

# Genesis Authorship

*Who Wrote the Pentateuch?*

# Did Moses wrote Genesis—and the entire Pentateuch?

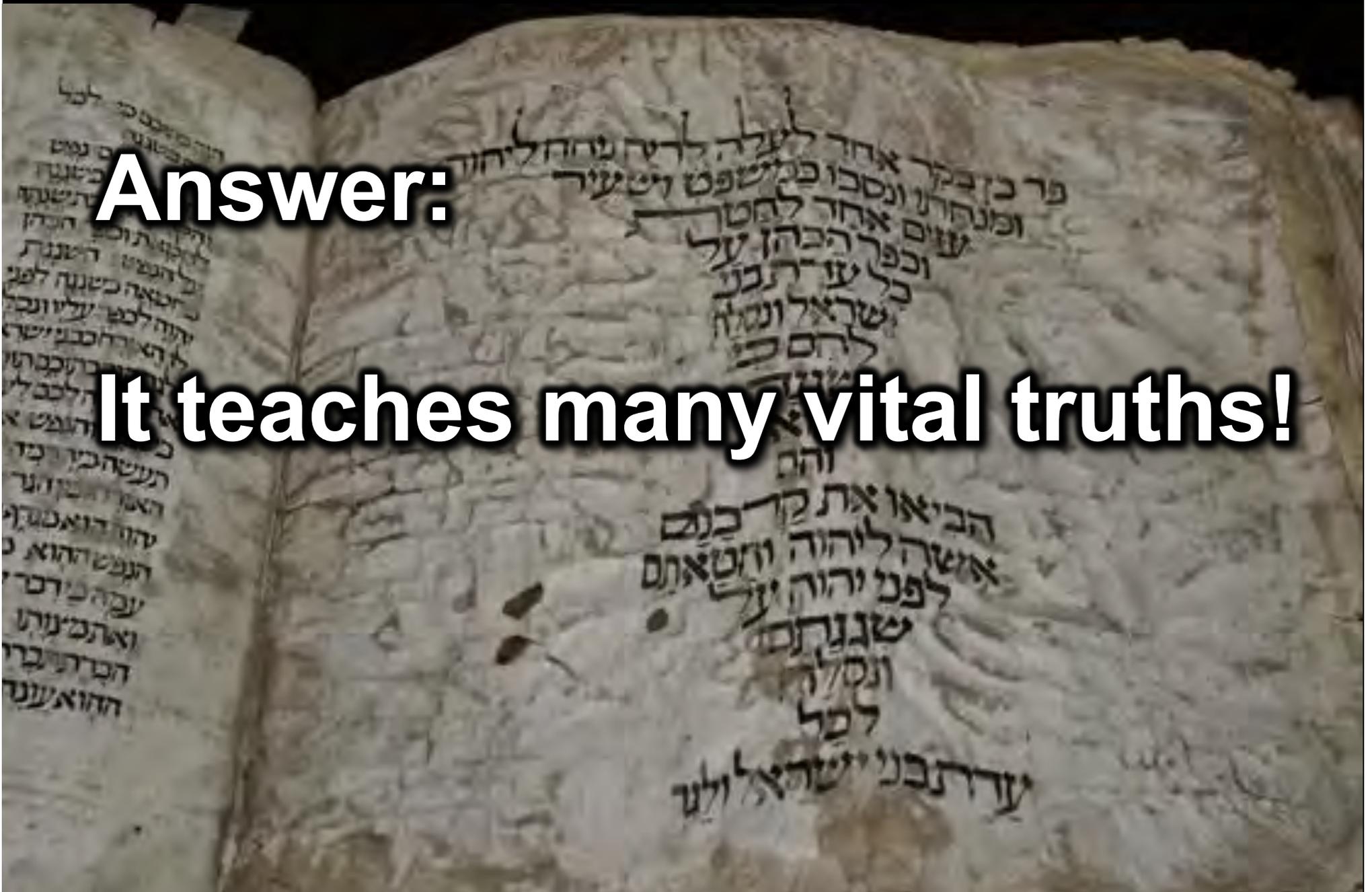


**Critical OT scholarship says no.**

# Why do they attack Genesis?

**Answer:**

**It teaches many vital truths!**





***"In the  
beginning"***



## Baby Pictures of Adam & Eve

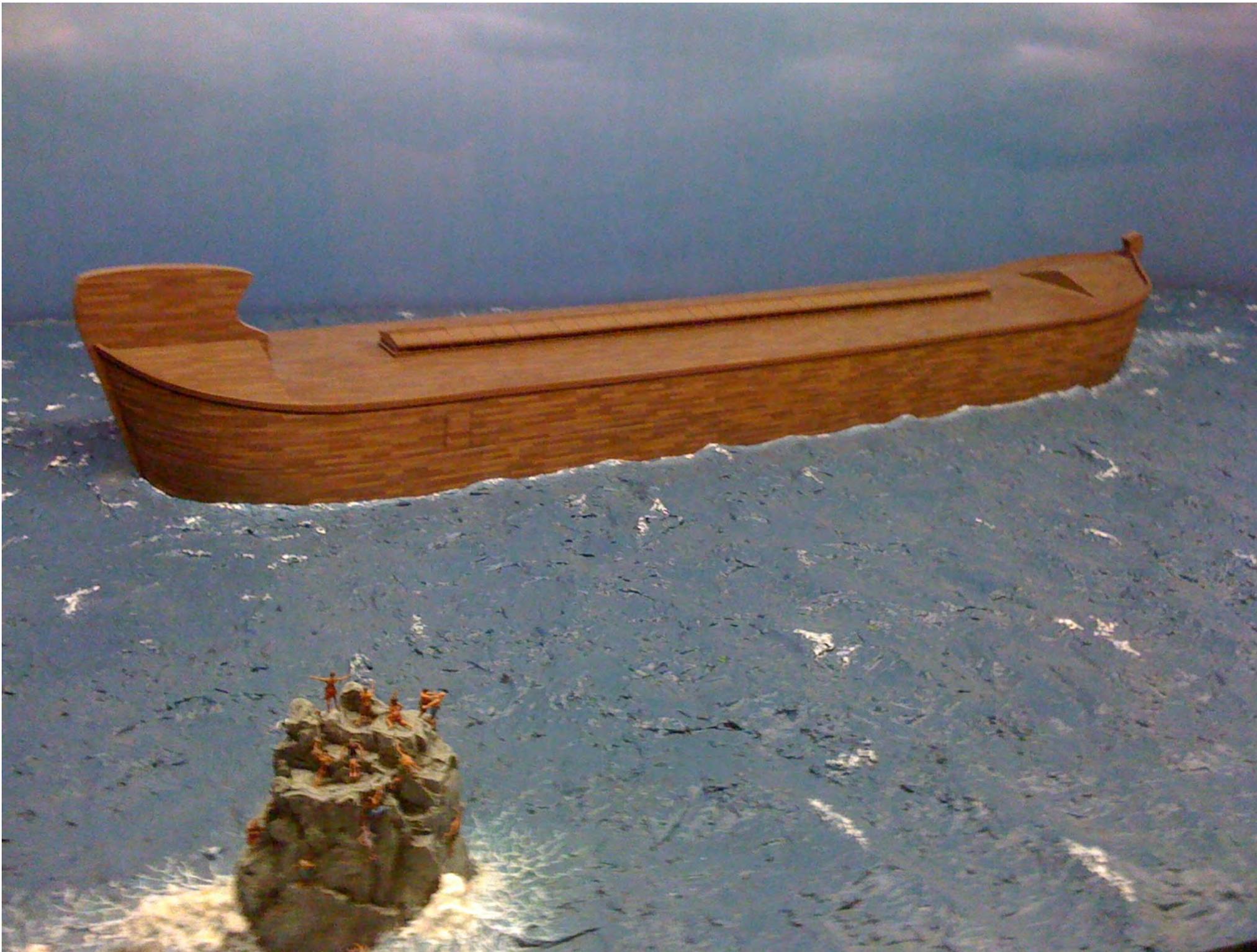


# Adam & Eve with the Serpent



# 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



¡Hola!

