

Amorites

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Method of Today's Study

1. Small Groups
2. Amorites

Focus

1. Influence on Israel

Conquest

Religion

2. Lessons for us



Descendants of Noah's Sons



Descendants of Noah's Sons



Gomer

Ivan

Meshech

Lud

Togarmah

Asshur

Tubal

Aram

Caphtorites

Put

Mizraim

Cush

Canaan

The Lines of Japheth, Ham, & Shem

Gen. 10



Descendants of Noah's Sons

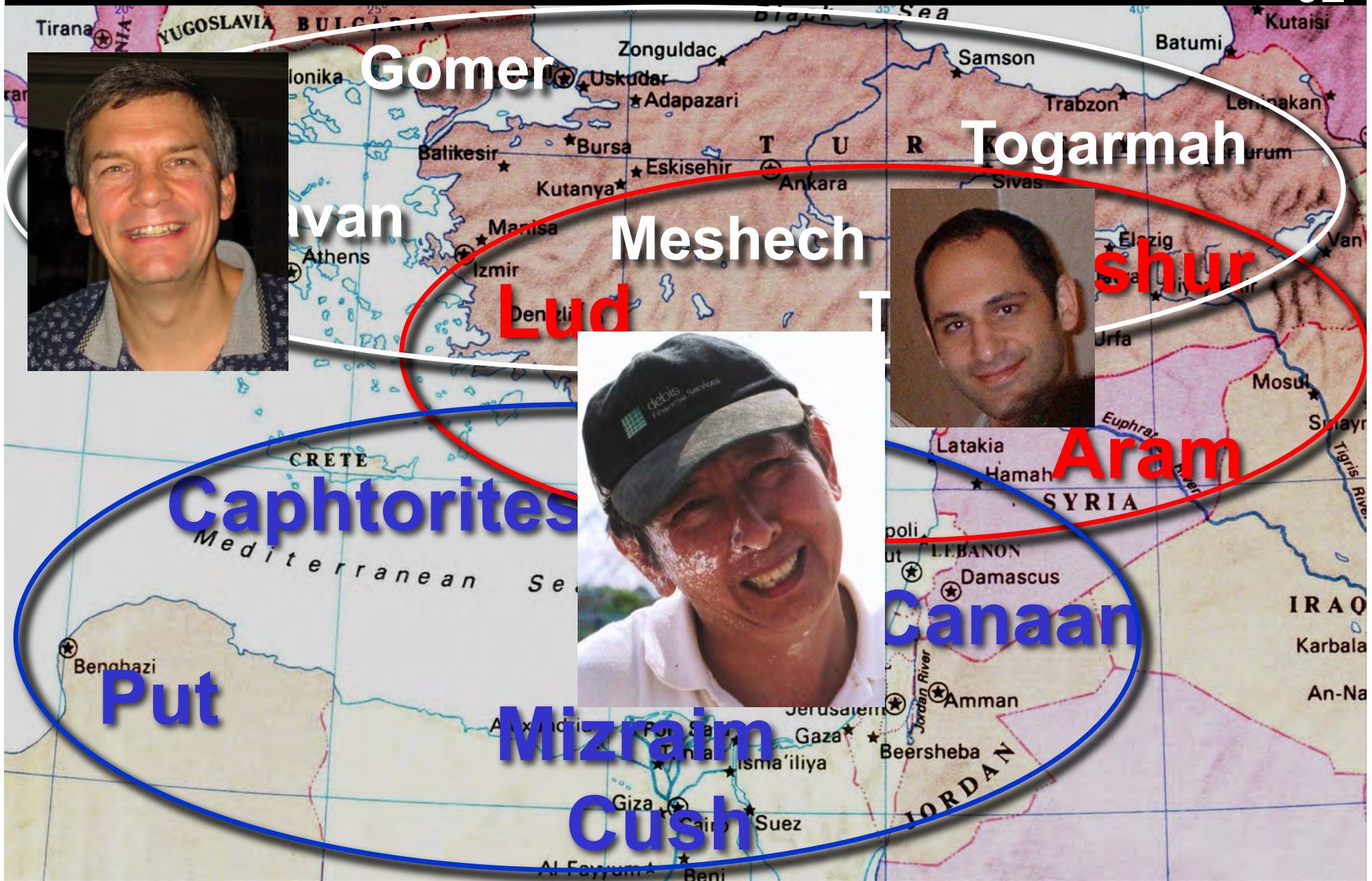


Gomer
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Descendants of Noah's Sons



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Put

Mizraim

Cush

Descendants of Noah's Sons

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Gomer



Put

Cush

The Lines of Japheth, Ham, & Shem

Gen. 10

Left Stage

Phoenicians
Life in
Ancient Israel

Syrians
Right Stage

Sea Peoples,
The "ians" (mostly)

Desert Peoples

Canaanites

The "ites"

