



OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Sunday Adult Class
9:45 AM

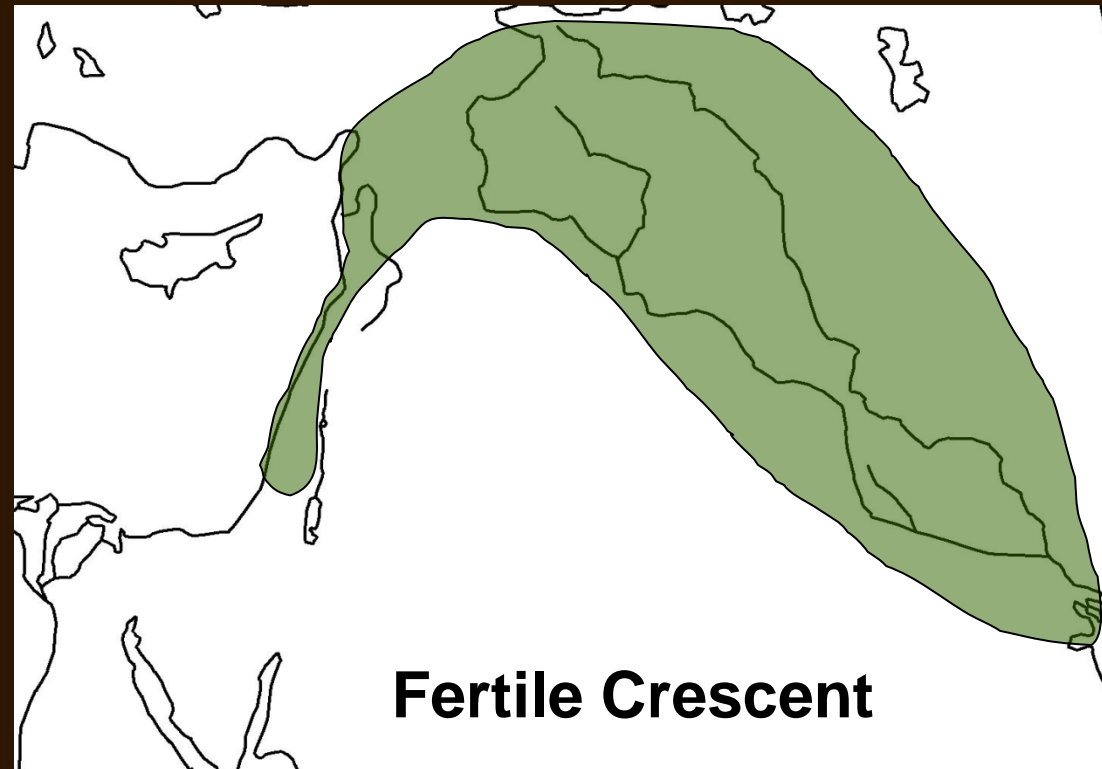
Wilderness of Sinai

- Red Sea
 - Opens into the Indian Ocean – 1,500 miles south of Egypt
 - Two Arms
 - Gulf of Suez
 - Gulf of Aqaba

