

01-Understanding the Ancient World to Understand Exodus

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World

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But Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O Lord, are in the midst of this people. For you, O Lord, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 'It is because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.

(Numbers 14:13-16 ESVST)

Genesis Recap

- Beginnings
 - Creation
 - Sin
 - Civilization (Cain)
 - Flood
 - Civilization Reboot
 - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Promise

Genesis – Joseph

- Twenty-six percent of Genesis devoted to Joseph
 - Why did God bring Joseph (Israel) to Egypt?
 - Why did God strengthen Egypt?
- We did not look at the ancient world in our discussion of Joseph
- To understand Exodus we *must* understand the ancient world

Worldview Misperception



- Evolutionary worldview
 - Man evolved upward
 - Ancient man inferior
 - Modern man superior
 - Misses truth of Bible
- Everyone indoctrinated with this *poor* worldview

Bible Timeline



- God created man in His image
- Man walked with God
- Man tended the Garden
- All was in harmony

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- Man, in the flesh, sins
- Disharmony begins
- Man, in the flesh, works
- Procreation begins
- Man's own salvation, begins

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- God reboots civilization
 - God judges antediluvian civilization, sternly
 - God terraforms earth
 - Sacrifice first observed
 - Man told to "fill" earth
 - Man's own salvation, begins again

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- Nimrod, at Haran, develops prototype world kingdom
- God "scatters" them, as groups, from this center
- This prototype kingdom survives in some form in subsequent kingdoms

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- Ice age (one) occurred 100 years after flood and continued for 200-400 years containing man's migrations (no deserts)
- Near end of Ice age man follows receding ice to new areas - cave man

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- Nimrod led his group southeast, Nineveh, later to Babylon as waters receded due to Ice Age
- Other groups moved outward into other areas
- Each group "interpreted" Nimrod's kingdom

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- These "civilizations" formed according to the pattern developed by Nimrod
 - Salvation via rituals through ruling family supported by priesthood
- Each *ethnos* altered the pattern according to their own worldview, retaining similarities

Bible Timeline (Copper Age)



- Three Early Kingdoms
 - Sumer - First, small
 - Akkadian - Sargon I
 - Egypt (Old Kingdom)
 - Built the "Pyramids"
 - Longest surviving "old" kingdom until conquered by Ptolemy

Bible Timeline (Bronze Age)



- These kingdoms replaced the earliest kingdoms
- This map forms the background for most of Genesis (12-50)
- Time period of Abraham to Joseph

Bible Timeline (Continued)



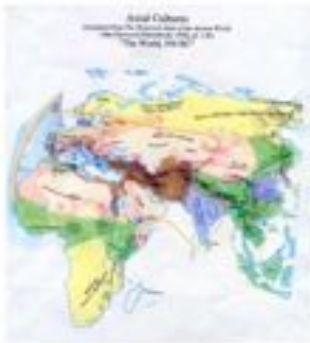
- This map is the world Moses would have known
- These kingdoms traded goods and knowledge
- They fought over territory to expand their influence, their version of truth

Bible Timeline (Iron Age)



- This is the world after the Exodus
- The Minoan culture (pre Grecian) would have been known to Egyptians
- The Mycenaean culture (Grecian) becomes Greece

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- Axial Age (800-200 BC)
 - Next series of pivotal cultures/empires
 - These influences remain with us today
 - These cultures did not develop in isolation but due to intermixing of ideas and influences

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- Persia - Zoroaster
- India
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
- China
 - Confucius
 - Lao Tzu
- Greece - Plato

Bible Timeline (Continued)



- This graphic illustrates the major reason for this lesson
- Without God, through Moses, dealing with Egypt, Pharaoh, the most enduring of the Old Kingdoms, **none** of this would have occurred.
- The Law made today's world!

Bad News Travels Farthest

- God, through Joseph, built Egypt into the pinnacle of the ancient world, all turned their eyes to her
- Thus, when God, through Moses, decimated Egypt's power this news traveled through the second generation kingdoms (Bronze Age) 04:11-19
- God was setting the stage for the world to hear Christ

Small Events Start Avalanches

- The Bronze Age kingdoms did not endure for reasons we will discuss next week
- When the Mycenaeans fought a ten year campaign against Troy in about 1200 BC, they won the war but lost their culture; these kingdoms fell into disarray until about 800 BC because Egypt was no longer the power to keep them stabilized – they searched for "truth", for meaning (which was seeping from Israel)

Interesting Factoid



- Sea Peoples - Peleset Group
 - Greeks veterans of Trojan War
 - Defeated by Egyptians
 - Resettled in Canaan by Egypt giving this are its name
 - Known in the Bible as Philistia (Goliath)

What Do You See?



- Do you see Exodus as God only dealing with the Jews?
- Do you see God using the events of Exodus to change all cultures to hear Christ's salvation truth?

