



Genesis Authorship

Who Wrote the Pentateuch?

Did Moses wrote Genesis— and the entire Pentateuch?

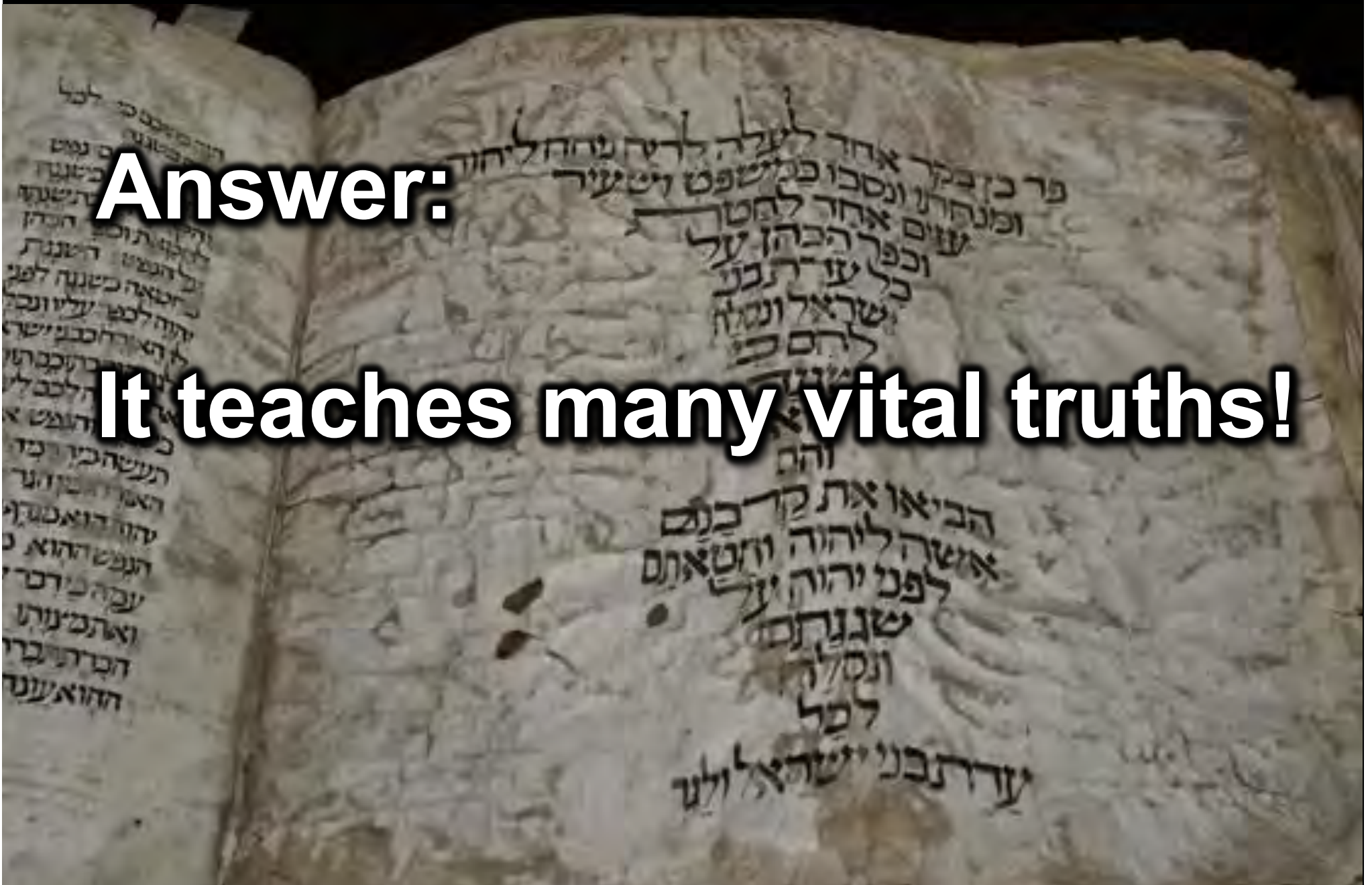


Critical OT scholarship says no.

Why do they attack Genesis?

Answer:

It teaches many vital truths!





***"In the
beginning"***



What is this?





