

The Unifying Message of the Old Testament

The Unifying Message of the Old Testament



Four Views of the OT

- 1) The OT is **sub-Christian**.
- 2) The OT is **non-Christian**.
 - Leonard Thompson: “[the] Hebrew Scriptures are a complete work and do not need the NT to complete them.”
- 3) The OT is **pre-Christian**.
 - John Bright: the OT “is not of and by itself a Christian message.... The OT ... stands in discontinuity with the New because it speaks a BC word, not an AD word.”
 - A book directed to Israel only.
- 4) The OT is **Christian**.
 - Sidney Greidanus: “the dilemma of how to get a Christian message out of a non-Christian or pre-Christian book is a predicament of our own making.... The OT and the New are both parts of the Christian Bible.”
- Cf. 2 Cor. 3:14-16

The OT is Christian!

- Gleason Archer: “The OT presented the preparation of which the NT was the fulfillment; it was the seed of which the achievement of Christ and the apostles was the glorious fruit.”
- Harrison in his Introduction to the OT: It was “the common belief of the Fathers [Origen, Jerome, Chrysostom, Augustine] that the OT was in principle a Christian book.”

The Old in the New

- Direct quotations: 250
- References: 1603
- NT refers to...
 - Isaiah 308x
 - Psalms 303x
- 4 NT books with no direct reference to OT:
 - Philemon
 - John's epistles

The NT's Use of the OT

- References to the OT:
 - Matthew: 135x
 - Luke: 140x
 - Acts: 169x
 - Romans: 103x
 - Hebrews: 115x
 - Revelation: 574x

The Theme of the Bible

- God is redeeming a people for His Son, by His Son, to His own glory.
 - OT: He's Coming
 - Gospels: He Came
 - Epistles: Why He Came & What He's Doing Now
 - Revelation: He's Coming Again

The OT's Theme

- Merrill Unger in his *Introductory Guide to the OT*: “its central unifying theme is the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.”
- In Unger’s *Guide to the Bible*: “The theme of Scripture is human redemption. The principal character is the world’s Redeemer, Jesus Christ, God incarnate. Everything in the OT that precedes his incarnation points to this grand event and its outworking in human redemption.”

The OT's Theme

- MacArthur: “There is one God. The Bible has one Creator. It is one book. It has one plan of grace, recorded from initiation, through execution, to consummation. From predestination to glorification, the Bible is the story of God redeeming His chosen people for the praise of His glory.”

The Major Sub-themes

- John MacArthur in the MSB:
 - Scripture is always teaching or illustrating:
 - 1) the character and attributes of God;
 - 2) the tragedy of sin and disobedience to God's holy standard;
 - 3) the blessedness of faith and obedience to God's standard;
 - 4) the need for a Savior by whose righteousness and substitution sinners can be forgiven, declared just, and transformed to obey God's standard; and
 - 5) the coming glorious end of redemptive history in the Lord Savior's earthly kingdom and the subsequent eternal reign and glory of God and Christ."

NT Believer's Use of the OT

- Rom. 15:4 - whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- 1 Cor. 9:9-10 - For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher *to thresh* in hope of sharing *the crops*.
- 1 Cor. 10:6 – Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.
- 1 Cor. 10:11 – Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

- Identifies all three parts of the unifying theme of Scripture:
 - 1) The atonement – “the sacred writings are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith.” (3:15)
 - 2) The Person of Christ – “which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - 3) The Teaching for Believers (3:16-17)

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Some Important Conclusions

- The fact that Christ is the central figure of both the Old and the New Testaments, immediately raises the value of the entire OT for the NT Christian.
 - cf. John 5:39 – “OT Scriptures speak of me”.
- As Christians, understanding the central theme of the OT validates our use of and the benefit we receive from the Old Testament (1 Cor. 10:1-11).
- Christ’s important place in the OT, underscores the consistency and continuity between the testaments.

Some Important Conclusions

- Christ has been and will always be the mediator between God and man.
 - John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me”.
 - 1 Tim. 2:5 – “there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus”.
- It demands that we be students of the Old Testament (2 Tim. 3:15-17).

