

Faith and Culture in the Ancient Near East

Wonders of Arabia

Windstar Cruises
Ross Arnold, Fall 2017

Wonders of Arabia Lectures

- Oct 29- *Intro to Wonders; Permanence of Egypt*
- Oct 30- *Pharaohs, Temples & Tombs*
- Oct 31- *Alone in the Desert; Nabateans & Petra*
 - 11/01- Hurghada, Egypt
 - 11/02- Aqaba, Jordan
 - 11/03- Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
 - 11/04-05- Safaga/Luxor, Egypt
- Nov 6- *Birthplace of Empires; Faith & Culture in ANE*
- Nov 7- *Unity & Diversity in the Middle East*

Wonders of Arabia Lectures

- Nov 8- *Children of Abraham; Understanding Islam*
- Nov 9- *Moses, Israelites, and Crossing the Red Sea; Lawrence of Arabia, Bedouins and Victory in WWI*
- Nov 10- *History & Culture of Oman*
 - 11/11- **Salalah, Oman**
- Nov 12- *Alexander the Great & Hellenism; Crusades*
- Nov 13- *History, Culture & Conflict in the Middle East*
 - 11/14- **Khasab, Oman**
 - 11/15- **Dubai**

Today's World Religions by Date of Founding

	<u>Pop. (000s)</u>	<u>% of World</u>	<u>Founded (c.)</u>	<u>Where</u>
Hinduism	1,100,000	12.65%	4000-2500BC	Indus Valley
Judaism	14,000	0.20%	2000 BC	Palestine
Buddhism	488,000	5.29%	560-490 BC	India
Chinese Trad. ¹	394,000	5.54%	500 BC	China
Shinto	4,000	0.06%	500 BC	Japan
Jainism	4,200	0.06%	420 BC	India
Christianity	2,200,000	29.52%	30 AD	Palestine
Islam	1,600,000	21.09%	622 AD	Arabia
Sikhism	28,000	0.32%	1500 AD	India
Bah'aism	7,300	0.10%	1863 AD	Persia
Other ²	690,000	9.70%		
Non-relig. ³	1,100,000	15.46%		

¹ Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism

² Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified

³ Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist

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Religious Beliefs of the Ancient Near East

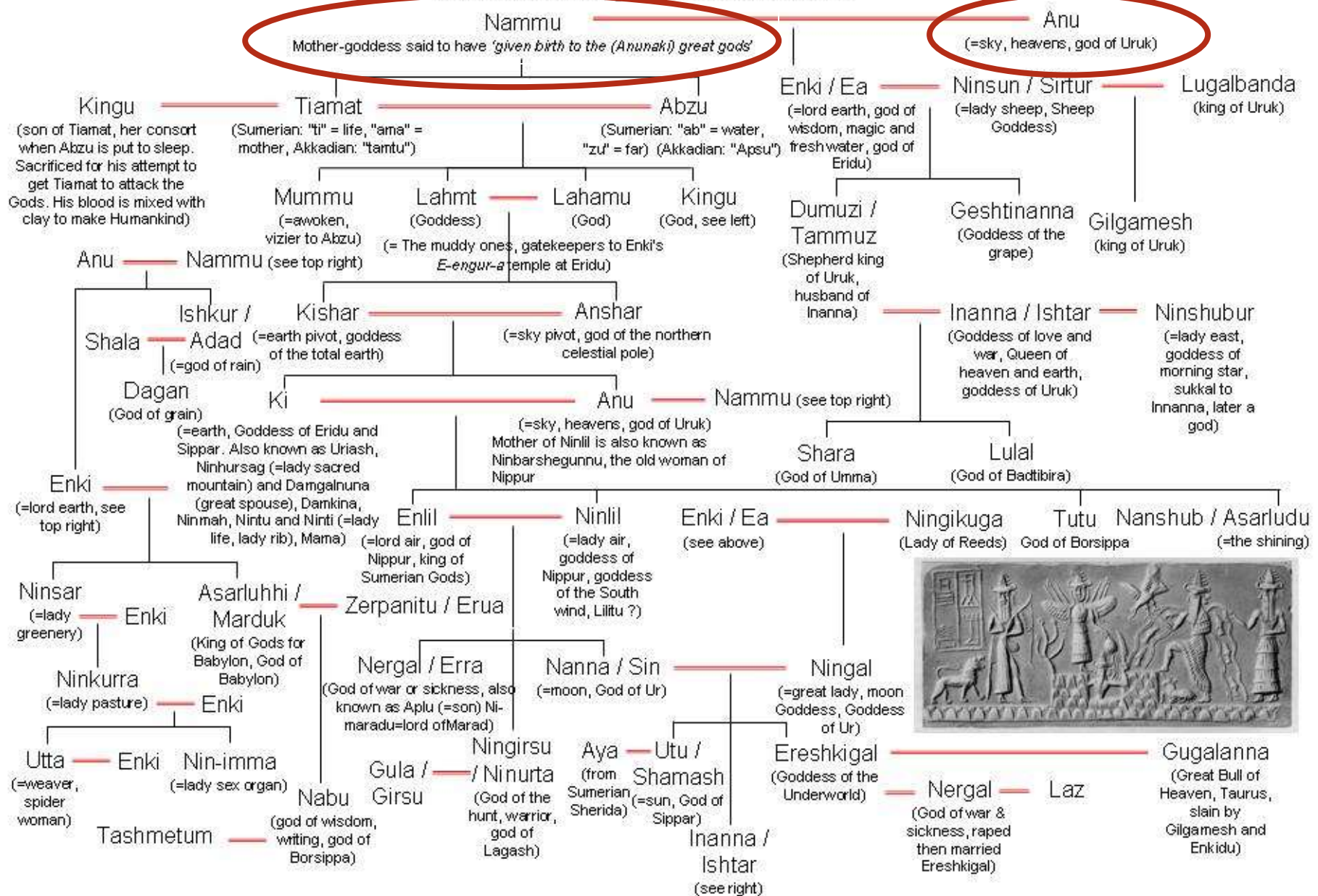
1. Mesopotamian primitive polytheism
2. Egyptian sophisticated polytheism
3. Greek sophisticated polytheism
4. Roman sophisticated polytheism
5. The ancient Mystery Religions
6. The Rise of Monotheism
 - Judaism
 - Christianity
 - Islam