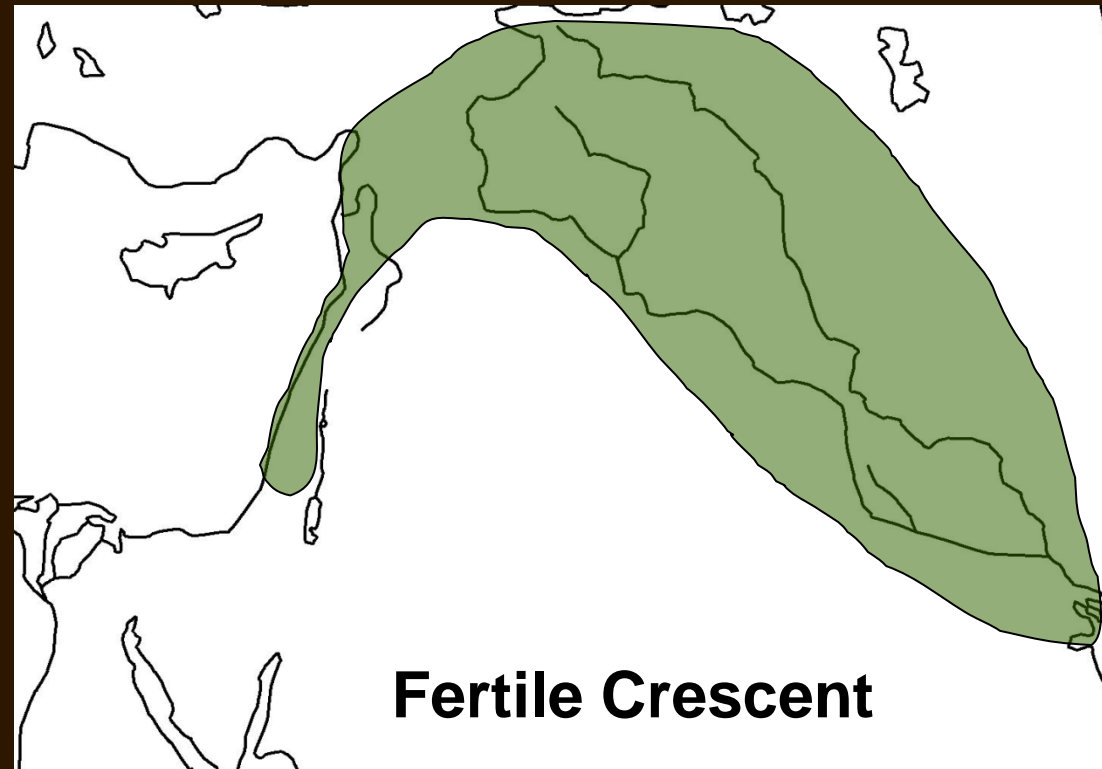


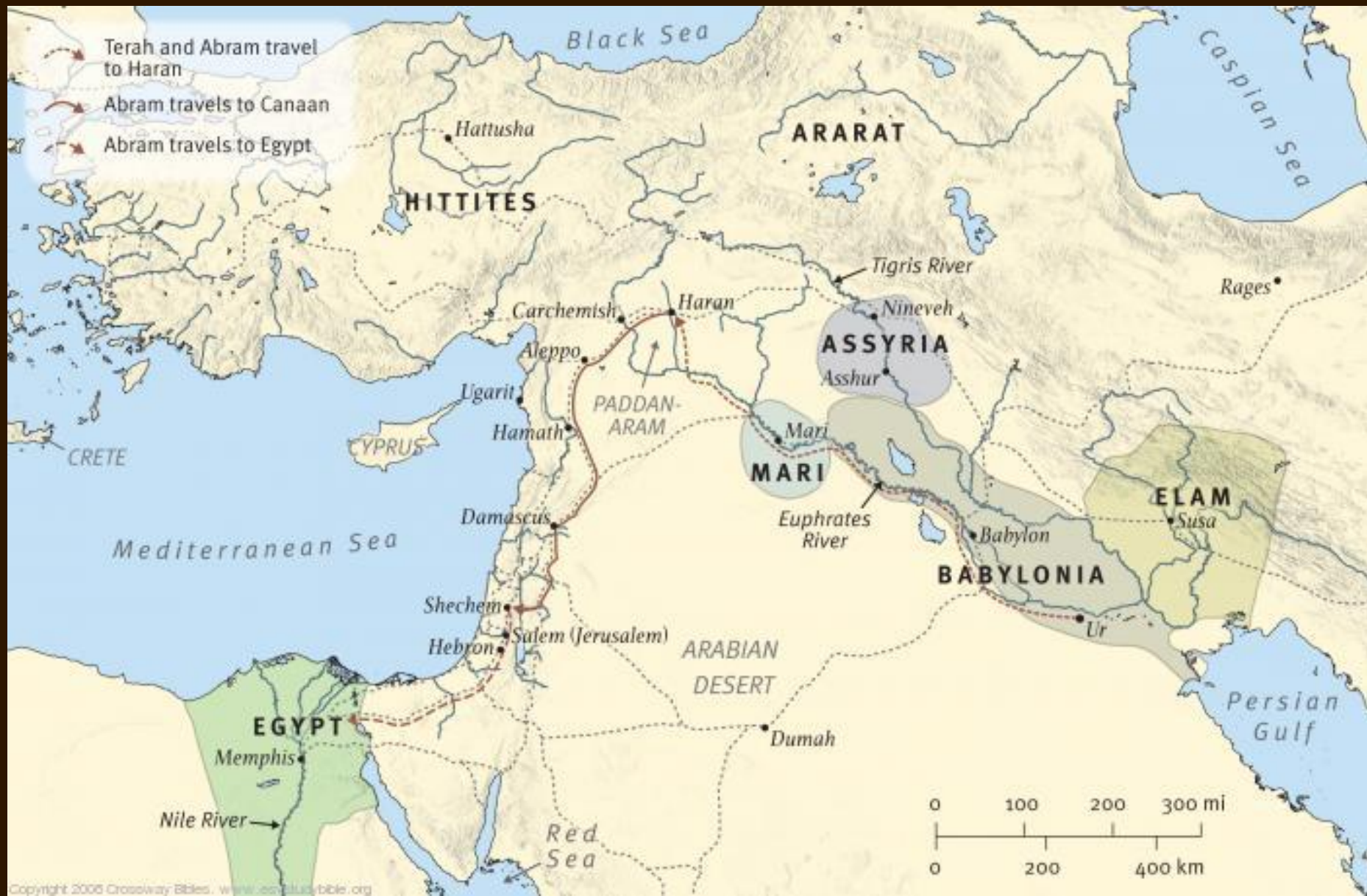


- Entire Old Testament history takes place in this half-circle of land
 - Plus the land of Egypt
- Equals about 1/3 of the land area of the continental United States



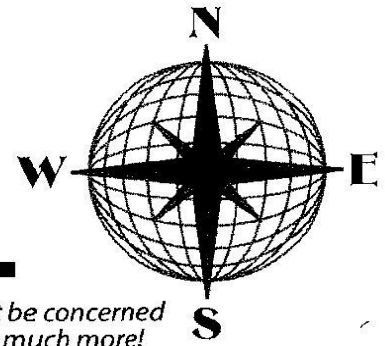
- 1,000 miles from Egypt to the Northern tip of the Persian Gulf
- 1,000 miles from Egypt to the mountains of Ararat