English Bible vs. Hebrew Bible

- Same content
- English: 39 books
- Hebrew: 22 books
- Why?
 - Minor prophets grouped as one book called the Twelve
 - Six groups of books are counted as one book:
 - Samuel/Kings/Chronicles (Hebrew = 3)
 - Ezra/Nehemiah (Hebrew = 1)
 - Joshua/Ruth (Hebrew = 1)
 - Jeremiah/Lamentations (Hebrew = 1)

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HEBREW ARRANGEMENT

The TORAH (Law, or instruction)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

The NEBHIIM (Prophets)

Former Prophets

6. Joshua
7. Judges (& Ruth)
8. Samuel (both books)
9. Kings (both books)

Latter Prophets

10. Isaiah
11. Jeremiah
(with Lamentations)
12. Ezekiel
13. The Twelve (Daniel & the
minor prophets)

The KETHUBHIM (Writings)

Poetical

14. Psalms
15. Proverbs
16. Job

The Megilloth

17. Song of Songs
(Song of Solomon)
18. Ecclesiastes
19. Esther

Historical

20. Daniel
21. Ezra/Nehemiah
22. Chronicles (both books)

ENGLISH ARRANGEMENT

The PENTATEUCH

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

HISTORY

6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther

POETRY

18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Song of Solomon
22. Ecclesiastes

MAJOR PROPHETS

23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel

MINOR PROPHETS

28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah

32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

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The Nine Movements of OT History

Years (BC)	Period	Biblical Book	Total Years
Until 2166	1. Universal Dealings	Gen. 1-11	c. 2000-8000
2166 – 1805	2. Patriarchal Period	Gen. 12-50	c. 360
1805 – 1445	3. Slavery in Egypt	Ex. 1	c. 360
1445 – 1406	4. The Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings	Ex. 2-40 Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	40
1406 – 1350 (death of Josh. generation)	5. Conquest & Division of Canaan	Joshua	c. 60

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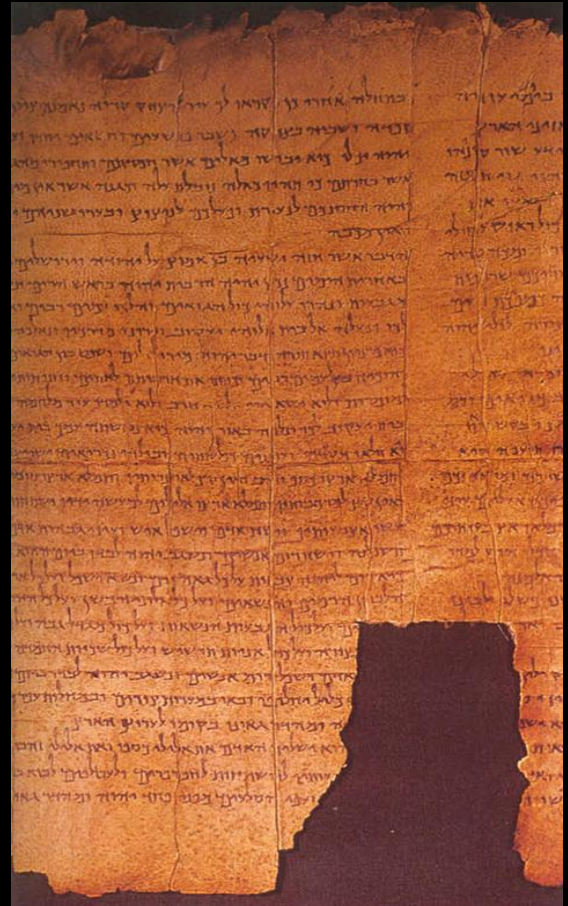
The Nine Movements of OT History

Years (BC)	Period	Biblical Book	Total Years
1350 – 1051	6. Period of the Judges	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-8	c. 300 years
1051 – 931 931 – 586	7. The Monarchy - United - Divided	U. 1 Sam. 9 — 1 Kings 11; 1 Chron. D. 1 Kings 12 — 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles	U. 120 years D. 350 years
605 – 538	8. Babylonian Exile 605 597 586	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah	c. 70 years (605 – 536; temple begun or 586 – 516 temple completed)
538 – 420	9. Return from Exile Zerubbabel Ezra Nehemiah	Ezra Esther Nehemiah	c. 120 years

Eight Important Dates

- **2166** **Abraham**
- **1446** **Exodus**
- **1051** **Monarchy begins**
- **931** **Kingdom divided**
- **722** **Israel falls**
- **586** **Judah falls**
- **538** **Cyrus' Decree**
- **420** **OT events end**

