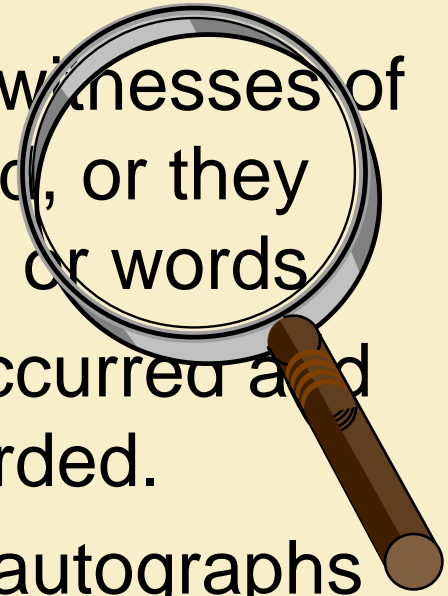


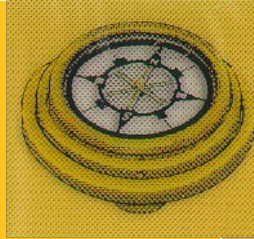


The Importance of Eyewitness Testimony

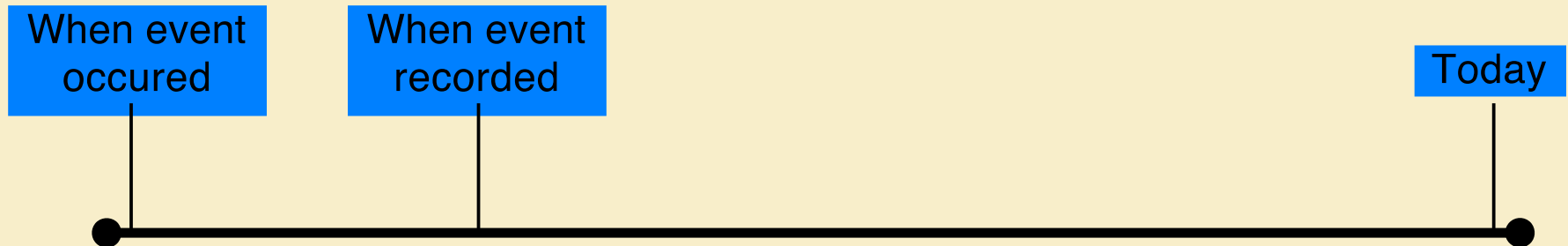
Factors that Support the Biblical Texts

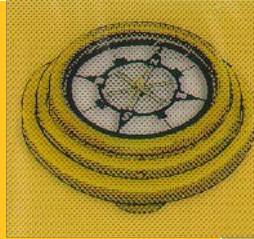
- Generally the biblical authors were eyewitnesses of the events and words that they recorded, or they interviewed eyewitnesses to the events or words.
- Short time between when the events occurred and when these events and words are recorded.
- Short time span from the writing of the autographs and that of our copies of the New Testament.
- Multitude of manuscripts of Old and New Testament.





The Credibility of Historical Events Determined by Temporal Proximity to the Record of the Event



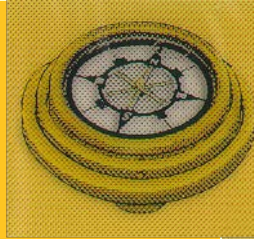


Speaking About the Gospels of the New Testament A Famous Myth-Writer Speaks Out

The Non-Mythological Nature of the New Testament

- *“All I am in private life is a literary critic and historian, that’s my job. And I am prepared to say on that basis if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legend or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic. I’ve read a great many novels and I know a fair amount about the legends that grew up among early people, and I know perfectly well the Gospels are not that kind of stuff” (C.S. Lewis, **Christian Reflections**, 209).*





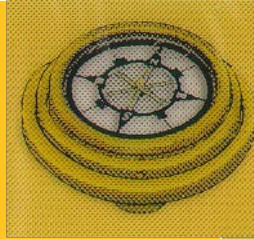
Development of Myth

Near Eastern experts recognize the development of myth over time:

- History can be made into myth
- Myth can become more mythical
- Myth does not become *more simple*, believable and historical over time.

Therefore, the later, more simple, believable, and historical account of creation in Genesis is not dependent on *earlier* mythical Mesopotamian accounts. Rather, the event of creation as documented in the simpler Genesis account was made into myth.

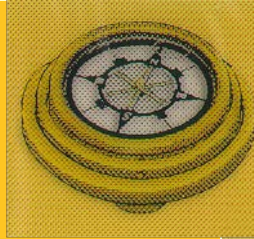




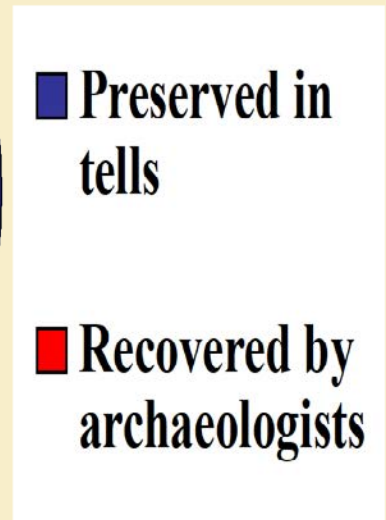
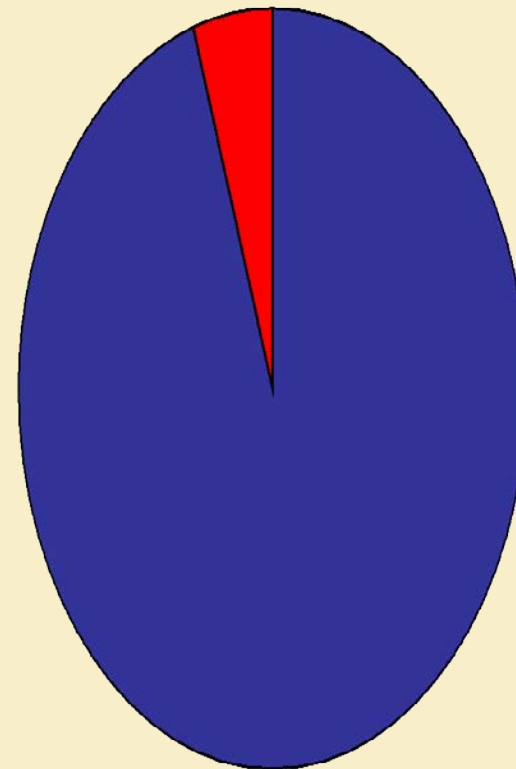
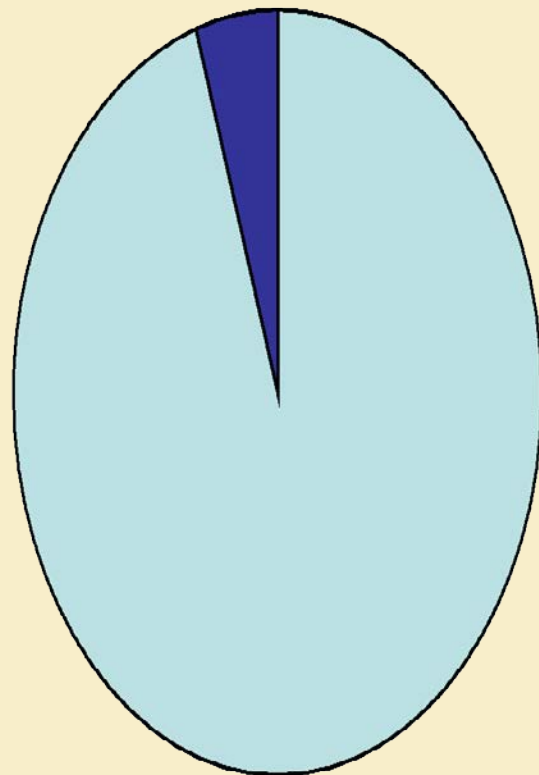
The Nature of Historical Investigation

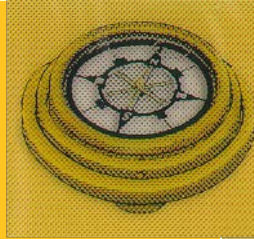
The Problem of Indirect Access to the
Subject Matter of History

**The Problem of Fragmentary Nature
of Historical Accounts**

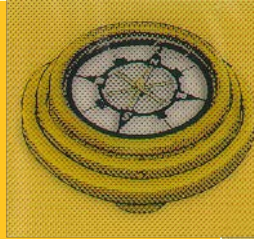


Fragmentary Nature of Archaeological Evidence





- (1) Only a fraction of what was made or written in the past has survived.**
- (2) Only a fraction of the available archaeological sites have been surveyed.**
- (3) Only a fraction of the surveyed sites will ever be excavated.**
- (4) Only a fraction of what is excavated is eventually published.**

