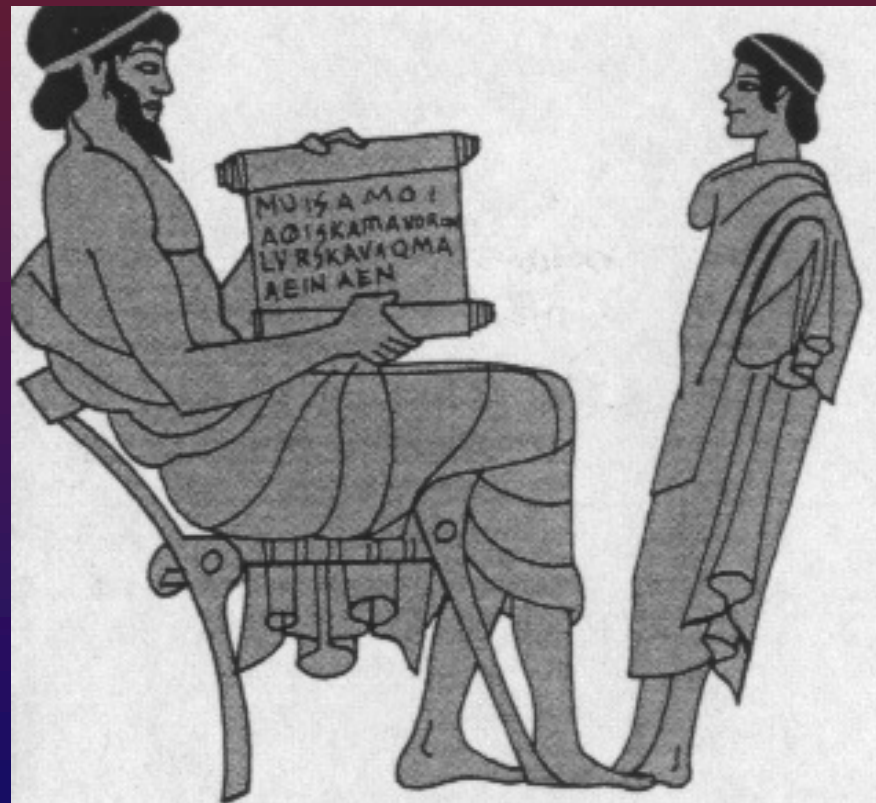
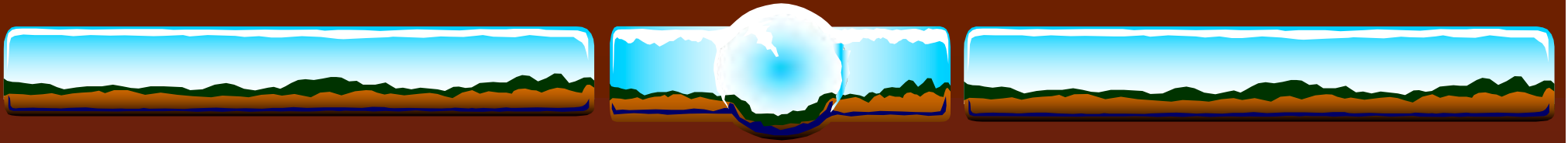