The Pentateuch: the Five Books of Moses



Evidence for Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch

- The Pentateuch:
 - Ex. 24:4; 25:1; Lev. 1:1; 4:1; Num. 1:1; Deut. 31:9, 24-26
- Rest of the OT:
 - Josh. 1:7; 8:32; 22:5; Judg. 3:4; 1 Ch. 15:15; 1 Kings 2:3; 1 Kings 18:12; 23:25; Ezra 3:2; 6:18; Neh. 1:7-8; Dan. 9:11, 13; Mal. 4:4
- NT:
 - Matt. 8:4; 19:7; Mk. 1:44; 10:31; 12:26; Lk. 5:14; Jn. 1:17; 5:46, 47; 7:19; Acts 15:21; 2 Cor. 3:15

Toledoth: “the generations of”

- 1. 2:4 – "This is the account of the heavens and the earth"
- 2. 5:1 – "This is the book of the generations of Adam"
- 3. 6:9 – "These are the records of the generations of Noah"
- 4. 10:1 – "These are the generations of the sons of Noah"
- 5. 11:10 – "These are the records of the generations of Shem"
- 6. 11:27 – "These are the records of the generations of Terah"
- 7. 25:12 – "These are the records of the generations of Ishmael"
- 8. 25:19 – "These are the records of the generations of Isaac"
- 9. 36:1 – "These are the records of the generations of Esau"
- 10. 36:9 – "These then are the records of the generations of Esau"
- 11. 37:2 – "These are the records of the generations of Jacob"

Universal Dealings (Gen. 1~11)

- God deals with the human race as a whole.
- This period covers the events from creation to the call of Abram from Ur of the Chaldees.
- Almost 2000 years
 - Cf. Abraham – Malachi = ca 1700 years.

Genesis

- Primeval History
- From
Creation: 10,000 to
4,000– 2166 BC
- Four Events (1-11)
 - Creation 1-2
 - Fall 3-5
 - Flood 6-9
 - Nations 10-11

Noah's Sons



Creation Ex Nihilo in Literal Days

- 1) Literal meaning is the most common use of the Hebrew word, *yom*, or *day*.
- 2) Ex. 20:11 says that God created in 6 days.
- 3) "Morning & evening" indicates a literal day-night cycle.
- 4) Hundreds of times in the OT, *yom* occurs with a cardinal number and always refers to a literal day.

Creation Ex Nihilo in Literal Days

- 5) Same language used for days 1-3 and 4-6; sun created on day four; since days 4-7 were literal days, there is no reason to assume that 1-3 weren't.
- 6) Hebrew has a word for age or an indeterminate period of time (*'olam*), which Moses chose not to use.
- 7) God uses the creative week as a pattern for man's cycle of work and rest (Ex. 20:11; 31:17).

Christ Permeates OT History

- Appears in the first verse of the OT.
 - Gen. 1:1 – in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - John 1:3—“All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”
 - 1 Cor. 8:6 —“Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him”
 - Col. 1:15-16—“For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible...all things have been created by Him and for Him.”
 - Heb. 1:2 – “spoken by His Son...through whom He made the world”

Christ Permeates OT History

- "The Angel of the Lord."
- Always the definite article
- Hebrew can also refer to a *messenger*
 - almost half of the times it occurs in the OT it is translated *messenger*.

Arguments for The Angel of YHWH being Christ:

- He is called Jehovah in several passages
 - e.g., Gen. 16:13 - [Hagar] called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"
- He is distinct from Jehovah
 - e.g., Zech. 1:12-13 – "the Angel of YHWH answered and said, O YHWH, how long will you have no compassion for Jerusalem?"
- He must be 2nd Person of the Trinity, the eternal Son.
 - Only member of the Trinity revealed bodily in the NT.
 - He no longer appears after the incarnation.
 - Both He & Christ are sent by the Father.
 - We're told that no one has ever seen the Father (John 1:18).
 - Process of elimination: Christ!

Voices of History

- Justin Martyr: “Permit me, further, to show you from the book of Exodus how this same One, who is both Angel, and God, and Lord, and man, and who had appeared in human form to Abraham and Isaac appeared in a flame of fire from the bush and conversed with Moses.”

