

Exodus



Cornerstone Ministry Conference

EXODUS

- Introductions
- Talk 1: Interpreting Exodus
- Talk 2: Theophany, God's Name
- Talk 3: 10 Commandments
- Talk 4: Law, Lex Talionis
- Talk 5: Covenant, God's Wrath

INTRODUCTIONS

Can you guess....?

- My first scholarly article?
- My favorite breed of dog?
- My previous Cornerstone topics?
- My archaeological trip?
- My age?





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Attitudes toward Dogs in Ancient Israel: A Reassessment

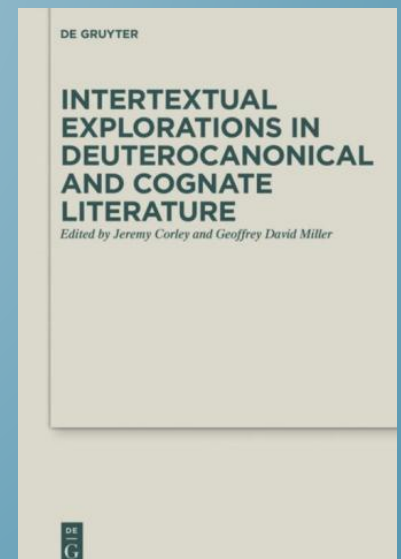
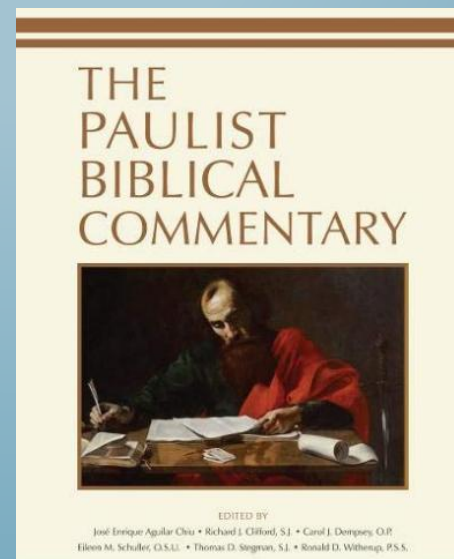
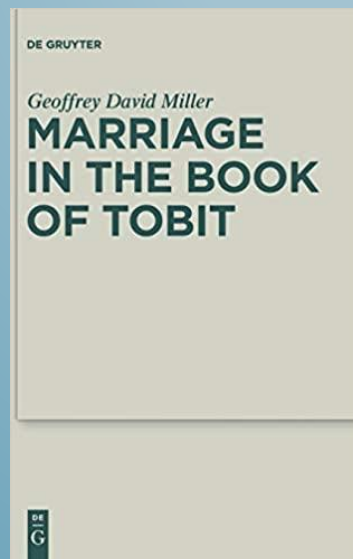
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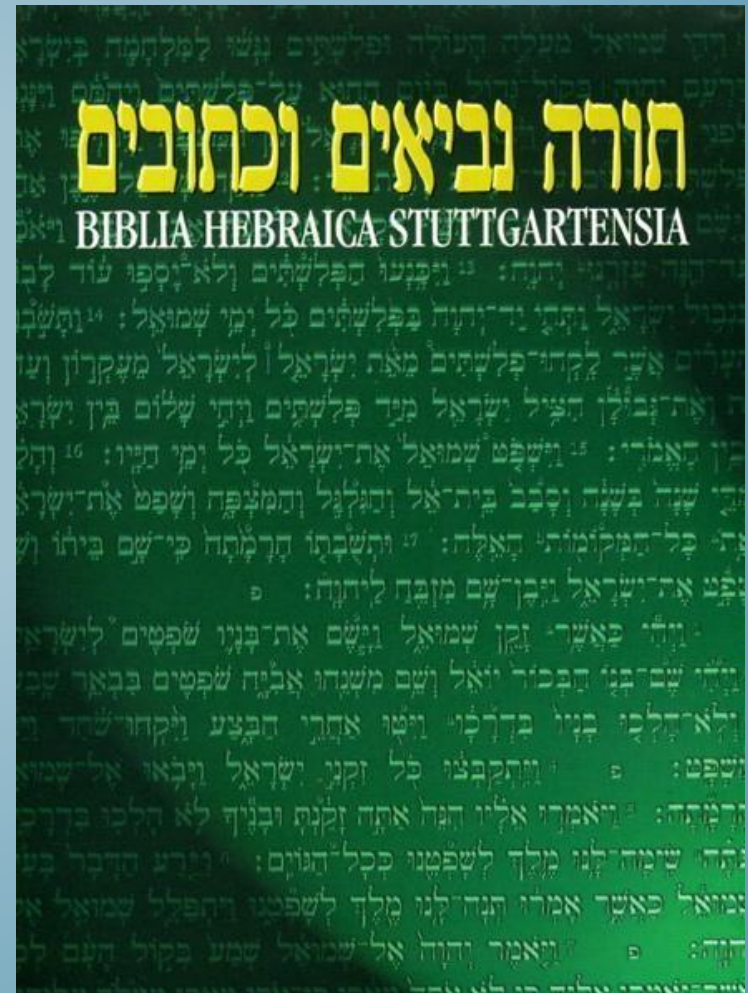
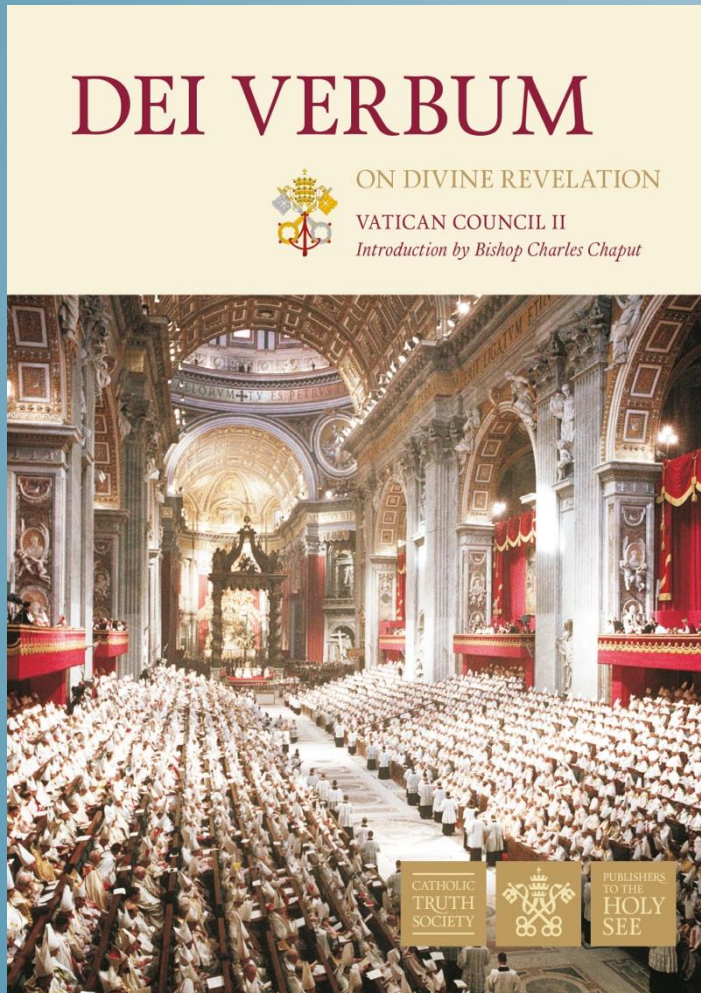




