

Episode 1: A People is Born

I-1: Archaeology and the Bible - Timeline 2000 BCE

This presentation reflects some of the controversies and findings of Biblical archaeology. The excellent multimedia presentation is followed by four panels discussing important finds in more depth. There are also several historical documents from the Bible and other ancient writings of archaeological interest.

I-2: First Cities: Nippur, Mesopotamian Menus – Timeline 3800 BCE

This presentation features a description of a key Mesopotamian city, Nippur, along with an explorable graphic of an ancient map of the city. It also includes graphics of the Mesopotamian diet. See what Abraham might have had for dinner! Click “Close Media Presentations” to access historical documents that contextualize Mesopotamian civilization.

I-3: Writing - Timeline 3800 BCE

The presentation and panels that follow show the development of alphabets and writing in the Ancient Near East. An interesting Sumerian school historical document is also available.

I-4: Gods and Kings/Cylinder Seals – Timeline 3800 BCE

Click the Play button to access a presentation on Gods and Kings. It provides insights into the political and religious life of Sumeria. There is also a presentation on personal seals, and some legal historical documents, including some of the Code of Hammurabi.

I-5: Canaanite Civilization/Art Gallery - Timeline 1500 BCE

This feature provides an excellent background for understanding the land in which Israel was to settle. Note the piece on Ancient Music, which includes an audio clip of a 4,000-year-old song! The presentation features the alphabet evolution. There’s also a Canaanite art gallery video and historical documents related to Canaan and its culture.

I-6: Pharaohs and Gods: Akhenaten - Timeline 1353 BCE

A peculiar religious revolution in Egypt, and its possible relationship to the development of Judaism, is the topic of this presentation. Following the presentation, users will see a piece on the modern debate about this subject, along with an Egyptian hymn similar to an Old Testament psalm. The presentation also includes some interesting historical documents on Egyptian religion and kings.

I-7: Rameses II - Timeline 1279 BCE

This presentation argues that Rameses II was the Pharaoh of the Exodus. The presentation also includes good historical documents about disgruntled workers and military campaigns, along with an early mention of the “Apiru,” believed by many to be a reference to “Hebrews.”

I-8: Exodus/Images of the Exodus - Timeline 1270 BCE

A presentation on theories of the exodus is followed by some beautiful depictions of the story, accompanied by biblical texts.

I-9: “Israel Laid Waste” - Timeline 1207 BCE

Go to this multimedia presentation to find information about the victories of Rameses II's son, Merneptah, and his favorite hymn.

I-10: Settlement in Canaan - Timeline 1200 BCE

This begins with a video presenting theories of how Israel came to be in Canaan, and four panels that provide more detail on the theories, along with interesting audio clips and some animation. The presentation also includes relevant biblical and other historical documents, including rhetorically-charged writing from the Pharaoh.

I-11: King David/Images of David through the Ages - Timeline 1004 BCE

An opening video confronts the controversies surrounding the history of David. The presentation also includes some beautiful artworks and important historical documents about the emergence of monarchy in Israel.

I-12: Conquest and Exile - Timeline 841 BCE

This presentation portrays the military destruction of the first Jewish Commonwealth, with stunning graphics from antiquity. It is followed by four panels depicting aspects of the destruction of Jerusalem, along with biblical and Mesopotamian accounts of the devastation.