

# Pentateuch

## Genesis 1-11: The Primeval Prologue

April 17, 2013 – Lecture 2

Lakeside Institute of Theology

Ross Arnold, Spring 2013

# Pentateuch (OT3)

1. Introduction to the Pentateuch
2. Genesis 1-11; The Primeval Prologue
3. Genesis 12-50; The Patriarchs
4. Exodus 1-18; God's Deliverance
5. Exodus 19-40' The Covenant at Sinai
6. Leviticus
7. Numbers
8. Deuteronomy; Final Exam

# The First Five Books of the Old Testament

Torah	Hebrew: “Law,” or “Instruction”
Pentateuch	Greek: “Five Books,” or “Five-Part Book”

Genesis

From creation, thru the origins of God's people to Egypt

Exodus

Relates God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt and establishing His covenant/Law

Leviticus

Sets forth the Laws of worship

Numbers

Relates the wilderness wanderings

Deuteronomy

Gives the Law to a new generation with special emphasis to those entering the land

# The Book of Genesis

- Author: Moses
- Date: c. 1450 BC - 1400 BC
- Theme: Beginnings – of the universe, the human race, and the Jewish people.
- Purpose: To show that the Creator God is sovereign and loves His creation.
- Outline:
  1. Primeval Prologue: (chs. 1-11)  
Creation, Fall, Flood, Nations & Babel
  2. The Hebrew People (11-50)
    - \* Father Abraham (11-25)
    - \* Isaac and Jacob (25-36)
    - \* Joseph (37-50)

# Genesis

## The Book of Beginnings

Genesis 1-11	Genesis 12-50
<b>Events Predominant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Creation (1-2)</li><li>– Fall (3-5)</li><li>– Flood (6-9)</li><li>– Nations/Babel (10-11)</li></ul>	<b>People Predominant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Abraham (12-23)</li><li>– Isaac (24-26)</li><li>– Jacob (27-36)</li><li>– Joseph (37-50)</li></ul>
All of humanity	Family of Abraham
Unknown # years	300 years

# Key Messages from Genesis

- Genesis tells us that God created from nothing (*ex nihilo*) everything that is.
- Genesis explains to us what is wrong with humanity – why we're confused, broken, lost, self-destructive & unable to communicate.
- Genesis tells us there are consequences for disobedience and betrayal – especially betrayal of God's love.
- Genesis tells the story of God's call & blessing on the people of Israel, the children of Abraham, as a sign of his love for all humanity.

# Genesis – Major Parallels in World History

- Genesis:(??)–2100 BC (Abraham)–1805 BC (Joseph's death)
- 3700 BC – Wheel is invented, probably in Sumer, Mesopotamia
- 3500 BC – European cattle domesticated
- 3200 BC – Pictographic writing developed in Sumer
- 3100 BC – First Egyptian Pharaonic Dynasties begin
- 3000 BC – Minoan Bronze Age (Crete); Athens is born
- 2670 BC – First Egyptian pyramid built
- 2475 BC – Maize is domesticated in Central America
- 2340 BC – First major empire: Mesopotamia under Sargon
- 2000 BC – Stonehenge is built in England
- 1800s BC – Rise of Assyrian & Babylonian cultures



**HITTITES**

FERTILE CRESCENT  
Tarsus●

Mt. Ararat▲

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Caspian Sea

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DESERT**

Nile River

# The Primeval Prologue

## Genesis 1-11

- Events Predominant
  - Creation (1-2)
  - Fall (3-5)
  - Flood (6-9)
  - Table of Nations & Babel (10-11)

# I. Genesis 1:1-2:25 – Creation

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*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day.*

*Genesis 1:1-5*

# Issues Related to the Creation Account

1. Differences between Genesis and other ANE Creation myths.
2. Relation of verse 1 to rest of text.
3. Two creation stories?
4. Literary structure of the “*toledoth*” (*generations* or *accounts*).
5. Interpretive options for creation (especially meaning of “*yom*” - *day*).

# Genesis vs. Other ANE Creation Myths

1. Enuma Elish – “When on High,” Babylonian, c. 12<sup>th</sup> Century BC  
Marduk is chosen by other gods to battle evil Tiamat and Kingu, who plan to kill the younger gods. Marduk defeats them, tearing Tiamat in two to form the sky and earth, and Kingu’s blood is used to create human slaves to do work for the gods.
2. Atra-Hasis Epic - “Exceedingly Wise,” Babylonian, c. 18<sup>th</sup> Century BC  
Anu, Enlil, and Enki (gods of sky, wind, and water), create minor gods to do work, but those gods get tired and rebel. Instead of punishing them, Enki decides to create humans to do the work, and the mother goddess Mami makes humans from clay and the flesh and blood of slain god Gestu-E. Humans overpopulate, so famine and drought is sent every 1200 years to cull humanity, then the gods plan to send a flood to wipe out humans completely. The hero, Atra-Hasis, builds a boat to preserve his family and animals during the seven day flood.