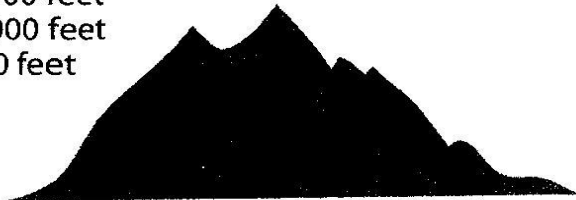
OLD TESTAMENT GEOGRAPHY

The Lay of the Land



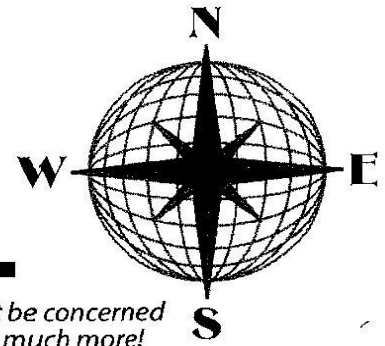
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A. Israel B. Arabia C. Turkey D. Iran E. Iraq
2. If you were to visit the ancient city of Damascus, in what modern country would you be (Isa. 7:8)?
A. Turkey B. Lebanon C. Syria D. Jordan E. Egypt
3. If you were to visit the ancient city of Ur, in what modern country would you be?
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4. If you were to visit the ancient city of Jerusalem, in what modern country would you be?
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5. About how high is the highest mountain in the region of Canaan? (See page 6 for help in answering this question.)
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A. The Way of the Plain
B. The Way of Egypt
C. The Way of the Sea
D. The Via Maris
E. The King's Highway
8. What is the approximate distance between where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee to where it joins the Salt Sea? (See page 5 for help in answering this question.)
A. About 210 miles
B. About 170 miles
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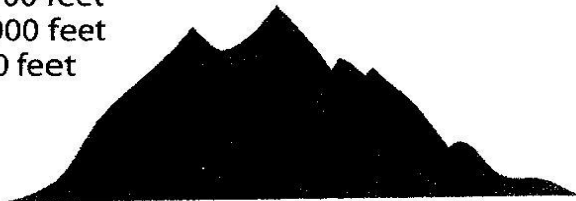
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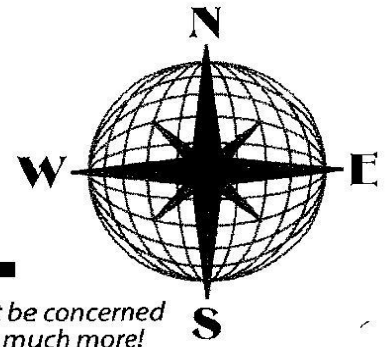
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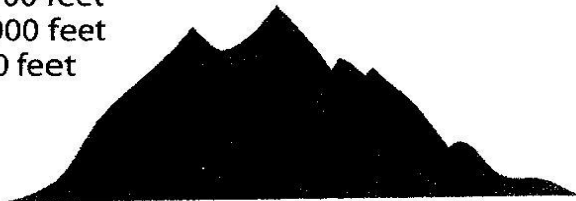
