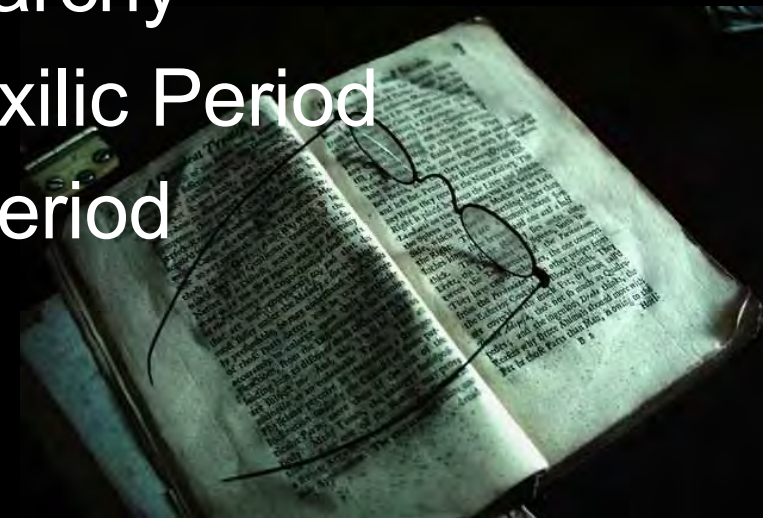
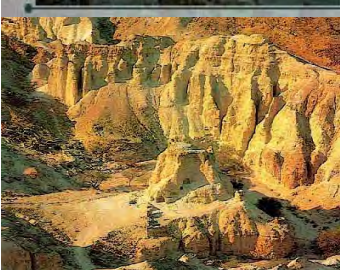




# ***Ammonites***

# Outline

1. Origin of the Ammonites
2. Political & Economic Development
3. Religious Profile
4. Dealings with Israel
  - Exodus to Pre-monarchy
  - Monarchy to Post-exilic Period
  - Inter-Testamental Period
5. Faith Lessons



What is this event in the Bible?



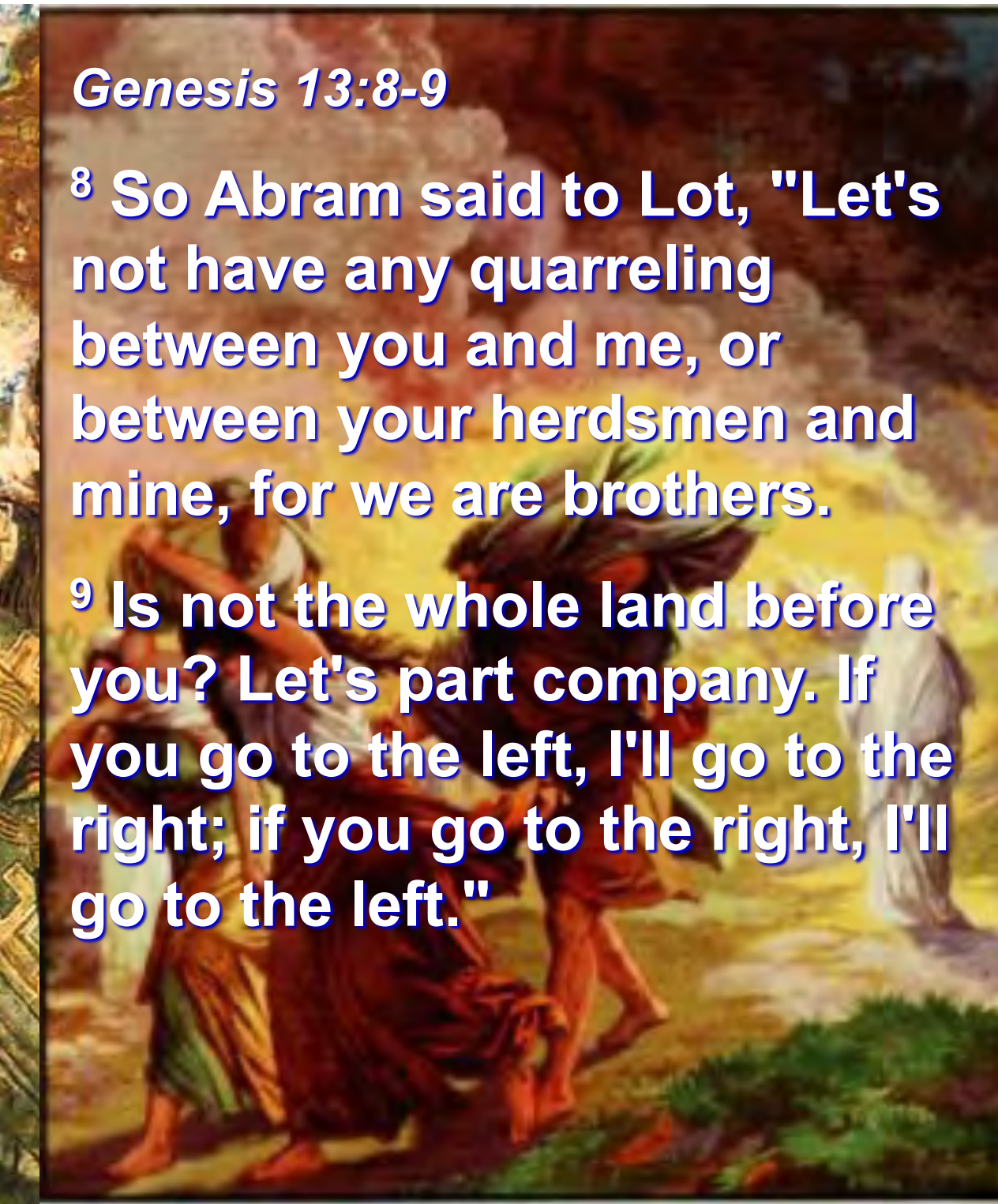
Who are they?



*Genesis 13:8-9*

<sup>8</sup> So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers.

<sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."





is

my name is  
Ben-Ammi

## Genesis 19:36-38

<sup>36</sup> So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

<sup>37</sup> The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab, he is the father of the Moabites today.

<sup>38</sup> The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him **Ben-Ammi**; he is the father of the **Ammonites** of today.