Spanish

Привет!

Russian

Ciao!

Italian

Bonjour!

French

“Hello!”

ACROSS THE GLOBE

Hallo

German

Oi!

Portuguese

喂

Traditional Chinese

أهلا

Arabic

Japanese

Het hallo!

Dutch

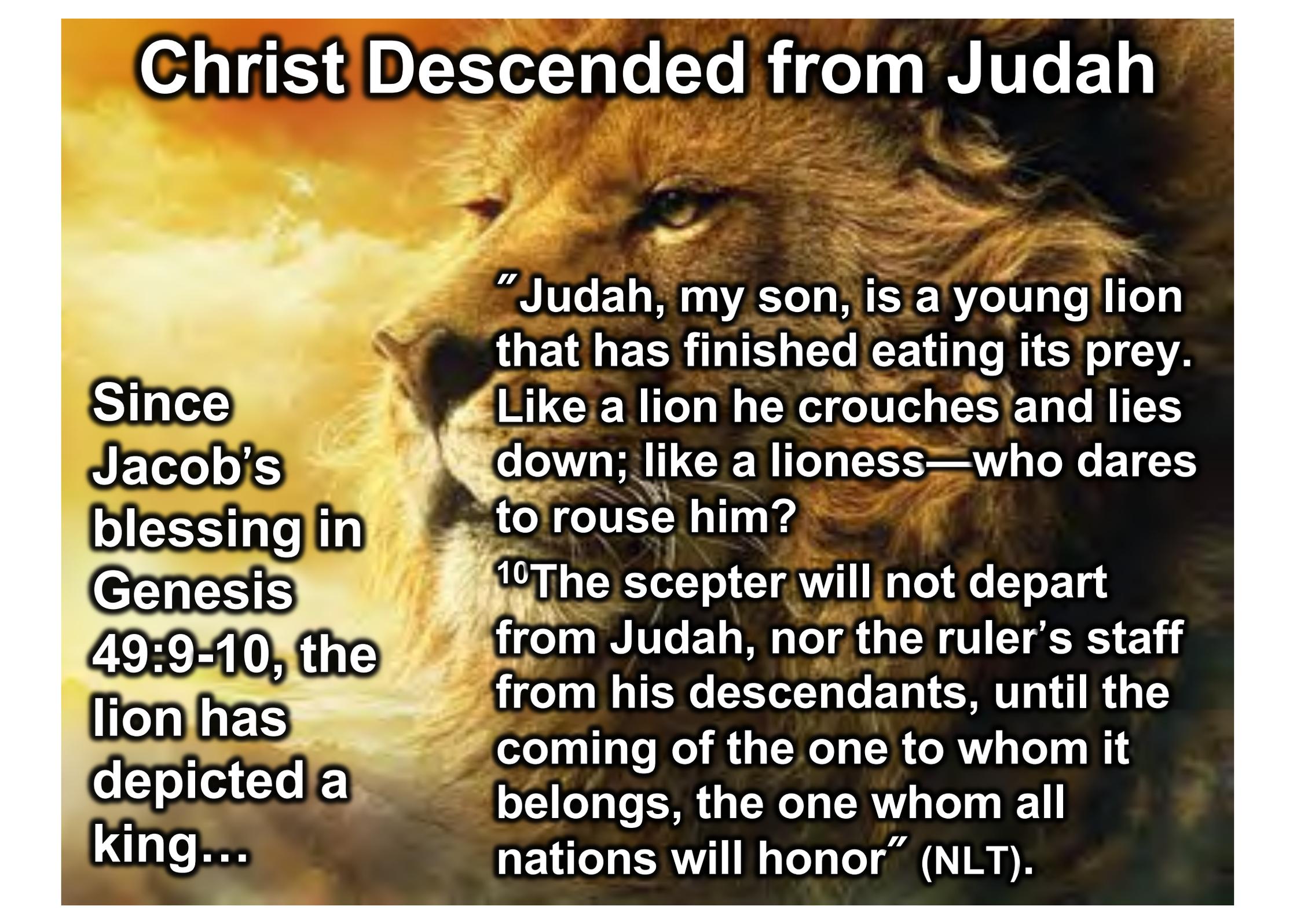
Γειάσου!

Greek

# 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?"

<sup>10</sup>The 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 over a sea of clouds, with a green hillside in the foreground. The sun is positioned centrally, casting a strong glow and creating a lens flare effect. The clouds are thick and layered, with the lower layers appearing more golden and the upper layers more blue and white. The foreground shows a lush green hillside with some shadows, suggesting a clear, bright day.

