

The Death of Noah (2168 BC)

Genesis 9:28–29

28 Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood.
29 So 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 records of* the generations of Terah.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran;
and Haran became the father of Lot.

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

Joshua 24:2

2 Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of
Israel, ‘From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River,
namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor,

and they served other gods.

God Calls Abraham in Ur (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:1

1 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; [\[Heb 11:8\]](#)

Acts 7:2–3

2 And he said, “Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory
appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia,
before he lived in Haran,
3 and said to him,

‘LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY
AND YOUR RELATIVES,

AND COME INTO 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 make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
3 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.”

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

Genesis 11:31–32

31 Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his
grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife;
and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to
enter the land of Canaan;
and they went as far as Haran, and settled there.
32 The days of Terah were two hundred and five years;
and Terah died in Haran.

Acts 7:4

4 “Then he left the land of the Chaldeans
and settled in Haran.

From there, after his father died,
God had him move to this country in which you are now living.

Abraham Moves From Haran to Canaan (2091 BC)

Genesis 12:4–9

- 4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.
- 5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.
- 6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite *was* then in the land.
- 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.
- 8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.
- 9 Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev. [[Heb 11:9–10](#)]

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

Genesis 12:10–20

- 10 Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.
- 11 It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you."
- 14 It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.
- 15 Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.
- 16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.
- 17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.
- 18 Then Pharaoh called 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 for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go."
- 20 Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

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

Genesis 13

- 1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.
- 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.
- 3 He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,
- 4 to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.
- 5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.
- 6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.
- 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.
- 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if *to* the left, then I will go to the right; or if *to* the right, then I will go to the left."
- 10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—*this was* before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.
- 11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.
- 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.
- 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.
- 14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; 15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. 16 I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Abraham Rescues Lot (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:1–17

1 And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,
 2 *that* they 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 (that is, Zoar).
 3 All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).
 4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled.
 5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that 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 Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness.
 7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-tamar.
 8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they arrayed for battle against them in the valley of Siddim,
 9 against Chedorlaomer 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 they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country.
 11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed.
 12 They also took Lot, Abram’s nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.
 13 Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.
 14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
 15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.
 16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.
 17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

Melchizedek Blesses Abraham (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:18–24

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.
 19 He blessed him and said,
 “Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
 Possessor of heaven and earth;
 20 And blessed be God Most High,
 Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”
 He gave him a tenth of all.
 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram,
 “Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself.”

Hebrews 7:1–4

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 part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation of *his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.
 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.
 4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.

<p>22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ 24 I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them 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.