



Edomites

Identity

Geography

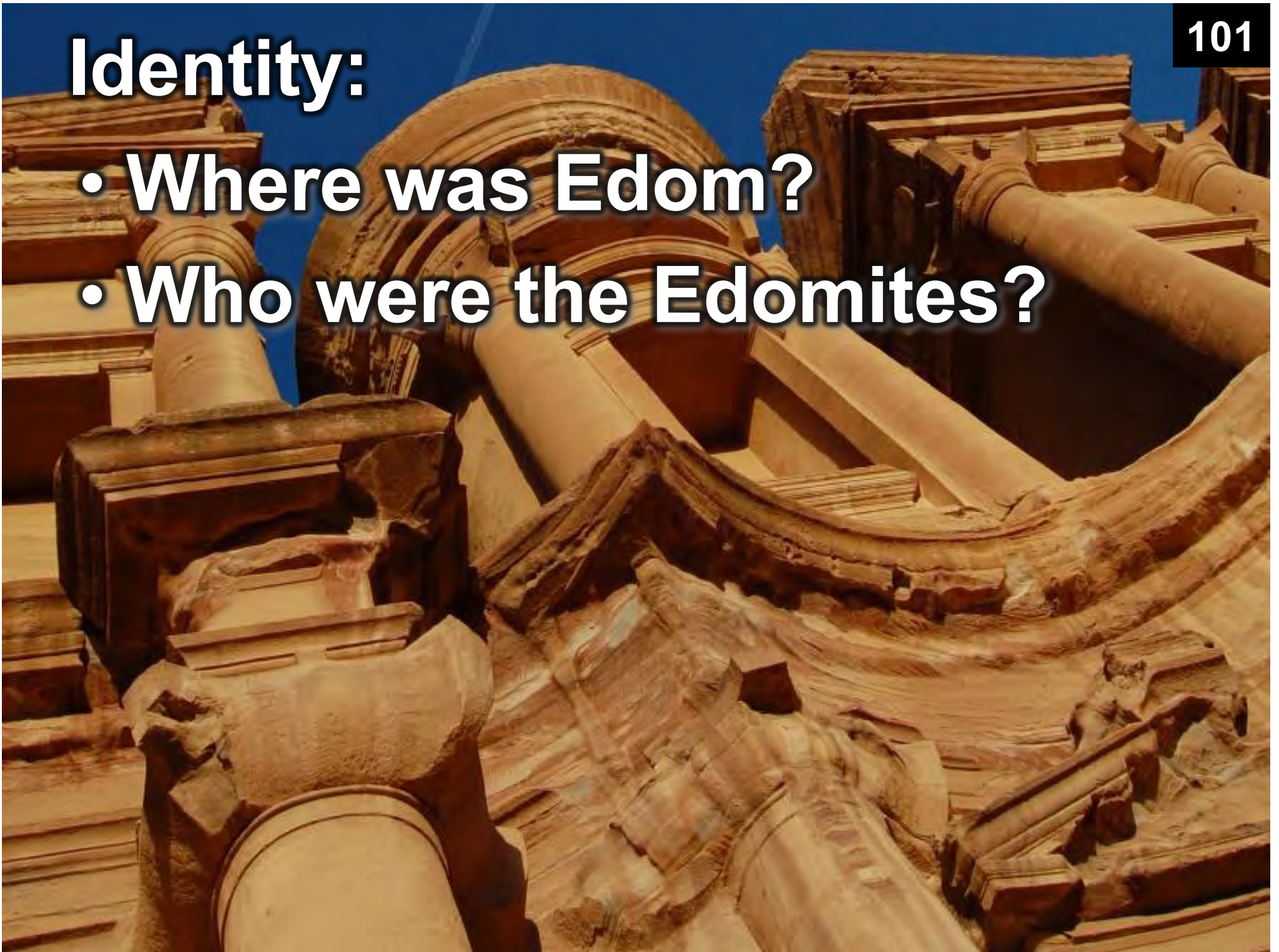
Deity and Literature

Significance History and Israel

Lessons

Identity:

- Where was Edom?
- Who were the Edomites?



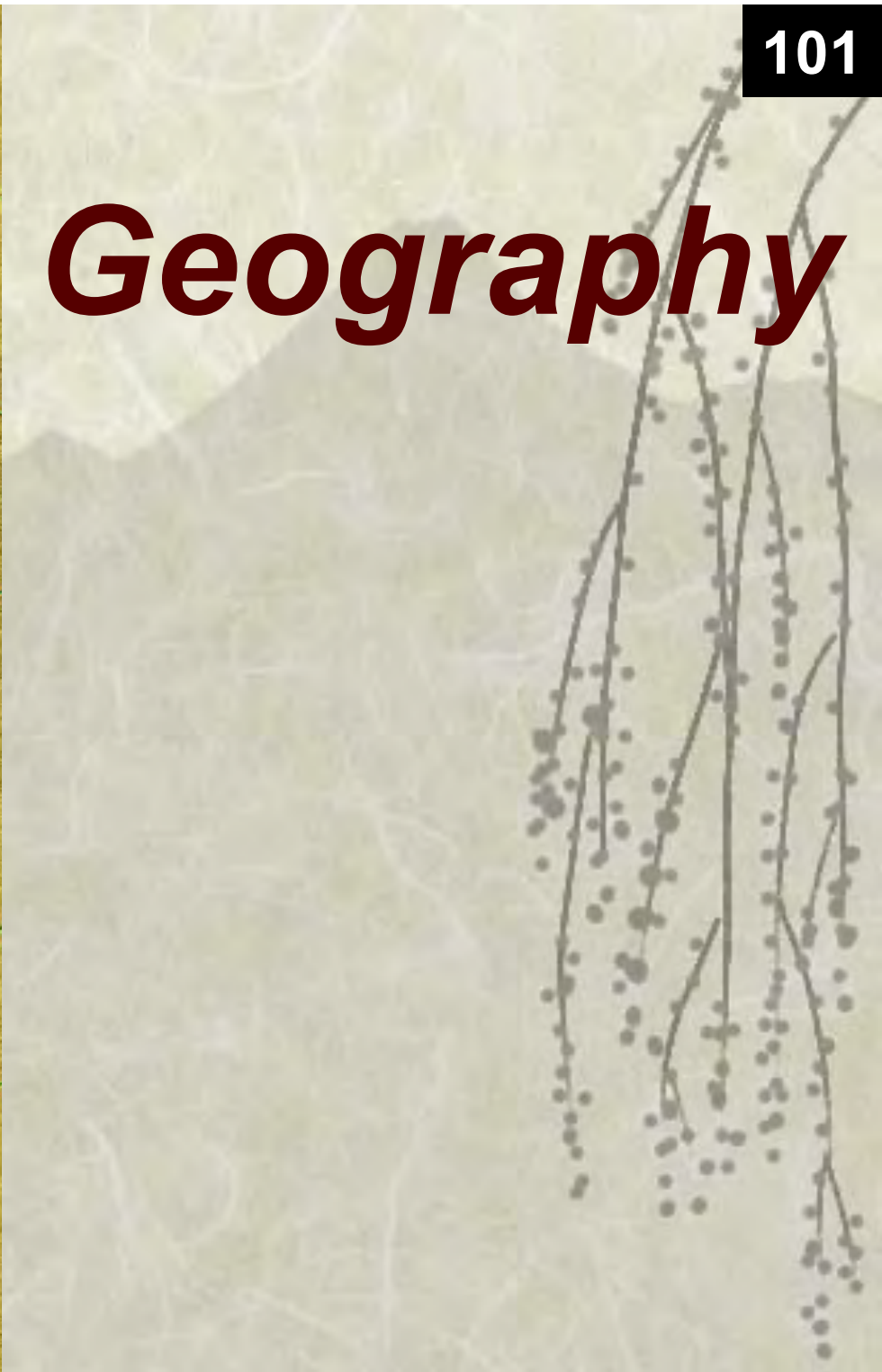
God chose Jacob over Esau



Genesis 27



Geography



GOD CHOSE EVEN APATHETIC JEWS



*"I loved
Jacob"*

*"I hated
Esau"*

Malachi 1:2-3

Edom ("Red")

- **Three possible origins of the name:**
 - Red **cliffs** of Esau's sandstone area
 - Red **hair** of Esau at birth
 - Red **pottage** which Esau took in exchange for his inheritance
- **Edom refers to the land occupied by Esau's descendants, formerly called Seir**
- **Referred to Mount Seir and Idumea in the Bible**

Edomites



- **Descendants of Esau (Gen. 36:1-17)**
- **Mentioned in Ugaritic tablets of Ras Shamra in the Legend of King Keret**
- **Egyptian records from the late 13th century BC mention Bedouin tribesmen of Edom who were permitted to enter Egypt for food during a famine**



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

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

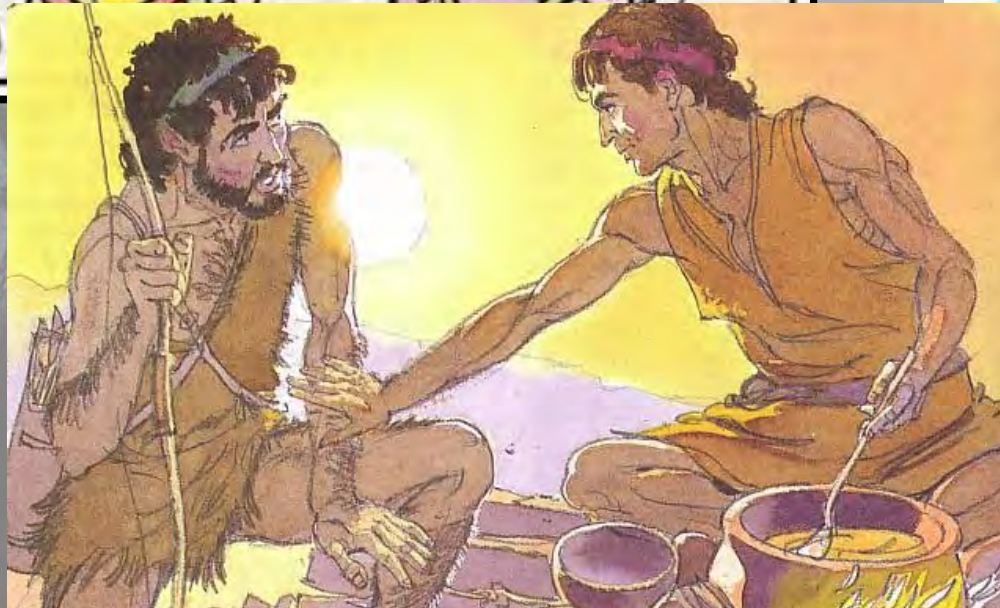
Period	EDOM	MOAB	AMMON	AMALEK
JUDGES	Continued under partial Amorite control (1350 BC; Judg 1:35-36).	Eglon hurt Israel 18 yrs. until Ehud (1350 BC; Judg 3:12-30)	Ally of Eglon of Moab (1350 BC); Hurt Israel until Jephthah (1100 BC; Judg 10-12).	Ally of Eglon of Moab (1350 BC)
UNITED MONARCHY	Saul took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

- Archaeology shows that the land was occupied before Esau's time by the Horites (Gen. 14:6).
- Esau's descendants then migrated to that land and became the dominant group.