Baby Pictures of Adam & Eve

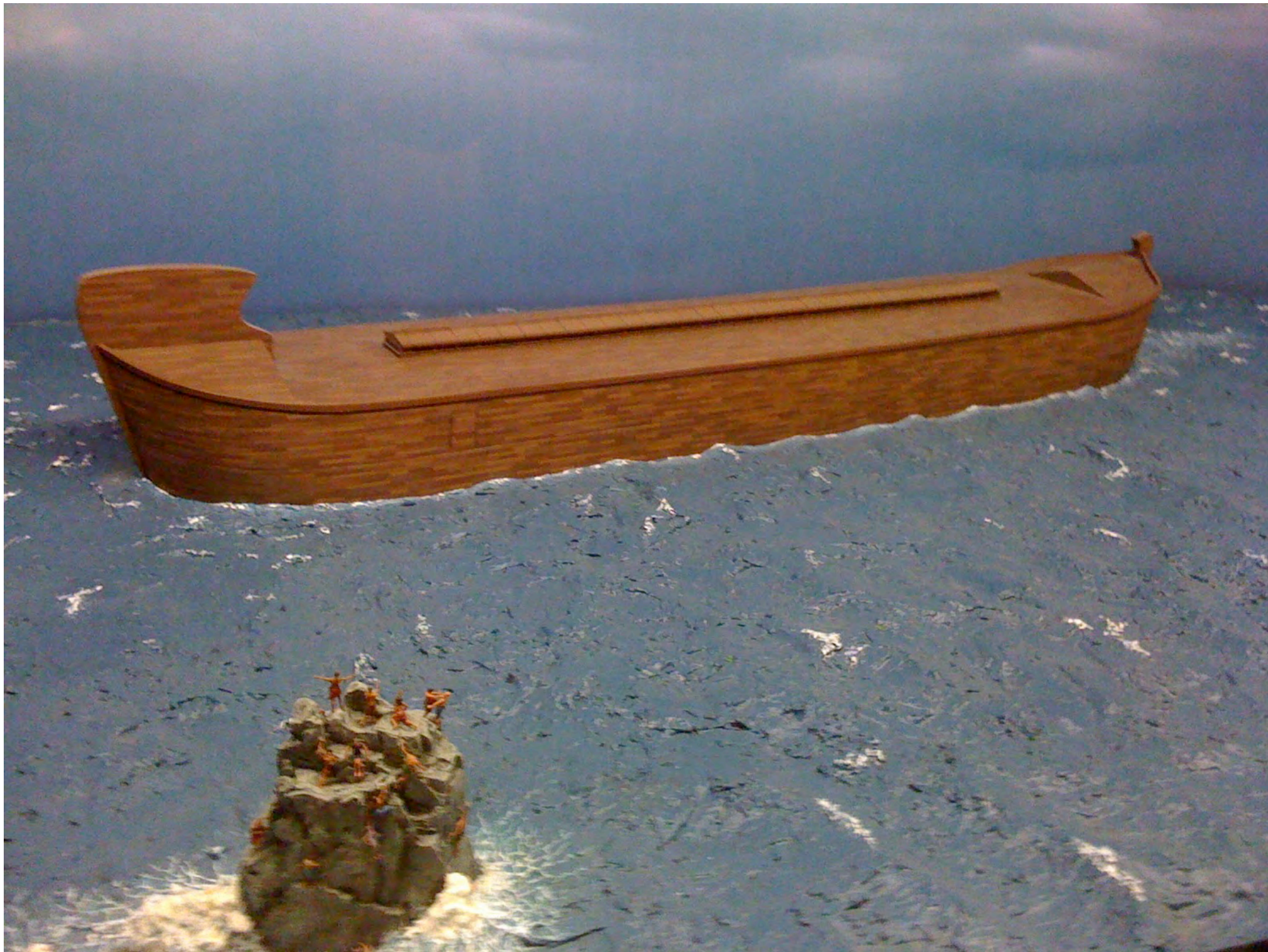


Adam & Eve with the Serpent



Is Genesis 1–11 Real History?

1. **Myths don't teach "deep truths" better** than history
2. A non-historical approach is very **subjective**
3. They have **vital information** otherwise not known
4. They fit into the book's **argument** emphasizing election
5. Events are **presented as historical**
6. **Science** confirms the Genesis 1–11 historical record
7. **Christ** affirmed their historicity



TOWER OF BABEL



possible location

!Hola! Spanish

Привет! Russian

Ciao! Italian

Bonjour! French

Hallo! German

Oi! Portuguese

喂 Traditional Chinese

أهلا Arabic

Het hallo! Dutch

Γειάσου! Greek

“Hello!”
ACROSS THE GLOBE

Jacob's Blessing His 12 Sons Was Prophetic (Gen. 49)



Christ Descended from Judah



Since
Jacob's
blessing in
Genesis
49:9-10, the
lion has
depicted a
king...

"Judah, my son, is a young lion
that has finished eating its prey.
Like a lion he crouches and lies
down; like a lioness—who dares
to rouse him?"

¹⁰The scepter will not depart
from Judah, nor the ruler's staff
from his descendants, until the
coming of the one to whom it
belongs, the one whom all
nations will honor" (NLT).

A dramatic landscape featuring a bright sun rising or setting behind a sea of clouds, with a green hillside in the foreground. The sun is positioned centrally, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the clouds with a golden glow. The sky above is a deep blue, and the foreground shows a lush green hillside.