# Genesis vs. Other ANE Creation Myths

## Differences...

1. Genesis assumes the existence of God; no theogony (origins of gods) is attempted.
2. Genesis is strictly monotheistic.
3. In Genesis God creates effortlessly, from nothing, since nothing previously existed.
4. In Genesis, creation is good rather than chaotic, and humanity is the crowning glory of creation, rather than slave labor to make life easier for the gods.

# Relation of verse 1 to rest of text

Alternative translations for ambiguous Genesis 1:1-2:

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty...”*

God’s creative act as the absolute beginning – so verse 1 is the summarizing heading over the following acts of creation in verses 2 and following.

*“When in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was untamed and shapeless.”*

*Creation occurred earlier (still with God as the Creator), and Genesis is the process by which God brought order and meaning to the chaos.*

# Two Creation Stories?

## Genesis 1

The heavens & the earth are created in six days.

Man in his cosmic setting

Panorama of creation as a whole

Centers on God creating the heavens and the earth

## Genesis 2

Creation of man and woman (no time element mentioned).

Man as central to God's purpose

Detailed focus on one aspect of creation

Centers on man as crowning act of God's creation

# Two Creation Stories?

Creation process complete: Heavens & earth created; God finished His work (1:2-2:1-3)

**DETAILS: Man** created: Formed from dust (2:4-9)

Trees & Rivers in garden given **names** (2:9-14)

Man assigned task of guarding & keeping the garden (2:15)

Forbidden fruit (2:16-17)

Man in need of a helper: not good to be alone (2:18)

Animals in garden are given **names** (2:19-20)

**Woman** created: Formed from rib (2:21-24)

Creation complete: Man & woman naked & unashamed in presence of God (2:25)

# Literary Structure of *Genesis*

The literary structure of Genesis is broken into ten sections, each connected by a “literary bridge” called the “*toledot* formula” (“*These are the generations...*” or “*This is the account...*”):

- Genesis 2:4 – “...*toledot* of the heavens & the earth.”
- Genesis 5:1 – “...of Adam.”
- Genesis 6:9 – “...of Noah.”
- Genesis 10:1 – “...of the sons of Noah.”
- Genesis 11:10 – “...of Shem.”
- Genesis 11:27 – “...of Terah.”
- Genesis 25:12 – “...of Ishmael.”
- Genesis 25:19 – “...of Isaac.”
- Genesis 36:1 & 36:9 – “...of Esau.”
- Genesis 37:2 – “...of Jacob.”

# Interpretive Options for Creation

Three possible meanings of Hebrew “*yom*”-“*day*”

*1. It can mean a 24-hour period of time.*

*2. It can mean the period of daylight (as in “day and night”).*

*3. It can mean an extended period of time.*

**The same is true in modern English!**

*“In my father’s day (period of time) it took three days (24-hour period) to drive across the state during the day (daylight period).”*

# Days of Creation

Day 1: Light	Day 4: Light-sources (sun, moon, stars)
Day 2: Water & sky divided	Day 5: Fish & birds to fill water & sky
Day 3: Dry land & vegetation	Day 6: Land animals & man
Day 7: Sabbath Rest	

# Interpretive Options for Creation

1. Evolution by Natural Selection.
2. Evolutionary Creationism  
(Theistic Evolution).
3. Day-Age View Creationism.
4. Literal Day View (Young Earth).
5. Gap Theory Creationism.
6. Ruin-Reconstruction View.

