



COURSE: BIBLE HISTORY

SUBJECT: GENESIS THROUGH DEUTERONOMY - HEBREW BEGINNINGS

LESSON NO. 20 – THE LAND OF CAPTIVITY AND BONDAGE

GEOGRAPHIC SIDELIGHT

THE LAND OF CAPTIVITY

1. Names of the land
 - (a) Kem – Most ancient name, found on many monuments. Evidently name given by people themselves to their land.
 - (b) The Land of Ham – *Psalms 78:51; 105:23; 106:22*).
 - (c) Mizraim - Over 80 times in the Original, cf. *Gen. 12:10, 11, 13, 14; 13:1*, et al. The word is plural perhaps because land divided into two parts: The Delta and the Nile Valley.
 - (d) Rahab – “The proud, or insolent”. *Psalms 87:4, 80:10*.
 - (e) Egypt – The most modern name given to the land by the Greeks. The name was never used by the inhabitants in ancient times.

2. Divisions of the Land
 - (a) Lower (Northern) Egypt – The triangular Delta of the Nile. Called the Delta because its outline resembled fourth letter of the Greek alphabet.
 - (b) Upper (Southern) Egypt – A narrow valley, varying in width from two to ten miles as it follows the course of the Nile (very fertile).

3. Special Features
 - (a) Egypt extends about 675 miles north and 500 miles east and west, giving an area of approximately 350,000 square miles. It is estimated that of this area 13,000 square miles are suitable for permanent habitation. The cultivable portion would be slightly less.
 - (b) The Nile
 - (i) Sources of the Nile. Lakes of Northeastern and Central Africa. A great lake called Victoria Nyanza is the largest contributor.
 - (ii) Tributaries. The Baro, the Blue Nile, the Atbara. From where these enter the Nile in Nubia to the mouth is 1,500 miles, during which there are no other tributaries.
 - (iii) Mouths. Main two: Eastern or Pelusiac; Western or Canopic: between these two there is a third that spread out into the Mediterranean.
 - (iv) The Overflow. The annual overflow of the Nile begins in Lower Egypt, about the 25th of June; the river attains its height of about 36 feet above its ordinary level at Thebes, 25 feet at Cairo and 4 feet at its mouth. This remarkable overflow is due to the heavy rains in Central Africa and, as it brings down new soil, keeps the land always fertile.

4. The People
 - (a) Origin – from Ham through his son Mizraim. One of the earliest civilizations known.
 - (b) Religion – The ancient Egyptians were a very religious people. They had splendid temples, the walls of which were covered with sculptures, paintings, and hieroglyphics. The priests were skilled in the learning of their day, and they practiced many mysterious rites. Of their hundreds of gods, Ra, the sun god, stood highest. He was often represented as a hawk-headed man. Osiris, with his wife Isis, and his son, Horus, formed a triad of high rank. Set, the author of all evil, was the Egyptian Satan with whom Isis waged eternal warfare. The Egyptians did not worship images. Various animals however, such as bulls, dogs, cats, crocodiles, snakes, and insects, especially the scaraboeus, were regarded with great reverence as

representative of the gods, and to kill one of them was fearful sin. The soul of Osiris was believed to dwell in some bull to be recognized by certain colored spots on the animal. When the sacred bull died, his body was embalmed with much ceremony and placed in his tomb, and search was made for his successor in which the god had taken up his abode. The Egyptians believed in the immortality of the soul and in its reunion with the body. This may explain their practice of embalming the dead. They also believed in a day of judgment when everyone should be rewarded according to his deeds. Osiris was the guardian of the dead, and he, with 42 other gods associated with him as judges, would at the day of judgment determine the final award.

The Book of The Dead was a most remarkable feature of the Egyptians' religion. This curious document, a copy of which was deposited with the mummy in the tomb, contains a funeral ritual comprising a series of prayers to be offered during the embalming process. It gives an account of the experiences of the disembodied soul from the time it enters the spirit world – all its travels and perils until it falls in with and is reunited to the body – how it then ferried across the river, enters the Elysian fields and stands before Osiris and the solemn conclave of Judges.

- (c) Nature – Intelligent and progressive. Far ahead of others of their time. Although kind and hospitable to strangers, felt superior. Treated their women with respect. Agriculture was thought an honorable pursuit but shepherd-life was held in contempt.

5. History (Divided into three divisions)

- (a) Early Empire (3500 - 2500 B.C.) – First King - Menes. First capital – Memphis. During this period all life centered around the Pharaoh who was regarded as a god, Eleven dynasties.
- (b) Middle Empire (2500 – 1570 B.C.) – Pharaoh ruled over a feudal society through the local princes (monarchs or rulers of Egyptian states called “nomes”). Came to an end in the middle of the 18th Century with the invasion of the Hyksos who introduced the horse and chariot and the empire form of government. During Hyksos period sojourn of Israel began.
- (c) New Empire (1570 – 570 B.C.) – Native Egyptians expelled the Hyksos and established this new order. It was during this period about 1477 B.C. that Israel came out of Egypt. Egypt continued as a relatively important power until 525 B.C. when conquered and annexed to the Persian Empire, but it never regained the strength and prestige it enjoyed during the days of Rameses II.