**God promised believers
like us blessings of the
Abrahamic Covenant.**

The Bible's Chiasm

Repeated Patterns in Reverse Order

**Christ's
Redemption**

**Christ's
Rule**



**Man's
Rule**

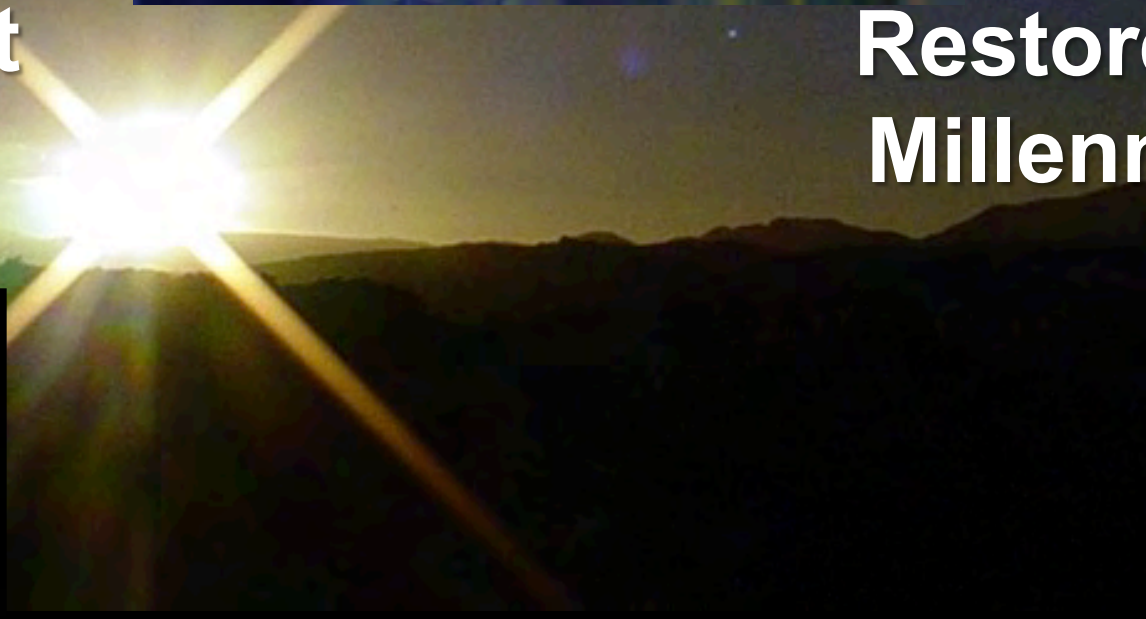
**Man's
Rule**

**Lost at
Fall**

**Restored at
Millennium**

Creation

**New
Creation**



Support for Mosaic Authorship

External

External



Internal

External

External

External

Support for Mosaic Authorship

External

External



External

External

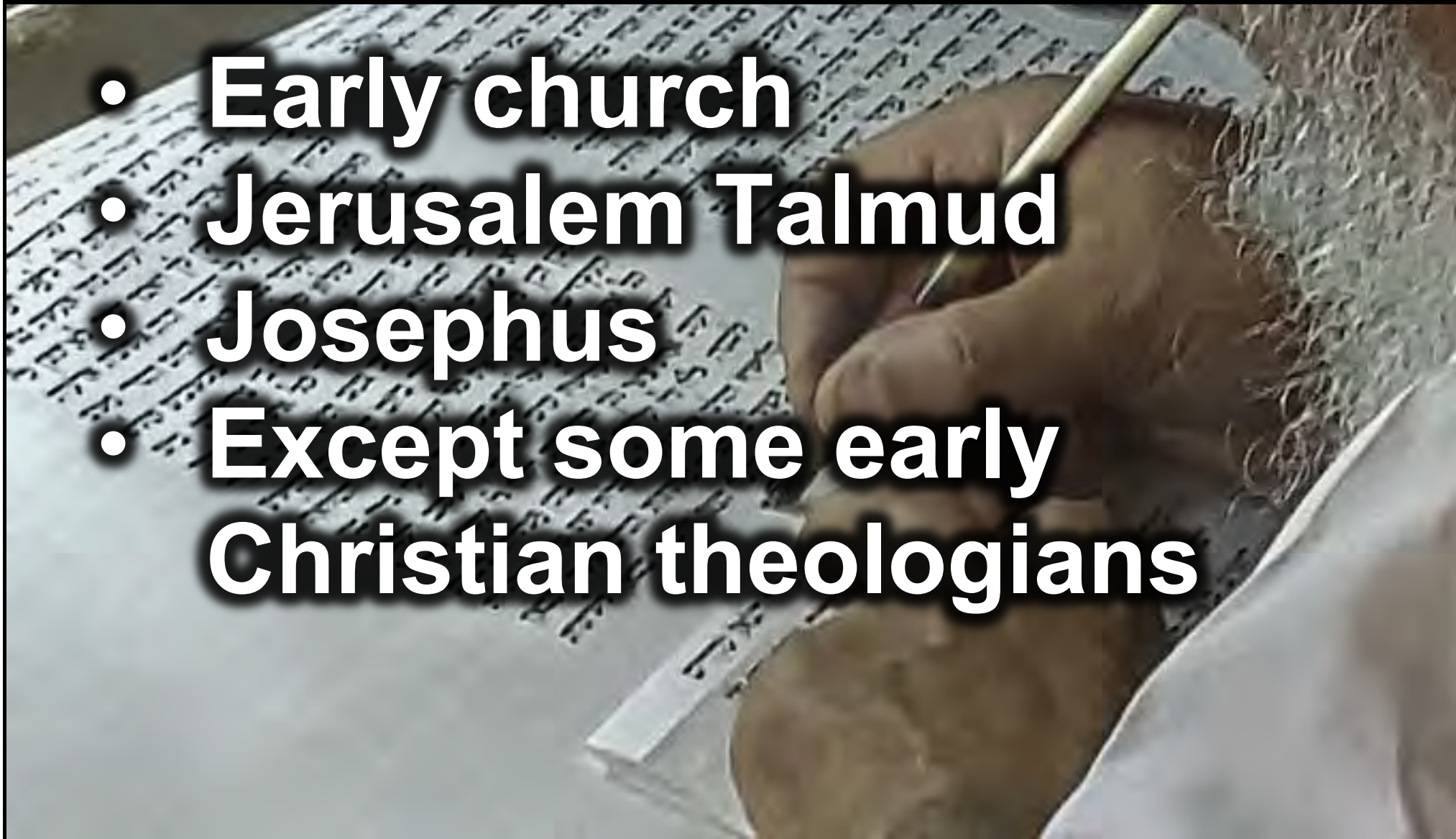
External

**"After the victory, the LORD instructed Moses, 'Write this down on a scroll as a permanent reminder, and read it aloud to Joshua: I will erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven'"
(Exodus 17:14 NLT).**



Tradition Supports Moses

- Early church
- Jerusalem Talmud
- Josephus
- Except some early Christian theologians



Support for Mosaic Authorship



Qualifications of Moses



"Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" (Acts 7:22 NLT).



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.



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.























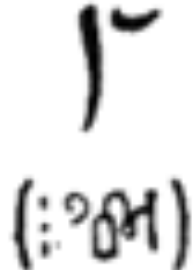
ca. 1500
B. C.

ca. 1900
B. C.

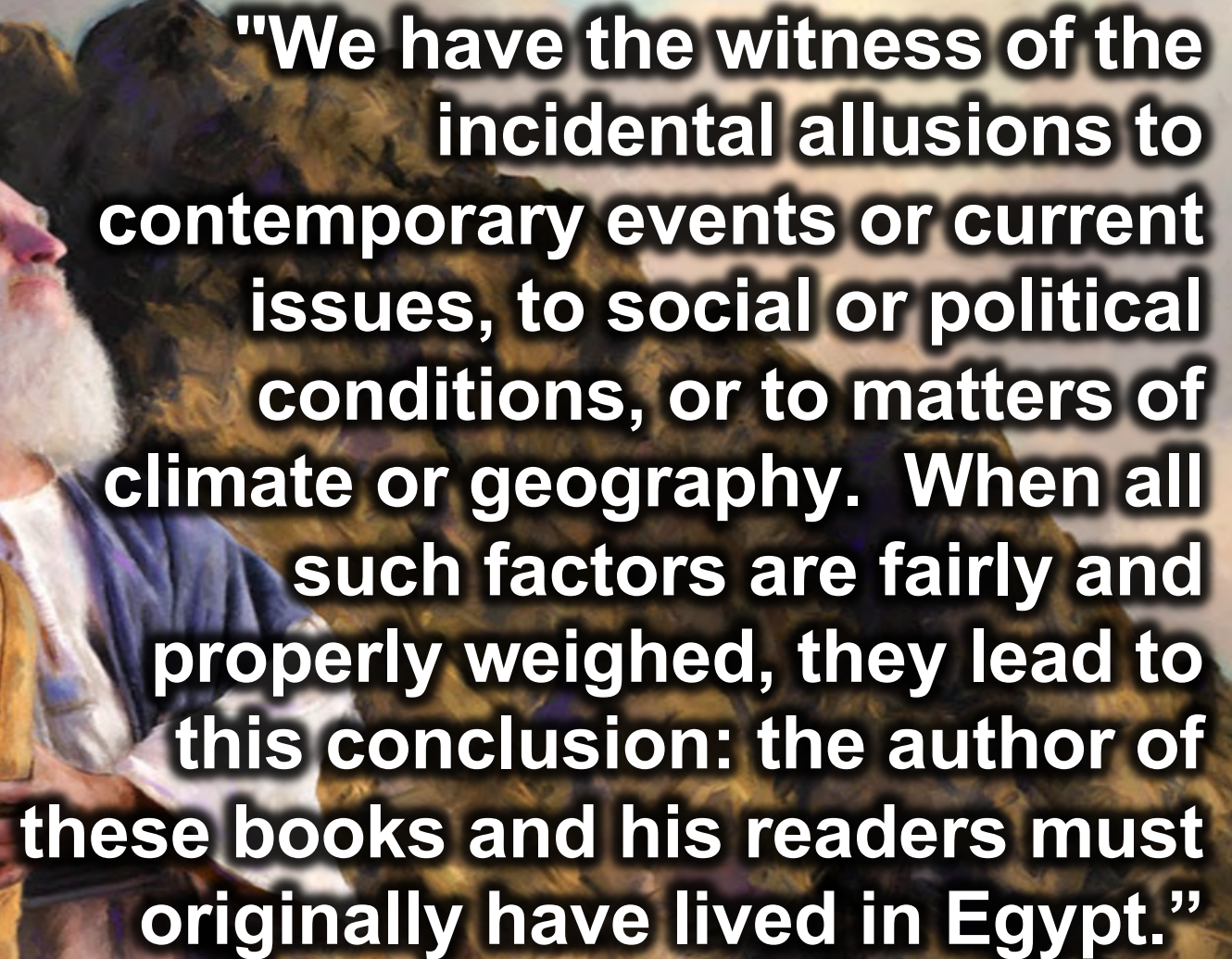
ca. 200
B. C.

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.

Qualifications of Moses

A painting of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a blue robe and a white head covering. He is holding two large, rectangular stone tablets with Hebrew text. He is looking upwards and to the right, towards a range of dark, rocky mountains under a hazy sky. The overall style is classical and dramatic.