## II. Genesis 3:1-24 – The Fall

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*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ...*

*<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"*

*The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"*

*<sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.*

*<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

*<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked...*

*Genesis 2:15; 3:1-7*

## II. Genesis 3:1-24 – The Fall

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*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

*<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”*

*<sup>11</sup> And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”*

*<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”*

*<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”*

*The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

*Genesis 3:8-13*

## II. Genesis 3:1-24 – The Fall

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*So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

*<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”*

*<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

*Genesis 3:14-19*

## II. Genesis 3:1-24 – The Fall

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*Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.*

*<sup>21</sup> The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup> So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

*Genesis 3:20-24*



**HITTITES**

Mt. Ararat▲

FERTILE CRESCENT  
Tarsus●

**ARMENIA**

Caspian Sea

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**ARABIAN  
DESERT**

# The Rivers of Eden?



# III. Genesis 6-9 – The Flood

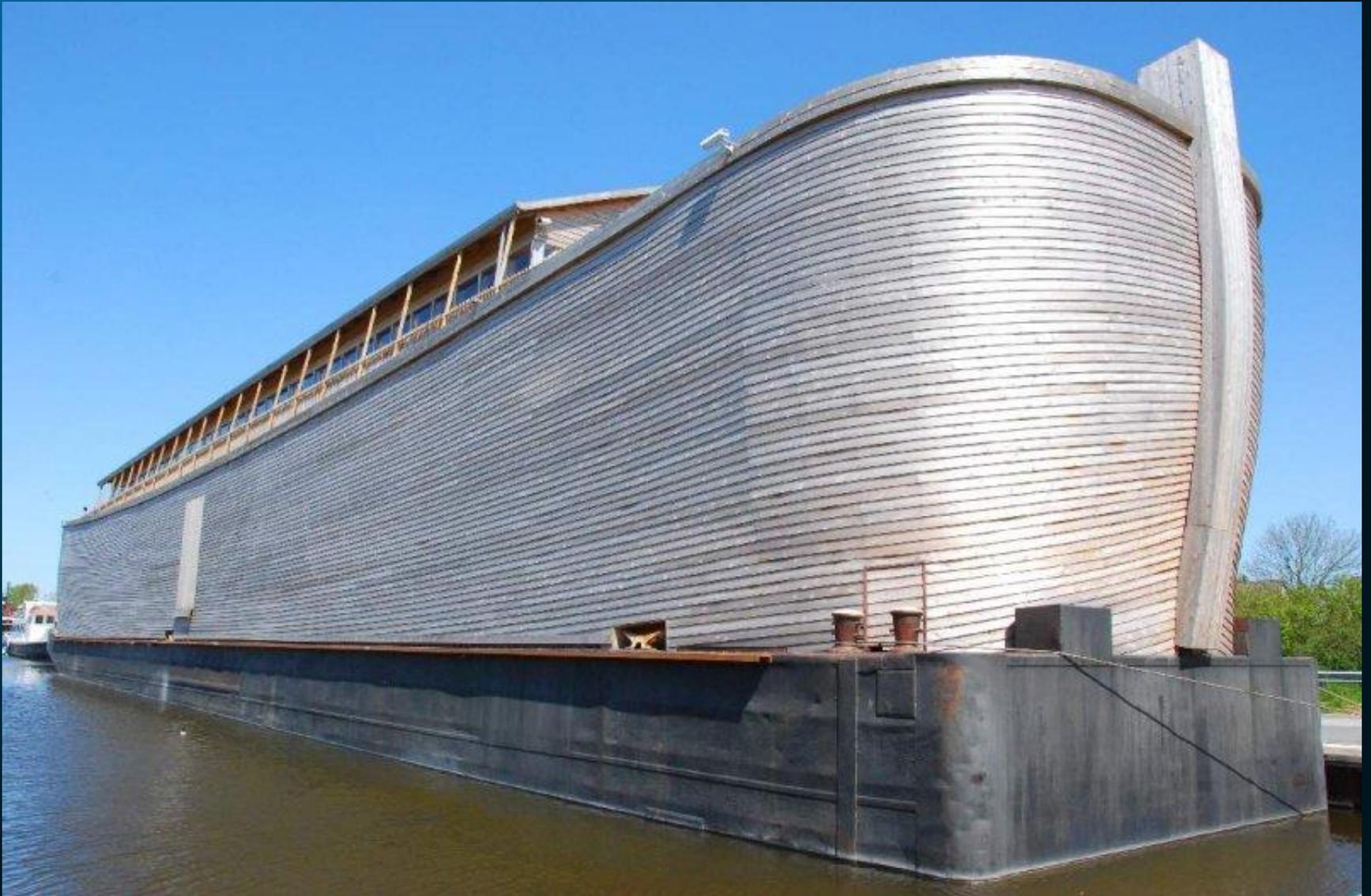
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Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

Genesis 6:11-19



# John Huiber's Dutch Replica of the Ark



# Genesis 6-9 – The Flood

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Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup> “Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup> Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”

<sup>18</sup> So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. ...