# 1. Origin of Ammonites

- Descendants of **Ben-Ammi**
- He was the son of **Lot** and **his younger daughter** (Gen. 19:38)
- Place of birth: **Near Zoar**
- Birthday: Shortly after Sodom was destroyed (2000 BC)

**Mediterranean Sea**

**Canaan**

**Hebron**



**Sodom**



**Zoar**



# Israel's Early Eastern Neighbors

100b

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 71

| Period | EDOM   | MOAB   | AMMON  | AMALEK  |
|--------|--|--|--|---|
| FATHER | Esau: son of Isaac   | Moab: son of Lot and his eldest daughter   | Ben-Ammi: son of Lot and his second daughter | Amalek: son of Eliphaz, who was a son of Esau   |
| EXODUS | Controlled to some degree by Amorites. Refused passage to the Israelites (Num 20:14-21). | Conquered by Sihon & Amorites (Num. 21:26). King Balak feared Israel and sought Balaam to curse them (Num 22). |  | Defeated by the Israel (Exod. 17). Defeated Israel after report by spies (Num 14:45). |

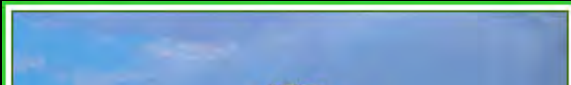
# Israel's Early Eastern Neighbors

100b

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 71

| Period                 | EDOM   | MOAB  | AMMON  | AMALEK   |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>JUDGES</b>          | Continued under partial Amorite control (1350 BC; Judg 1:35-36).   | Eglon hurt Israel 18 yrs. until Ehud (1350 BC; Judg 3:12-30)  | Ally of Eglon of Moab (1350 BC); Hurt Israel until Jephthah (1100 BC; Judg 10-12).   | Ally of Eglon of Moab (1350 BC)  |
| <b>UNITED MONARCHY</b> | Saul took some cities from Edom (1030 BC; 1 Sam 14:47).<br>Conquered and subjugated by David (1000 BC; 1 Chron 18:12). | Saul took some cities from Moabite territory (1030 BC; 1 Sam 14:47).<br>Conquered and subjugated by David (1000 BC; 2 Sam 8:2). | Saul defeated Nahash (1050 BC; 1 Sam 11:1-11) & took some Ammonite cities (1030 BC; 1 Sam 14:47);<br>David defeated Hanun (990 BC; 2 Sam 12:26-31) | Saul defeated Agag (1050 BC; 1 Sam 15:1-9);<br>Destroyed David's camp at Ziklag but David wiped them out. This is last mention of them (1 Sam 30). |

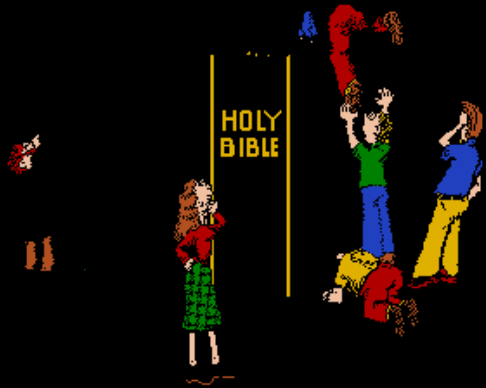
# Sodom and Zoar Today



# What does the Bible say about Lot?

"and if he rescued **Lot, a righteous man**, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard"  
(2 Pet. 2:7)





# Lessons from Lot

- He compromised his faith with the world by:
  - Moving his tent towards Sodom (Gen. 19:12)
  - Dwelling with the people in Sodom and becoming prominent in the city (Gen. 19:1, 9)
  - Offering his daughters to the mob to save angels (Gen. 19:8)
  - Refusing to stay in the small city of Zoar so that he shared a cave with his daughters (Gen. 19:30)



# How Lot Repeats Noah

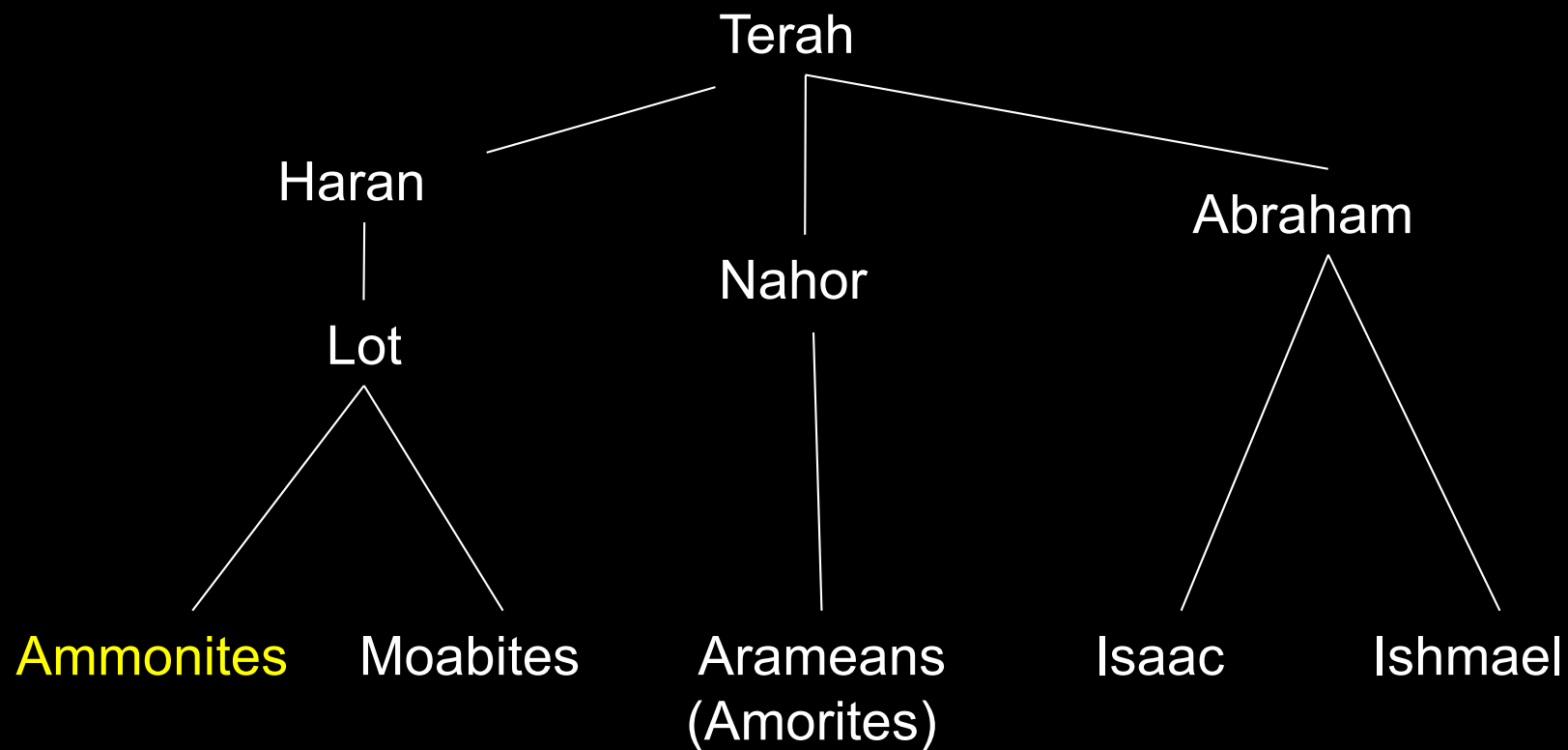
|  | <b>Noah</b>                                  | <b>Lot</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Righteous Man</b>                           | <b>Gen. 7:1</b>                              | <b>2 Pet. 2:7</b>  |
| <b>Only one family saved in God's judgment</b> | <b>Survived the Flood (Gen. 6–7)</b>         | <b>Survived the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19)</b>        |
| <b>Drunk after saved</b>                       | <b>Drunk and lay uncovered (Gen. 9:21)</b>   | <b>Two daughters' scheme (Gen. 19:31-35)</b>                           |
| <b>Mocked by his children</b>                  | <b>Nakedness was seen by Ham (Gen. 9:22)</b> | <b>Had sex with daughters twice without knowing it (Gen. 19:33-35)</b> |