- ❖ Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America (2007)
- ❖ Published two books and twenty articles in academic journals and encyclopedias



My sources:



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Exegesis (εξηγησις) = interpretation
- Methods
 - Languages
 - History
 - Reading as Literature
 - Unique Perspectives
- All help us understand the theological meaning



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



- Language Method
 - Old Testament = Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
 - New Testament = Greek
- Examples:
 - Moses' appearance in Exod 34:29
 - Different words for “love” in John 21:15-19

שְׁלוֹם



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



- Historical Method
 - Historical expressions
 - “Land flowing with milk and honey”
 - “Stiff-necked”
 - Different sources (JEDP)
 - Reuel vs. Jethro
 - Sinai vs. Horeb



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Historical Method
 - Differences between ancient and modern cultures
 - Example: Marital customs
 - Historical influence on how something is expressed
 - Example: “image of God”



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



- Literature Method
 - Reading the bible as you would a piece of literature (symbolism, characterization, etc.)
 - Reading closely
 - Wider context
 - Literary techniques

BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Literature Method
 - Reading closely (examples)
 - What is Pharoah's name?
 - What is baby Moses placed in?



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Literature Method
- Wider context (example)
 - Why does Moses speak so brazenly with God? (Exodus 33:12-18)



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Literature Method
- Literary techniques
- Palistrophe in Flood story
- Parallelism in giving tablets twice (Exod 19-20 & 34)
- Plagues & gods

Genesis vi 10-ix 19

A	Noah (vi 10a)
B	Shem, Ham and Japheth (10b)
C	Ark to be built (14-16)
D	Flood announced (17)
E	Covenant with Noah (18-20)
F	Food in the ark (21)
G	Command to enter ark (vii 1-3)
H	7 days waiting for flood (4-5)
I	7 days waiting for flood (7-10)
J	Entry to ark (11-15)
K	Yahweh shuts Noah in (16)
L	40 days flood (17a)
M	Waters increase (17b-18)
N	Mountains covered (19-20)
O	150 days waters prevail ((21)-24)
P	GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (viii 1)
O'	150 days waters abate (3)
N'	Mountain tops visible (4-5)
M'	Waters abate (5)
L'	40 days (end of) (6a)
K'	Noah opens window of ark (6b)
J'	Raven and dove leave ark (7-9)
I'	7 days waiting for waters to subside (10-11)
H'	7 days waiting for waters to subside (12-13)
G'	Command to leave ark (15-17(22))
F'	Food outside ark (ix 1-4)
E'	Covenant with all flesh (8-10)
D'	No flood in future (11-17)
C'	Ark (18a)
B'	Shem, Ham and Japheth (18b)
A'	Noah (19)

BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



- Unique Perspectives
 - People with certain backgrounds or perspectives can help others read passages in a new light
- Example:
 - God using violence to liberate slaves
 - Women in Scripture



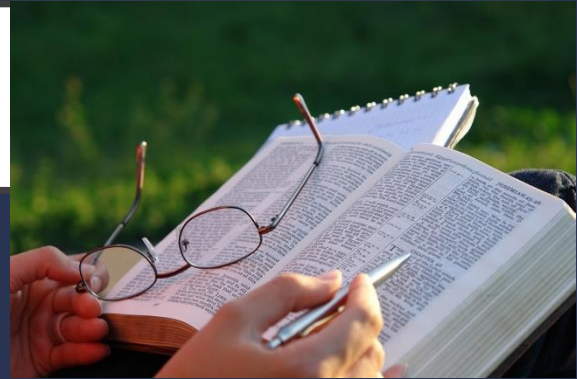
BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



- All methods lead to...
 - What is Scripture revealing about God?
 - What is Scripture revealing about humanity?
 - What is Scripture revealing about the relationship between God and us?

BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

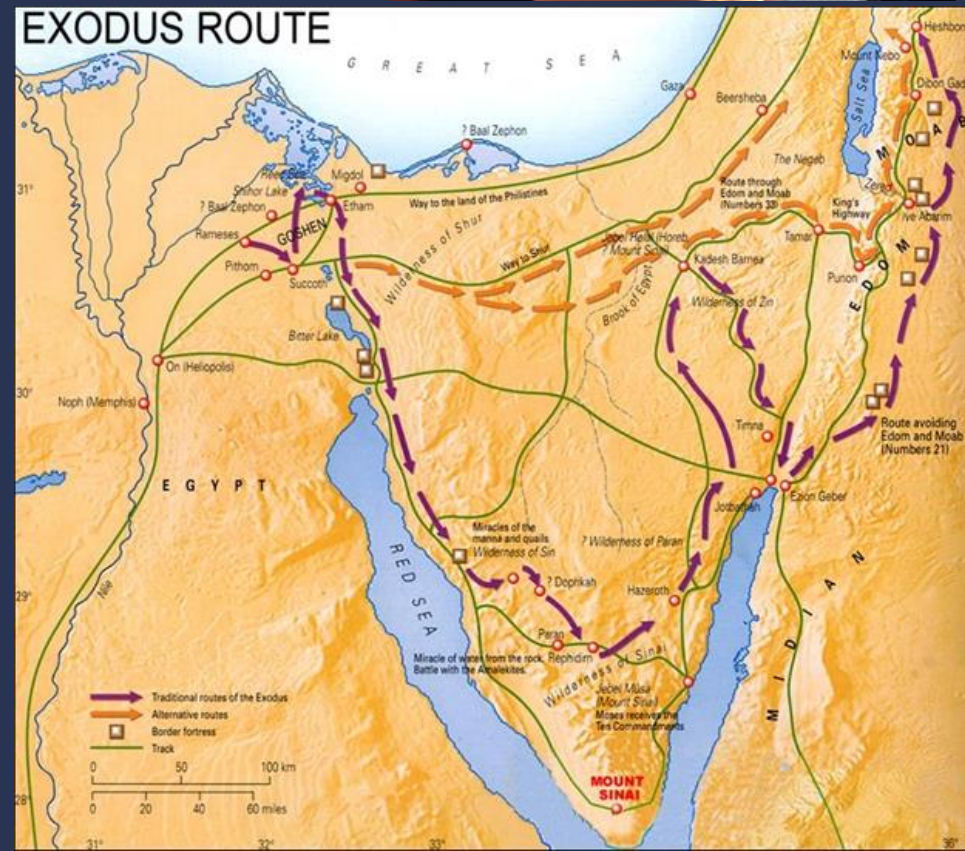
- Practice
 - Exodus 2:1-10

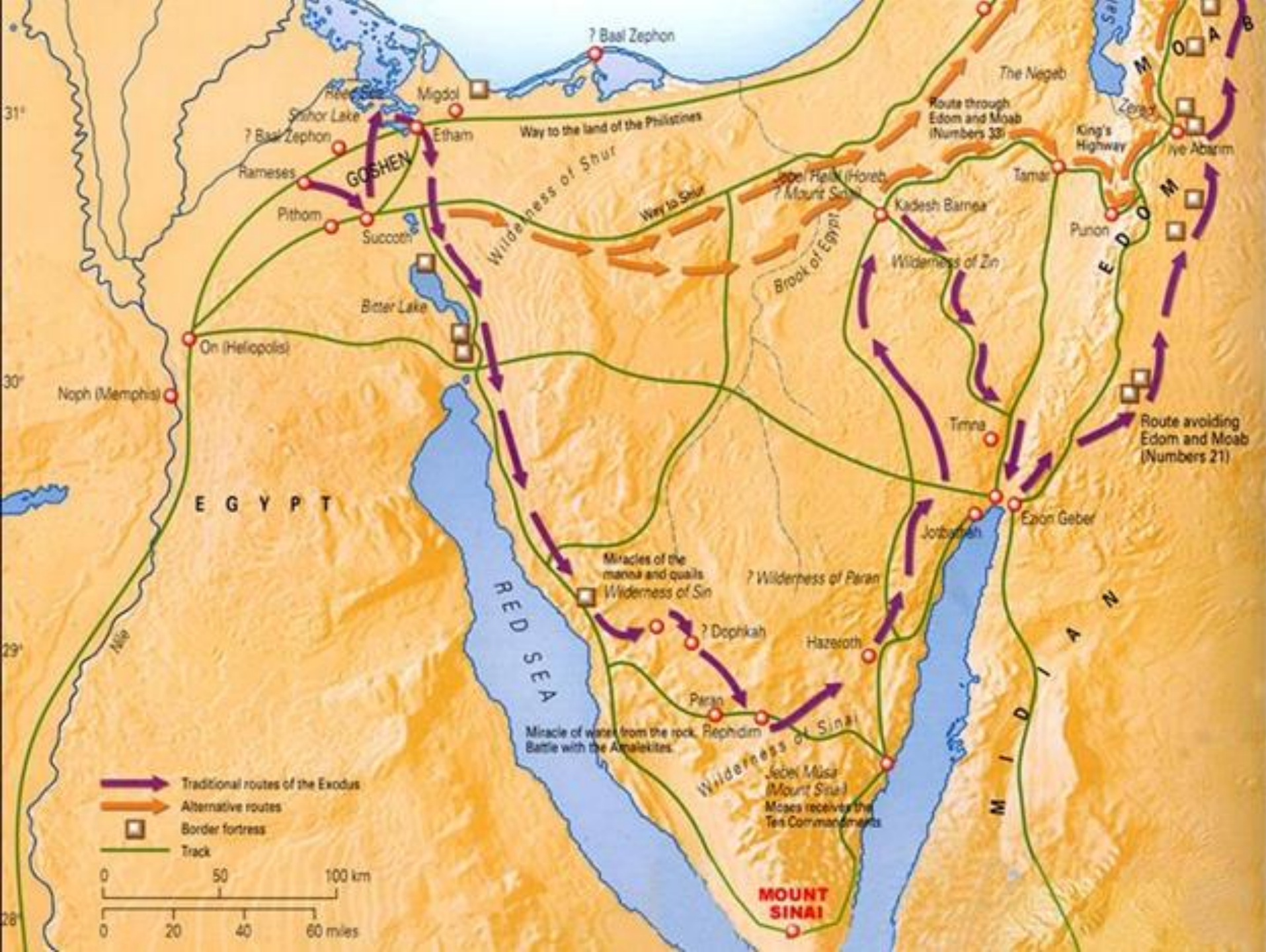


BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



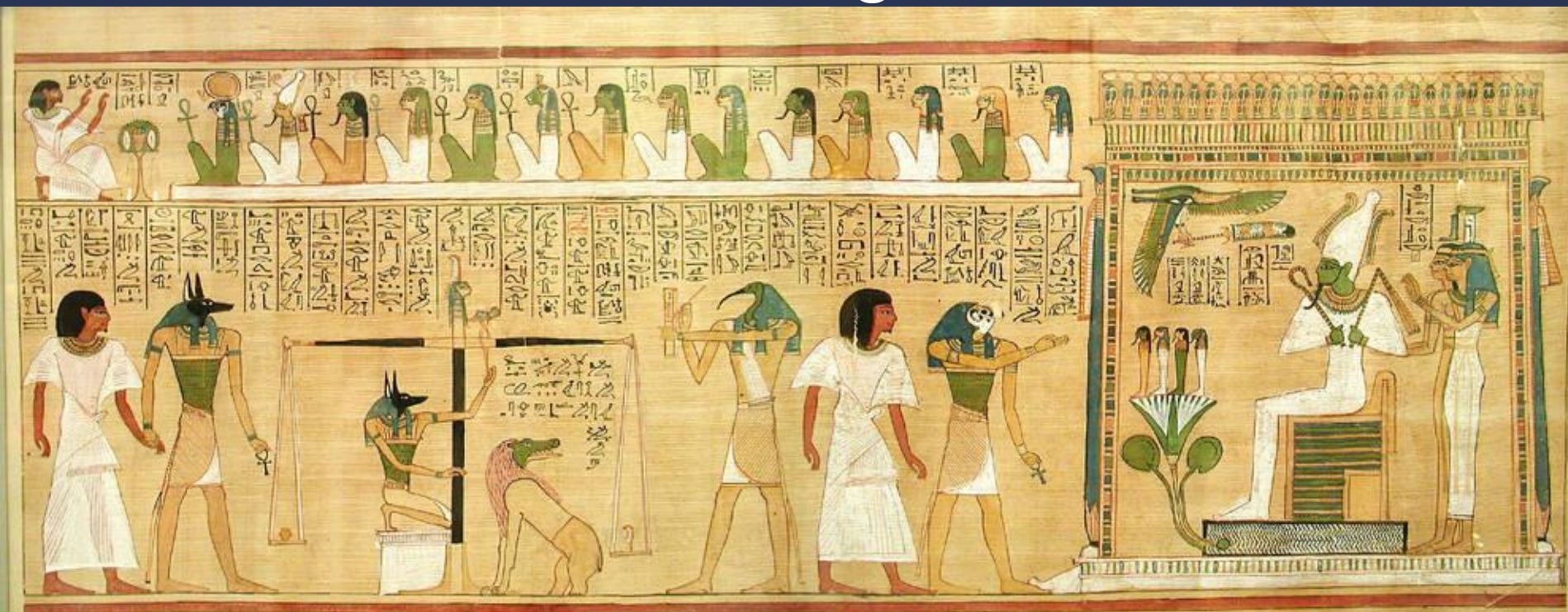
- Other Examples from Exodus:
- Sea of Reeds vs. Red Sea





BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Other Examples from Exodus:
- Pharaoh's heart “hardening”



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

- Other Examples from Exodus:
- The 10 Plagues



BIBLICAL EXEGESIS



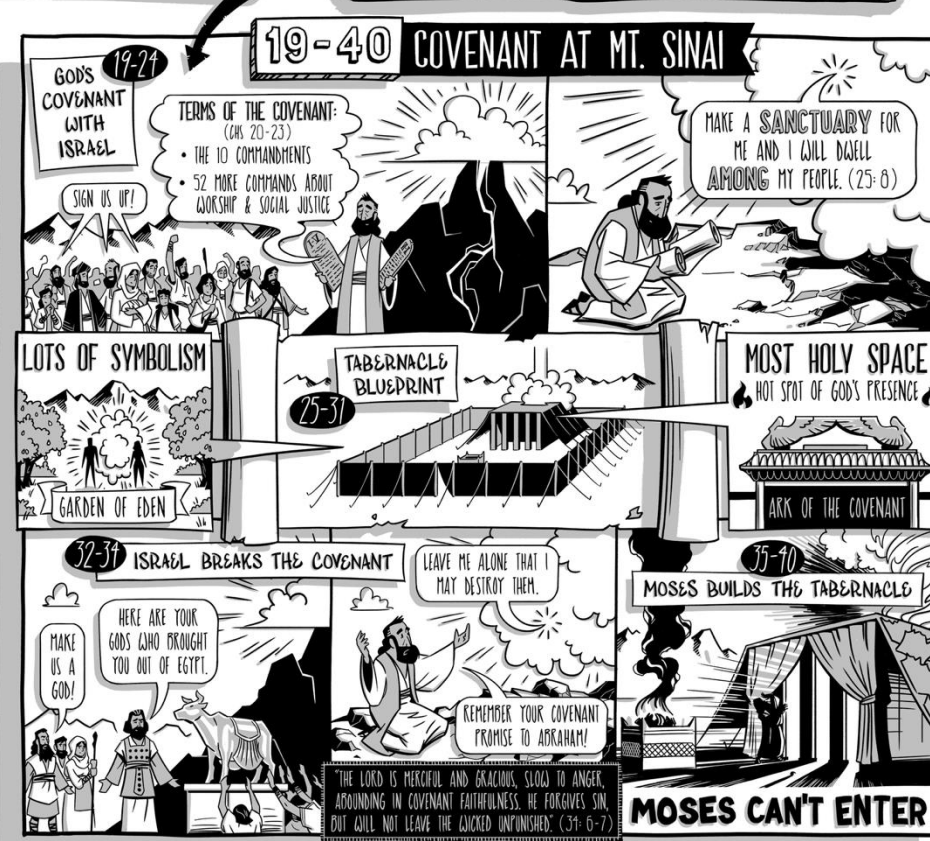
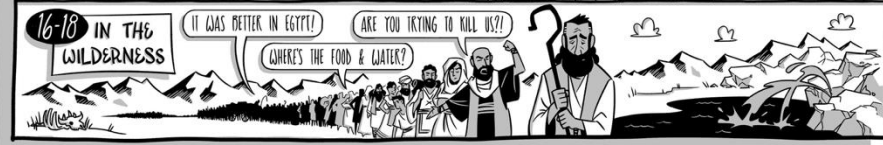
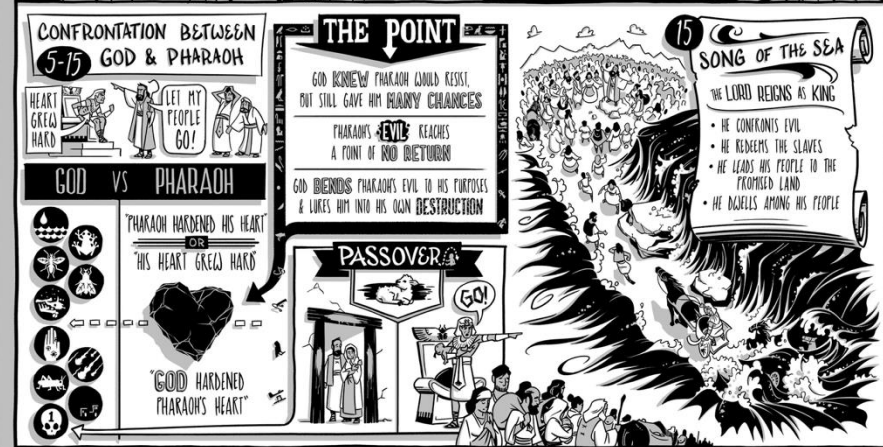
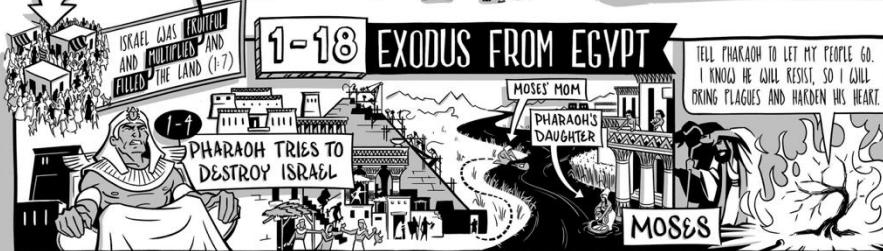
- Reflection Questions
 - How carefully do I read the bible? What new things do I discover when I read a passage for a second time?
 - What unique perspective do I bring to a biblical passage based on my background and experience? Where are my blind spots, and which perspectives can help me?

OVERVIEW OF EXODUS





EXODUS



Exodus

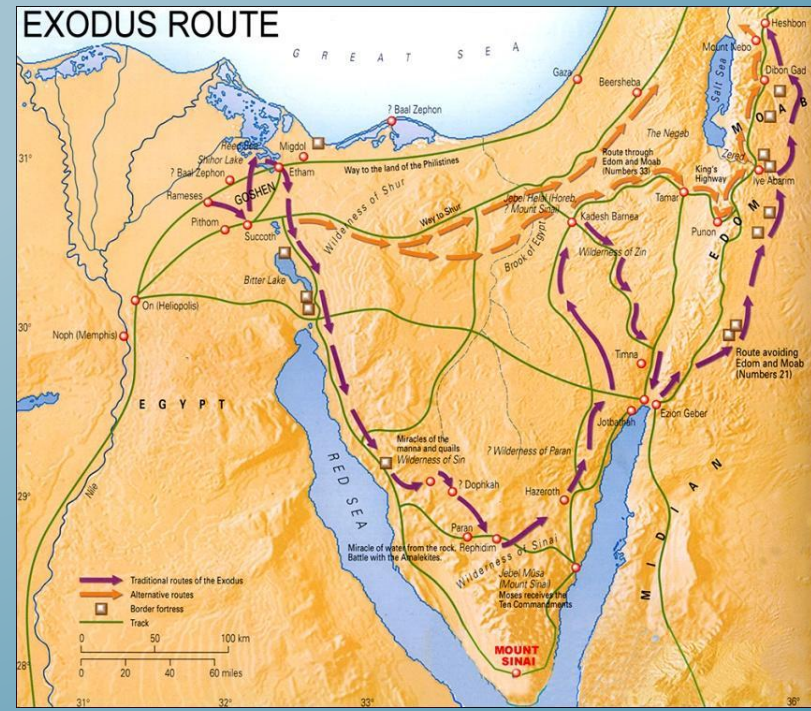
- Name of the Book
- Historical Context
- Following Genesis
- Identity