Gileadites

Romans

Amorites

Babylonians

Israelites

Ammonites

Assyrians

Jebusites

Moabites

Philistines

Egyptians

Amalekites

Edomites

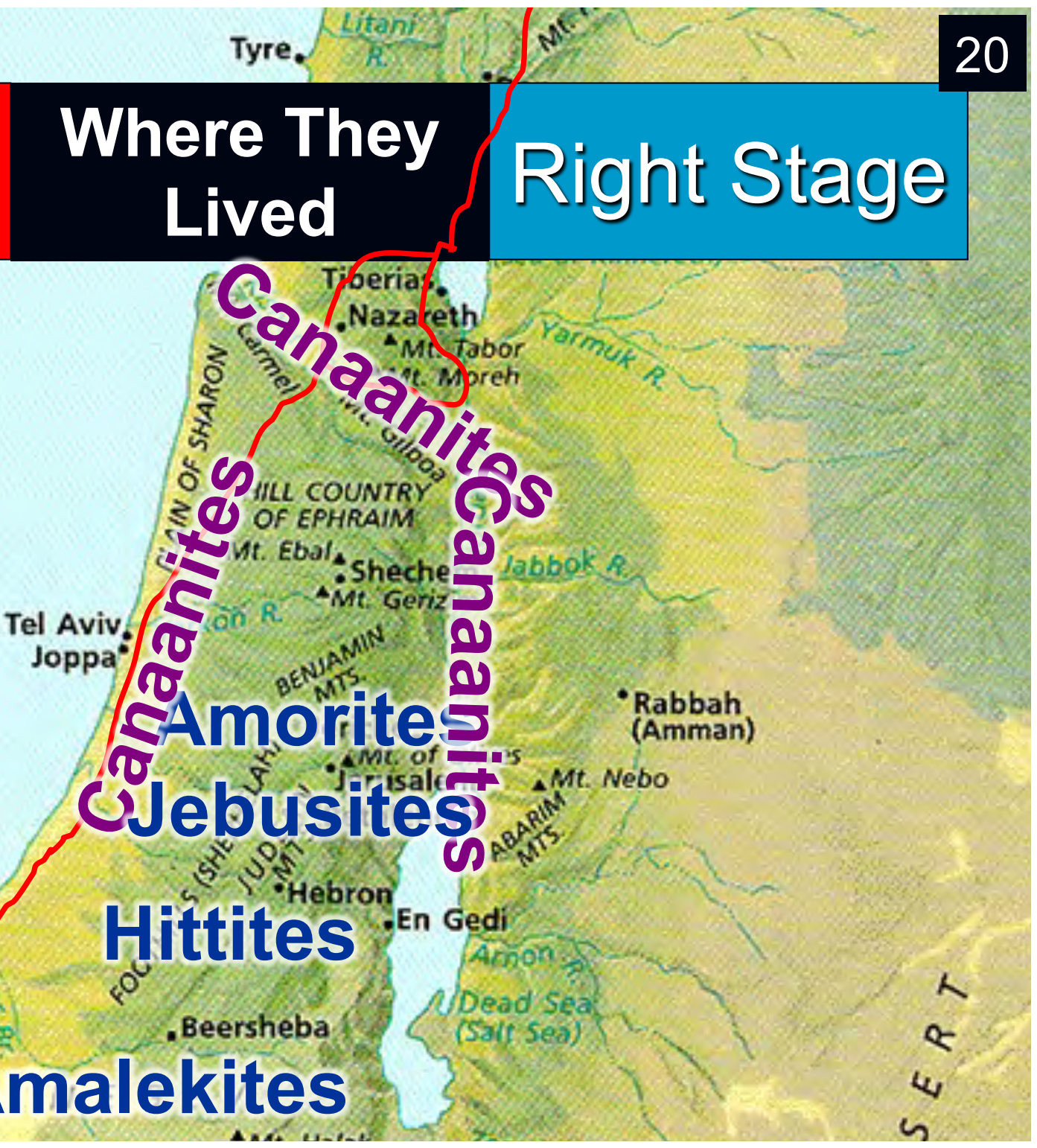


Left Stage

Where They Lived

Right Stage

Numbers 13:29
"The Amalekites live in the Negev, the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

