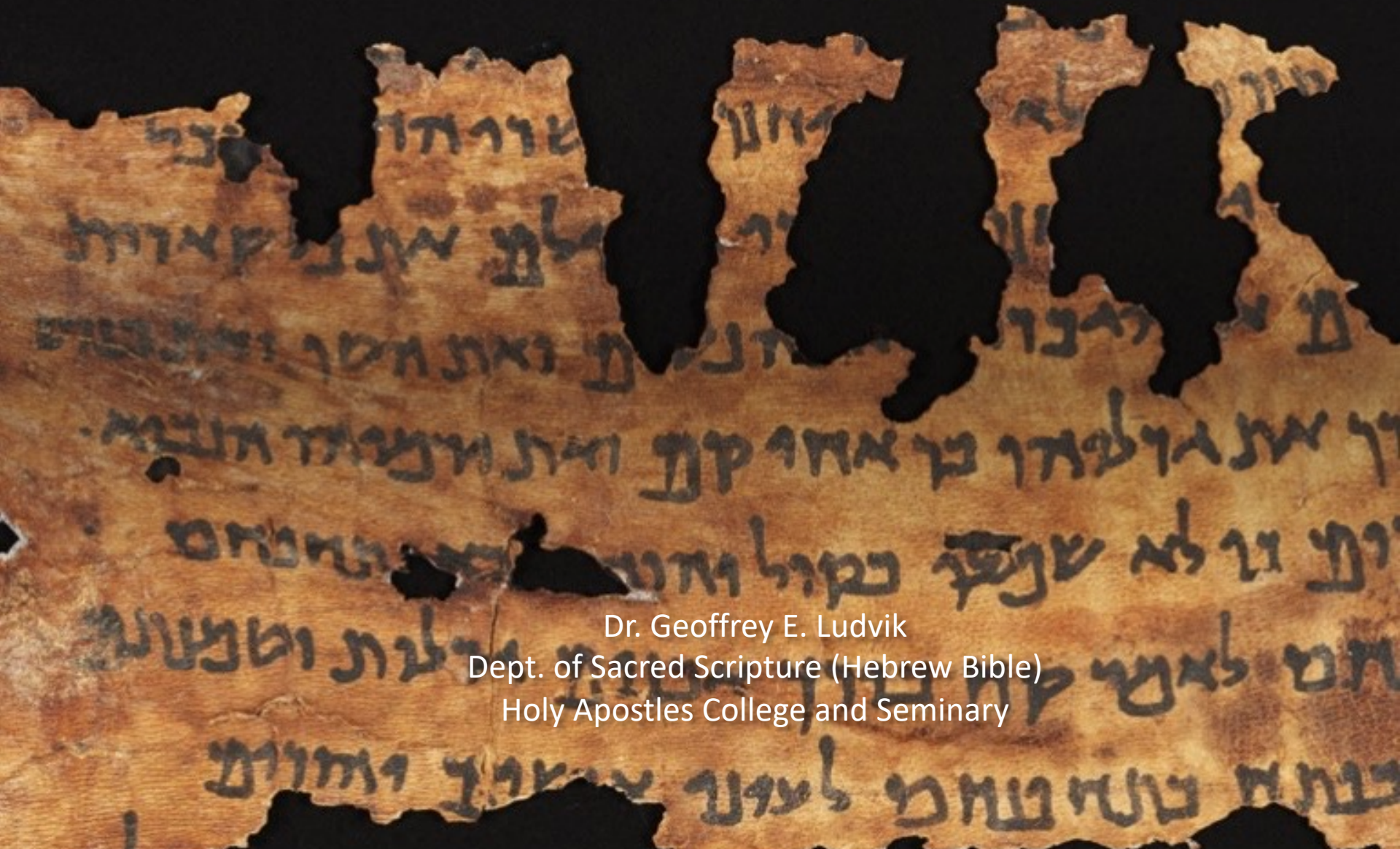


# “Not to Abolish but to Fulfill”: Jesus and Fulfillment of the Old Testament



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“Think not that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them.” (Matthew 5:17)



# I. Introduction to the New Testament



# The New Testament



Gutenberg Bible, AD 1455

27 Canonical Books  
(4 Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelations)  
Written AD 50-90 by Apostles and Apostolic Writers

**THE BIBLE** = collection of sacred texts of various genres written by ancient Israelite authors under the charism of divine inspiration



“The New Testament lies  
hidden in the Old and the  
Old Testament is unveiled  
in the New.”

– CCC 129 citing St.  
Augustine, *Quaest. in Hept.*  
2, 73: PL 34,623



# II. Historicity of the New Testament

*Before we can demonstrate that Jesus fulfills the Scriptures, we need to demonstrate that the New Testament account is historically valid and that Jesus was, in fact, a historical person.*

# Concrete Historical Claims in the New Testament:

Jesus Christ was...

- ~ Born during reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus
- ~ Born during last years of Herod the Great
- ~ Lived during Second Temple Period (Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Essenes)
- ~ Died before the Destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70)
- ~ A contemporary of John the Baptist
- ~ Crucified during the reign of Tiberius Caesar under governorship of Pontius Pilate
- ~ Buried in a tomb outside the walls of Roman-period Jerusalem
- ~ Seen three days later by His disciples alive
- ~ The founder of a new sect known as Christians, which was heavily persecuted by the Roman government no later than AD 64



## **Josephus' Description of Jesus**

3. (63) Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works-a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; (64) and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

*The Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3*

# ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



## Second Temple Period Jerusalem





## Sepphoris, Galilee





## Sea of Galilee



Capernaum, House of St. Peter



"Galilee Boat" (1<sup>st</sup> century AD shipwreck)





Magdala Synagogue  
(early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)





# Pontius Pilate

(26-36 AD)

Matthew 27:22-26

John 19:14-16

"Dedicated to Tiberius Caesar  
by Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea"

CAESARIEN TIBERIEVM

PONTIVS PILATVS

PRAEFECTVS IVDAEA

DIDIT DEDICAVIT

DIS AUGUSTIJS TIBERIUM

PONTIUS PILATUS

...PRAEFECTUS IUDA[EA]

[...FECIT D]E[DICAUIT]

Date: 26-32 AD

Caesarea 1961 AD

Israel Museum

[www.bible.ca](http://www.bible.ca)