Exodus



- Exodus (εξοδος) = “way out”
- Refers to event (leaving Egypt) and the book



Exodus



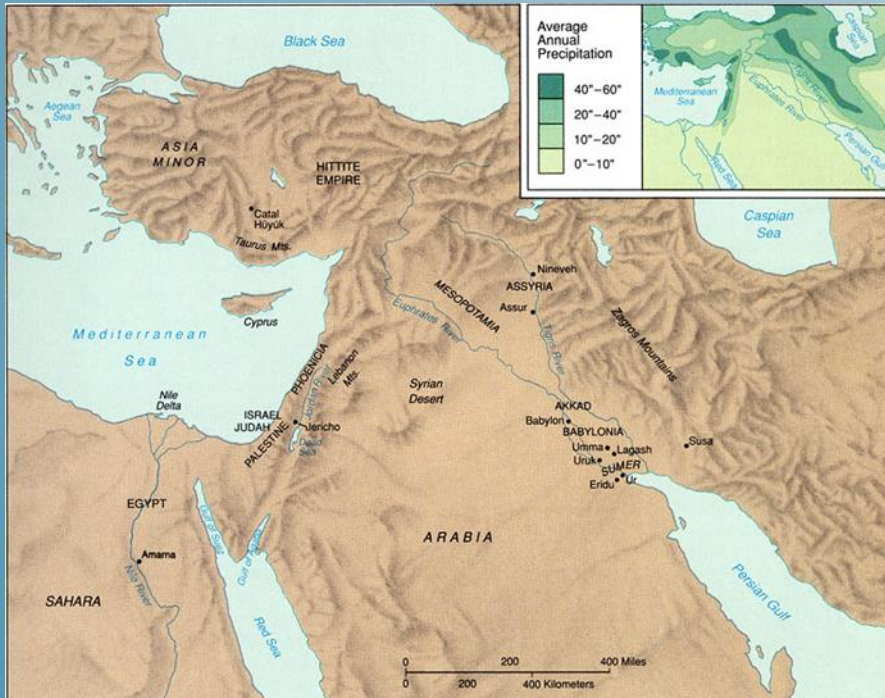
- God's liberation of Hebrew slaves + Sinai covenant
- Narrative & Law



Exodus

Historical Context

– Dominance of Egypt



Exodus

Historical Context

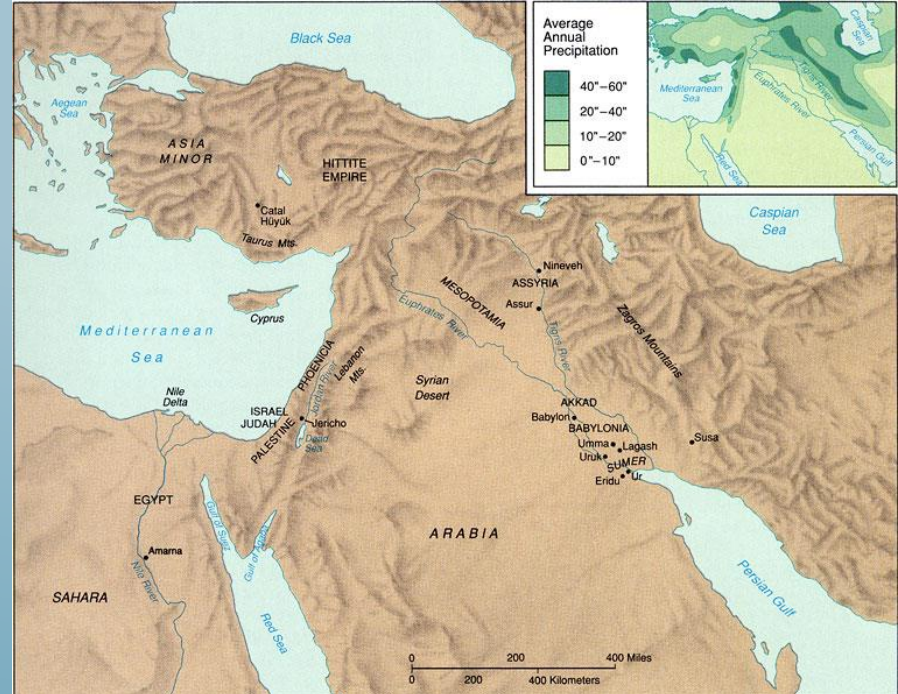
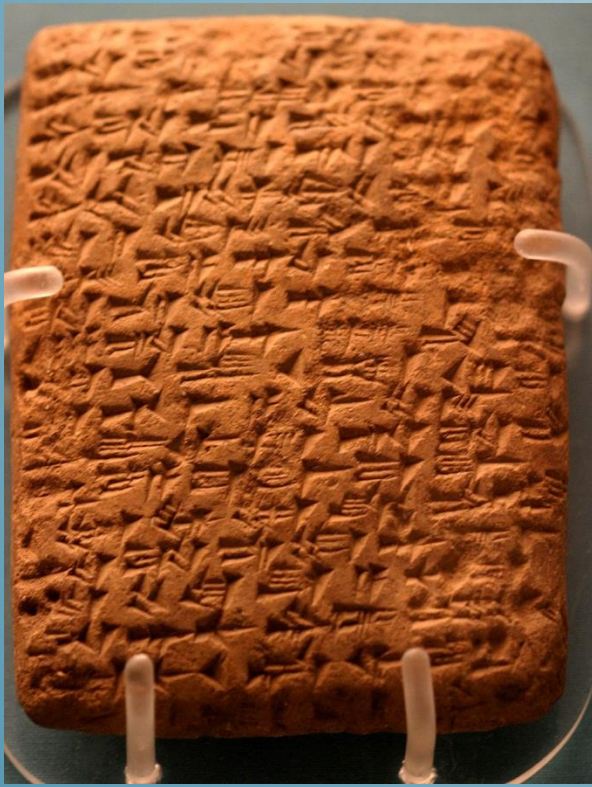
– Rameses II? (ca. 1280 BC)