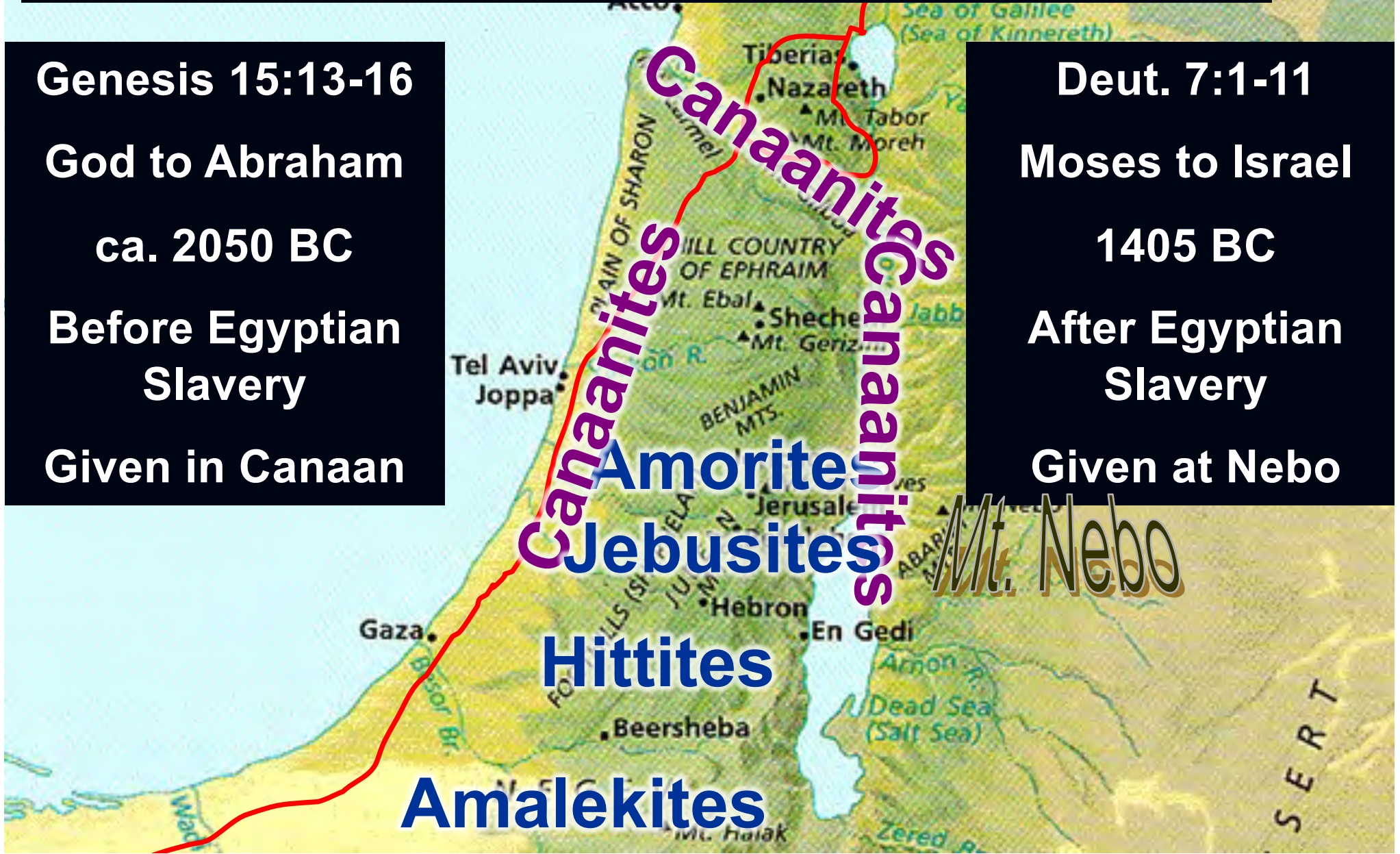


Amalekites

What do these passages teach us about God and man?

Genesis 15:13-16
God to Abraham
 ca. 2050 BC
Before Egyptian Slavery
Given in Canaan

Deut. 7:1-11
Moses to Israel
 1405 BC
After Egyptian Slavery
Given at Nebo



Amorites

- Identity
- Geography
- Power of the Amorites
 - Lessons for us
- Links to Babylonians
 - Significance
 - Religion
 - Lessons for us



Who were the Amorites?

