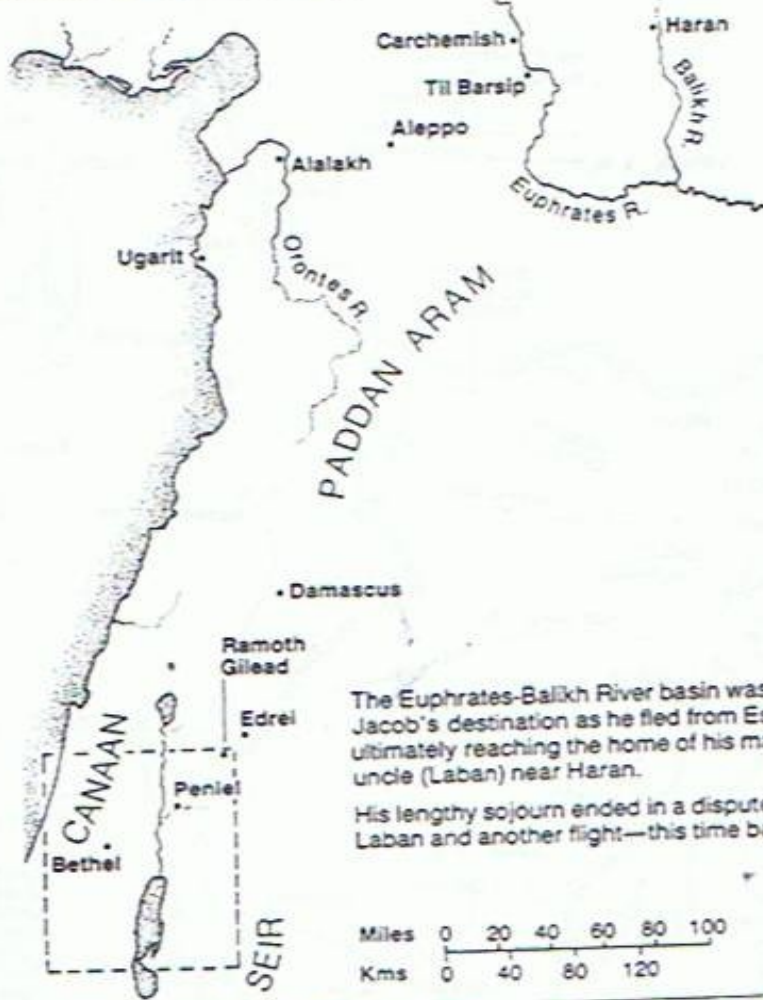
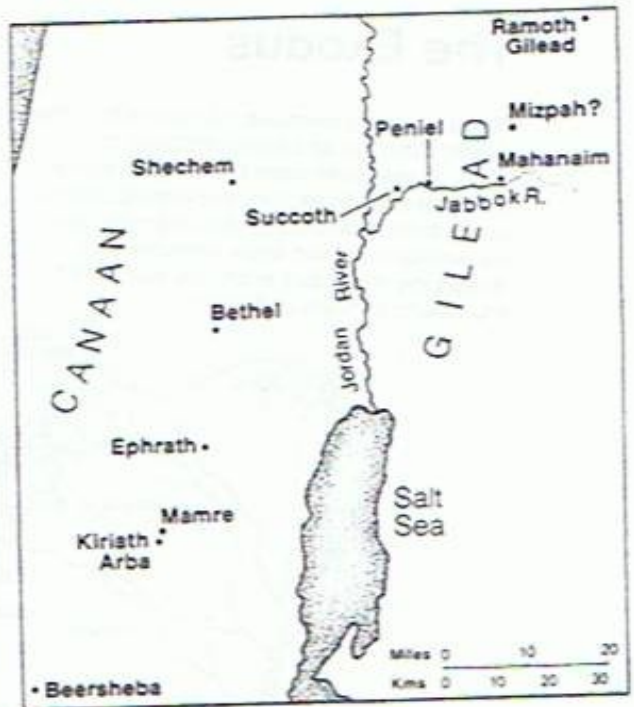
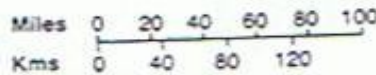


# Jacob's Journey



The Euphrates-Balikh River basin was Jacob's destination as he fled from Esau, ultimately reaching the home of his maternal uncle (Laban) near Haran. His lengthy sojourn ended in a dispute with Laban and another flight—this time back to