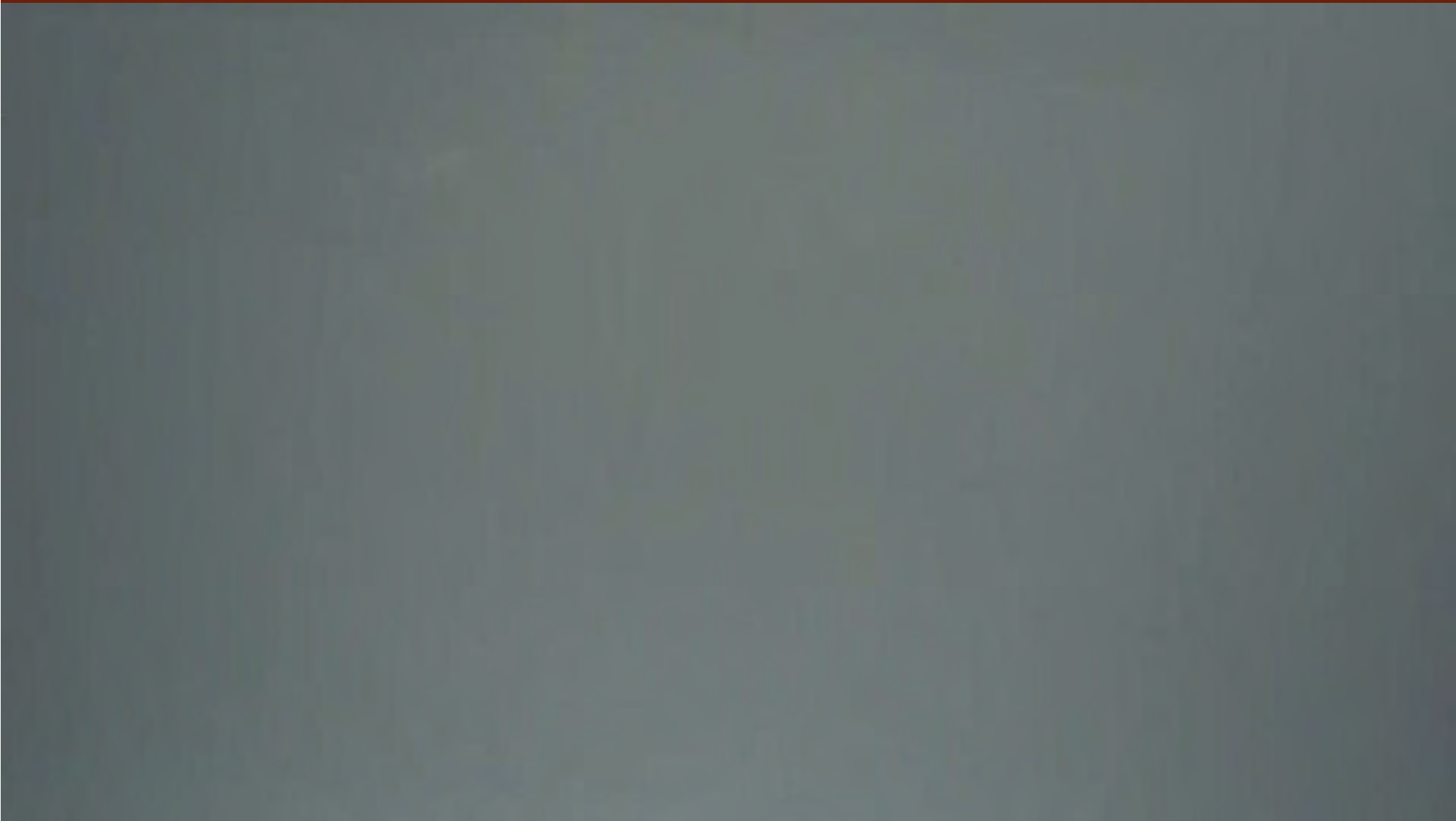
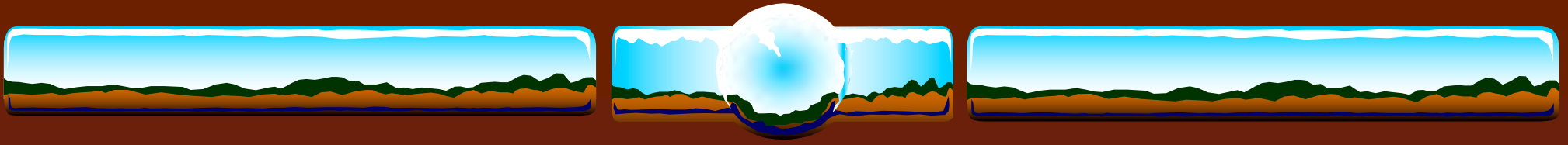
Old Testament Backgrounds Education

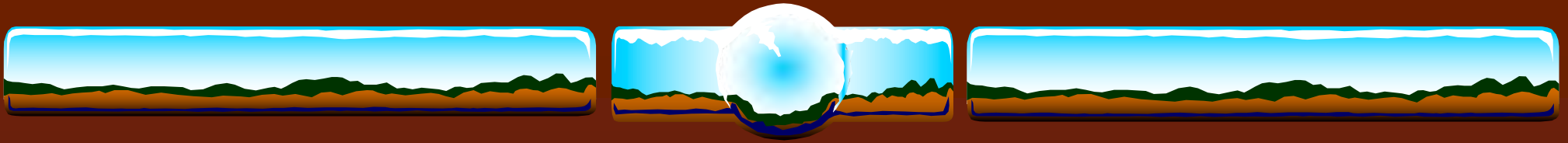




*Education has been
Vital in in All Societies
Throughout Time*

(Advance Slide for Movie)



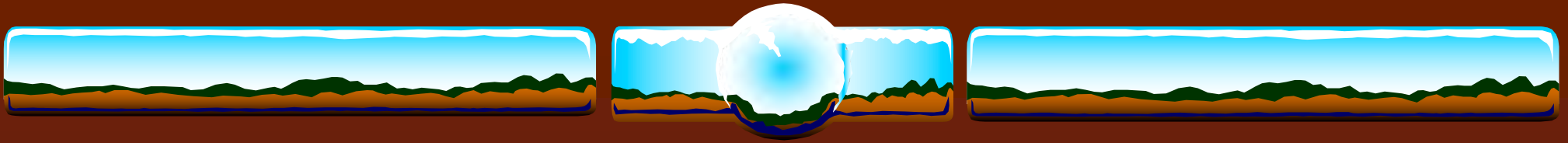


Questions to explore today...

In the days of the
Old Testament...

How were the children of Israel
and the pagan nations taught?

What were they taught and why?



Today's Outline:

Education in Israel in 4 stages:

1. Abraham (Mesopotamia)
2. Moses to Pre-Kingdom (Egypt)
3. Kingdom Period (Israel)
4. Exile and Post-Exile (Babylon & Judah)

The Nature of Hebrew Education

"In the ancient world of the Old Testament times, there was no such thing as a 'secular culture.' The Hebrews believed that all truth came from God... who revealed to man the knowledge necessary for his own welfare."

Education to the Hebrews was therefore about learning what God wanted them to learn.

1. Abraham (Mesopotamia & Ancient Sumer)

Genesis 11:31 Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan.



Abraham was brought up according to the culture that was in Ur.