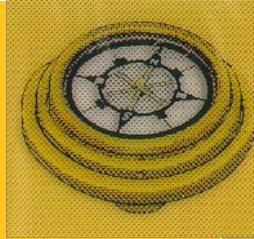


The Nature of Historical Investigation

The Problem of Indirect Access to the
Subject Matter of History

The Problem of Fragmentary Nature of
Historical Accounts

The Problem of Selection of Material



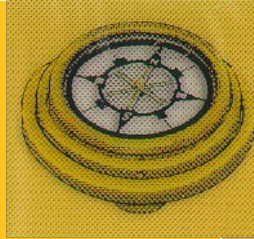
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**The Problem of Structuring and
Arranging the Material of History**



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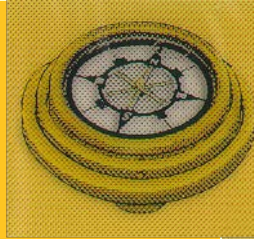
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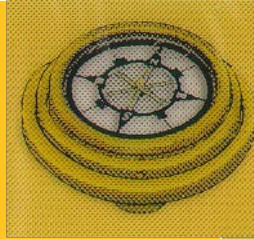
The Problem of Overall World View

**THE PRESUPPOSITIONS
AND METHODOLOGY OF
HIGHER CRITICISM**



Why Don't Some Scholars Believe?

The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous *predisposition against the supernatural.*

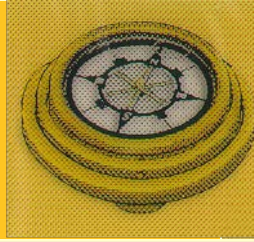


**“Absence of evidence is not
evidence of absence.”**

A little tells a lot - *if you have documentary evidence!*

**If the Bible is excluded as evidence, historical
interpretation must be based only on the limited
evidence from the archaeological record**





Circular Reasoning (assume what they seek to prove)

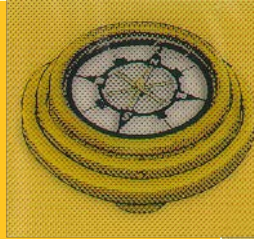
Stylistic Diversity (difference of style as sign of different authors)

Linguistic Variation (variation in words used)

*Biblical Archaeology, Apologetics and
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THE RELATION OF FAITH TO HISTORY



The Relation of Faith to History

All People Believe Something

All Historical Study Has Gaps

History and Theology are not the same
but they are also not inimical to one
another

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USING ARCHAEOLOGY IN INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

**The Bible itself is an
archaeological document!**

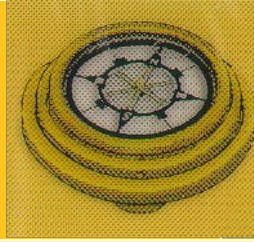
**Scripture is our most reliable source for
the facts of a historical event**

A large collection of ancient pottery fragments, including bowls, plates, and shards, scattered on a surface. The fragments are in various shades of brown, tan, and beige, showing signs of age and wear. Some pieces are whole, while others are broken into smaller pieces. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a table or a display area.

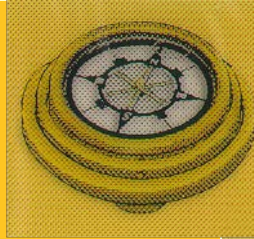
**Archaeology
deals literally
with the hard facts
of history!**

A Faith Based on Facts

True Christianity, as set forth in the Bible is a credible faith and not one based on emotions, superstitions, or groundless belief. Christianity alone is based on verifiable historical truth ... God repeatedly challenges us to examine and test these claims. Each person is responsible to investigate the Bible's claims of authenticity. His eternal destiny depends upon it.



In understanding the Bible there is need to understand the words of the biblical text but also its history, geography, culture, and the context of the events and statements. Archaeological work brings to light much of these important pieces of information, along with geographical study.