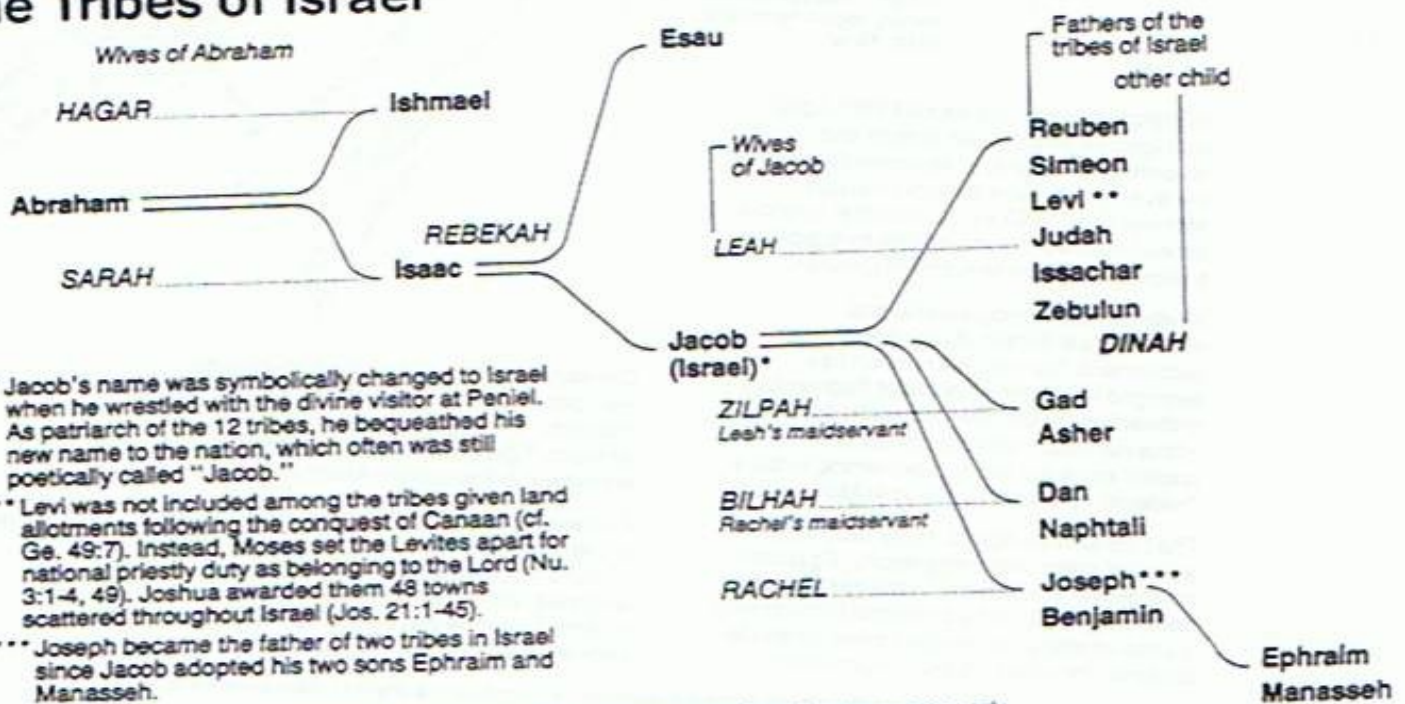


Canaan. His route likely took him toward Aleppo, then to Damascus and Edrei before reaching Peniel on the Jabbok River.

He and his dependents reached the hill country of Gilead before their caravan was overtaken by Laban. The covenant at Mizpah was celebrated on one of the hills later used as a border station between Aramean and Israelite territories.

Jacob tarried at Succoth, entered Canaan and proceeded to Shechem, where he erected an altar to the Lord.