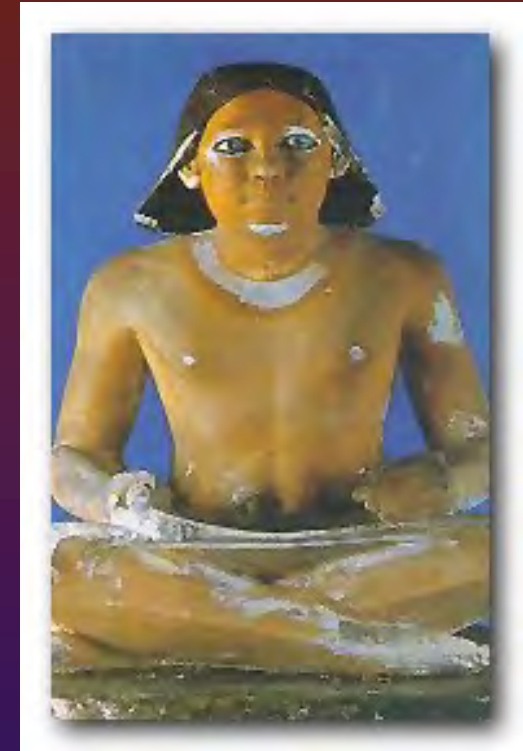
Education in schools in ancient Mesopotamia & Sumer

Schools originated following the discovery of making imprints onto soft clay and hardening it to form tablets.



A typical school setup included:

- head assisted by preceptors
- senior teacher
- senior clerk
- specialists
- subordinates (better known as scribes)

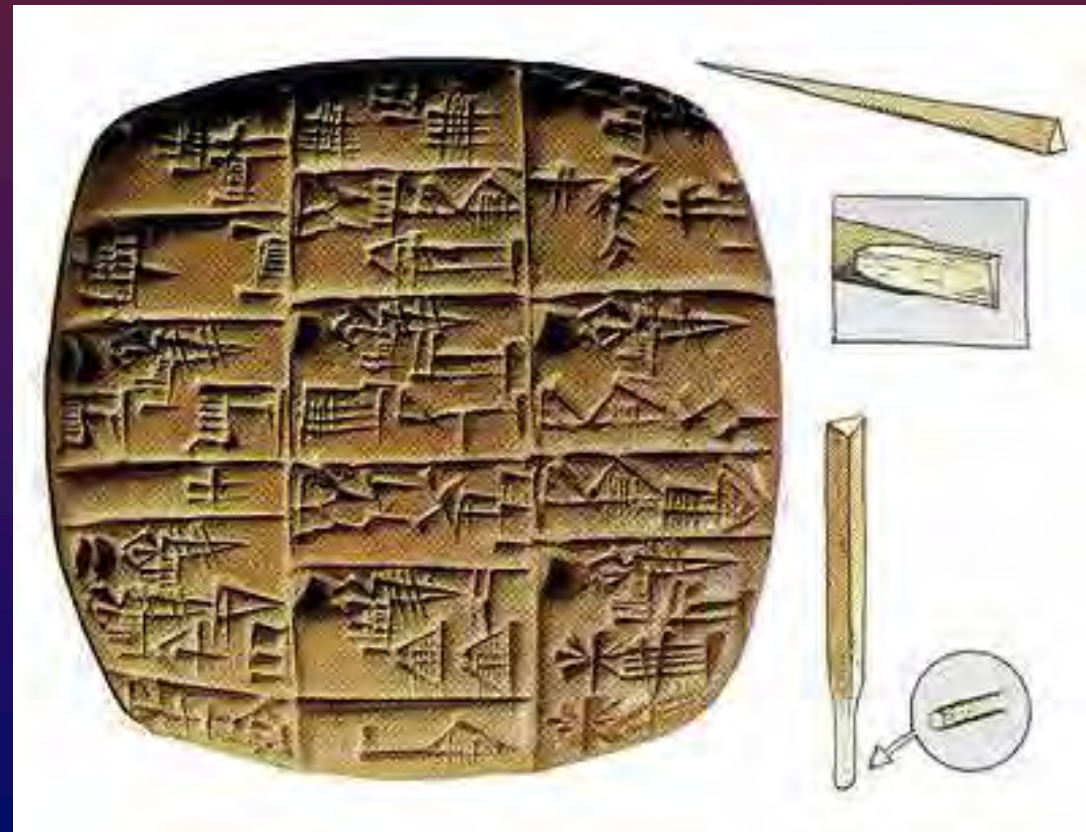


Only boys attended schools, with the exception of daughters of royalty or wealthy individuals.

Sumerian students were taught in the areas of: mathematics, music, languages, public service, geography, botany and even magic.

Students trained for religious, commercial and governmental work.

Instruction took place in open courtyards or sheltered brick walls.



From Abraham to Jacob and his twelve sons,
no formal schooling existed as the family members
were mainly herdsmen looking after their flocks.