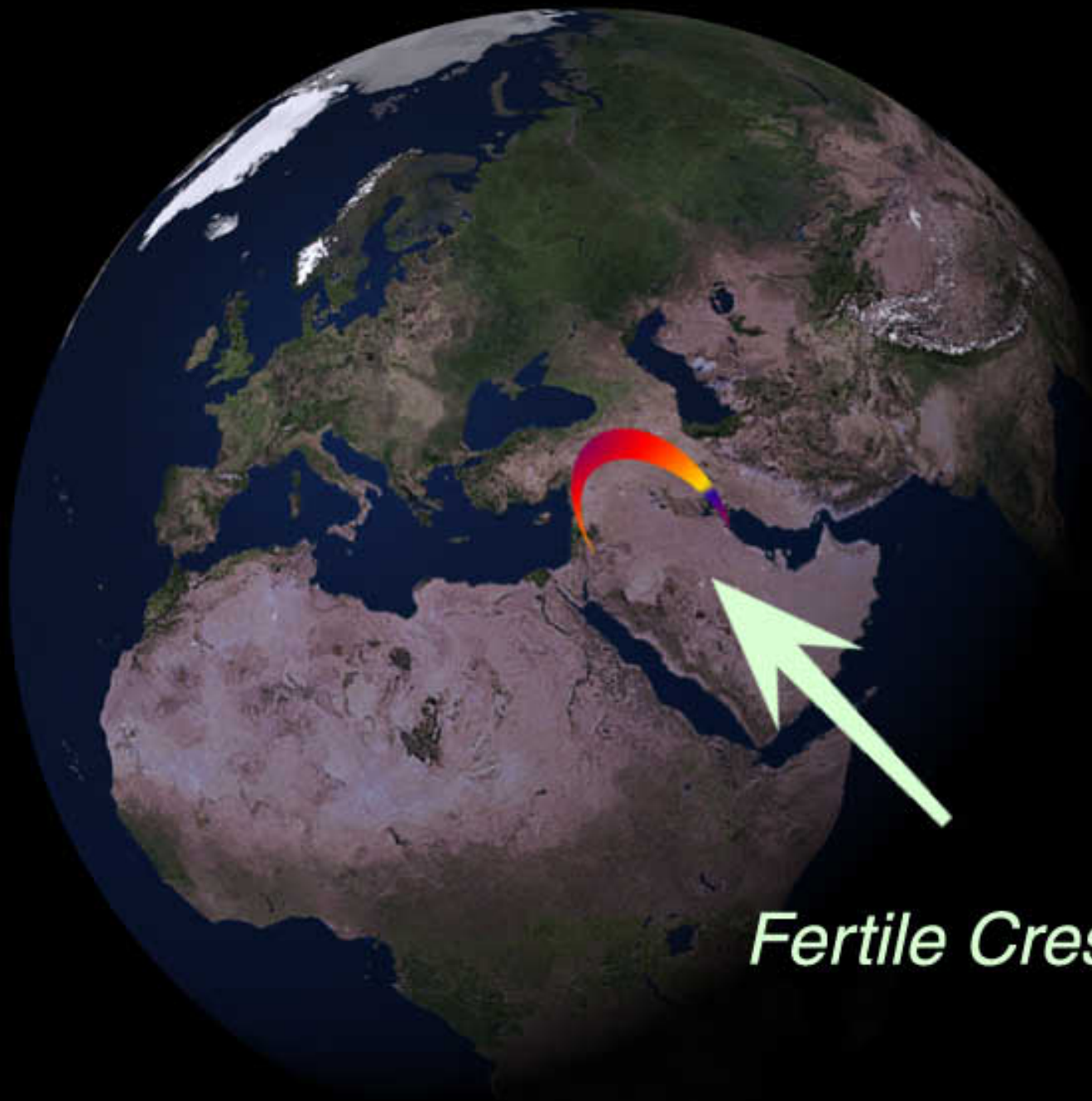


Significance of Location in the Fertile Crescent

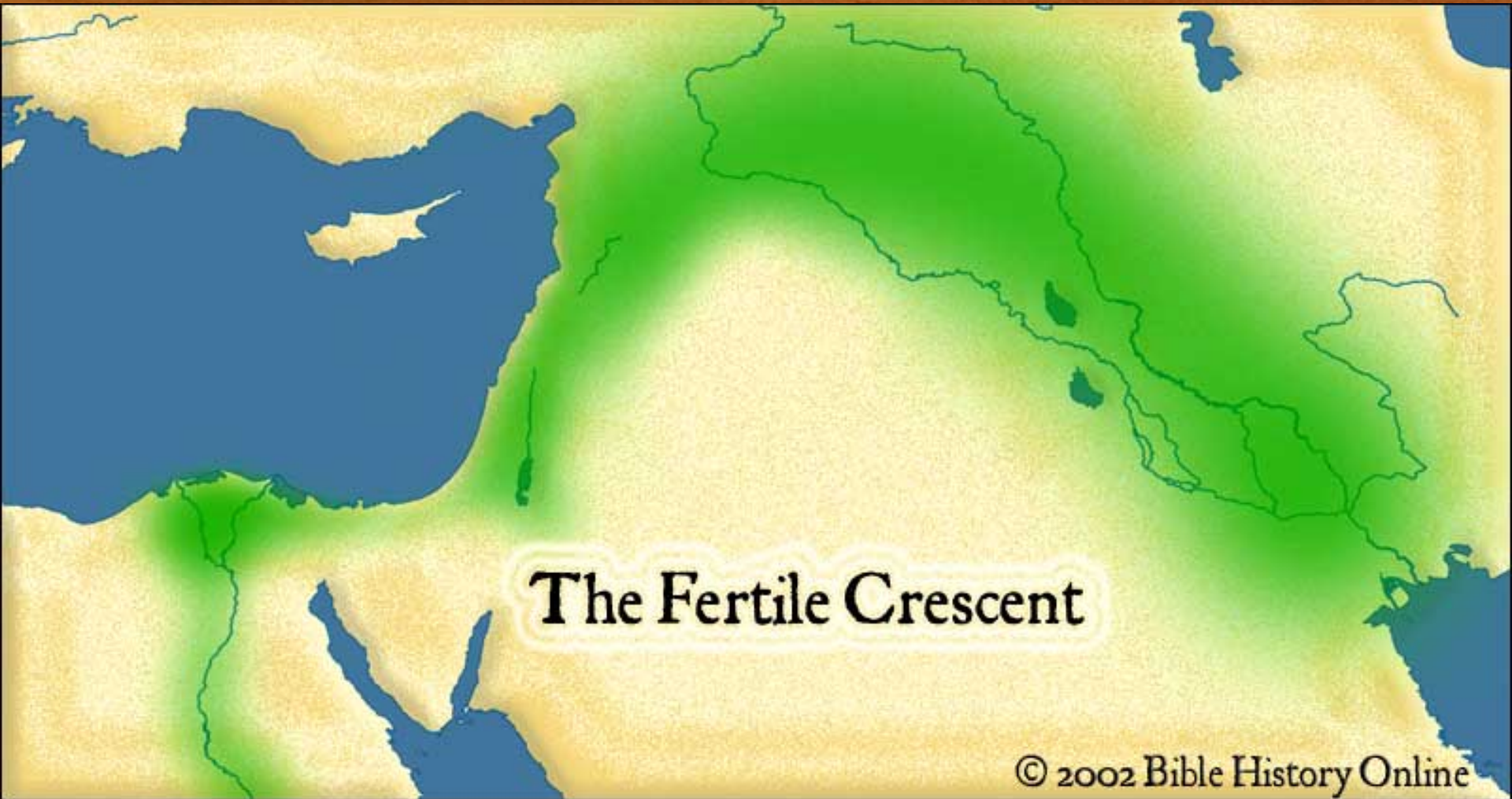
The Cradle of Civilization

32nd century B.C. **WRITING**

15th century **ALPHABET**



Fertile Crescent



The Fertile Crescent

© 2002 Bible History Online

The Ancient Near East



Mesopotamia



Tigris
Assyria
Euphrates

Babylon

Chaldea

Persia

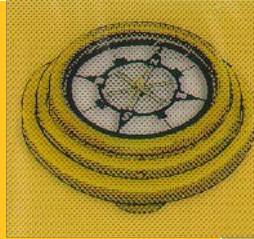
Persian Gulf

Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait

0 100 200 300 400

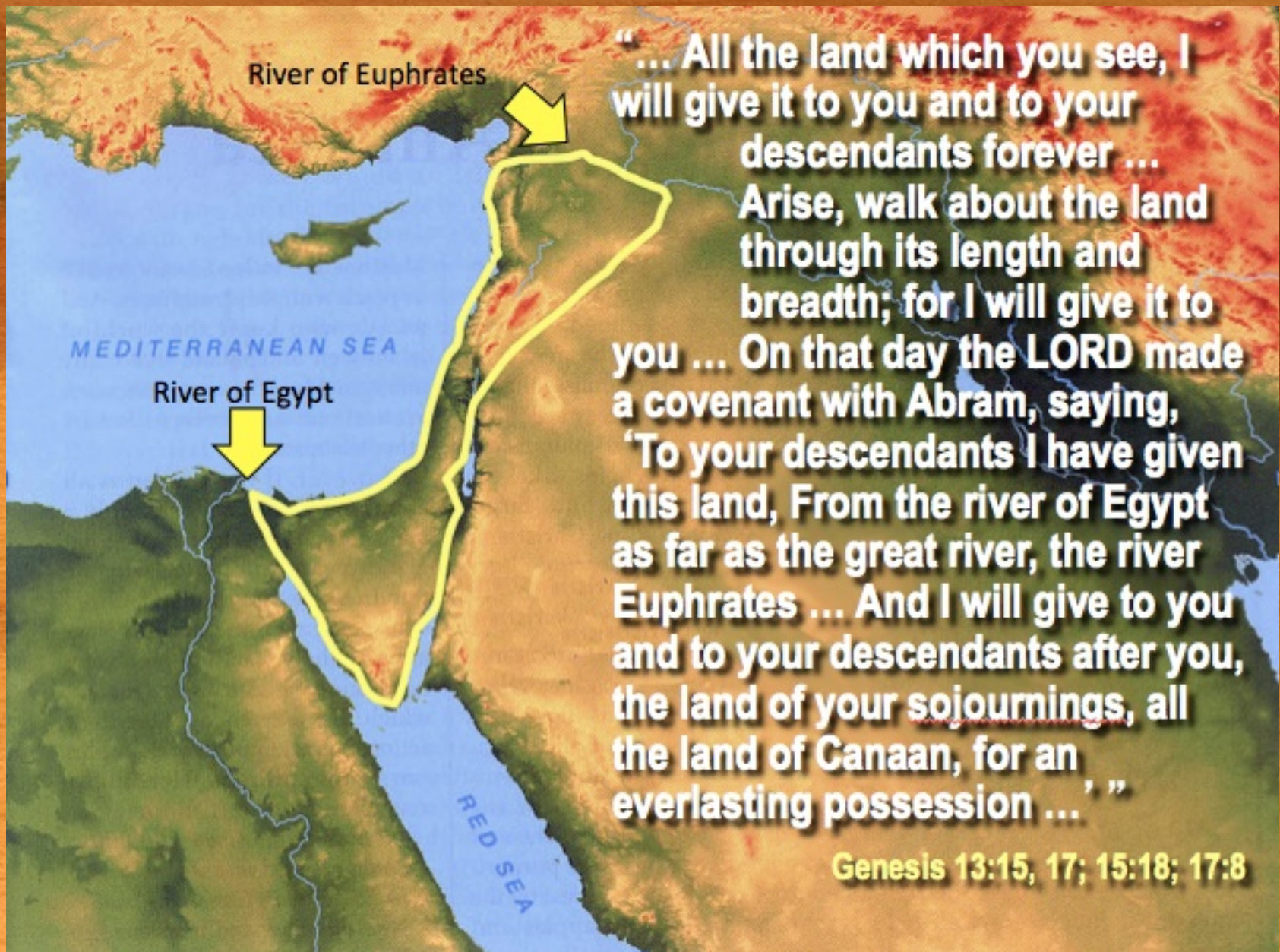
Kilometers

© World Sites Atlas (sitesatlas.com)



Importance of Understanding the Place of Israel in the Plan of God

- In order for the people Israel to be a blessing to the nations and for it to receive both blessings and cursings from Yahweh dependent on its obedience, the land Israel is placed at the crossroads of the three continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe.