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup> The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

<sup>22</sup> *“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day & night will never cease.”*

<sup>9:1</sup> Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

*Genesis 8:15-9:1*



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FERTILE CRESCENT

Tarsus●

Mt. Ararat▲

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Caspian Sea

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Paphos●  
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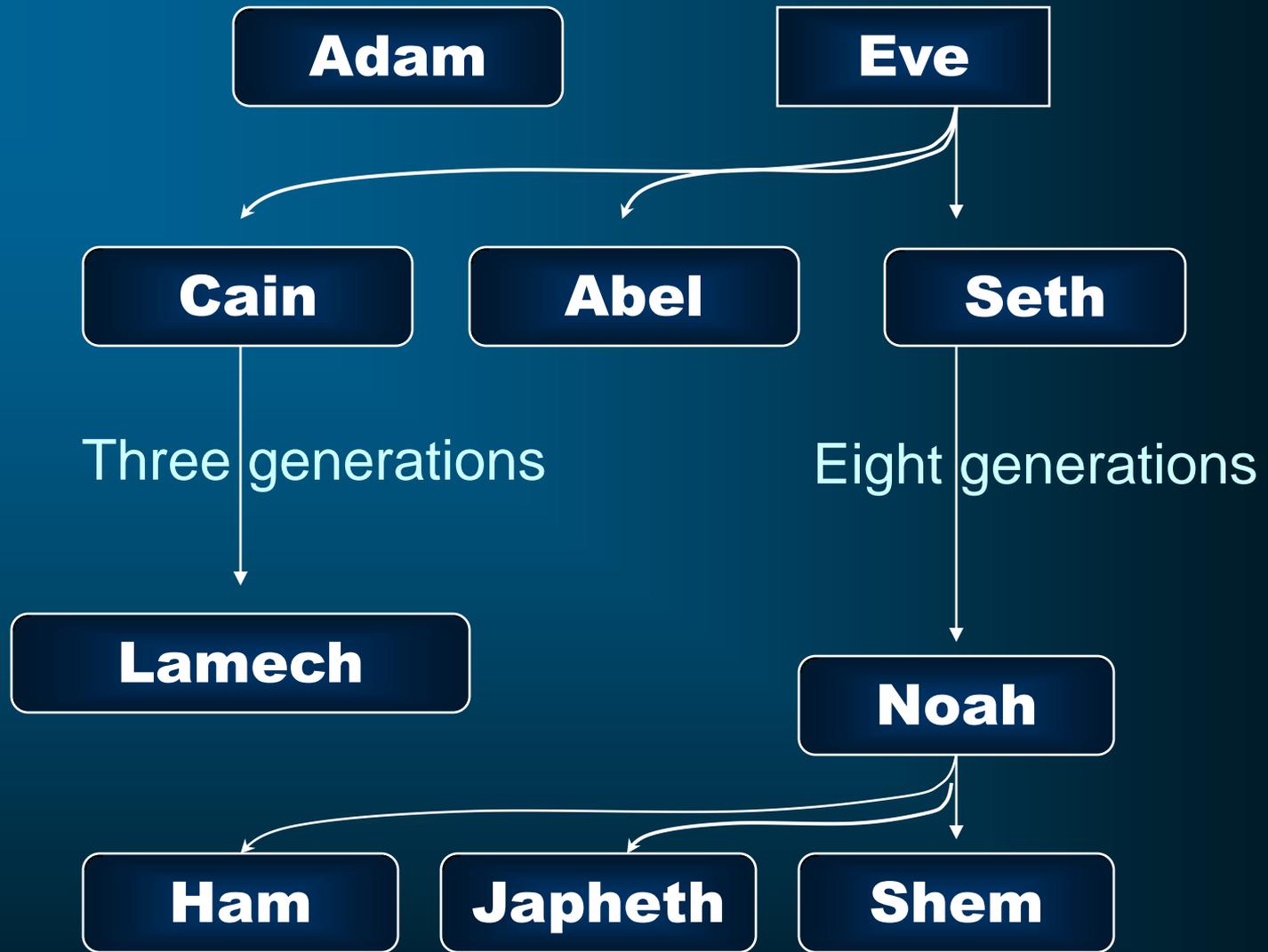
●Thebes

**EGYPT**

Red  
Sea

**ARABIAN  
DESERT**





Noah's three sons (6:10)

Covenant with Noah (6:18)

- Promise to destroy the earth with a flood

Command to take food (6:21)

Noah & Family enter the ark (7:1)