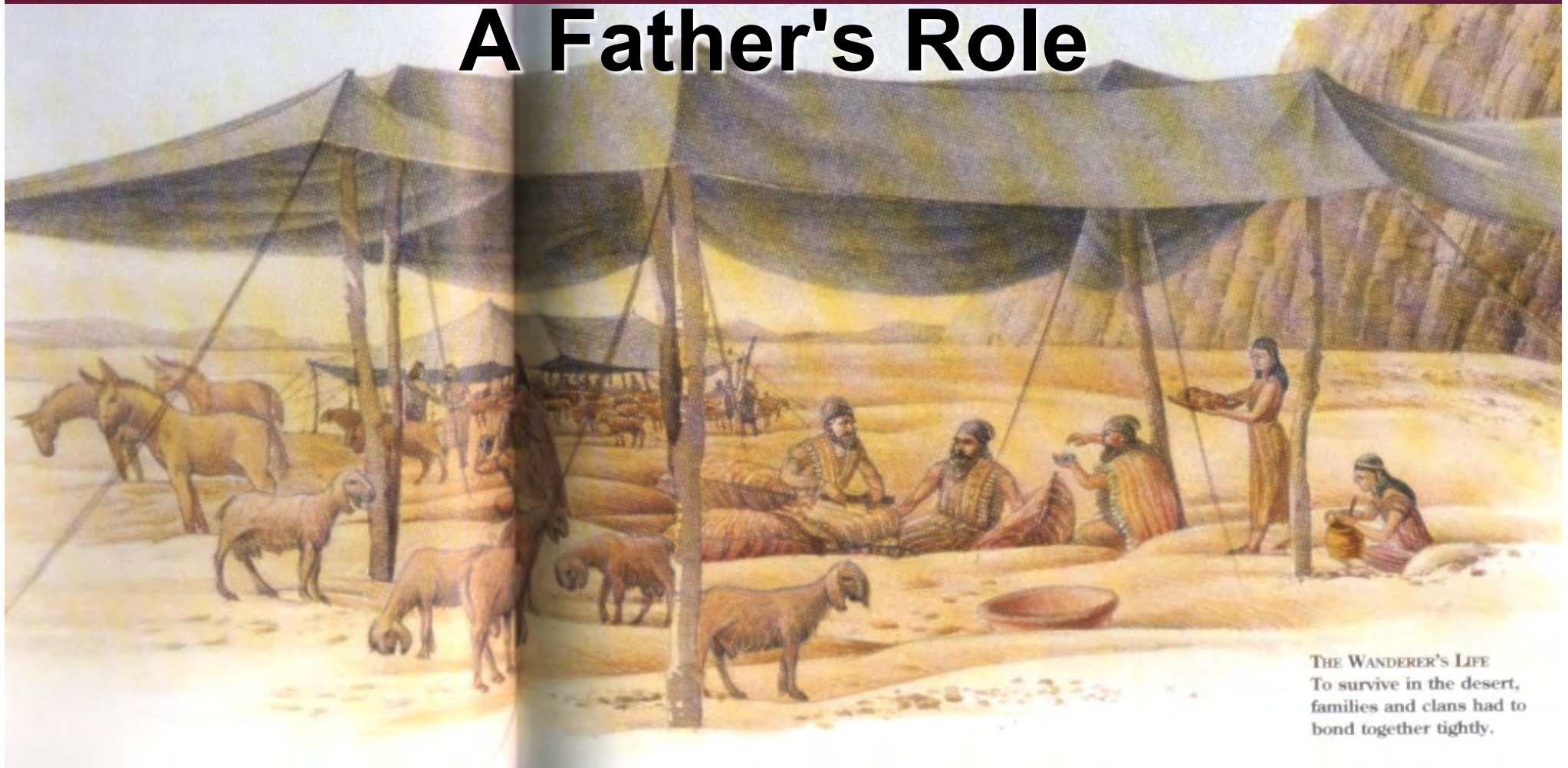
Skills for herding were taught in the field.

Things of God
were taught
orally, including
the Covenant,
circumcision and
the promise of
the land orally.



Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

A Father's Role



THE WANDERER'S LIFE
To survive in the desert,
families and clans had to
bond together tightly.