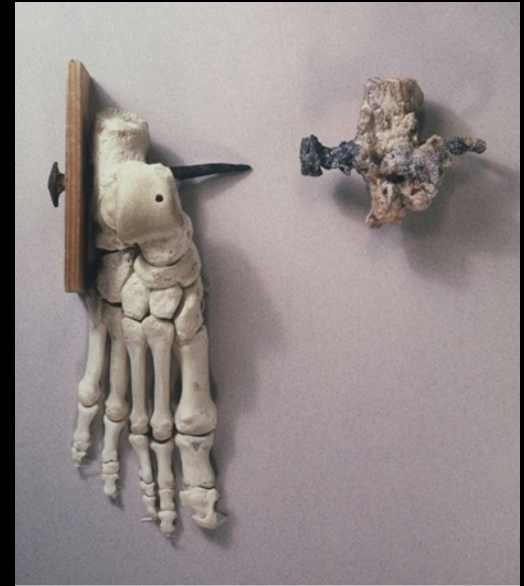
## Evidence for Pontius Pilate:

~ Governor AD 26-36

~ Removed by Rome for excessive  
cruelty and injustice during Samaritan  
revolt



Administrative ring-seal of Pilate

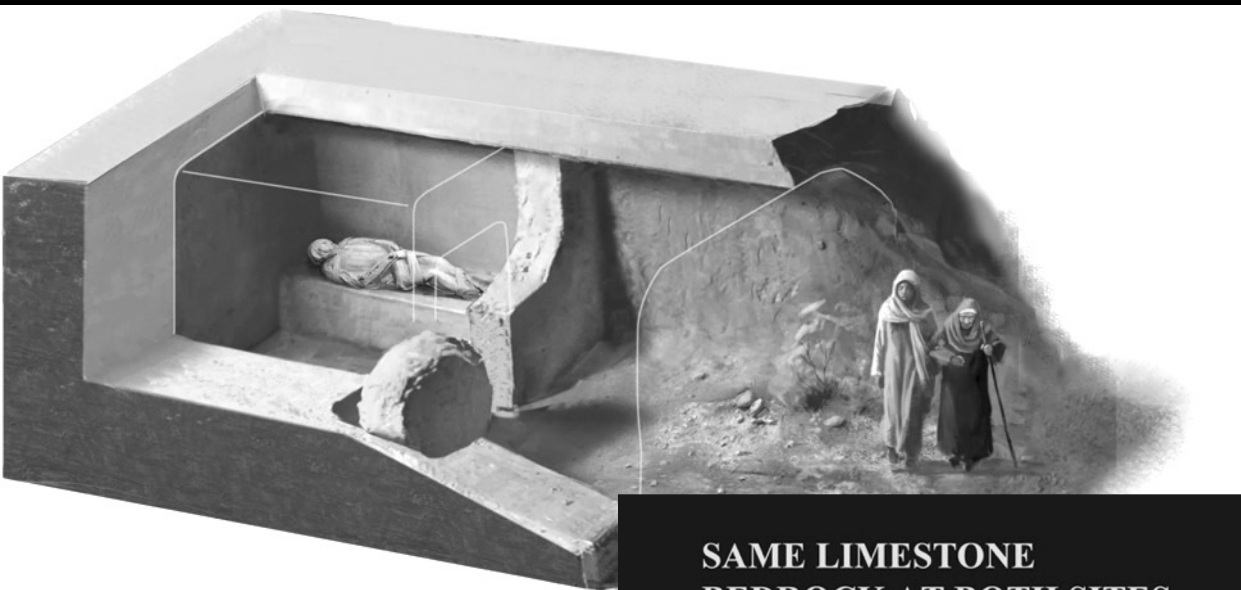


Heel bone of crucified 1<sup>st</sup> century AD man named “Yehohanan, son of Hagakol”



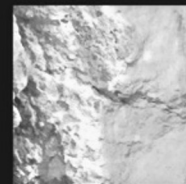
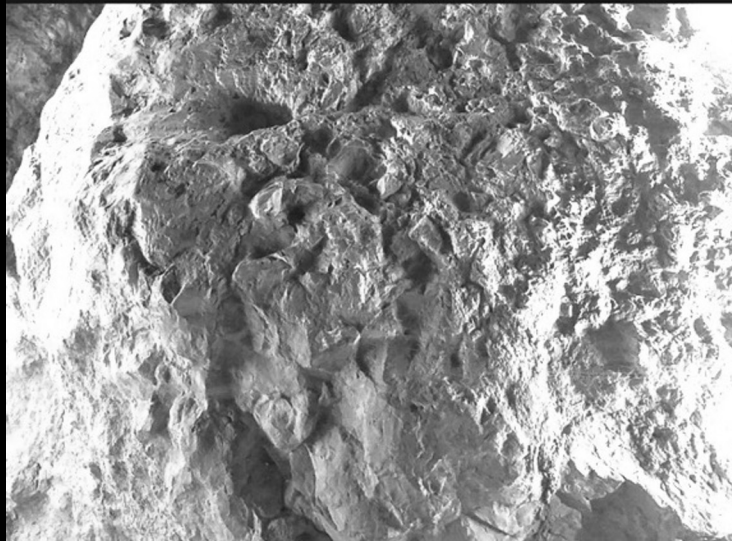






**SAME LIMESTONE  
BEDROCK AT BOTH SITES**

**Limestone bedrock at Golgotha**



**Limestone  
cave wall,  
Holy Sepulchre**



## **Conclusions:**

**Jesus of Nazareth is a real historical person who lived during the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.**

**The New Testament accounts are valid historical sources.**

# III. Scripture at the Time of Christ

*To demonstrate that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, we also need to demonstrate that Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> century believed their Scriptures needed fulfillment in the first place.*

# Jewish Sects of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE/1<sup>st</sup> century CE

- \* Pharisees
- \* Sadducees
- \* Zealots (primarily political)
- \* Essenes
- \* Samaritans
- \* Christians (post-30 CE)

Mikva'ot (ritual baths) from Magdala on the Sea of Galilee





# “The Archaeological Find of the Century”: The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls

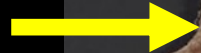
Discovered by Bedouin in 1946-1947, sold to Bethlehem antiquities dealer, eventually acquired by scholars

Dead Sea Scrolls are the oldest copies of Jewish Scripture preserved (pre-dating the Masoretic Text by nearly 1000 years)

Also provide insight into the life of the Essene community



Gen. 1:1



בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ





**The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsa<sup>a</sup>):**

Oldest complete copy of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah by 1000 years

