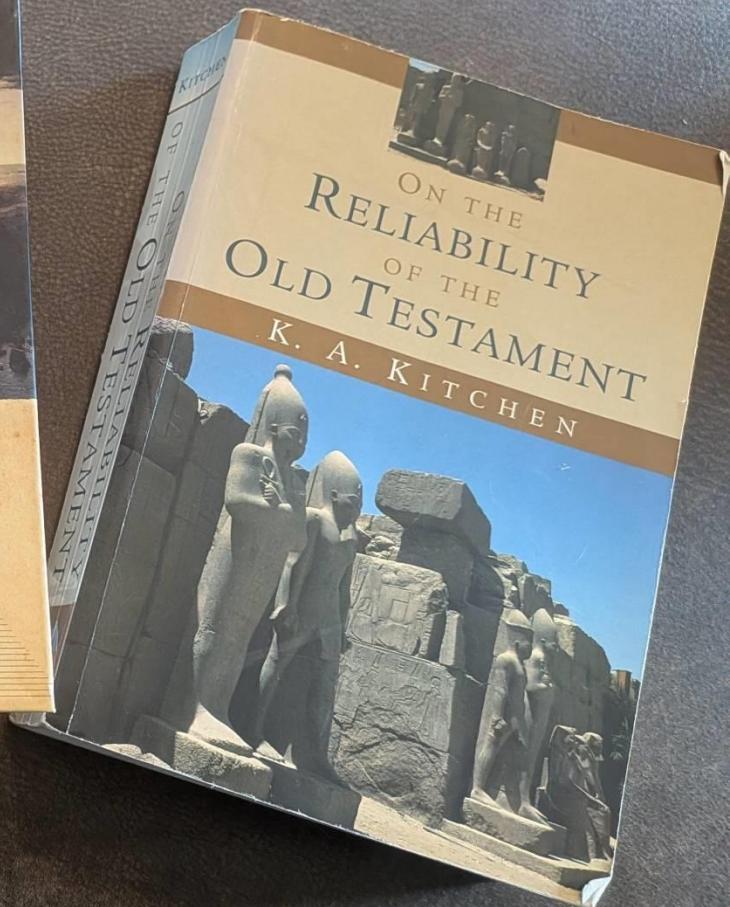
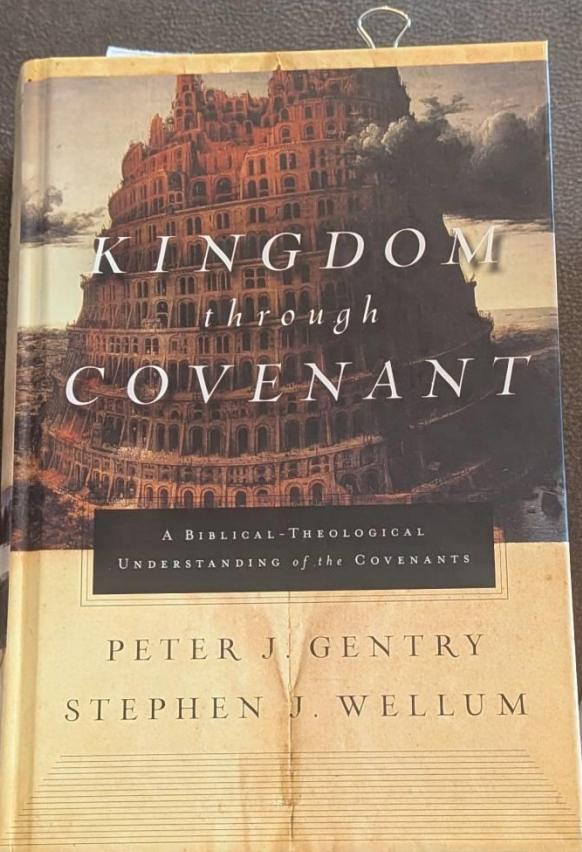
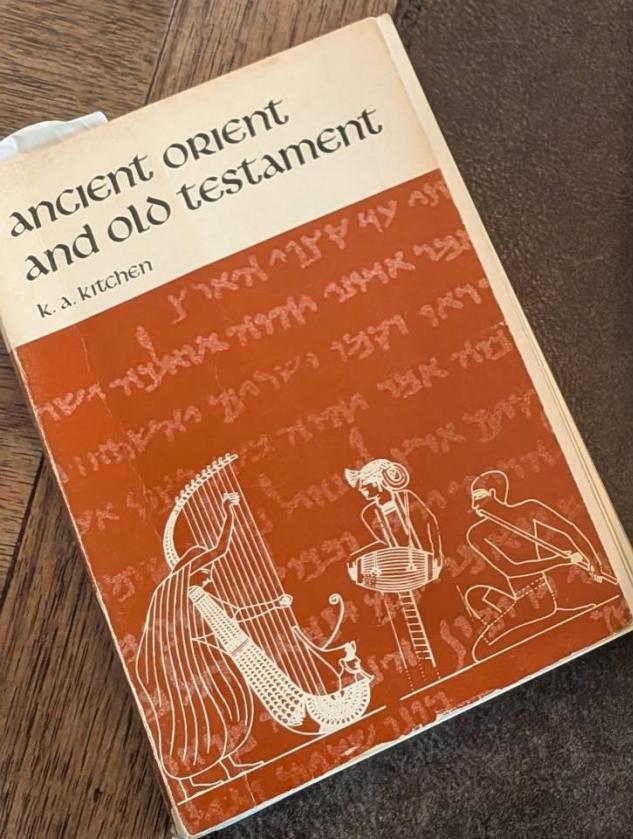