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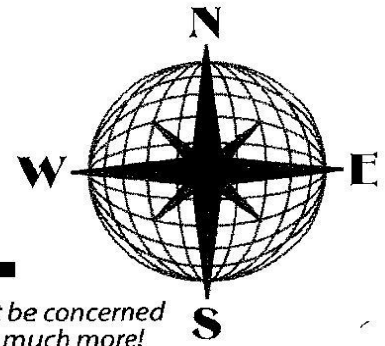
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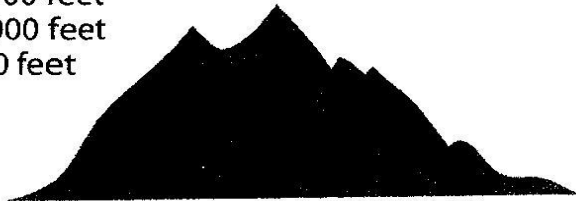
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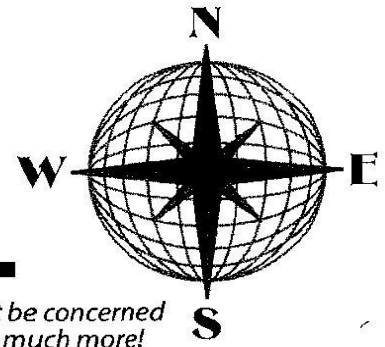
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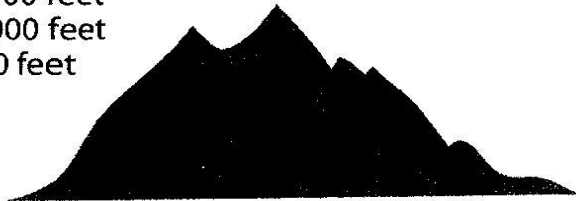
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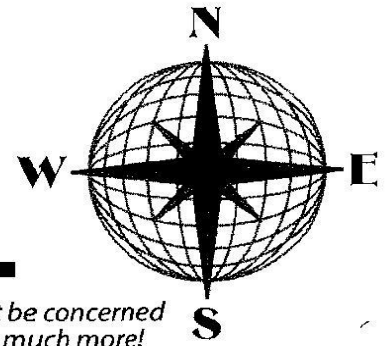
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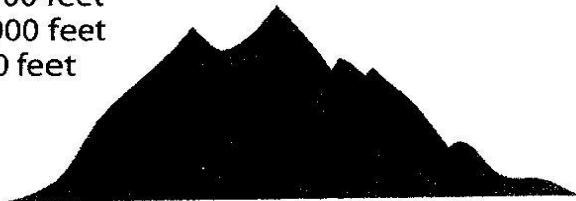
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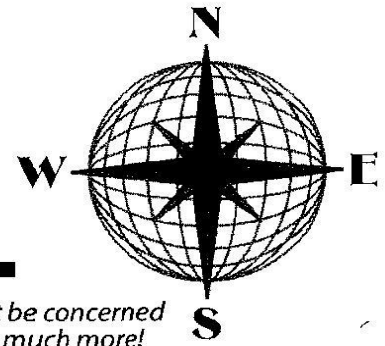
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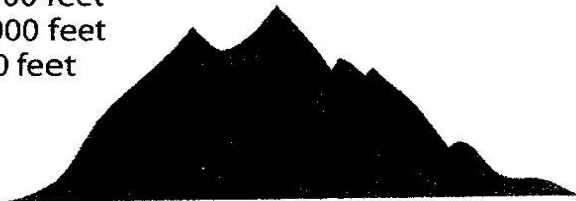
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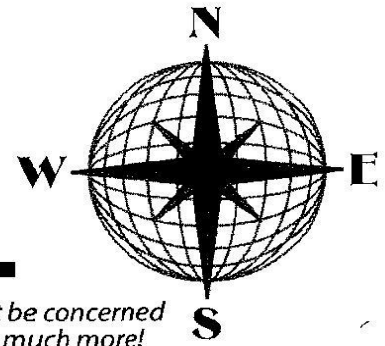
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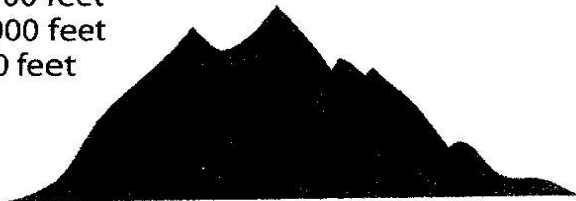
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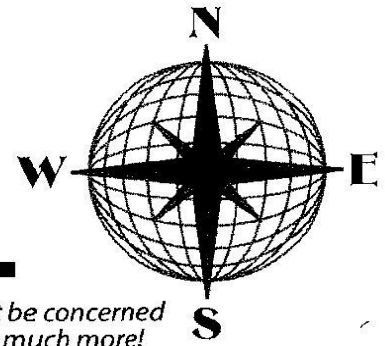
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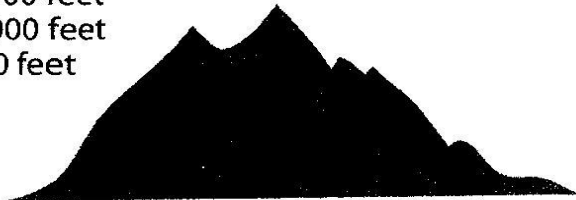
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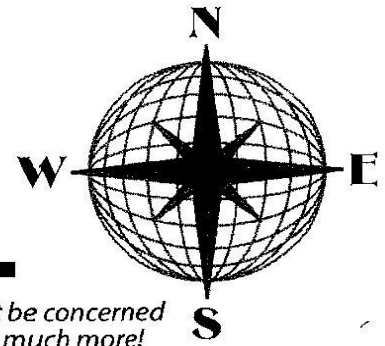
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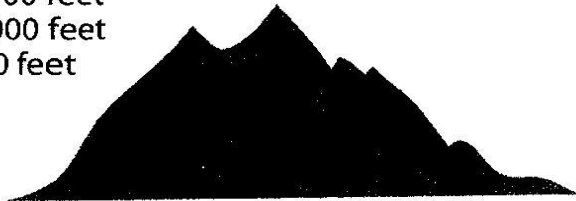
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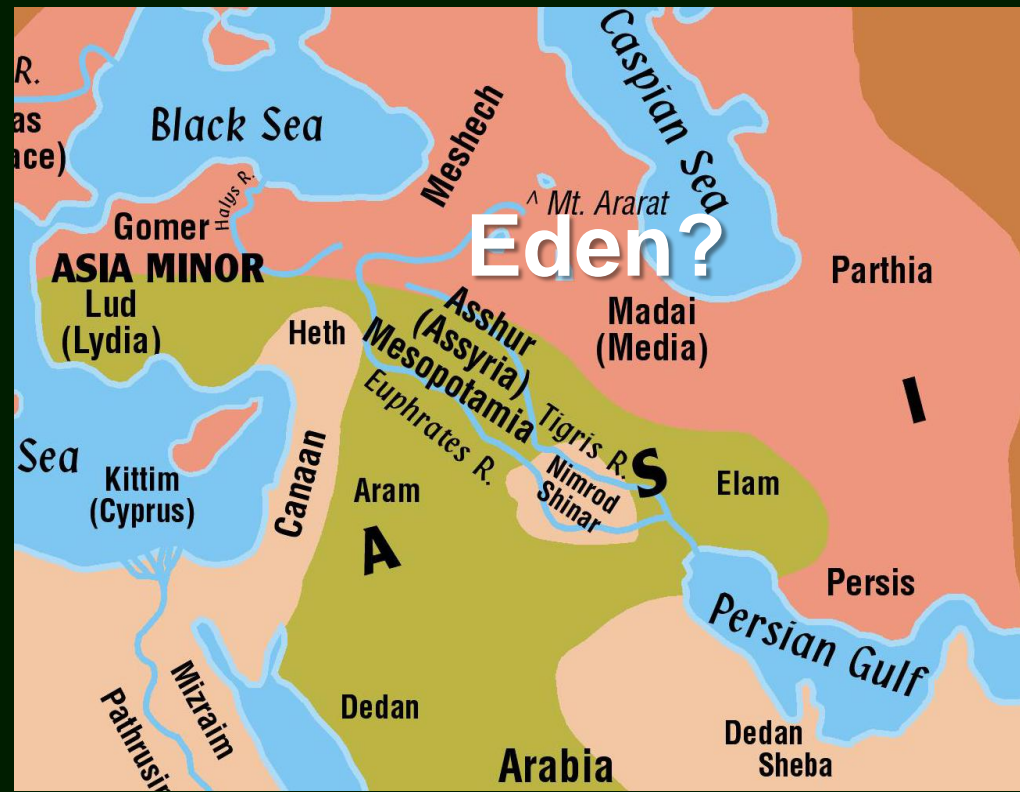
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The Story Begins