Descendants of Ham

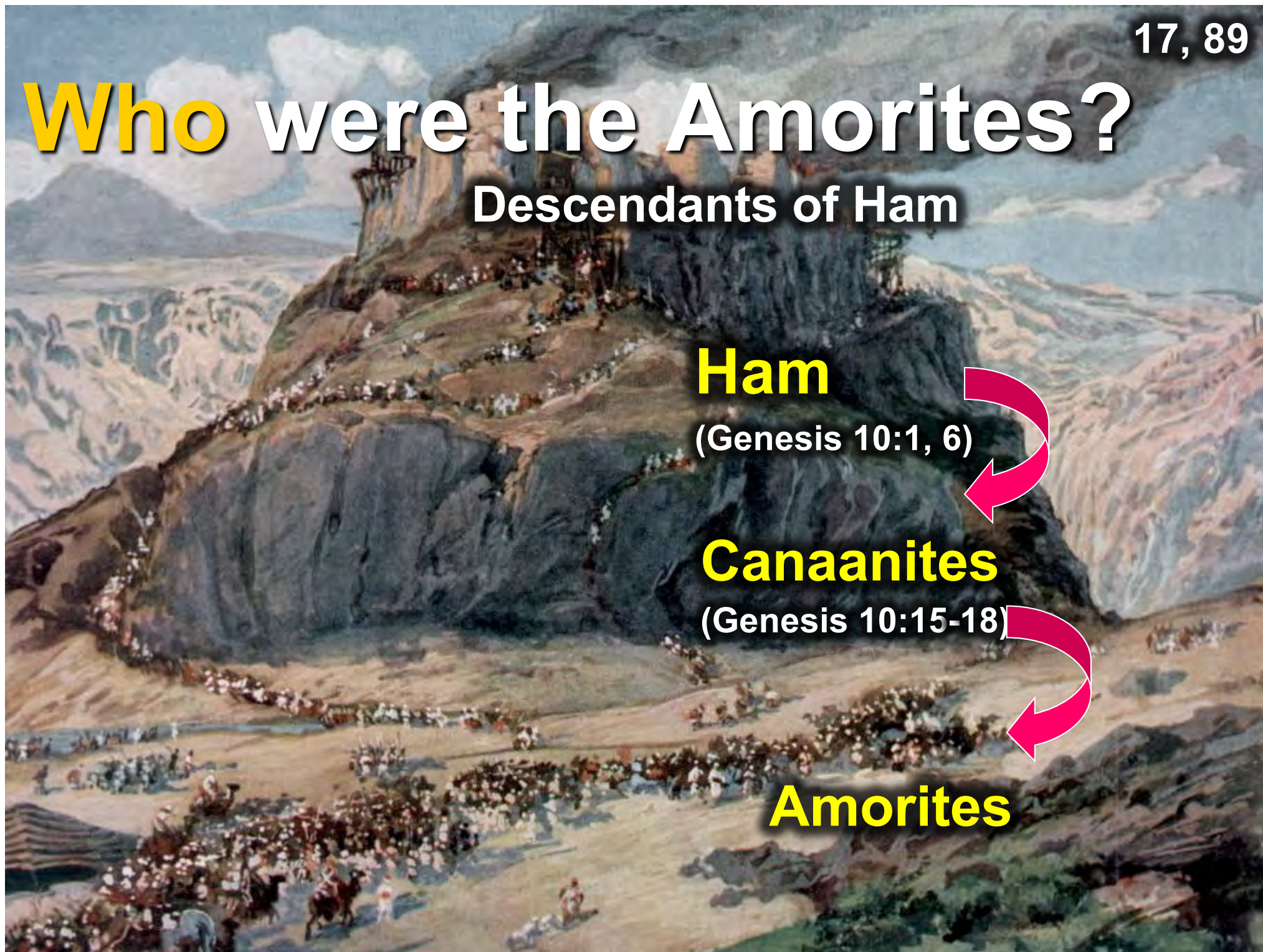
Ham

(Genesis 10:1, 6)

Canaanites

(Genesis 10:15-18)

Amorites



Amorite means...

1) Highlander

- occupied mountainous terrain of the land

(Num. 13:29; Deut. 1:7,19-20)

2) "The High [and mighty] One"

- their fearsome military prowess

(Deut. 1:44) or

- their great stature

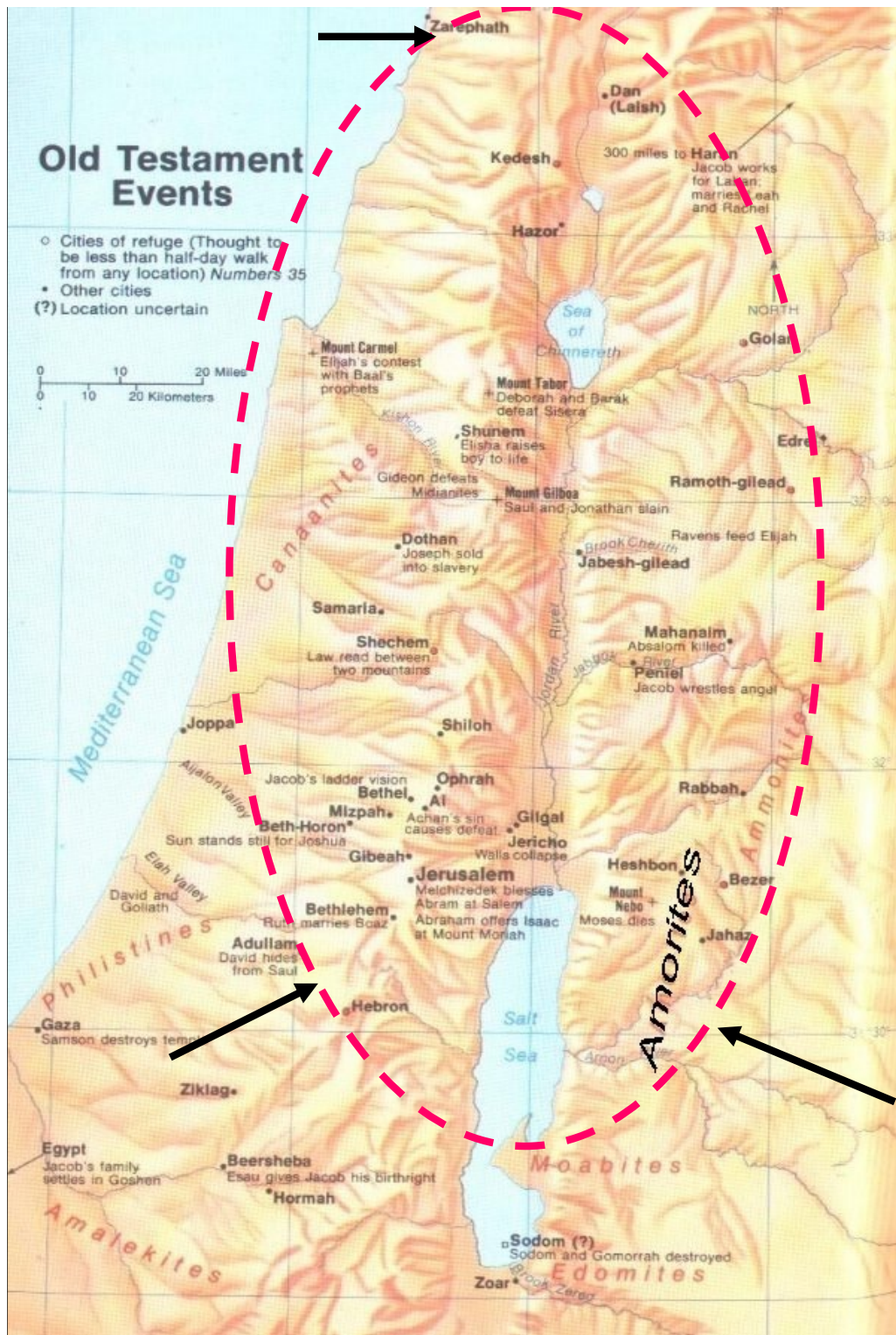
(Numbers 13:33)

