

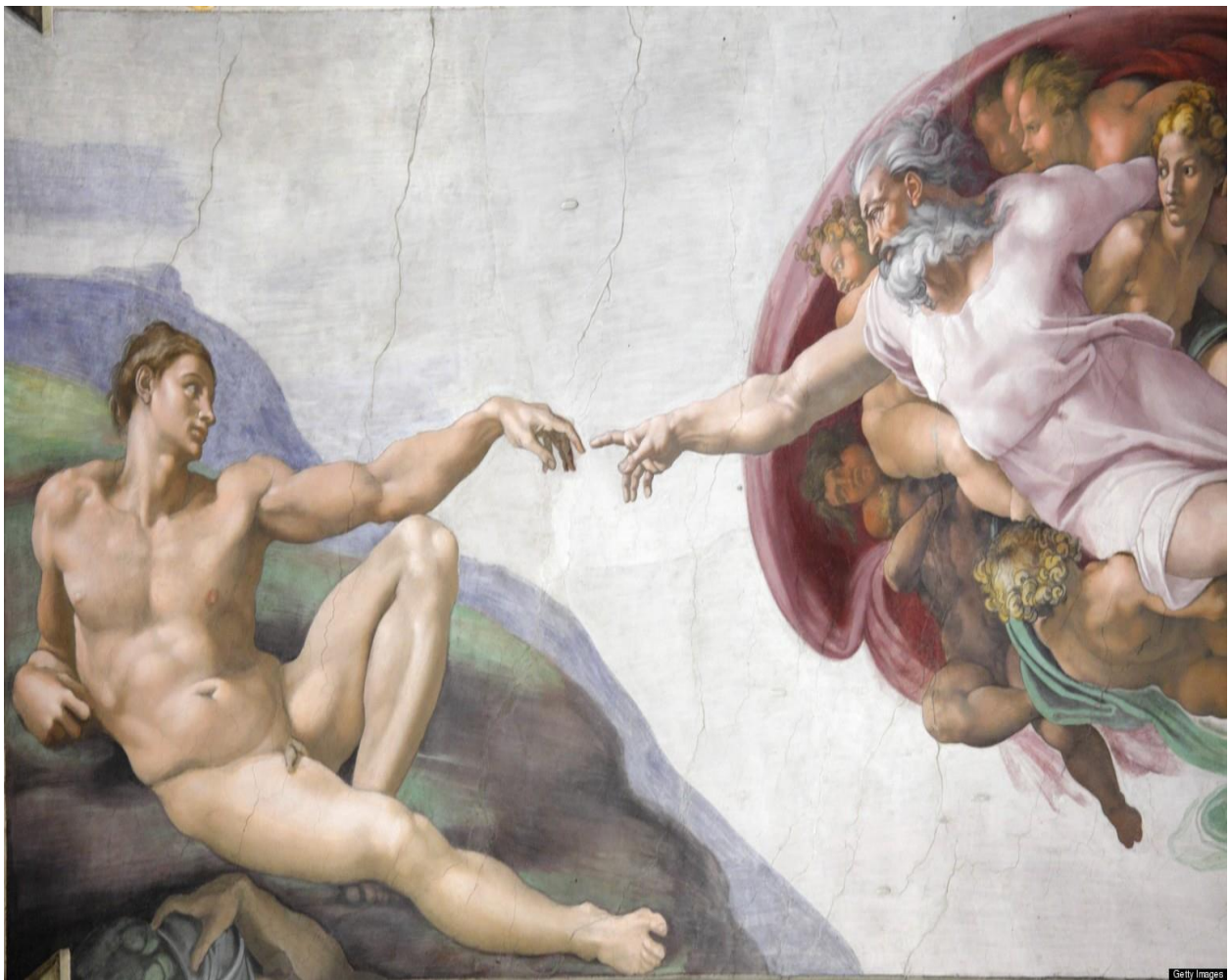
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THE HOLY BIBLE **NKJV** REFERENCE GUIDE

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOK 1

GENESIS



Creation of Adam, the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo

SUMMARY

God creates the world in six days and consecrates the seventh as a day of rest. God creates the first humans Adam and Eve and all the animals in the Garden of Eden but instructs them not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

A talking serpent portrayed as a deceptive creature or trickster, entices Eve into eating it anyway, and she entices Adam, whereupon God curses them and throws them out in the fall of man. Eve bears two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain kills Abel after God accepts Abel's offering but not Cain's. God then curses Cain. Eve bears another son, Seth, to take Abel's place.