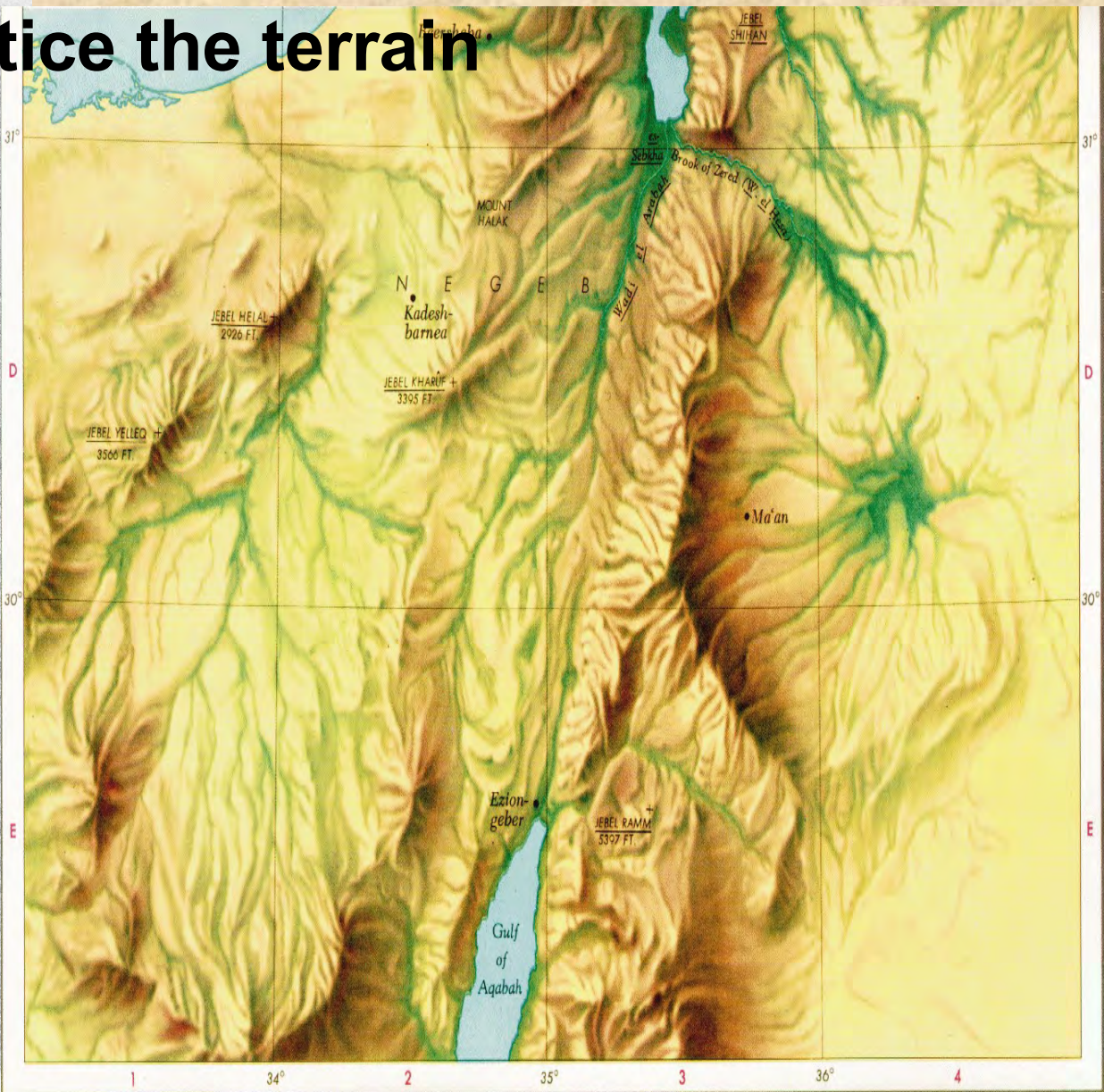
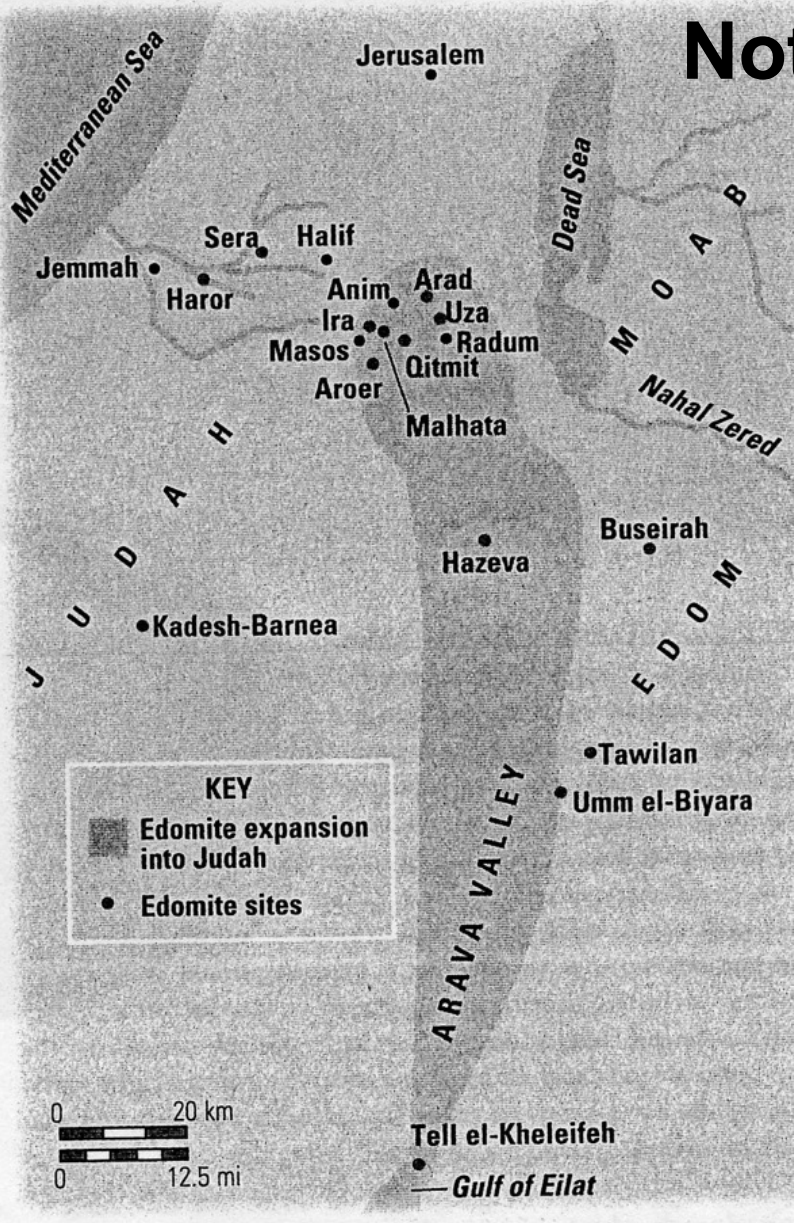
When did the Edomites live?