"the high one"



Geography

90



- Occupied land west and east of the Dead Sea
- The mountains of Judea were the "hill country of the Amorites" (Deut. 7,19,20)
- From west of the Dead Sea (Gen. 14:7) to Hebron (Gen. 13:8, Deut. 3:8, 4:46-48), taking in Gilead and Bashan (Deut. 3:10), with the Jordan Valley east of the Jordan River (Deut. 4:49), the land of the "two kings of the Amorites," Sihon and Og (Deut. 31:4; Josh. 2:10, 9:10).

Powerful Amorites

- Along with many other tribes, occupied the pre-conquest territory of Canaan.
- Probably the most powerful of all the pagan clans in Palestine.
 - men of Ai (Josh. 7:7), and the armies of Sihon and Og (Num. 21:21-35), were formidable Amorite foes.
- Represented all non-Israelites whom God commanded to be driven from the land (Joshua 10:5; 24:8,15; Judges 6:10).



A Lesson for us?

Do we

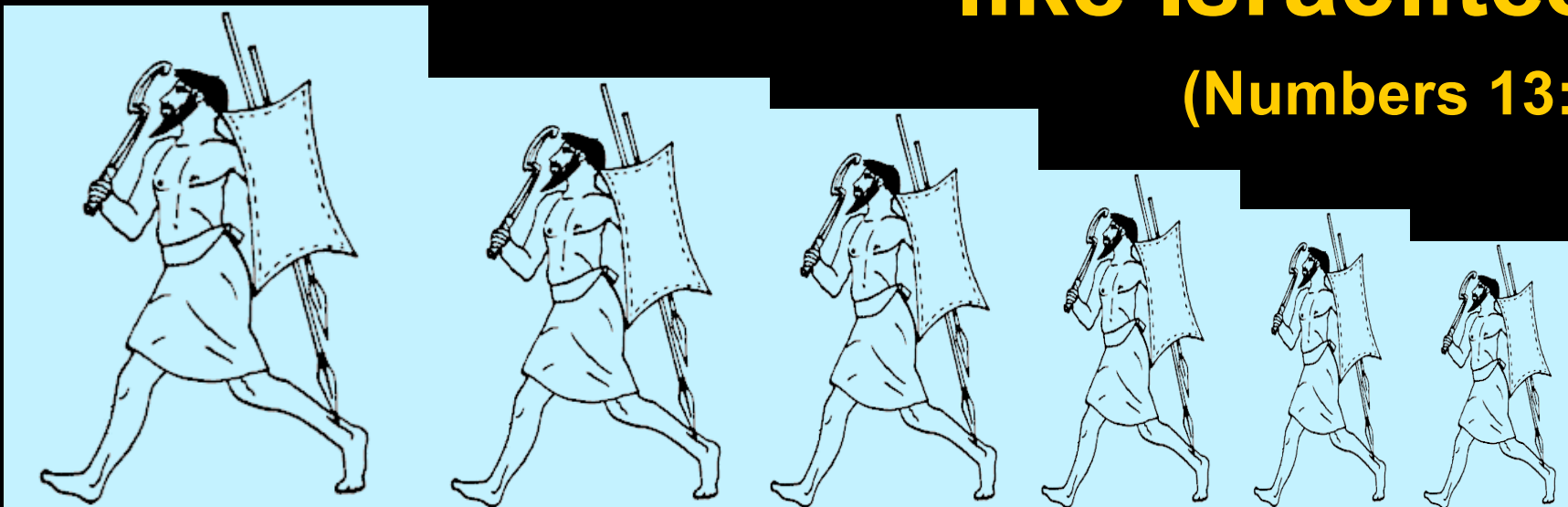
fear those

who are

GIANTS

like Israelites?

(Numbers 13:31-33)



Power of the Amorites

OT References (ASV)