# Name

- **"Ben-Ammi" means:**
  - Son of paternal clan
  - Son of my people
- **"Son of paternal clan" shows the remembrance of kinship between Israelites and Ammonites**
- **"Son of my people" depicted the intermarriage with Hebrews (2 Kings 14:21, 31; 2 Chron. 12:13)**

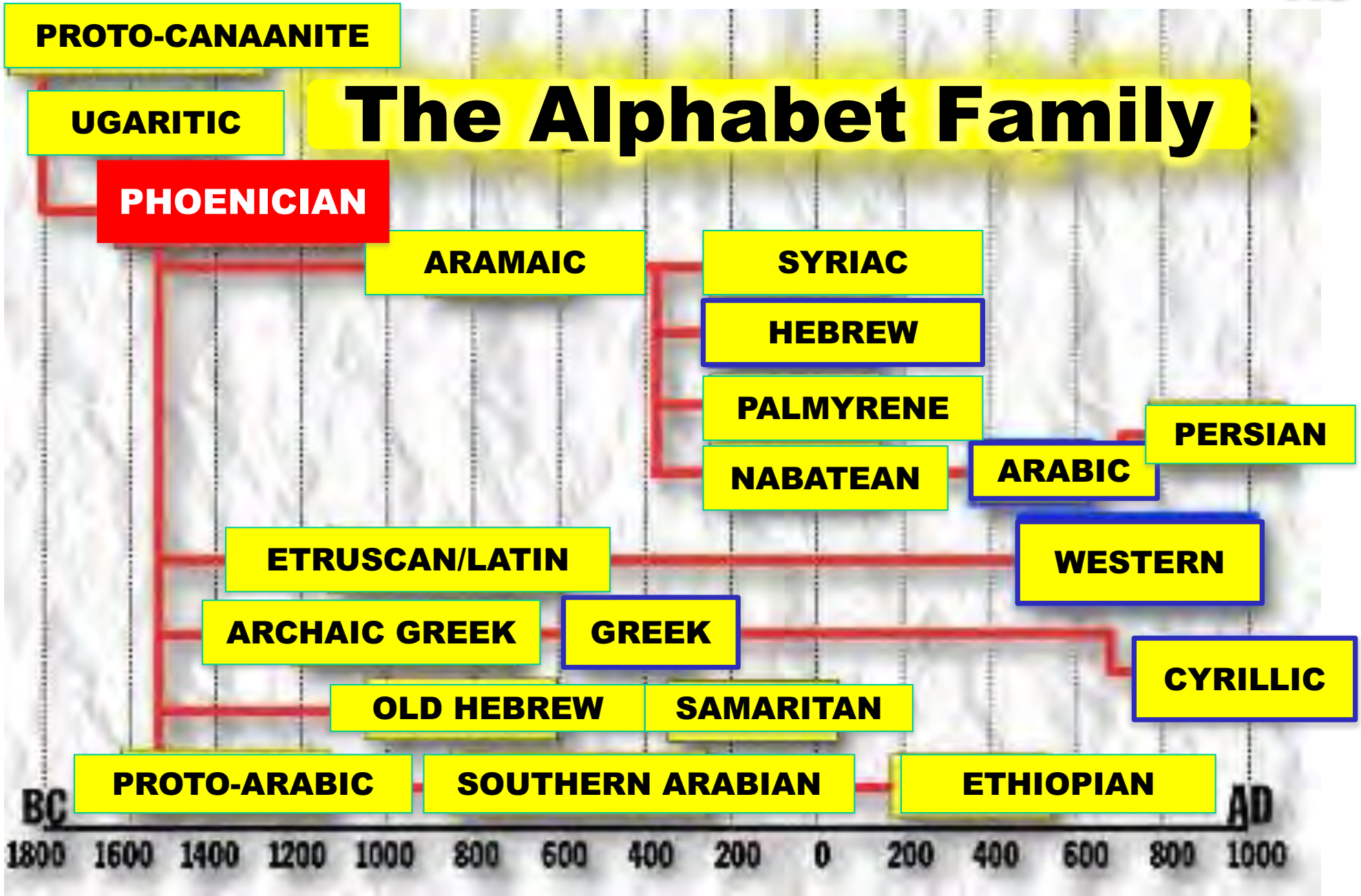
# Ethnic Background

Kinship with Israelites and Ammonites



# Languages

- The spoken language was closely related to Hebrew.
- The language was written in Old Canaanite-Phoenician script which could probably be understood by Israelites.
- The language was closely related to the Amorite languages.



| 腓尼基<br>Phoenician | 希臘<br>Greek | 發音<br>Sound |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 𐤀                 | Α           | ʔ           |
| 𐤁                 | Β           | b           |
| 𐤂                 | Γ           | g           |
| 𐤃                 | Δ           | d           |
| 𐤄                 | Ε           | h           |
| 𐤅                 | Ζ           | z           |
| 𐤆                 | Η           | h           |
| 𐤇                 | Θ           | t           |
| 𐤈                 | Ι           | j           |
| 𐤉                 | Κ           | k           |
| 𐤊                 | Λ           | l           |

| 腓尼基<br>Phoenician | 希臘<br>Greek | 發音<br>Sound |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 𐤍                 | Μ           | m           |
| 𐤎                 | Ν           | n           |
| 𐤏                 | Ξ           | s           |
| 𐤐                 | Ο           | o           |
| 𐤑                 | Π           | p           |
| 𐤒                 |             | s           |
| 𐤓                 | Φ           | q           |
| 𐤔                 | Ρ           | r           |
| 𐤕                 | Σ           | s           |
| 𐤖                 | Τ           | t           |
| 𐤗                 | Υ           | w           |

