



Archdeaconry of France Synod 2017

Walking Together in Faith?
Walking in Interesting Times II
Dr Meg Warner



And on the seventh day God rested ...



The Problem of the Sabbath

Deut. 5:12 Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

Ex. 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Gen 2:1-3

Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

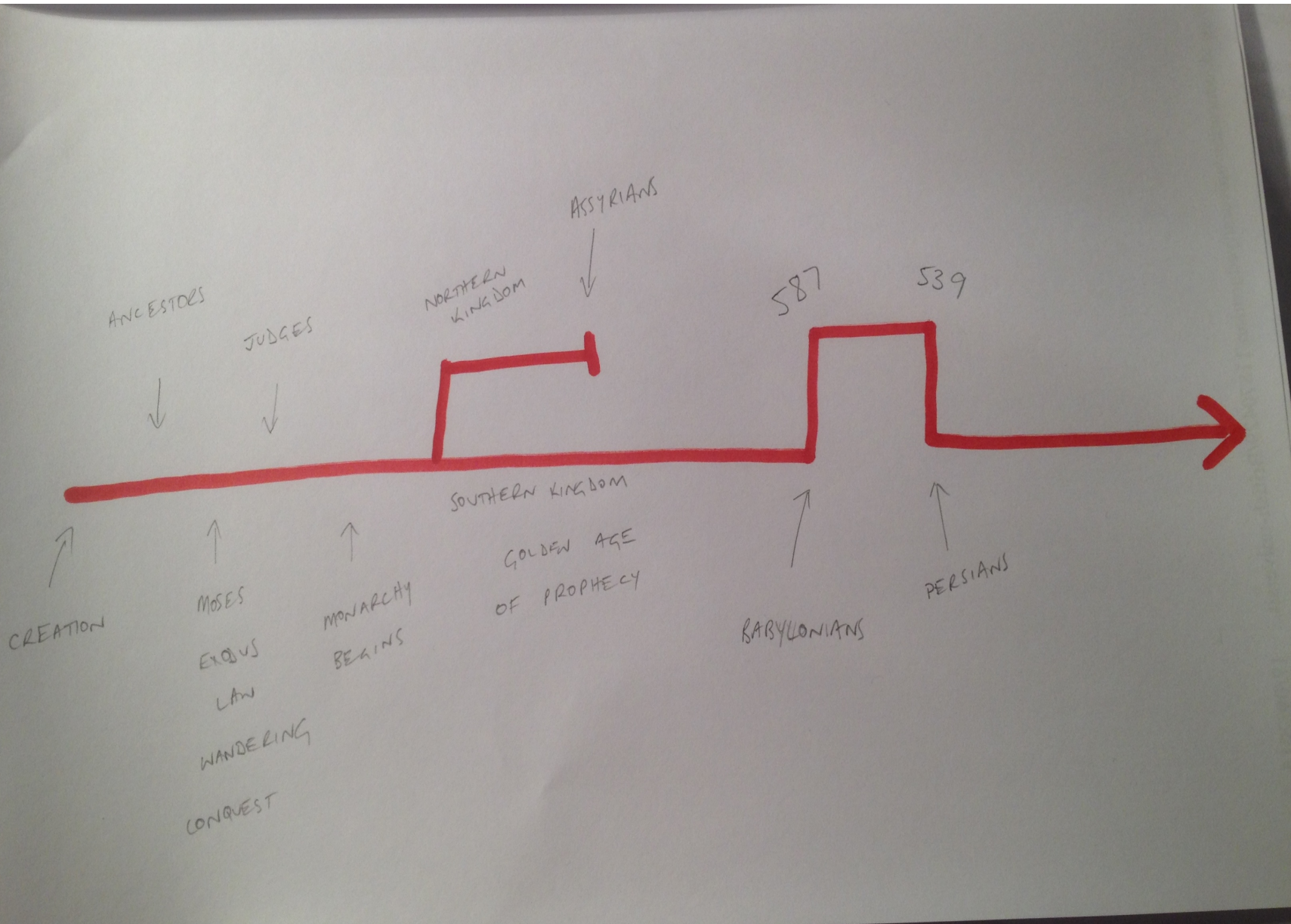


Leviticus and Sabbath

Lev. 19:2 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

Lev. 26:34 Then the land shall enjoy its sabbath years as long as it lies desolate, while you are in the land of your enemies; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its sabbath years. ³⁵ As long as it lies desolate, it shall have the rest it did not have on your sabbaths when you were living on it.