**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**

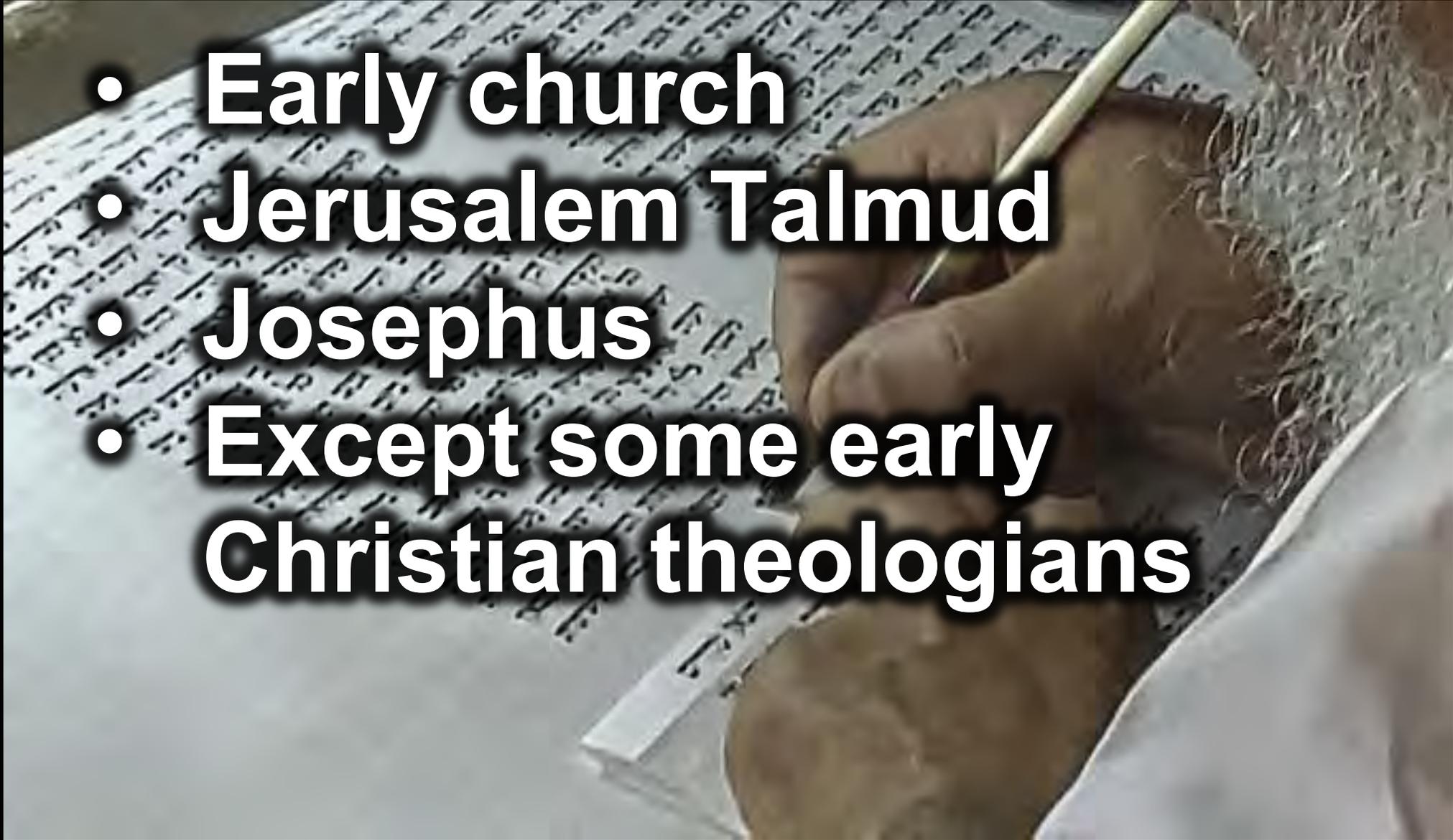
**External**

**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).**

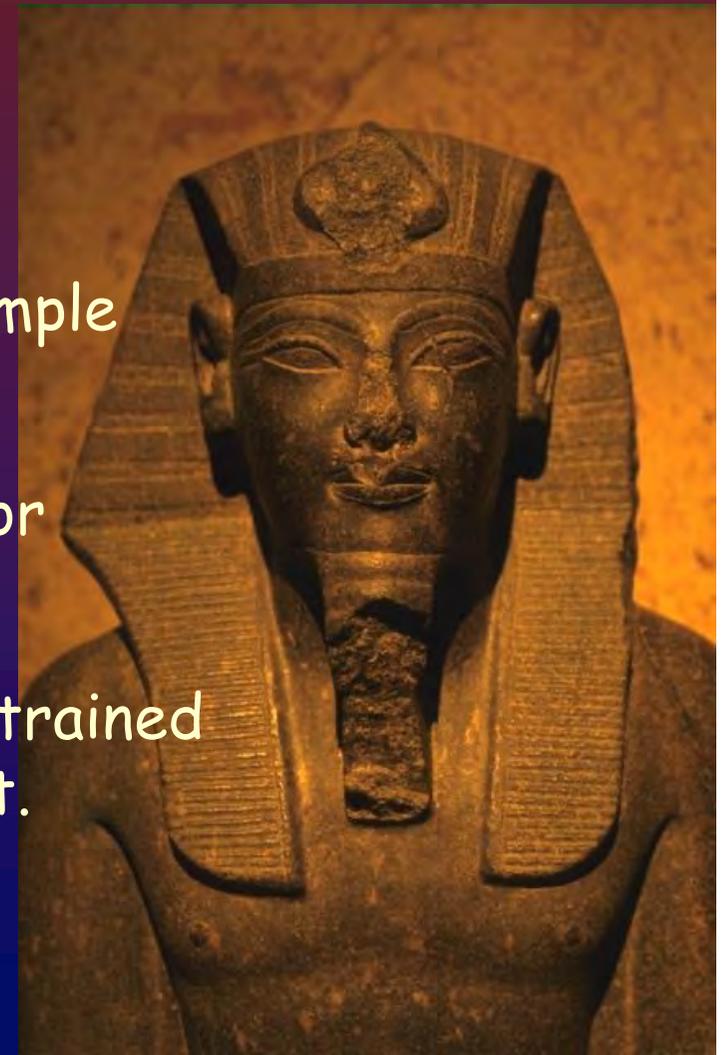


## 2. Moses to Pre-Kingdom (Egyptians)

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.

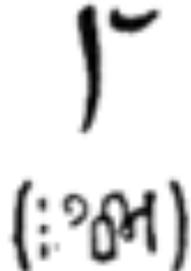
ca. 1500  
B.C.

ca. 1900  
B.C.

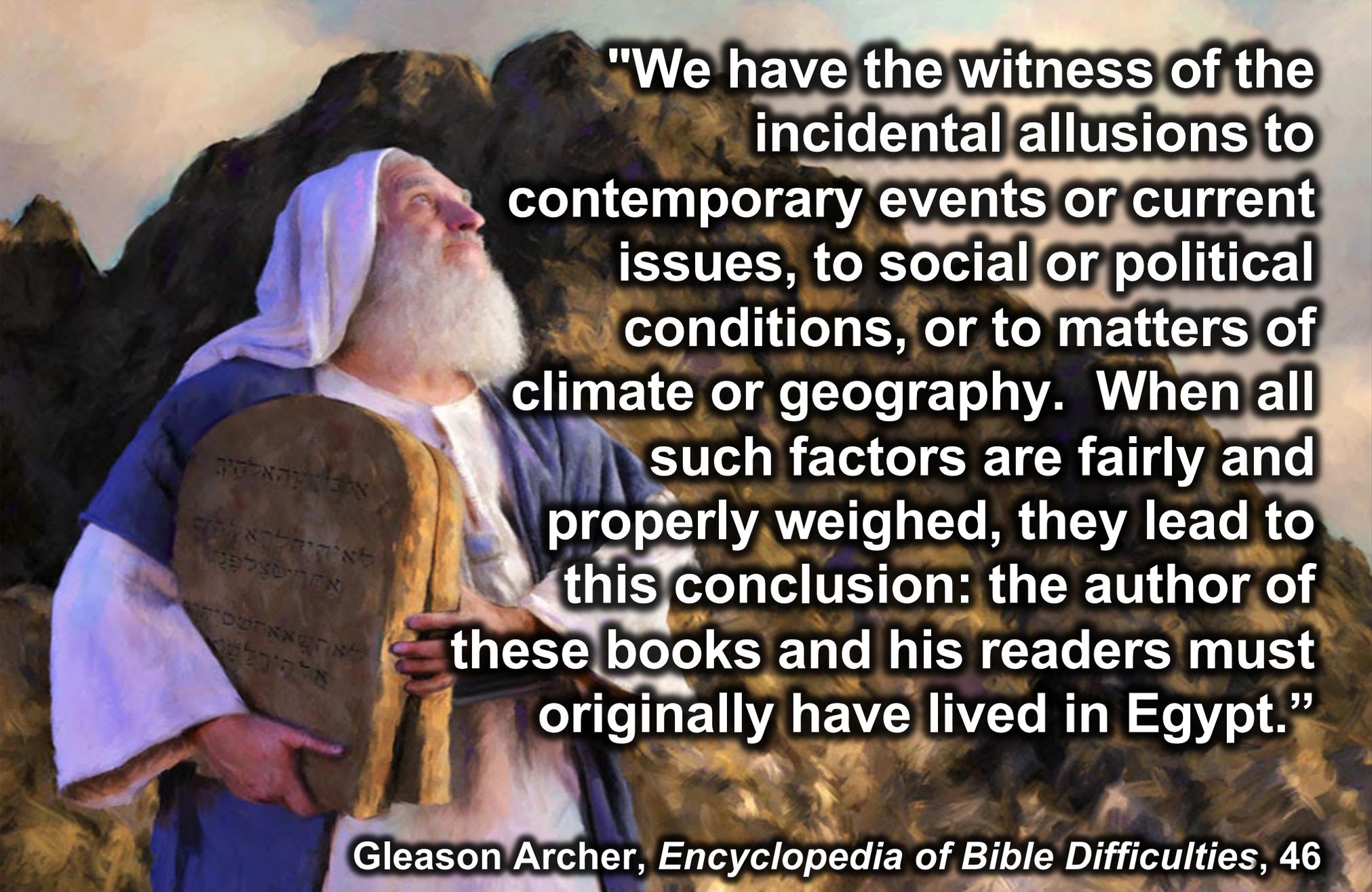
ca. 200  
B.C.