Voices of History

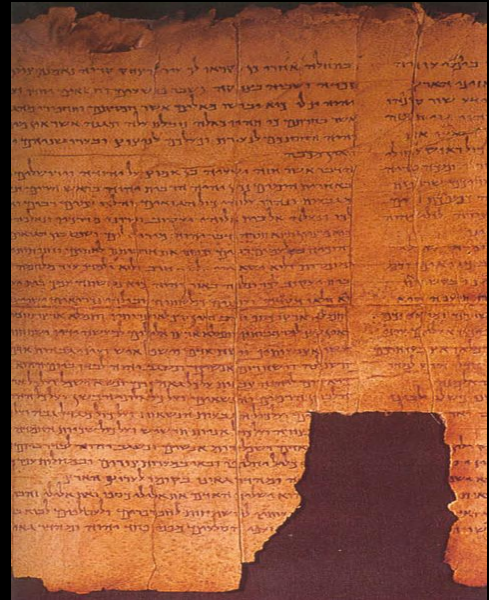
- Irenaeus writing about the books of Moses says:
“The Son of God is implanted everywhere throughout his writings: at one time, indeed, speaking with Abraham, when about to eat with him; at another time with Noah, giving to him the dimensions of the ark; at another, inquiring after Adam; at another bringing down judgment upon the Sodomites; and again, when He becomes visible, and directs Jacob on his journey, and speaks with Moses from the bush.”

Voices of History

- Tertullian: “It is the Son, therefore, who has been from the beginning administering judgment, throwing down the haughty tower, and dividing the tongues, punishing the whole world by the violence of waters, raining upon Sodom and Gomorrah fire and brimstone, as the Lord from the Lord. For He is who was at all times came down to hold converse with men, from Adam on to the patriarchs and the prophets, in vision, in dream, in mirror, in dark saying; ever from the beginning laying the foundation of the course of His dispensations, which He meant to follow out to the very last. Thus was He ever learning even as God to converse with men upon earth, being no other than the Word which was to be made flesh.”

The Testimony of Scripture

- John 5:39, 46
- Luke 24:25-27
- Luke 24:44, 46-47
- Sermons in Acts (Peter & Paul)



The Patriarchal Period (Gen. 12~50)

- This period is often known as the *Patriarchal Age*.
- It consists of four successive generations of a small clan.
- Each generation is governed by the ruling Patriarch.

Genesis

- Primeval History
- From Creation: 10,000 to 4,000– 2166 BC
- Four Events (1-11)
 - Creation 1-2
 - Fall 3-5
 - Flood 6-9
 - Nations 10-11
- Patriarchal History
- 2166 – 1804 BC
 - (Joseph dies)
- Four People (12-50)
 - Abraham 12-24
 - Isaac 25-26
 - Jacob 27-36
 - Joseph 37-50

Calling of Abram (Gen. 12)

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; 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; 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."

Christ in the Abrahamic Covenant

- Gal. 3:16-29
 - The Abrahamic Covenant included the gospel message and the promise of Christ (6-16).
 - The Law was a temporary provision until the Seed had come (17-22).
 - It was a tutor to lead us to Christ (23-24).
 - To belong to Christ is to inherit the spiritual promise of the Abrahamic covenant (25-29).

Abraham's Faith

- God chose him and called him while he was an idolator in Ur (Gen. 13:1; Acts 7:2,4).
- God entered into covenant with him and called him "friend" (Jam. 2:28).
- Abraham believed that God justifies the ungodly (Rom 4:5).

Abraham's Faith

- The gospel was preached to him—the same in substance that is preached to us—that through his Seed (singular; that is, Christ) was the only source of spiritual blessing for all families of the earth (Gal. 3:8).
- He was justified before God solely by his faith in God who justifies the ungodly through his Seed; that is Christ (Rom. 4:1-6).

Abraham's Journeys



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- Jacob went to Haran to flee from Esau and to get a wife.
- He had the vision of the stairway to heaven.
- Years later he returned along the same route.

The Wanderings of Jacob

Jacob's "Dozen" Sons Gen. 29-30

Leah:	Reuben ("see, a son")
	Simeon ("heard")
	Levi ("joined")
	Judah ("praise the LORD")
	Isaachar ("wages")
	Zebulun ("dwell")
Bilhah/Zilpah:	Dan ("judge"); Naphtali ("wrestle")
	Gad ("fortune"); Asher ("happy")
Rachel:	JOSEPH ("add") Gen 30:24
	Benjamin ("right hand son") 35:18

Jacob's Clan to Egypt



Christ in Genesis

- From a woman (a human being)
 - Gen. 3:15 – I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
- From one man and nation
 - Gen. 12:1-3 – the Seed who will bring blessing upon all the nations will come through the descendants of one man, Abraham, and the nation that comes from him.