After many generations of Adam have passed from the lines of Cain and Seth, the world becomes corrupted by the sin of man and Nephilim, and God determines to wipe out mankind. First, he instructs the righteous Noah and his family to build a huge boat and put examples of all the animals on it.

Then God sends a great flood to wipe out the rest of the world. When the waters recede, God promises that he will not destroy the world a second time with water with the rainbow as the symbol of his promise. But upon seeing mankind cooperating to build a great tower city, the Tower of Babel, God divides humanity with many languages and sets them apart with confusion.

God instructs Abram to travel from his home in Mesopotamia to the land of Canaan. There, God makes a covenant with Abram, promising that his descendants shall be as numerous as the stars, but that people will suffer oppression in a foreign land for four hundred years, after which they will inherit the land "from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Abram's name is changed to Abraham and that of his wife Sarai to Sarah, and circumcision of all males is instituted as the sign of the covenant. Because Sarah is old, she tells Abraham to take her Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar, as a second wife. Through Hagar, Abraham fathers Ishmael.

God resolves to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for the sins of their people. Abraham protests and gets God to agree not to destroy the cities if 10 righteous men can be found. Angels save Abraham's nephew Lot and his family, but his wife looks back on the destruction against their command and is turned into a pillar of salt.

Lot's daughters, concerned that they are fugitives who will never find husbands, get him drunk to become pregnant by him, and give birth to the ancestors of the Moabites and Ammonites.

Abraham and Sarah go to the foreign land of Gerar, pretending to be brother and sister (they are half-siblings). The King of Gerar takes Sarah for his wife, but God warns him to return her, and he obeys. God sends Sarah a son to be named Isaac, through whom the covenant will be established. At Sarah's insistence, Ishmael and his mother Hagar are driven out into the wilderness, but God saves them and promises to make Ishmael a great nation.

God tests Abraham by demanding that he sacrifice Isaac. As Abraham is about to lay the knife upon his son, God restrains him, promising him numberless descendants. On the death of Sarah, Abraham purchases Machpelah (believed to be modern Hebron) for a family tomb and sends his servant to Mesopotamia to find among his relations a wife for Isaac, and Rebekah is chosen. Other children are born to Abraham by another wife, Keturah, among whose descendants are the Midianites, and he dies in a prosperous old age and is buried in his tomb at Hebron.

SUMMARY Continued

Isaac's wife Rebecca gives birth to the twins Esau, father of the Edomites, and Jacob. Through deception, Jacob becomes the heir instead of Esau and gains his father's blessing. He flees to his uncle where he prospers and earns his two wives Rachel and Leah.

Jacob's name is changed to Israel, and by his wives and their handmaidens he has twelve sons, the ancestors of the twelve tribes of the Children of Israel, and a daughter, Dinah.

Joseph, Jacob's favorite son, is sold into slavery in Egypt by his jealous brothers. But Joseph prospers, after hardship, with God's guidance of interpreting Pharaoh's dream of upcoming famine. He is then reunited with his father and brothers, who don't recognize him but who plead for food.

After much manipulation, he reveals himself and lets them and their households into Egypt, where Pharaoh assigns to them the land of Goshen. Jacob calls his sons to his bedside and reveals their future before he dies. Joseph lives to an old age and exhorts his brethren, if God should lead them out of the country, to take his bones with them.

NKJV SELECTED SCRIPTURE

- 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 1:2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- 1:3** *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*
- 1:26** *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*
- 1:7** And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
- 2:8** The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.
- 2:15** Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
- 2:21** And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.
- 2:22** Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.
- 3:13** *And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*
- 3:16** *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*
- 3:20** And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
- 5:5** So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.
- 6:3** *And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."*

NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 6:5** Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- 47:28** And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.
- 50:26** So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

CHARACTER DEFINITIONS

GOD - The supreme Governor of the universe and the Father of mankind. We learn from the revelations that have been given that there are three separate persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

When one speaks of God, it is generally the Father who is referred to; that is, Elohim. All mankind are His children. The personage known as Jehovah in Old Testament times, and who is usually identified in the Old Testament as Lord (in small capitals), is the Son, known as Jesus Christ, and who is also a God.

Jesus works under the direction of the Father and is in complete harmony with Him. All mankind are His brethren and sisters, He being the eldest of the spirit children of Elohim. Many of the things that the scripture says were done by God were actually done by the Lord (Jesus).

Thus the scripture says that "God created the heaven and the earth", but we know that it was actually the Lord (Jesus) who was the creator, or as Paul said, God created all things by Christ Jesus. The Holy Ghost is also a God and is variously called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit, the Spirit of God, etc.

Although God created all things and is the ruler of the universe, being omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent (through His Spirit), mankind has a special relationship to Him that differentiates man from all other created things: man is literally God's offspring, made in His image, whereas all other things are but the work of His hands.

ADAM - The first man created on earth. Adam is the father and patriarch of the human race on the earth. His transgression in the Garden of Eden caused him to "fall" and become mortal, a step necessary in order for mankind to progress on this earth. Adam and Eve should therefore be honored for their role in making our eternal growth possible.

God created man in his own image. God gave man dominion over all things and commanded him to multiply and fill the earth. God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and forbade them to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam named every living creature.

Adam and Eve were married by God. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, partook of the forbidden fruit, and were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Adam was 930 years old at his death.

CHARACTERS Continued

EVE - The first woman to live on this earth. She was Adam's wife. In Hebrew the name means "life." She was so named because she was the "mother of all living". She and Adam, the first man, will share eternal glory for their role in making possible the eternal progress of all mankind. Eve was tempted and partook of the forbidden fruit. Eve recognized the necessity of the Fall and the joys of redemption.

THE SERPENT - It does seem clear from Scripture that there was an actual serpent in the Garden-he is described as one of the wild animals that God had made. The serpent was not a supernatural being. In some way, Satan entered into the body of the serpent to tempt Adam and Eve.

Therefore, Satan himself is the personage behind the serpent. The serpent was the instrument the Devil used to do his bidding. Thus we can conclude that the tempter was the Devil who was disguised in the form of a snake.

The tempter used his craftiness to cause them to sin. God permitted Adam and Eve to be tested, but He certainly did not encourage them to sin or force them to sin. They could have resisted the temptation if they so desired. Ultimately it was their fault for not resisting the temptation.

CAIN - Cain is the first child of Eve, the first murderer, and the first human being to fall under a curse. Cain treacherously murdered his brother Abel, lied about the murder to God, and as a result was cursed and marked for life.

With the earth left cursed to drink Abel's blood, Cain was no longer able to farm the land. Cain is punished as a "fugitive and wanderer". He receives a mark from God, commonly referred to as the mark of Cain, representing God's promise to protect Cain from being murdered.

ABEL - Abel is Eve's second son. Abel became a herder of sheep while Cain was a tiller of the soil. And it happened in the course of time that Cain brought from the fruit of the soil an offering to the Lord.

And Abel too had brought from the choice firstlings of his flock, and the Lord regarded Abel and his offering but did not regard Cain and his offering. And Cain was very incensed, and his face fell.

And the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you incensed, and why is your face fallen? For whether you offer well, or whether you do not, at the tent flap sin crouches and for you is its longing, but you will rule over it."

And Cain said to Abel his brother, "Let us go out to the field," and when they were in the field Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him. And the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother? And he said, "I do not know: am I my brother's keeper?"

NOAH - Noah was the son of Lamech, the grandson of Methuselah, and the great-grandson of Enoch. The scriptures list him as the 10th patriarch from Adam. Noah was ordained to the priesthood when he was 10 years old by his grandfather Methuselah. He was a person of integrity and did all that God commanded him.

CHARACTERS Continued

Noah lived at a time when people thought and did evil continually, and God called him to be a preacher of righteousness to that wicked generation.

When the people rejected his message, God commanded Noah to build an ark, gather animals, and prepare for a flood. Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives were the only people on the whole earth saved from the flood. After the flood, God made covenants with Noah.

Noah not only served as one of God's prophets but was also a ministering angel after he died and brought heavenly messages before the birth of Christ and during the Restoration. He lived 950 years.

SHEM - Son of Noah. Shem was the traditional ancestor of the Shemitic or Semitic races, a group of kindred nations, which includes the Arabs, the Hebrews and Phoenicians, the Arameans or Syrians, the Babylonians and Assyrians. The languages spoken by these various nations were closely related and were known as the Semitic languages. In latter-day revelation Shem is referred to as "the great high priest".

JAPHETH - Eldest son of Noah. His descendants were dispersed over the European coasts of the Mediterranean and the districts adjoining the Black and Caspian seas, forming what is now called the Indo-European family of nations.

HAM - Son of Noah; cursed. His descendants were the southern nations: from Cush came the dark-skinned race of eastern Africa and southern Arabia; from Mizraim the Egyptians; from Phut the Libyans; from Canaan the inhabitants of Palestine before the arrival of the Semitic races.

CANAAN - The name of the fourth son of Ham; also used to denote the tribe inhabiting the lowland (hence the name) toward the Mediterranean coast of Palestine; sometimes as a general name for all the non-Israelite inhabitants of the country west of Jordan, called by the Greeks Phoenicians. The Hebrew and Phoenician languages were almost identical. As the Phoenicians were great traders, *Canaanite* came to denote merchant.

ABRAHAM - Originally called **Abram**, "exalted father". Son of Terah, born in Ur of the Chaldees. The migration to Haran, where Terah died. Abraham's journey to Canaan, the divine call, and the covenant. His sojourn in Egypt.

Other important events: settlement in Hebron; rescue of Lot and the meeting with Melchizedek; institution of circumcision and change of name to Abraham; intercession for Lot at Sodom; offering of Isaac and renewal of the covenant and blessings; death of Sarah and purchase of the cave of Machpelah as a family burial place. He lived 175 years.

LOT - In the Old Testament, the son of Haran and nephew of Abraham. Haran died because of the famine in Ur. Lot left Ur with Abraham and Sarah and traveled with them to Canaan. Lot chose to live in Sodom. The Lord sent messengers to warn Lot to flee from Sodom before the Lord destroyed it because of the wickedness of the people; however, Lot's wife looked backward at the destruction and became a pillar of salt.

CHARACTERS Continued

SARAH - Sarah means “princess.” The wife of Abraham, the form of the name used is *Sarai*. She was married to Abraham before he left Ur. In her old age she became the mother of Isaac. She died before her husband and was buried in the cave of Machpelah at Hebron.

HAGAR - In the Old Testament, the Egyptian handmaid of Sarah. She became a wife of Abraham and the mother of Ishmael. The Lord promised Hagar that a great nation would descend from her son.

REBEKAH - Daughter of Bethuel and sister of Laban; married to Isaac; mother of Esau and Jacob; pretends to be Isaac’s sister; angry with Esau, and helps to obtain the blessing for Jacob.

ISAAC - The son born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age, the child of promise, and the heir of the promises. The main interest of his life gathers around his birth, the sacrifice on Mount Moriah, his marriage to Rebekah, and his dealings with his sons Jacob (*Israel*) and Esau. In character he appears to have been a peace-loving shepherd of great personal piety, full of affection for the members of his own family. He lived 180 years.