Radiocarbon dating: 356-103 BCE

Paleographic dating: 150-100 BCE

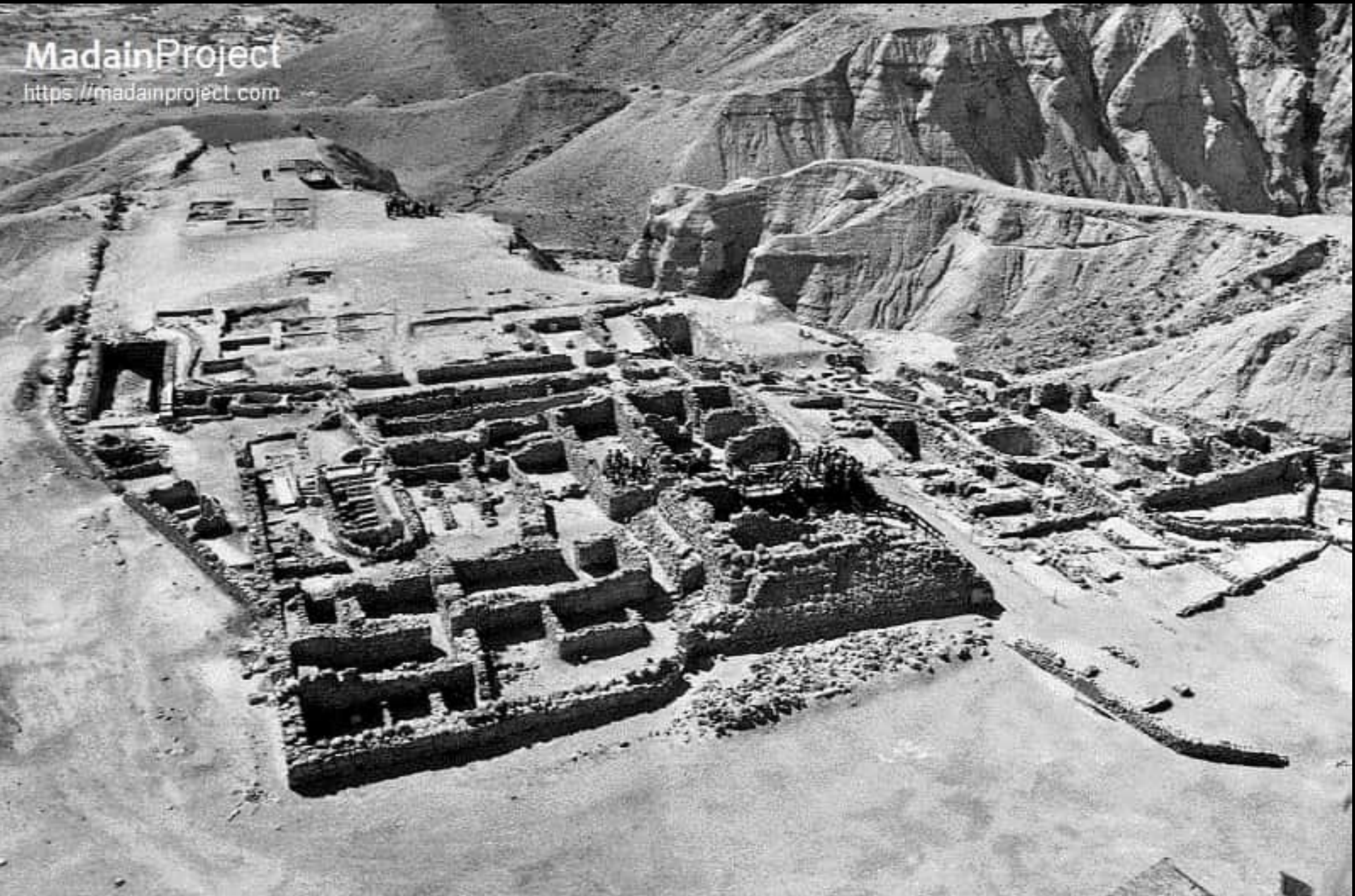
In Qumran Cave 1, probably written by Essenes at Qumran community