Lev. 25:2 When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the Lord. ³ Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵ You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.



Leviticus and Land and People

Ex. 12:49 there shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you.

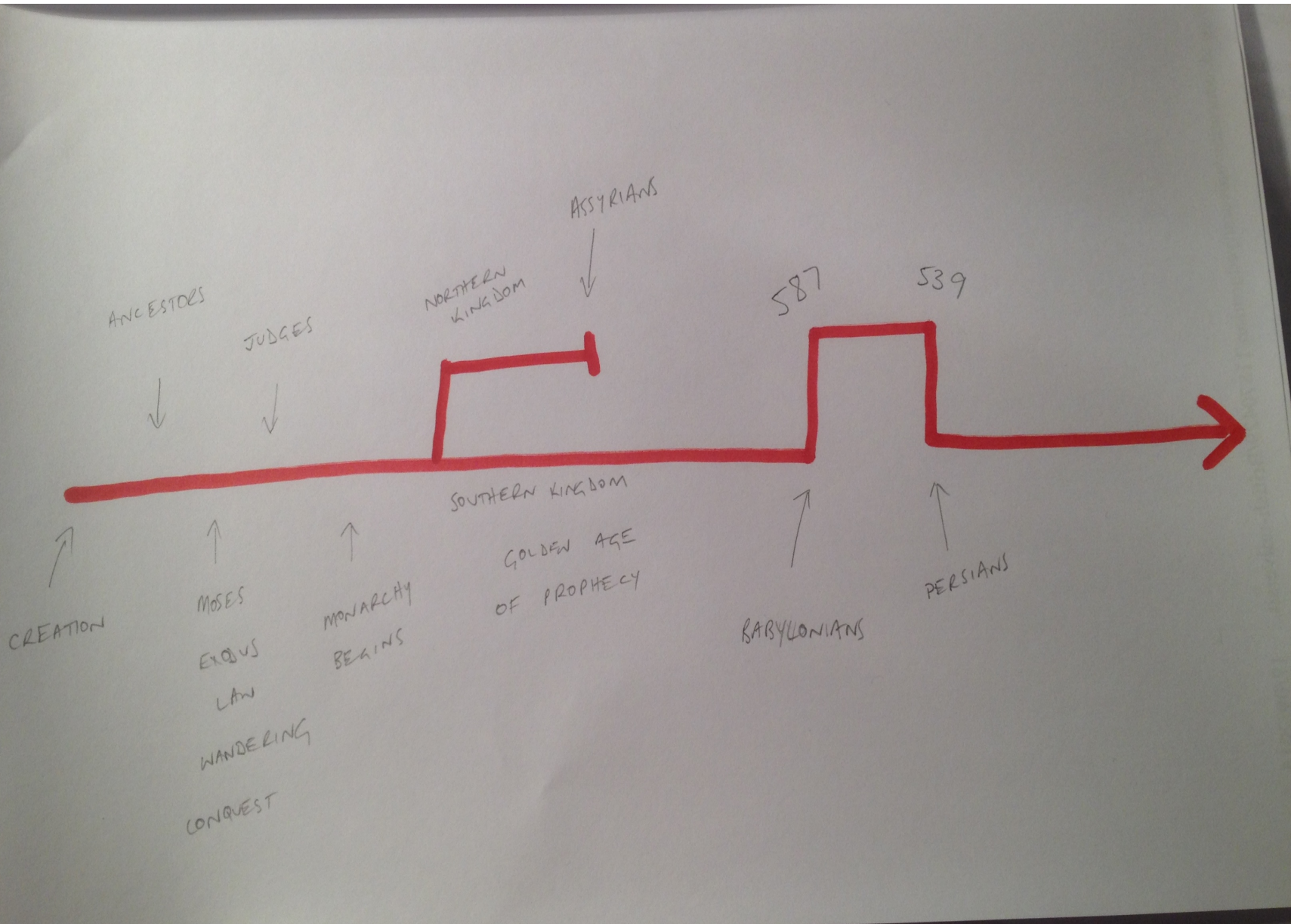
Lev. 24:22 You shall have one law for the alien and for the citizen: for I am the Lord your God.

Lev. 25:23 The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants.