He's So Hairy, Jacob's Brother



Geography

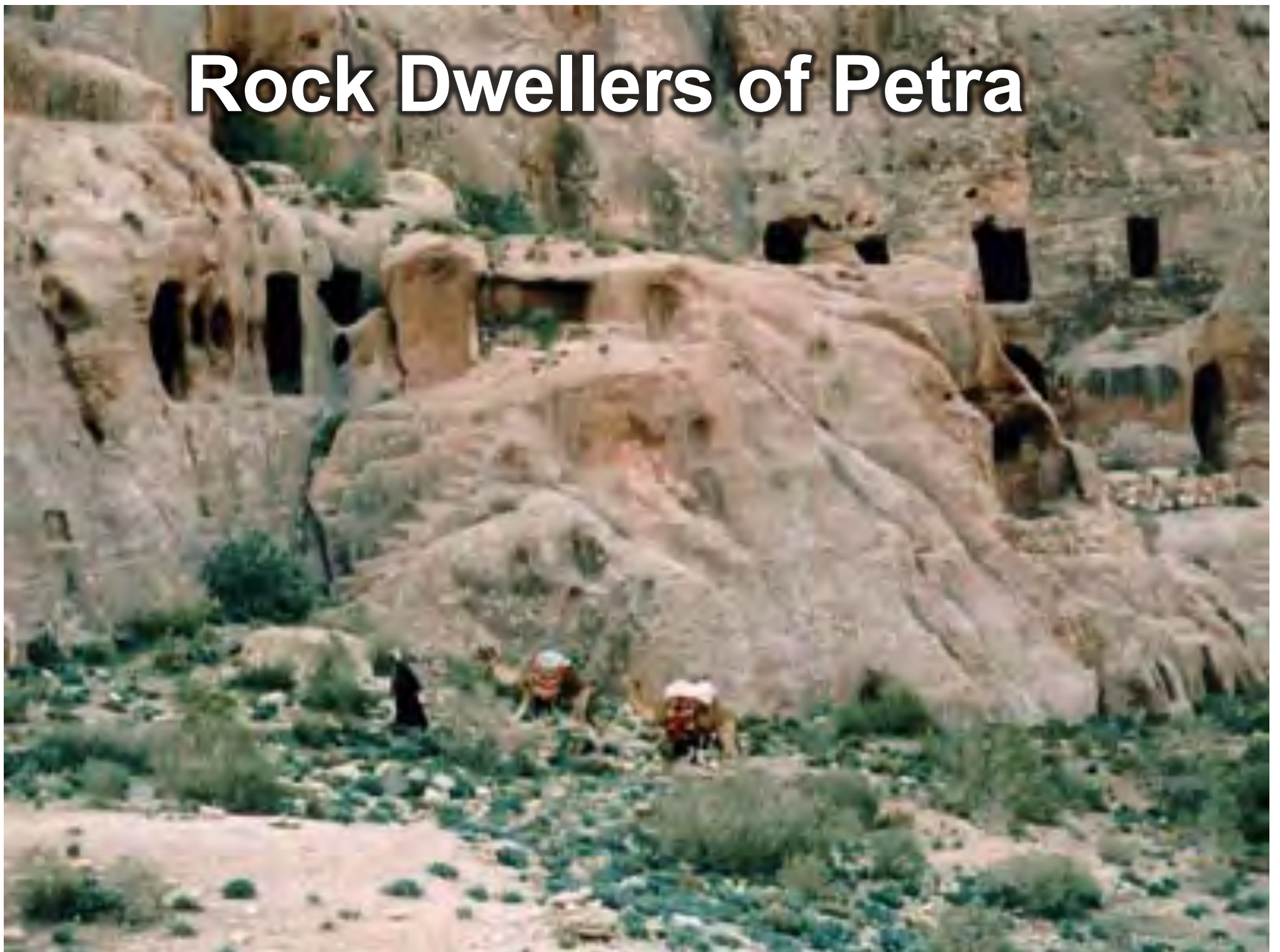
Notice the terrain



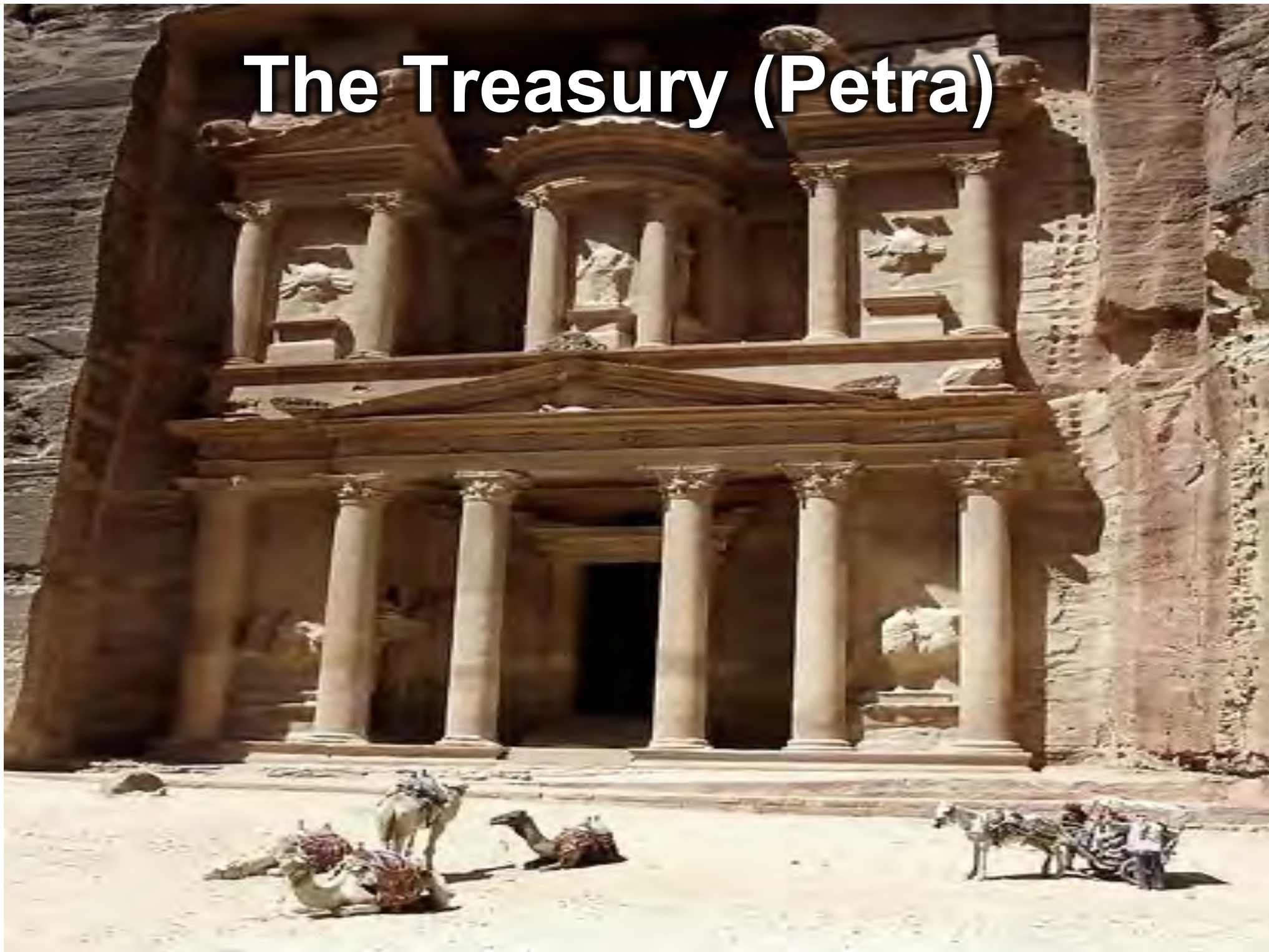
A Desolate Land



Rock Dwellers of Petra



The Treasury (Petra)





The King's Highway

Economy



- **Chief sources of income**

- **trade and fees** collected for "protecting" the caravans carrying the incense from south Arabia to the Mediterranean coast



- **agriculture** with cultivated wheat to a small extent as rainfall is very scanty in that area.

- **vines and olives** near those regions watered by natural springs

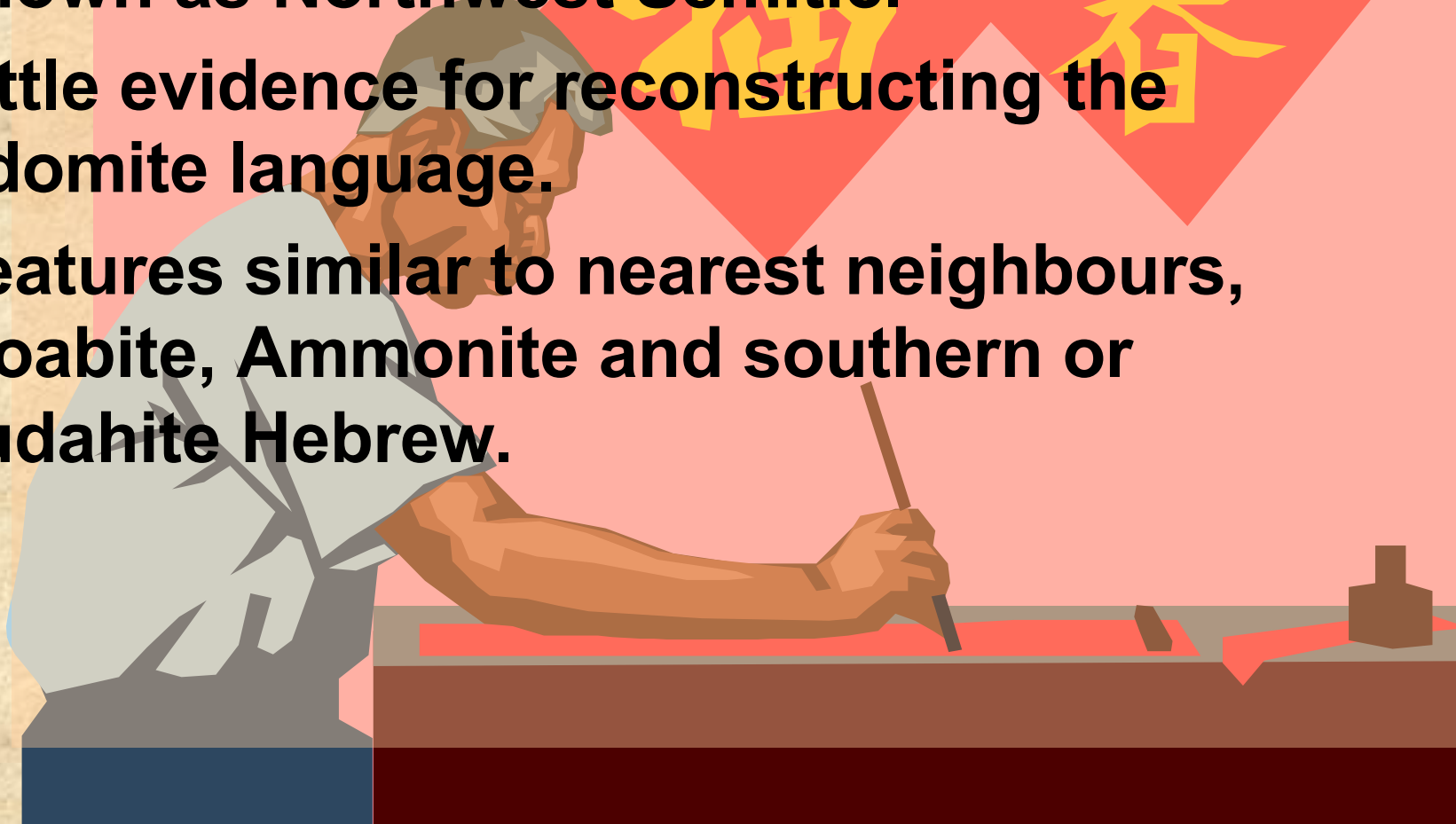
- **copper mines** in the Arabah



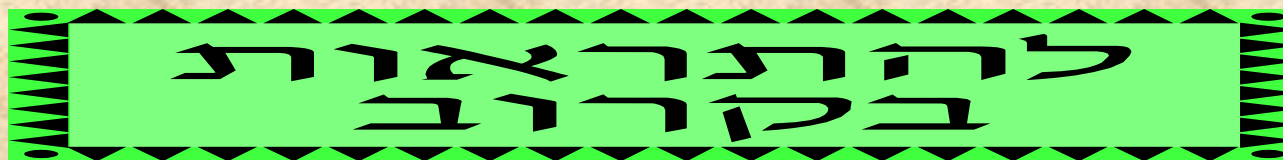


Language

- Belonged to a group of languages known as Northwest Semitic.
- Little evidence for reconstructing the Edomite language.
- Features similar to nearest neighbours, Moabite, Ammonite and southern or Judahite Hebrew.



Examples & Religion



- diphthong *aw* (Arabic), to *ô*.
- Divine name was pronounced as *Qaws* was later called *Qôs*
- Kings bearing divine name *Qos* or *Qaus*. *Qausmalaka* ("Qaus has become king") during Tiglath-Pileser III and *Qosmalak* ("Qos is king") is found from Beer-sha ostraca
- Unlike other pagan nations, the OT does not attack Edom's gods by name but gives respect to them not given to others

Tomb of the Royal Steward



"[Shebna]yahu"- the same name as Shubnaqos, but with the theophoric *yahu*.

(Isaiah 22:15-18)

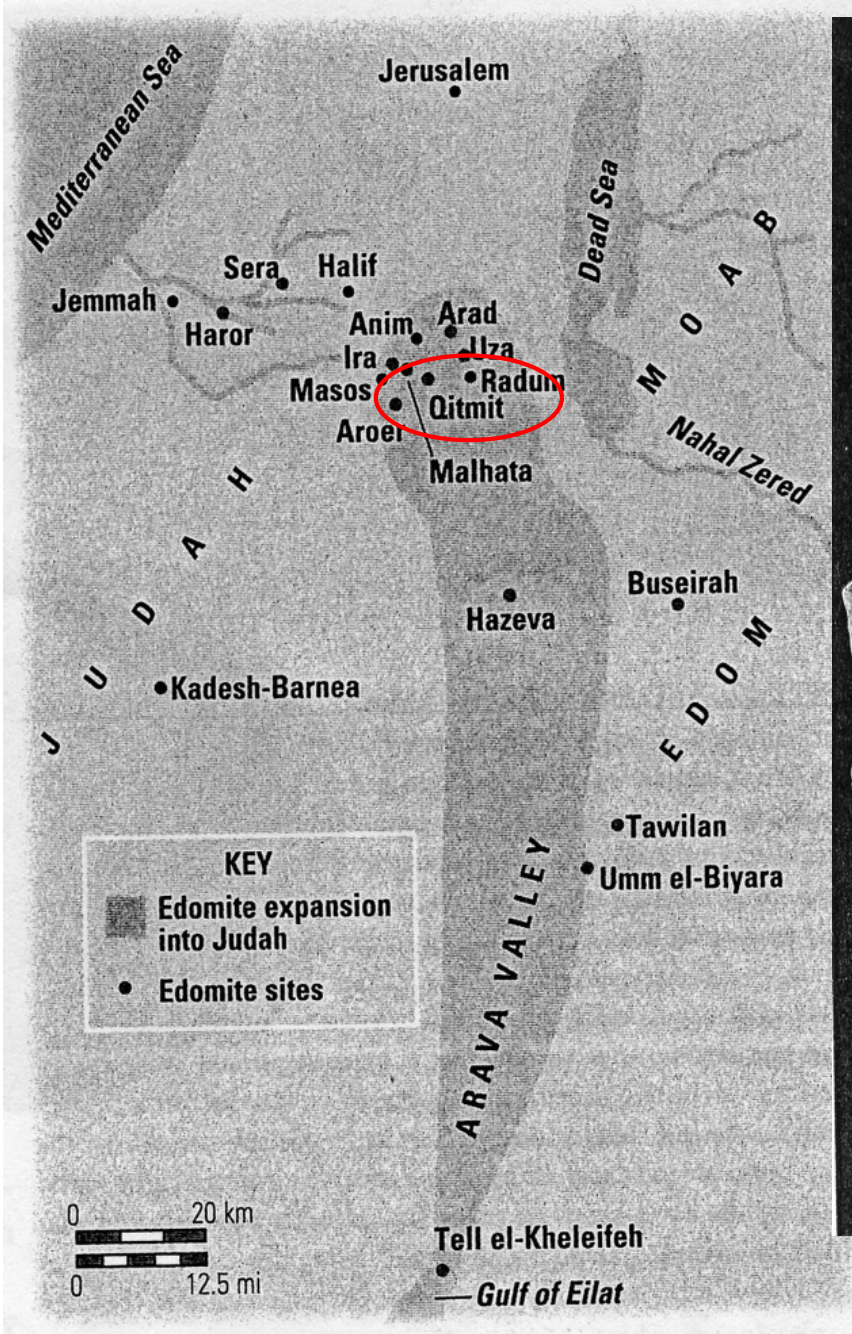


**contains Shubnaqos
(SWBNQWS)**

which means "Pray, turn O Qos."

This name has an exact parallel in the Hebrew onomasticon: A royal steward of King Hezekiah (727-698 BC) was named Shebnayahu (ŠBN'YHW)- with the theophoric *yahu* instead of *Qos*.