# The Qumran Essene Community

MadainProject

<https://madainproject.com>

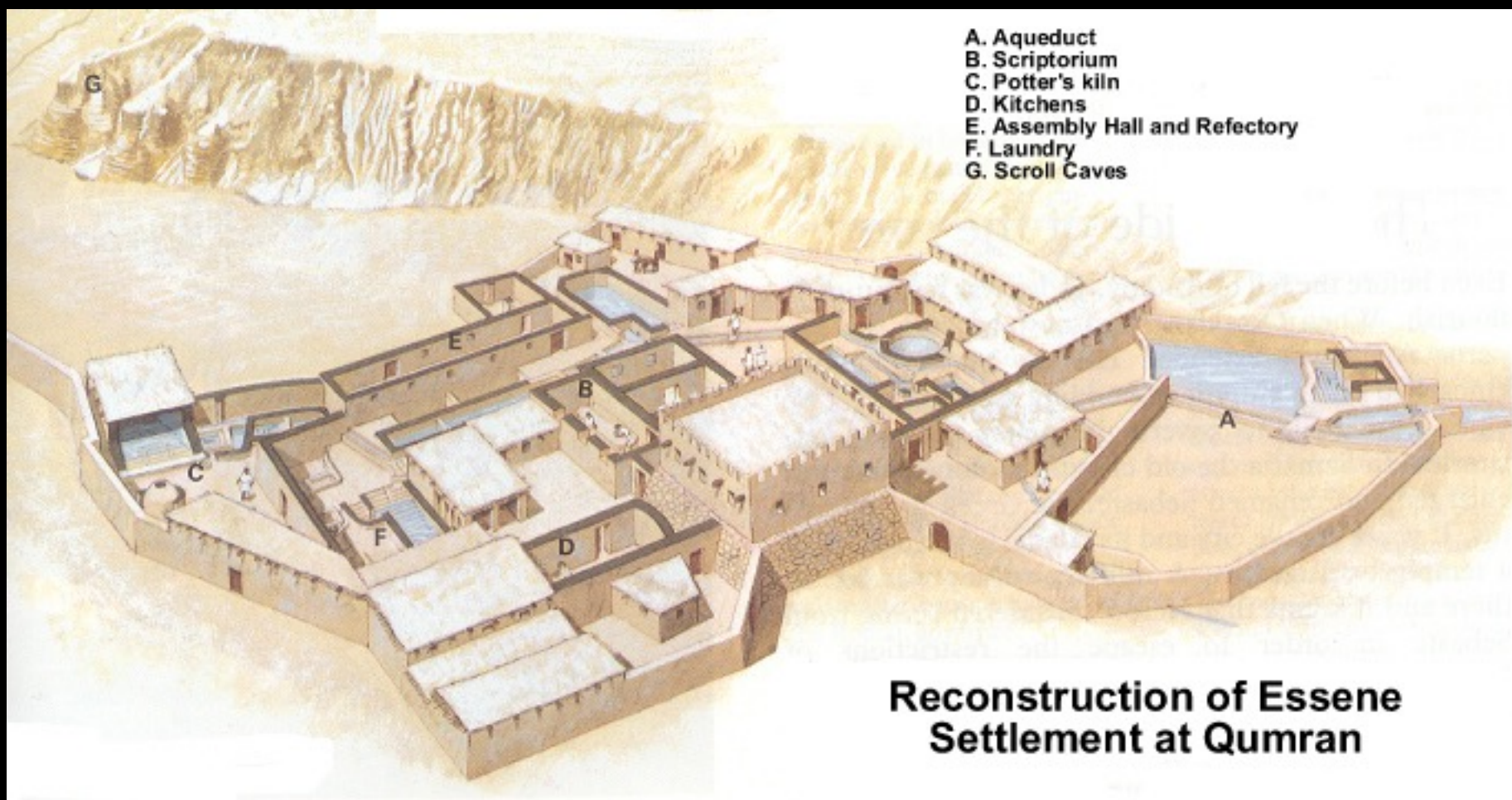






(C) BibleWalks.com





- A. Aqueduct
- B. Scriptorium
- C. Potter's kiln
- D. Kitchens
- E. Assembly Hall and Refectory
- F. Laundry
- G. Scroll Caves

**Reconstruction of Essene  
Settlement at Qumran**

# The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Interpretation of Scripture: Expecting Fulfillment

“They shall govern themselves using the original precepts by which the men of the Community began to be instructed, doing so until there come the Prophet and the Messiahs of Aaron and Israel” (1QS 9:10-11)





“And the one who sits on the throne of David shall never be cut off, because the “ruler’s staff” (Gen. 49:10) is the covenant of the kingdom, and the thousands of Israel are “the feet”, until the Righteous Messiah, the Branch of David, has come. For to him and to his seed the covenant of the kingdom of His people has been given for the eternal generations, because he has kept the Law with the men of the Community.” (4Q252 5:2-5)

“Great will he be called and he will be designated by his name. He will be called son of God, and they will call him Son of the Most High...His kingdom will be an eternal kingdom, and all his paths in truth and all will make peace. The sword will cease from the earth, and all the provinces will pay him homage. The great God is his strength, he will wage war for him; he will place the peoples in his hand and cast them all away before him. His rule will be an eternal rule.” (4Q246 1:9-2:9)

## Conclusion:

- \* Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> century read and interpreted their own Scriptures anticipating the coming of One to fulfill all prophecies.
- \* The Dead Sea Scrolls prove that reading the Old Testament as prophecy looking for fulfillment is a valid, historically accurate approach. It is not foreign to the Jewish world in which the Scriptures were written.





# IV. Covenant Fulfillment in Christ:

Adamic

Noahic

Abrahamic

Mosaic

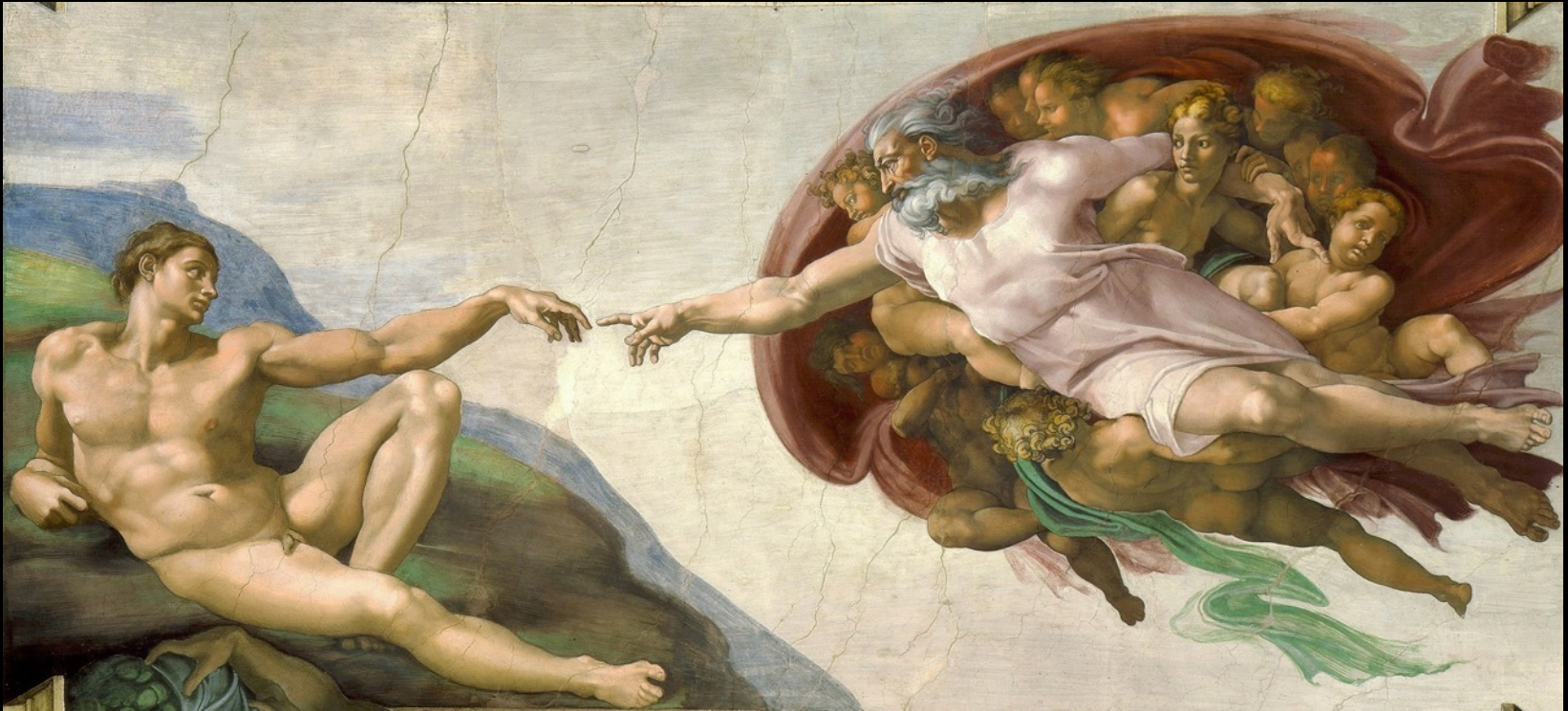
Davidic

Prophetic





# I. Jesus fulfills the Adamic Covenant



Protoevangelion (**Gen 3:15**): Jesus is the one who crushes Satan's head

Jesus is the New Adam (**Romans 5:12-21**)

Jesus restores and perfects Mankind as adopted sons (**Galatians 4: 3-7**)