Christ in Genesis

- From one tribe in Israel
 - Gen. 49:10 – "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples.
 - From one family in Judah
 - 2 Sam. 7:16 – "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.""

Exodus: An Outline

- I. The Exodus – deliverance from Egypt (1-18)
- II. The Law – covenant at Sinai (19-34)
- III. The Tabernacle – constructed and inhabited (35-40)

Exodus: The Central Theme

God's redeeming a people for Himself and entering into a covenant relationship with them.

YHWH would use this nation:

- 1.To put Himself on display
- 2.To serve as a channel of divine revelation
- 3.To be the people through whom the Savior would come

Exodus: The Spiritual Message

- YHWH is a redeeming God
- YHWH keeps His covenant



Bondage in Egypt (Ex. 1)

The Events of Exodus

Jacob goes to Egypt	1:1-5	1876
Joseph dies	1:6	1804
A new king (Hyksos dynasty)	1:8	1730
First genocide order (18 th dynasty)	1:15-21	1535-1527
Second genocide order	1:22	1526
Moses born	2:1-2	1525
Moses first 40 years	2:3-10	1525-1485
Moses second 40 years	2:11—4:31	1485-1446
The Plagues (6 months)	5 – 12	1446-1445
The Exodus (3 months)	13 – 18	1445
At Sinai (9 months)	19 – 40	1445-1444

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The Making of Bricks

Deliverance Under Moses (Exodus 2 - Deuteronomy)

The 18th Dynasty of Egypt

Ahmose (1570-1546)

Amenhotep I (1546-1526)
(1st genocide command)

Thutmose I (1526-1518)
(2nd genocide command; Moses born in 1525)

Hatshepsut

Thutmose II (1518-1504)

Thutmose III (1504; 1482-1450)
(Hatshepsut reigns 1504-1482; Moses flees in 1485)

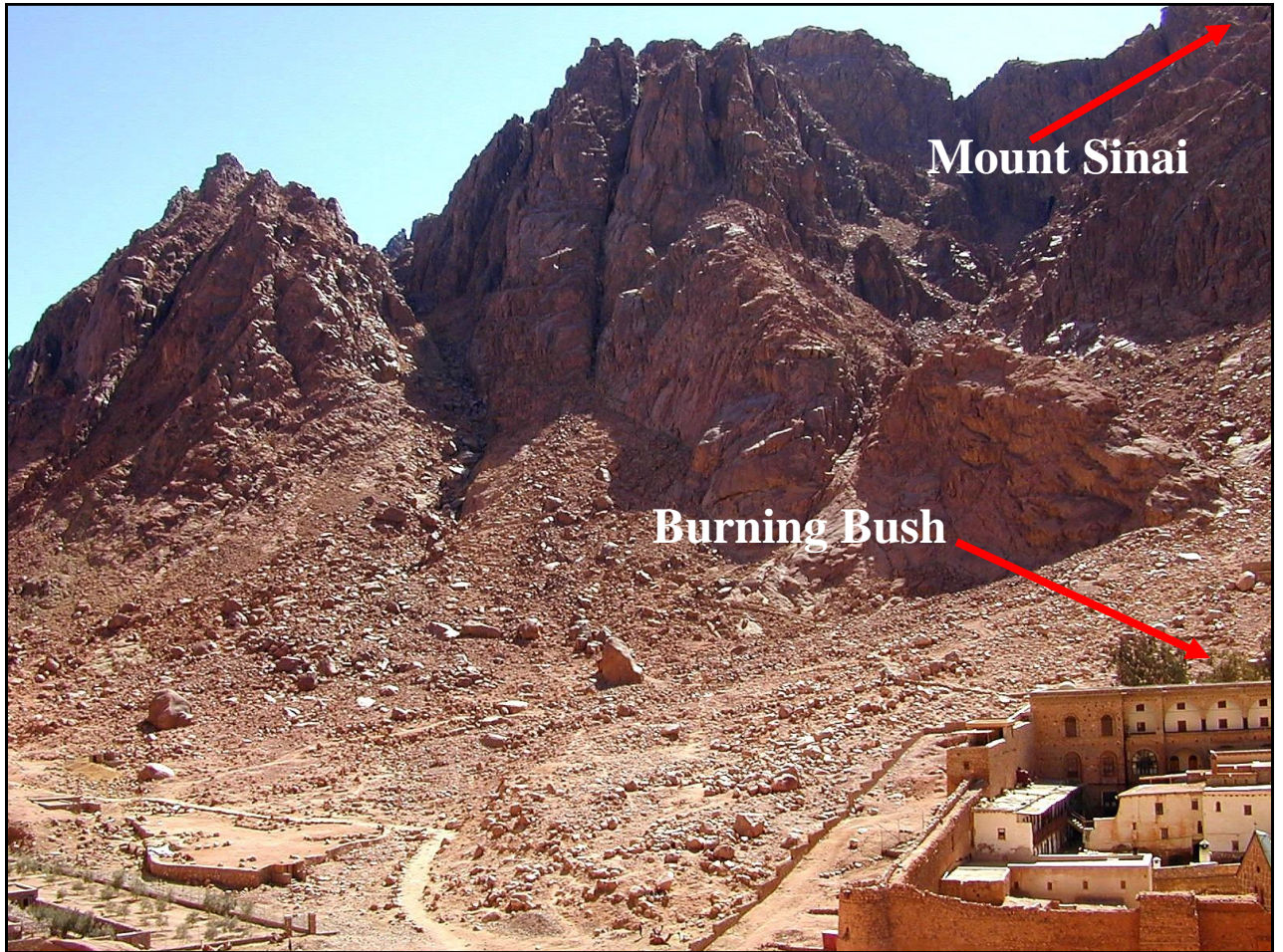
Amenhotep II (1453-1415)
(The Exodus: 1445)