Pottery



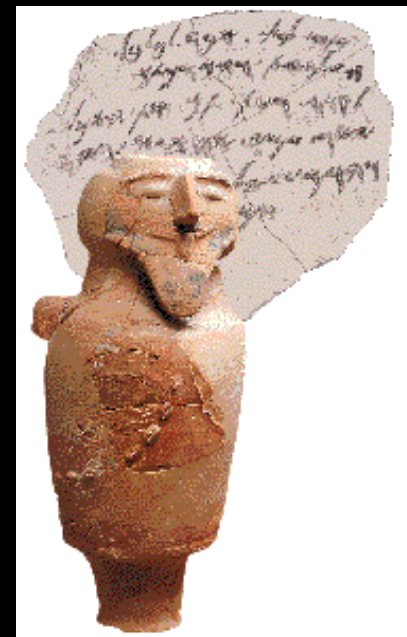
Distinctive Edomite Objects



- Large anthropomorphic cult stands
- Stands fitted on top with a bowl

Evidence of Polytheism

- **3 chambers facing Edom**
- **Each room contained a podium about three feet high, which at some point supported an idol or other sacred object**
- **Evidence of sacrificial animals**



Deity



The three-horned headdress of the figurine has no known parallel.

Double-flute player is believed to be made by the same artisan in the same workshop



More ...



- ***Wings arched for take-off.***
- ***8-inch-long Edomite sphinx***
- ***Although its overall style suggests Egyptian and Phoenician influence, the sphinx's goggle eyes, protruding nose and hair are typically Edomite.***

Other Evidence of Potential Yahweh Worship

- **The God of Israel could have been among the deities worshiped in Edom.**
- **Example: During the time of David the Bible speaks of Doeg the Edomite worshiping Israel's God at the Israelite sanctuary at Nob (1 Sam. 21:7 [MT 21:8])**
- **Edomites had some connection to Israel as God said to have "set out from Seir" (Judg. 5:4 NLT)**

United Monarchy (c. 1030 BC)

Reign of Saul

**Took some cities from Edomite territory
(1 Sam. 14:47)**

**Disobeyed God's command to blot out the
Amalekites completely
(1 Sam. 15:1-33)**

Reign of Saul

**Doeg the Edomite
carried out Saul's
order to kill Ahimelech
and the entire priestly
community at Nob
(1 Sam. 22:16-19)**



United Monarchy (c. 1000 BC)

Reign of David

-Conquered and subjugated by David

-Hadad, a royal prince, fled to Egypt

(2 Sam. 8:13-14; 1 Kings 11:14-22; 1 Chron. 18:12).

Such wholesale extermination is known from Assyrian records.

(IVP Bible Background Commentary)

Divided Monarchy (c. 925 BC)

Remained under
the control
of Judah



Divided Monarchy (c. 870-845 BC)

Reign of Jehoshaphat

**Joined Moab and Ammon to attack Judah,
but defeated at En-gedi (2 Chron. 20:1-28)**

**Joined Jehoram (king of Israel) and
Jehoshaphat to fight against Moab's revolt**

(2 Kings 3:9) 😊

Divided Monarchy (c. 845-735 BC)

c. 845 BC

Revolted against Jehoram of Judah and gained freedom (2 Chron. 21:8-10).



c. 794 BC

Defeated by Amaziah (2 Chron. 25:11-13).



c. 735 BC

Gained freedom from Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:17).

Divided Monarchy (c. 732 BC)

Became Assyrian tributary

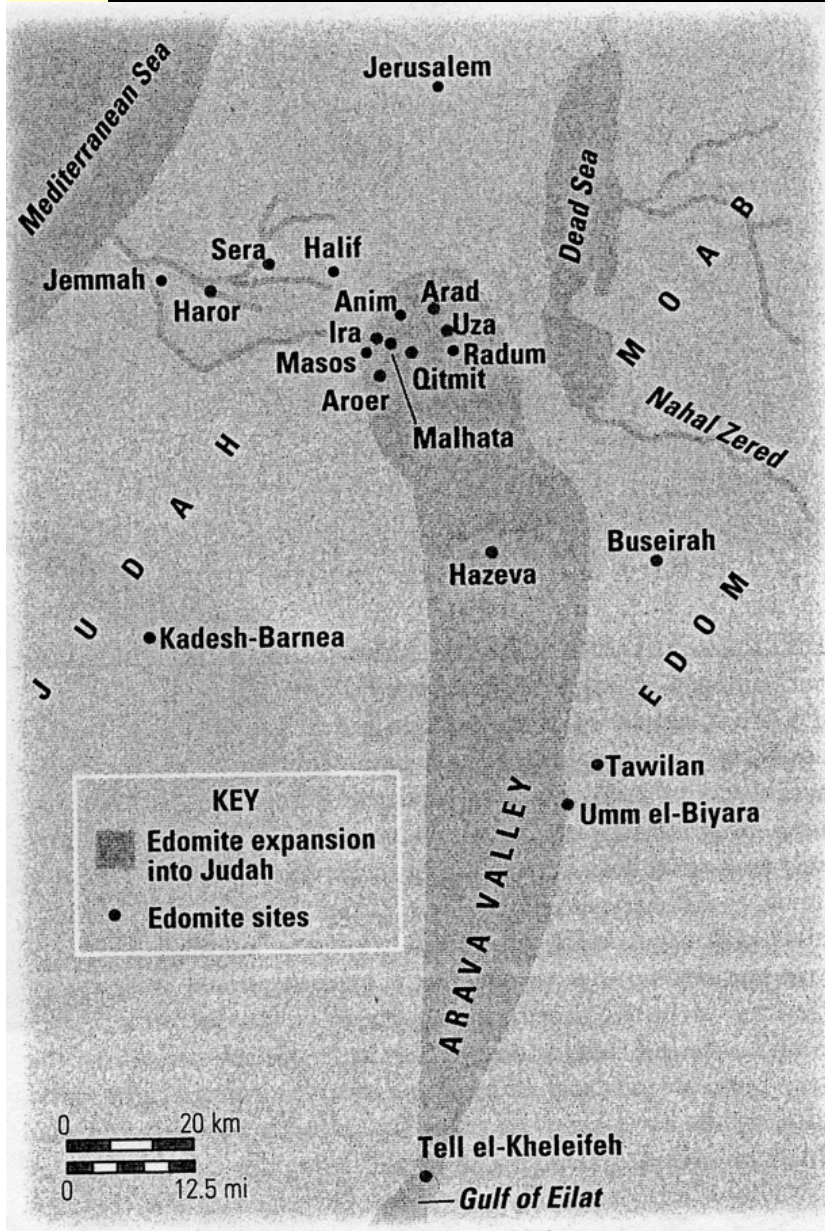
Assyrian inscriptions show that in 732 BC the king of Assyria compelled the king of Edom to pay tribute.

(Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible)



Divided Monarchy (c. 701 BC)

Hezekiah's disastrous revolt gave Edom the opportunity to begin expanding westward into portions of the eastern Negev.

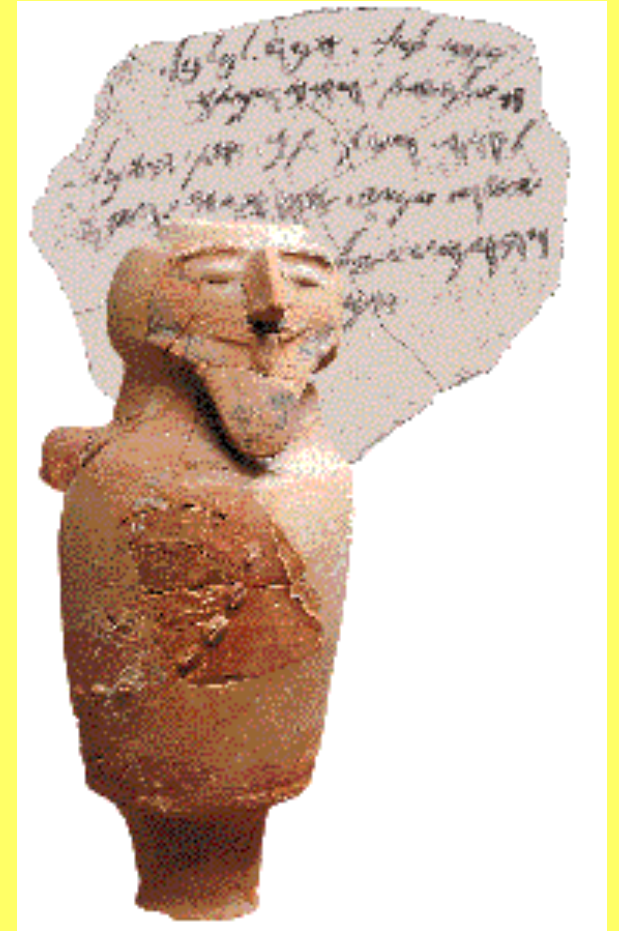


Archaeological Evidence

Arad Inscription

Edomite Ostrakon

*(Hogland & Excerpts from Biblical
Archaeology, December 1996)*



Divided Monarchy (c. 612 BC)

**Gained partial freedom
after the fall of Nineveh**



Conquered by Babylon



c. 601 BC Edom became a Babylonian tributary

Glad About Fall of Judah (586 BC)

**Rejoiced over
the fall of Judah**

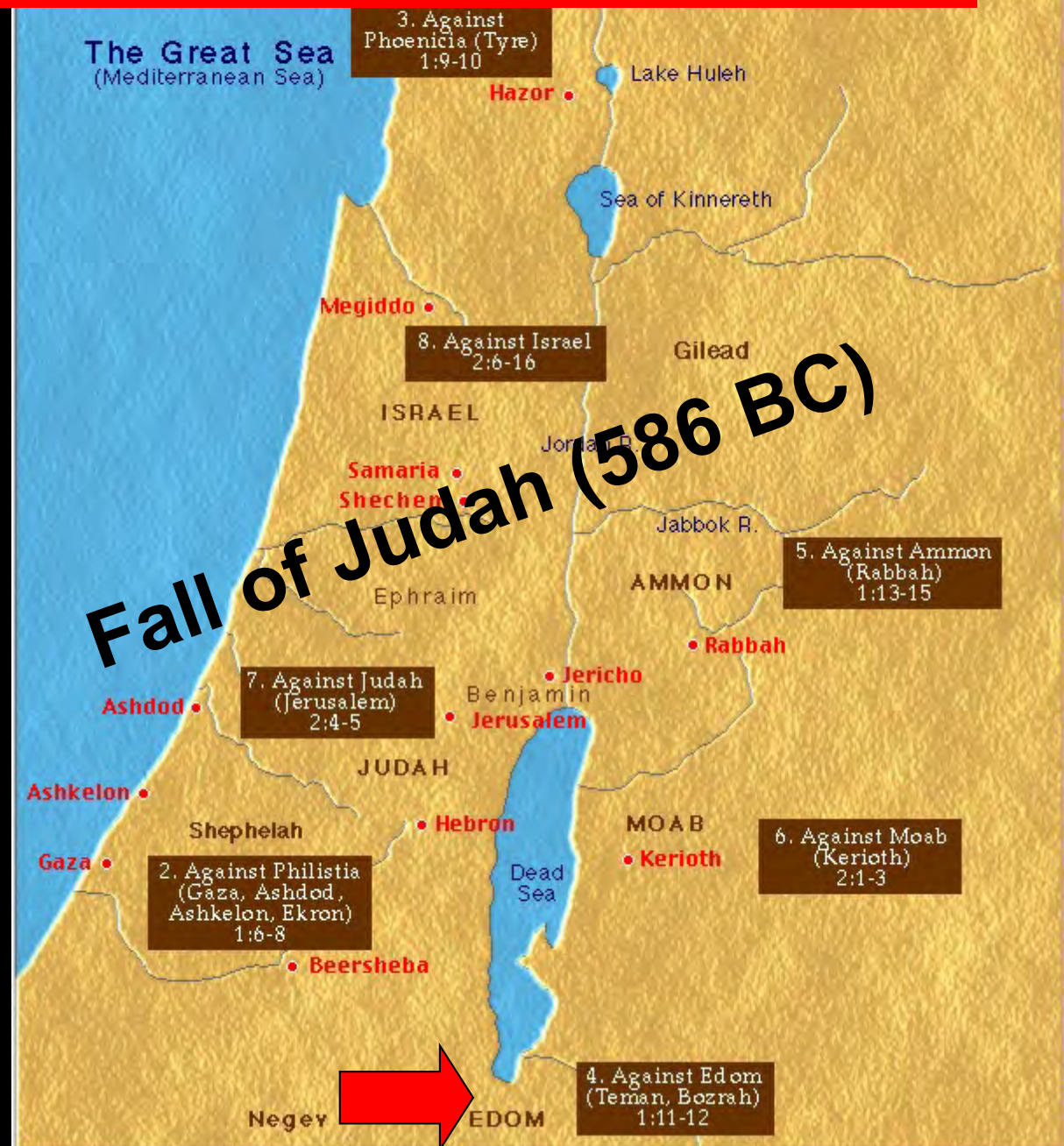
**(Obadiah 11-14;
Psalm 137:7;
Lam. 4:21-22)**



Prophecies of Being Judged

102
6a2

OT prophets foretold judgment on Edom for her bitter hatred (Amos 1:11-12; Jer. 49:7-22; Lam. 4:21-22; Obad. 10ff; Ezek. 25:12-14; 35:1-15)



Judgment on the 12-Nation Coalition (Isa 13–23) 457



Against Dumah (Heb.) or Edom (LXX)

**“This message came to me concerning Edom:
Someone from Edom keeps calling to me,
‘Watchman, how much longer until morning?
When will the night be over?’**

**¹² The watchman replies,
‘Morning is coming, but night will soon return.
If you wish to ask again, then come back and ask’”
(Isaiah 21:11-12 NLT).**



Took advantage of Judah's calamity to migrate into the heart of southern Judah, South of Hebron (Ezek. 35:10-12).