GENESIS 15

A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Purpose of this Course Section

To glorify God in equipping our people at FBC to better understand and learn from the Genesis text involving Abram as chapter 15 fits into the overall Abrahamic narrative and the broader metanarrative of Scripture as a whole. We will cover Genesis 15:1-21, including Abram's interaction with God in the ongoing fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant initiated by Him in chapter 12. Specifically, we seek to understand how God committed to bless Abram with a multitude of descendants and to a land promised to him indefinitely and how the detailed Ancient Near Eastern ceremony of this covenant unfolded.



INTERNATIONAL VERSION

THE NEW AMERICAN COMMENTARY



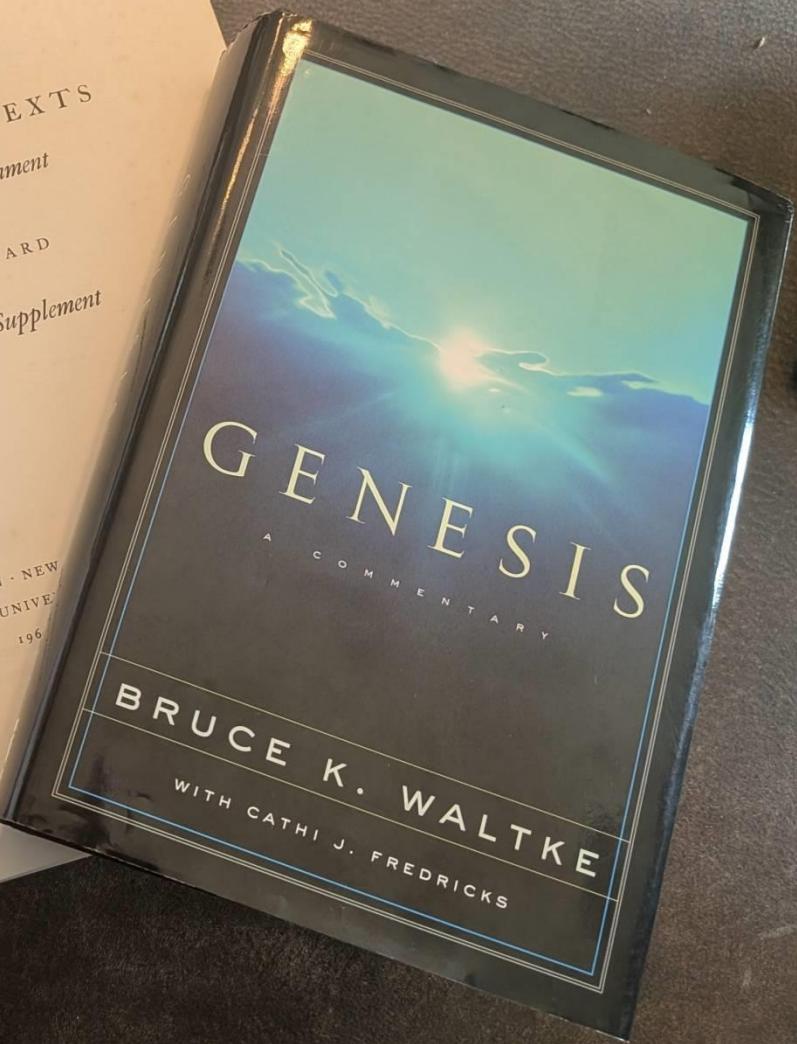
An Exegetical and Theological
Exposition of Holy Scripture