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Moses to Midian



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The Call of Moses

Moses' Objections

No authority (3:11)

("Who am I?")

No message (3:13)

("What shall I say?")

No Credibility (4:1)

("They will not believe me.")

No Eloquence (4:10)

("I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.")

YHWH's Reply

YHWH's presence (3:12)

("I will be with you.")

YHWH's name (3:14)

("I AM has sent you.")

YHWH's power (4:2-9)

("What is that in your hand?")

YHWH's provision (4:11-12; 14-16)

("I will be with your mouth; Aaron shall be your spokesman.")

The Unifying Message of the Old Testament

Moses Back to Egypt



The Unifying Message of the Old Testament



The 18th Dynasty of Egypt

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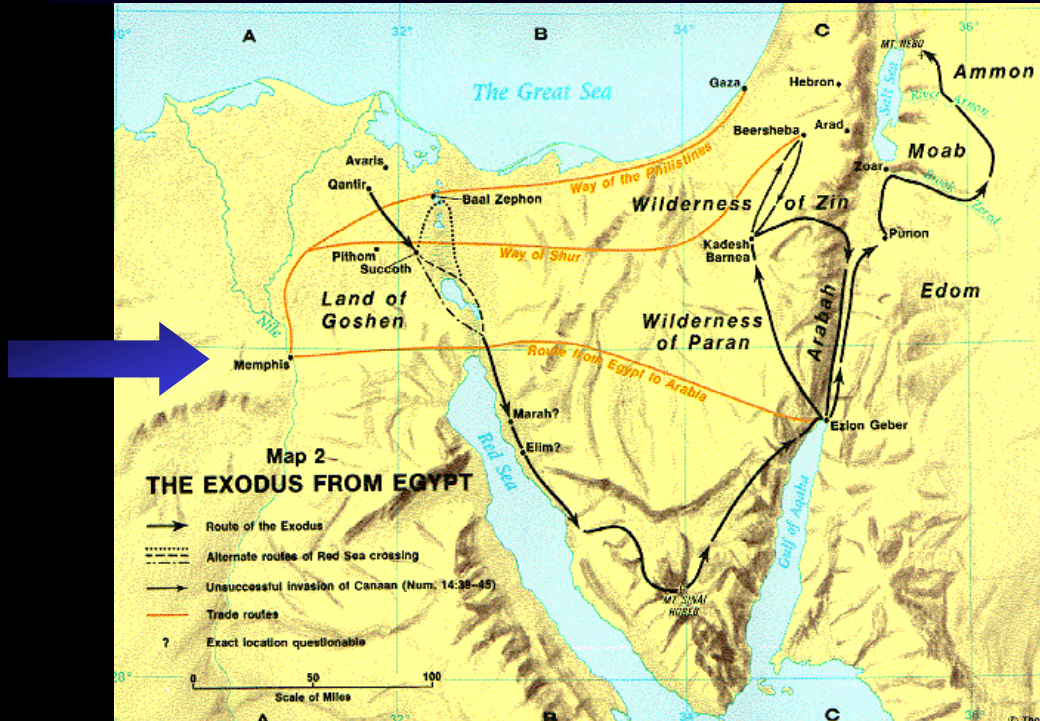
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Amenhotep II (1453-1415)
(The Exodus: 1445)

