

### The Death of Noah (2168 BC)

Genesis 9:28–29

28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.  
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

Joshua 24:2

27 Now these *are* the generations of Terah:

Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran;  
and Haran begat Lot.

28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife *was* Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

30 But Sarai was barren; she *had* no child.

2 And Joshua said unto all the people,  
Thus saith the LORD God of Israel,  
Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time,  
*even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor:

and they served other gods.

### God Calls Abraham in Ur (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:1

Acts 7:2–3

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram,  
Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred,  
and from thy father's house,  
unto a land that I will shew thee: [\[Heb 11:8\]](#)

2 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken;  
The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham,  
when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,  
3 And said unto him,  
Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred,  
and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

### The Abrahamic Covenant (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:2–3

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:  
3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

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

Genesis 11:31–32

Acts 7:4

31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.  
32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans,  
and dwelt in Charran:  
and from thence, when his father was dead,  
he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

### Abraham Moves From Haran to Canaan (2091 BC)

Genesis 12:4–9

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.  
 6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite *was* then in the land.  
 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.  
 8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, *having* Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.  
 9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. [[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 into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine *was* grievous in the land.  
 11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou *art* a fair woman to look upon:  
 12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This *is* his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.  
 13 Say, I pray thee, thou *art* my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.  
 14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she *was* very fair.  
 15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.  
 16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.  
 17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.  
 18 And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What *is* this *that* thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she *was* thy wife?  
 19 Why saidst thou, She *is* my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take *her*, and go thy way.  
 20 And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

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

Genesis 13

1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.  
 2 And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.  
 3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;  
 4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.  
 5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.  
 6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.  
 7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.  
 8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren.  
 9 *Is* not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left.  
 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.  
 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.  
 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom.  
 13 But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.  
 14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:  
 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.  
 16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.  
 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.  
 18 Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which *is* in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

### Abraham Rescues Lot (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:1–17

1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations;

2 *That these* made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.

3 All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea.

4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

5 And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that *were* with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

6 And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which *is* by the wilderness.

7 And they returned, and came to Enmishpat, which *is* Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar.

8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same *is* Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim;

9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five.

10 And the vale of Siddim *was full of* slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.

11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.

12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* confederate with Abram.

14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan.

15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus.

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's dale.

### Melchizedek Blesses Abraham (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:18–24

Hebrews 7:1–4

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

23 That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoe-latchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldst say, I have made Abram rich:

1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;  
3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.  
4 Now consider how great this man *was*, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.	
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*Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.*

### **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.<sup>1</sup>
  - 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.<sup>2</sup>
  - B) The chronology of Israel’s patriarchs is relatively easy to establish once the date of the exodus is known.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.<sup>5</sup>
  - 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> Steinmann, 37–65.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Steinmann, 37.

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