## II. Jesus fulfills the Covenant with Noah



Jesus fulfills the pledge of **blessing to all nations**

The Sacraments provide Jesus' followers **a New Ark**



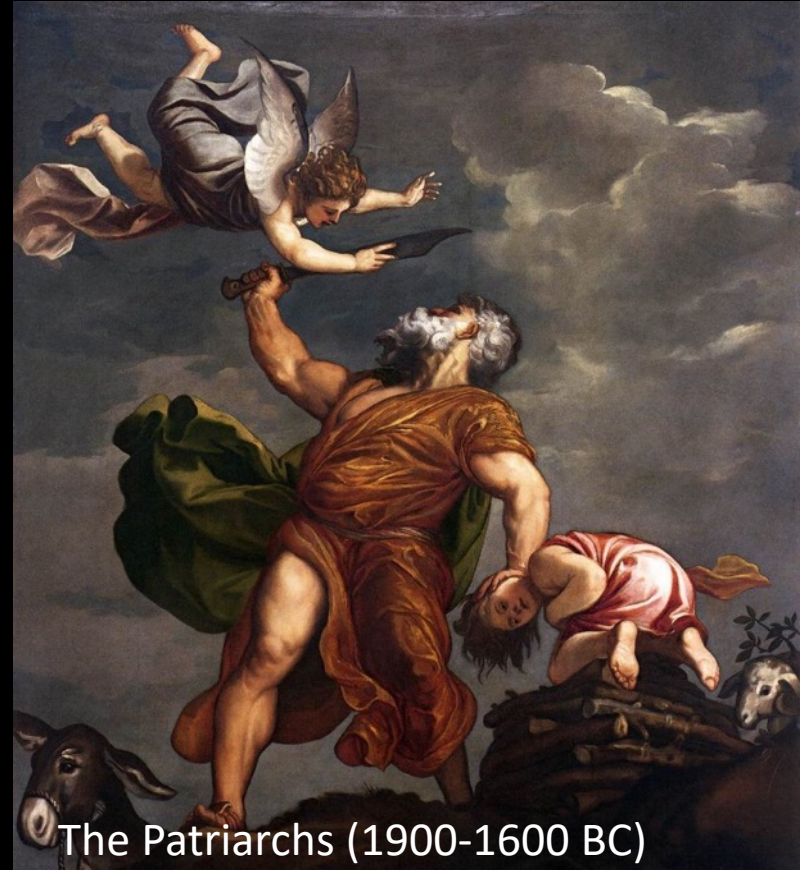
### III. Jesus fulfills the Covenant with Abraham

1. Descendants as numerous as stars
2. Great Name (Kingdom)
3. Source of universal blessing.

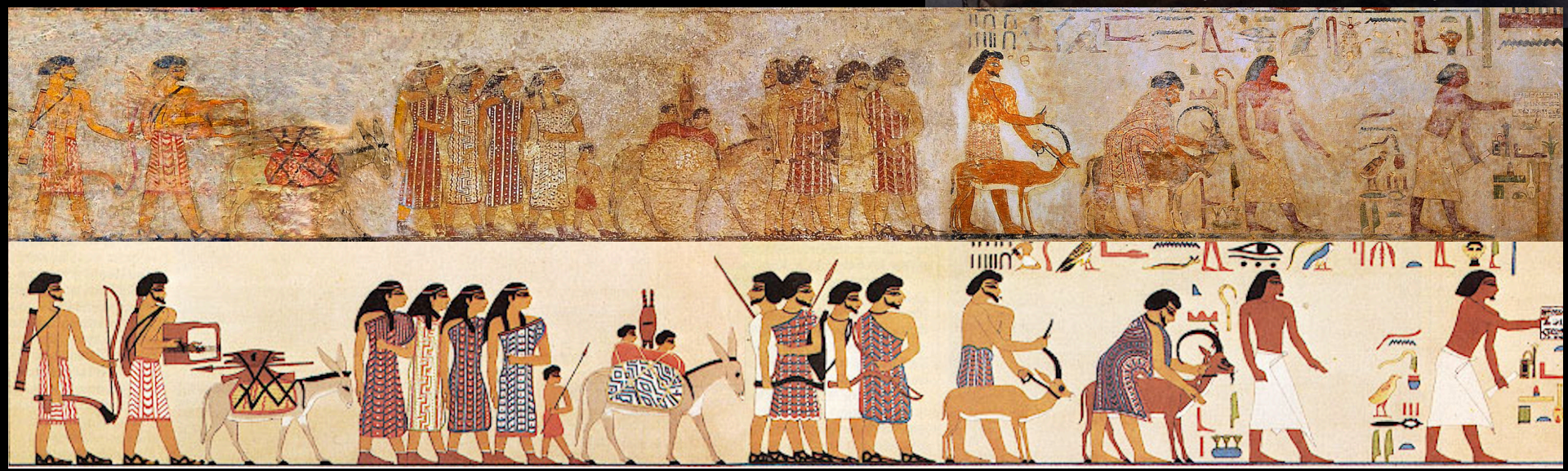
Jesus is the Promised Son of Abraham: **Matt. 1:1**

Jesus' is the Name above every name: **Philippians 2:9**

Jesus is the One in whom universal blessing is found:  
**Acts 2: 14-41**



The Patriarchs (1900-1600 BC)





## Jesus and the *Akedah* (the Binding of Isaac)



- \* Father offers his beloved Son
- \* Son is a willing sacrifice
- \* Son carries wood of sacrifice
- \* Location is Jerusalem
- \* Presence of God's Lamb (Ram)
- \* Ram's head crowned with thorns
- \* Result is a new covenant