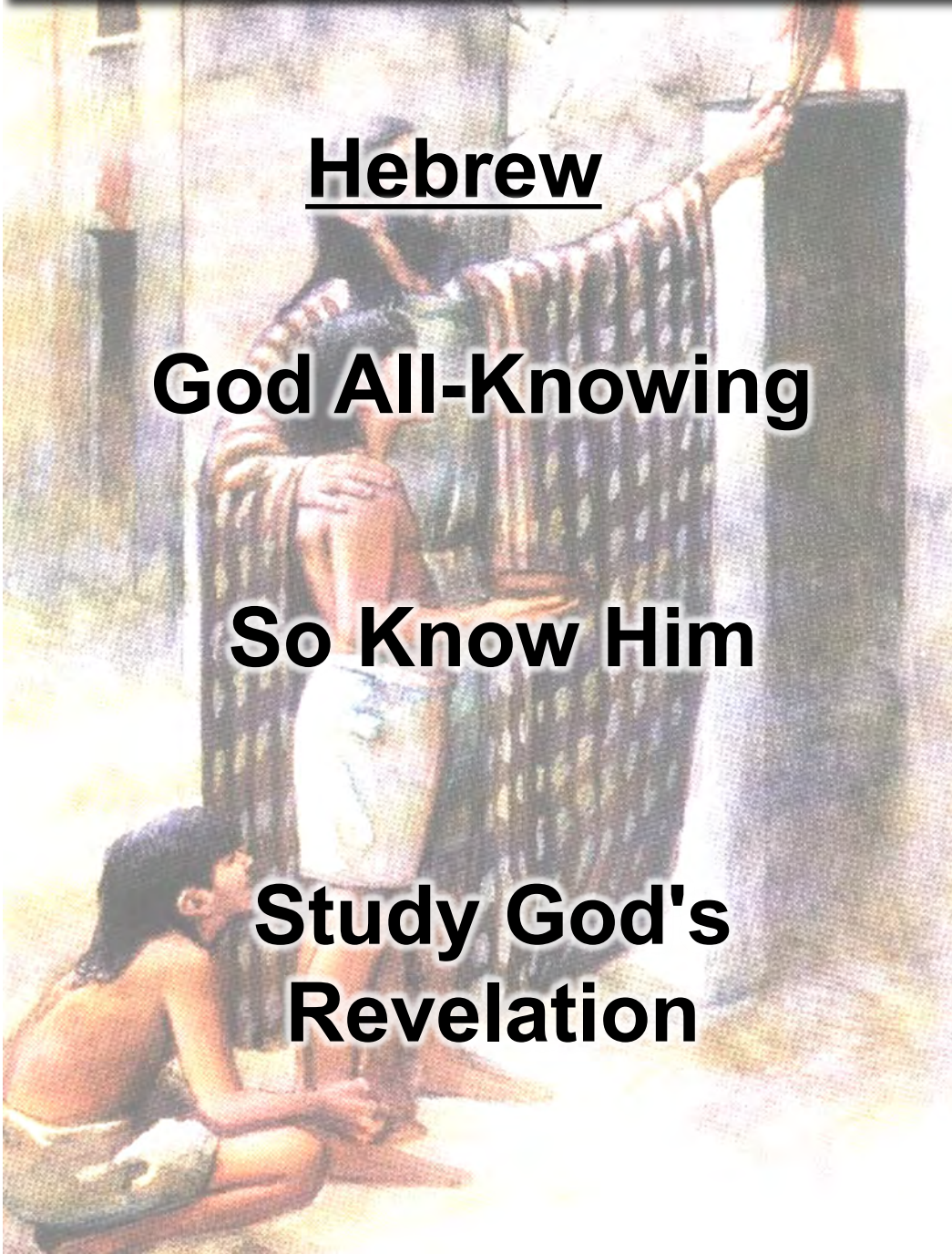
Types of Education

Hebrew

God All-Knowing

So Know Him

**Study God's
Revelation**



Greek-Roman

Man Discovers Truth

So Reason

**Study Science &
Philosophy**

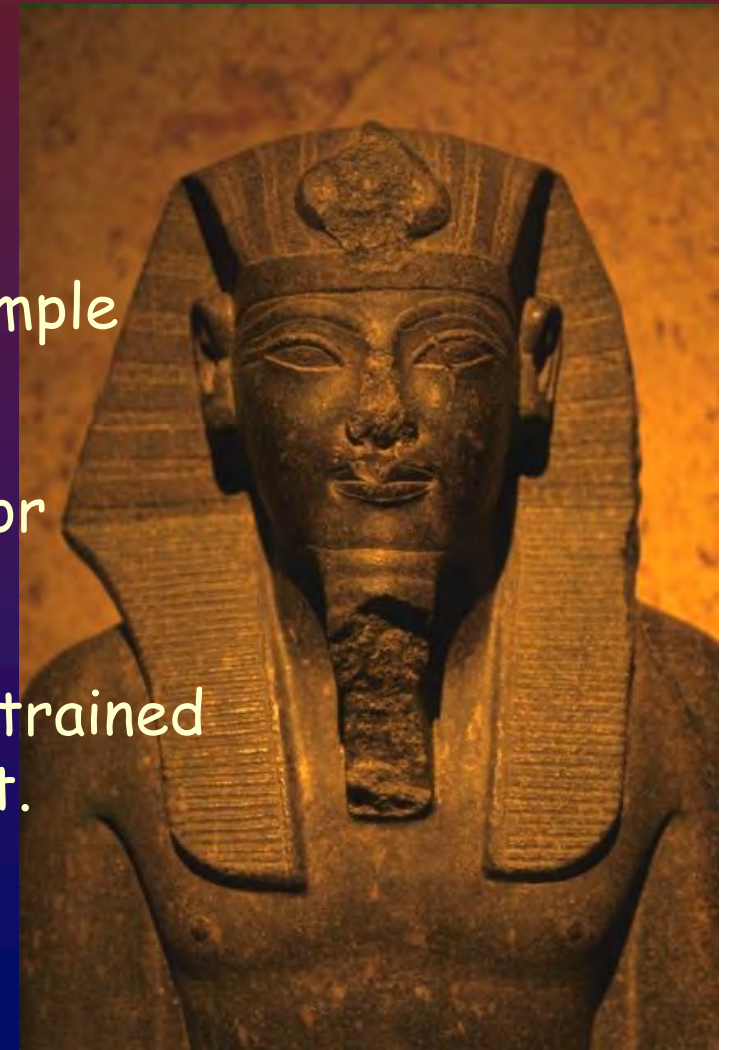


2. Moses to Pre-Kingdom (Egyptians)

Acts 7:22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

Education in Ancient Egypt

1. Schools for priests connected with temple and taught magic, medicine and religion.
2. The royal court equipped young men for positions of authority (incl. Moses)
3. Schools sponsored by the royal court trained people for smooth running of government.
4. Subjects taught included arithmetic, geography, poetry and astronomy.



During the New Kingdom (1567-1085 BC)

- Scribal schools proliferated in the palace and temple.
- The need for a huge workforce opened schools to all qualified children.
- A new emphasis on personal piety developed.



Education in the Time of Moses

Moses learned Egyptian hieroglyphics and Canaanite Script in his training.

He was able to record the laws and commandments of God for the people of Israel.

During the wilderness wanderings, no formal system of education existed.

Families were responsible for passing down the trade and skills of their livelihood and the teaching of the laws.

2700-2600
B. C.

ca. 1500
B. C.























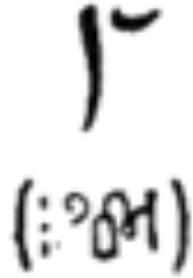
ca. 1500
B. C.

ca. 1900
B. C.