| Phoenician Numbers | Equivalent |                   |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 𐤀 \                | 1          | 1                 |
| 𐤁                  | 2          | 1 + 1             |
| 𐤂                  | 3          | 1 + 1 + 1         |
| 𐤃 𐤄 𐤅              | 4          | 1 + 1 + 1 + 1     |
| 𐤆 𐤇                | 5          | 3 + 2             |
| 𐤈 𐤉                | 6          | 3 + 3             |
| 𐤊 𐤋 𐤌 𐤍 𐤎          | 7          | 3 + 3 + 1         |
| 𐤏 𐤐 𐤑              | 8          | 3 + 3 + 2         |
| 𐤒 𐤓 𐤔              | 9          | 3 + 3 + 3         |
| 𐤕 𐤖 𐤗              | 10         | 10                |
| 𐤘                  | 11         | 10 + 1            |
| 𐤙 = 𐤚 = 𐤛 = 𐤜      | 20         | 20                |
| 𐤝 𐤞 𐤟 𐤠 𐤡          | 21         | 20 + 1            |
| 𐤢 𐤣 = 𐤤 = 𐤥        | 30         | 20 + 10           |
| 𐤦 = 𐤧 𐤨 𐤩          | 40         | 20 + 20           |
| 𐤪 𐤫 𐤬 𐤭 𐤮 𐤯        | 70         | 20 + 20 + 20 + 10 |
| 𐤰 𐤱 𐤲 𐤳 𐤴          | 80         | 20 + 20 + 20 + 20 |
| 𐤵 𐤶 𐤷 𐤸 𐤹          | 100        | 100               |
| 𐤺 𐤻                |            |                   |
| 𐤼 𐤽                | 200        | 2 + 100           |
| 𐤾 𐤿                | 300        | 2 + 100           |

# Phoenician Letters & Numbers





## 2. Political & Economic Development



**Modern  
Amman**

# Amman



- Built on seven hills
- One of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities
- Became Ammonite capital of **Rabbath-Ammon** by 1200 BC
- Renamed Philadelphia in 400 BC
- Philadelphia taken by Roman vassal King Herod in 30 BC
- Arabian armies of Islam took over around the year AD 635



# Salt

Salt (near Amman) is said to be the final resting place of **Job**. Also **Jethro**, the Midianite father-in-law of Moses, is said to be buried in a tomb near Salt in Wadi Shu'ayb.



Jordan River



# Extent of Ammonite Lands



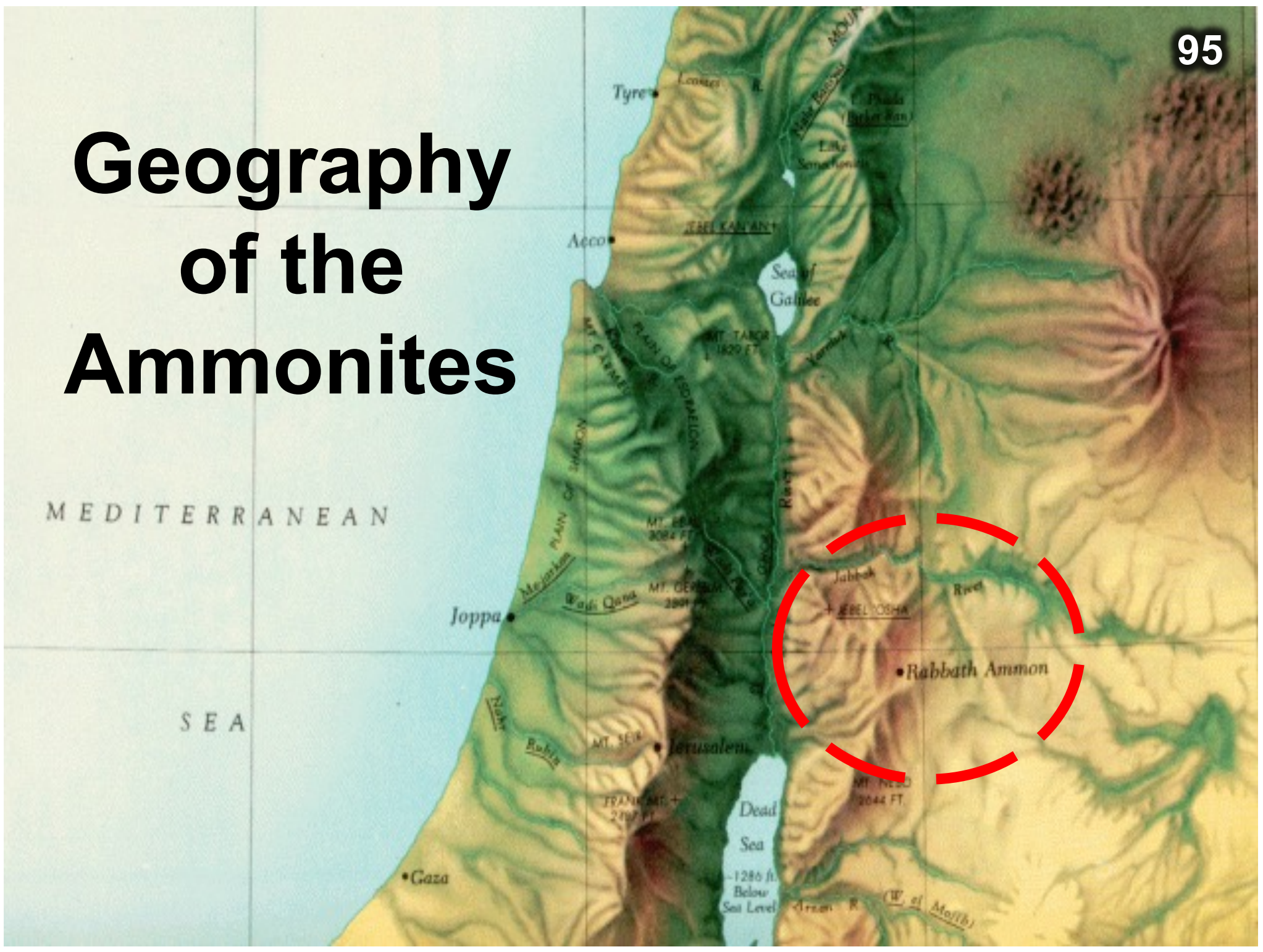
Dead Sea



Wilderness



# Geography of the Ammonites



## Pasture Lands



## Madaba Plains



# Madaba

- 30 km southwest of Amman, dates back at least 3500 years
- Moabite town of Medaba (Num. 21:30)
- Fought over by the Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, Israelites and other local kingdoms
- Conquered by the Ammonites by 165 BC, but it was taken from them by Hyrcanus I around 110 BC

**Wine  
Press**



## **Sixth Century BC Rural Complex**

**The rural complex of a building, a perimeter wall, agricultural terraces, a reservoir, several cisterns, and several winepresses. It reflects a certain degree of social stratification and bureaucracy in the Ammonite vineyards of the Late Iron Age.**



**A regional survey has discovered well over one hundred sites, ranging from roads and winepresses to lime kilns, farmsteads, watchtowers, forts, and cities. The discovery of cave dwellings with animal corrals from the last few centuries has helped us understand the way nomadic populations have lived in the region during times of urban growth and decline.**

**Private individuals constructed large buildings so they could live near their fields. They utilized them as well to process, store, and guard their harvests.**

## Discoveries



# The King's Highway

It was a major source of wealth in the later years of the Ammonite kingdom, especially under Assyrian rule.