Flood on the earth (7:11 – 8:13)

Noah & Family come out of ark (8:14)

Command not to eat blood (9:14)

Covenant with Noah (9:8-17)

- Promise not to destroy the earth with a flood

Noah's three sons (9:18)

The Lord shuts the door and it rains 40 days and nights (7:15-16)

Waters increase until the mountains are covered (7:18-20)

150 days waters prevail (7:21-24)

God Remembers Noah (8:1)

150 days waters abate (8:3)

Waters decrease until the mountain become visible (8:4-5)

At the end of 40 days Noah opens the window (8:6)

# IV. The Table of Nations & Babel

This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

*(...listed descendants of Japhethites, Hamites and Semites.)*

<sup>32</sup>These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

<sup>11:1</sup> Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

*Genesis 10:1, 10:32-11:2*

# Genesis 11:1-9 – Tower of Babel

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

<sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

<sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that they were building. <sup>6</sup> The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

<sup>8</sup> So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:1-9





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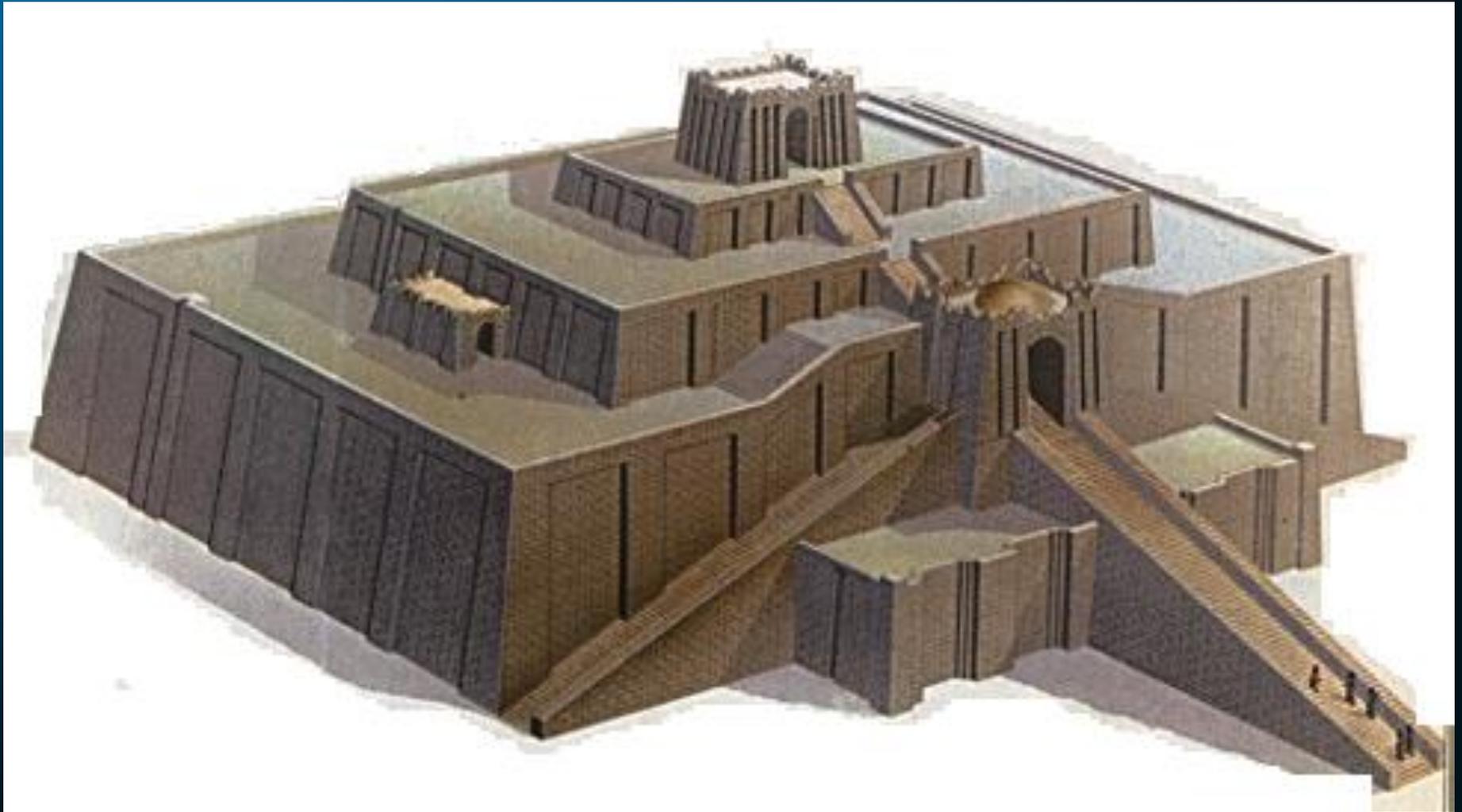
Thebes●