Word "Amorite" appears **16** times

Word "Amorites" appears **70** times

Total of **86** occurrences



The **Powerful** Amorites



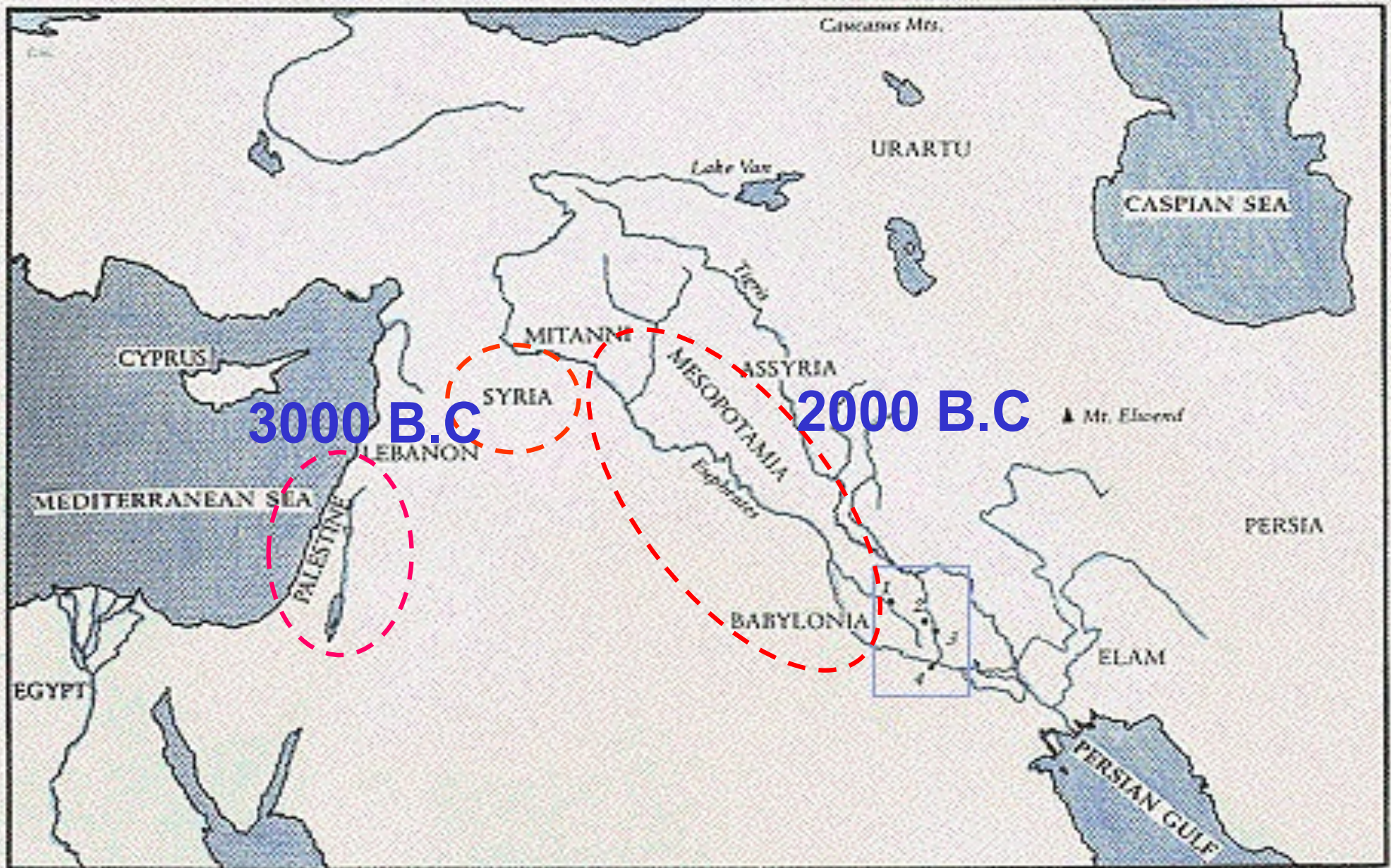
- God's grace extends even towards those who are not His covenant people.

God promised Abraham a land "flowing with milk and honey." Yet the godly patriarch did not inherit the land in his time because "the iniquity of the Amorites [was] not yet full" (Gen. 15:16).

Lessons for us

- **God's mercy extends even to wicked, depraved people.**
 - Do we see them the same way or do we pressure God to fulfill His "obligations" to us at their expense?
- **God judges those who refuse to repent.**
 - Amorite nations despised God's goodness and longsuffering by refusing to repent of their sin (cf. Rom. 2:4); The Lord's judgment upon them was most severe. Anyone who imitates their rebellion will one day "lift up his eyes in torment" and eternally regret it (Rom. 2:5; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 2:22-23).
- **God gives us severe trials so we can look back at them as testimony of His power and faithfulness**

The Middle East
(Locations referred to on Ripon College's Cuneiform Tablets)