# The King's Highway



- **Through the heart of Jordan**
- **Connects Madaba, Karak, Tafileh, Shobak and Petra**
- **The King's Highway is the world's oldest continuously used communication route**
- **Moses requested Edom's king to allow his people to "travel along the king's highway and not turn to the right or to the left until we have passed through your territory" (Num. 20:17).**

# Known Ammonite Kings

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Nahash       | 10th century BC        |
| Hanum        | 10th century BC        |
| Ba'sha       | c. 853 BC              |
| Shanip       | c. 735 BC              |
| Pado'el      | c. 701 BC              |
| Barak-el     | c. 675 BC              |
| Amminadab I  | c. 650 BC              |
| Hissal'el    | c. 625 BC              |
| Amminadab II | c. 600 BC              |
| Ba'alis      | c. 580 BC (Jer. 40:14) |
| Milkomur     |                        |

# Location on the King's Highway



## **Nabateans in Petra Controlled the King's Highway**

**In the 6th century BC, a nomadic tribe known as the Nabateans migrated from western Arabia and settled in the area. As the Nabateans forsook a nomadic lifestyle, they settled in Petra and grew rich by levying taxes on travelers to ensure safe passage through their lands. From its origins as a fortress city, Petra became a wealthy commercial crossroads between the Arabian, Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures.**



# Seal of Ba'alis



The Babylonians made Gedaliah governor of Judah, who was murdered by an assassin sent by Ba'alis, King of the Ammonites (Jer. 40:13–41:2).

On the seal are three lines of script:

[Belonging to] Ba'alis

King of

B[nei Ammo]n



The script on this seal is typically Ammonite. The name Ba'alis means "Ba'al has saved," or "Ba'al is salvation." This seal impression, made by a high official of the king, reads "Milqom, servant of Ba'alis."

# The Amman Citadel Inscription



The Inscription was found the Citadel in ancient Rabbath-ammon. It is believed to be a building inscription, although some have suggested that it is an oracle or instruction from the god Milkom. The text contains a number of references to parts of buildings, but also has elements of a curse. The language of the Ammonites is closely related to Hebrew and ancient Phoenician, but the script they used is much closer to the script used for Aramaic at that time. It has been dated to the 9th century BC.

## Heshbon Ostraca #2 and #4

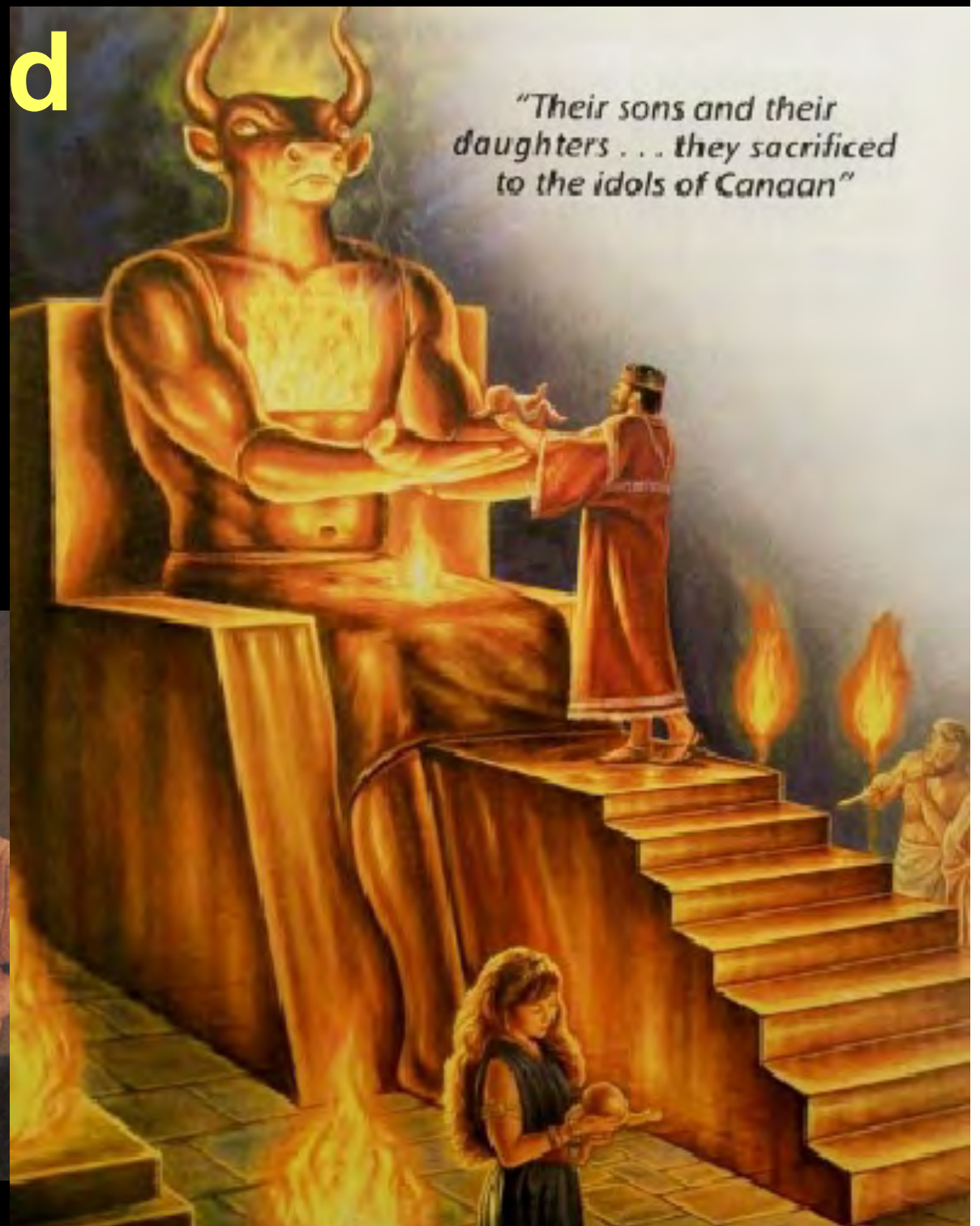


This text in Ammonite cursive script dates to the about 600 BC. The eleven-line inscription is an economic text listing amounts of grain, cattle, flour and wine, which could be a tax receipt.