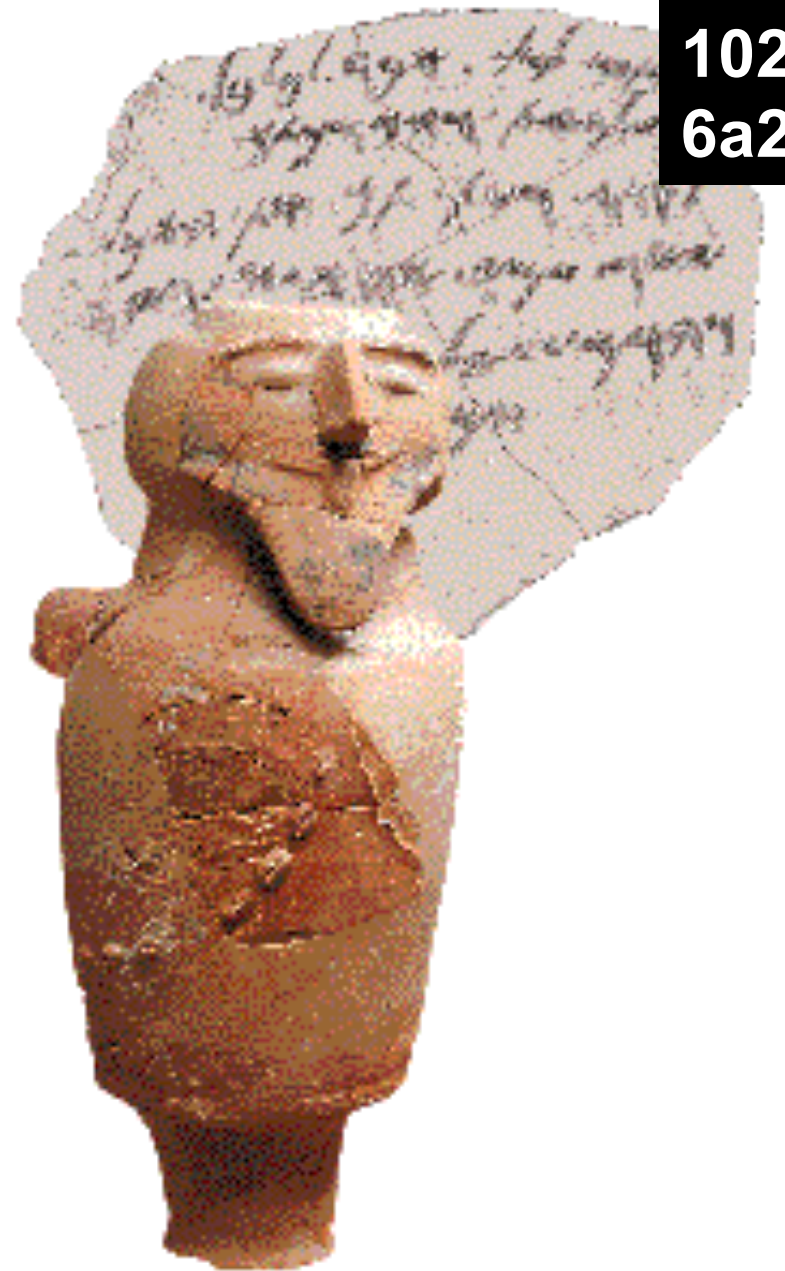


Fall of Judah (586 BC)

The Edomites are coming!

This Hebrew ostrakon, addressed to the commander of the Arad fortress, warns of an impending Edomite invasion. Part of a cache of late seventh or early sixth century BC Hebrew documents found in Arad, this dispatch testifies to the urgent threat Edom posed to Judah's southern flank.

(Excerpts from *Biblical Archeology Review*, December 1996)



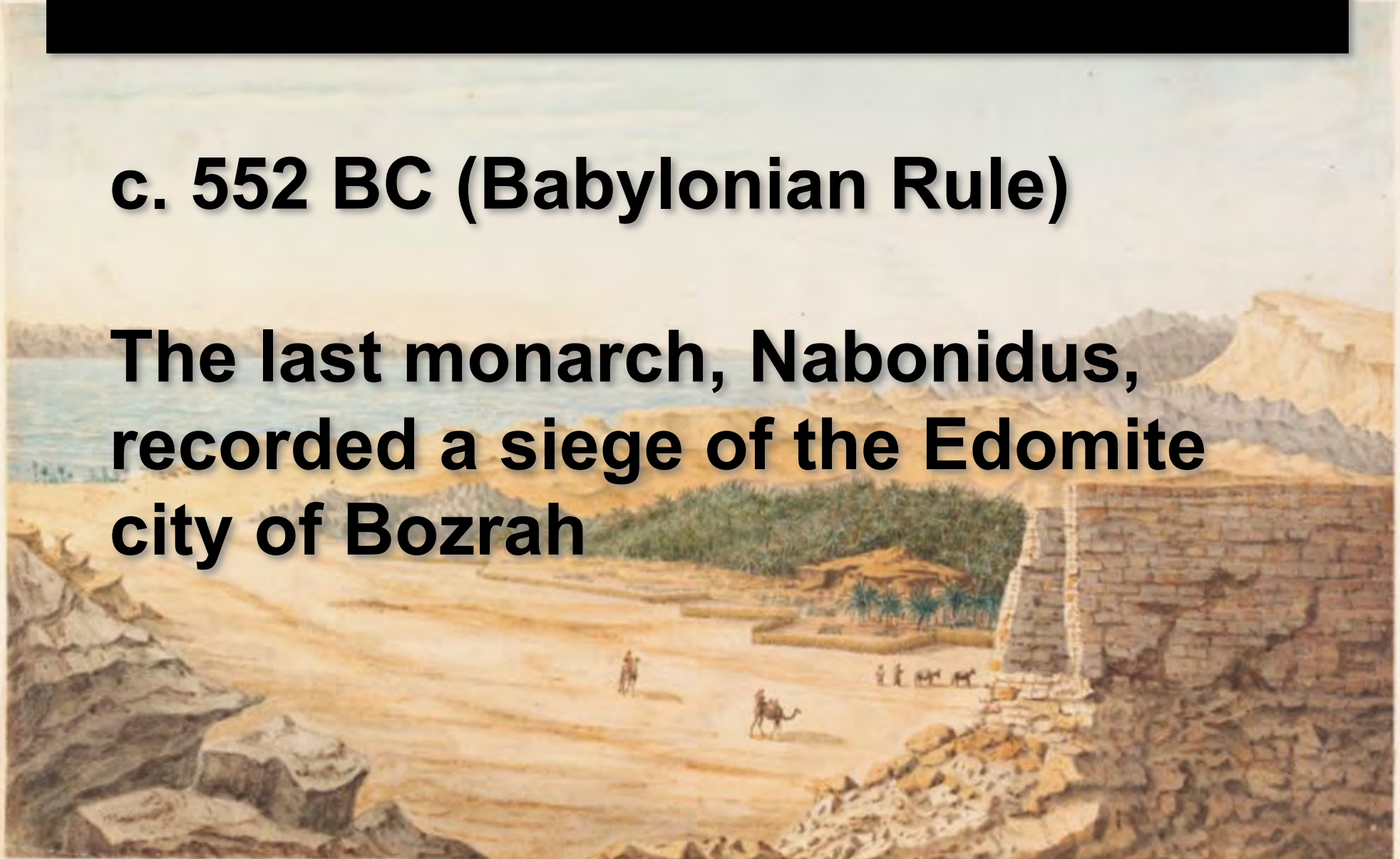
**102
6a2**

Fall of Judah (586 BC)

Annihilation

c. 552 BC (Babylonian Rule)

**The last monarch, Nabonidus,
recorded a siege of the Edomite
city of Bozrah**



Archaeological Excavations

At Buseira (ancient Bozrah), destruction in early 6th century BC (Hoglund)

At Tell el-Kheleifeh (ancient port of Ezion-geber), destruction levels followed by a quick rebuilding and a resumption of economic activity (IVP Background Commentary)