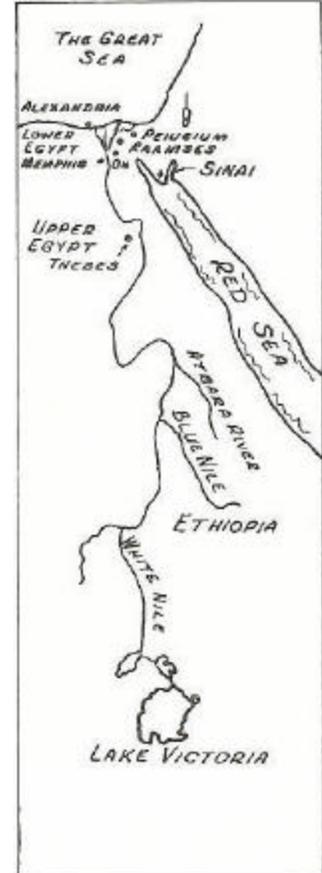
6. Major Cities

(a) Lower Egypt

- (i) Memphis – the ancient capital.
- (ii) Heliopolis – called On in the Bible.
- (iii) Rameses – in the Land of Goshen.
- (iv) Pelusium – at the eastern mouth of the Nile.
- (v) Alexandria – in later history the metropolis of Egypt, near the Canopic mouth of the Nile.

(b) Upper Egypt

- (i) Thebes – called No or No-Amon in the Bible. Long the capital of that part of the country.



THE LAND OF THE WANDERING

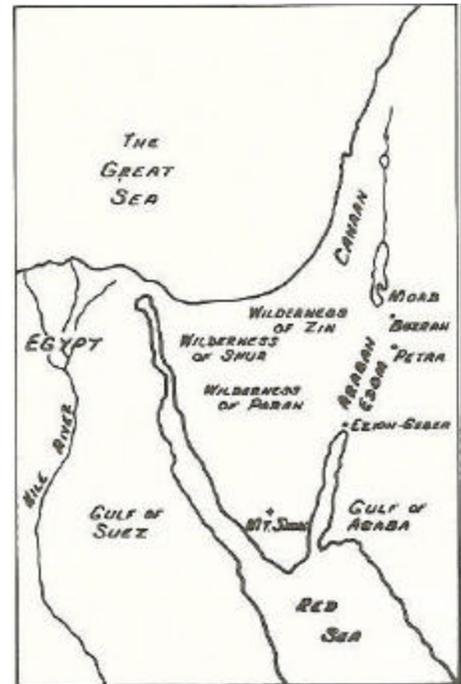
1. Sinaitic Peninsula

- (a) The Tableland
 - (i) The Wilderness of Shur
 - (ii) The Wilderness of Paran
- (b) The Sinaitic Mountains
 - (i) Mt. Horeb (9000' MSL)
- (c) The People
 - (i) Amalekites

2. The Land of Edom

- (a) Natural Features
 - (i) Bounded by Arabah and Arabian Desert
 - (ii) Land of Mountains
 - (iii) Though rugged, land is rich
- (b) History

- (i) Names: Seir (*Gen. 36:20*); Edom, Idumea (N.T.)
 - (ii) First settled by Horites who were conquered by Esau.
 - (iii) Edom always at throat of his brother (Israel); beaten by Saul, conquered by David; held by Judah, rebelled and although defeated they maintained independence.
Destroyed 582 B.C. by armies of Nebuchadnezzar.
- (c) Chief Cities
- (i) Bozrah – Capital on northern border.
 - (ii) Sela (Petra) – hewed out of limestone.
 - (iii) Ezion-geber (Elath) – Seaport.



A. The Unfolding of Divine Redemption – Preparation (*Continued*)

2. The Israelite Nation – *Exodus* – *2 Chronicles*.

a. Bondage *Exod 1:1-7:7*.

(1) Oppression *1:1-22*.

- (a) Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.
- (b) And the Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously.
- (c) Death of the sons of Israel.

(2) The Birth of Moses *2:1-10*.

(3) Moses flees to Midian *2:11-25; Acts 7:25*.

(4) The Call of Moses *3:1-4:18*.

(a) God called to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

- (i) Burning bush meeting.
- (ii) Moses' mission.

(b) Moses' excuses.

- (i) Who, me?
- (ii) Who shall I tell them you are?
- (iii) Where is my authority?

*Staff – Throw on ground it turns into a snake. Stretch out hand and grab snake by tail and it turns back to a staff.

*Hand in bosom – Put hand in bosom, take it out and it will be leprous. Repeat and leprosy will disappear.

*Water from Nile turned to blood on dry ground.

- (iv) I am slow of speech and tongue
- (v) Lord, send someone else.

SELF TEST ASSIGNMENT

1. Why did Moses flee Egypt?
2. Where did he go?
3. Who became Moses' wife?
4. Relate the event of God calling Moses to deliver Israel.
5. What five excuses did Moses give?
6. What was God's answer in each case?