Heshbon is mentioned a number of times in the Bible as a city belonging at various times to the Amorite king Sihon (Num. 21:26), to the Israelite tribes of Reuben (Num. 32:37) or Gad (Josh. 21:39), and to Moab (Isa. 15:4; Jer. 48:2). Excavations at the site have found Iron Age remains, including reservoirs, water conduits, cisterns, and a number of ostraca.

# Molech Child Sacrifice



# Religious Practices

- Their religion was a degrading, detestable and cruel superstition.
- The chief god Molech (also called Moloch or Milcom) was associated with death and the underworld.
- The probable Phoenician-Canaanite origin showed Baal worship practices. They may have worshipped other Canaanite gods – Baal, Chemosh, Ashtoreth.
- Worship involved offering human sacrifices.
- Moses warned the Israelites not to participate in worship of Molech and he prohibited them from offering their sons and daughters in the fire (*Lev. 18:21; 20:2-5; Deut. 12:31; 18:10-13*).

# Religious Practices

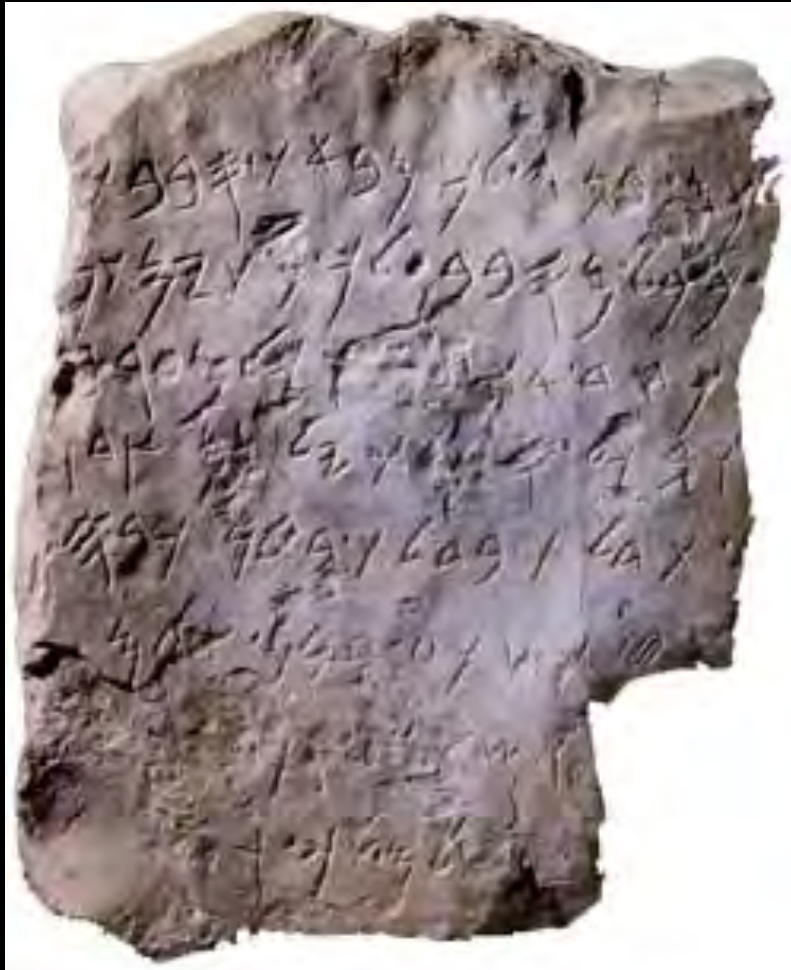
- **Israelites practiced Ammonite worship from the time of the judges until after the exile.**
- **Solomon gave their worship royal approval by marrying an Ammonite. He even built her a high place on the Mount of Olives.**
- **Passing a son/daughter through the fire can have two possible meanings – walking through fire or child sacrifice. The latter meaning is more likely. Both are still detestable to God.**

# Religious Practices

Ammonites depicted their gods with ram horns or nude



# Religious Practices



*Milkom, he has built for you  
the precinct entrances [ ]  
that all who threaten you  
shall surely die [ ] I shall  
surely obliterate, and all  
who enter [ ] and amidst all  
its columns the just will  
lodge [ ] there will hang  
from its doors an ornament  
[ ] will be offered within its  
portico [ ] peace to you and  
peace...*

# Religious Practices



**The Valley of Hinnom in southwest Jerusalem:**

**In Jeremiah's time, Israelites worshipped the pagan god Molech in rites that required child sacrifices (Jer. 19:1–9).**

## **Dealings with Israel – Exodus to Pre-Monarchy**

- **Moses taught the Israelites not to provoke the Ammonites to war as God had given the land as a possession to the descendants of Lot, who was Abraham's nephew and a righteous man.**
- **God destroyed the earlier inhabitants, giants called Zamzummites, and settled the Ammonites in their place.**

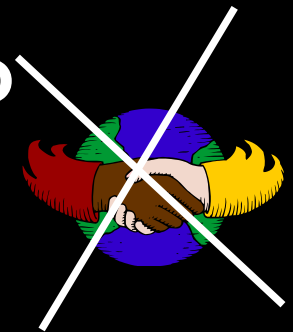
*(Deut. 2:19)*

## **Dealings with Israel – Exodus to Pre-Monarchy**

- **Instead of showing hospitality and kindness to the Israelites, the Ammonites joined with the Moabites, whose king, Balak son of Zippor, hired Balaam, a pagan prophet from NW Mesopotamia to curse the sons of Israel. Instead of cursing them, Balaam was compelled by the Spirit of God to bless Israel (Num. 22–24).**
- **For this offense, they were excluded from the assembly of the LORD until the tenth generation.**

## Dealings with Israel – Exodus to Pre-Monarchy

- Moses also instructed the Israelites not to seek a treaty of friendship with them.



