

The Death of Noah (2168 BC)

Genesis 9:28–29

28 And Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood.
29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.

Toledot of Terah (2166 BC)

Genesis 11:27–30

27 Now these are the generations of Terah.

Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran fathered Lot.

28 And Haran died in the presence of Terah his father in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.
29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of the wife of Abram *was* Sarai, and the name of the wife of Nahor *was* Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah.
30 And Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Joshua 24:2

2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel: ‘Long ago your ancestors—
Terah the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor—
lived beyond the river, and they served other gods.

God Calls Abraham in Ur (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:1

1 And Yahweh said to Abram, “Go out from your land and from your relatives, and from the house of your father, to the land that I will show you. [\[Heb 11:8\]](#)

Acts 7:2–3

2 So he said, “Men—brothers and fathers—listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham *while he was* in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran,
3 and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your relatives and come to the land that I will show you.’

The Abrahamic Covenant (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:2–3

2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great. And you will be a blessing.
3 And I will bless those who bless you, and those who curse you I will curse. And all families of the earth will be blessed in you.”

Abraham Moves From Ur to Haran (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 11:31–32

31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot, the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, the wife of Abram his son, and went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan.
And they went to Haran, and they settled there.
32 And the days of Terah *were* two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

Acts 7:4

4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans
and settled in Haran.

And from there, after his father died,
he caused him to move to this land in which you now live.

Abraham Moves From Haran to Canaan (2091 BC)

Genesis 12:4–9

4 And Abram went *out* as Yahweh had told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out from Haran.
5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and all the persons that they

had acquired in Haran, and they went out to go to the land of Canaan. And they went to the land of Canaan.

6 And Abram traveled through the land up to the place of Shechem, to the Oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites *were* in the land at that time.

7 And Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” And he built an altar there to Yahweh, who had appeared to him.

8 And he moved on from there to the hill country, east of Bethel. And he pitched his tent at Bethel on the west, and at Ai on the east. And he built an altar there to Yahweh. And he called on the name of Yahweh.

9 And Abram kept moving on, toward the Negev. [[Heb 11:9–10](#)]

Abraham Travels to Egypt to Avoid a Famine (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 12:10–20

10 And there was a famine in the land. And Abram went down to Egypt to dwell as an alien there, for the famine was severe in the land.

11 And it happened *that* as he drew near to enter into Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “Look now, I know that you are a woman beautiful of appearance,

12 and it shall happen *that*, if the Egyptians see you, then they will say, ‘This *is* his wife,’ then they will kill me but let you live.

13 Please say you are my sister so that it will go well for me on your account. Then I will live on account of you.”

14 And it happened *that* as Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw the woman, that she *was* very beautiful.

15 And the officials of Pharaoh saw her, and they praised her *beauty* to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to the house of Pharaoh.

16 And he dealt well with Abram on account of her, and he had sheep, cattle, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

17 Then Yahweh afflicted Pharaoh and his household with severe plagues on account of the matter of Sarai the wife of Abram.

18 Then Pharaoh called for Abram and said, “What *is* this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she *was* your wife?

19 Why did you say ‘She *is* my sister,’ so that I took her to myself as a wife? Now then, here *is* your wife. Take her and go.”

20 And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him, and then sent him and his wife and all that *was* with him away.

Abraham and Lot Separate (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 13

1 Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that *was* with him. And Lot *went* with him to the Negev.

2 Now Abram *was* very wealthy in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went according to his journey from the Negev, then to Bethel, to the place where his tent was at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

4 to the place where he had made an altar at the beginning. And Abram called on the name of Yahweh there.

5 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had herds and tents.

6 And the land could not support them *so as* to live together, because their possessions were *so* many that they were not able to live together.

7 And there was a quarrel between the herdsmen of the livestock of Abram and the herdsmen of the livestock of Lot. Now at that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land.

8 Then Abram said to Lot, “Please, let there not be quarreling between me and you, and between my shepherds and your shepherds, for we men *are* brothers.

9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If *you want what is on* the left, then I will go right; if *you want what is on* the right, I will go left.”

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw the whole plain of the Jordan, that all of it *was* well-watered land—*this was* before Yahweh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of Yahweh, like the land of Egypt in the direction of Zoar.

11 So Lot chose for himself all the plain of the Jordan. And Lot journeyed from the east, and so they separated from each other.

12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot settled in the cities of the plain. And he pitched his tent toward Sodom.

13 Now the men of Sodom were extremely wicked sinners against Yahweh.

14 And Yahweh said to Abram after Lot had separated from him, “Now, lift up your eyes and look from the place where you *are* to the north, and to the south, and to the east and to the west,

15 for all the land which you see I will give to you, and to your descendants, forever.

16 I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth which, if anyone were able to count the dust of the earth, your descendants would be *so* counted.

17 Arise, go through the length of the land and through its breadth, for I will give it to you.”

18 So Abram pitched his tent, and he came and settled at the oaks of Mamre, which *were* at Hebron. And there he built an altar to Yahweh.