Exodus

Historical Context

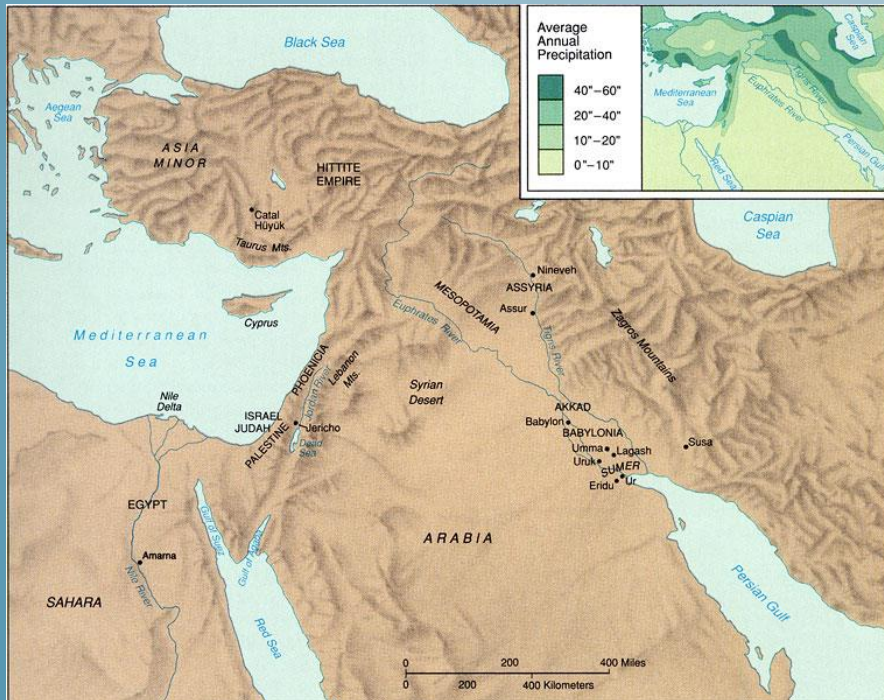
– Amarna Letters (mid-1300s)



Exodus

Historical Context

– Merneptah Stele (1208 BC)



Exodus

Historical Context

- Rameses II? (ca. 1280 BC)
- Amarna Letters (mid-1300s)
- Merneptah Stele (1208 BC)
- Estimates from 1450 to 1250 BC. Hard to be more precise.



Exodus

Historical Context

- Relations with Gentiles are mixed.
- Israelites are chosen ones (Abrahamic covenant)
- Reliant on Gentiles; often good relations (Joseph story)



Exodus

– Following Genesis

- Primeval History (Gen 1-11) → Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) → Joseph story
- God's covenant with Abraham still valid? Land of Israel? Abraham's line?



Exodus

– Identity

- Small family → Big Family → Nation
- Hebrews → Sons of Israel → Sons of God
- God (Yahweh)
- Moses



EXODUS

- Introductions
- Talk 1: Interpreting Exodus
- **Talk 2: Theophany, God's Name**
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Exodus

The Journey Home



Theophany



- Incompatible with Deism
- θεος = God; φανεω = reveal, become manifest
- Theophany = self-disclosure of God
- Several forms: dream, vision, or physical manifestation

Theophany

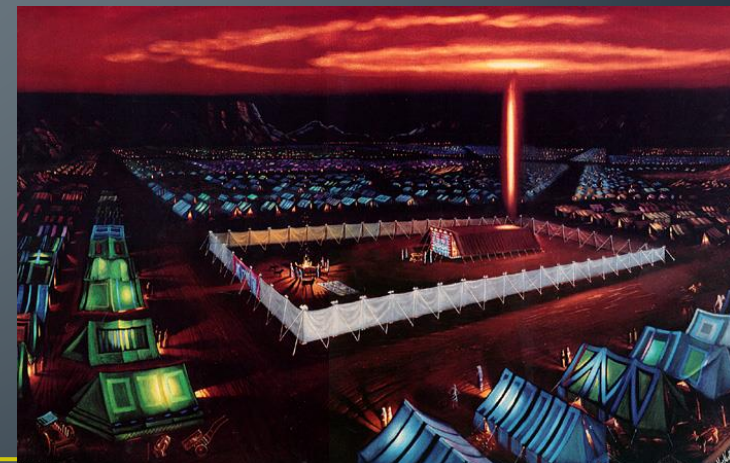


- Typically on a mountain top
- Often accompanied by natural phenomena
- God is heard but rarely seen



Seeing God & Theophanies

- When people behold God, what do they see?
- What other images appear in theophanies?



The Hidden Presence Of God

Truly, you are a God who hides
Himself, O God of Israel

(Isa 45:15)

Theophany

- Consider God's activity and presence over time
- Theophoric names (-el, -iah)
- New Testament repeats the pattern

Mt. Sinai



Exodus

– Absence of God

- Strong, regular presence in Genesis, but nothing between Gen 35 and Exod 3
- Why?



*The Divine Name

אהיה אשר אהיה

*The Divine Name

*Why isn't God more straightforward in Exod 3:14? Compare Exod 6:2.

אהיה אשר אהיה



*The Divine Name



- *Names & Naming

- *God's Names

- *Exegetical Methods

- *Significance

*What's in a Name?



*Names & Naming

- *Power over
- *Person's character
- *Circumstances of birth (e.g. Gen 29)
- *Reputation, fame, legacy

*God's Name



*Titles for God in the OT

***God** (Elohim), **Almighty God** (El Shaddai), **Lord** (Adonai), **Lord of Hosts**, others

*Exodus 3:14

אהיה אשר אהיה

*Exegetical Methods



*Linguistic

*Tradition

*Literary

*Exegetical Methods



*Linguistic

- *Root verb = “to be”
- *Idem per idem construction
- *Imperfect tense
- *Causative? (hiphil stem)
- *Subjunctive? (“I would be...”)
- *Cohortative? (wish)

*Exegetical Methods



*Linguistic

*Middle word of this phrase =

*“that,” “which,” “who”

*“if”

*“in order that”

*“because”

*Exegetical Methods



*Linguistic

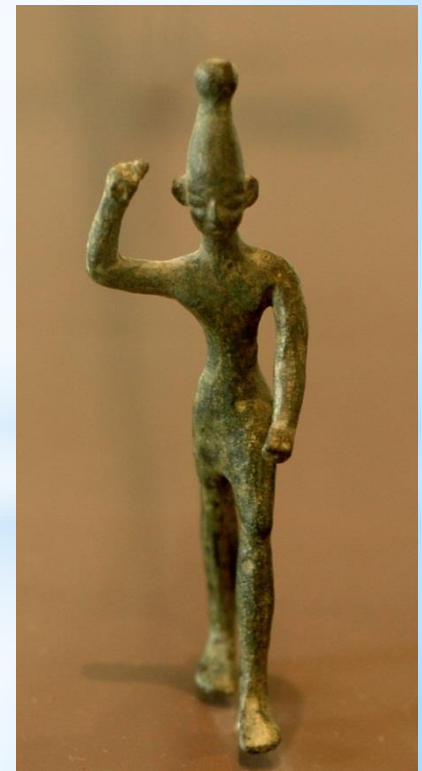
*Or root = something else?