- God gave man his first home
 - the **Garden of Eden**
- Four rivers ran through it
 - **Pison, Gihon, Tigris (Hiddekel), Euphrates**
(Genesis 2:10-14)
 - **No longer rivers named the Pison or Gihon**



The Story Begins

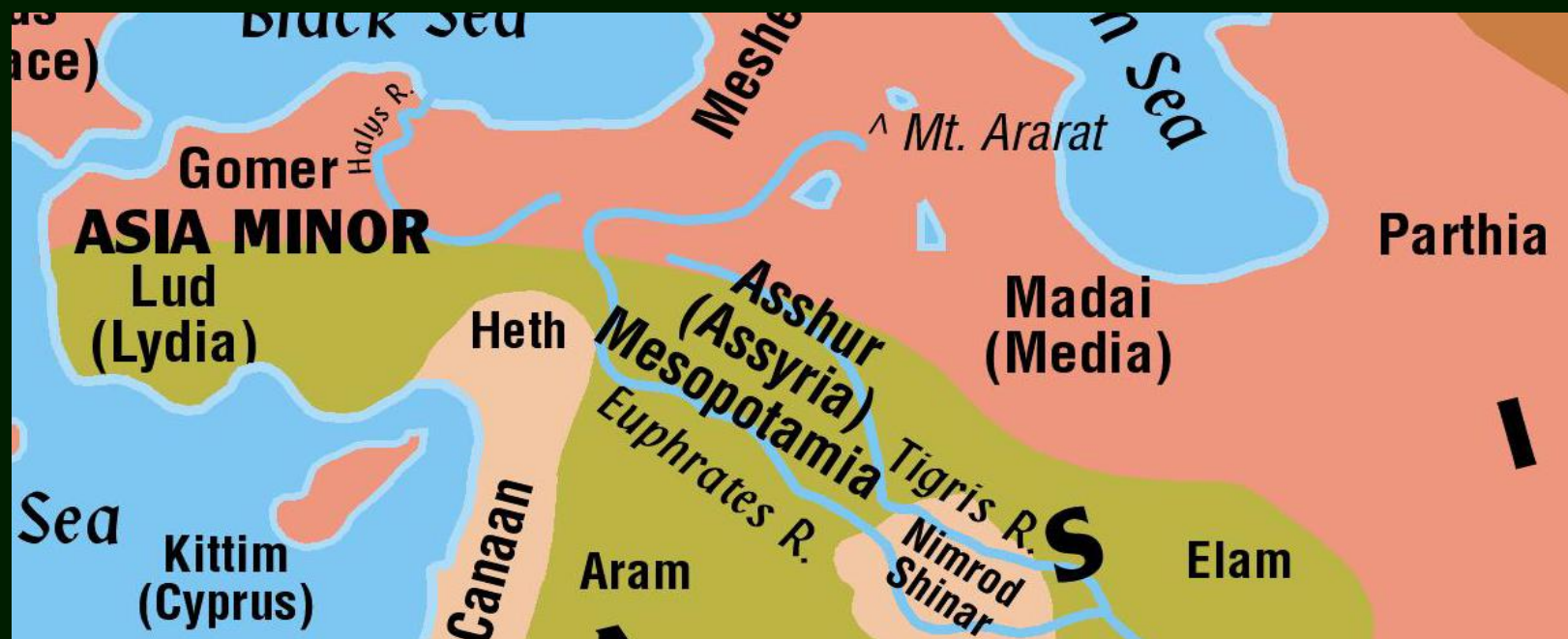
- Adam and Eve sinned and were driven from the Garden
- Cain killed Abel and was driven away from his family
 - Dwelt in the land of Nod east of Eden (location unknown)
- Population grew and the people went their separate ways
- Almost nothing is told to us concerning this early period

The Story Begins

- Flood wiped out all traces of life
 - Archaeologists have been unable to uncover information from that era
- Many years passed in the first five chapters of Genesis
 - At least 1656 years from creation to the flood
- Mankind becomes so wicked God wants to destroy all!

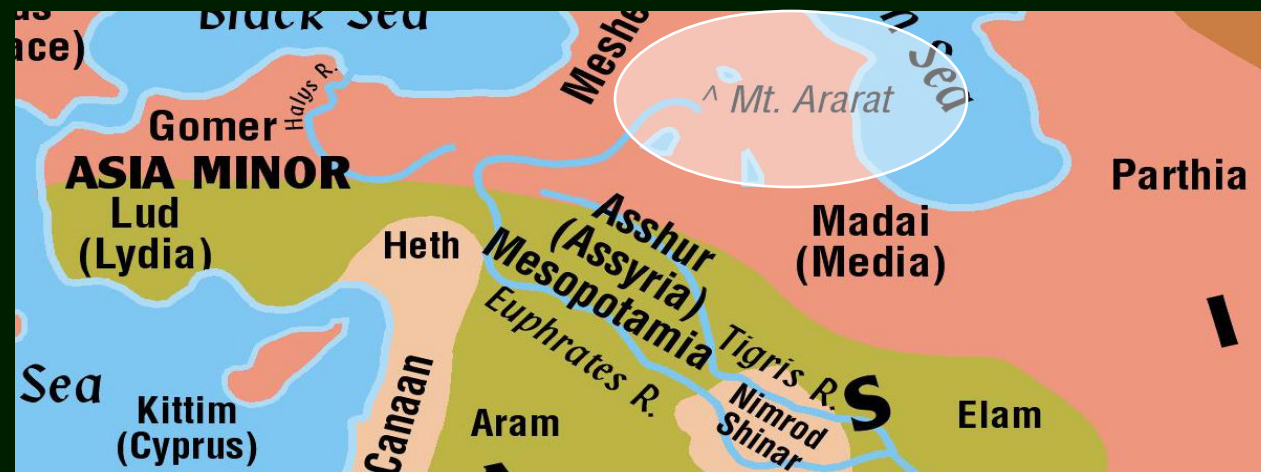
Noah

- Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8)
- God offered him and his family a way of escape



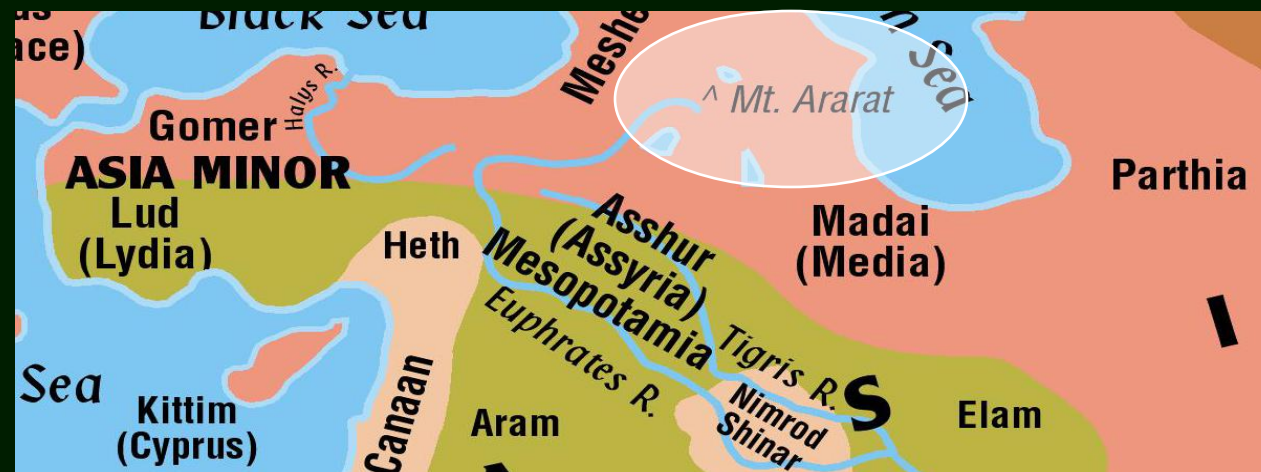
Noah

- Flood came and the waters rose 15 cubits above the tops of the mountains
- The ark floated 150 days before resting in the mountains of Ararat
- Noah was in the ark....?