“ ... All the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever ... Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you ... 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 ... And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession ... ’ ”

Genesis 13:15, 17; 15:18; 17:8

Israel's Strategic Location



“Thus says the Lord GOD: This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries round about her”

Ezekiel 5:5



EUROPE

ASIA

BLACK SEA

CASPIAN SEA

MACEDONIA

ARMENIA

GREECE

HITTITES
ANATOLIA

URARTU

WEST

AEGEAN

CRETE

EUPHRATES RIVER

ARAM

ASSYRIA

EAST

CYPRUS

MESOPOTAMIA

EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN

WINTER RAIN

TIGRIS RIVER

PERSIA

MIDDLE
EAST

BABYLON

LIBYA

NILE DELTA

NILE RIVER

SINAI

DESERT HEAT

PERSIAN GULF

SAHARA DESERT

EGYPT

ARABIA

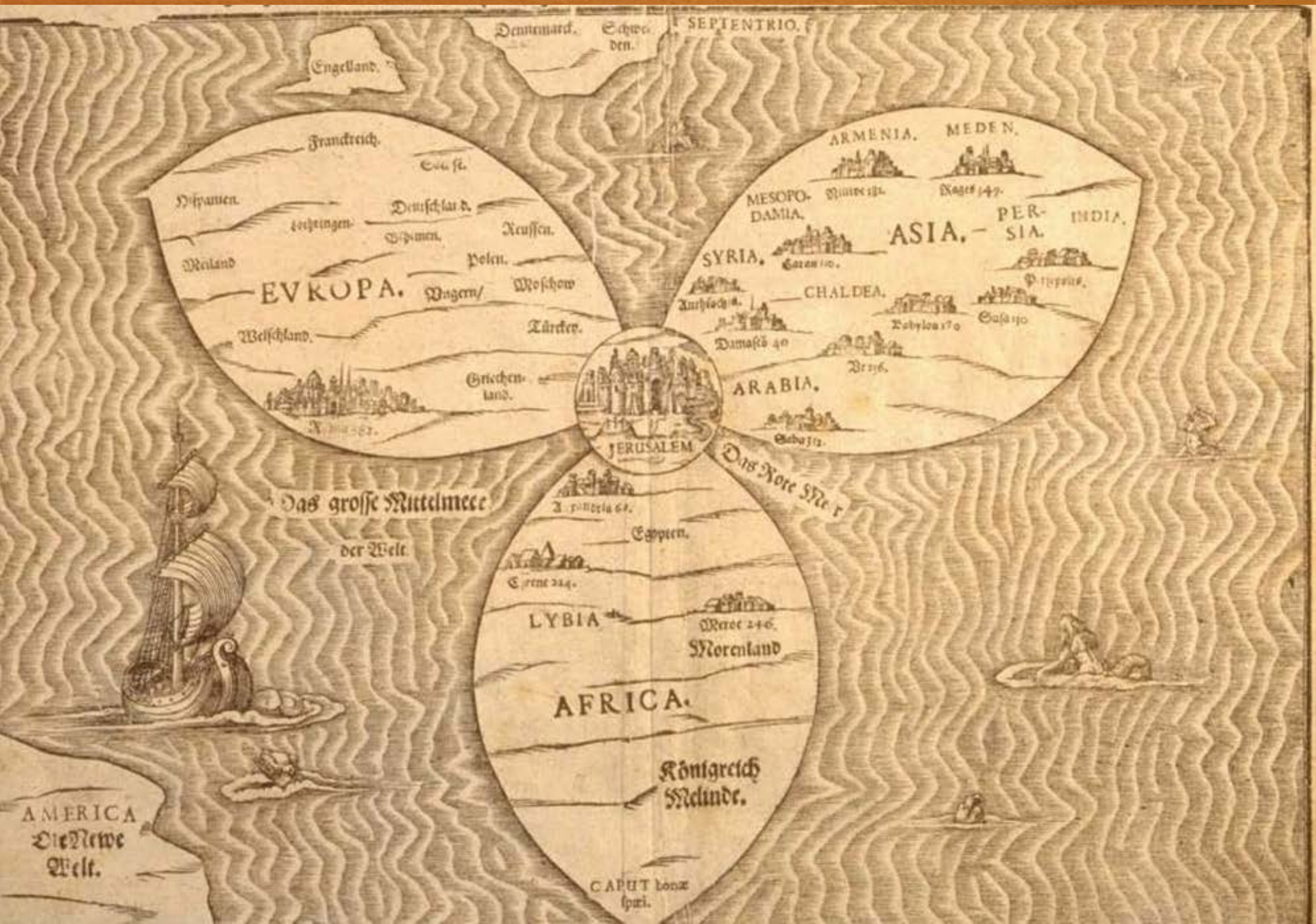
AFRICA

RED SEA

2580 Km/1600 Mi →

SOUTH

©



SEPTENTRIO. f
Dennemarck. Schweden.

Engelland.

Frankreich.

Spanien.

Lothringen.

Deutschland.

Russen.

Irland.

EVROPA.

Danem/

Woschow

Welschland.

Lärcker.

Griechenland.



MESOPO-DAMIA.

SYRIA.

Chaldea.

Damask 40

ARABIA.

ARMENIA.

MEDEN.

Quirac 121.

Baget 147.

ASIA.

PER-SIA.

INDIA.

Chaldea.

Babylon 170

Dr 16.

Arabia.

Das rote Meer

Das grosse Mittelmeer

der Welt

Cooppen.

LYBIA

Morantland

AFRICA.

Königreich Melinde.

CAPUT bonae spri.

AMERICA Die Neue Welt.



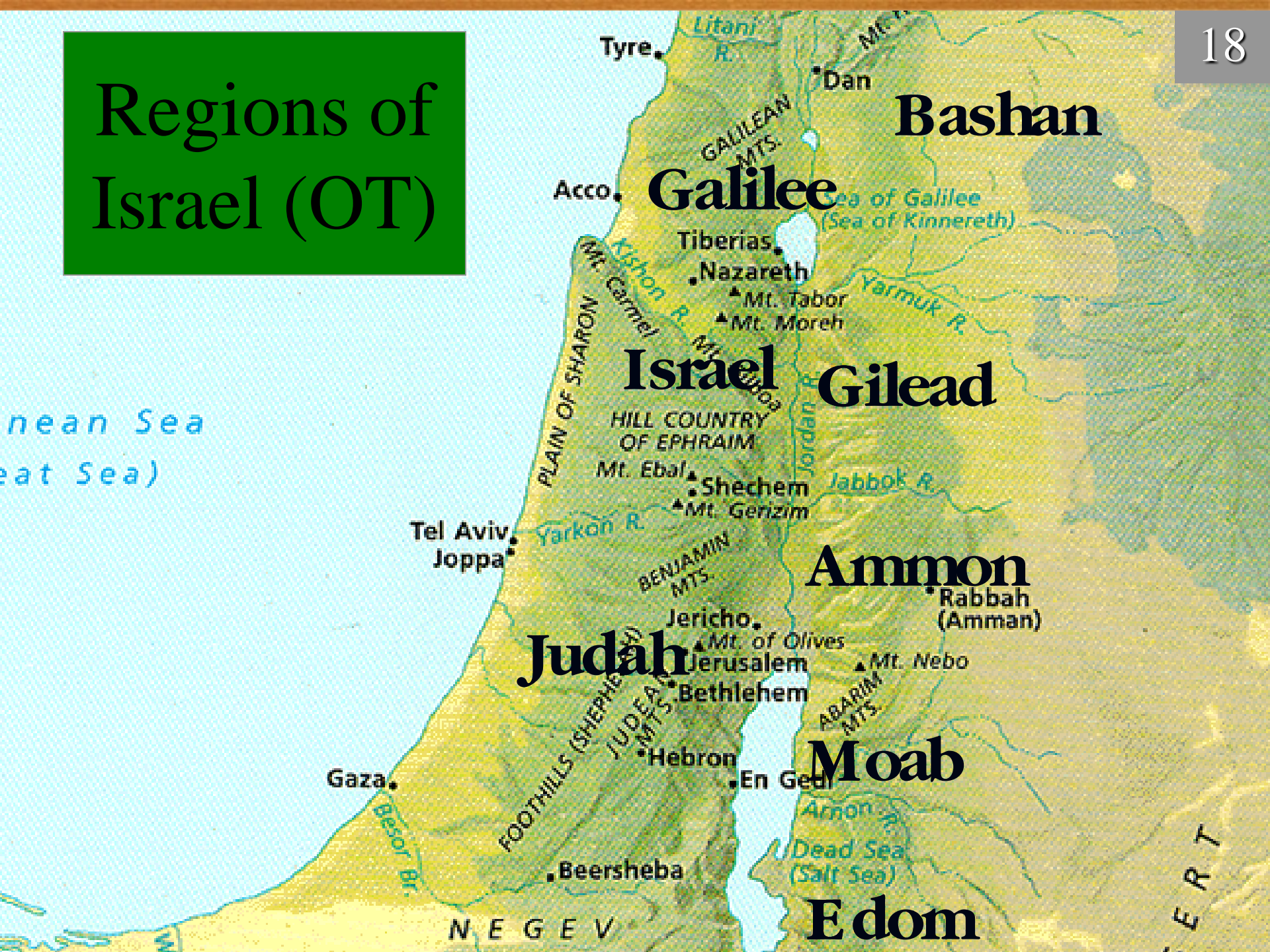
Dan

From
“Dan
to
Beersheba”