- In the days of the Judges, the Ammonites, together with the Amalekites, joined forces with Eglon, king of Moab, who attacked Israel and regained former Moabite territory at the northern end of the Dead Sea. The Israelites were subject to Eglon for 18 years. *Judg. 3:13*

## **Dealings with Israel – Exodus to Pre-Monarchy**

- **Due to Israel's idolatry (worshipping the Canaanite gods) and evil, God punished them by sending the Philistines and Ammonites to oppress them for 18 years on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead.**
- **Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim.**
- **Israel was left in a state of great distress and they repented and cried out to God for help.**

# Dealings with Israel – Exodus to Pre-Monarchy

- **God sent them a deliverer: Jephthah the Gileadite, whose mother was a prostitute, led the Gileadites in the first major battle fought between the Ammonites and Israelites (c. 1100-1020 BC). The Ammonites were led by an unnamed king.**
- **God gave the Ammonites into the hands of Jephthah and he defeated them decisively. Twenty towns were devastated and the Ammonites were subdued by Israel.**

*Judg. 10:6–11:32*

Jephthah  
recounted  
the journey  
taken by the  
Israelites  
when they  
took the  
Promised  
Land



Jephthah's Speech (Judges 11)

## Dealings with Israel – Exodus to Pre-Monarchy

- Gilead was attractive to the Ammonites probably because the great plains east of the Jordan were perfect to raise livestock.
- The tribes of Gad and Reuben lived closest to the Ammonites (and the Moabites). Pastoral farming was their chief means of livelihood. *Num. 32*
- God denounced Ammonites for their great cruelty in battle—ripping open pregnant women in Gilead. *Amos 1:13; Jer. 49:1-6*

**Canaan**  
before and  
after the  
conquest by  
the tribes of  
Israel



# Division of Canaan among the tribes of Israel



# Pastoral Farming in Gilead



## ***4. Ammonites During Israel's Monarchy***

### **King Nahash vs. King Saul**

#### **Round 1**

**Nahash wants control of Israelite territory E of Jordan**

**Saul at Gibeah**

#### **Round 2**

**Nahash targets Jabesh Gilead and subjects them to cruelty (gouges out right eyes)**

**Responds to plea for help. Spirit of God comes upon him; 330,000 men muster and attack Ammonites**

#### **Round 3**

**Nahash's troops killed or scattered at the hands of Saul's men**

**Saul confirmed as Israel's king**

# **Jabesh-Gilead where the Saul led the Israelite army in the battle against the Ammonites**



# David & the Ammonites: A Love-Hate Drama

## Sanctuary

Nahash allowed David to dwell in Ammonite territory safely during Saul's vicious pursuits.



# *Sincerity*

**When Nahash  
died, David sent  
envoys to express  
sympathy to  
Nahash's son,  
Hanun (2 Sam. 10:1-2)**



# SPIES!

**Hanun rejected David's men for being spies. They were sent away with their beards cut and the lower half of their garments shorn (2 Sam. 10:4-5).**



# ***Slaughter***



- **War erupted between David and the Ammonites because of Hanun's heinous action.**
- **Ammonites recruited Aramean mercenaries but Joab and Abishai's Israelite forces routed them.**

# Siege



- **David sent Joab to seize the Ammonite capital at Rabbah and succeeded after attacking for many months by capturing the water supply.**



**Ammon thus became a vassal state of Israel**

**(2 Sam. 11:1; 12:26-31; 1 Chron. 20:1-3)**

# Israel under the united monarchy



# The Ammonites Under Solomon



**Ammon  
was  
considered  
a vassal of  
Israel  
during  
Solomon's  
reign**



"Hear me, my brethren, and my people."  
—1 *Chron.* xxviii. 2.

# The Many Wives of Solomon

**Solomon's harem included Ammonite women, which brought about the introduction of detestable idolatry into Israel's society**



**500 years later, Ezra condemned Jewish men from marrying foreign wives. They were compelled to put their wives away (Ezra 9–10).**

## 1 Kings 11:1, 4-5

"King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-- Moabites, **Ammonites**, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites ... As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and **Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.**"

# Imported Idolatry

96

**Solomon erected a high place just outside Jerusalem for the worship of Molech, the god of the Ammonites.**



One of  
Solomon's  
Ammonite  
wives, Naamah,  
was the mother  
of Rehoboam,  
who succeeded  
Solomon as  
King of Judah.

**Ammonite  
blood  
entered  
the royal  
line**

*1 Kings 14:21*



# "Little" Compromises

**A recurring theme of the books of the Kings was the idea that some Judean kings did "what was right in the eyes of the LORD, however the *high places* were not removed" until the time of Hezekiah centuries later.**

**Today's little compromises against God's principles can have devastating lasting effects. Footholds (Solomon's wives, introduction of foreign deities) can become strongholds (idolatry) that are tough to break.**

# Ammonite Skirmishes

- 924 B.C. Shishak King of **Egypt** rolls through Ammonite territory allowing Ammon to declare independence from Judah and Israel.
- 853 B.C. A twelve-king alliance, headed by Ahab opposes **Shalmanezar III of Assyria's** westward march.
- After Shamanezer is halted, Ammon and the kings continue jockeying for power.



# Ammonite Prosperity

**8th to 6th centuries (Iron Age II):**

**Ammonites experienced economic growth during their period of freedom from Israel and Judah.**



- **2 Chronicles 20 - Ammon allied with Moab and the Meunites against Jehoshaphat.**
- **God heard Jehoshaphat's prayer and sent his enemies fighting against themselves in battle.**

## **Ammon versus Jehoshaphat**



## Ammon and Babylon

**Jeremiah 27 and 40: The Ammonite king rebels against Babylon.**

**Jeremiah names Baalis, King of Ammon, as responsible for the assassination of Gedaliah, the Babylonian-appointed governor over Judah.**



**Nebuchadnezzar conducted a small campaign 96  
against Ammonites in his 23rd year (582-581)**

## **The Fall of Ammon**

***The Ammonites soon ceased to be  
a nation, but the people existed  
well into Hellenistic times.***

# The Last Significant Ammonite in Biblical History

**Tobiah was an Ammonite official who joined with Sanballat in resisting and mocking Nehemiah's rebuilding efforts in Jerusalem.**

**However, Nehemiah and the Jews pressed on with the work, even when it meant holding a building tool in one hand, and a weapon in the other.**

## Lessons for the Israelites

### 1. Worship only the LORD.

Israel abandoned God and worshipped the Baals and Ashtoreths, the gods of Aram, Sidon, and Moab, and the gods of the Ammonites and the Philistines (Judg. 10:6).



# Lessons for the Israelites

## 2. Holiness

- Then the nations too, will know God as the holy LORD through judgment (Ezek. 36:33)
- God warned Israelites not to intermarry with the Ammonites but many of the Israelites had Ammonite wives (e.g., King Solomon).