Noah

- Flood came and the waters rose 15 cubits above the tops of the mountains
- The ark floated 150 days before resting in the mountains of Ararat
- Noah was in the ark one year and ten days (Genesis 7:11; 8:14)

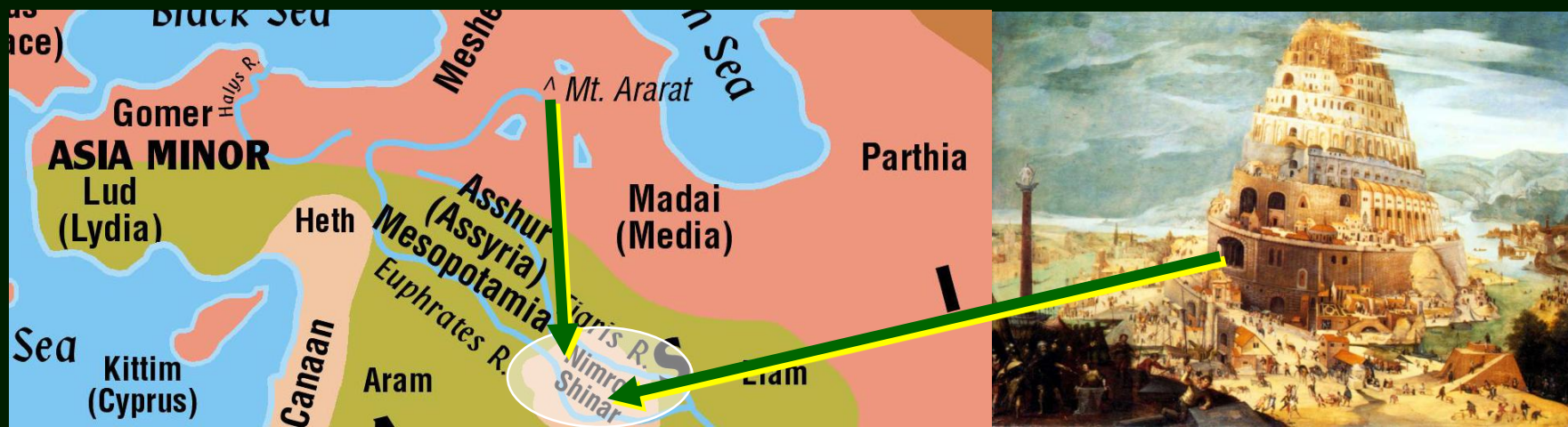


Plain of Shinar



- Mountains of Ararat are high and rugged – the people moved down the slopes to the rich valley between the rivers
- At Shinar they decided to build a city including a tower

Plain of Shinar



- The **“tower of Babel”**
- Hoped the tower would keep them from scattering everywhere
- God told them to multiply and replenish the earth
- God confused their language because of their disobedience

Sons of Noah

Japheth



Sons of Noah

Shem, Ham, Japheth

- **JAPHETH**
 - Remote from the Bible story
 - Ararat marked the approximate southern boundary
 - Moved north of the Caspian Sea and Black Sea to the edge of modern day Russia
 - Moved west into the northern half of Asia Minor into Greece, Italy and to Spain

Sons of Noah

Shem, Ham, Japheth

- **JAPHETH**
 - Probably had the island of Cyprus also
 - To the east they formed the peoples later known as the Medes, the Persians, and the Parthians
 - Most of us would likely come through Japheth
 - European tribes developed from his descendants

Sons of Noah

Ham



Sons of Noah

Shem, Ham, Japheth

- **HAM**
 - Played an early role in the history of the Mesopotamian valley
 - Nimrod given credit for establishing a very early empire in Babylon that reached north to include Nineveh

Sons of Noah

Shem, Ham, Japheth

- **HAM**
 - Descendants moved to the southwest (Four of Sons)
 - **Cush** – Ethiopia
 - **Mizraim** – Egypt
 - **Phut** – Unknown
(possibly areas of Africa west of Egypt)
 - **Canaan** – Settled in the land of Canaan.
God later took away this land from Canaan and gave it to the Israelites (Shem)

Sons of Noah

Shem



THE
ANCIENT
WORLD

Sons of Noah

Shem, Ham, Japheth

- **SHEM**
 - Remained in the valley of Mesopotamia while others moved to Arabia
 - Elam, Assyria, Babylon are all of Semitic origin
 - City-states of Aram and the Arabian tribes all fit into this same family group

Sons of Noah

Shem, Ham, Japheth

- **SHEM**
 - Israelites, Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites are all small nations coming from Shem
 - We will study Shem's descendants more closely in future lessons since the Bible story deals with them the most

Descendants of Noah

Noah

Shem

Assyria
Elam
Chaldeans
Lydia
Aramaeans
Arabian Tribes
Israelites
Edomites
Moabites
Ammonites

Noah

Ham

Ethiopians
Egyptians
Lybyans
Canaanites
Sidon
Heth (Hittites)
Jebusites
Amorites
Giragasites
Hivites
Southern Arabians
Early Babylonians
Philistines