Ezion-geber

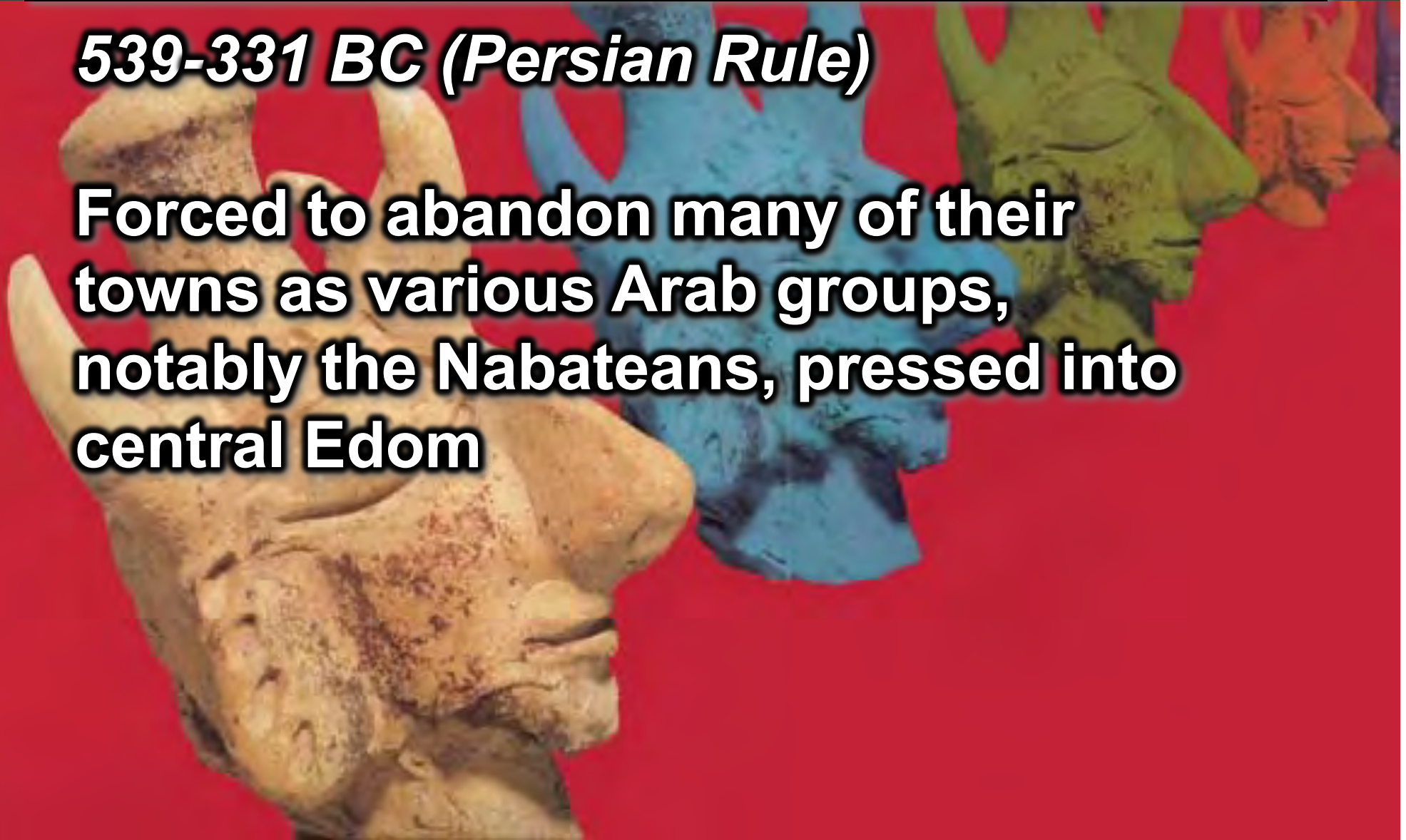
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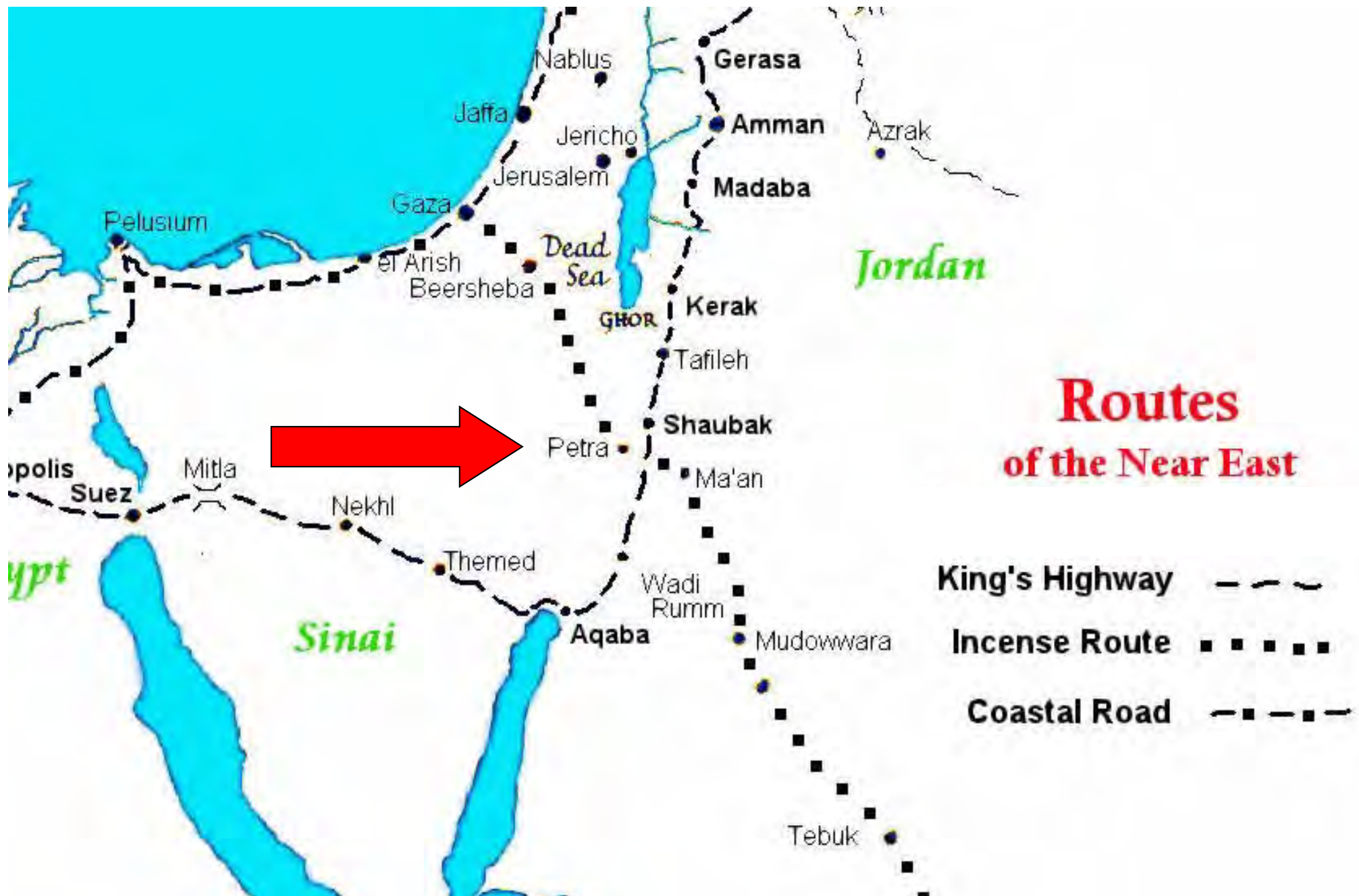
Gulf
of
Aqabah

Annihilation

539-331 BC (Persian Rule)

Forced to abandon many of their towns as various Arab groups, notably the Nabateans, pressed into central Edom





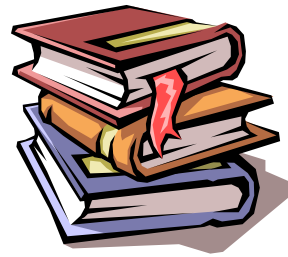
Crossroads of Trade Routes



The Treasury of Petra

Intrusion into Judah

Edomites settled in southern Judah, which is confirmed by later Jewish literature.



- a) 1 Maccabees 5:65 finds children of Esau in the Hebron district.***

- b) Josephus mentions Adorea and Marisa west of Hebron as Edomite towns (Antiquities).***

Archeological evidence suggests that while central Edom may have been desolate, the Edomite settlements in former Judean territories were healthy under Persian supervision.

Better in Judah



Evidence of Entrance into Judah

a) Several epigraphic finds from Tell el-Kheleifeh suggest an occupation in the fifth century.

b) Aramaic ostraca from Arad in the Persian period list several Edomite names.

(Hoglund)



Renamed

331-143 BC
(Greek Rule)

The Edomite area
in southern Judah
became known as
Idumea in the
Hellenistic period
(1 Macc. 4:29; 5:65).



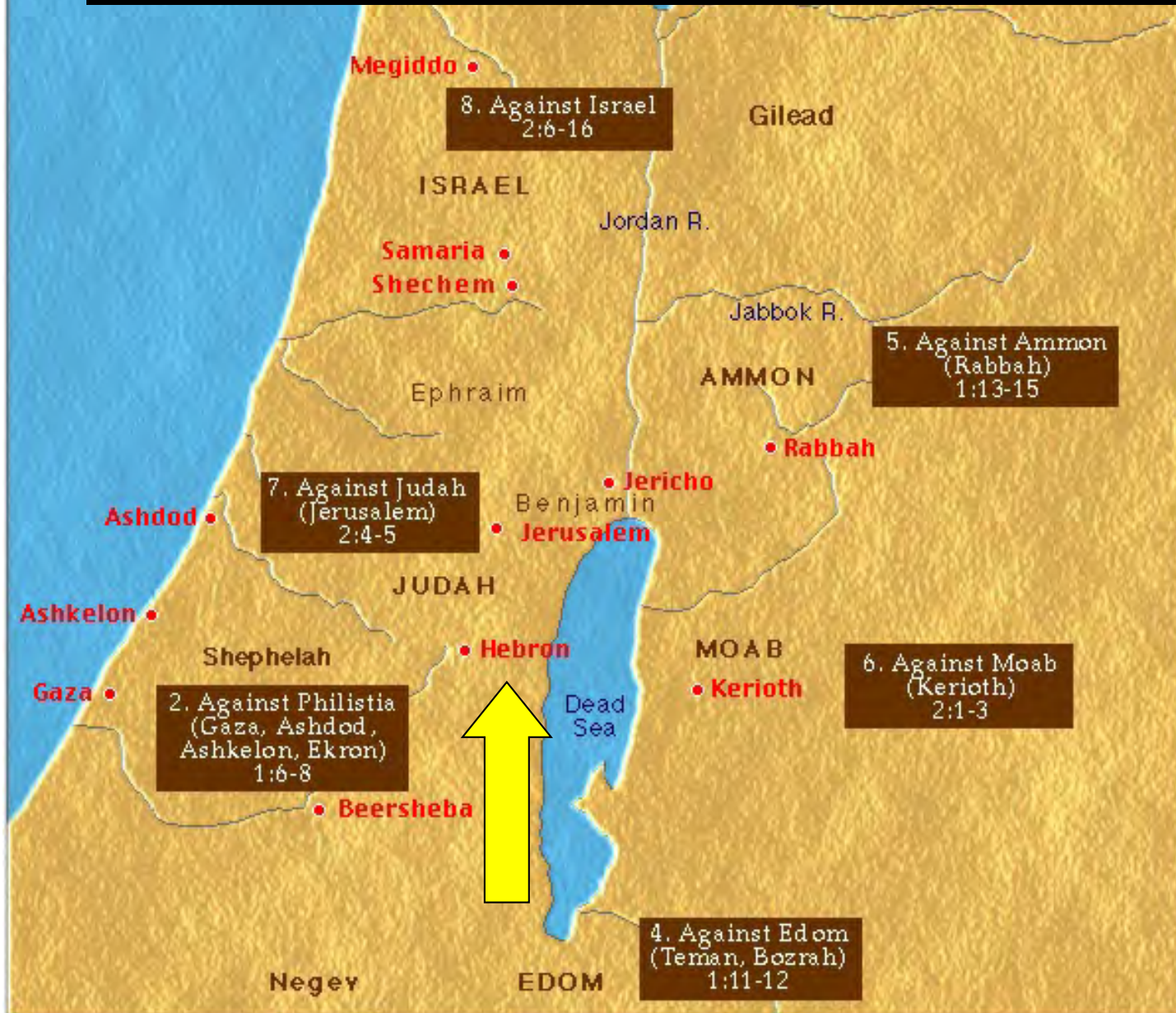
The Great Sea
(Mediterranean Sea)

Phoenicia (Tyre)
1:9-10

Lake Huleh

Hazor

Conquering Northward



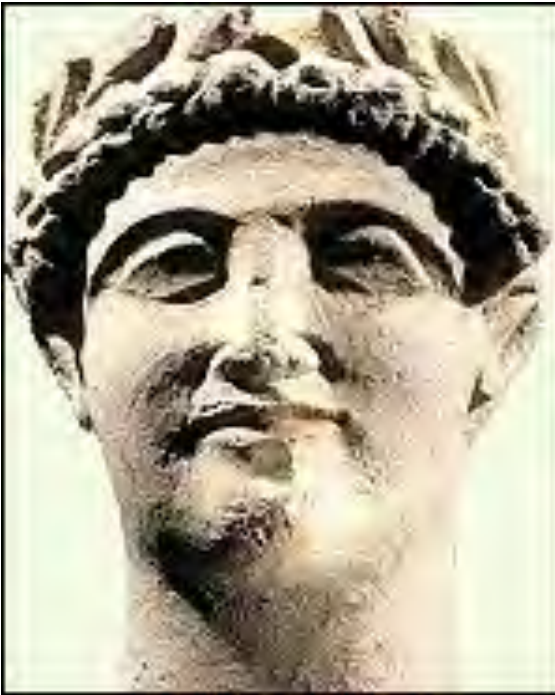
Idumeans Also Subdued

143-63 BC (Hasmonean Rule)