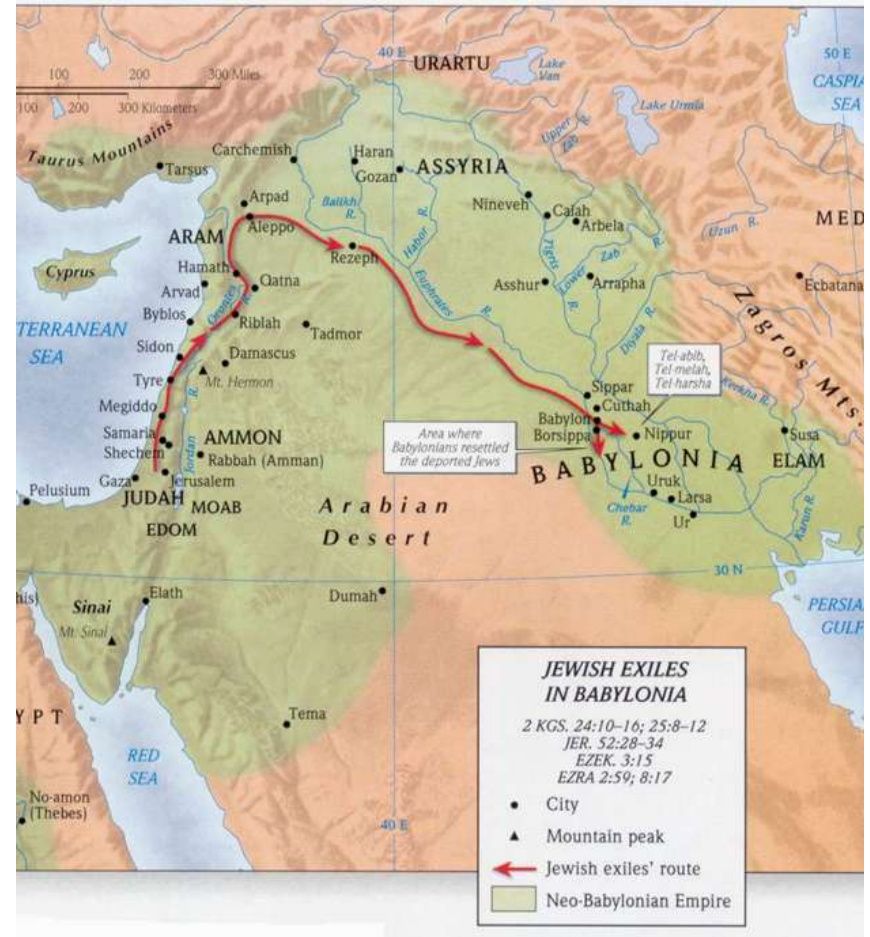
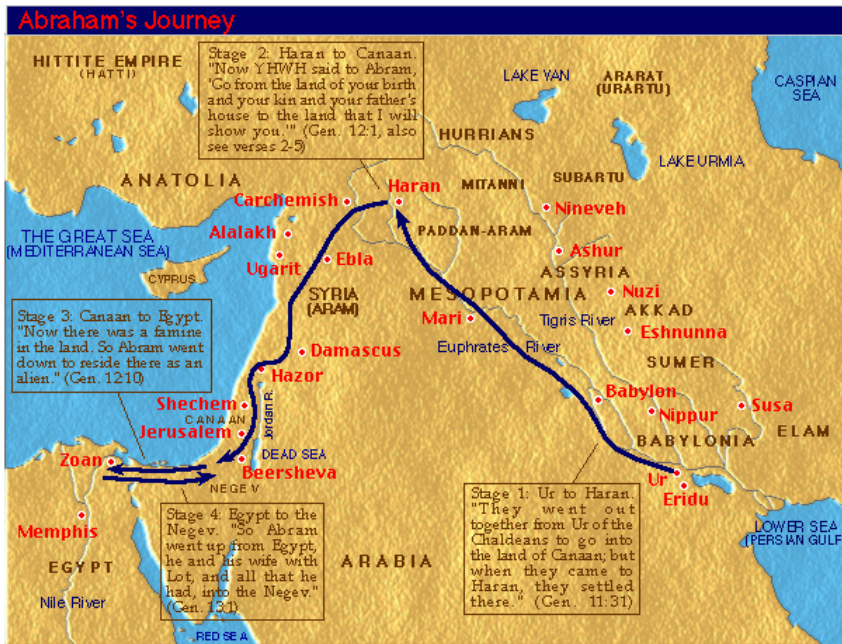
‘possession’ אַחֲזָה
(ahuzzah)

Where else do we see related universalist outlooks?