Memphis



The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Views of the Plagues

- Pure myth
- Exaggerated accounts of unusual natural phenomena
- Unique, historical outpourings of the wrath of a sovereign God – miracles

The Purpose of the Plagues

- To provide a knowledge of the true God
 - To Israel
 - To Pharaoh
 - To the Egyptians
 - To all the earth
- To destroy the credibility of Egypt's false gods



The Plagues and the gods of Egypt

<u>Plagues</u>	<u>Reference in Exodus</u>	<u>Possible Gods and Goddesses of Egypt</u>
1. Nile turned to blood	7:14-25	•Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile; and others
2. Frogs	8:1-25	•Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head
3. Gnats	8:16-19	•Set, god of the desert

The Plagues and the gods of Egypt

<u>Plagues</u>	<u>Reference in Exodus</u>	<u>Possible Gods and Goddesses of Egypt</u>
4. Flies	8:16-19 8:20-32	•Re, a sun god; or the god Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly
5. Death of livestock	9:1-7	•Hathor, goddess with a cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility

The Plagues and the gods of Egypt

	<u>Plagues</u>	<u>Reference in Exodus</u>	<u>Possible Gods and Goddesses of Egypt</u>
6.	Boils	9:8-12	•Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god; Isis, goddess of healing
7.	Hail	9:13-35	• Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility; Set, god of storms
8.	Locusts	10:1-20	•Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility

The Plagues and the gods of Egypt

<u>Plagues</u>	<u>Reference in Exodus</u>	<u>Possible Gods and Goddesses of Egypt</u>
9. Darkness	10:21-29	•Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess
10. Death of the firstborn	11:1-12:30	•Min, god of reproduction; Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, goddess who protected children; Pharaoh's firstborn son, a god