GENESIS 11:27-50:26
VOL. 1B

Kenneth A. Mathews

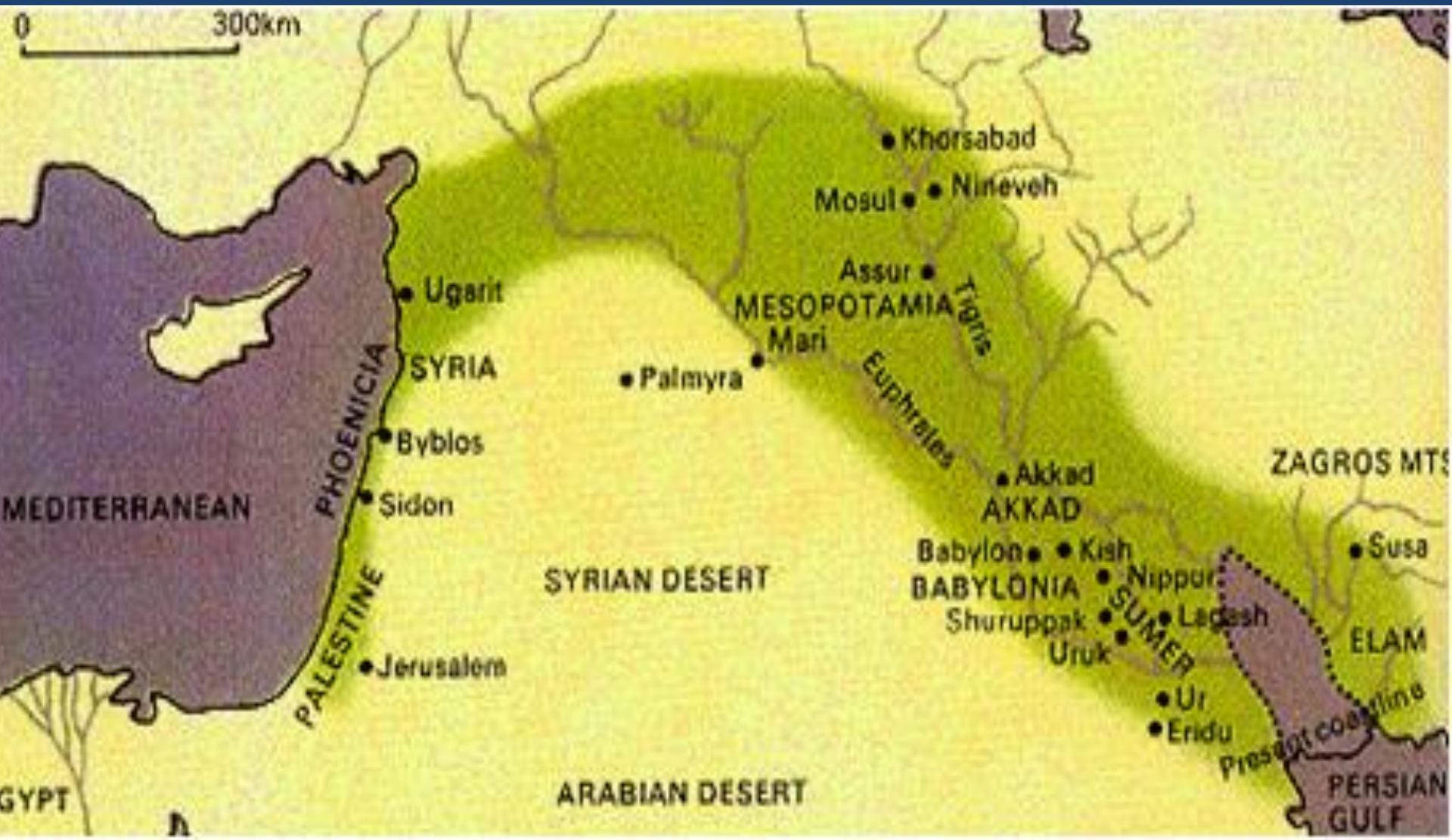
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WITH CATHI J. FREDRICKS

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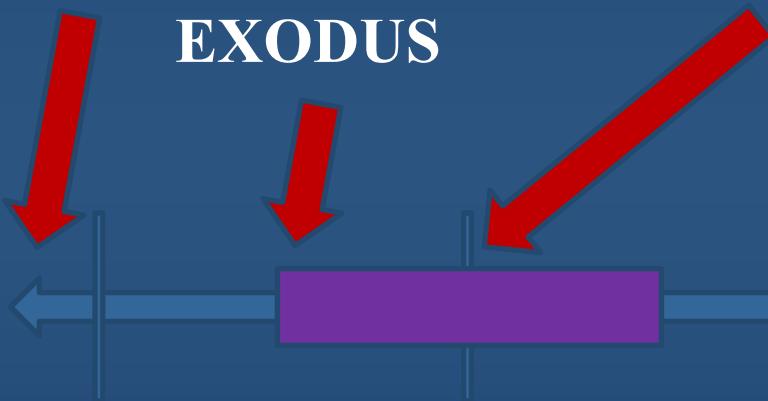
TELL EL-MUQAYYAR (UR OF THE CHALDEES)