Noah

Japheth

Javan
Greece
Italy
Spain
Cyprus
Medes
Persians
Parthians

Early History of Nations

- As time passed, the population was no longer divided according to which son of Noah was the ancestor
 - Distinct nations arose which fought against their neighbors and took their territories

Early History of Nations

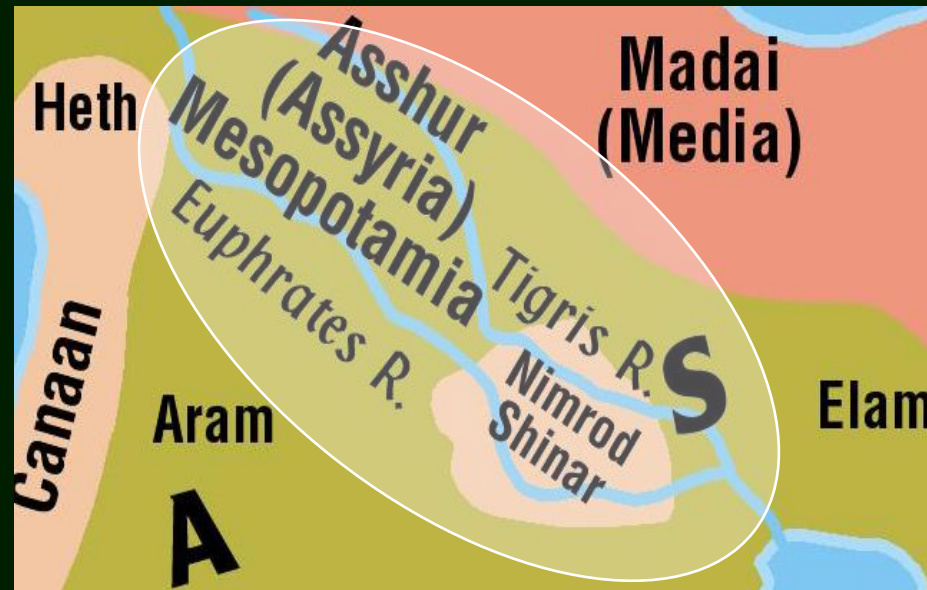
- The terms **Hamitic** (descendants of Ham) and **Semitic** (descendants of Shem) take on new connotations
 - Japheth's descendants moved in directions away from their brethren establishing their own culture and language
 - Most of Ham's descendants moved into Africa and developed their own culture and language

Early History of Nations

- Notice now – a mixing of peoples between the Zagros Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea
 - As one tribe subdued another and as they lived close together, they absorbed many of the same cultural and language patterns

A Diverse Group of People

- Languages were related – now called Semitic in contrast to the Hamitic people of Africa
 - Semitic refers to the common patterns in their languages and life rather than blood lines



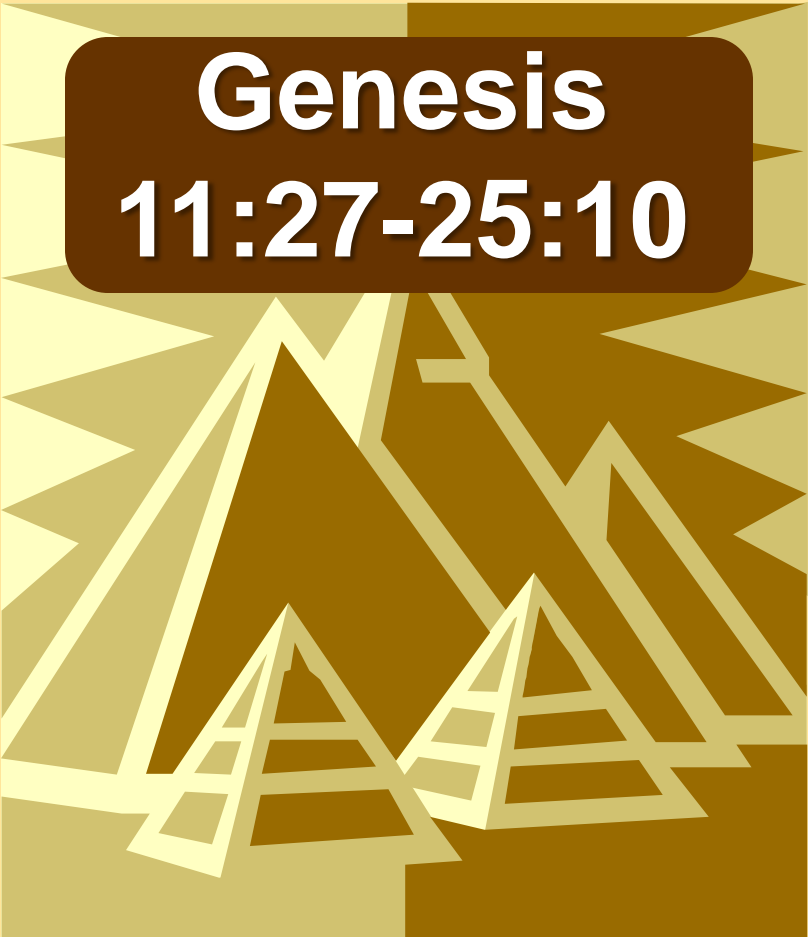
A Diverse Group of People

The Providence of God:

We must have faith in the providence of God to believe that He fulfilled His promises. The particular descendants of Ham that God intended to be cursed were cursed!

Promises To Abraham

- Many people were in existence by 2,000 B.C.
- Nations had already risen and fallen
- Pyramids had already been built
 - Egypt was being ruled by its twelfth dynasty

An illustration of several pyramids in shades of brown and gold, set against a background of radiating lines. A dark brown rounded rectangle is overlaid on the top of the pyramids, containing white text.