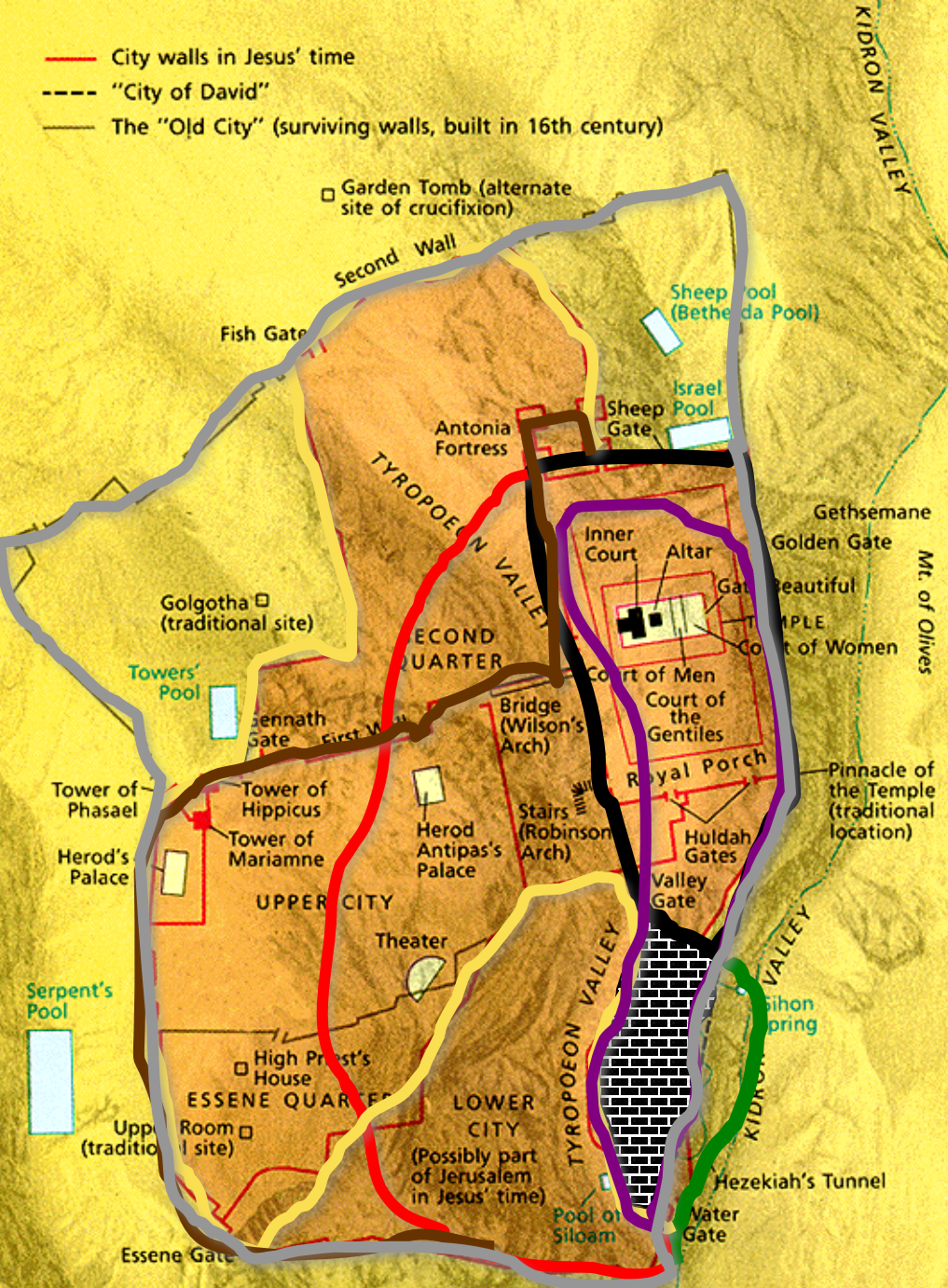


Beersheba

Regions of Israel (OT)



Jerusalem

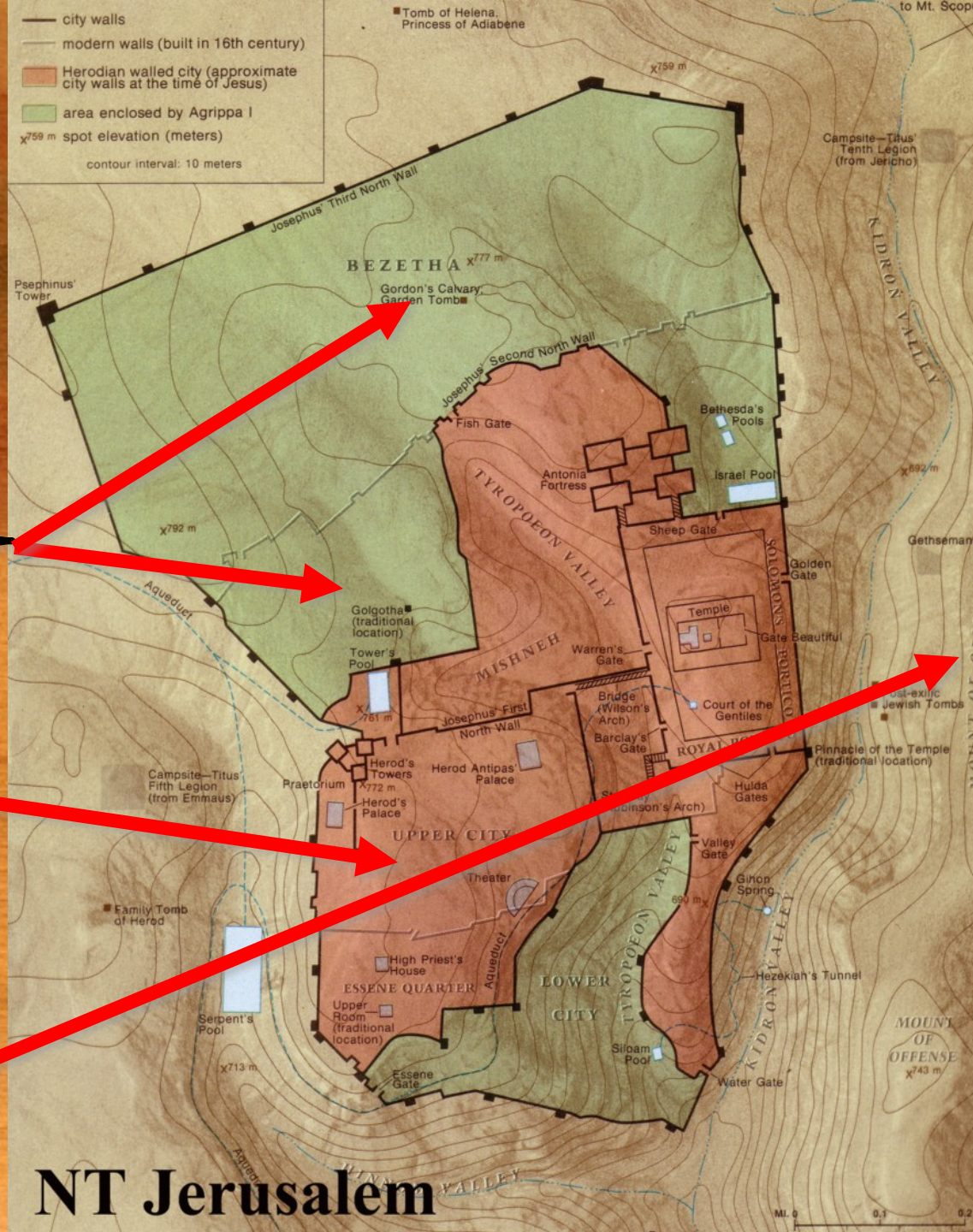


- City walls in Jesus' time
- - - "City of David"
- The "Old City" (surviving walls, built in 16th century)

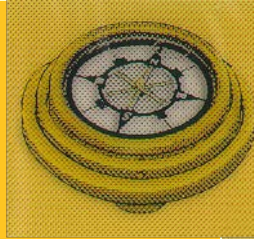
- Jebusite (1500 BC)
- Solomon (971 BC)
- Hezekiah (700 BC)
- Hezekiah (700 BC) 586 BC
- Nehemiah (444 BC)
- Hasmonean (100 BC)
- Herod the Great (20 BC)
- Modern Walls

Significance to Christians:

- Christ's Death
- Resurrection
- Church Born
- Mother Church
- Christ's Return



NT Jerusalem



Examples of Bible's Accuracy in the Old and New Testament

- The Case of Creation
- The Case of the Flood
- The Case of Jericho
- The Case of the Hittite Empire

The Genesis Flood

“Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days; and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. And the water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the surface of the water.”

Genesis 7:17-18



Sumerian King List

Excerpts from the Sumerian King List,
column I.

- 1) When kingship was lowered from heaven,
- 2) kingship was (first) in Eridu;
- 3) (In) Eridu, A-lulim (became) king
- 4) and ruled 28,800 years,
- 5) Alalgar ruled 36,000 years,
- 6) Two kings,
- 7) (thus) ruled it for 64,800 years.
- 8) I drop (the topic) Eridu,
- 9) (because) its kingship to Bad-tibira
- 10) was brought;
- 11) (In) Bad-tibira, En-man-lu-Anna
- 12) ruled 43,200 years,
- 13) En-men-gal-Anna ruled 28,800
years; . . .
- 36) These are five cities;
- 37) eight kings,
- 38) ruled them for 241,000 years;
- 39) (Then) the Flood swept over (the
earth);
- 40) After the Flood had swept over (the
earth),
- 41) (and) when kingship was lowered
(again) from heaven
- 42) kingship was (first) in Kish.