**John Hyrcanus subdued the Idumeans around 126 B.C. He compelled them to adopt Judaism and incorporated them into the Jewish people.
(*Ant.*, XIII. 9.1; XV. 7.9)**

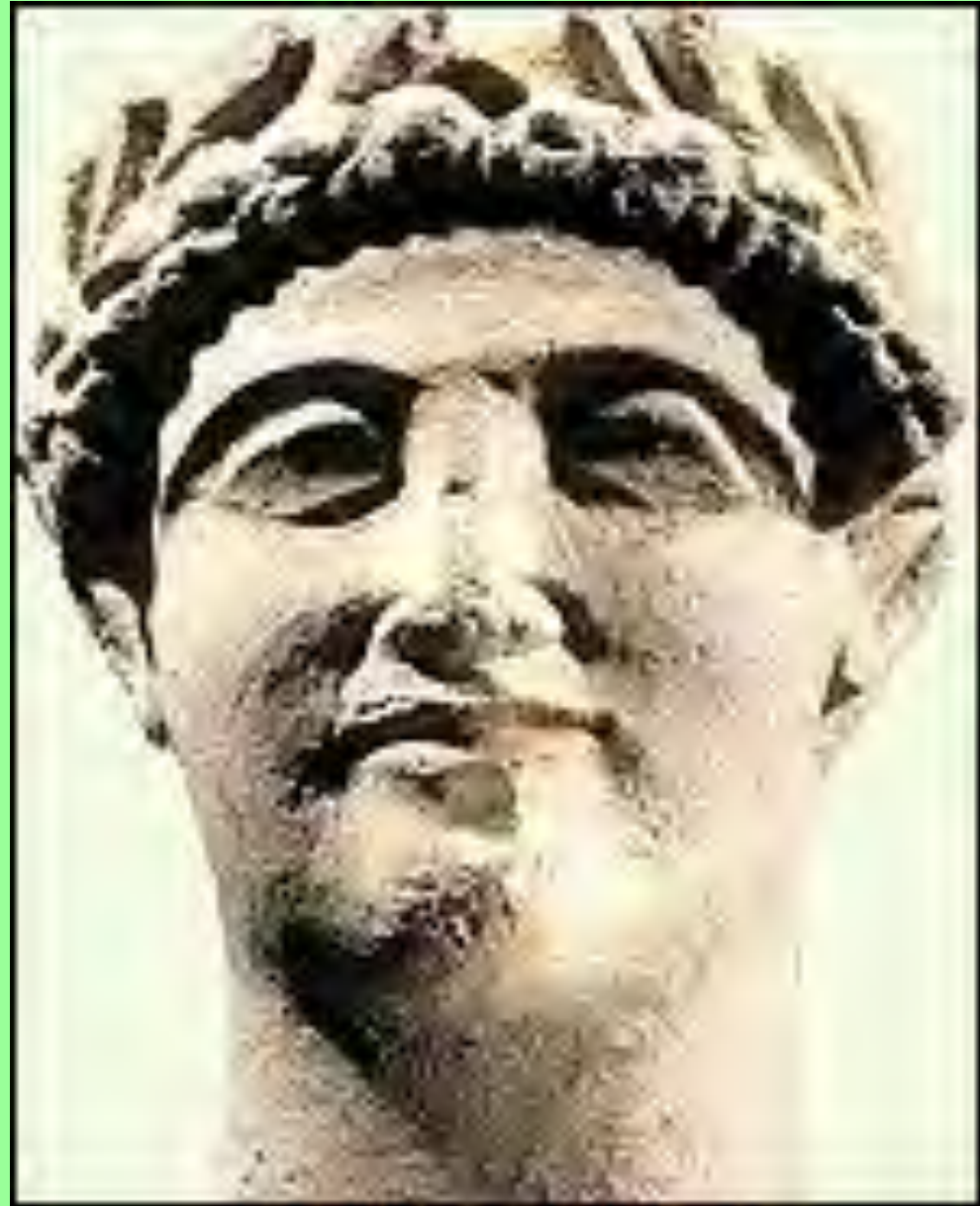


Roman Rule (63 BC – AD 330)



***Herod the
Great
37-4 BC***

***Herodian
Dynasty
37 BC – AD 70***



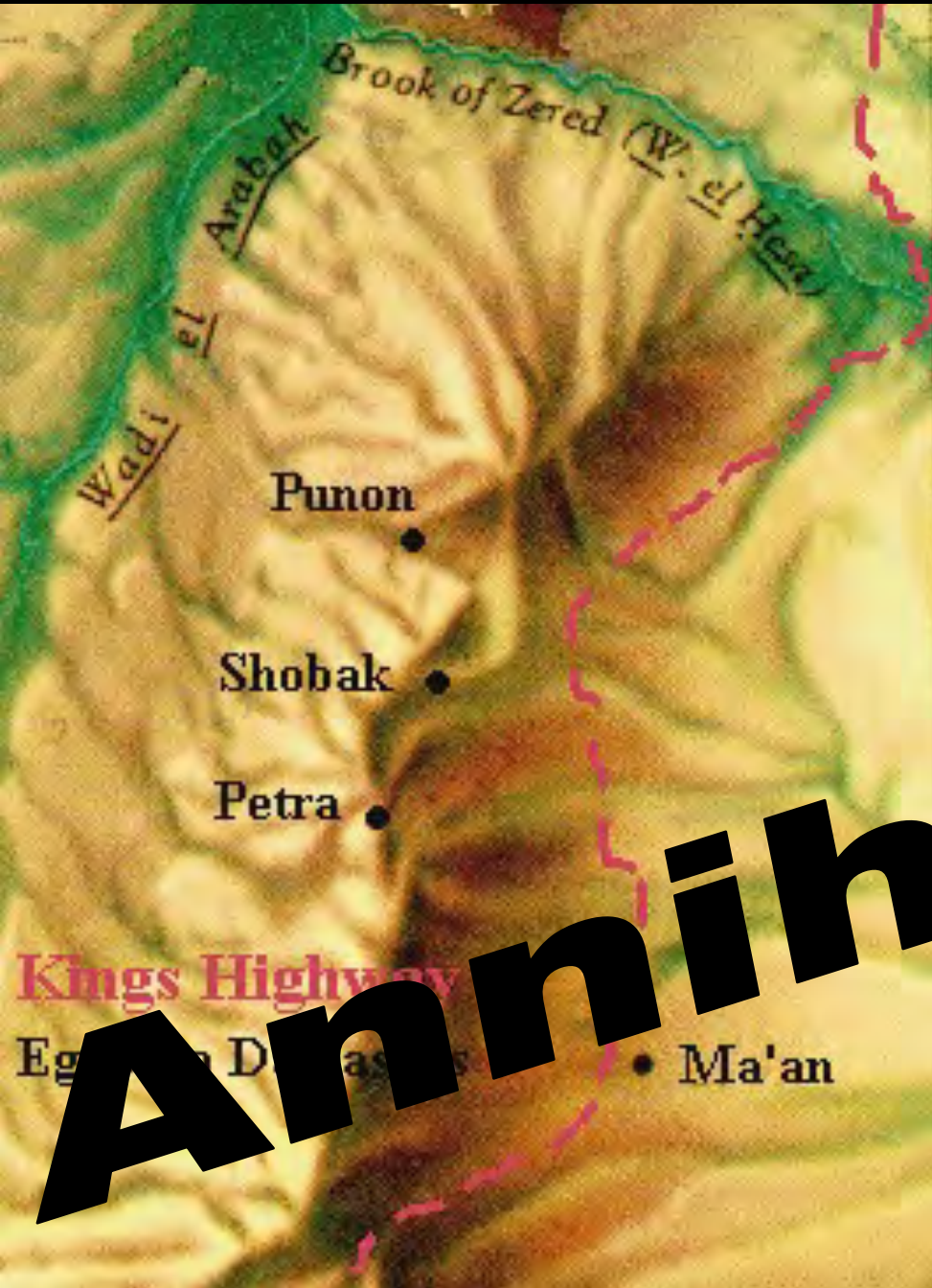
In AD 66, the Jews rebelled against Rome. When Titus besieged Jerusalem in AD 70, the Idumeans joined the Jews in rebellion against Rome.

Treachery

Josephus says that 20,000 Idumeans were admitted as defenders of the Holy City. Once within, they proceeded to rob and kill.

Judged by Rome

These traitors received the same fate as the few surviving Jews when Rome took over Jerusalem.



Idumea, or Edom, ceased to be.

Annihilated

Significance: God's Election



*I Hate
Esau*



*I Love
Jacob*

Mal. 1:2-3

Significance:

God's Judgment on All Nations

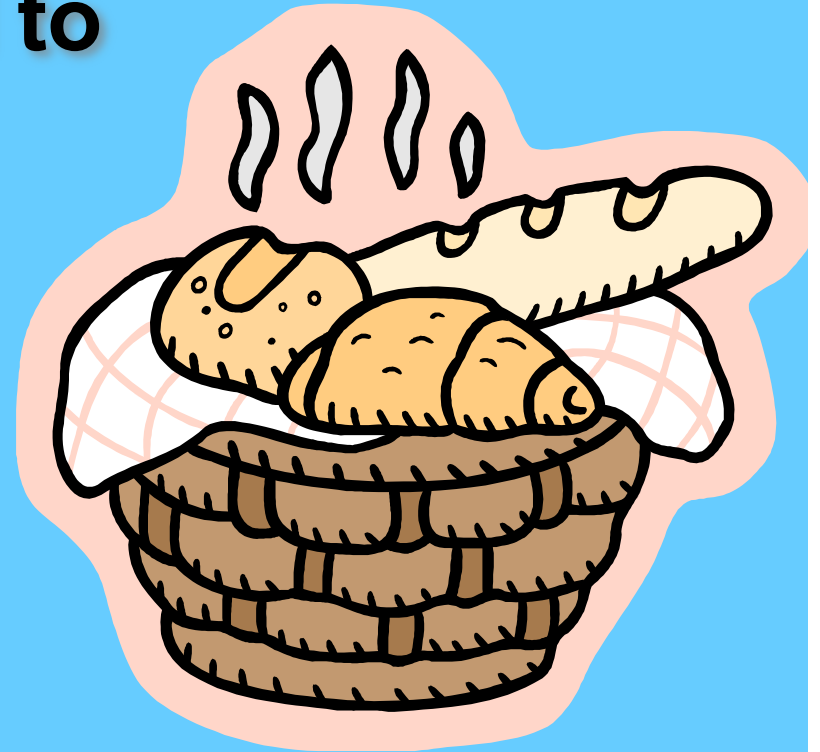
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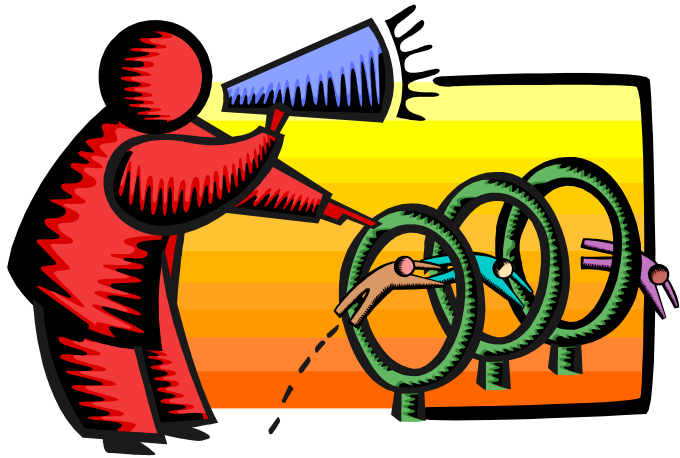
Edom in the OT often stands for pagan nations as a whole (Isa. 34:5-17; cf. Obad. 15-21).



Significance: God's Providence

Refugees from the destruction of Judah fled to Edom for safety until the fighting had ceased (Jer. 40:11-12).