"We have the witness of the incidental allusions to contemporary events or current issues, to social or political conditions, or to matters of climate or geography. When all such factors are fairly and properly weighed, they lead to this conclusion: the author of these books and his readers must originally have lived in Egypt."

Gleason Archer, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, 46

Abram & Lot



- Gomorrah?
- Sodom?
- Zoar

"Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)"
(Gen 13:10 NLT).



"Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or **the beautiful land of Egypt**. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)" (Gen 13:10 NLT).

The JEDP Attack on Mosaic Authorship



Genesis Authorship

57

Traditional View: Moses

Critical View: JEDP

J

*Jehovah
(LORD)
850 BC*

E

*Elohim
(God)
750 BC*

D

*Deuteronomistic
School
550 BC*

P

*Priestly
Code
450 BC*

"Documentary Hypothesis"

Moses? or Moseses?



One case where four part harmony doesn't work

JEDP Formulation

*Southern
Traditions*

*Northern
Traditions*



850 BC

750 BC



650 BC

*Josiah's
Reform
Book*

D
621 BC



550 BC

*Exilic
Priestly
Materials*

P
450 BC



400 BC



Some Terms...

- **Lower Criticism:** Constructive textual studies.
- **Higher Criticism:** Attacks the inspiration and authenticity of the Scriptures.
- **Interpretive Problems:** Honest differences of opinion exist as to possible answers to problems of scriptural interpretation.

WHO WROTE THE PENTATEUCH?

Some still claim it was...

The Documentary Hypothesis

Two Accounts of Creation

Genesis 1

Use of "God" (*Elohim*)

Days 1-6

Creation of Everything

"In the beginning..."



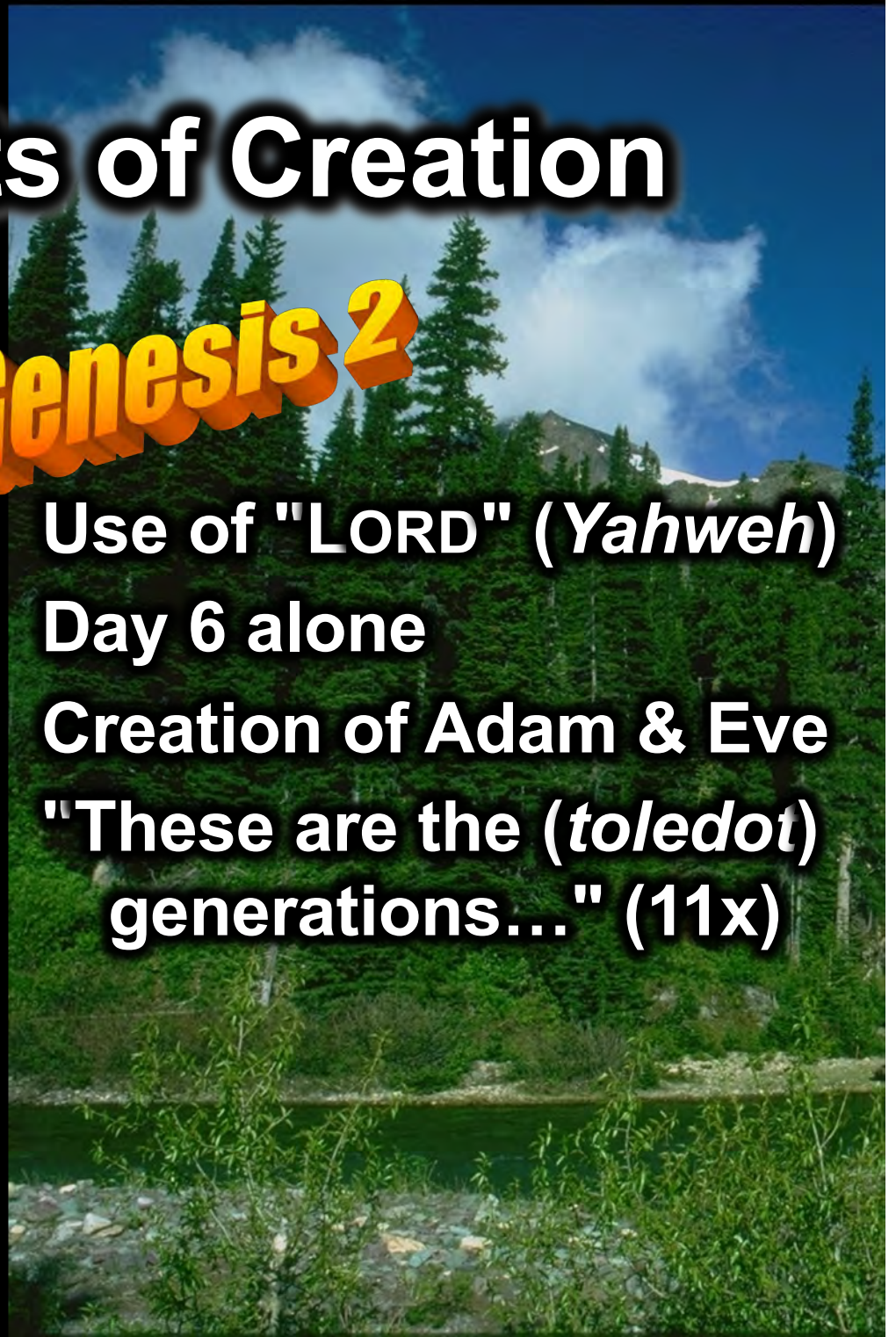
Genesis 2

Use of "LORD" (*Yahweh*)

Day 6 alone

Creation of Adam & Eve

"These are the (*toledot*) generations..." (11x)



Document

Definitions

J

Jehovah/Yahweh

E

Elohim

J-E

Combined edition

D

Deuteronomic

P

Priestly

Document

Contents

J

Genesis 2

E

Genesis 1

J-E

Genesis-Numbers

D

Deuteronomy-Kings

P

Genesis-Numbers

Document

Dates

J

850 B.C.

E

750 B.C.

J-E

650 B.C.

D

621 B.C.

P

570-445 B.C.