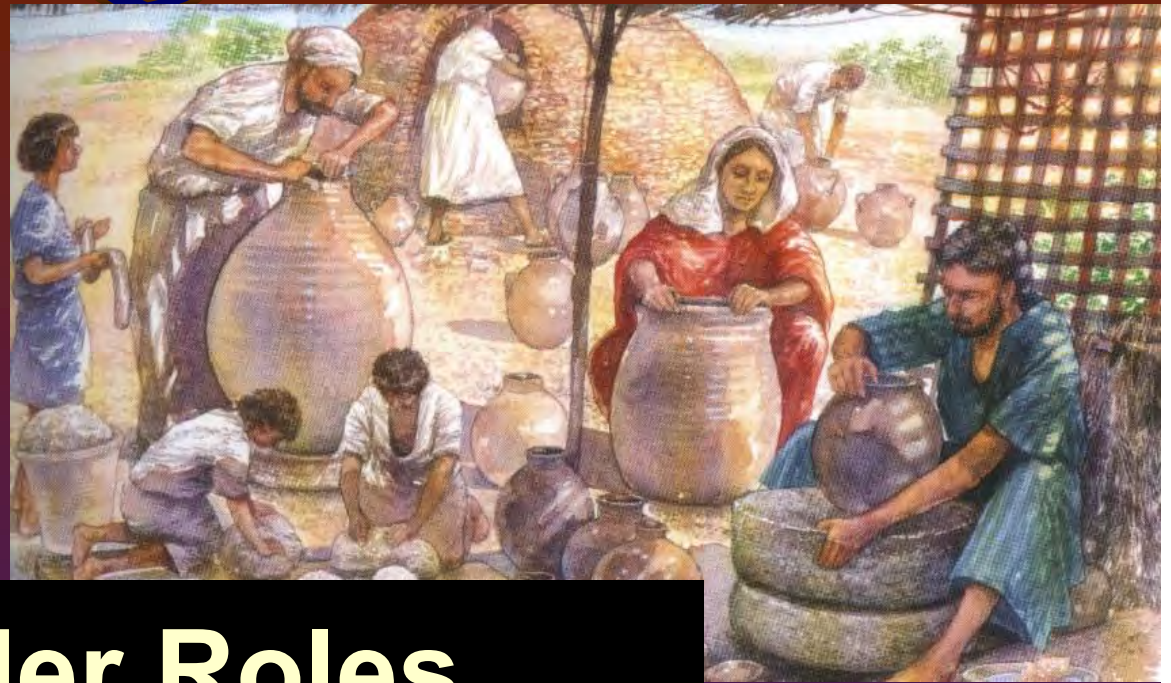
ca. 200
B. C.

400-100
B. C.

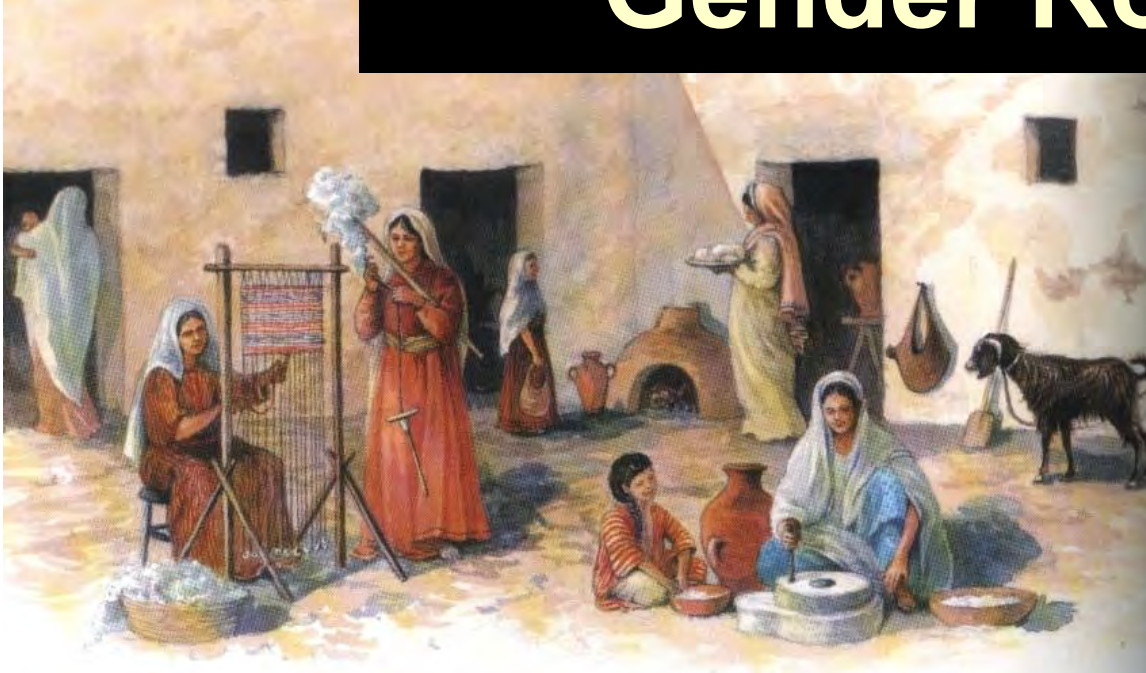
Egyptian Hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphic		Hieroglyphic Book Hand	Hieratic		Demotic
					
					
					
					
2700-2600 B. C.	ca. 1500 B. C.	ca. 1500 B. C.	ca. 1900 B. C.	ca. 200 B. C.	400- 100 B. C.