## IV. Jesus fulfills the Mosaic Covenant

1. Sinai (10 Commandments)
2. Sinai II (post-calf incident).
3. Plains of Moab (Dt)



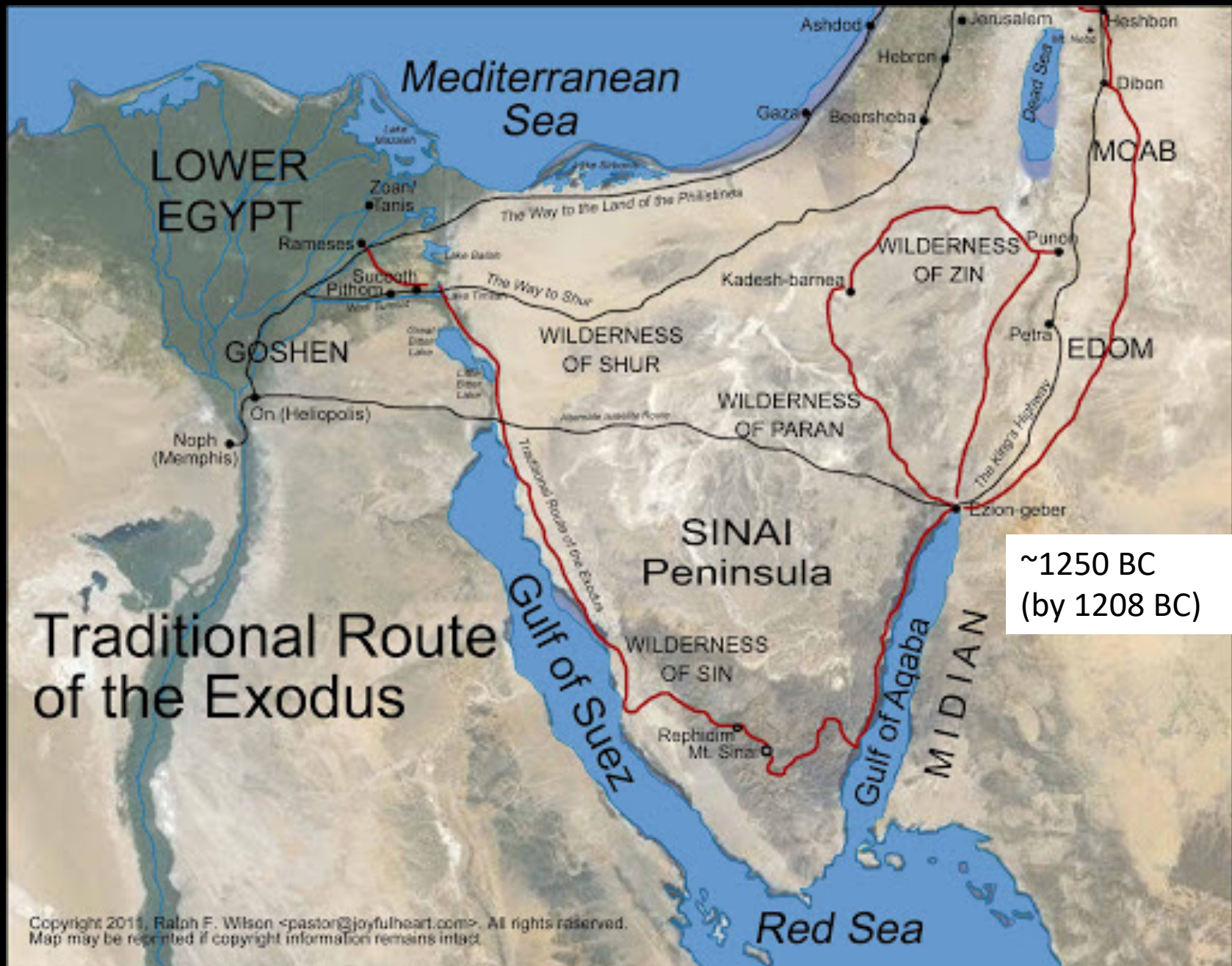
Jesus is the New Moses and the fulfillment of the Law: **Sermon on the Mount**

Jesus is the Greater One Prophesied by Moses himself: **Dt. 18:15 and John 4**

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen” (Dt. 18:15)

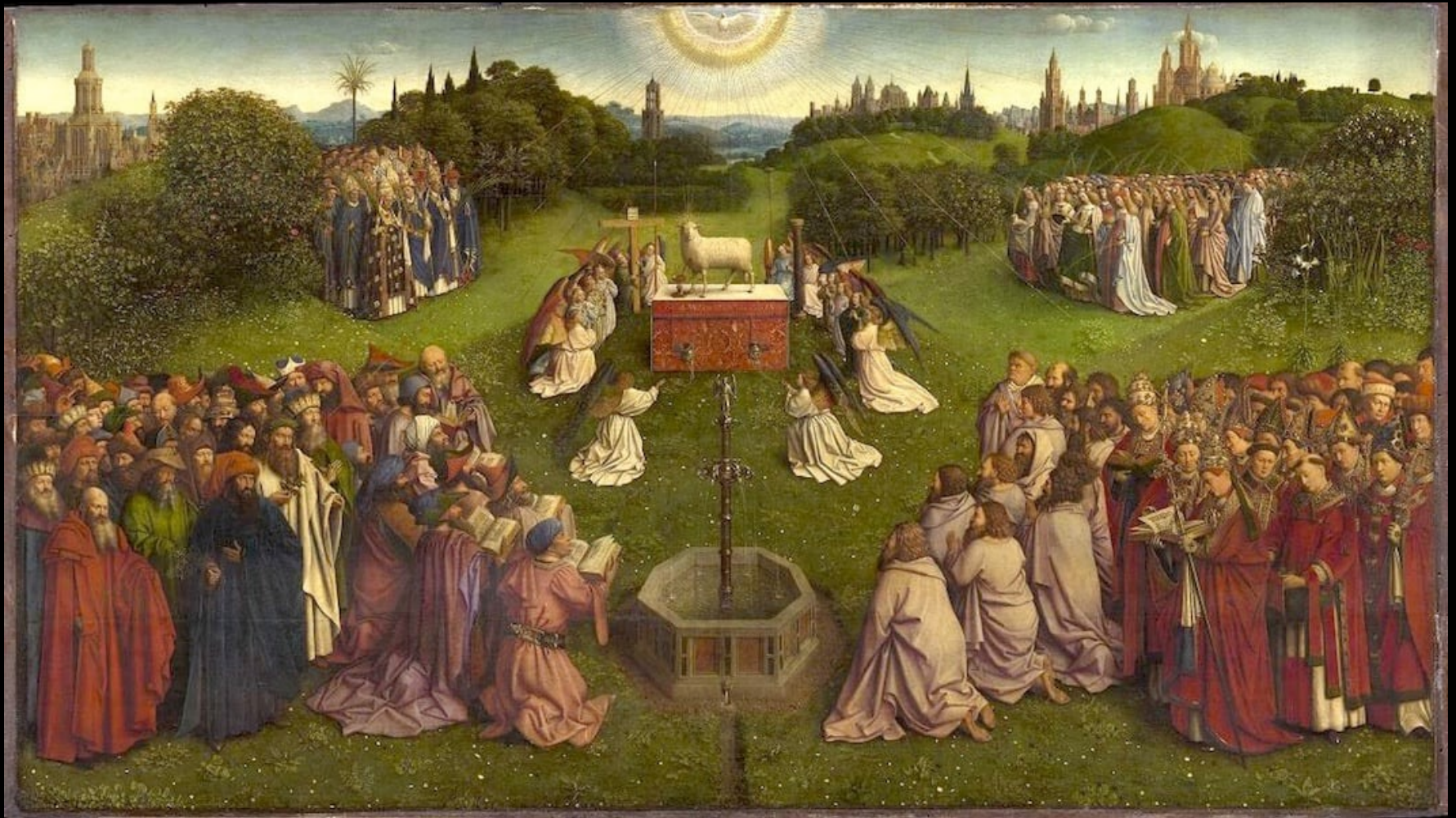


## “Why is this night different than any other?”: The Exodus from Egypt





Jesus is the Ultimate Passover Lamb (see [Part II of this lecture!](#))





# Jesus is the New Tabernacle (John 1)

## Jesus is the Eternal High Priest (entire Book of Hebrews)



THE TABERNACLE TENT

The entire tent was 45 feet (13.7 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15–29). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance). The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (see note on Heb. 9:7).