*“Blow”

*“Fall”

*“Roar”

*“Love,” “Act passionately”



*Exegetical Methods



*Linguistic

*Tradition

*Literary

*Exegetical Methods



*Tradition

*Septuagint - “I am who the one who is”

*Jewish

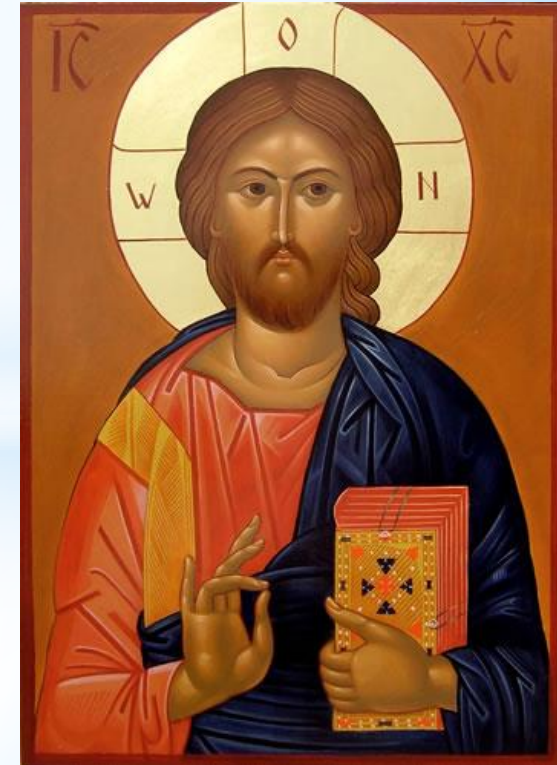
*Targums

*Rabbis

*Christian

*Revelation 1:8

*Esse (“to be”)



*Exegetical Methods



*Linguistic

*Tradition

*Literary

*Exegetical Methods



*Literary

*Exodus 3

*John Courtney Murray's interpretation

*God's first words to Moses

*Genesis-Exodus 2

*Hosea 1:9



*Exegetical Methods



*Summary Points

*Being

*Creator

*Presence

*(No meaning)

*Polyvalence

*Significance



- *God's revealing His name
- *Relinquishing (some) power
- *Intimacy
- *Vulnerability
- *Effect on Moses

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What does Yahweh's name mean?
- ❖ In my relationship with God, what does God reveal to me? What remains hidden and why?

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10 Commandments

- How many per tablet?
- Different versions



Commandment	Jewish	Protestant	Catholic
I am the Lord your God	1	1	1
You shall not have other gods besides me	2		
You shall not make idols or worship them		2	
You shall not use Yahweh's name in vain	3	3	2
Remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy	4	4	3
Honor your father and mother	5	5	4
You shall not murder	6	6	5
You shall not commit adultery	7	7	6
You shall not steal	8	8	7
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor	9	9	8
You shall not desire your neighbor's wife	10	10	9
You shall not desire your neighbor's property			10

10 Commandments



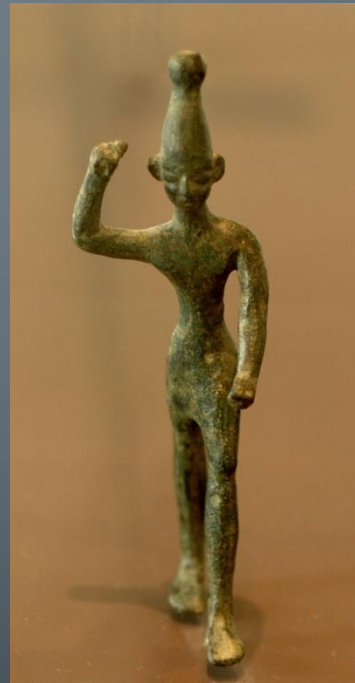
- 1) Worship only Yahweh
- 2) Don't use Yahweh's name in vain
- 3) Keep the Sabbath holy
- 4) Honor your parents
- 5) Don't kill / murder
- 6) Don't commit adultery
- 7) Don't steal
- 8) Don't bear false witness against neighbor
- 9 & 10) Don't covet neighbor's wife, property

10 Commandments

- 1) Henotheism vs. Monotheism
- 3rd or 4th generation
- “Jealous”



עַל-פְּנֵי



10 Commandments



- 1) Worship only Yahweh
- 2) Don't use Yahweh's name in vain
- 3) Keep the Sabbath holy
- 4) Honor your parents
- 5) Don't kill / murder
- 6) Don't commit adultery
- 7) Don't steal
- 8) Don't bear false witness against neighbor
- 9 & 10) Don't covet neighbor's wife, property



10 Commandments



- 1) Worship only Yahweh
- 2) Don't use Yahweh's name in vain
- 3) Keep the Sabbath holy
- 4) Honor your parents
- 5) Don't kill / murder
- 6) Don't commit adultery
- 7) Don't steal
- 8) Don't bear false witness against neighbor
- 9 & 10) Don't covet neighbor's wife, property

Virtue Ethics



- 1) Worship only Yahweh
- 2) Don't use Yahweh's name in vain
- 3) Keep the Sabbath holy
- 4) Honor your parents
- 5) Don't kill / murder (**protecting/promoting life**)
- 6) Don't commit adultery
- 7) Don't steal
- 8) Don't bear false witness against neighbor
- 9 & 10) Don't covet neighbor's wife, property

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ❖ How can I discern the underlying virtue for biblical commandments?
- ❖ How can I live out the 10 commandments in my daily life?

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Old Testament Law

Old Testament Law

- 2nd half of Exodus is mostly laws.
- Most of these laws are about making the ark of the covenant, the sanctuary, etc.



Ark & Tent



- Ark of covenant = box holding 10 commandments
- Tent of Meeting
- Signify God's presence



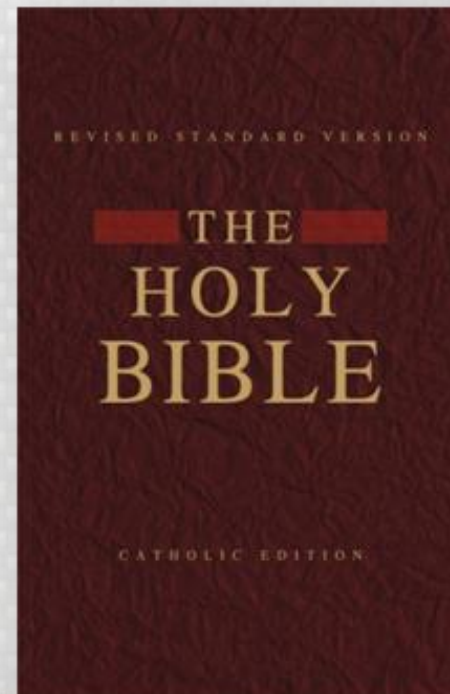
Holy of Holies
Beit HaMikdash

Degrees of Presence



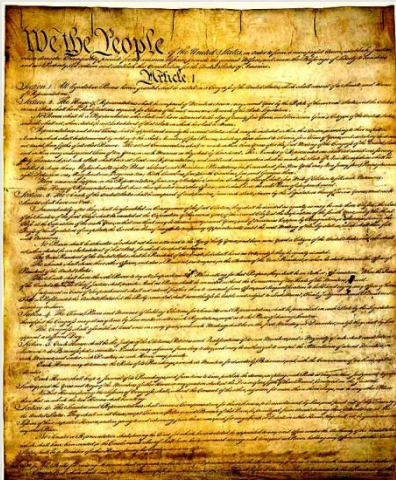
Old Testament Law

- Apodictic vs. Casuistic
 - Skim Exodus 21:18-32.