BIBLICAL TIMELINE

ABRAHAM

DAVID/SOLOMON



2000

1000

0

1000

2000

Archaeological Periods	Sometimes known as	Approx. Period
Islamic		AD 636 –
Byzantine		AD 324 – 636
Roman III		AD 180 – 324
Roman II		AD 70 – 180
Roman I	Herodian	63 BC – AD 70
Hellenistic II	Hasmonaean/Maccabean	152 – 63 BC
Hellenistic I	Ptolemaic/Seleucid	330 – 152 BC
Babylonian/Persian	Late Iron (= LI)/Persian	587 – 330 BC
Iron Age III b		720 – 587 BC
Iron Age III a		800 – 720 BC
Iron Age II b	Middle Iron (= MI)	900 – 800 BC
Iron Age II a		1000 – 900 BC
Iron Age I b		1150 – 1000 BC
Iron Age (= IA) I a	Early Iron/Israelite (= EI)	1200 – 1150 BC
Late Bronze II b		1300 – 1200 BC
Late Bronze II a		1400 – 1300 BC
Late Bronze (= LBA) I	(Late Canaanite (= LC))	1550 – 1400 BC
Middle Bronze II c		1600 – 1550 BC
Middle Bronze II b		1750 – 1600 BC
Middle Bronze II a	(Middle Canaanite (= MC))	1950 – 1750 BC
Middle Bronze (= MBA) I	Early – Middle Bronze Age	2200 – 1950 BC
Early Bronze IV	Early Bronze Age III b	2350 – 2200 BC
Early Bronze III	(Early Canaanite III)	2650 – 2350 BC
Early Bronze II	(Early Canaanite II)	2850 – 2650 BC
Early Bronze (= EBA) I	(Early Canaanite (= EC) I)	3150 – 2850 BC

COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12

THE PROMISE (i.e., Engagement)

GENESIS 15

CEREMONY (i.e., Wedding)

GENESIS 17

SIGN & CONFIRMATION



NUZI TABLETS

(15th-14th c BC)



Paul References Abraham

(Romans 4)

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? *Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.* Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

CONCEPT OF A COVENANT

Hb *Berith* = 'cutting' a covenant

Gk *Diatheke* = covenant or
contract

Vulgate used Latin *Testamentum*

Splitting the Animals



Mari Letter

(Example from c. 18th c BC)

“The tablet of Ibal-Adad from Aslakka reached me and I went to Aslakka to ‘kill an ass’ between the Hanu and Idamaras I caused the foal of an ass to be slaughtered. I established peace between Hanu and Idamaras”