The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 26:1–14).

The table for the bread of the Presence (Ex. 25:23–30)

The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high.

The veil separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed yarns woven with fine twined linen and embroidered with cherubim (Ex. 26:31–33). It hung on four golden pillars.

The altar of incense (Ex. 30:1–5; 37:25–29)

The golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40; 37:17–24)

The veil that formed the entrance to the tabernacle was similar to the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, except that cherubim were not embroidered on it. It was suspended on five golden pillars (Ex. 26:36–37).

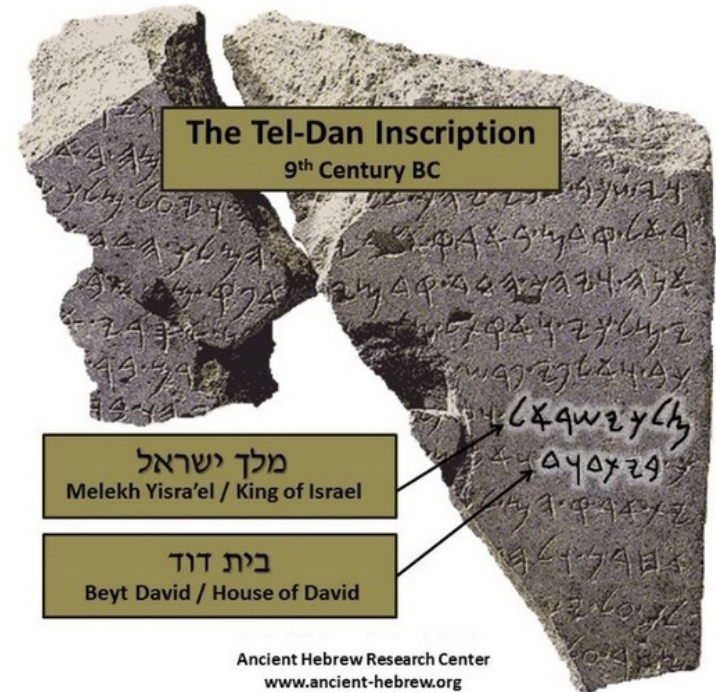




## V. The Davidic Covenant

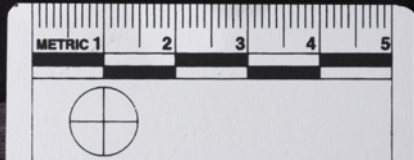
Jesus is the Messiah, the Promised Son of David:  
**Matthew 1:1**