Sodom and Gomorrah - The Bible story about the city of Sodom and Gomorrah is a terribly sad story that reminds us just how much God hates sin. During the time of Abraham, three angels came to visit him and two of the angels decided to go visit Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Lord told Abraham that he was going to destroy the city because of the peoples sin. God also told Abraham that he would spare the people and not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if he was able to find even 10 people who were righteous.

When the two angels arrived in Sodom and Gomorrah, a man named Lot invited them to stay at his home. Some men from the city came to Lots home demanding to be given the two visitors so they could have sex with them.

Lot, trying to defend and protect the angels, offered the men his virgin daughters in their place. As the angry men tried to break into Lot's home, the angels struck the men blind and then led Lot and his family out of the city.

As Lot's family fled Sodom and Gomorrah, God rained down burning sulfur onto the city. All man, animals and vegetation were destroyed. The angels warned Lot and his family to not look back but his wife did not listen and was immediately turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back.

ISHMAEL - Son of Abraham and Hagar the Egyptian. He was the child “born after the flesh” and not the child “by promise” and was sent from home after mocking Isaac. His descendants, the Ishmaelites, appear to have been a wandering race, living by plunder, having commercial relations and intermarrying with the heathen nations of Canaan. He lived 137 years.

CHARACTERS Continued

JACOB - The younger of the twin sons of Isaac. The two brothers were rivals from their birth, and Esau's descendants, the Edomites, were rivals of the Israelites. The chief events of Jacob's life were the "purchase" of the birthright; the dream and vow; his long stay in the house of Laban.

The return to Canaan, the reception at Peniel of the new name of *Israel*, and the reconciliation with Esau; his later life with his family at Shechem, Ephrath, and Mamre (Hebron); his journey into Egypt, his death there, and his burial in the cave of Machpelah. It was through Jacob that the covenant of Abraham continued; it was then passed on to Joseph and Ephraim. He lived 147 years.

LEAH - Eldest daughter of Laban. She became Jacob's wife through a trick of Laban's, who passed her off as his daughter Rachel; being veiled, the mistake was not discovered till after the marriage had taken place. She became the mother of six sons and one daughter.

ESAU - *Hairy*. Elder son of Isaac and twin brother of Jacob. The two brothers were rivals from their birth and became the ancestors of rival nations, the Israelites and Edomites. Esau sold to Jacob his birthright, by which he lost both the leadership of the tribe and also the covenant blessing. He married against the wishes of his parents and settled in Mount Seir.

He was living there on Jacob's return from Padan-Aram. By that time he saw clearly that the covenant blessing and the land of Canaan would not be his, and the brothers separated in friendly fashion. Of Esau's subsequent history nothing is known.

RACHEL - The younger of the daughters of Laban, the dearly loved wife of Jacob, and mother of Joseph and Benjamin. Jeremiah, in a very beautiful passage, pictures Rachel as weeping in Ramah for her children, the descendants of Benjamin, Ramah being the place at which the exiles were assembled before their departure for Babylon. Matthew quotes the passage in his description of the mourning at Bethlehem (where Rachel's grave was) after the murder of the children.

BENJAMIN - In the Old Testament, the second son of Jacob and Rachel. Jacob blessed Benjamin. The descendants of Benjamin were a warlike race. Two important Benjamites were Saul, the first Israelite king, and Paul, the New Testament Apostle.

JOSEPH - In the Old Testament, the firstborn son of Jacob and Rachel. Joseph obtained the birthright in Israel because Reuben, the firstborn son of Jacob's first wife, lost the privilege by transgression. Because he was worthy, Joseph, as the firstborn son of Jacob's second wife, was next in line for the blessing. Joseph also received a blessing from his father shortly before Jacob died.

Joseph was a man of great character, an individual "discreet and wise". His rejection of Potiphar's wife is an example of faith, chastity, and personal integrity. In Egypt, when Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers, he thanked instead of blamed them for how they had treated him. He believed their actions had helped to accomplish God's divine will.