Purpose of Old Testament Law

- Common Law vs. Statutory Law
 - Statutory – statutes to be followed strictly and literally
 - Common – collection of decisions for future judges to use as guidance



MS 206
Hebrew square book script, Iraq, 1st half of 11th c.



Purpose of Old Testament Law

- Limiting vengeance as the primary goal of early OT law?



Specific Laws in Exodus

- Exod 22:15-16
- Exod 22:20
- Exod 22:21
- Exod 22:24-26
- Slavery (Exod 21:1-7)



Hagar & Ishmael

Flashback!

- Prophets decry neglect of the most vulnerable

- Poor
- Widows
- Orphans (fatherless)
- Immigrants



The *Lex Talionis*

- Lev 24:19-20 (also Exod 21:22-25; Deut 19:21)
- Good law?

The *Lex Talionis*

- Limited Vengeance
- Compare to Code of Hammurabi
- Law as progressive/developmental
- Compensation



The *Lex Talionis* in Code of Ham.

- 196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
- 198. If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.
- 199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.
- 200. If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.
- 201. If he knock out the teeth of a freed man, he shall pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mina.
- 202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.
- 203. If a free-born man strike the body of another free-born man or equal rank, he shall pay one gold mina.
- 204. If a freed man strike the body of another freed man, he shall pay ten shekels in money.
- 205. If the slave of a freed man strike the body of a freed man, his ear shall be cut off.

The *Lax Talionis*

- Compensation

“x for x”

Lev 24:17-24

Hammurabi

Ex 21:22-25

Context

Exod 21:36



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

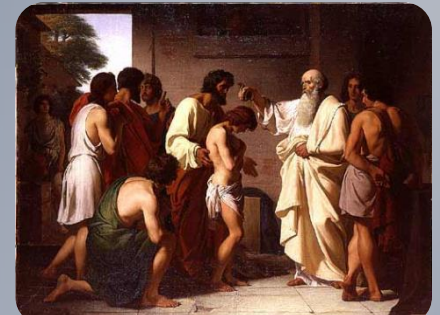
- ❖ How do I interpret casuistic laws to be relevant today?
- ❖ How do I find justice in the lex talionis while also embracing Jesus' command to rise above vengeance?

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God as Relational

Covenant



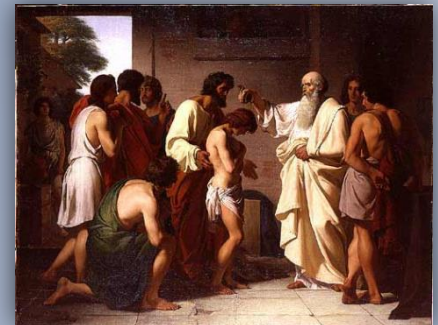
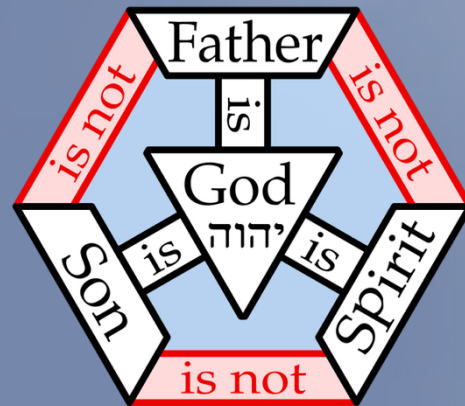
God as Relational

- How does God relate to human beings?
- How is God involved in creation?



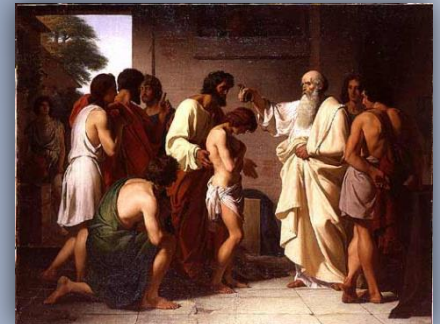
Covenant

- = pact between 2 parties
- 4 OT covenants
- A human convention
- Relationship precedes covenant
- God is inherently relational



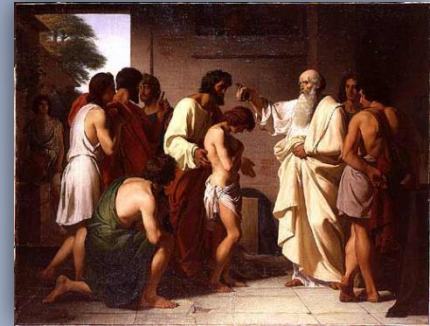
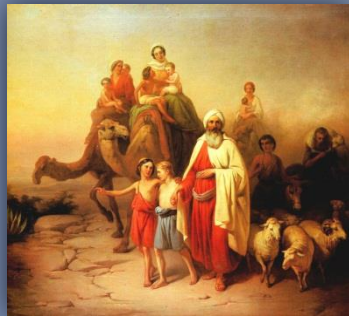
Covenant

- God dictates the terms
- God reminds us
- Suspense



Covenant

- Smart decision by God?



Covenant

- Covenantal Conversations
 - Gen 18:16-33
 - Exod 33:7-23
 - What do we learn about God and covenant?



Covenant & Kinship

“Sons of Israel”



God as Relational

- Consider how God is affected by His covenantal relationship with us...



Wrath of God



Wrath of God



- Some Questions:
 - Does God get angry?
 - Does God punish?
 - Does God experience emotion?
 - Is the OT God wrathful?

Wrath of God



Wrath of God



- God's wrath & God's justice
- God never loses control emotionally
- God's mercy (other side of coin)
- Anger and mercy in both OT & NT



Wrath of God



- 4 Approaches
 - Human perception
 - Merely a divine threat
 - Similar to other ANE gods
 - Parent-child analogy and development of the relationship



Golden Calf (Ex 32)



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What does our covenant with God reveal about God? What does the covenant require of me?
- ❖ In stories where God shows wrath, is something else going on?