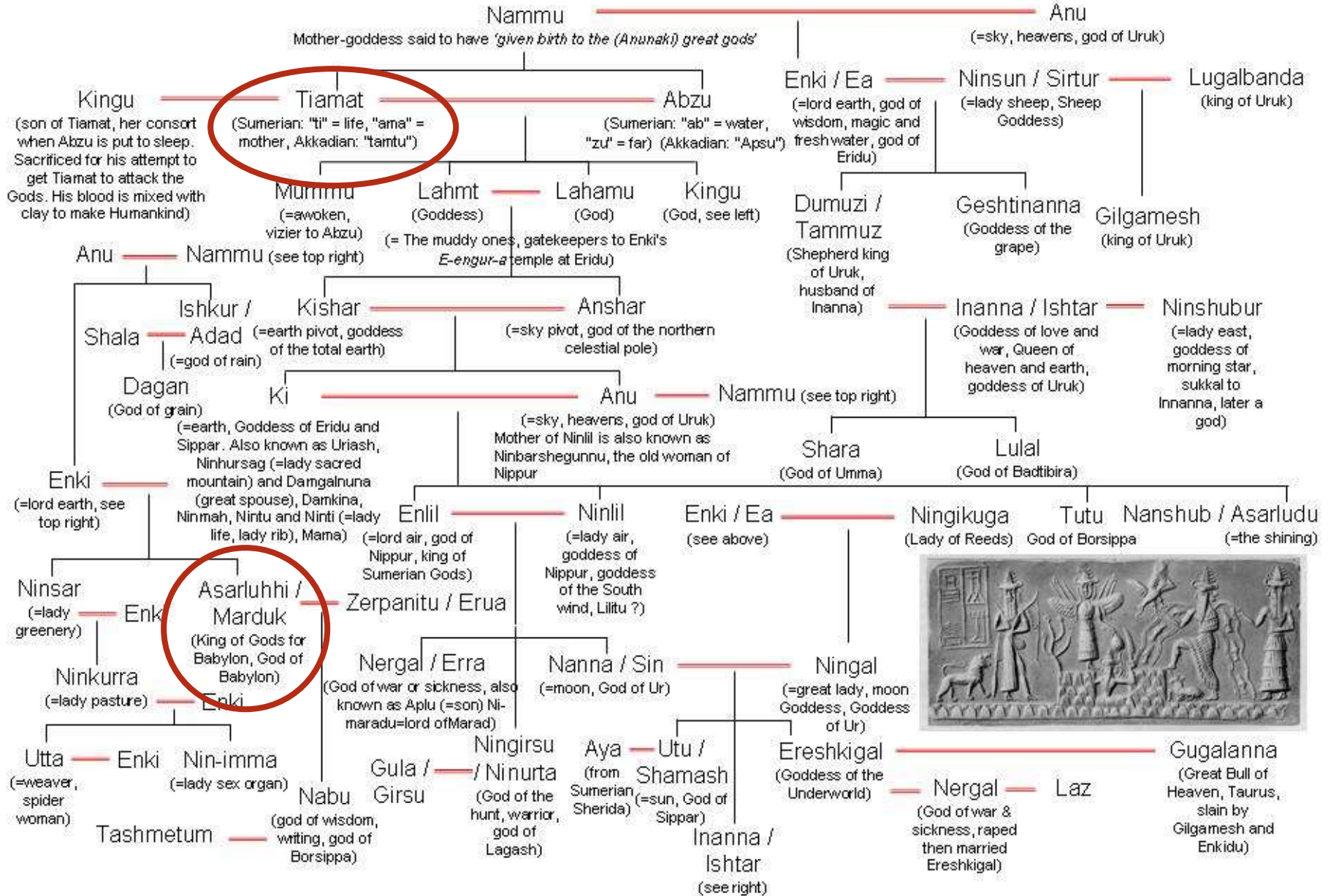
Genealogy of Later Mesopotamian Gods

Sumerian names given first, Akkadian last



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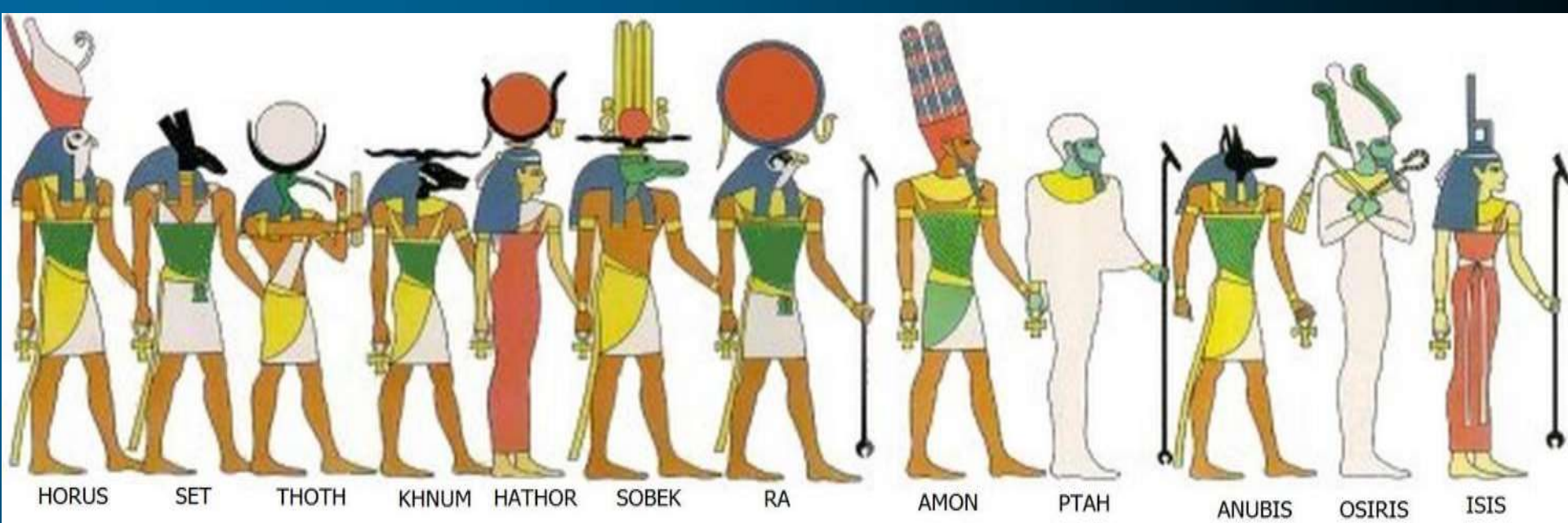
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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GODS

 <p>Osiris Judge</p>	 <p>Sobek Protection</p>	 <p>Ra Sun</p>
 <p>Shu Air, Light</p>	 <p>Bes Children</p>	 <p>Prah Time</p>
 <p>Anubis Underworld</p>	 <p>Hapi The Nile</p>	 <p>Seth Chaos</p>
 <p>Khaum Creation</p>	 <p>Horus Sky</p>	 <p>Thoth Science</p>





Minoan Civilization, 1700-1450 BC
Mycenaean Civilization, 1450-1250 BC



Athenian Empire

478-404 BC





Greek Pantheon on Mount Olympus





Conquests & Empire of Alexander the Great 334-323 BC





Roman gods

The Greek and Roman Pantheons

Greek Roman

Zeus	Jupiter	Father of the gods, sky god
Hera	Juno	Wife of Zeus/Jupiter, goddess of marriage, women
Aphrodite	Venus	goddess of love & beauty
Ares	Mars	god of war
Athena	Minerva	goddess of war & wisdom
Artemis	Diana	goddess of hunting, fertility & childbirth
Apollo		god of the sun, music, prophecy, archery
Hermes	Mercury	messenger of the gods, healing, communication
Hephaestus	Vulcan	god of fire, volcanoes, blacksmiths, crafts
Poseidon	Neptune	god of the sea, causes earthquakes
Hestia	Vesta	goddess of the hearth, family & home, Rome
Demeter	Ceres	goddess of corn and crops
Hades	Pluto	god of the underworld
Dionysus	Bacchus	god of wine, fruit, and ecstasy



Roman Temples

The Mystery Religions

Characteristics:

- *Secrecy; initiates only
- *Heavily ritualistic; “mystical awakening”
- *Exotic; most were from Egypt or Persia
- *Most offered some type of immortality/afterlife
- *They encouraged relationship – both with the deity and with other initiates, not limited by social status.

Cult of Cybele

Cult of Attis

Mithraic Mysteries

Mysteries of Isis

Dionysian Mysteries

Eleusinian Mysteries

Orphic Mysteries

Cult of Serapis



Symbols of Mystery Religions

The Rise of Monotheism

(or “ethical monotheism”)

Polytheism was based primarily on PERCEPTION of nature or natural phenomena.

Monotheism was founded on REVELATION – an event in which the One TRUE God chose to reveal Himself to humanity.

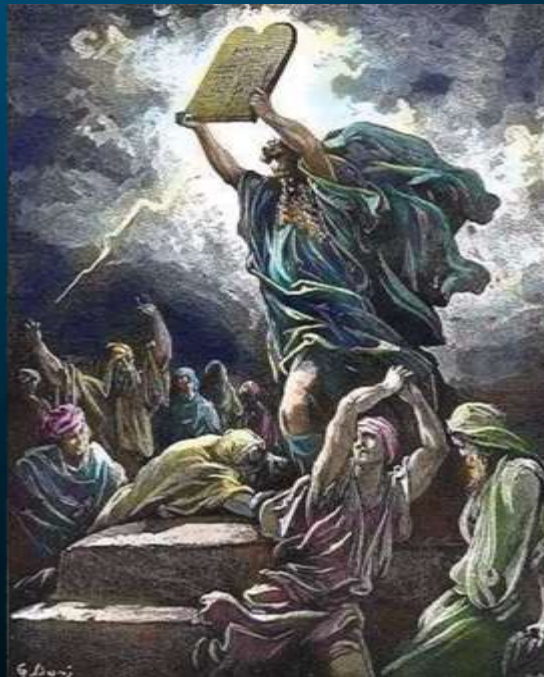
Events in the Creation of Jewish Monotheism

c. 2091 BC – **God speaks** to Abram (later to become Abraham) and calls him to follow Him, and so begins the *People of God*, the Hebrews.



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The Hebrew TaNaKh

- Torah (“Instruction”)
- Nevi'im (“Prophets”)
- Ketuvim (“Writings”)



THE TORAH

בארץ גשן ויאחזו בהו
מאד ויחי יעקב באר
שבע עשרה שנה וי
שני חייו שבע שנים וא
ומאת שנה ויקרבו ימי
למורת ויקרא לבנו
ויאמר



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- c. 1446 BC – God calls Moses to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt, giving the Law through him, and so begins the *Religion of Judaism*.
- c. 1010 BC – **God leads** the Prophet Samuel to call the young David to become King of Israel, thus creating the true *Nation of Israel*.



THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Around the time of SAUL AND DAVID

EDOM Vassals and defeated peoples



Jewish Dates Leading Up to the 1st Century

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722 BC – Assyria destroys Northern Kingdom of Israel.

586 BC – Babylonia destroys Southern Kingdom of Judah; Babylonian Captivity & Jewish diaspora.

Jewish Dates Leading Up to the 1st Century

- 930 BC – King Solomon dies; Kingdom is divided.**
- 722 BC – Assyria destroys Northern kingdom of Israel.**
- 586 BC – Babylonia destroys Southern kingdom of Judah; Babylonian Captivity & Jewish diaspora.**
- 538 BC – Persian King Cyrus lets Jews return home.**
- 332 BC – Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire and spreads the Greek language/culture. Judaism begins to split into more Hebraic Jews (Pharisees) and Hellenized Jews (Sadducees).**

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- 63 BC – Pompey conquers the region for Rome.**
- 39 BC – Roman Senate makes Herod “King of the Jews”**

The 1st Century AD and Judaism

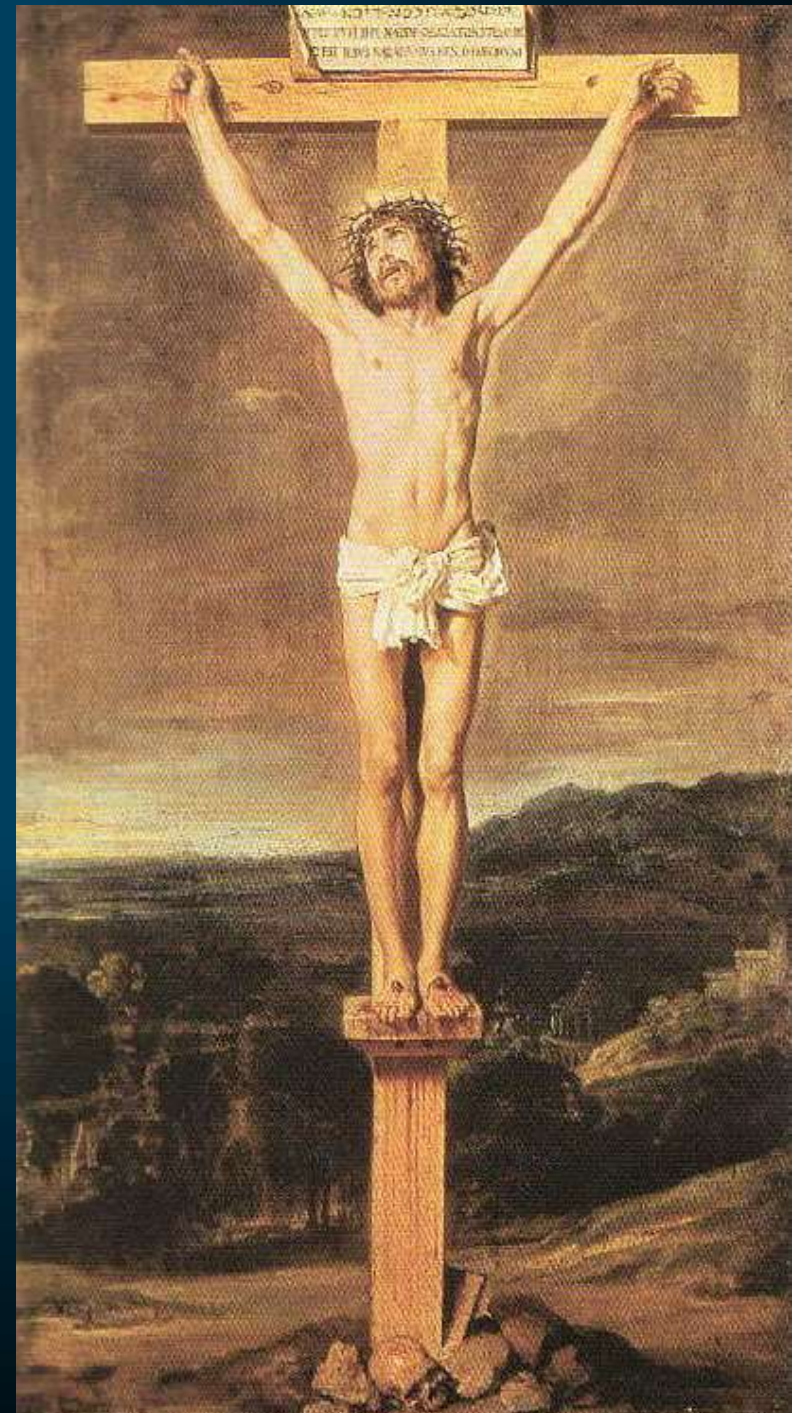
- The Greek influence on Jewish culture and religion had created tremendous rifts.
 - Sadducees were liberal Hellenized Jews with a limited interpretation of Torah (but not the rest of the Tanakh), and most of the political power.
 - Pharisees – the “set apart ones” were Jewish fundamentalists, holding to strict acceptance of all the Hebrew Bible and opposing Hellenization.
 - Essenes were cultic, apocalyptic Jewish sect that advocated complete separation.
 - Zealots saw Roman oppression as the enemy, to be driven out at all costs.