CHARACTERS Continued

Jacob loved Joseph very much and gave him a coat of many colors. Because of jealousy Joseph's brothers grew to hate him and plotted to kill him, but instead sold him to merchants, who were on their way to Egypt.

In Egypt, the Lord prospered Joseph and he became ruler of Potiphar's house. Potiphar's wife lied, saying that Joseph attempted to seduce her; Joseph was wrongly condemned and put into prison.

Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's chief butler and baker. Pharaoh began to favor Joseph because Joseph had interpreted one of Pharaoh's dreams; he made Joseph a ruler over Egypt. Ephraim and Manasseh were born. Joseph was reunited with his father and brothers. Joseph died in Egypt at the age of 110 years.

PHAROAH - The Israelites numbered about 70 when they first came to live in Egypt at the invitation of the Pharaoh whose vizier was Jacob's 11th son Joseph-Imhotep. They were allowed to live in the best part of the land; Goshen.

Here they flourished and multiplied under the protection of Joseph who was second in charge of Egypt and had saved the country from a seven year famine by storing up grain to sell before the famine started.

Joseph had brought up all the land of Egypt and had made the Pharaoh very rich and powerful. Joseph lived until the age of 110 years and served several pharaohs. When he died, he was embalmed and given a royal Egyptian burial – some 80 years after he first entered Egypt.

The Israelites came to Egypt in the 3rd dynasty when Netjerikh was the Pharaoh. Pharaoh Netjerikh came to be known as Pharaoh Djoser as time went by (the pharaoh of Joseph). The Israelites flourished and multiplied during the 3rd & 4th dynasties while Joseph was alive and continued to multiply during the 5th & 6th dynasties after his death.

BIBLE TIMELINE

Before 4000 BC	The Creation	Genesis 1
Before 4000 BC	The Garden of Eden	Genesis 2
Before 4000 BC	The Fall of Man	Genesis 3
Before 3000 BC	From Adam to Noah	Genesis 5
Before 2500 BC	The Great Flood	Genesis 7
Before 2100 BC	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11
2091 BC	God Sends Abram to Egypt	Genesis 12
2084 BC	Abram Rescues Lot	Genesis 14
2081 BC	God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15
2067 BC	The Destruction of Sodom	Genesis 19
2054 BC	The Offering of Isaac	Genesis 22
2006 BC	Birth of Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25
1991 BC	Death of Abraham	Genesis 25:5
1978 BC	Esau sells his birthright	Genesis 25:29
1921 BC	Jacob Marries Rachel	Genesis 29:28
1908 BC	Jacob Leaves for Canaan	Genesis 31
1906 BC	Jacob Meets Esau	Genesis 33
1898 BC	Joseph Sold into Slavery	Genesis 37:25
1886 BC	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams	Genesis 41
1886 BC	Joseph Put in Charge	Genesis 41:33
1886 BC	Seven Years of Plenty Begin	Genesis 41:47
1875 BC	Famine Begins	Genesis 41:53
1875 BC	Joseph's Brothers Sent to Egypt	Genesis 42
1875 BC	Simeon Detained by Joseph	Genesis 42:24
1875 BC	The Return with Benjamin	Genesis 43
1875 BC	Benjamin and the Silver Cup	Genesis 44
1875 BC	Joseph Reveals His Identity	Genesis 45
1875 BC	Joseph Sends for Jacob	Genesis 45:9
1875 BC	Jacob and Family to Egypt	Genesis 46
1875 BC	Jacob to Goshen	Genesis 47
1859 BC	Jacob's Illness	Genesis 48
1859 BC	Jacob's Blessing and Death	Genesis 49
1859 BC	The Burial of Jacob	Genesis 50
1806 BC	The Death of Joseph	Genesis 50:26