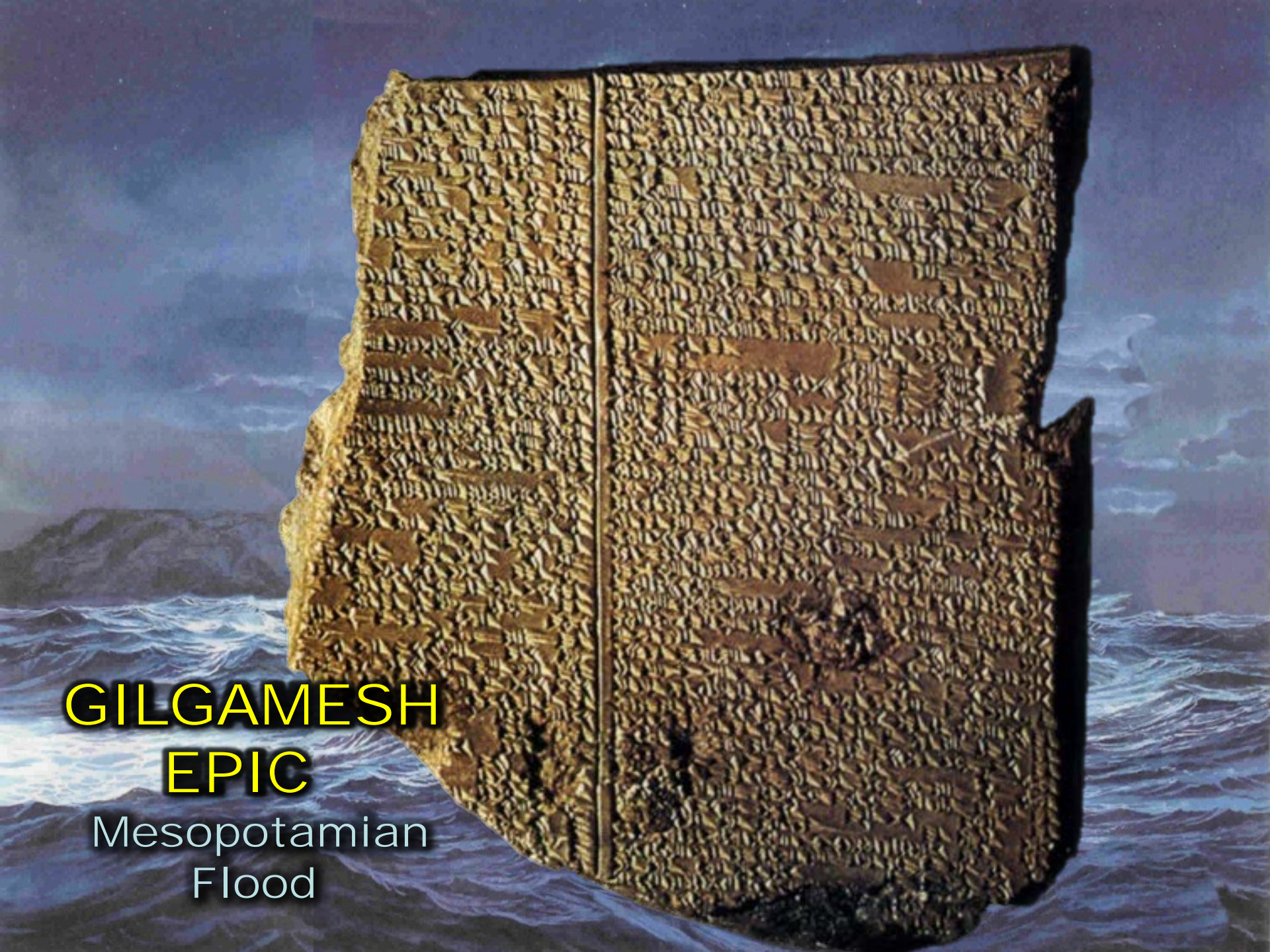


SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ATRAHASIS & FLOOD ACCOUNT

MEN MULTIPLY AND CAUSE TROUBLE	GEN. 6:13a
FLOOD SENT TO DESTROY MANKIND	GEN. 6:13b
ONE MAN (ATRAHASIS) WARNED OF FLOOD	GEN. 6:14
BUILDS BOAT; FILLS WITH FOOD & ANIMALS	GEN. 6:17-22
HE IS SAVED WHILE WORLD PERISHES	GEN. 6:21

TEXT DESTROYED HERE (NO DETAILS OF ARK LANDING)

ATRAHASIS MAKES OFFERING	GEN. 8:20
OFFERING ACCEPTED; GODS WILL LET MAKKIND CONTINUE TO LIVE	GEN. 8:21-22



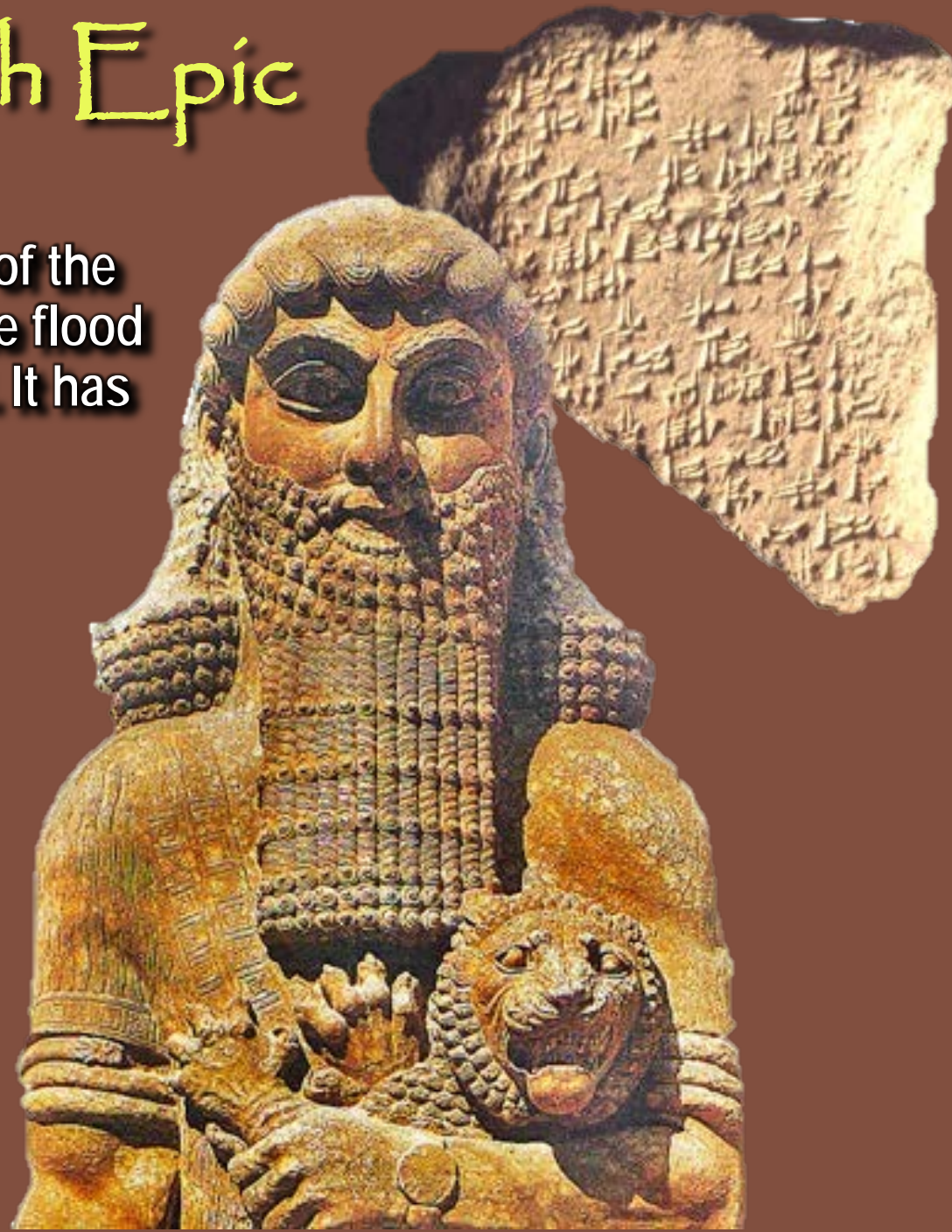
GILGAMESH EPIC

Mesopotamian
Flood

Gilgamesh Epic

7th century BC fragment of the Babylonian version of the flood found in Meggido, Israel. It has similarities to Genesis:

- Utnapishtim builds a square ship
- A raven and a dove are sent out
- A sacrifice is offered for a safe landing



"Are there striking similarities between the Bible and the religion it describes and the ancient Near Eastern literatures and the religions found therein? There certainly are, and we should be surprised to find it otherwise. Israel is described in the Bible as a full participant in its world. But what we find is that those similarities are not the defining features of the Bible or of biblical religion. This is unmistakably evident to anyone who takes the Bible as a whole ... if we look at the Bible as a whole, where else is there anything like it in its world, or indeed, in the world? ... in their views of the origins of the world, one need only read the biblical accounts alongside any other to be impressed that in spite of superficial similarities of expression, the two pieces are in every other way different." *Oswalt, The Bible Among the Myths, 192, 193*

Global Catastrophe – Similar Details Reported

There are at least 213 recorded "Flood Legends." Although tainted by time and differing religious embellishment, similar details are preserved in all of them which can be also found in the complete narrative of the Book of Genesis.