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, flat, rectangular stone tablets in his arms. 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**



**JE**  
**650 BC**

*Josiah's  
Reform  
Book*

**D**  
**621 BC**



**JED**  
**550 BC**

*Exilic  
Priestly  
Materials*

**P**  
**450 BC**



**JEDP**  
**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..."



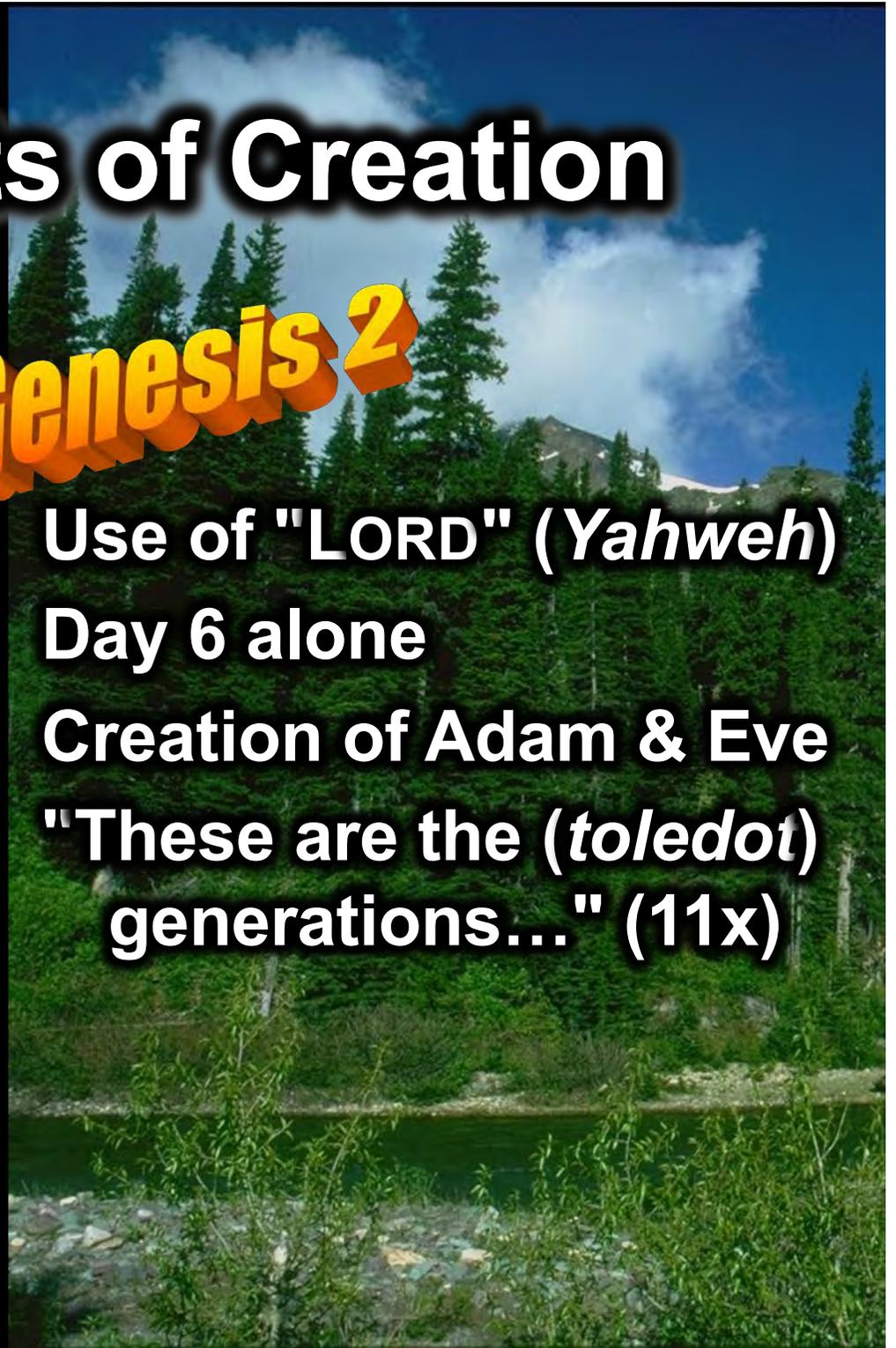
## Genesis 2

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**

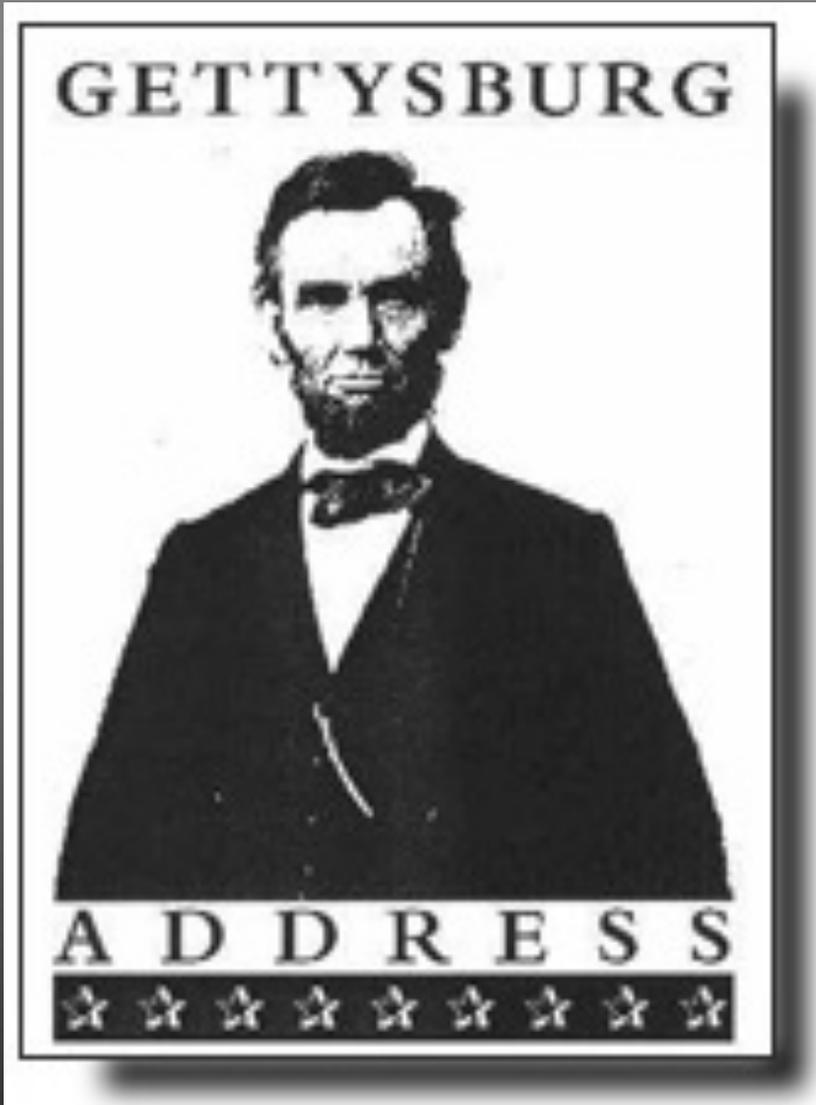
**P**

**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**

**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."**

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived 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, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of war. We have come to a great division of our country. We here dedicate a portion of this ground, as a final resting place for those who here have given their lives that this nation might live. What we do here, in all propriety, we must do elsewhere, in a large measure. We can not dedicate, we can not consecrate— we can not hallow, the 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, we have to speak

to the great tasks remaining before us— these honorable duties we take in increased devotion to that cause for which these men here gave their lives—that we here solemnly affirm that the government of the people, by the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Executive Mansion.

*How soon and seven years ago our fathers brought  
for in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that  
"all men are created equal"*

**our fathers brought forth on this continent a  
new nation, conceived in liberty**

*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 have  
come to a battle-field of blood. We have  
ing might have done more, as all eyes are turned  
lay  
consecrate—we can not hallow, we, ground—  
it has  
has hallowed it, for altho' our poor power  
to  
remember what we say here, while it can never  
forget what they did here.*

**"Fathers" is a faulty translation of the  
original "forefathers." The use of  
"conceived" points to redactor M,  
presumably Mary Todd Lincoln, who  
proofread his speech and added her  
female bias.**

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

Executive Mansion.