Boys were taught
the necessary skill
of their trades



Gender Roles

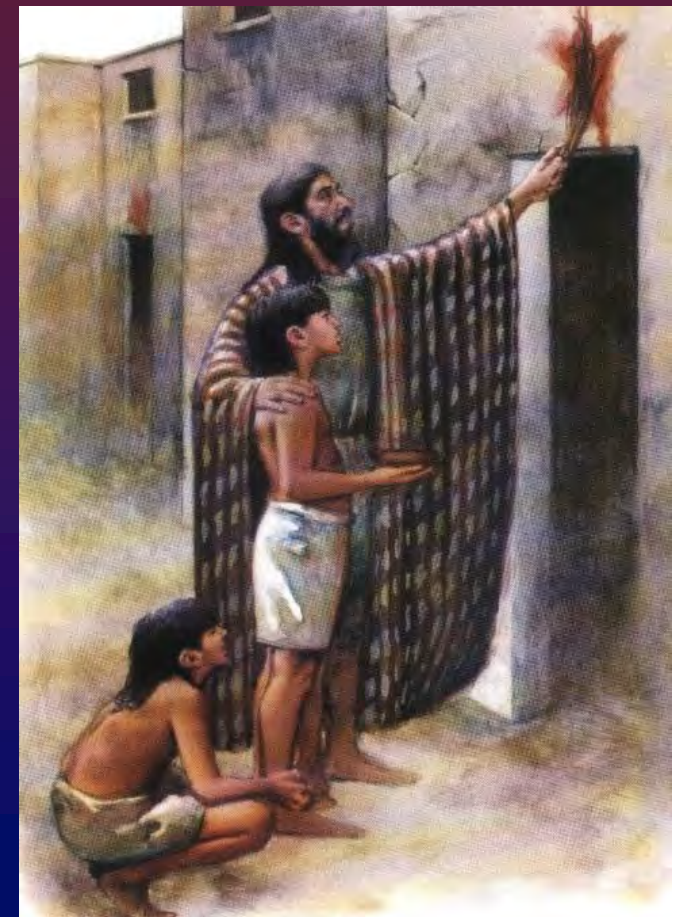


Girls were taught
domestic skills in
their homes.

Deut. 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Parents were responsible to teach their children the things of God:

the laws, covenant, and customs (including the Passover celebration).



The Tabernacle & Temple

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An education system in the temple (tabernacle) was developed for the priests.

The tabernacle also trained others who were not priests such as Samuel (1 Sam. 1).

A private school for prophets might have been set up by Samuel in Ramah (1 Sam. 19:18-21)

3. Kingdom Period

Palace & Temple Established

No indication of schools for training of palace related services

The priesthood, a teaching office, taught the law of Moses (Lev. 10:8-11; Deut. 31: 9-13; 33:10)

Private schools for prophets continued: Jeremiah and Baruch, Isaiah and his disciples (Isa. 8:16)



The Book of the Law (622 BC)



The nineteenth-century English artist W.H. Bartlatt depicts the finding of the Law in the temple during Josiah's reign.

4. Exile and Post-Exile

Little evidence for existence of scribal class until exilic and post-exilic period.

Ezra, a priest and scribe, marked the beginning of special class of biblical scholars, exegetes, official teachers and spiritual leaders.

Development of the synagogue for the purpose of worship, education and government of the community.



The Synagogue

The synagogue provided a mass system of adult education where the Torah was studied weekly.



Observations and Conclusion

- Jewish education was about teaching the Torah, not academic and technical concerns.
- It was not an education to make a living but about persons and character forming. Skills for living were learnt through apprenticeship.
- The duty of every father was to instruct his children (Exod. 10:2; 12:26-27)
- Children were trained in the home by their parents.

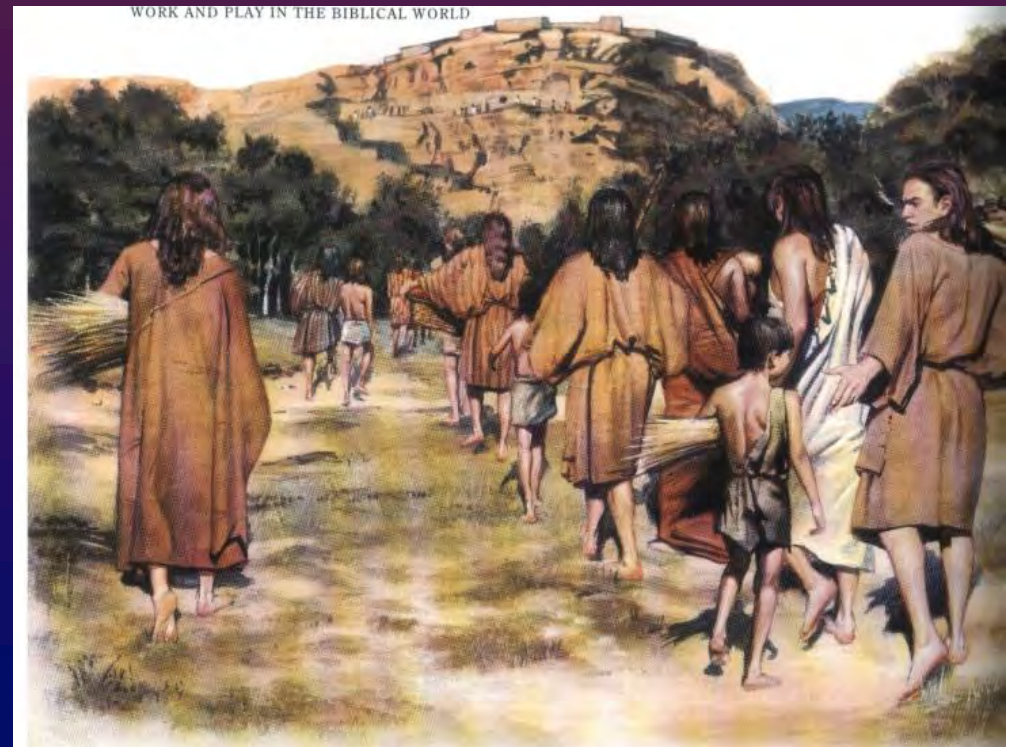
The Rise of Jewish Schools

Jews had no structure of schools for education like the Sumerians or Egyptians until:

- after exile when the need to learn the laws became of paramount importance and...
- teaching was formulated into the Mishnah by the scribes and...
- Pharisees arose to become the main teachers of the laws by the time of Christ.