- A worldwide Flood destroyed both man and animals

- An extremely small remnant of people survived

- There was a vessel that saved from the Flood

The Case of Jericho

Excavations at Jericho and the analysis of Canaanite pottery samples by archaeologist, Bryant Wood, have demonstrated that Jericho was **conquered c. 1400 BC**.

- Jericho was a **fortified city in 15th century BC** (Joshua 2:5-7,15)
- The city was **destroyed by fire** (Joshua 6:24)
- The fortification **walls collapsed** (Joshua 6:20)
- The destruction was in the spring due to **grain storage** (Joshua 2:6, 3:15, 5:10)
- The grain stored in the city was not consumed indicating a **short siege** (Joshua 6:15,20)
- The **grain was never used** by the inhabitants or invaders (Joshua 6:17-18)



Hittite Empire Discovered



The Case of the Hittites

A century ago the Hittites were unknown in any documents outside the Bible and did not exist in the archaeological record. Liberal scholars argued they were a fictitious people invented by the biblical authors.

Hittites are mentioned 47x in the Old Testament

Famous Hittites of the Bible

Abraham bought burial cave from "Ephron the Hittite" (Gen. 23)

One of Esau's wives was the daughter of a Hittite (Gen. 36)

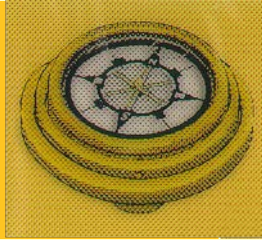
David murdered his soldier "Uriah the Hittite" (2 Sam. 11)

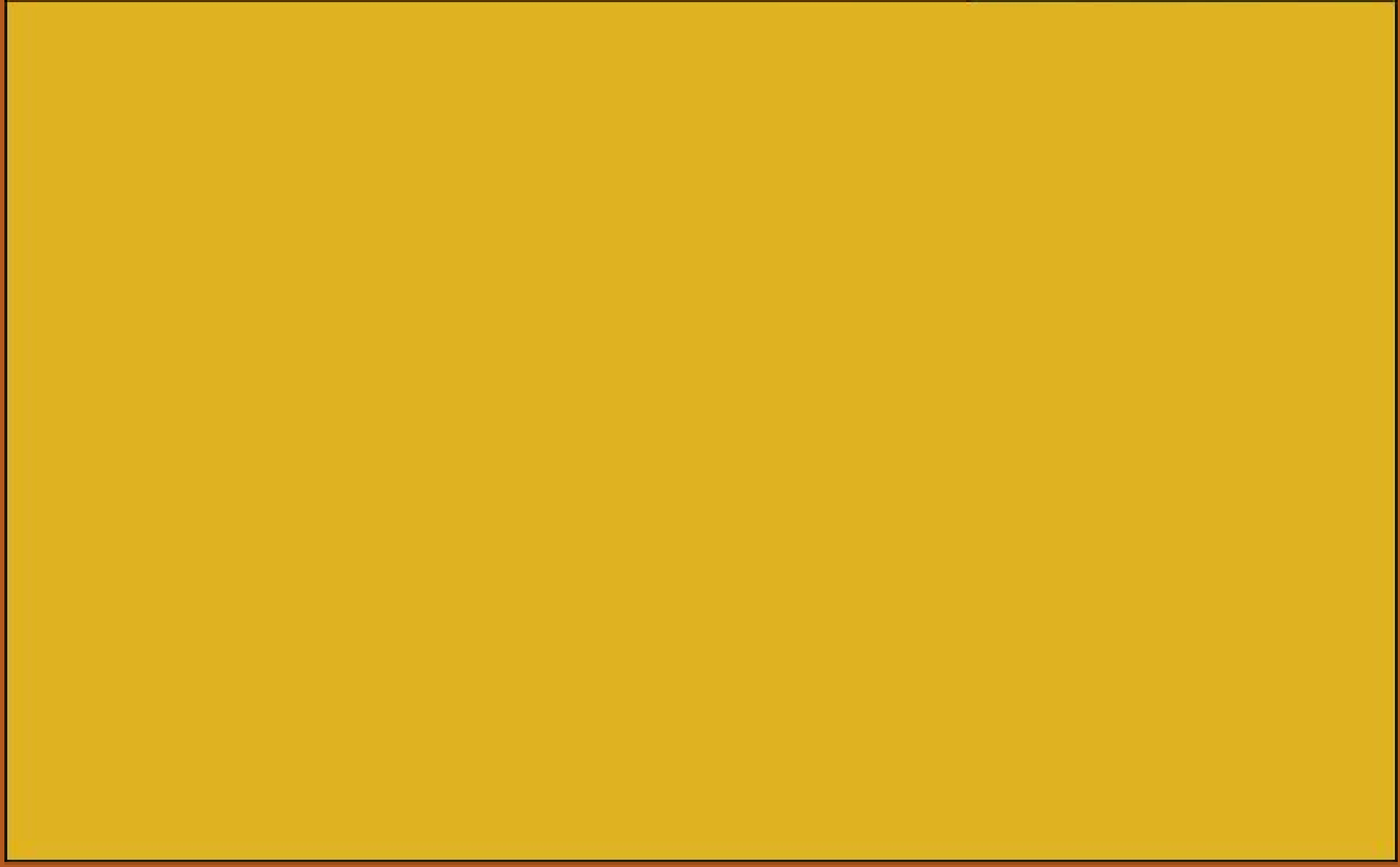
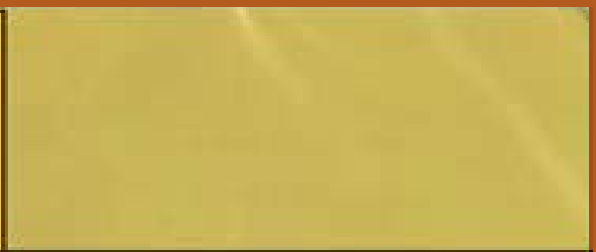
Solomon's wives were from among the Hittites (1 Kgs. 11)

God claimed Israel's "mother" was a "Hittite" (Ezek. 16)

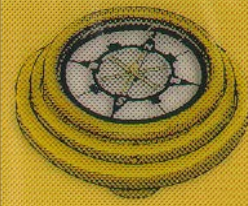
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THEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS





THEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS



Understanding the Geography of the Bible

The High Mountain of the Transfiguration

Mt. Tabor

Mt. Hermon

David versus Goliath in the Valley of Elah

These things He taught in the synagogue in
Capernaum

Importance of TEXT in CONTEXT

- Christianity rests upon the affirmation that a series of **events happened** at specific locations...
this means that geography, history and faith are inextricably bound together.
- Geography heightens the impact on our senses and emotions of **the reality** of these Bible places and events.
- Geography provides rich and decorative **illumination** for Bible reading, Bible study and especially for Bible translation.
- Enhanced awareness of the nuances in the biblical context makes **more accurate translation** of biblical text possible.