Jesus is the Ever-reigning Heir of David: **Acts 2**





## Kingdom of David and Solomon



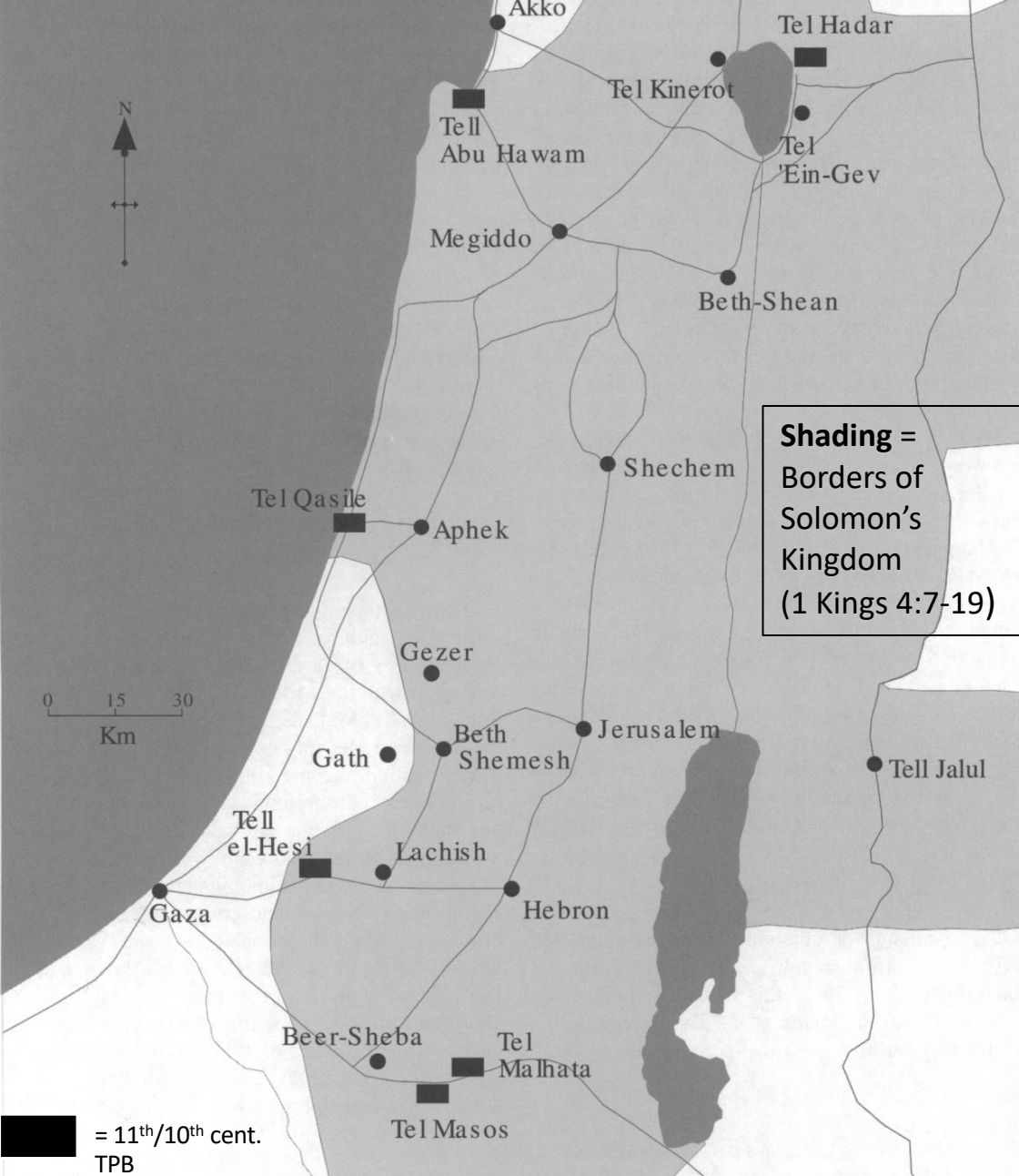
Khirbet Summeily bullae, ~930 BC

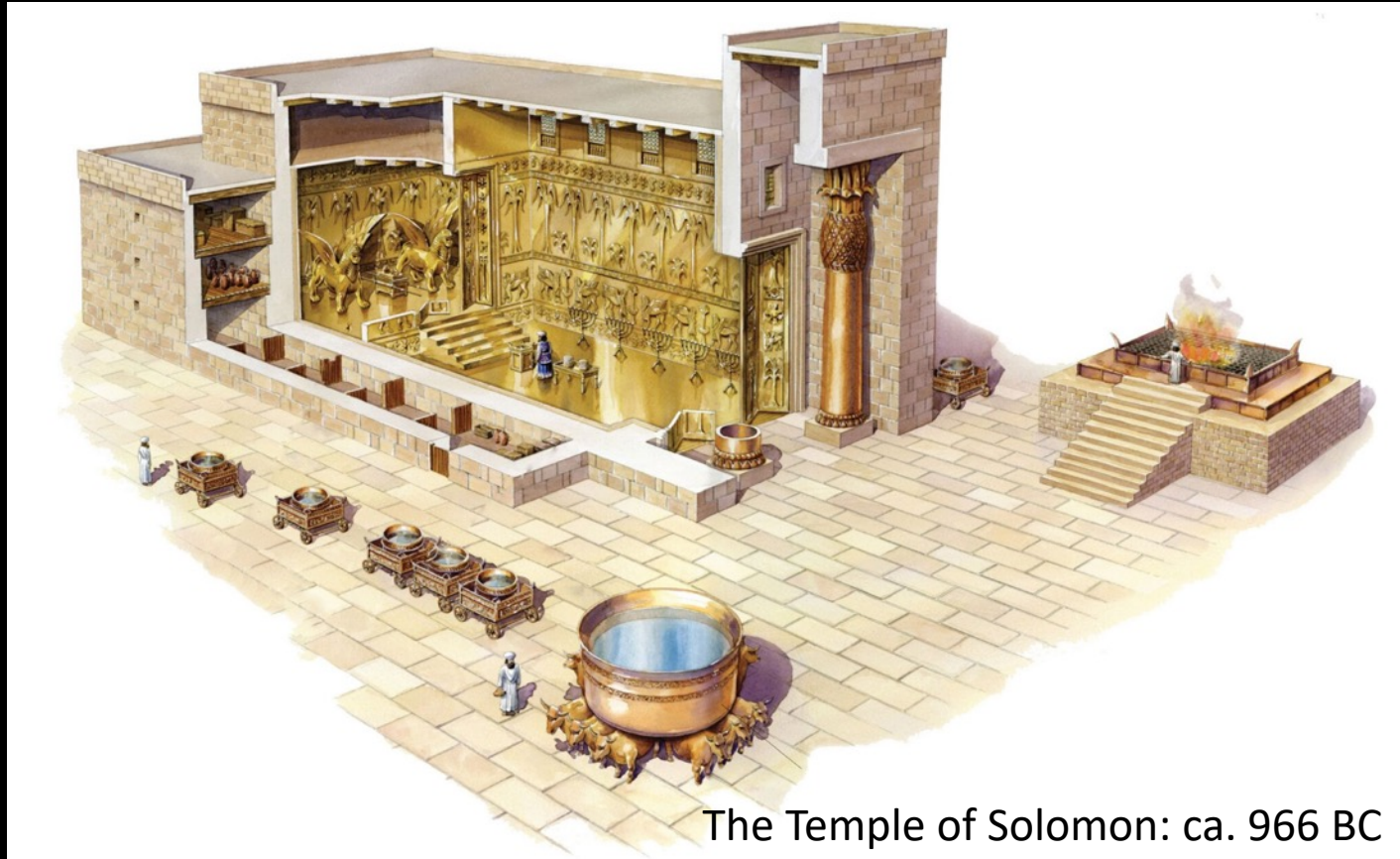
Jesus restores David's Kingdom  
through the Church: **12 Tribes,**  
**12 Apostles...**

Jesus restores David's Kingdom  
through His Queen Mother:  
**The Gebirah as intercessor**

Jesus restores David's Kingdom  
in His Own Person: **"The**  
**Kingdom of God is at hand."**

## 11<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> century Tripartite Pillared Buildings





The Temple of Solomon: ca. 966 BC

As the Word Made Flesh (Gk. *Logos*), Jesus is Wisdom beyond Solomon (**John 1, Proverbs, Wisdom**)

Jesus is the Bridegroom of the Church (**Song of Solomon and Revelations**)

Jesus Himself is the New Temple of Solomon: “destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up” (**John 2:19**)



# Complicating David's Covenant: The Assyrian and Babylonian Exiles



- 722 BC: Assyria and the “Lost Tribes” of Israel
- 586 BC: Babylon and the Fall of Jerusalem





# Prophetic Promises:

New Temple  
New King  
New Kingdom  
New Covenant  
New Man

Time of the Prophets: most ca. 900-500 BC





## VI. Jesus fulfills the Prophetic Promises

Jesus is Emmanuel: **Isaiah 7:14**

Jesus is the Prince of Peace: **Isaiah 9**

Jesus is the Suffering Servant: **Isaiah 53, also Psalm 110 and Psalm 22**

Jesus is the Expected Messiah: **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets**

Jesus is the "Son of Man": **Daniel 7 (Jesus' favored title for Himself)**



## Jesus as the Expected Messiah: The “Prophetic Clock”

“Seventy weeks of years are decreed concerning your people and your holy city, to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a Holy of Holies. Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah, a prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah shall be cut off, and shall have nothing.” (Dan. 9: 24-26).



## VII. Covenant Fulfillment Beyond Our Wildest Imagination:

Jesus is the Son of God

Jesus is Fully Human  
AND Fully Divine

Jesus reveals the inner  
life of God: The Son  
reveals the Father and  
the Spirit

Jesus dwells within us  
by faith and through  
Sacramental Grace

Jesus promises eternal  
life and bliss to those  
who die united to Him.