The 1st Century AD & the Birth of Christianity

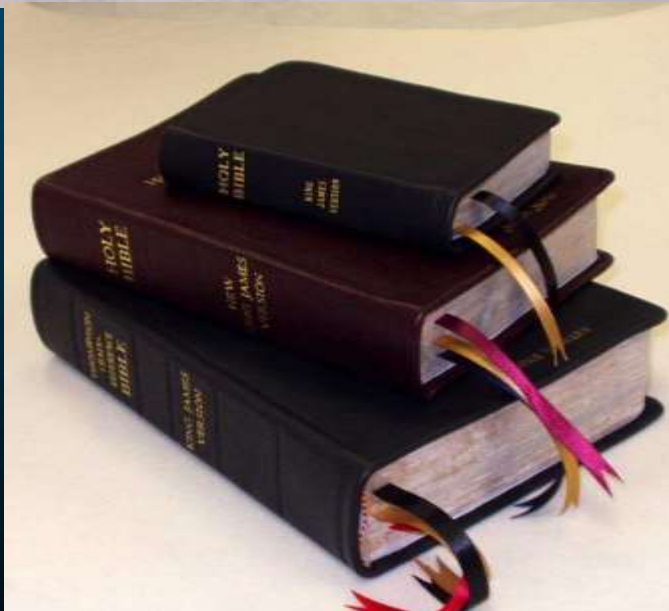
1. The Jewish people had a historic expectation of God's "Messiah."
2. Palestine was, in Jesus' time, very much center of the world, cross roads of three continents.
3. Politically and culturally, it was the perfect environment for a new faith to start and grow.
 - a) The *Pax Romana*
 - b) The Roman Roads
 - c) The Greek language.
4. Economically, the 1st Century was a perfect time for a new message of hope.
5. Morally and religiously, the world was tired and frustrated and ready for a change. (So many "God-fearing Gentiles" seeking monotheism.)

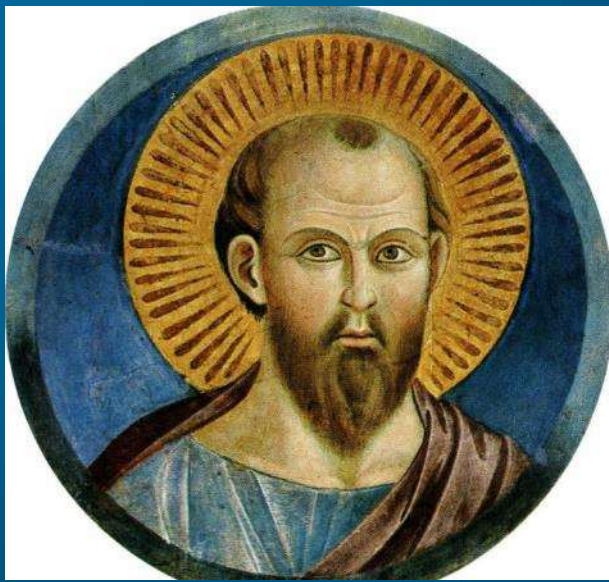


Jesus the Christ
– *Messiah,*
Anointed One
(c. 6 BC-27 AD)

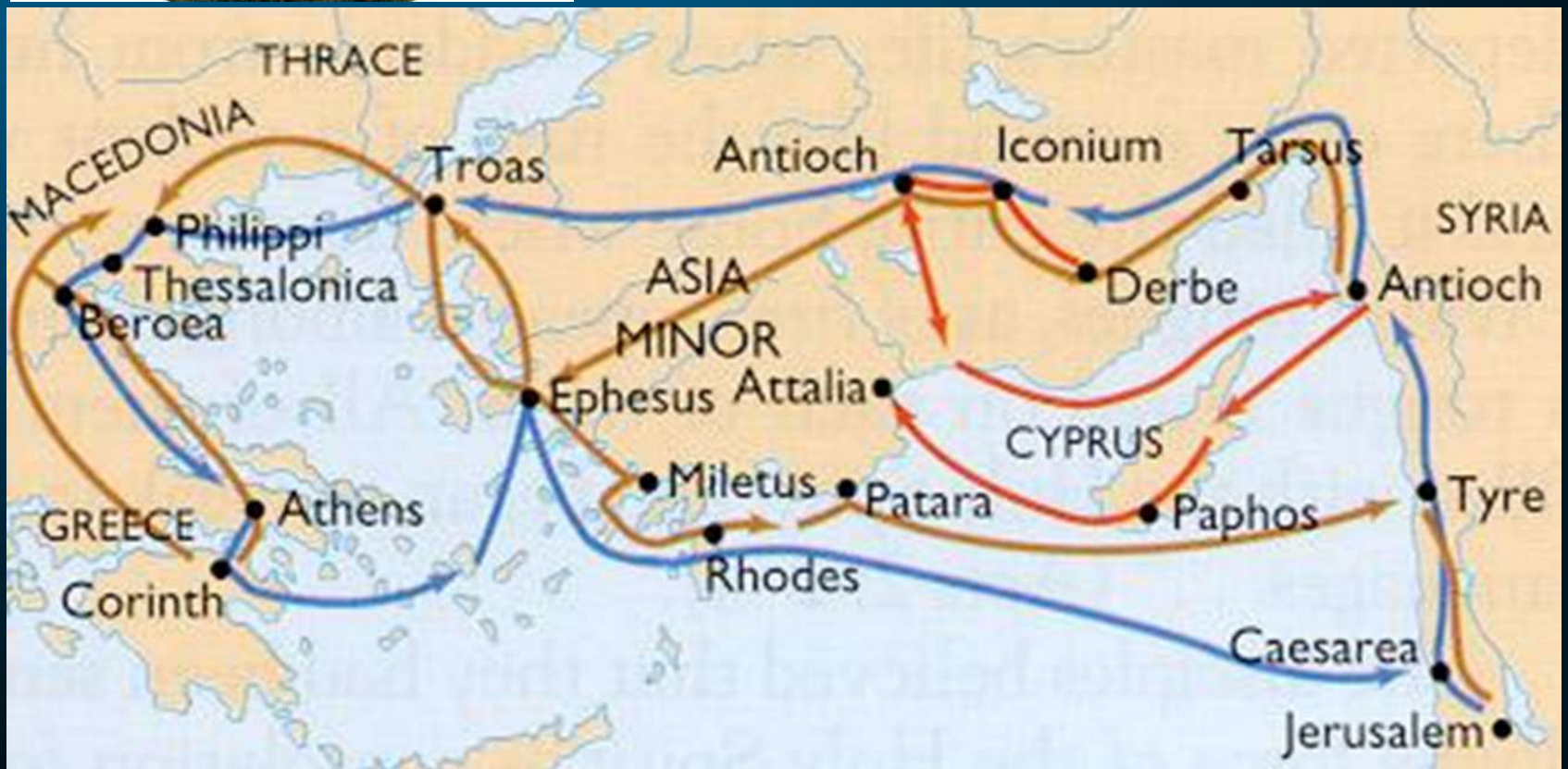


THE
HOLY BIBLE
CONTAINING THE
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS





The Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul

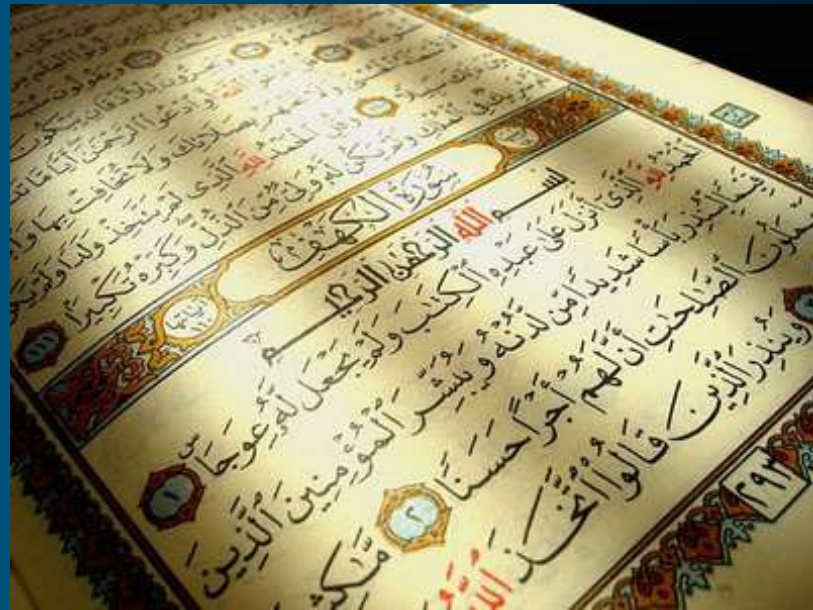


Growth of Christianity by AD 70



State of Christianity c.AD 565



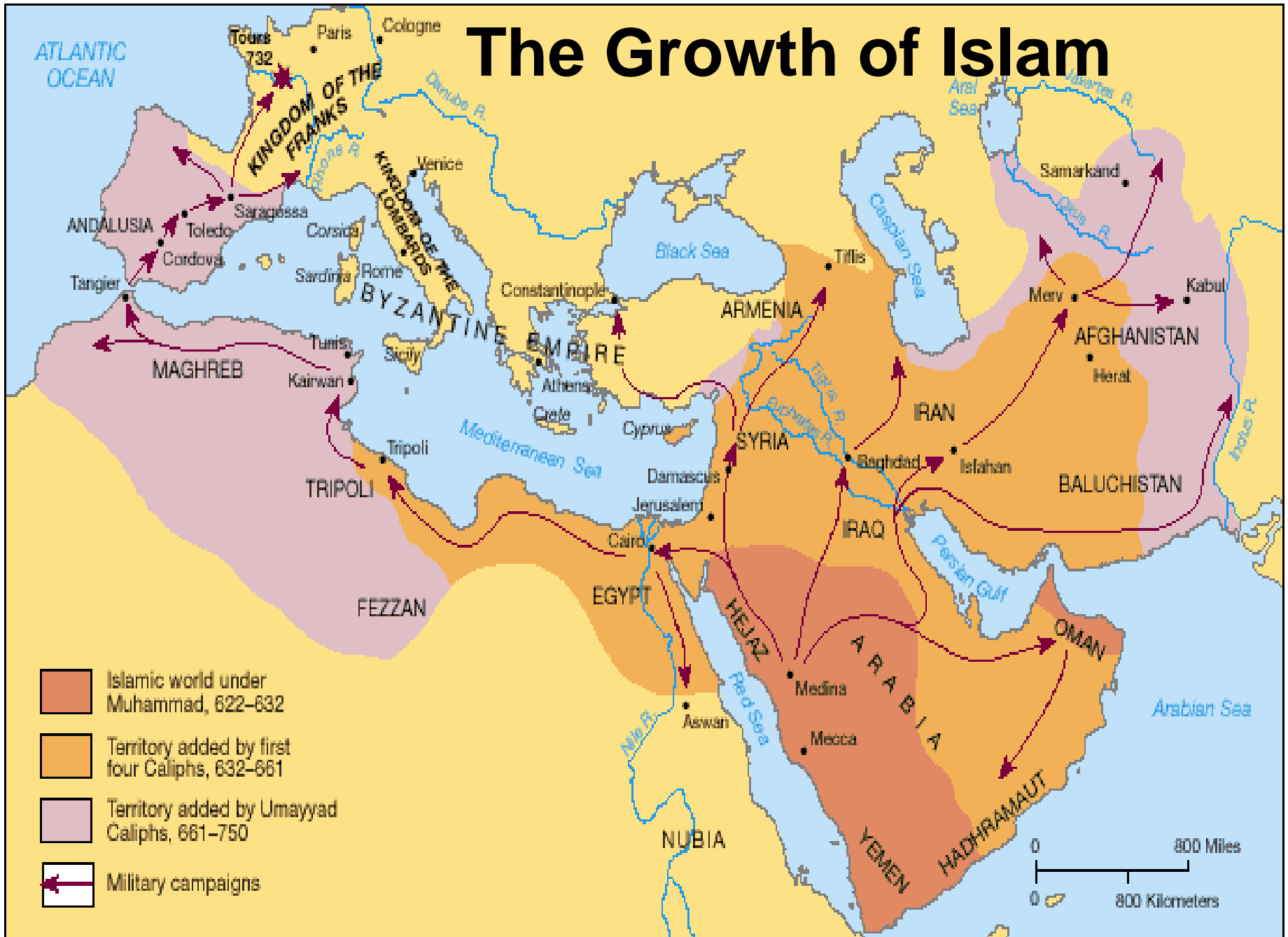


اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

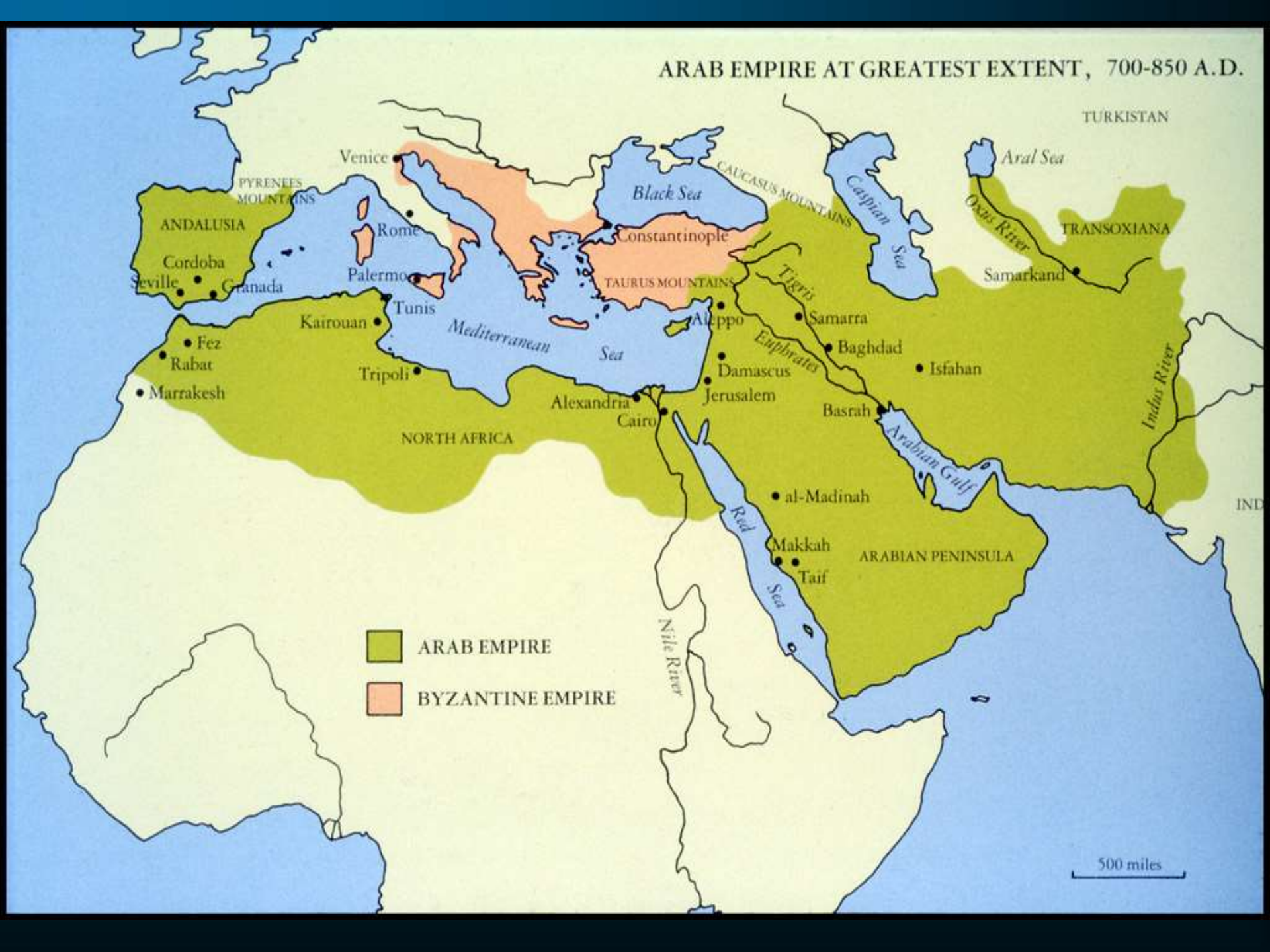
Prophet Muhammad
570-632 AD

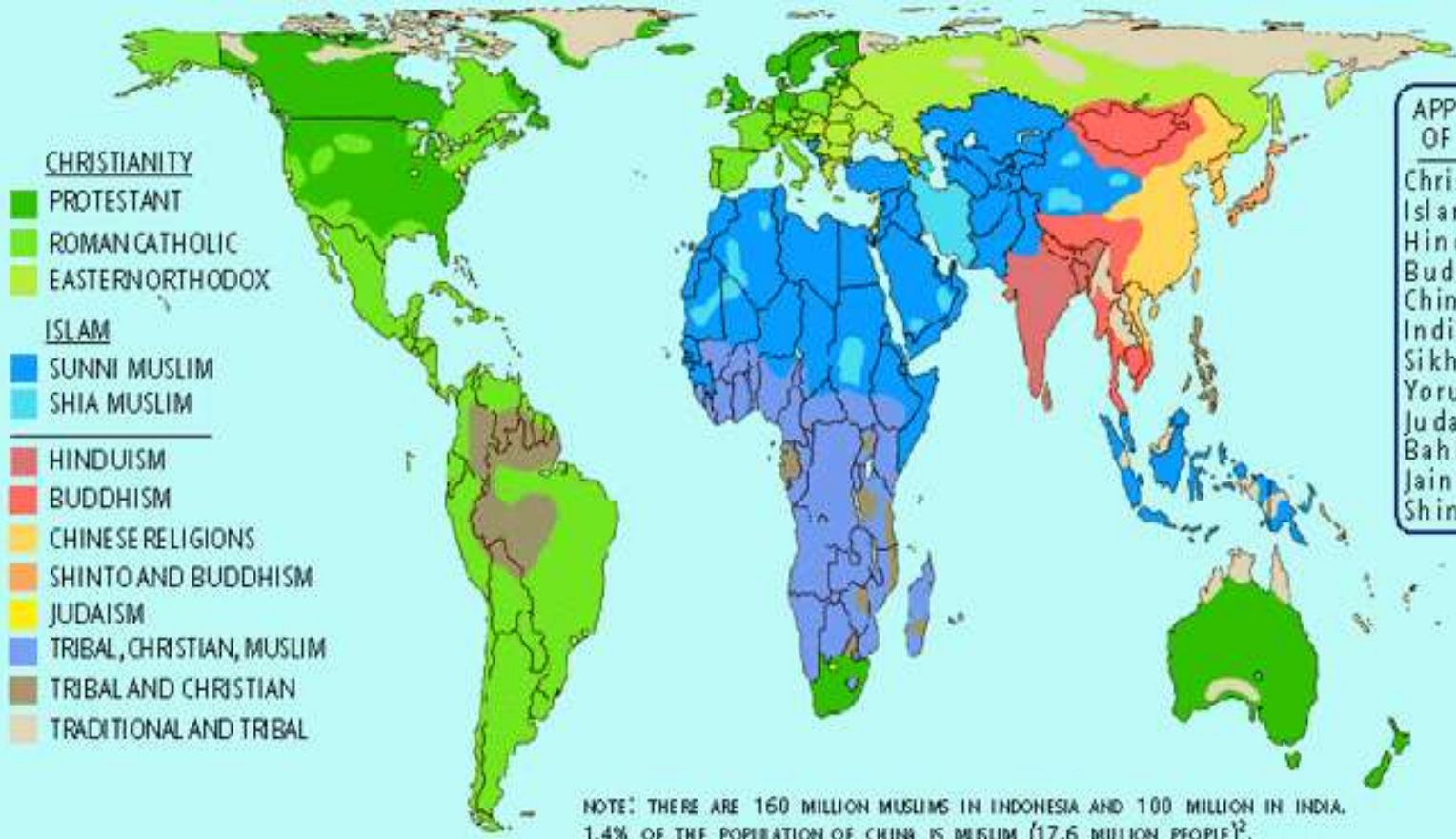


The Growth of Islam



ARAB EMPIRE AT GREATEST EXTENT, 700-850 A.D.





APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF WORLD POPULATION ¹

Christianity	33.0%
Islam	22.1%
Hinduism	15.3%
Buddhism	6.1%
Chinese traditional	3.8%
Indigenous	3.2%
Sikhism	0.3%
Yoruba	0.3%
Judaism	0.2%
Baha'i	0.1%
Jainism	0.1%
Shintoism	0.1%

- CHRISTIANITY
- PROTESTANT
 - ROMAN CATHOLIC
 - EASTERNORTHODOX
- ISLAM
- SUNNI MUSLIM
 - SHIA MUSLIM
-
- HINDUISM
 - BUDDHISM
 - CHINESE RELIGIONS
 - SHINTO AND BUDDHISM
 - JUDAISM
 - TRIBAL, CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM
 - TRIBAL AND CHRISTIAN
 - TRADITIONAL AND TRIBAL

NOTE: THERE ARE 160 MILLION MUSLIMS IN INDONESIA AND 100 MILLION IN INDIA. 1.4% OF THE POPULATION OF CHINA IS MUSLIM (17.6 MILLION PEOPLE)².