Abraham Rescues Lot (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:1–17

1 And it happened *that* in the days of Amraphel, the king of Shinar, Arioch, the king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer, the king of Elam, and Tidal, the king of Goiim,
 2 made war with Bera, the king of Sodom, and Birsha, the king of Gomorrah, Shinab, the king of Admah, and Shemeber, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that *is*, Zoar).
 3 All these joined forces at the valley of Siddim (that *is*, the sea of the salt).
 4 Twelve years they had served Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.
 5 In the fourteenth year Kedorlaomer and the kings who *were* with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-Karnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shaveh-Kiriathaim,
 6 And the Horites in their hill country of Seir, as far as El-Paran, which is at the wilderness.
 7 Then they turned back and came to En-Mishpat (that *is*, Kadesh). And they defeated the whole territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were living in Hazazon-Tamar.
 8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that *is*, Zoar) went out, and they took up battle position in the Valley of Siddim
 9 with Kedorlaomer, king of Elam, and Tidal, king of Goiim, and Amraphel, king of Shinar, and Arioch, king of Ellasar, four kings against five.
 10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. And the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled and fell into them, but the rest fled to the mountains.
 11 So they took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their provisions, and they left.
 12 And they took Lot, the son of the brother of Abram, and his possessions, and left. (Now he had been living in Sodom.)
 13 Then one who escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew. And he was living at the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner. They were allies with Abram.
 14 When Abram heard that his relative was taken captive, he summoned his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen *of them*, and he went in pursuit up to Dan.
 15 And he divided *his trained men* against them at night, he and his servants. And he defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, which *is* north of Damascus.
 16 And he brought back all the possessions. And he also brought back Lot, his relative, and his possessions, and the women and the people as well.
 17 After his return from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings who *were* with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that *is*, the Valley of the King).

Melchizedek Blesses Abraham (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:18–24

Hebrews 7:1–4

18 And Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. (He was the priest of God Most High).
 19 And he blessed him and said,
 “Blessed *be* Abram by God Most High,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
 20 And blessed *be* God Most High
 who delivered your enemies into your hand.”
 And he gave to him a tenth of everything.
 21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people, but the possessions take for yourself.”
 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand to Yahweh, God Most High, Maker of heaven and earth,
 23 that neither a thread nor a thong of a sandal would I take

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham as *he* was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth of everything—in the first place, *his name* is translated “king of righteousness,” and then also “king of Salem,” that is, “king of peace”;
 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God—he remains a priest for all time.
 4 But see how great this man *was*, to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth from the spoils!

<p>from all that <i>belongs</i> to you, that you might not say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ 24 Nothing besides what the servants have eaten and the share of the men who went out with me <i>will I take</i>. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.”</p>	
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Chronological Notes

- 1) The account of Noah’s death concludes the Toledot of Adam and provides a literary bridge to the Toledot of his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth (Gen 10). However, chronological reckoning puts Noah’s death at 2168—just 2 years before the birth of Abraham in 2166. For this reason, Noah’s death has been placed just before the Toledot of Terah.
- 2) Patriarchal Chronology.¹
 - A) There are two well-established anchor points for Old Testament chronology: Solomon’s reign from 971t–932t, and the exodus from Egypt in Nisan 1446 BC. From these two anchor points we can reconstruct a chronology of OT events from Abraham to the end of the post-exilic period.²
 - B) The chronology of Israel’s patriarchs is relatively easy to establish once the date of the exodus is known.³ Jacob and his family entered Egypt 430 years to the day before the exodus (Exod 12:40–41). Therefore, Jacob entered Egypt on 14 Nisan 1876 BC (1446 + 430). Jacob was 130 years old when he entered Egypt (Gen 47:9), so he was born in 2006 BC (1876 + 130). Isaac was 60 when Jacob was born (Gen 25:26), so Isaac was born in 2066 BC. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Gen 21:5), so Abraham was born in 2166 BC.⁴
- 3) Stephen’s sermon in Acts 7 (esp. 7:2) confirms that God’s call to Abraham first came while Abraham still lived in Ur (before the move to Haran). Thus Genesis 12:1–3 should be placed before Genesis 11:31–32.
- 4) Abraham in Egypt.⁵
 - A) Abram’s visit to Egypt occurred toward the end of the First Intermediate Period, probably during the Tenth or Eleventh Dynasty. Since Abram arrived in Canaan about 2091 BC and went to Egypt not much later, the king to whom he lied about Sarai, his wife, was most likely Wahkare Achthoes III (ca. 2120–2070) of the Tenth Dynasty, the possible composer of the famous “Instruction for King Meri-ka-Re.” This work of advice for his son concerning the treachery of the “Asiatics” may well be related in some way to Abram’s duplicity.

¹ Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, (Concordia Publishing House, 2011), pp. 67–80.

² Steinmann, 37–65.

³ For earlier discussions of the chronology of this period see Eugene H. Merrill, “Fixed Dates in Patriarchal Chronology,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 137:547 (July 1980), 242–248, and Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, Rev. Ed., (Hendrickson Publishers, 1998), 197–224.

⁴ Steinmann, 37.

⁵ Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*, Second Edition, (Baker Publishing, 2008), 51.