Educational Symbols

Feasts and Festivals: Exodus 13:8; Deut 4:9;
Deut 6:20-21



Educational Symbols

Tabernacle and Temple: Symbol of the presence of God with His people



Educational Symbols



Prophets gave
symbolic
messages:

Isaiah 8:1;
Jeremiah 13:1-11
and 28:13;
Ezekiel 12:6;
Ezekiel 37



Proverbs 22:6 NAU



*"Train up a child in the way he should go.
Even when he is old he will not depart from
it."*

Small Group Discussion: Jesus did not make disciples this way. Why do we?



Discussion



1. Have you been taught more in the Hebrew or pagan manner of education?
2. What effect does this have on you and your values?
3. What lessons should we learn to better train up the next generation?

25th Sept 02

Group Members

Old Testament Backgrounds

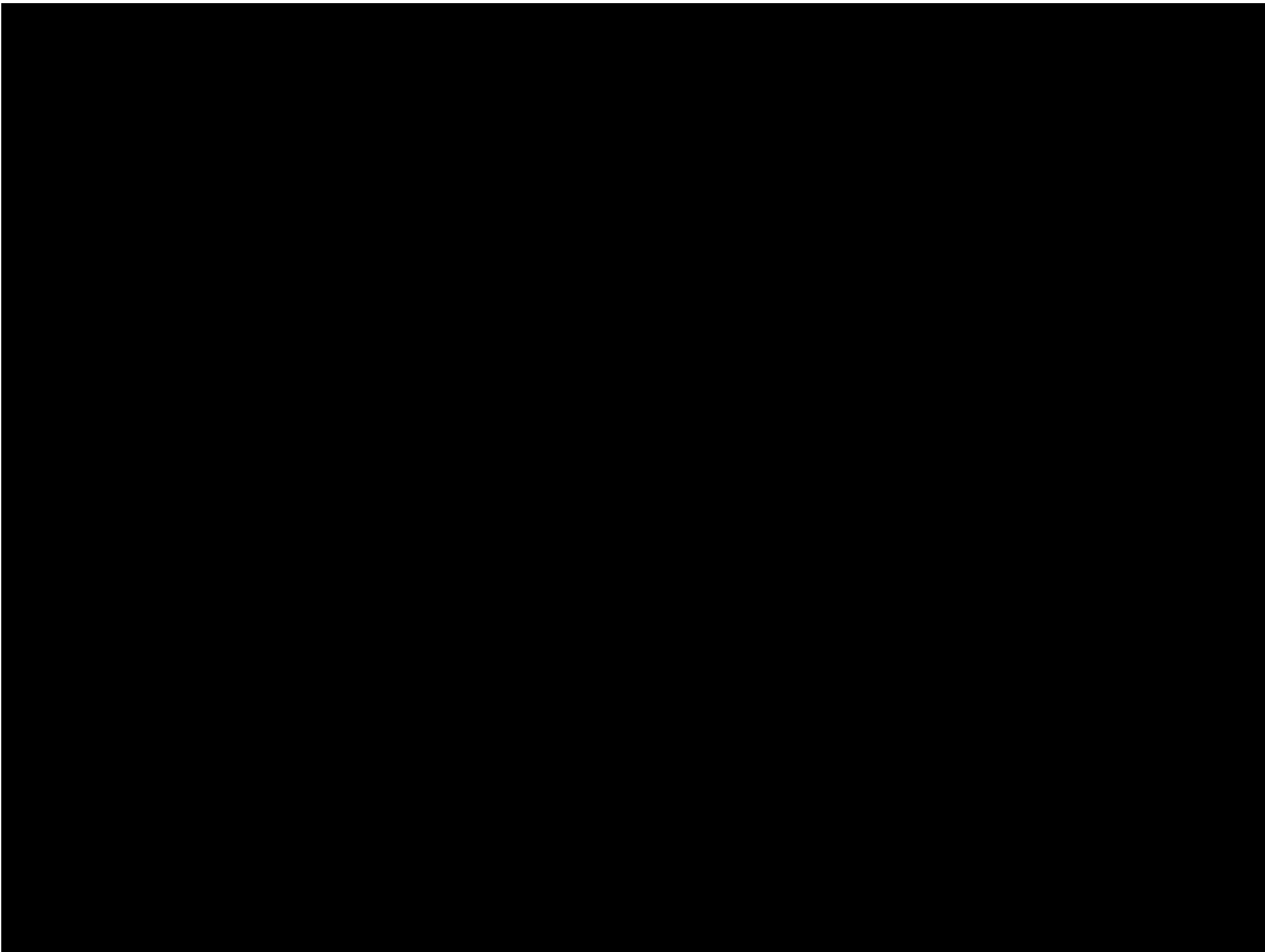
Education



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