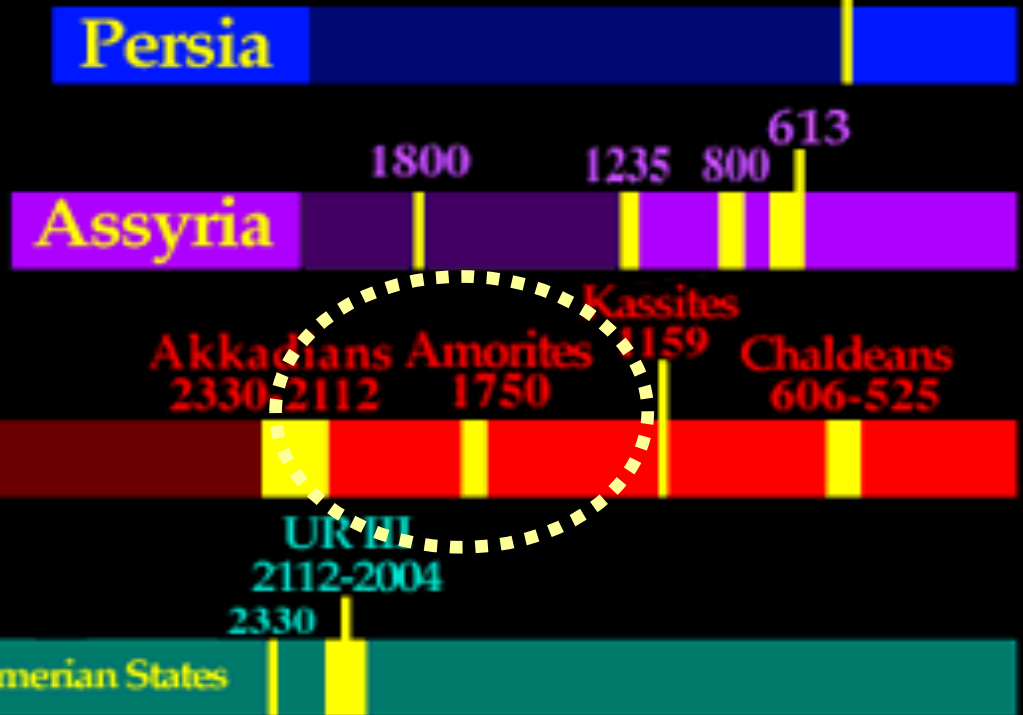
- 1. Puzrishi-Dagan
- 2. Umma

- 3. Girsu
- 4. Ur

Links to Babylonians



Akkadians before 3000
2112 Gutian Invasion
2200 Amorites
1595 Hittites sack Babylon
1200 Arameans
1159 Elamite Invasion
750 Chaldean Invasion
613 Medes
Persian Empire 525



5000 4000 3000 2000 1000 A.D.

Links to Babylonians

136

About 21st century B.C.

- People of the first Babylonian dynasty called "Amorites"

About 2000 B.C.

- Amorites presaged the growth of the Babylonian Empire.
- Migrated to Mesopotamia and inhabited Babylonian plain.

2000 BC

- After the last Sumerian dynasty fell
- Conflict and chaos lasted for almost a century.

Around 1900 BC

- A group of Semites called the Amorites gained control of most of the Mesopotamian region.

Links to Babylonians

1900-1600 BC

- Amorites centralized the government over the individual city-states**
- Amorites invented new ways to administer the state and its resources: taxation and involuntary military service.**
- Above all, the greatest innovation was centralization; a new set of laws was invented: laws that dealt with crimes against the state.**

Significance

Many similarities with the Mosaic Law:

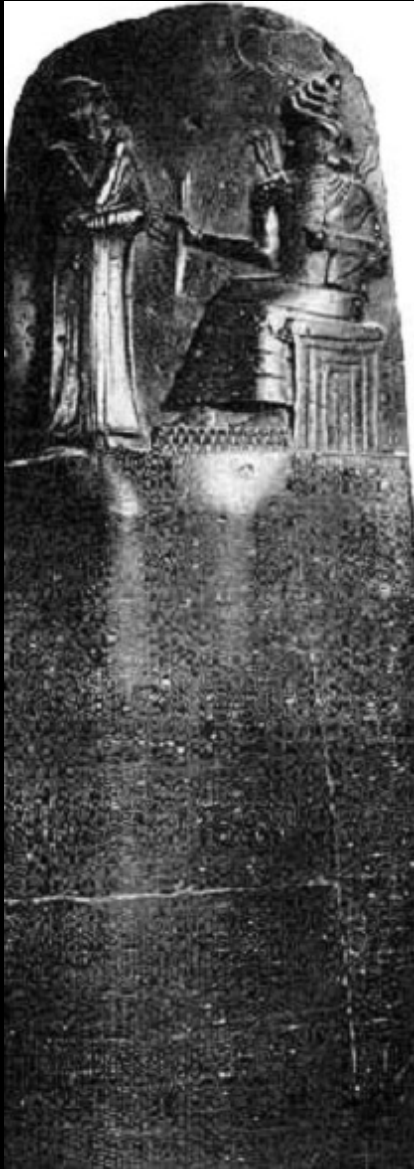
- principle of "an eye for an eye", e.g. if a man builds a house badly, and it falls and kills the owner, the builder is to be slain

Many differences as well.

- Bias against slaves
- Murder does not carry death penalty

Loopholes

- e.g. an accused person was allowed to cast himself into the Euphrates River. If the river current carried him to the shore alive he was declared innocent, but if he drowned then he was guilty.



Hammurabi's most famous claim to fame is his law code inscribed on a magnificent stele of black diorite, eight feet high, found at Susa in A.D. 1902.