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

**"Proposition"** - by M. Use of "created" indicates a third author, p<sup>1</sup>, 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, p<sup>2</sup>, 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."

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,  
testing whether **that nation** or any nation so concerned  
for the liberty of all men, shall ever remain divided  
in opinion on the great question of human rights.  
We have come to realize that it is not enough for us to  
provide places for those who die 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.

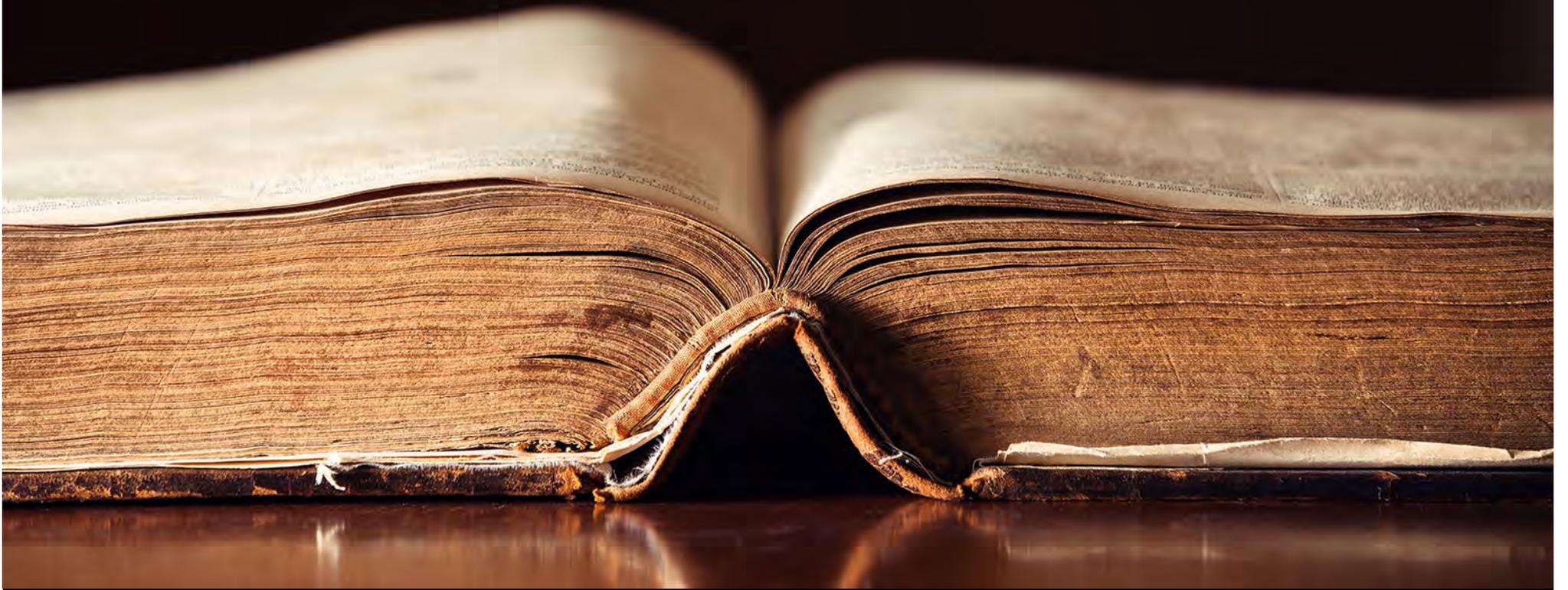


# JEDP Problems

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?