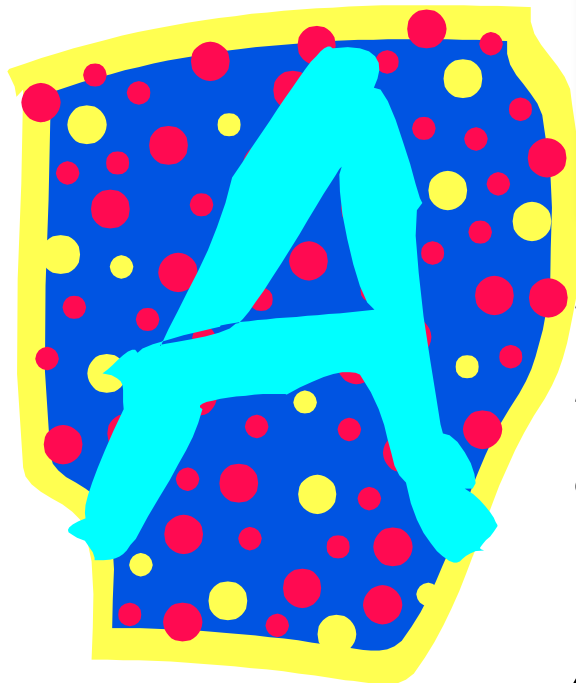


Proud (Jer. 49:16; Obad. 3)

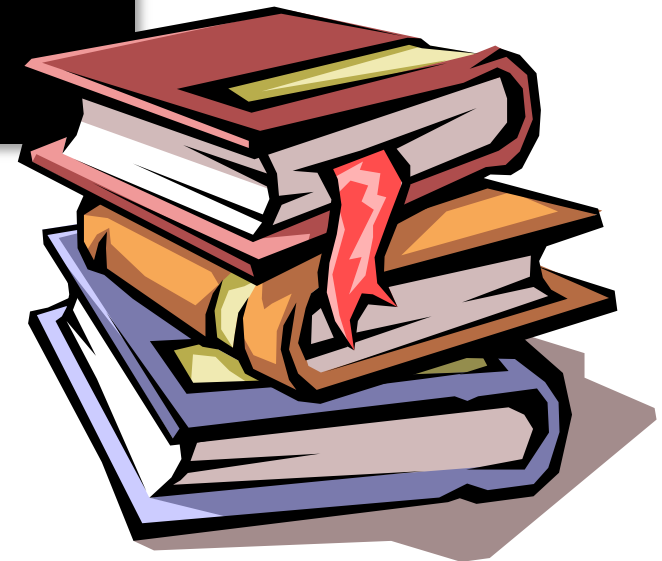


**Polytheistic/
Syncretistic**

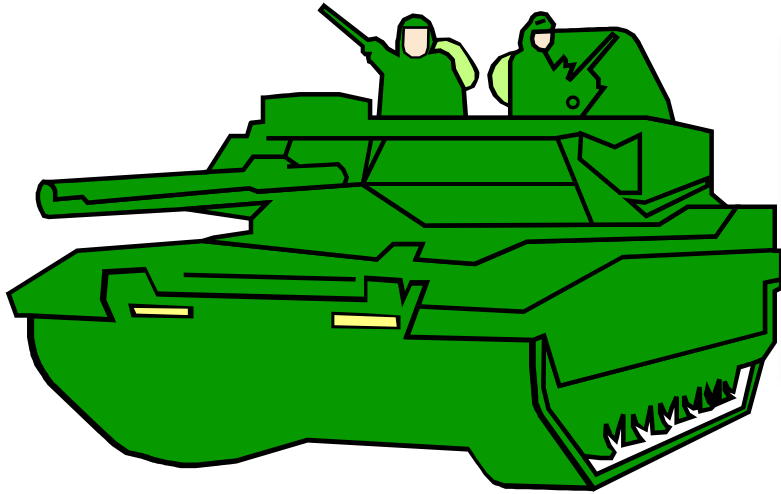
Character of Edomites



Harbored bitter hatred because of anger and envy (Ezek. 35:5, 11; Amos 1:12)



Wise (Jer. 49:7)



Character of Edomites



*Pursued his brother with the sword;
No compassion for kin (Ezek. 35:5; Amos 1:11)*



*Rejoiced over calamity
(Ezek. 35:15; Lam. 4:21-22)*

*Esau - Abandoned hope of
glory for the sake of things
seen and not eternal (Heb. 12:6f.)*

"Thou Shall NOT Do Likewise!!"



GOD IS FAITHFUL AND JUST

- Do not envy others
- Use your different gifts & talents to bless others

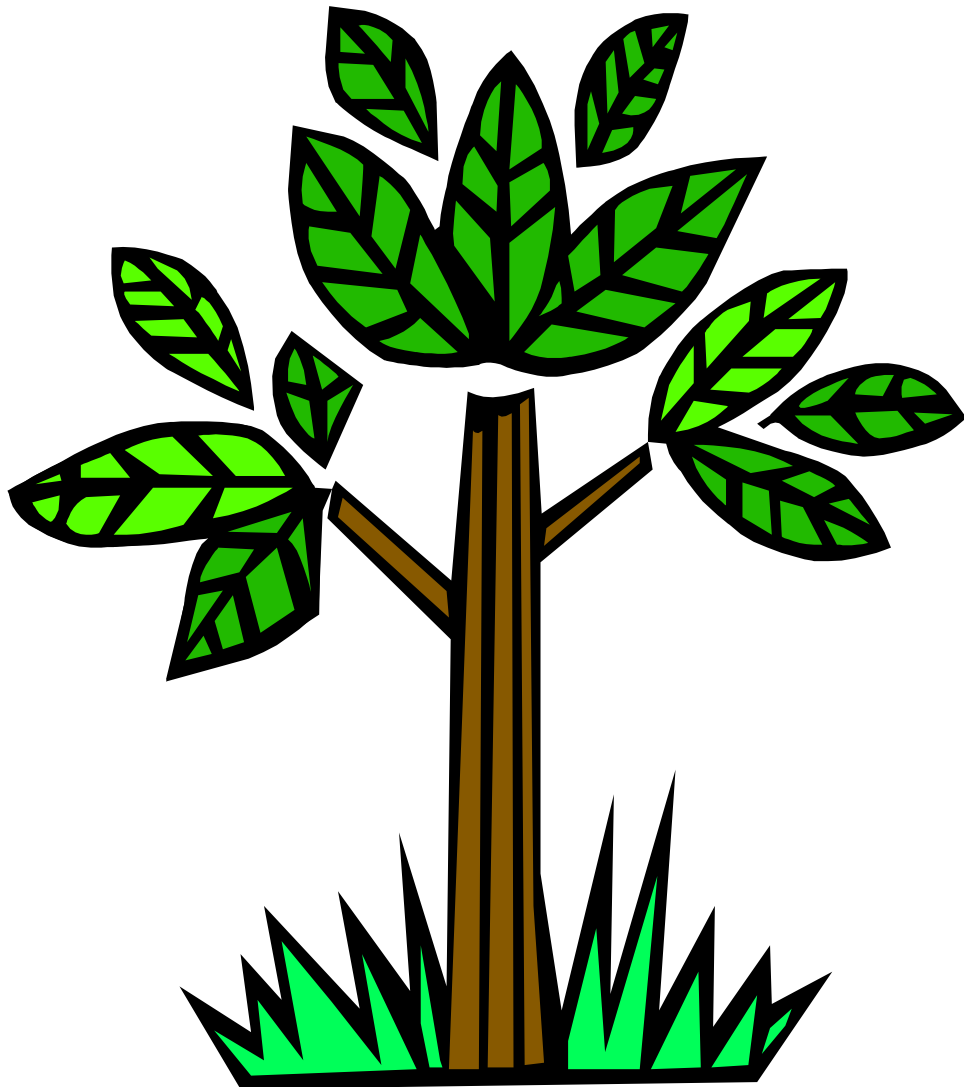
***"Esau I
hated"***

Election
& Calling
Mal. 1:2-3

***"Jacob I
loved"***

Character of God

Character of God



***GOD IS
IN CONTROL***

Trust God!

**"Don't take advantage of the
circumstances,
but look towards God."**



Character of Esau's Parents

The animosity between Esau and Jacob was deep rooted.

While God is impartial, Isaac and Rebekah showed favoritism towards their children.



"Fairness in parenting is important!"



Edomites Group Members

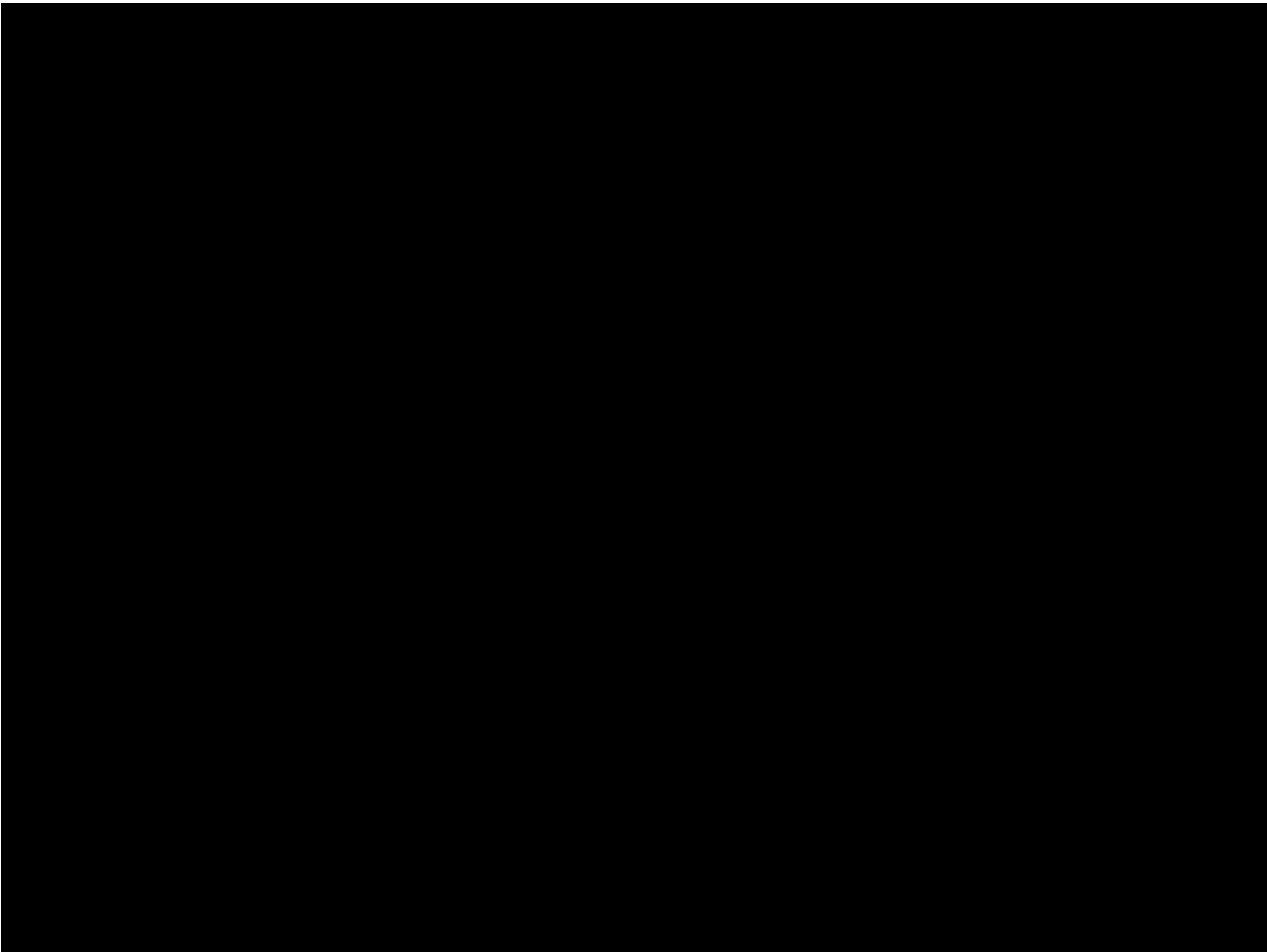
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