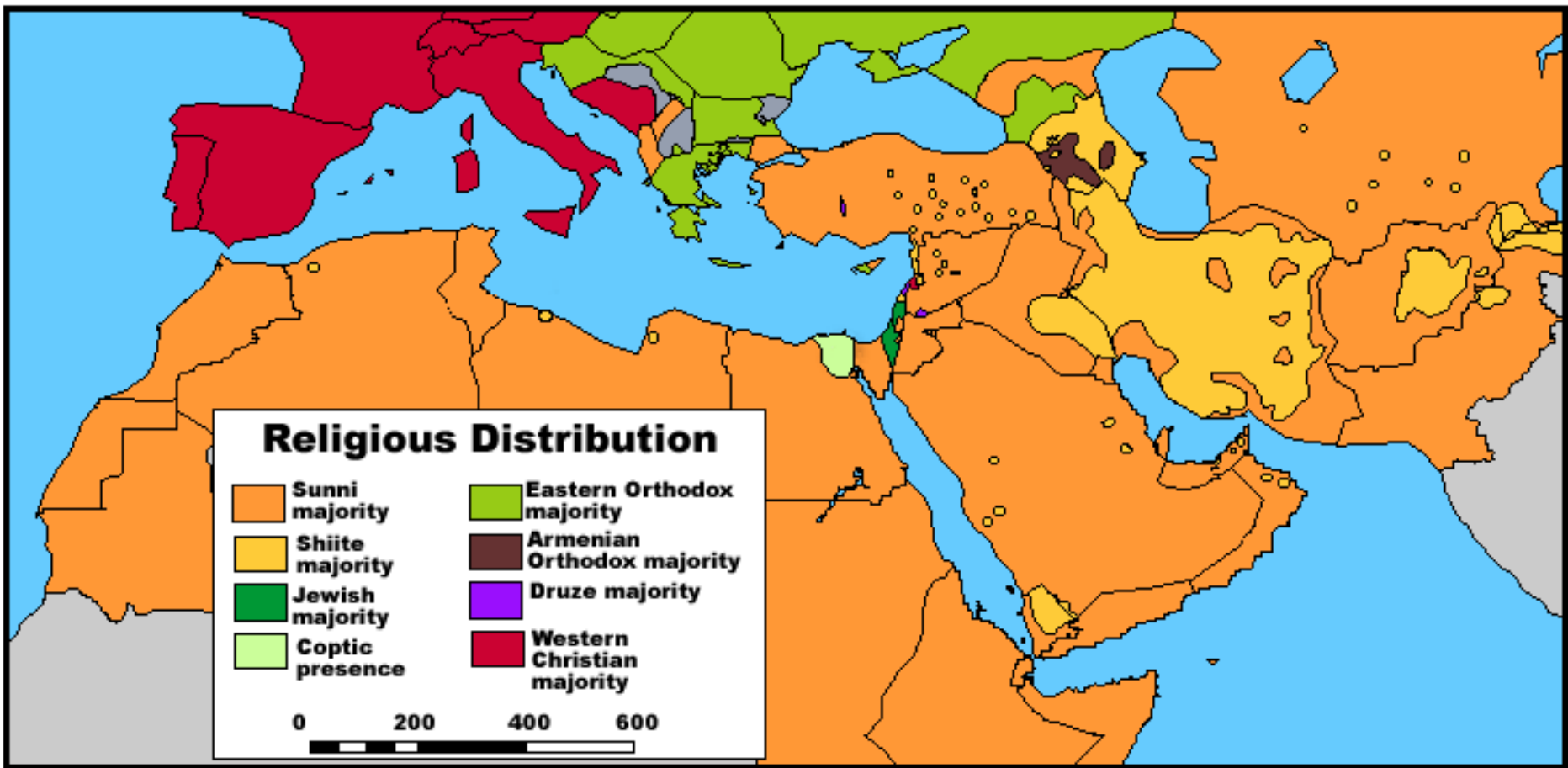
Lakeside Institute of Theology: www.litchapala.org

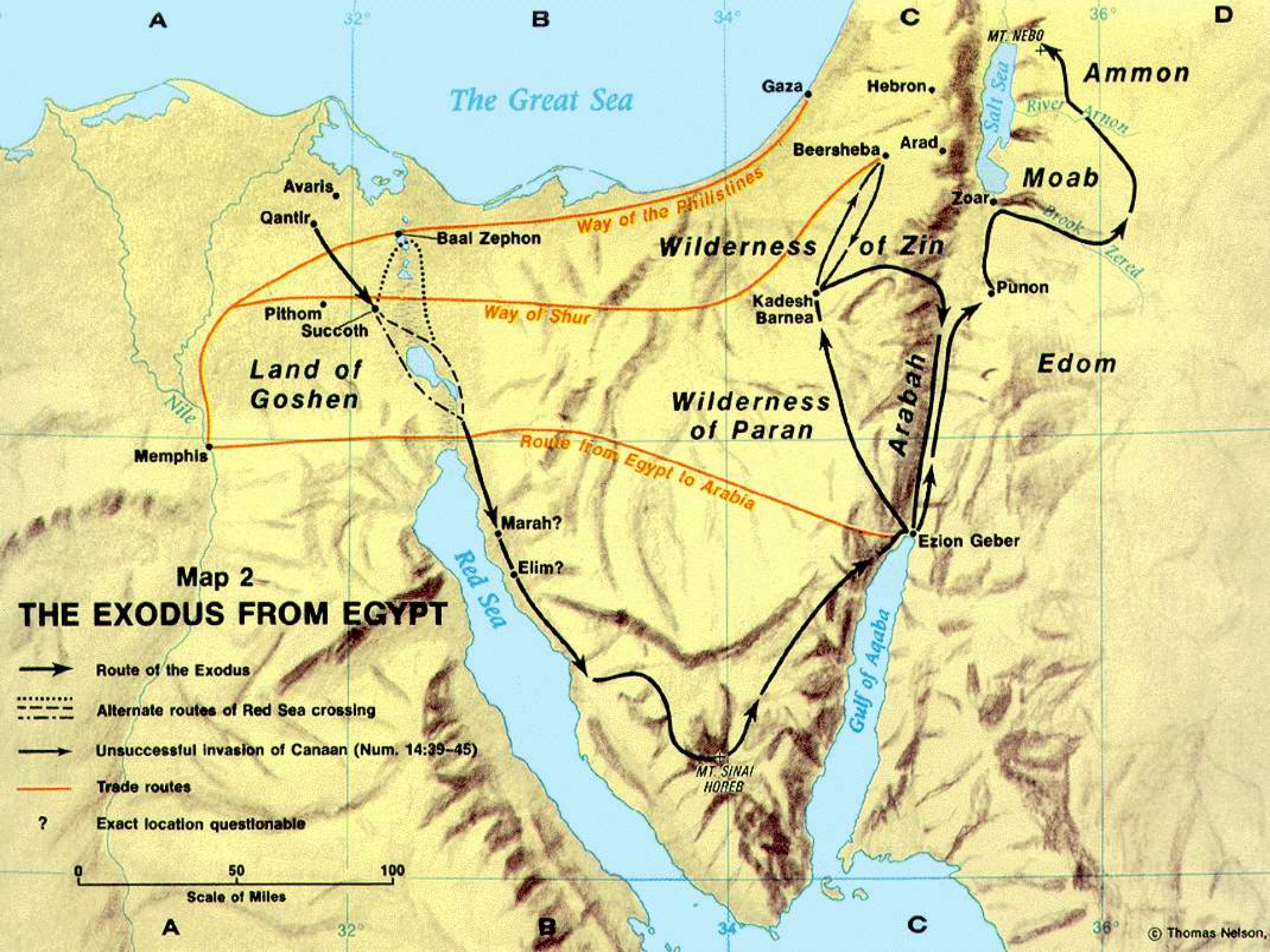
Videos of the Windstar lectures will be posted as soon as possible after our return

rda@rossarnold.net






The 1st Century AD and Judaism

- The Roman occupation and oppression violated the Jewish sense of independence.
 - It smacked of the Babylonian Exile and Seleucid oppression – previous times when foreign unbelievers controlled God's Chosen People.
 - It was economically almost unbearable.
 - The cause of frequent rebellions, eventually resulting in the Great Jewish Revolt, which prompted Rome to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70. *(Leading to same questions as the Babylonian Exile.)*
 - Eventually caused final split between Jews and Christians, when Christians refused to support the Bar Kochba rebellion in 132 AD.