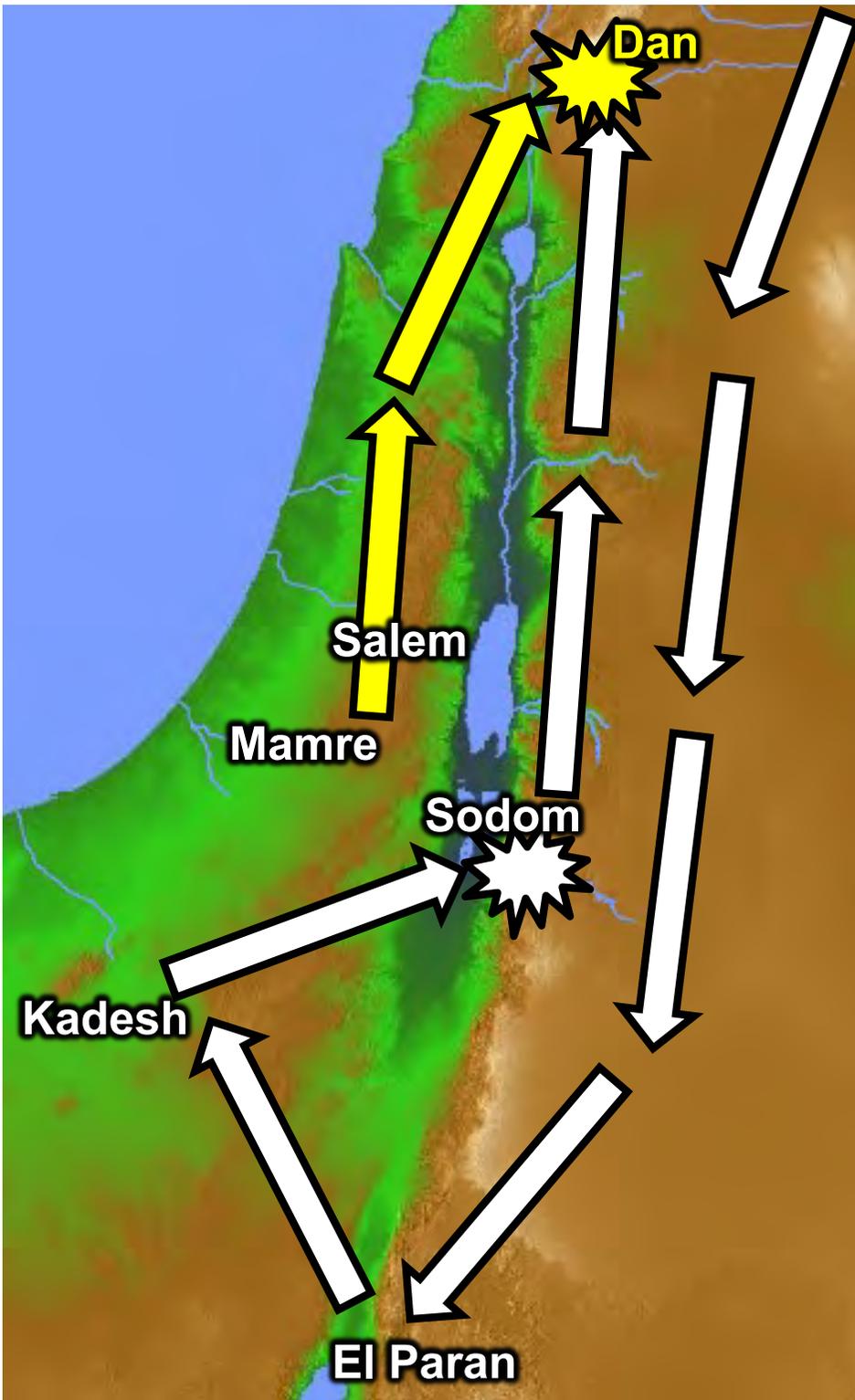
**Pentateuch**  
**1400 BC**



**Poetics**  
**1000 BC**



**Malachi**  
**400 BC**



# The Land of Canaan (2000 BC)

5 Kings

**Abraham**



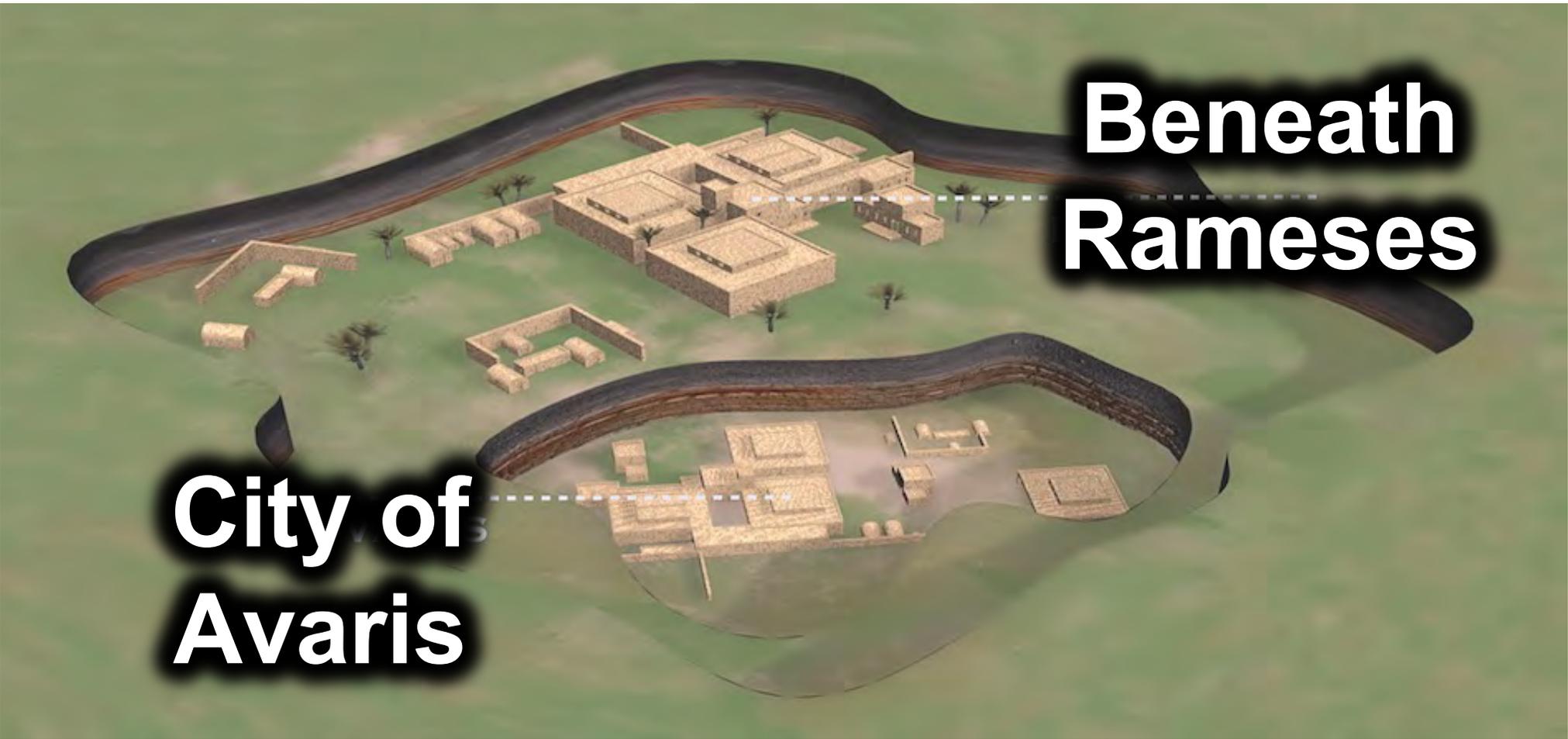
“When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as **Dan**”  
(Genesis 14:14 NIV).

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, green plain with a few small trees. The text "Beneath Rameses" is overlaid in the top right, and "City of Avaris" is overlaid in the bottom left, both in large, white, bold font with a black outline. Dotted lines connect the text to the corresponding areas of the city.