Isa 56:6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.
8 Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.



The two journeys



Abraham as the ideal immigrant

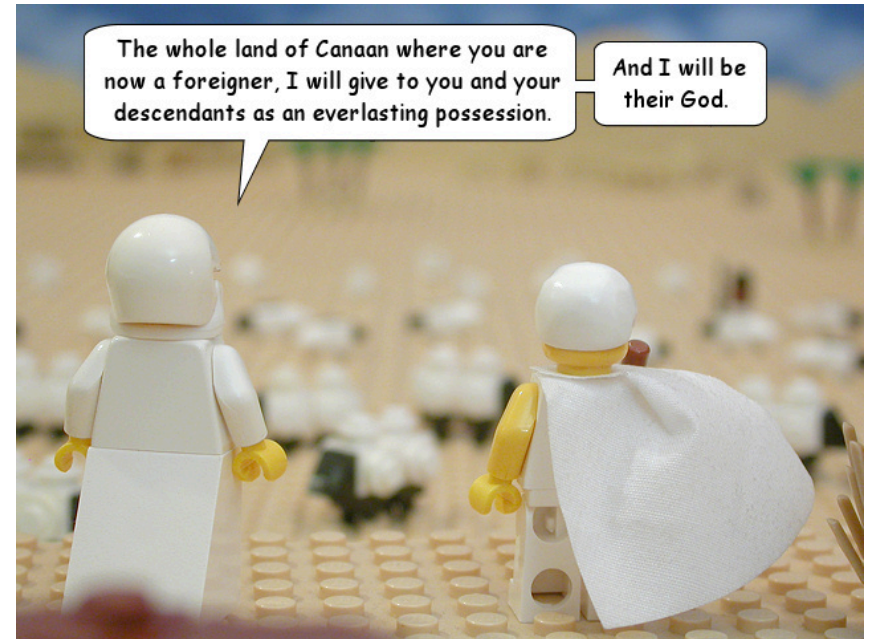
“Abraham is portrayed as an exemplar of how to share the land, overcome conflict, and mediate blessing to the inhabitants of the land. The host peoples of the land live together with Abraham as a welcome immigrant in their midst.”

Norman Habel, *The Land is Mine* (Minneapolis:

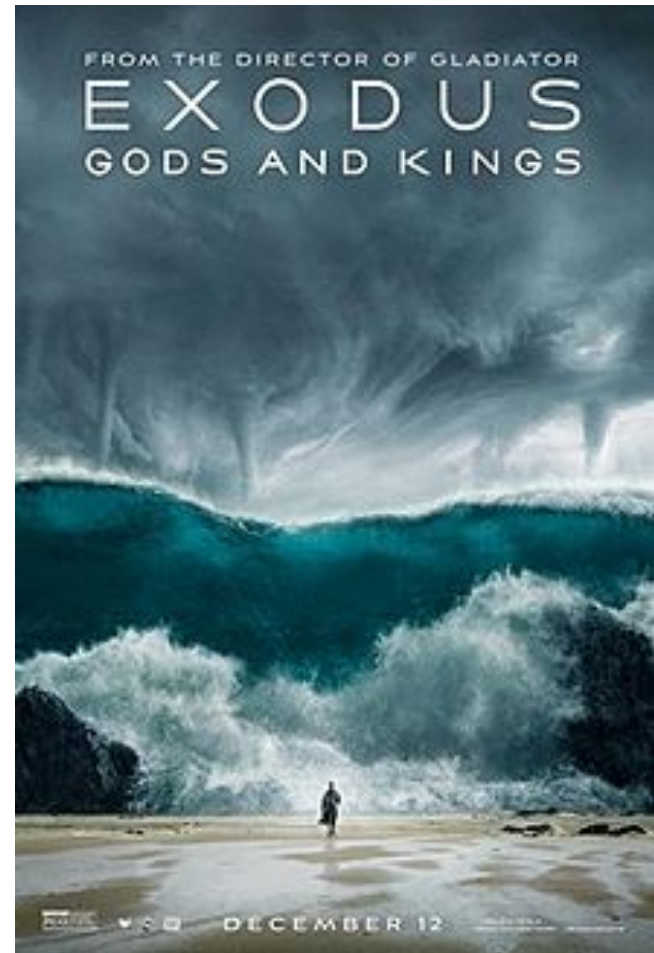
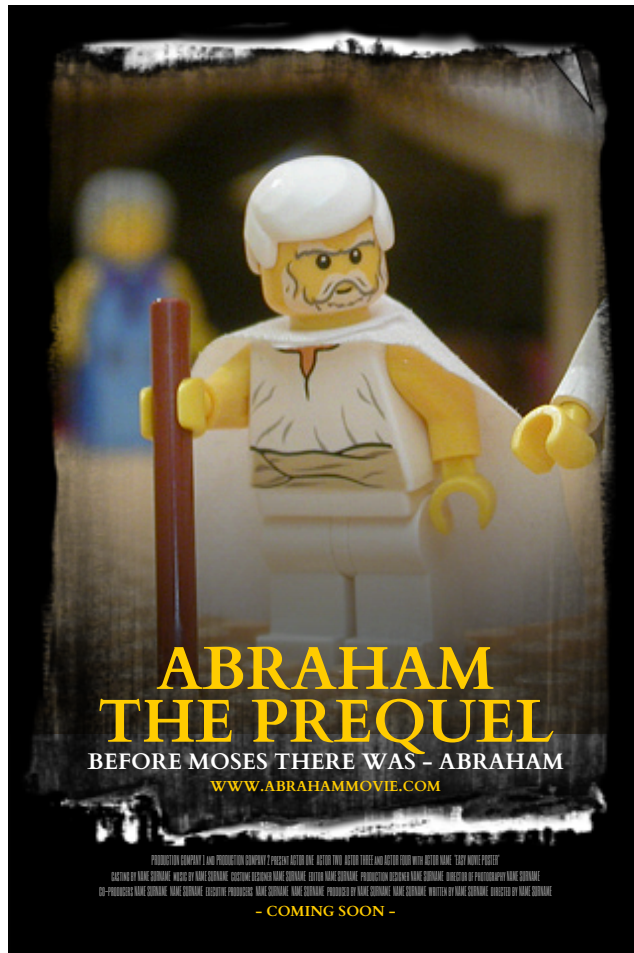
Fortress, 1995) 125.

Abraham

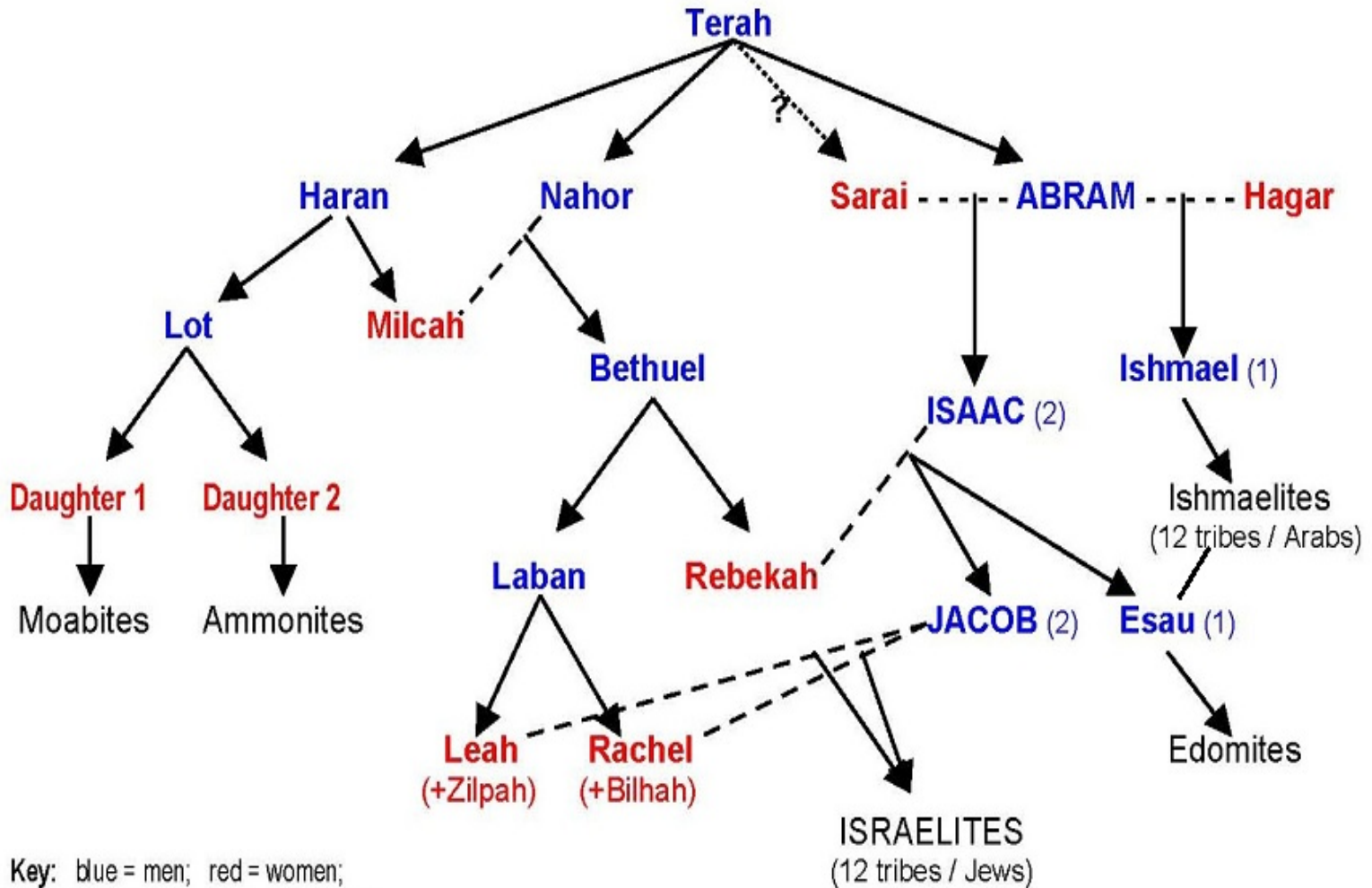
Gen. 17:8 And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an **alien**, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding (*achuzzah*); and I will be their God.”