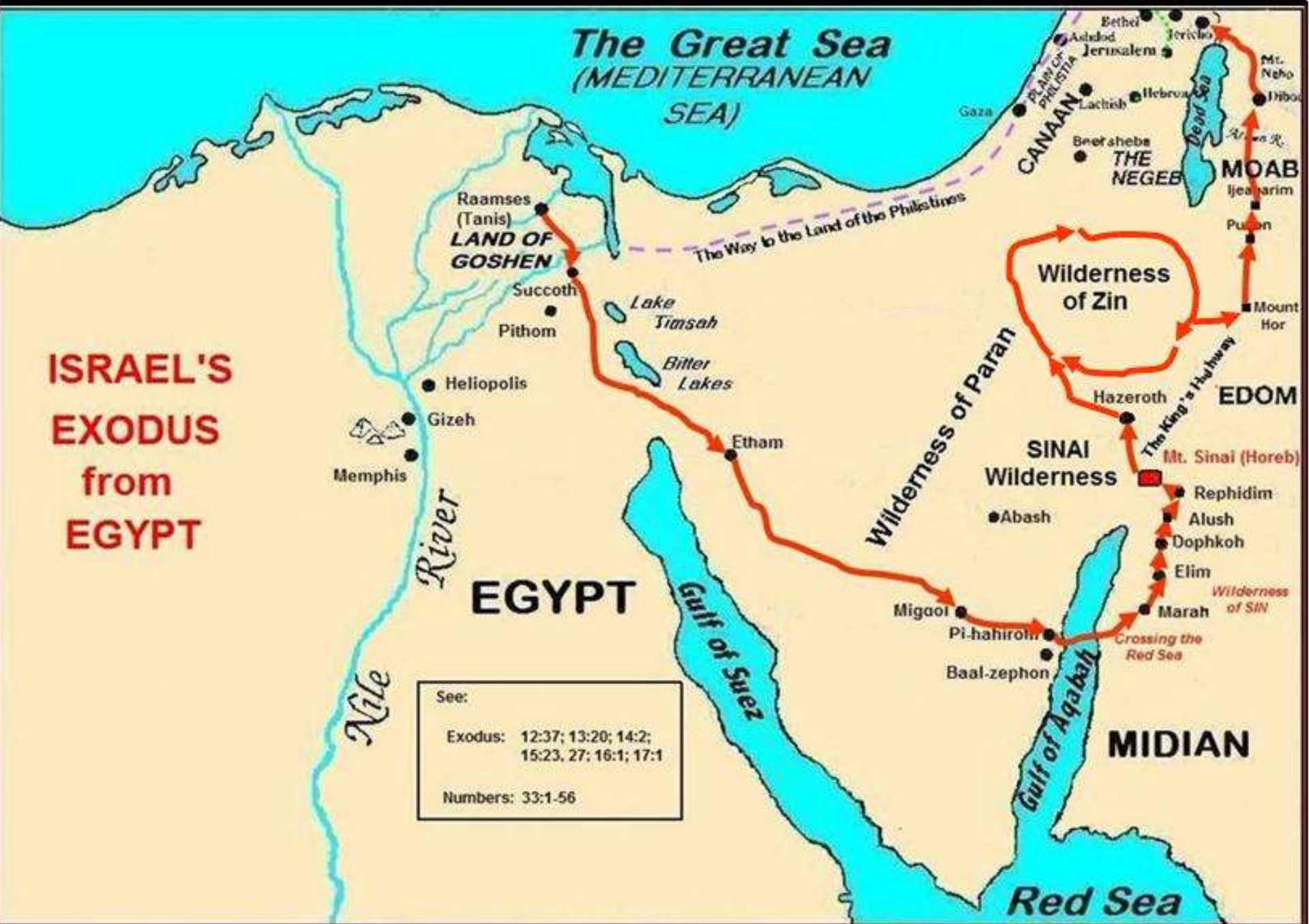


Map 2
THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT

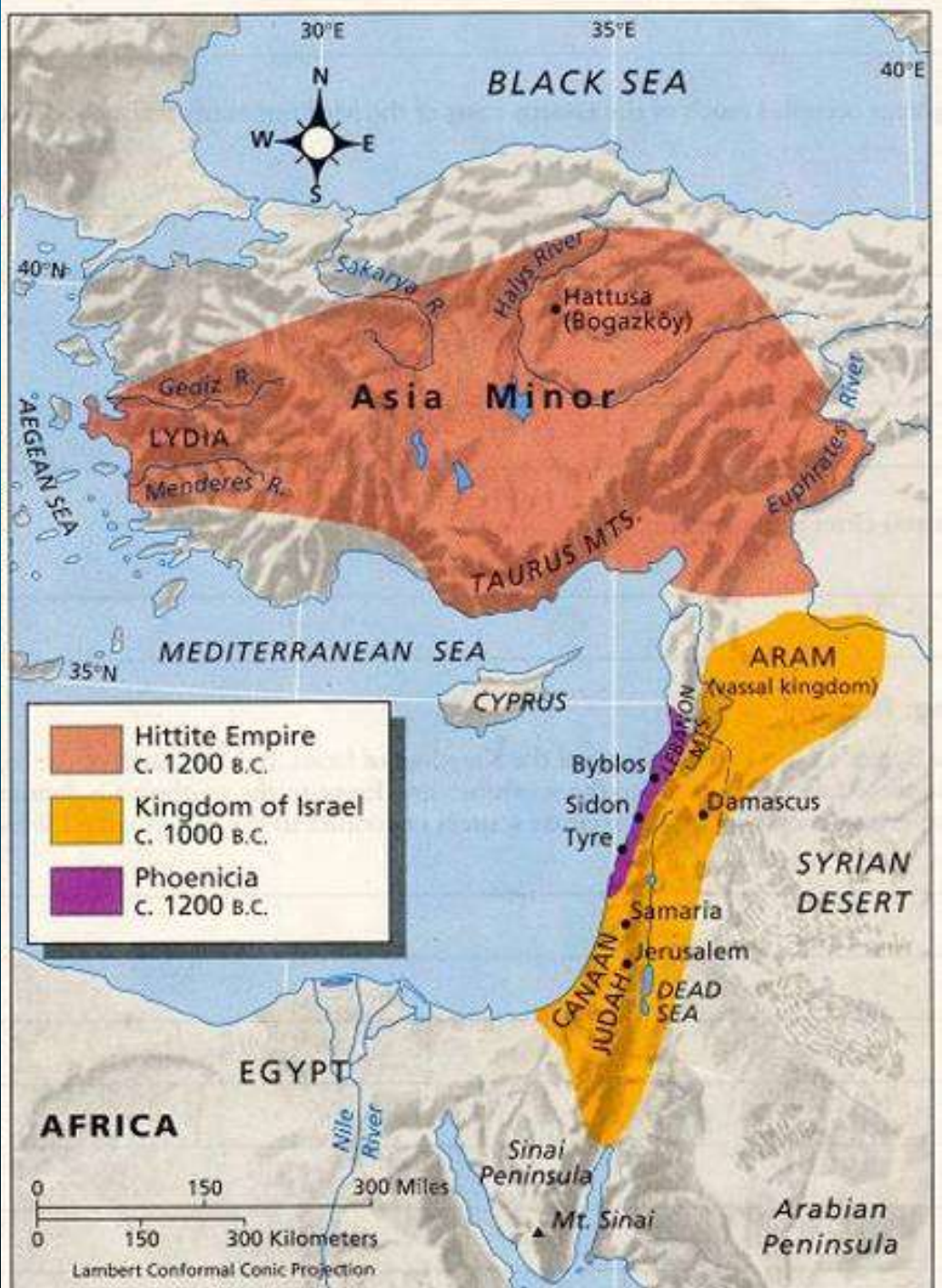
-  Route of the Exodus
-  Alternate routes of Red Sea crossing
-  Unsuccessful invasion of Canaan (Num. 14:39-45)
-  Trade routes
-  Exact location questionable

0 50 100
Scale of Miles

ISRAEL'S EXODUS from EGYPT



See:
 Exodus: 12:37; 13:20; 14:2;
 15:23, 27; 16:1; 17:1
 Numbers: 33:1-56



Effect of Babylonian Captivity on the Jews

- The Babylonian Exile staggered Judaism.
 1. Is YHWH God NOT as powerful as the Babylonian gods?
 2. Does God no longer love us, or no longer accept us as His Chosen People?
 3. How do we continue without the things that represent our election by God – the Promised Land and the Temple? *(Development of the synagogue system, with a formalized focus on prayer and study rather than sacrifice.)*
 4. How do we worship without the Temple?
 5. Are we to be assimilated into a foreign culture – as happened to the Northern Kingdom of Israel? *(Why synagogues became community centers.)*

1st Century Palestine



Herod the great

