Today

- Questions? Updates…
- Outline Ancient Events / Influences
- What do we know about Israelite religion?
- What do we know about earliest Jewish history & religion?
- Texts

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**Lectionary Paper**

- Introduction – texts, connections, season
- Jews and Christians – implicit, explicit messages, interpretations
- Reconsiderations – new ?’s, attitudes?
- Reflection – changed views?

- 3 pages, due 6/2 noon

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**A Brief Look at Ancient History**

*Events and Influences*
Repeated Cycle

- Capture by one empire and destruction
- Rebuilding, stability, “freedom”
- Empire declines, new challengers, war
- New alliances, attempts at freedom
- Empire wins or loses - still leads to war and repeat of cycle, bringing different cultures and ideas through Israel

A Brief History

- Sumeria
- Egypt
- Israel
- Assyria
- Babylon
- Persia
- Greece

Basic Timeline

- 1250 (BCE) Exodus from Egypt
- 1000 Davidic Monarchy
- 750 Amos the Prophet
- 586 First Temple Destroyed, Babylonian Exile
- 323 Alexander the Great
- 165 Maccabean Revolt
- 70(CE) Fall of Second Temple
- 200 Mishnah Compiled

Sumeria

- Fertile Crescent
- 3500 BCE - first cities - Ur
- 3200 BCE - cuneiform
- 1750? BCE - Hammurabi

Map

Code of Hammurabi (right)
Sumerian King List (below)

Egypt

- 3100 BCE - Upper / Lower kingdoms unite
- 2500 BCE - Pyramids built
- 1350 BCE - Akhenaton - monolatry
Merneptah Stele
(first non-biblical reference to Israel)

Israelites
- 1850 BCE - Abraham leaves Ur?
- 1250 BCE - Exodus from Egypt
- 1000 BCE - United Kingdom under David
- 950 BCE - Solomon builds Temple
- 922 BCE - Israel and Judah split

Map

Assyria
- 720 BCE - Sennacherib’s Assyrian armies destroy Israel, Northern Tribes scattered
- Sennacharib attacks Jerusalem, unsuccessful
- “Samaritans” left in place of Israel

Assyrian attack on Lachish

Babylon
- 621 BCE - Josiah reforms Kingdom of Judah
- 600 BCE - Jeremiah says “Don’t fight Babylon”
- 587 BCE - Nebuchanezzar and Babylonians destroy Jerusalem
- 587-538 BCE - Babylonian Exile
Persia
- 600 BCE - Zoroaster born (taught dualism)
- 539 BCE - Cyrus the Great defeats Babylon
- 538 BCE - Elites return to Jerusalem
- 515 BCE - New Temple completed
- 445 BCE - Ezra arrives to organize, reform

Greece
- 336-323 BCE - Alexander the Great
  - Conquers known world
  - Brings Greek culture, thought to East
  - Empire split East/West - Judea in the middle
- 165 BCE - Antiochus IV
  - Oppression leads to Maccabean revolt
- 142-63 BCE - Maccabean kings rule

Alexander the Great

Complex Concepts of God
- Names (El / El Elyon / El Shaddai)
  - YHWH - Ruler of heavenly Council
- Certain names / ideas linked to geography
- Roles
  - Ruler / King / Warrior
  - Holy Being / Foundation of Reality
  - Lover / Companion!

The Puzzle of Biblical Sources
- Compare the stories in Genesis 1-2.4a and 2
- What names for God? Vocabulary?
- What is overall message?
- Do they agree on the facts?
Genesis 1 vs Genesis 2
- God (Elohim)
- Water
- Creation by speaking
- It is good
- Sequence
  - 1,2,3 Separation
  - 4,5,6 Creation
  - Humanity is Climax
  - Rest
- LORD God (YHWH)
- Dry
- Creation from mud
- Mostly good [Apple?]
- “Adam” [earth] 1st
  - Then animals, Eve
  - Adam gives names to animals

The “Problem”
- Some stories / events are repeated
- The details don’t always agree
- There seem to be different voices in the text
  - Vocabulary, theme, message

A Solution - Documentary Hypothesis - Four Sources
- J - Yahwist (950-850 BCE) - “YHWH”
  - Anthropomorphic God, Mt. Sinai, Judah
- E - Elohist (850-800 BCE) - “Elohim”
  - Non-anthropomorphic God, Horeb, Northern Israel
- D - Deuteronomist (650-621 BCE)
  - Centralized Temple, Disobedience ⇒ Punishment
- P - Priestly (550-400 BCE)
  - Rationalist, genealogies, exilic perspective

Sources in Genesis 1 and 2
- Priestly (Ch. 1)
  - Elohim
  - Water (Babylon)
  - Order
  - God is above it all
  - Creation of Cosmos
  - See Flood, Tabernacle
  - Sabbath
- Yahwistic (Ch. 2)
  - YHWH / Yahweh
  - Desert (Canaan?)
  - Less order (Apple)
  - God is hands-on
  - Creation of Humans is focus

Genesis 1-11 - World Beginnings
- 1-2 - Creation
- 3 - The Apple, Punishment
- 4 - Cain & Abel
- 5 - Adam to Noah
- 6-9 - The Flood
- 10 - Noah’s Heirs - Population of World
- 11 - Babel - Origin of Different Languages

Deuteronomistic History (DtrH)
- “Former Prophets” [“Latter” = Isaiah, etc]
- Continues theme from Deuteronomy
  - Obey⇒ success, disobey ⇒ failure, death
- Two Versions
  - Josiah (7th C BCE) - Joshua to Josiah
    - Examples of faithfulness, success
  - Exile (6th - 5th C BCE) - Punishment
    - It was all Manasseh’s fault
### Morality - Reactions to life

- Deuteronomist - Community obeys or not
- Ezekiel - individual chooses, reaps reward
- Psalms (some) - follow YHWH’s way
- Proverbs - practical daily advice (religious)
- Ecclesiastes - cynical - nothing matters
- Job - it does matter, but bad things happen
- Apocalyptic - future rewards, eternal life!

### Recap

- Major events
- Outside influences, ideas
- Theological challenges
- Distinctiveness vs. neighbors
- Monotheism
- Returning to previous events for hope

### Other texts to consider

- Gen 6-9 - Noah
- Gen 11 - Babel
- Gen 22 – Sacrifice of Isaac (vs. Jephthah?)
- I Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Baal
- Ezekiel 37 – Dry Bones

### For Thursday – Hellenism

- Read VanderKam 53-101
  – Schiffman 125-129, 142-145, 203-230 (skim)
- What was Greek Society like?
- What are some of the ways Jews responded?