Religion



God of Baal



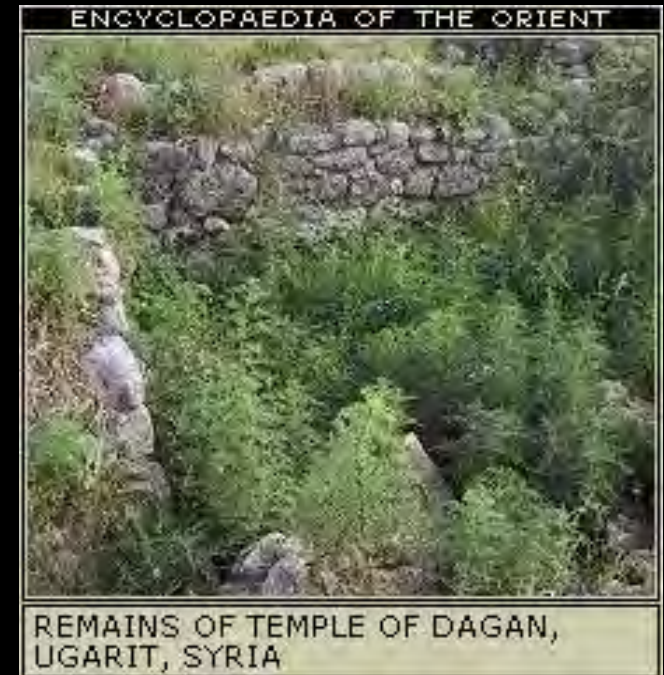
Hurrian Teshub



Marduk



Dagan Stele



REMAINS OF TEMPLE OF DAGAN,
UGARIT, SYRIA

Religion

- The Amorites **imported** a new god into Sumerian religion - **Marduk** - which they elevated to the supreme position over the other gods.
- The Amorites **did not believe** that **life after death** held any promise or threat, so like the Sumerians, Amorite religion ruthlessly focused on this world.

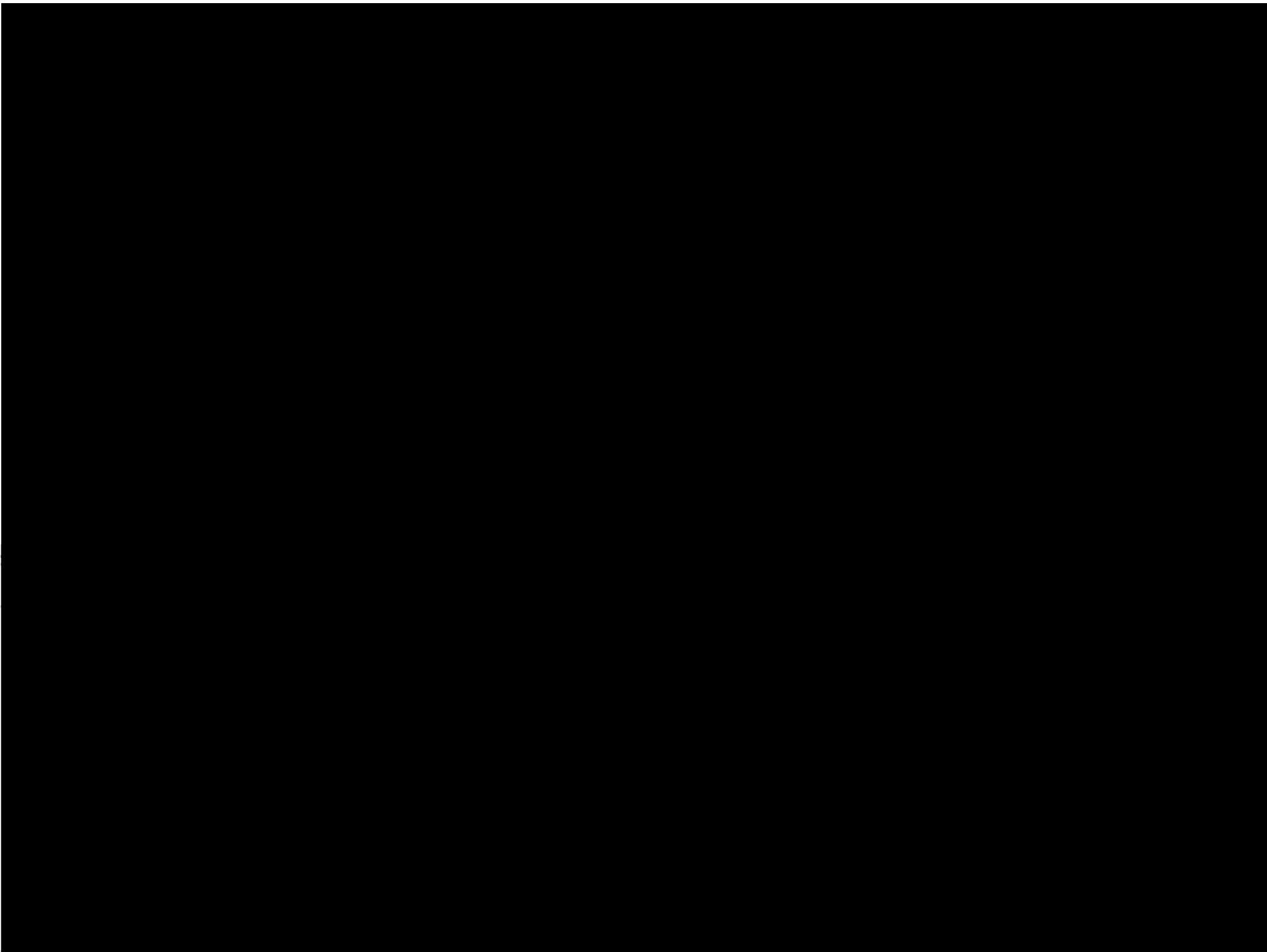
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Marduk



Lessons for us

- Why is the belief in life after death so significant for our faith and life?



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