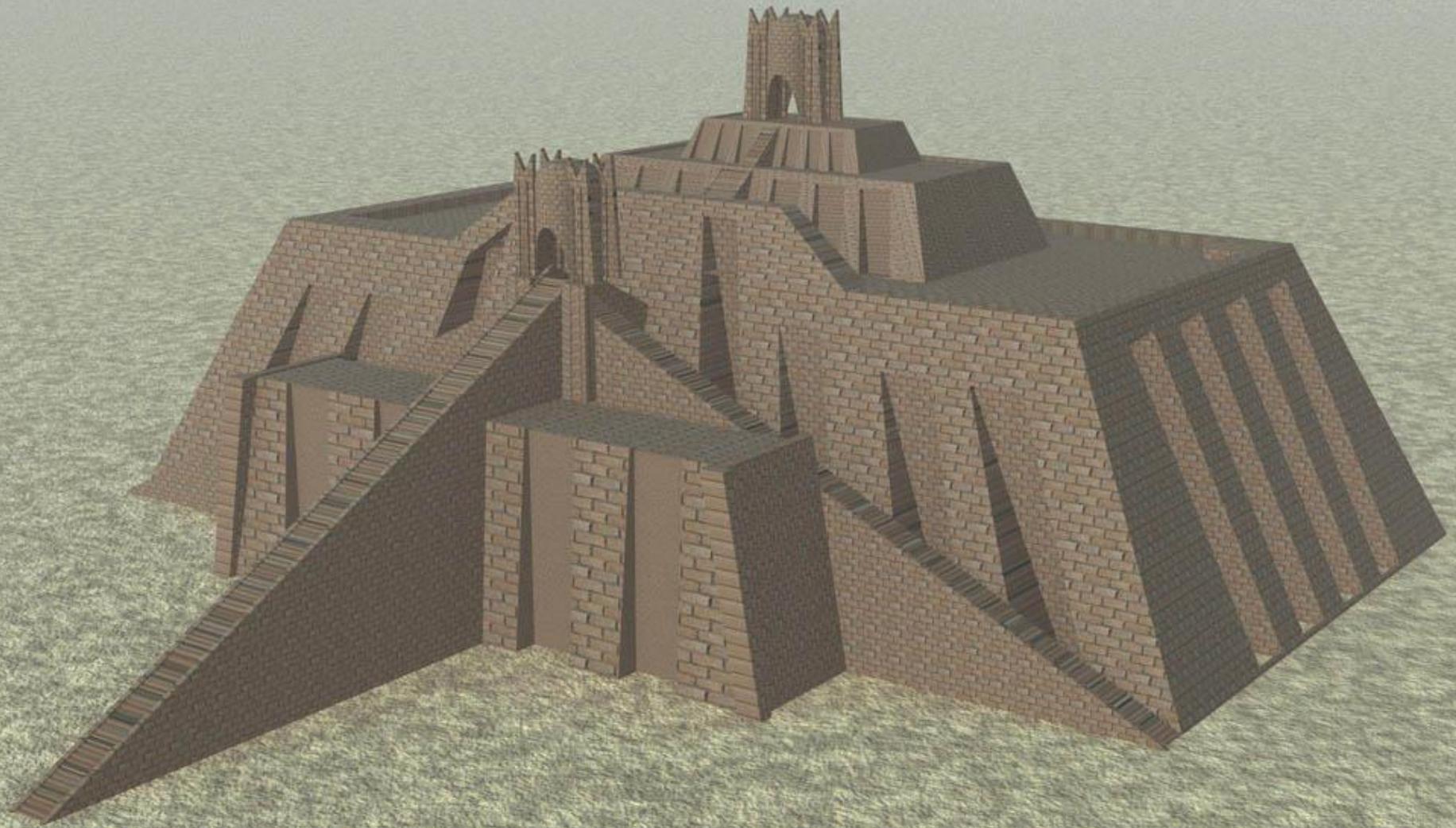
Persian Gulf  
(Arabian Gulf)

Red Sea

**ARABIAN  
DESERT**

# Ziggurat Design





# The Ziggurat of Ur