THE HILLS AND VALLEYS OF PALESTINE

Mt/ Tabor--Hill or Mountain



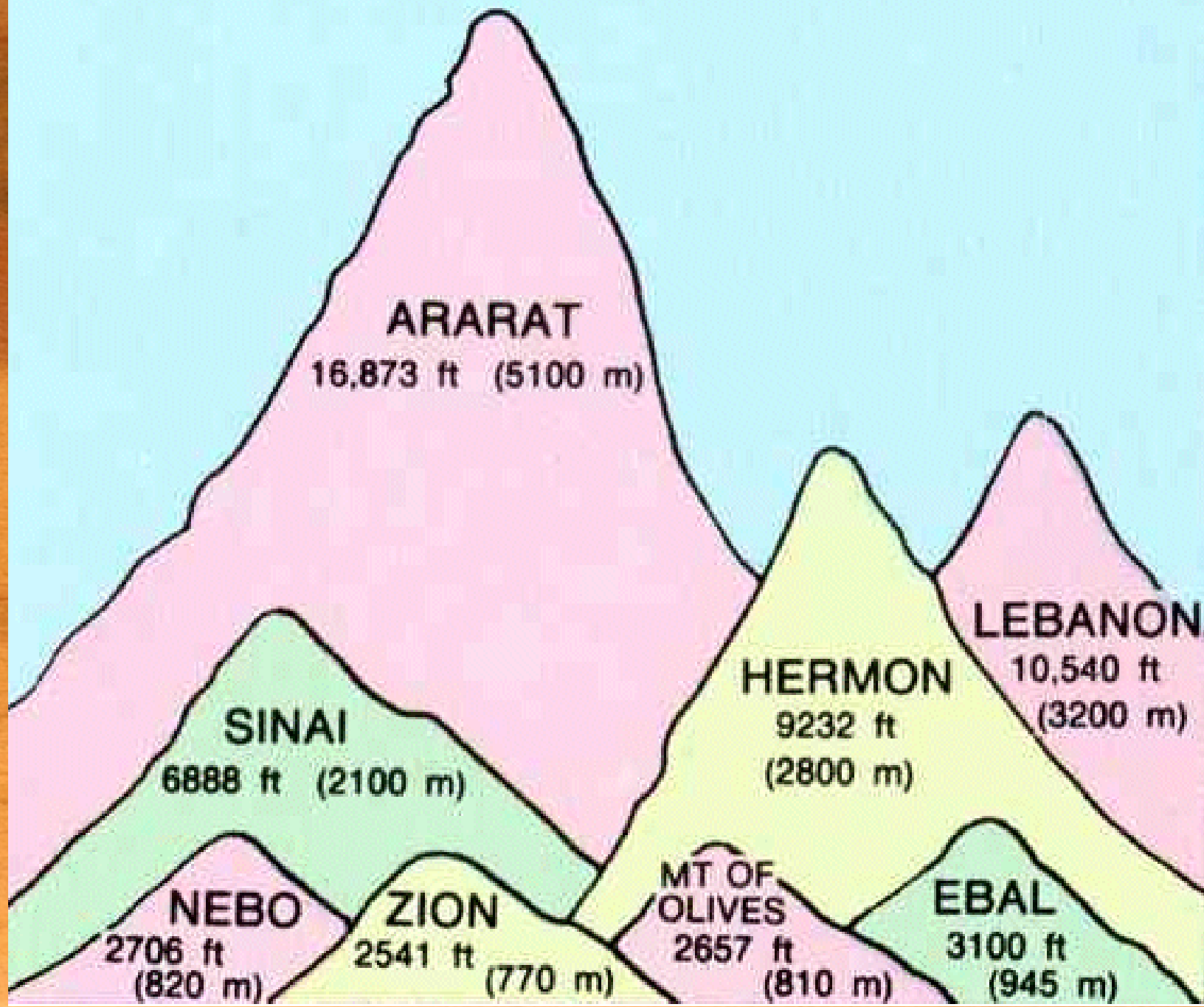
Mt. Hermon

9000 feet = Mountain

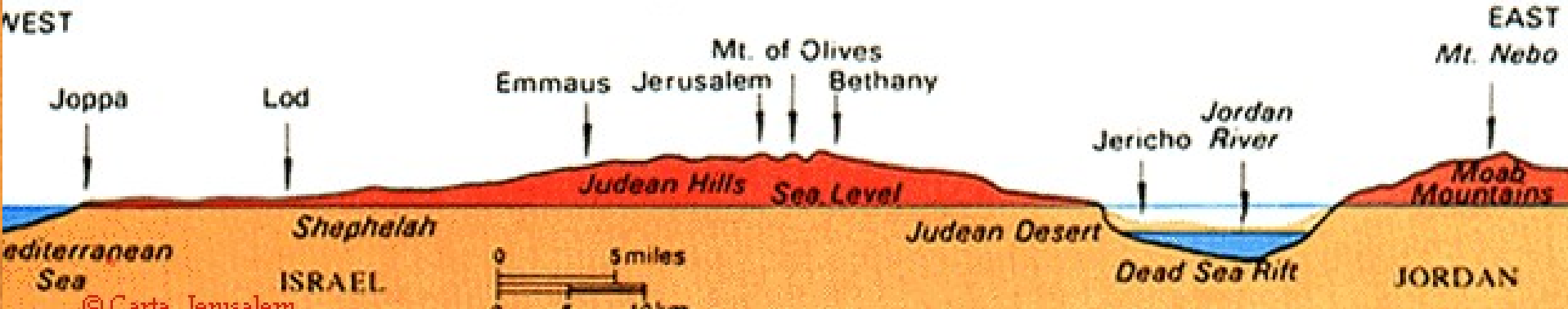
He led them up on a “high
mountain” Matt 17:1; Mk 9:2







TOPOGRAPHICAL CROSS-SECTION, JOPPA TO MT. NEBO



Modern Middle East



Mountains in Israel



Hermon

Carmel

Tabor

Gilboa

Olives

Nebo

Hor

Mediterranean Sea (at Sea)

NEGEV

DESERT

Does Archaeology Prove the Bible?

**What the Past Can Prove
About the Truth of the Bible**

Why Don't Some Scholars Believe?

The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous *predisposition against the supernatural.*

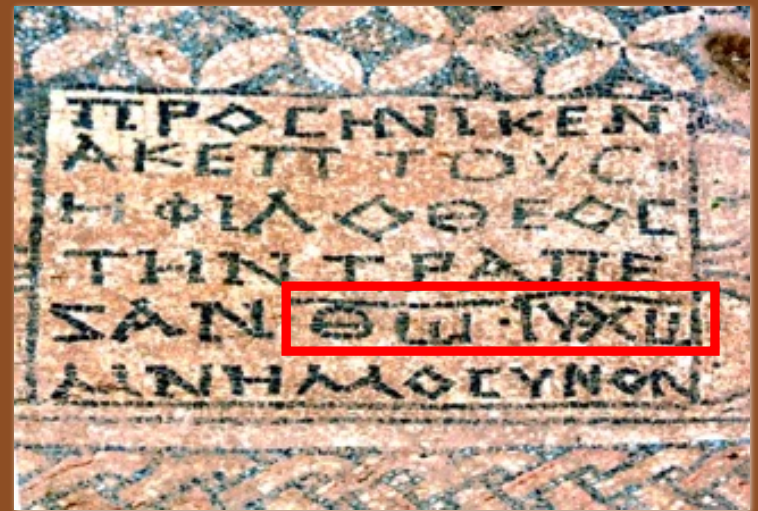
Millar Burrows

Director of the American School
for Oriental Research (Jerusalem)

Meggido Church

Discovered in 2005 at Meggido Prison by inmate Ramil Razilo, this 3rd century AD church has become the oldest church in the Holy Land.

- Christianity was established early in the common era
- The Greek mosaic floor (16x32 ft) inscription confirms Jesus was being worshipped as “God” in the early church rather than being a later development. It reads:



Meggido Church Inscription

“The God-Loving Akeptous [name of the female worshipper] has offered this table to the God Jesus Christ as a Memorial.”

- Apparently, the mosaic floor was financed by a Roman military officer named “Gaianus,” and laid by “Brutius.”

“Though archaeology can clarify the history and geography of ancient Palestine, it cannot explain the basic miracle of Israel’s faith which remains a unique factor in world history. But archaeology can help enormously in making the miracle rationally plausible to an intelligent person whose vision is not shortened by a materialistic world view.”

William Foxwell Albright, Dean of Biblical Archaeology

“The Bible, unlike other religious literature of the world, is not centered in a series of moral, spiritual and liturgical teachings, but in the story of a people who lived at a certain time and place ... Biblical faith is the knowledge of life’s meaning in the light of what God did in a particular history. Thus the Bible cannot be understood unless the history it relates is taken seriously. If the nature of such periods is to be properly understood, and the biblical events fitted into their original context in ancient history as a whole, the original background to the biblical material must be recovered with the aid of archaeology.”

Prof. G. Ernest Wright, *Biblical Archaeology* (Princeton Univ Press)

“Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition of the value of the Bible as a source of history.”

W.F. Albright
Dean of
Biblical Archaeology

“The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous predisposition against the supernatural.”

Millar Burrows

Director of the American School
for Oriental Research (Jerusalem)

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Contrast of Theology and History in the Biblical Text

Theological Nature of the Bible

Who and what is God

Origin and nature of Humanity

Nature and means of Salvation

Historical Nature of the Bible

Persons – some verified

Places – identified

Events – recorded in inscriptions, documents, and
archaeological sites

Customs explained

HISTORICAL PERSONS IN OLD TESTAMENT

- (1) King David -
- (2) Uzziah -
- (3) Hezekiah -
- (4) Sennacherib -
- (5) Cyrus the Great -

Contrast of Theology and History in the Biblical Text

Theological Nature of the Bible

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2. Origin and nature of Humanity
3. Nature and means of Salvation