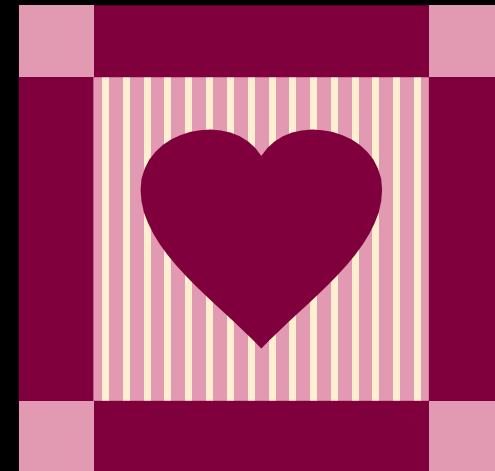
*Ezra, Nehemiah*



# Lessons for the Israelites

## 3. Obedience

- **The Israelites did evil in the eyes of God.**
- **The existence of Ammonites tested whether Israel would keep the way of the LORD.**



# LESSONS FROM AMMONITES

1. **God's love: His love for Ammonites by settling them in their land after cutting off the giants (Zamzummmites) showed love for the righteous man Lot.**
2. **God the promise keeper: The Abrahamic Covenant assures blessing or cursing depending upon how people treat Jews (Gen. 12:1-3).**

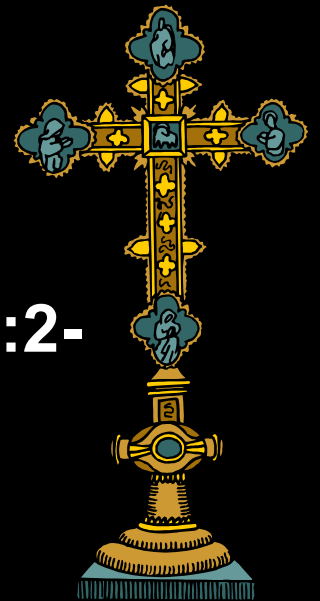


# LESSONS from Ammonites

3. **God's mercy:** God did not destroy the Ammonites because they served other gods (in Acts 17:30)

4. **God's judgment:**

- He destroyed them because of their mistreatment and **cruel** acts towards His covenant/chosen people (Deut. 23:3; Amos 1:13)
- Their **pride** (Zeph. 2:10; Jer. 49:1-6; Ezek. 25:2-11)



## LESSONS from Ammonites

5. **God is impartial (Acts 10:34) and accepts men from every nation who do what is right.**
  - **Zelek, the Ammonite, was one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:37).**
  - **King Nahash showed kindness to David (2 Sam. 10:2; 1 Chron. 19)**

# LESSONS from Ammonites

## 6. Obedience

- God used Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Amos to speak to the Ammonites
- Ammon would serve the Babylonians until Babylon itself was conquered (Jer. 27:1-8)

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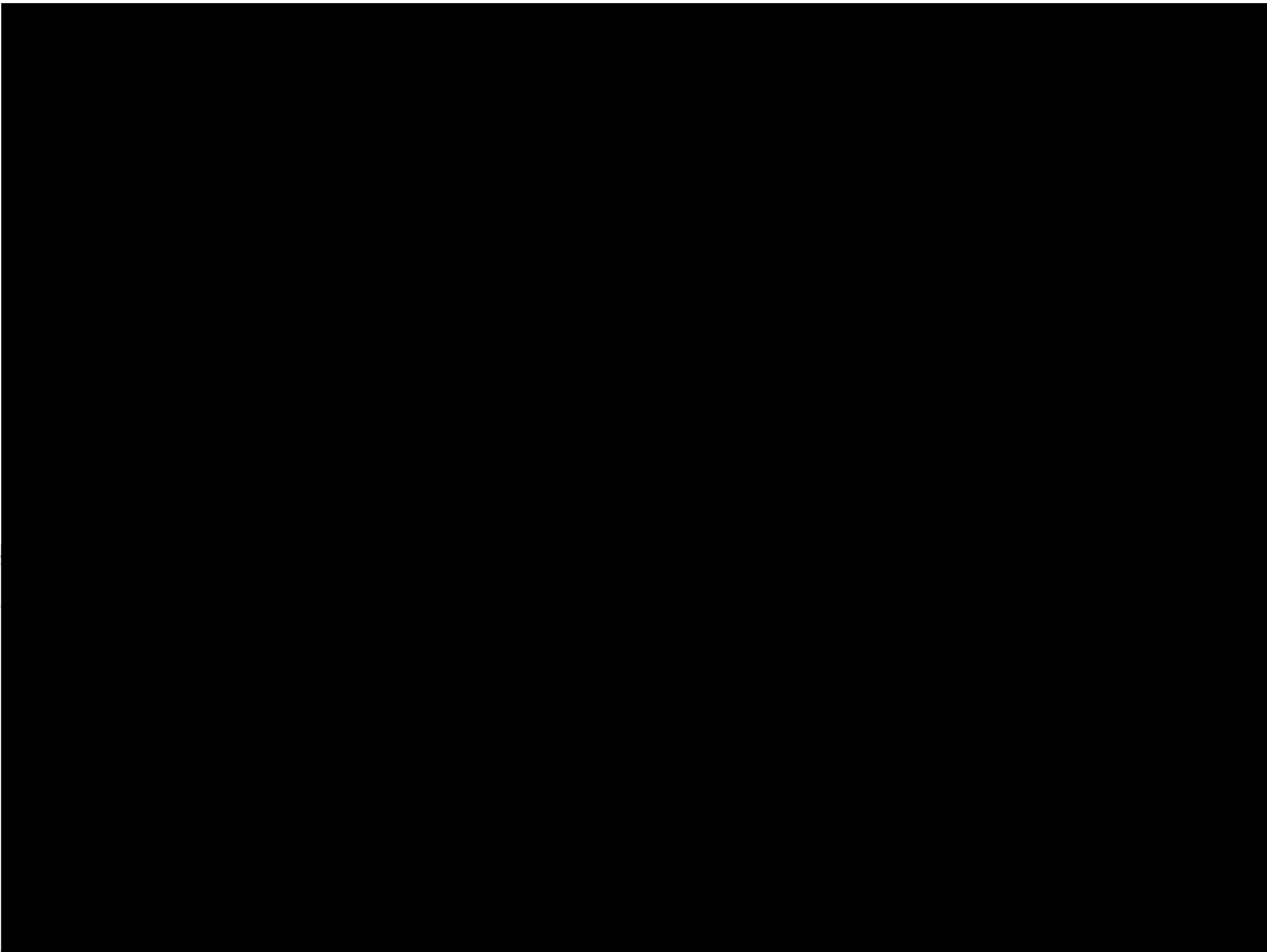
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<http://www.ammantoday.com/english/guide.html>

# Presenters



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