REFERENCE MAPS

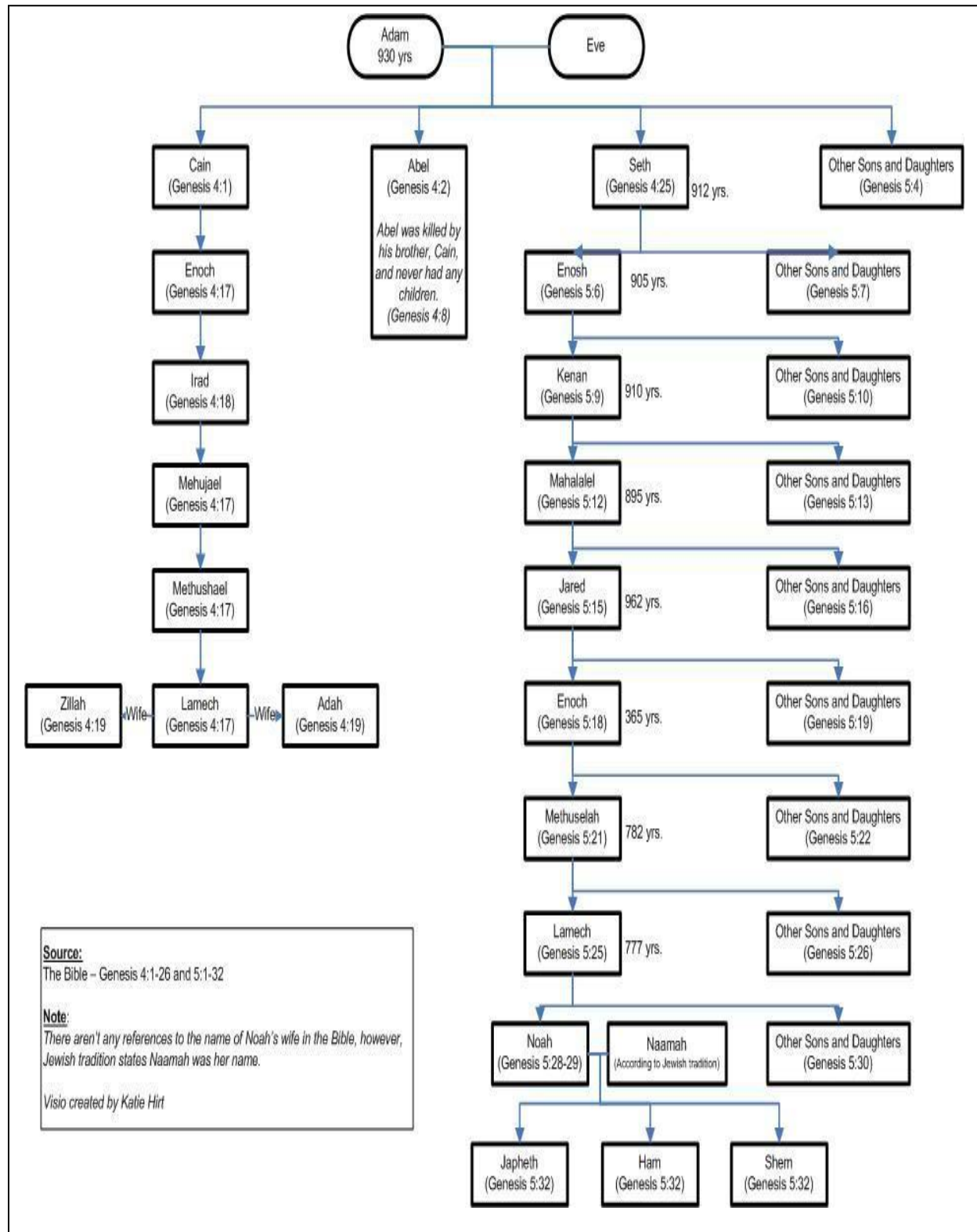


The Ancient Near East, 1800 to 1400 B.C.



REFERENCE MAPS Continued

NOAH'S GENEALOGY



Source:
The Bible – Genesis 4:1-26 and 5:1-32

Note:
There aren't any references to the name of Noah's wife in the Bible, however, Jewish tradition states Naamah was her name.

Visio created by Katie Hirt