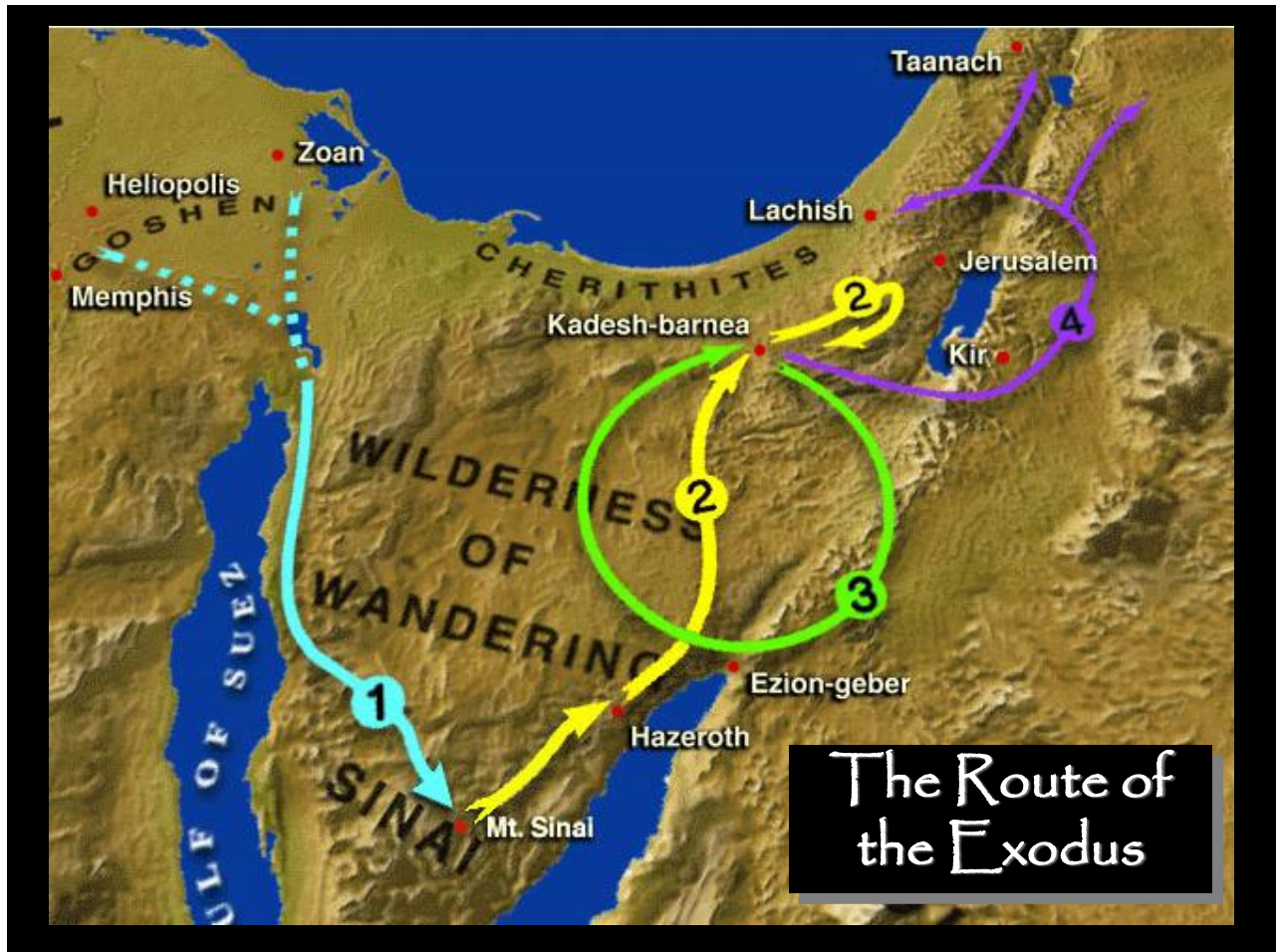
Exodus 9:14-16

For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. For *if by* now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.

Warnings from the Life of Pharaoh

- Making commitments is not true spirituality.
- Verbal confession of sin is not always repentance.
- Repentance to avoid consequences is not true repentance.
- You can't bargain with God.
- Wholehearted obedience is all that matters to God.
- Refusal to hear and heed God's Word hardens the heart.
- In the end, man's greatest sin is his pride—refusing to humble himself before God.
- Settled rebellion ends in anger against God and His messengers.

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Their Numbers

- 603,000 males over 20
- Mixed multitude
- Women (est. 600,000)
- Males and females under 20
- Probably $> 2,000,000$
- Plus flocks and herds



The Glory Cloud

- Manifestation of God's presence
- Theophany/Christophany
- Suggests nature of God's being
- Analogous to a caravan fire
- Earthly elements
- A cloud surrounding a glowing fire
- Protected from heat, sunstroke
- Lighted their path & defended them
- Threatened sudden destruction on God's enemies



The Glory Cloud

- First appears (Ex. 13:17-22)
- Takes up residence in the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34-40)
- Takes up residence in the temple (1 Kings 8:10-12)
- Departs from the temple and Jerusalem (Ezek 10:3-4, 18-19; 11:22-23)
- Appears at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:7)
- Appears at the ascension (Acts 1:9)
- Accompanies Christ's second coming (Acts 1:11; Luke 21:27; Rev. 1:7)
- Returns to the Kingdom Temple (Is. 4:2-6; Ez. 43:1-5)

The Long Journey From Egypt to Canaan

• Exodus 13 - 40	1 year
(3 mos. from Egypt to Sinai; 9 mos. at Sinai)	
• Leviticus	1 mo.
• Numbers	38 yrs./9 mos.
• Deuteronomy	<u>2 mos.</u>
Total	40 years

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The Covenant at Sinai

- Exodus 19:1-8
- Already a covenant people—
Abrahamic Covenant
- Offered the privilege of being a
covenant nation (1-6)
- Accept the privilege and the
conditions (7-8)

God's Plan for Israel (Ex. 19:4-6)

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."