Document

Origins

J

S. Kingdom

E

N. Kingdom

J-E

Unknown redactor

D

Hilkiah the High Priest

P

Ezra

Document Themes

J

E

J-E

D

P

Personal biography, vivid delineation of character, portrays God in human terms

Document

Themes

J

E

J-E

D

P

**Objective, deals with
concrete particulars such
as ritual and sacrifice**

Document Themes

J

E

J-E

D

P

Reflects Josiah's reform efforts to centralize worship in the temple in Jerusalem

Document

Themes

J

E

J-E

D

P

Origins and institutions of
the theocracy,
genealogies, rituals and
sacrifices

The "Sources" of Genesis 6–9

6:5-8

J

7:10

J

6:9-22

P

7:11

P

7:1-5

J

7:12

J

7:6

P

7:13-16a

P

7:7-8

J

7:16b-17

J

7:9

P

7:18-21

P

The "Sources" of Genesis 6–9

7:22-23

J

8:13b

J

7:24-8:2a

P

8:14-19

P

8:2b-3a

J

8:20-22

J

8:3b-5

P

9:1-17

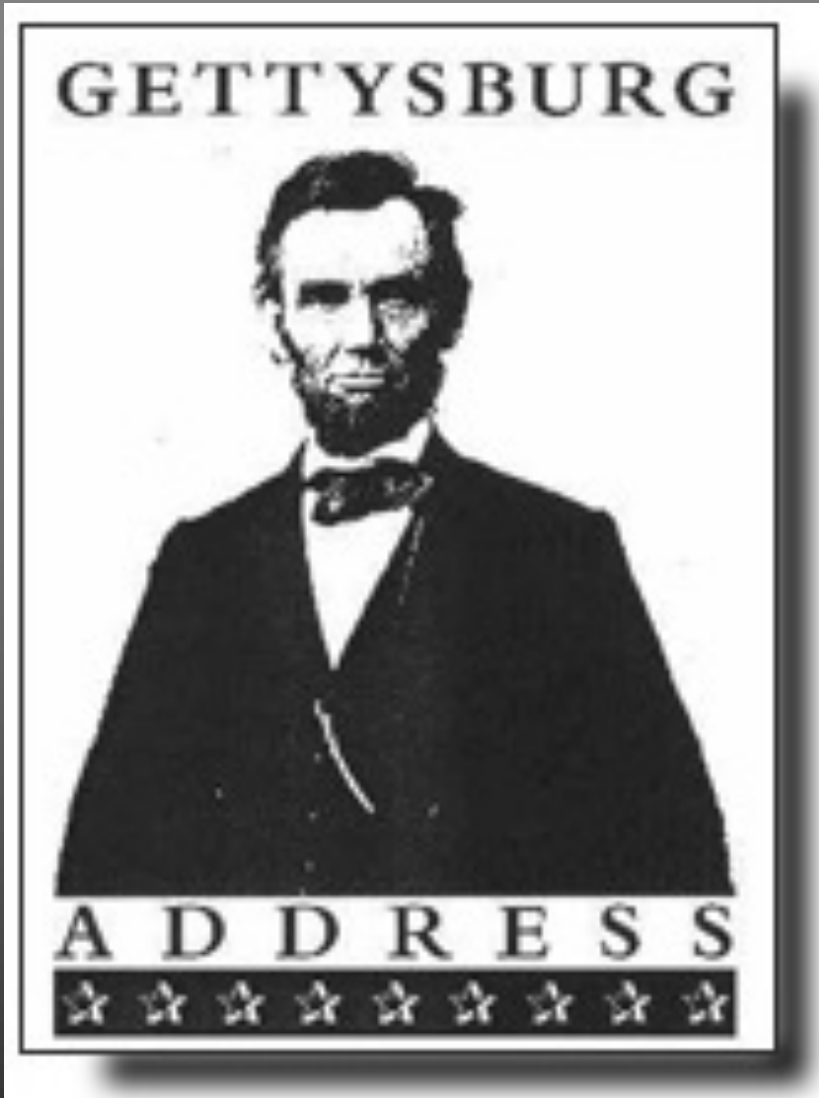
P

8:6-12

J

8:13a

P



THE STIFF-COLLAR COMMENTARY

**Applying the insights of
higher criticism to the
Gettysburg Address,
given by Abraham
Lincoln on November
19, 1863 at the
dedication of the
battlefield cemetery.**

Rev. LeRoy Koopman, *Christianity Today*, 1965

Executive Mansion.

Four score and seven years ago

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought

forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived

in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition

"all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing

whether that nation, or any nation so conceived

and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We have

come to a great division of our country, and

to a great battle of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

on a great battlefield of that war. We are met

to the great task remaining before us—

these honored dead we to the

cause devotion to that cause for which

they gave their lives.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,

and to dedicate ourselves to that cause for which

they gave their lives.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,

and to dedicate ourselves to that cause for which

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It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,

and to dedicate ourselves to that cause for which

This phrase is the work of E, an English professor and friend of Lincoln who had a propensity for utilizing ornate language. Lincoln, simple and uneducated man that he was, would have said, "eighty-seven."

Executive Mansion.

*How soon and seven years ago our fathers brought
for a new nation, conceived in liberty*

*in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that
"all men are created equal"*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing
whether that nation or any nation so conceived,
and so dedicated, can long endure.*

*on a battle-field of American history. We have
come to a great division of our country.*

*ing "conceived" points to redactor M,
might have been the original, as all proposed
large.*

*presumably Mary Todd Lincoln, who
conceivable - we can not hallow, it, ground -*

*proofread his speech and added her
she has hallowed it, for all our poor power
to.*

*female bias.
remember what we say here; while it can never
forget what they did here.*

*It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,
we have to speak*

*ten years ago, the great task of the nation
to that cause for which*

*gave the last full measure of our
lives - that we here highly resolve that*

*dead shall not have died in vain, that
this nation, shall have a new birth of free*

*dom, and that this government of the people, by
the people, for the people, shall not perish
from the earth.*

Executive Mansion.

and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Proposition" - by M. Use of "created" indicates a third author, p¹, a priest accompanying Lincoln on the train to Gettysburg. Since Lincoln was only a layman, it was natural that he should seek clerical help in adding theological terminology. A second priest, p², also added a few glosses.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,

Executive Mansion.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether **that nation**

for whom our fathers brought
in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that
"all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether **"That nation"** — some scholars see here

the work of one foreign-born (C?). An

American would have said "this nation."

whether that nation or any nation so concerned
and interested in the fate of our country
on the subject of the preservation of the Union. We have
come to dedicate to posterity, in a park, the
finest places for those who died here, that the nation
might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a
larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not
consecrate — we can not hallow, this ground —
the brave men, living and dead, who struggled
here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power
to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long
remember what we say here; while it can never
forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,

Executive Mansion.

*or any nation so **conceived** and so
dedicated can long endure.*

"Conceived"
-- M's
favorite
interjection.



JEDP Problems

OTS 57
Pent 23

- A. Violates internal self-claims of Pentateuch**
- B. Anti-supernatural bias**
- C. Based on inaccurate 19th century evolution**
- D. Lack of unanimity among scholars**
- E. Subjective with circular reasoning**
- F. No manuscript evidence**
- G. Ignores ANE archaeological evidence**
- H. Rejects NT evidence**

Editorial Activity

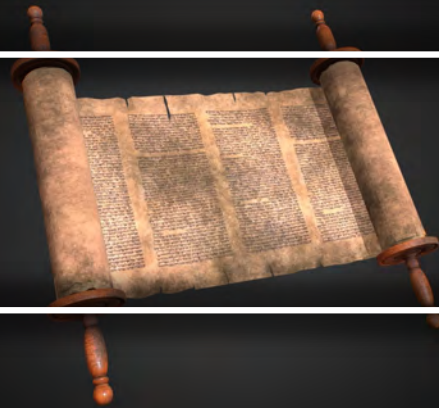


Hebrew Consistency

Why does the whole OT show a consistent use of Hebrew so that the Pentateuch does not look like it was written 1000 years before Malachi?