**Beneath  
Rameses**

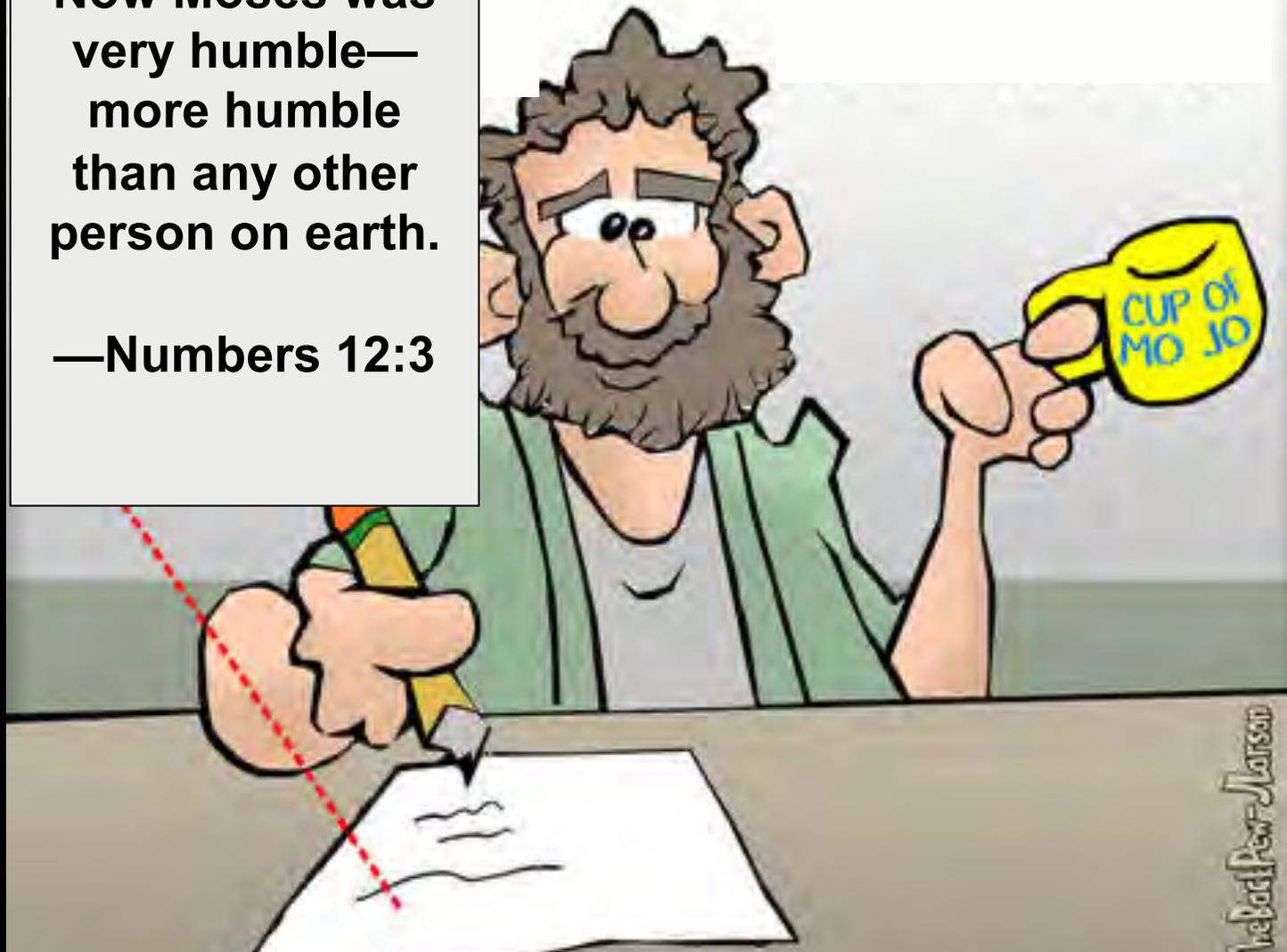
**City of  
Avaris**

**"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?**

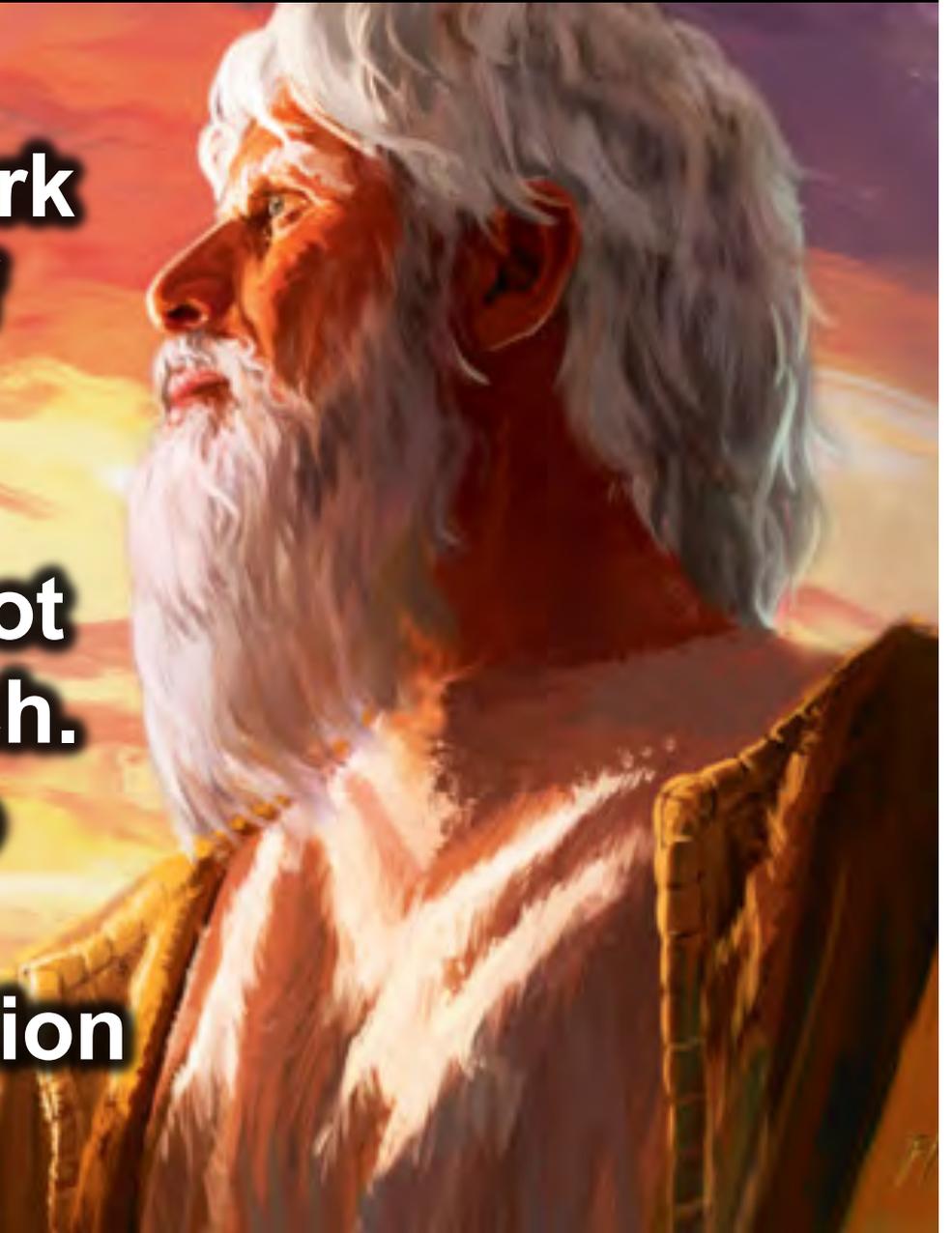
**This seems to be an addition since  
for Moses to say it would be self-contradictory.**

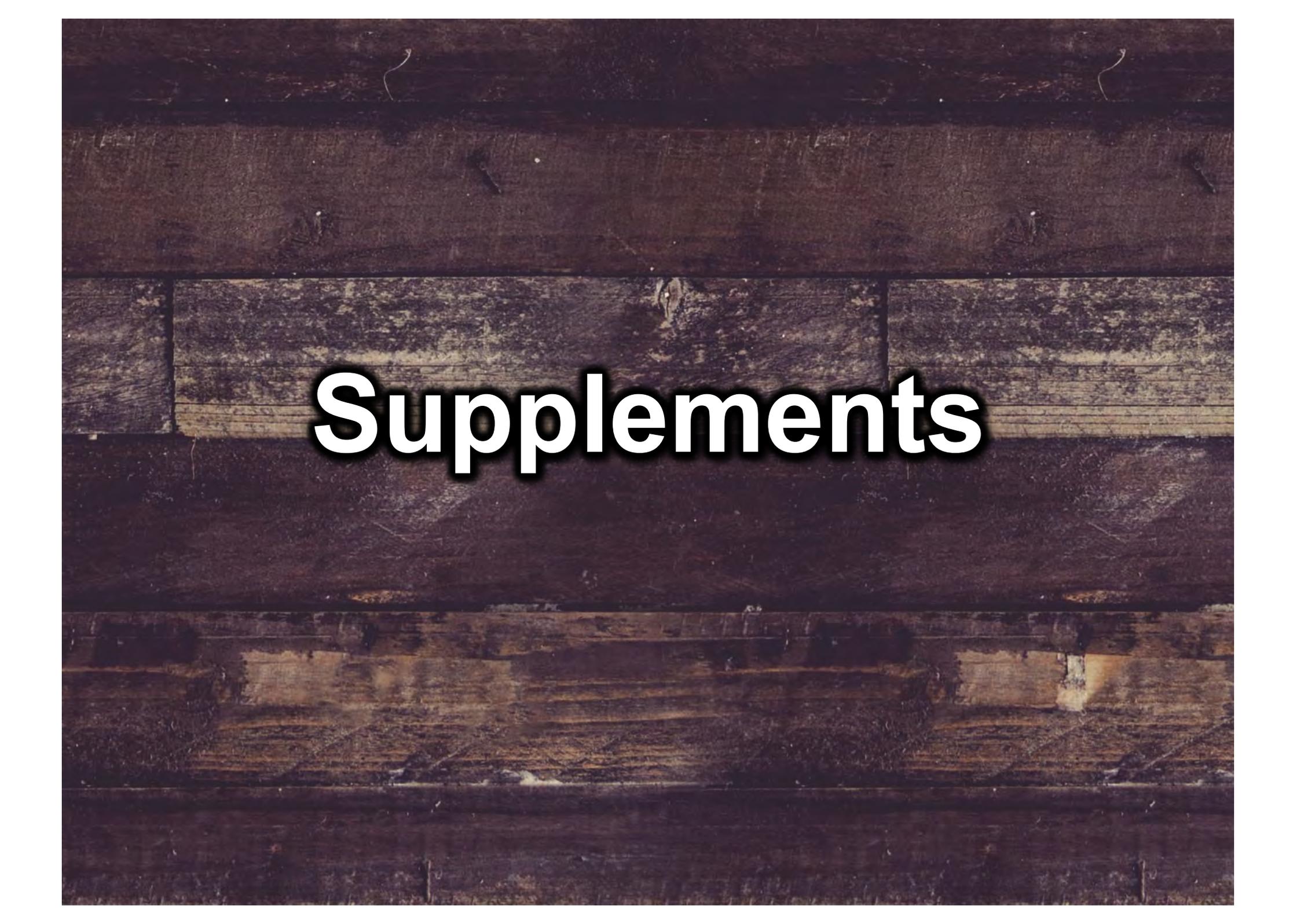
# The Death of Moses (Deut 34:1, 5)