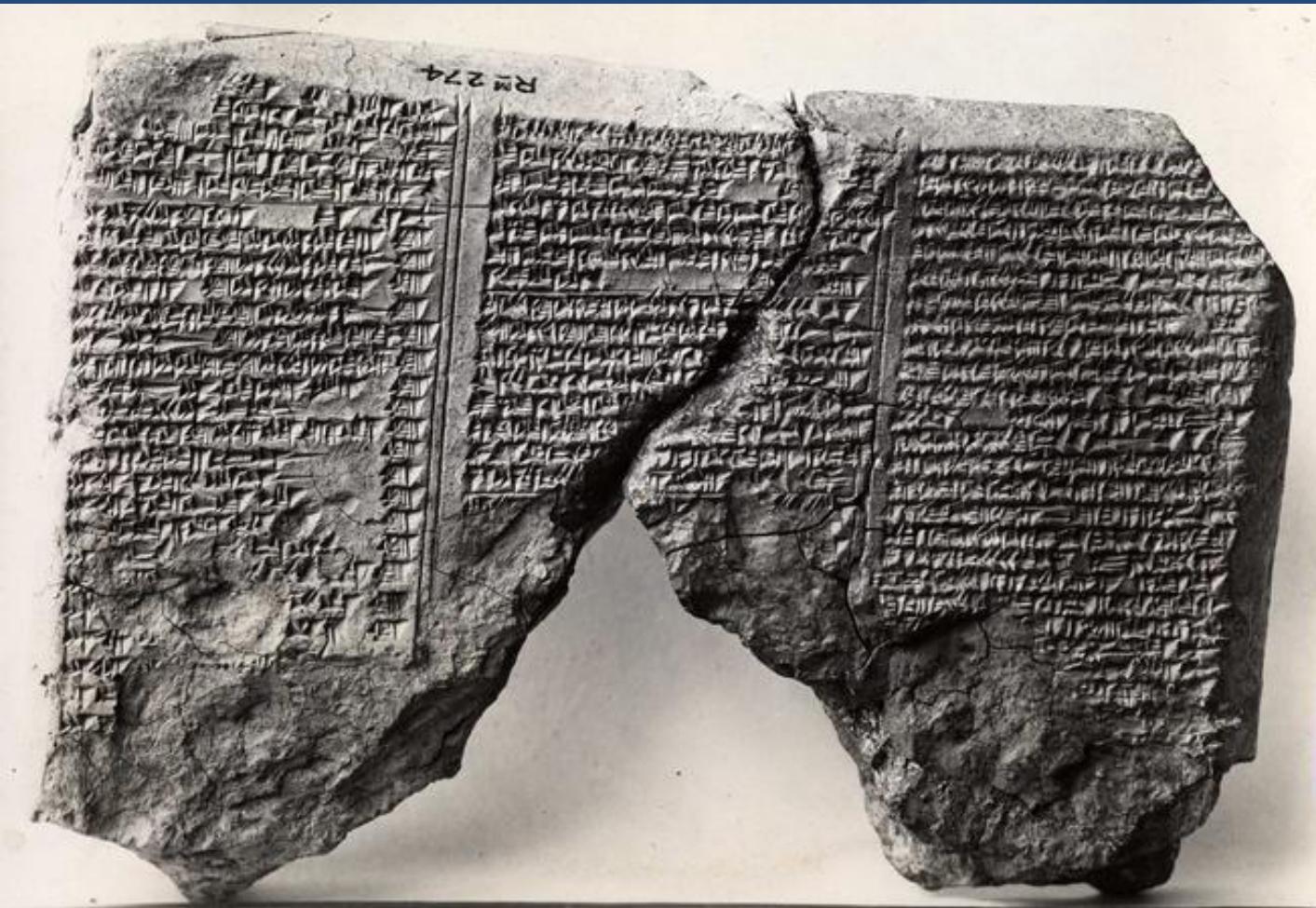
Treaty Between Ktk and Arpad

(c. 750 BC)

“A Treaty of Barga’yah, king of Ktk, with Matti’el, the son of Attarsamak, king of [Arpad; a t]reaty of the sons If Matti’el, the son of Attarsamak, kin[g of Arpad] is false to [to Barga’yah and to] his son and to his offspring, his kingdom shall be a kingdom of sand ... fire ... hail[stones] Worm eat [As] this calf is cut up, Thus Matti’el and his nobles shall be cut up ...”

Treaty Between Ashur-Nirari V of Assyria and Mati'ilu of Apad

(Cuneiform Tablet c. 754 BC)



Treaty Between Ashur-Nirari V of Assyria and Mati'ilu of Apad

“This spring lamb has been brought from its fold not for sacrifice, not for a banquet, not for a purchase, not for (divination concerning) a sick man, not to be slaughtered for [...]: it has been brought to sanction the treaty between Ashurnirari and Mati'ilu. If Mati'ilu sins against (this) treaty made under oath by the gods, then, just as this spring lamb, brought from its fold, will not behold its fold again, alas, Mati'ilu, together with his sons, daughters, officials, and the people of his land (will be ousted) from his country, will not return to his country and not behold his country again. This head is not the head of a lamb, it is the head of Mati'ilu, it is the head of his sons, his officials, and the people of his land. If Mati'ilu sins against this treaty, so may, just as the head of this spring lamb is torn off, and its knuckle placed in its mouth, [...], the head of Mati'ilu be torn off, and his sons [...] ...”

Four Hundred Year Prophecy

“Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land [that] is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them *four hundred years.*”

Gen. 15:13b

“But in the *fourth generation* they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Gen. 15:16

“The sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was *four hundred and thirty years.*”

Exod. 12:40

Note: See also Acts 7:6
& Galatians 3:17

“for four hundred years”
“four hundred and thirty years later”

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

**Unconditional Covenant
One-Way Covenant
A Promise
Initiated & Confirmed by God**

Smoking Oven & Burning Torch





Tribes (Genesis 15:19-21)

Kenites

Kenezzites

Kadmonites

Hittites

Perizzites

Rephaim

Amorites

Canaanites

Girgashites

Jebusites

GENESIS 15

A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM