

The Death of Noah (2168 BC)

Genesis 9:28–29

28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years.
29 The entire lifetime of Noah was 950 years, and then he died.

Toledot of Terah (2166 BC)

Genesis 11:27–30

Joshua 24:2

27 This is the account of Terah.

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

28 Haran died in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans,
while his father Terah was still alive.
29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name
of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was
Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah
and Iscah.
30 But Sarai was barren; she had no children.

2 Joshua told all the people,
"Here is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'In the distant past
your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River,
including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor.

They worshiped other gods,

God Calls Abraham in Ur (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:1

Acts 7:2–3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go out from your country,
your relatives, and your father's household
to the land that I will show you. [[Heb 11:8](#)]

2 So he replied, "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of
glory appeared to our forefather Abraham when he was in
Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran,
3 and said to him, 'Go out from your country
and from your relatives,
and come to the land I will show you.'

The Abrahamic Covenant (c. 2100 BC)

Genesis 12:2–3

2 Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you,
and I will make your name great,
so that you will exemplify divine blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you,
but the one who treats you lightly I must curse,
and all the families of the earth will [be blessed in you (or through you)]."

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

Genesis 11:31–32

Acts 7:4

31 Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (the son of
Haran), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and
with them he set out from Ur of the Chaldeans
to go to Canaan.
When they came to Haran, they settled there.
32 The lifetime of Terah was 205 years, and he died in Haran.

4 Then he went out from the country of the Chaldeans
and settled in Haran.
After his father died,
God made him move to this country where you now live.

Abraham Moves From Haran to Canaan (2091 BC)

Genesis 12:4–9

- 4 So Abram left, just as the LORD had told him to do, and Lot went with him. (Now Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran.)
- 5 And Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they left for the land of Canaan. They entered the land of Canaan.
- 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the oak tree of Moreh at Shechem. (At that time the Canaanites were in the land.)
- 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.
- 8 Then he moved from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshiped the LORD.
- 9 Abram continually journeyed by stages down to the Negev. [[Heb 11:9–10](#)]

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

Genesis 12:10–20

- 10 There was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to stay for a while because the famine was severe.
- 11 As he approached Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "Look, I know that you are a beautiful woman.
- 12 When the Egyptians see you they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will keep you alive.
- 13 So tell them you are my sister so that it may go well for me because of you and my life will be spared on account of you."
- 14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.
- 15 When Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. So Abram's wife was taken into the household of Pharaoh,
- 16 and he did treat Abram well on account of her. Abram received sheep and cattle, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.
- 17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with severe diseases because of Sarai, Abram's wife.
- 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife?
- 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Here is your wife! Take her and go!"
- 20 Pharaoh gave his men orders about Abram, and so they expelled him, along with his wife and all his possessions.

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

Genesis 13

- 1 So Abram went up from Egypt into the Negev. He took his wife and all his possessions with him, as well as Lot.
- 2 (Now Abram was very wealthy in livestock, silver, and gold.)
- 3 And he journeyed from place to place from the Negev as far as Bethel. He returned to the place where he had pitched his tent at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai.
- 4 This was the place where he had first built the altar, and there Abram worshiped the LORD.
- 5 Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents.
- 6 But the land could not support them while they were living side by side. Because their possessions were so great, they were not able to live alongside one another.
- 7 So there were quarrels between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. (Now the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time.)
- 8 Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no quarreling between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are close relatives.
- 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself now from me. If you go to the left, then I'll go to the right, but if you go to the right, then I'll go to the left."
- 10 Lot looked up and saw the whole region of the Jordan. He noticed that all of it was well-watered (before the LORD obliterated Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, all the way to Zoar.
- 11 Lot chose for himself the whole region of the Jordan and traveled toward the east. So the relatives separated from each other.
- 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, but Lot settled among the cities of the Jordan plain and pitched his tents next to Sodom.
- 13 (Now the people of Sodom were extremely wicked rebels against the LORD.)
- 14 After Lot had departed, the LORD said to Abram, "Look from the place where you stand to the north, south, east, and west.
- 15 I will give all the land that you see to you and your descendants forever.
- 16 And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone is able to count the dust of the earth, then your descendants also can be counted.
- 17 Get up and walk throughout the land, for I will give it to you."
- 18 So Abram moved his tents and went to live by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron, and he built an altar to the LORD there.

Abraham Rescues Lot (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:1–17

1 At that time Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations
 2 went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).
 3 These last five kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).
 4 For twelve years they had served Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.
 5 In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings who were his allies came and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim,
 6 and the Horites in their hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is near the desert.
 7 Then they attacked En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh) again, and they conquered all the territory of the Amalekites, as well as 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 prepared for battle. In the Valley of Siddim they met
 9 Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar. Four kings fought against five.
 10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into them, but some survivors fled to the hills.
 11 The four victorious kings took all the possessions and food of Sodom and Gomorrah and left.
 12 They also took Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions when they left, for Lot was living in Sodom.
 13 A fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and Aner. (All these were allied by treaty with Abram.)
 14 When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he mobilized his 318 trained men who had been born in his household, and he pursued the invaders as far as Dan.
 15 Then, during the night, Abram divided his forces against them and defeated them. He chased them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.
 16 He retrieved all the stolen property. He also brought back his nephew Lot and his possessions, as well as the women and the rest of the people.
 17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh (known as the King's Valley).

Melchizedek Blesses Abraham (2091 – c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 14:18–24

Hebrews 7:1–4

18 Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine.
 (Now he was the priest of the Most High God.)

19 He blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by the Most High God,
 Creator of heaven and earth.

20 Worthy of praise is the Most High God,
 who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

21 Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and take the possessions for yourself.”

22 But Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I raise my hand to the LORD, the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth, and vow

23 that I will take nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal. That way you can never say, ‘It is I who

1 Now this Melchizedek, king of Salem,
 priest of the most high God,
 met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and
 blessed him.

2 To him also Abraham apportioned a tithe of everything.
 His name first means king of righteousness,
 then king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, he has
 neither beginning of days nor end of life but is like the son of
 God, and he remains a priest for all time.

4 But see how great he must be, if Abraham the patriarch gave
 him a tithe of his plunder.

made Abram rich.’ 24 I will take nothing except compensation for what the young men have eaten. As for the share of the men who went with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre—let them take their share.”	
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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.