Genesis
11:27-25:10

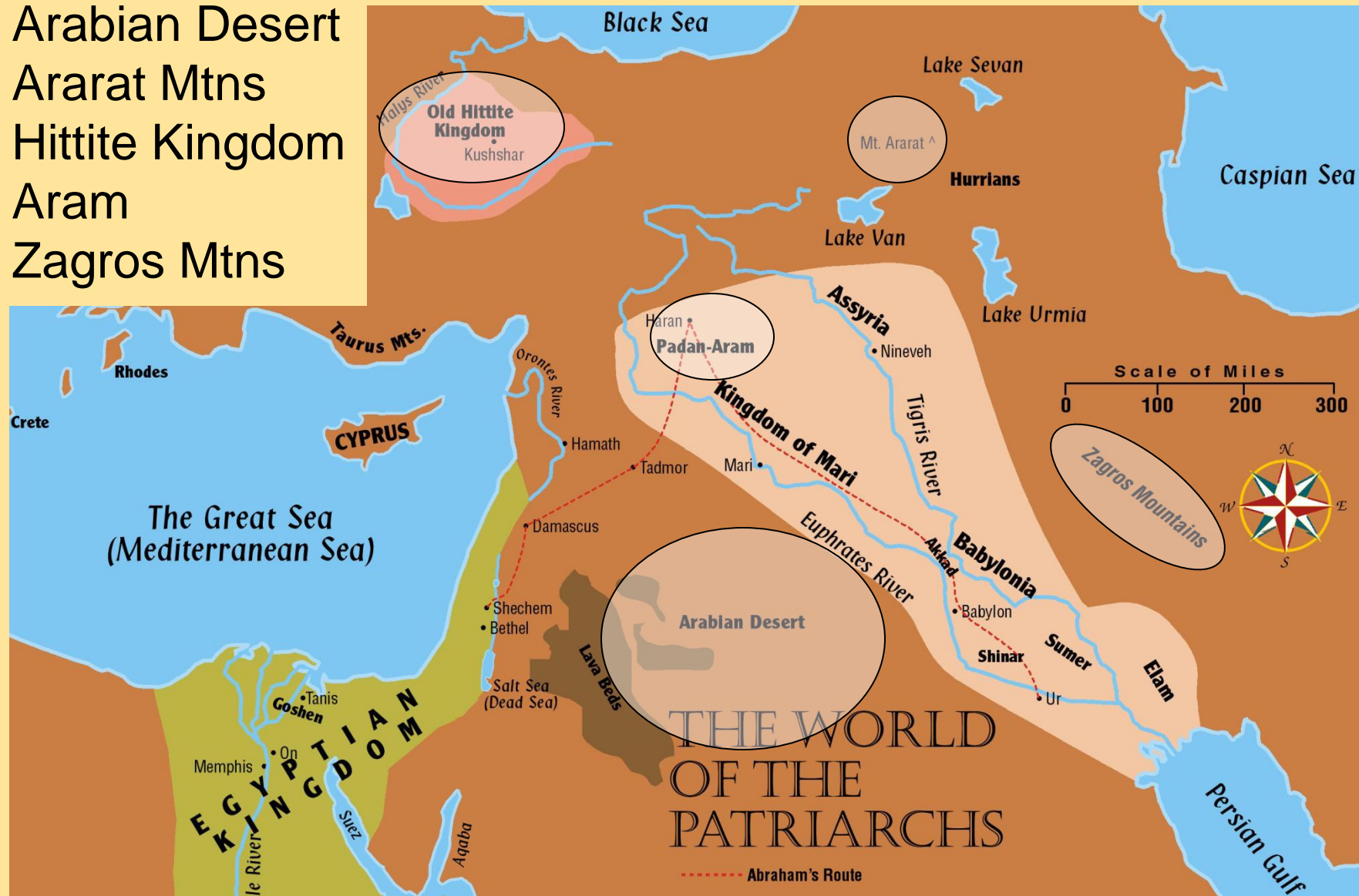
Note the following places:

- Sumer
- Elam
- Akkad
- Babylonia
- Egypt
- Canaan
- Mari
- Nineveh



Note the following places:

Arabian Desert
Ararat Mtns
Hittite Kingdom
Aram
Zagros Mtns



Abraham – Called to Serve

- Since Creation God blessed the righteous and showed disfavor to the wicked
- God chose one man to fulfill His purpose
 - He called Abram, later called Abraham and told him to leave his family and to go to a new land
 - Abraham (Genesis 17:5)
 - Go to a new land (Genesis 12:1)

Genesis 17:5

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.



Genesis 12:1

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a



Abraham – Called to Serve

- Ur of the Chaldeans
 - A city state of Sumer in the Mesopotamia Valley
 - He left his home in obedience to God (Hebrews 11:8-10)
 - Traveled approximately 600 miles until he reached Haran
 - Abraham's brother, Nahor, settled there permanently

Abraham – To Canaan

- Exact route that Abraham took from Haran to Canaan is uncertain
 - Probably traveled the trade routes of the day
 - At Damascus he had at least three choices

Abraham – To Canaan

- Probably took the King's Highway on the eastern side of the Jordan River.
- Most logical because his first camping place in the land was at Shechem located in the center of the land
- Most likely he moved south from Damascus until he reached the Jabbok River and then turning west and crossing the Jordan on to Shechem

Three Promises:

✓ Nation

✓ Land

✓ One who would bless all nations

Genesis 22:1-18
Hebrews 11:17-19



The entire remaining portion of the Bible is the story of the fulfillment of these three promises:

“the nation, the land, and the One who would bless all nations”

- Land was inhabited by a group of tribes called the Canaanites or the Amorites (Genesis 10:6,15-19)
 - They worshiped the gods of fertility called **Baal** with his female counterpart **Ashtaroth**

The entire remaining portion of the Bible is the story of the fulfillment of these three promises:

“the nation, the land, and the One who would bless all nations”

- Abraham’s wealth consisted largely of cattle and sheep
 - Would move up and down the land

Abraham

- From Shechem, he moved between Bethel and Ai (12:8)
- He then moved farther south camping on the edge of the Negeb (12:9)
- A famine came in the land and Abraham went to Egypt (12:10), then later returned to Bethel