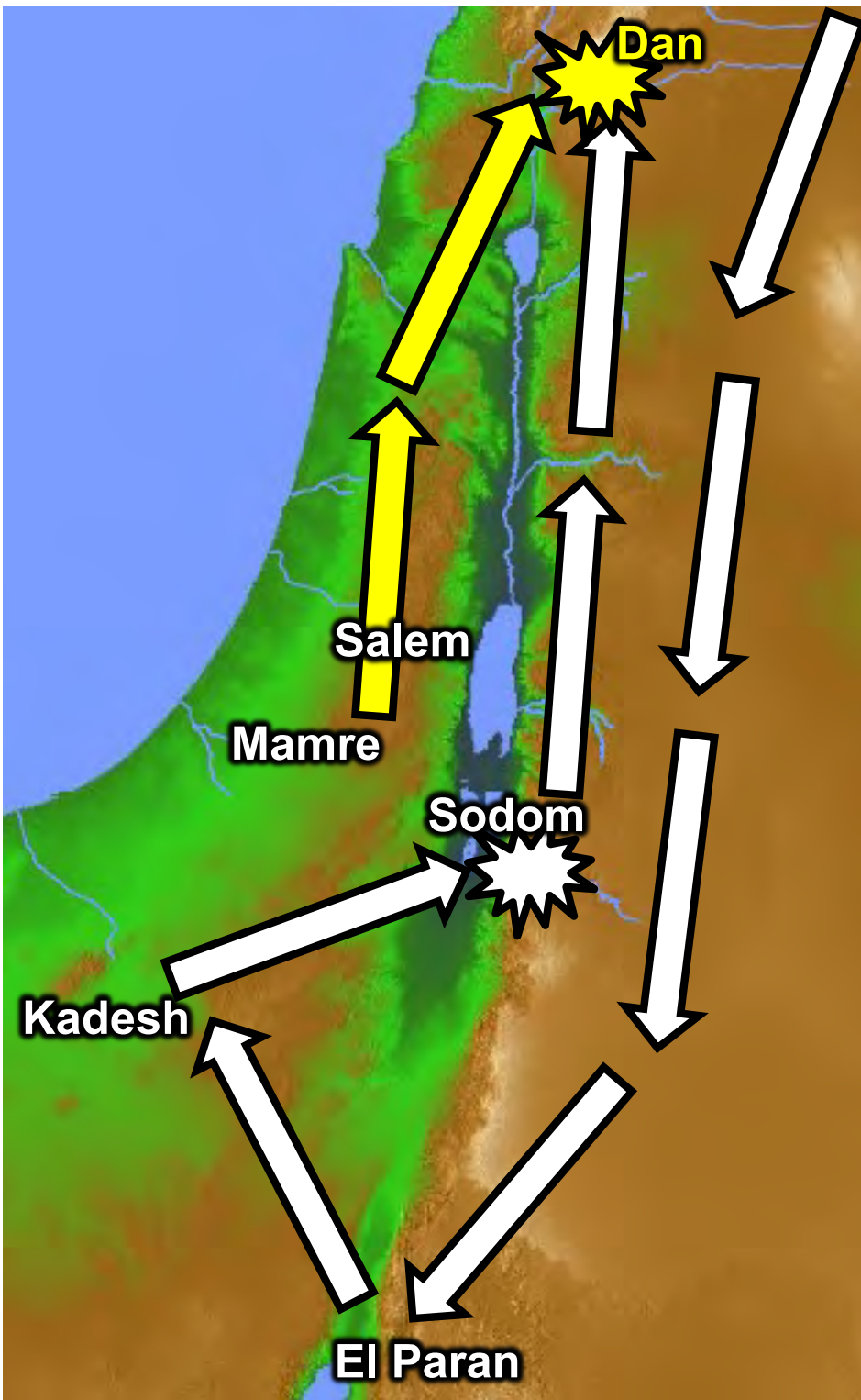
Pentateuch
1400 BC



Poetics
1000 BC



Malachi
400 BC



The Land of Canaan (2000 BC)

5 Kings

Abraham



“When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as **Dan**”
(Genesis 14:14 NIV).

Mediterranean Sea



City of Avaris

“Egyptians... forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king” (Exod 1:11).

An aerial, 3D-rendered view of an ancient Egyptian city. A wide, dark river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. A canal branches off from the river, curving around the city. The city itself is composed of several large, rectangular stone buildings with flat roofs, arranged in a somewhat organized layout. There are smaller structures and courtyards interspersed among the larger buildings. The surrounding landscape is a flat, greenish-brown plain. Two large, white text labels with black outlines are overlaid on the image: 'Beneath Rameses' in the top right and 'City of Avaris' in the bottom left. Dotted lines connect these labels to specific areas of the city.

**Beneath
Rameses**

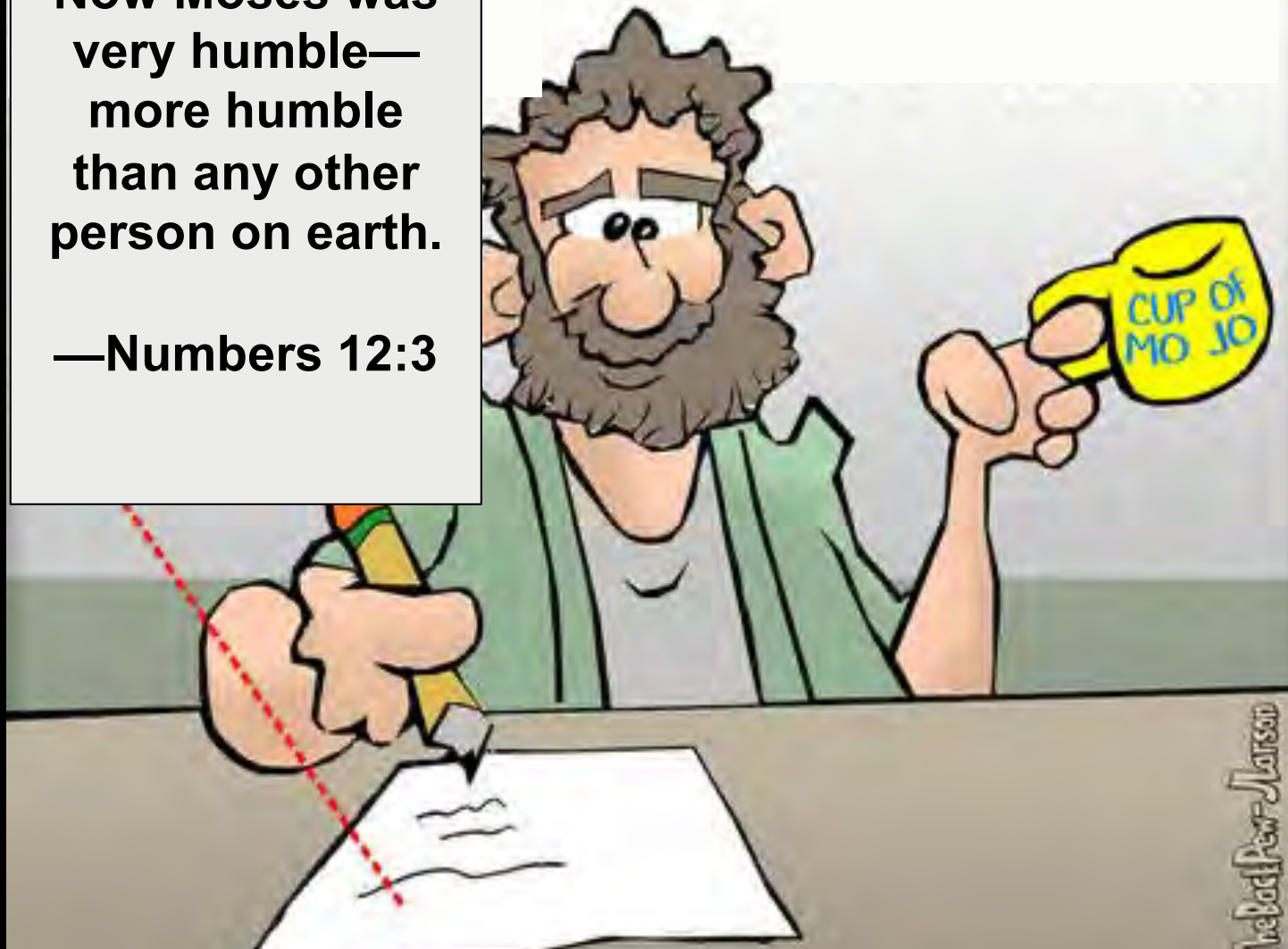
**City of
Avaris**

"Patterns of Evidence" is a film by Timothy Mahoney (Thinking Man Films, 2015) that presents amazing archaeological evidence for the Early Exodus discovered by Dr. David Rohl, an agnostic Egyptologist.

Yes... I like it!

**Now Moses was
very humble—
more humble
than any other
person on earth.**

—Numbers 12:3



After writing best sellers Genesis, Exodus, & Leviticus, Moses's confidence was obvious as he penned the book of Numbers.

Unlikely Statements

Numbers 12:3 has an interesting parenthesis:

**“(Now Moses was very humble—
more humble than any other person on earth.)”**

How would you explain this as written by Moses?

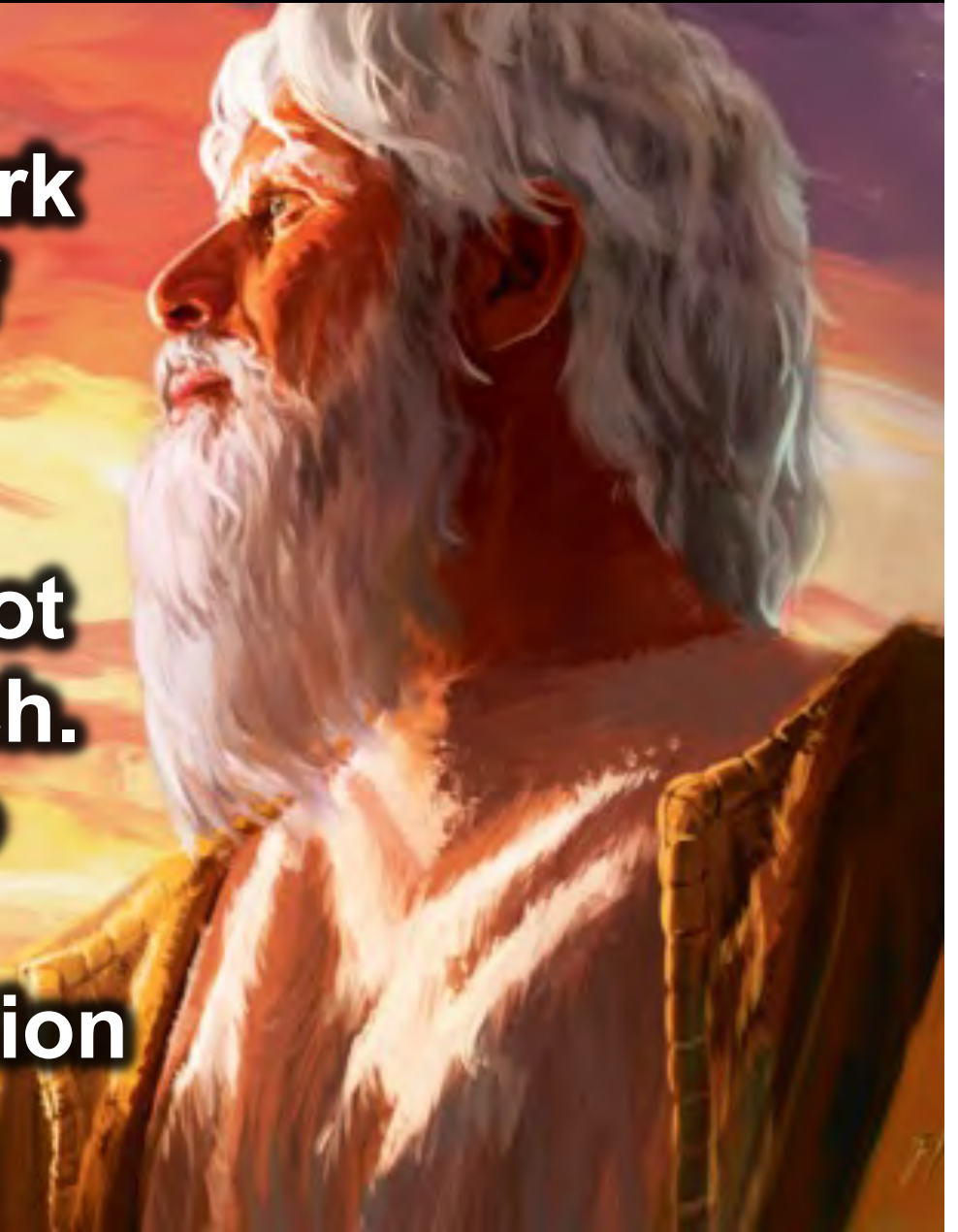
**This seems to be an addition since
for Moses to say it would be self-contradictory.**

The Death of Moses (Deut 34:1, 5)

"Then Moses went up to Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab and climbed Pisgah Peak, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him the whole land... So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said."

Conclusion

While others may have done some editorial work under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, no substantial evidence exists that Moses did not compose the Pentateuch. To think otherwise is to contradict the clear testimony of both tradition and Scripture.