Genesis as Prequel



Family of Abraham



Key: blue = men; red = women;
dashes = spouses; arrows = children

Genesis 20

Gen. 20:2 While residing in Gerar as an alien, ² Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” ...

¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What were you thinking of, that you did this thing?” ¹¹ Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. ¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.’”

⁷ Now then, return the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. ...



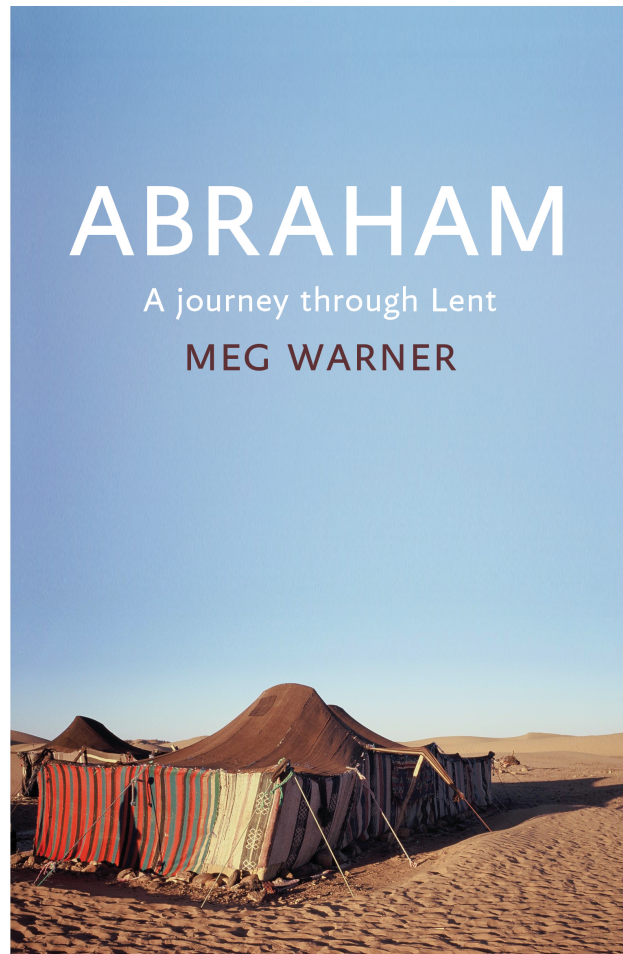
Lev. 18:9 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether born at home or born abroad.

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Final Shameless Plug ...



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