**"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.**



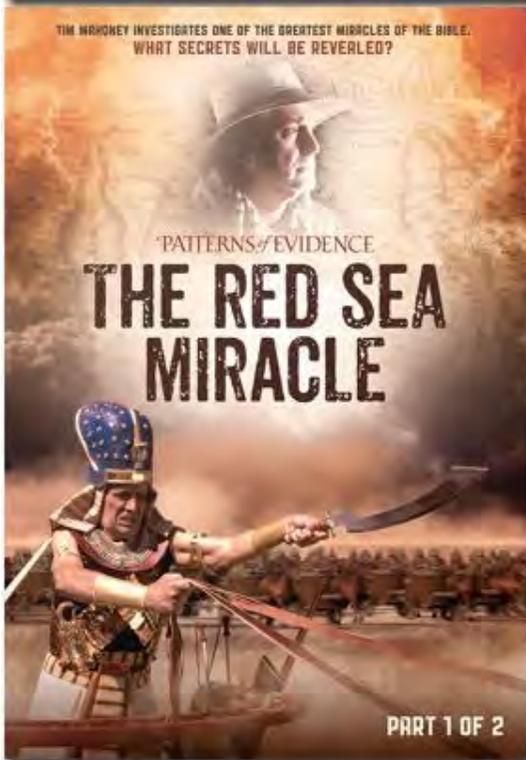
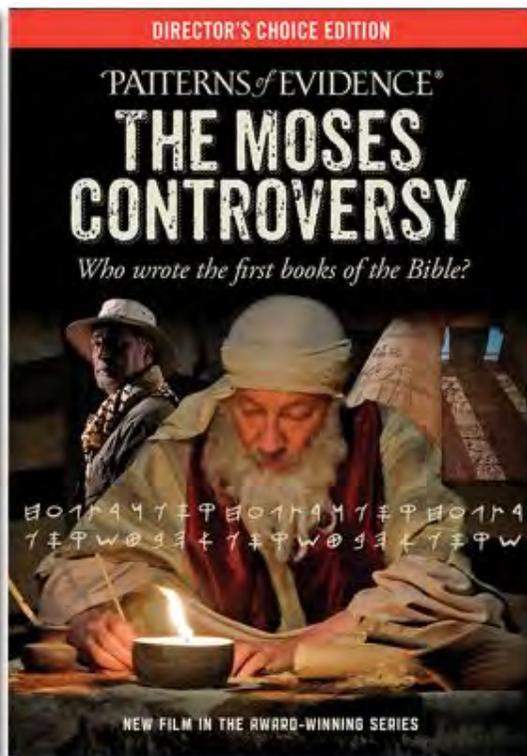
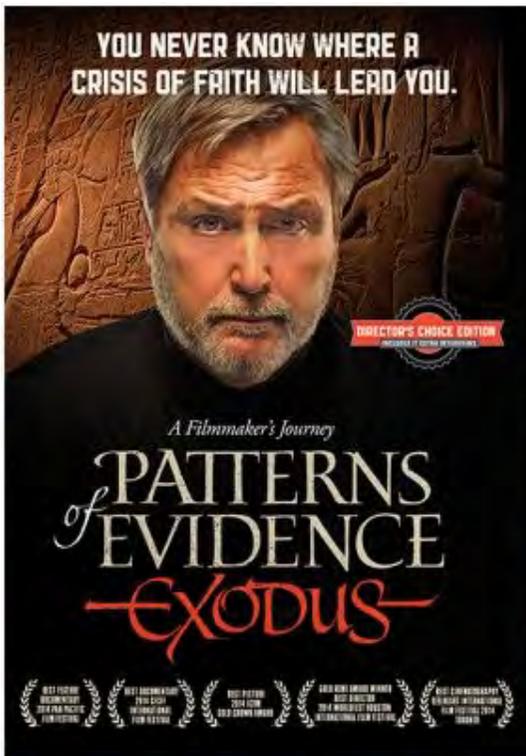


# Supplements

**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

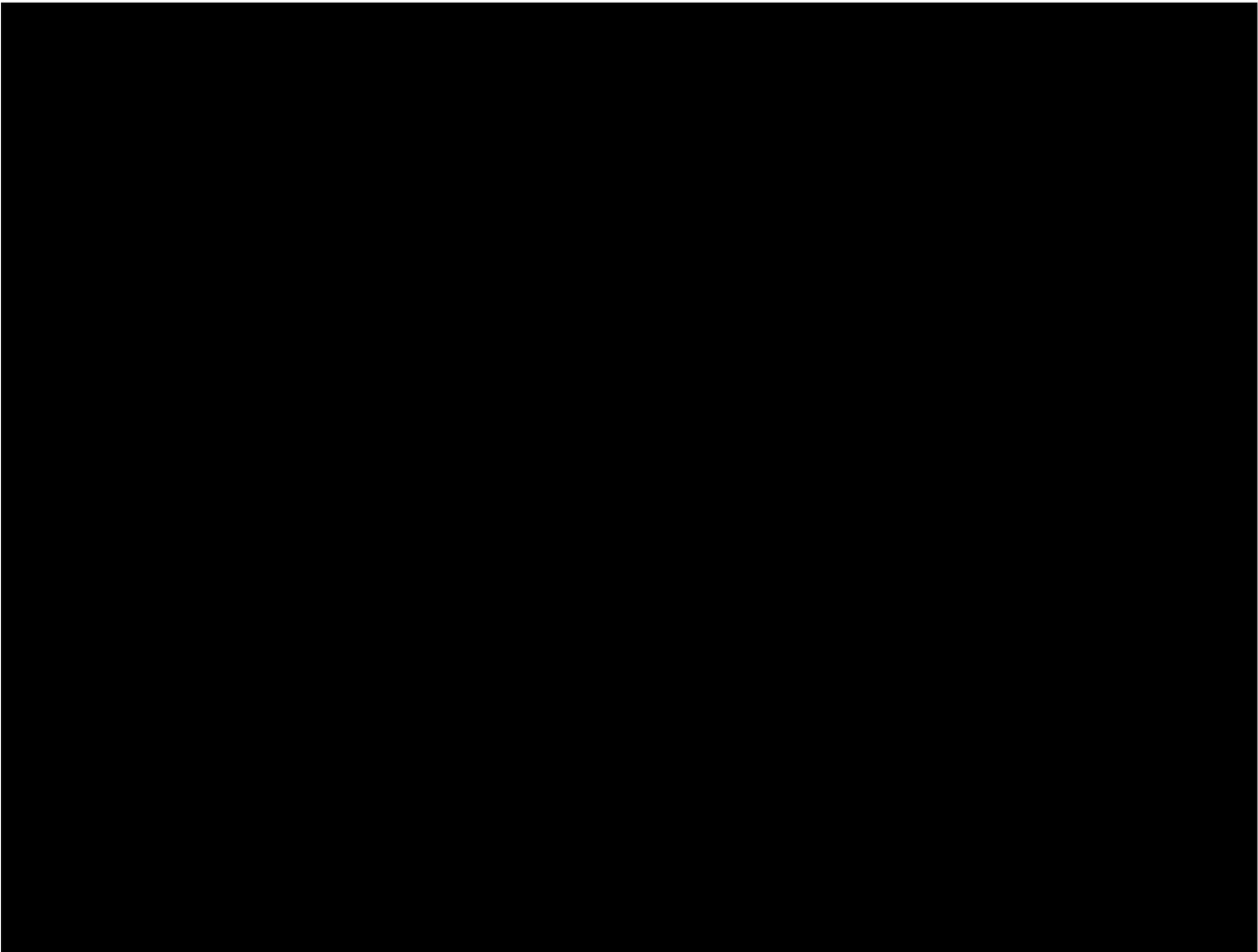
- 3. Subjectivity in applying the theory results in conflicting explanations**
- 4. Ignores stylistic variation within an author**

# 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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