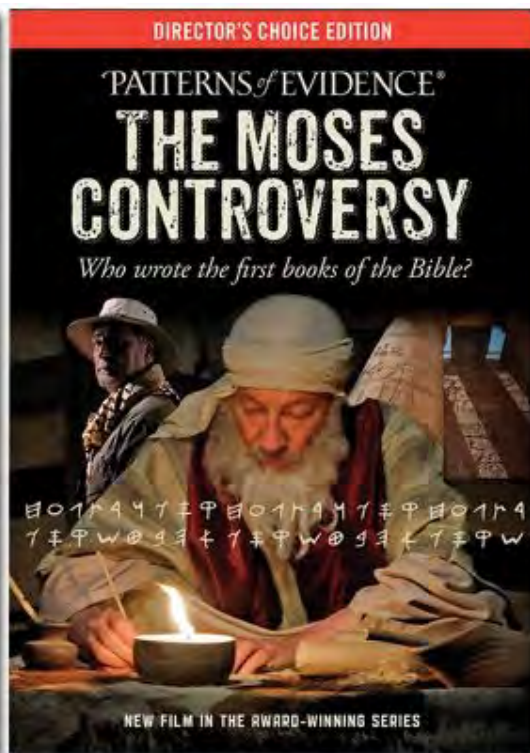
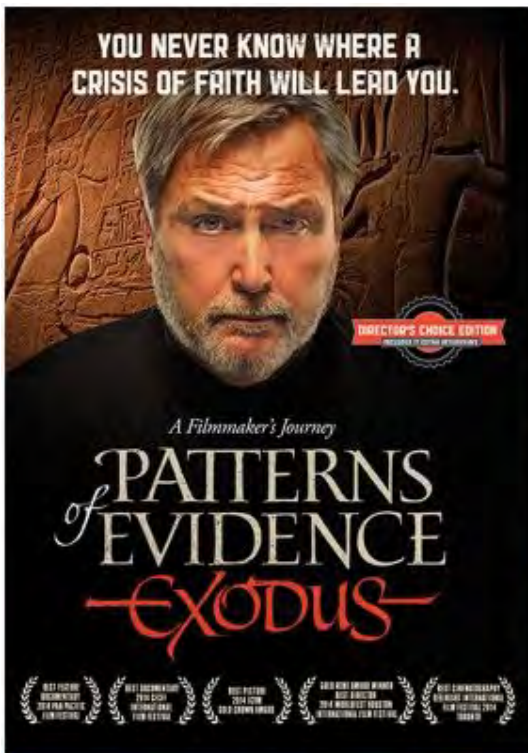


Supplements

**A recent movie supporting
authorship by Moses...**

PATTERNS of EVIDENCE
THE MOSES CONTROVERSY





Recent Movies Supporting Moses

Hypothesis

- 1. Anti-supernaturalism bias**
- 2. Circular reasoning:
posits its conclusion**

"There can be no such thing as supernatural revelation; therefore, the Bible is not a supernatural revelation."

Hypothesis

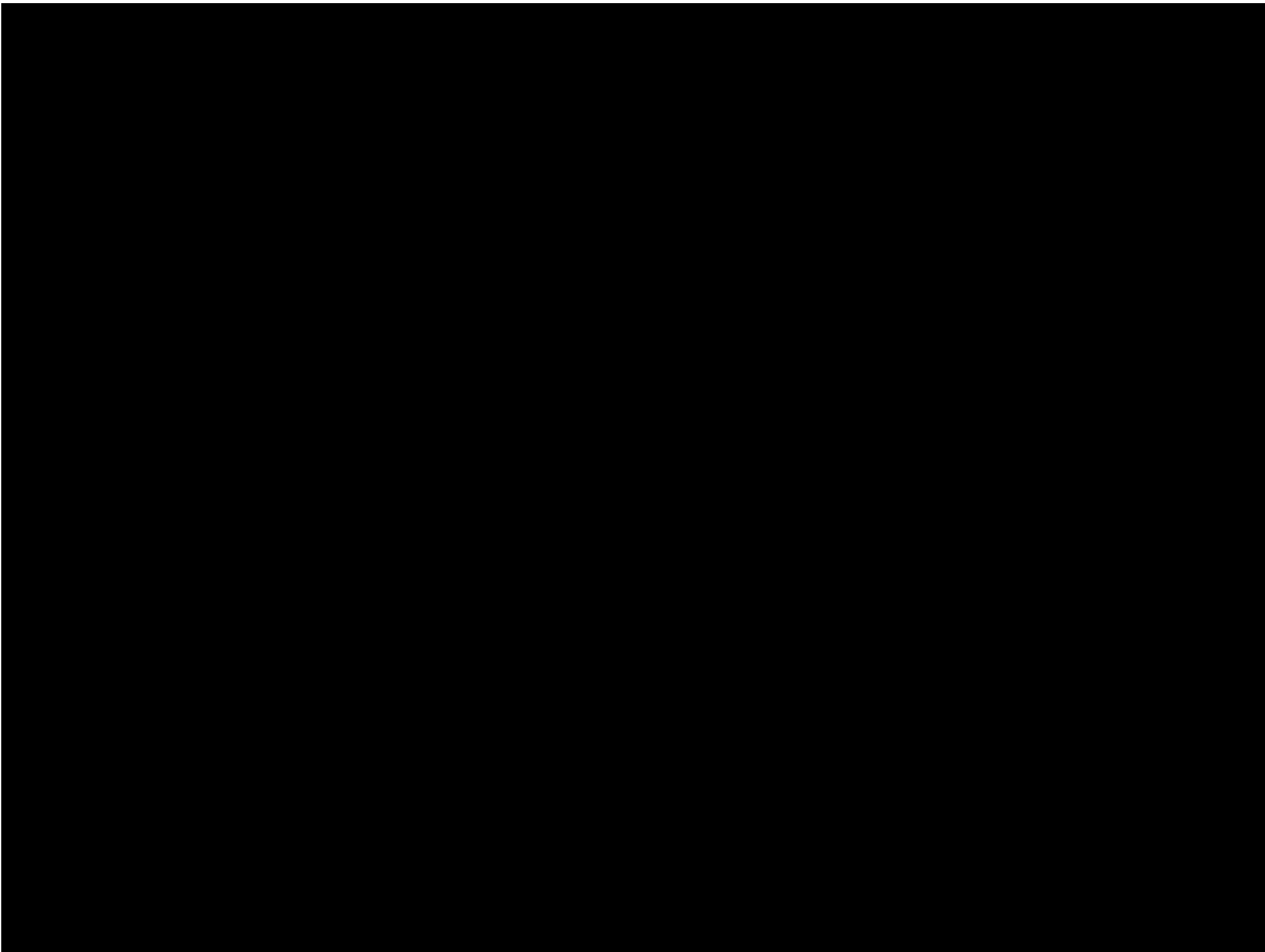
- 3. Subjectivity in applying the theory results in conflicting explanations**
- 4. Ignores stylistic variation within an author**

Evidence for Mosaic Authorship

- 1. The author of Genesis and Exodus shows a thorough acquaintance with Egypt.**
- 2. Eyewitness details are included in the exodus account.**
- 3. There is a unity of arrangement underlying the entire Pentateuch.**

Evidence for Mosaic Authorship

- 4. The Pentateuch itself testifies to Moses as the author (Exodus 17:14; 24:4; Deut. 31:9).**
- 5. Other OT books refer to Moses as the author (Josh. 1:7-8; Neh. 1:7-8)**
- 6. The NT identifies Moses as the author (John 5:46-47; Rom. 10:5)**



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