# The Tribes of Israel



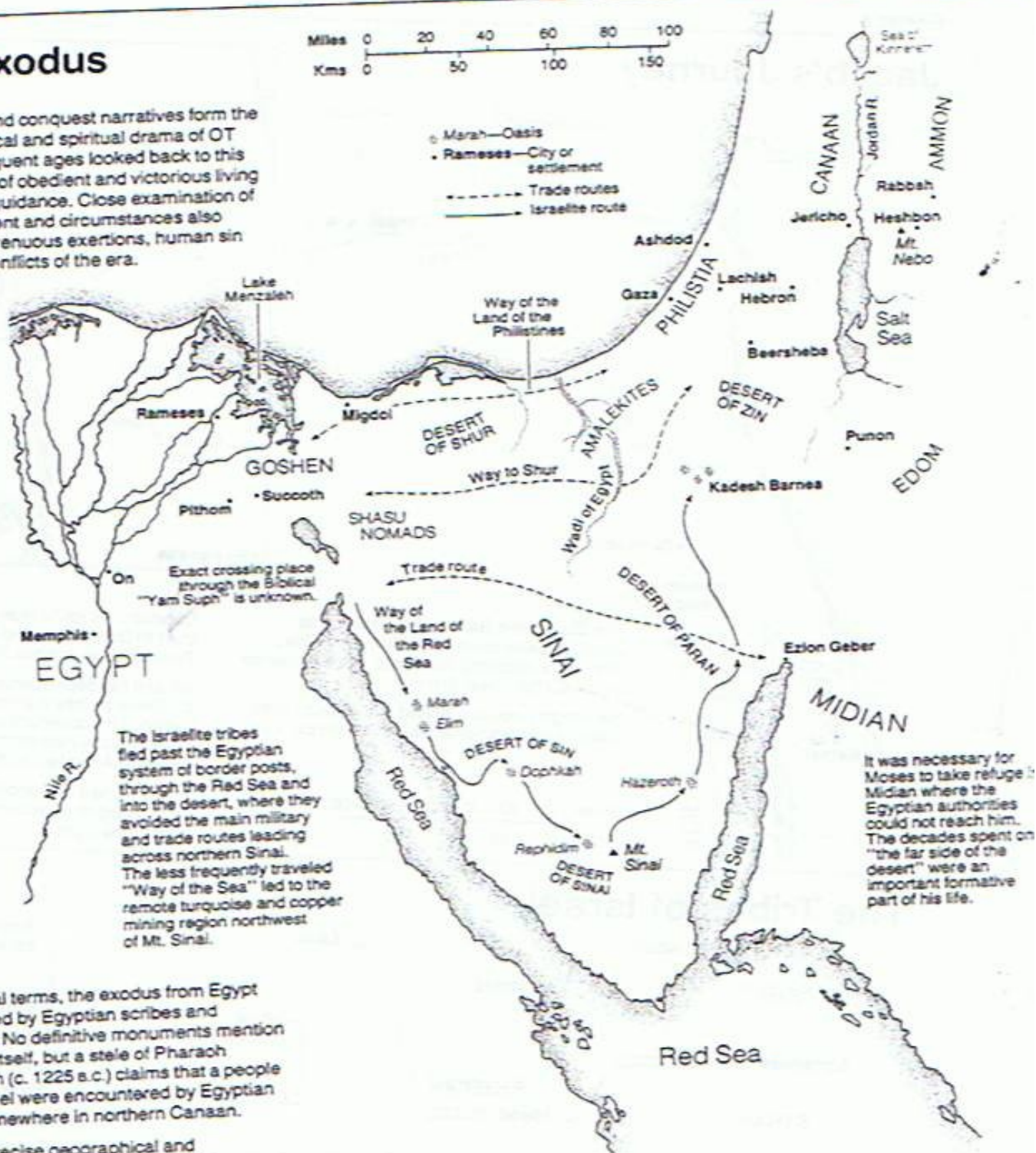
\* Jacob's name was symbolically changed to Israel when he wrestled with the divine visitor at Peniel. As patriarch of the 12 tribes, he bequeathed his new name to the nation, which often was still poetically called "Jacob."

\*\* Levi was not included among the tribes given land allotments following the conquest of Canaan (cf. Ge. 49:7). Instead, Moses set the Levites apart for national priestly duty as belonging to the Lord (Nu. 3:1-4, 49). Joshua awarded them 48 towns scattered throughout Israel (Jos. 21:1-45).

\*\*\* Joseph became the father of two tribes in Israel since Jacob adopted his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

# The Exodus

The exodus and conquest narratives form the classic historical and spiritual drama of OT times. Subsequent ages looked back to this period as one of obedient and victorious living under divine guidance. Close examination of the environment and circumstances also reveals the strenuous exertions, human sin and bloody conflicts of the era.



In historical terms, the exodus from Egypt was ignored by Egyptian scribes and recorders. No definitive monuments mention the event itself, but a stele of Pharaoh Merneptah (c. 1225 a.c.) claims that a people called Israel were encountered by Egyptian troops somewhere in northern Canaan.

Finding precise geographical and chronological details of the period is problematic, but new information has emerged from vast amounts of fragmentary archaeological and inscriptional evidence. Hittite cuneiform documents parallel the ancient covenant formula governing Israel's "national contract" with God at Mount Sinai.

The Late Bronze Age (c. 1550-1200 a.c.) was a time of major social migrations. Egyptian control over the Semites in the eastern Nile delta was harsh, with a system of brickmaking quotas imposed on the labor force, often the landless, low-class "Apiru." Numerous

Canaanite towns were violently destroyed. New populations, including the "Sea Peoples," made their presence felt in Anatolia, Egypt, Palestine, Transjordan, and elsewhere in the eastern Mediterranean.

Correspondence from Canaanite town rulers to the Egyptian court in the time of Akhenaten (c. 1375 a.c.) reveals a weak structure of alliances, with an intermittent Egyptian military presence and an ominous fear of people called "Habiru" ("Apiru").

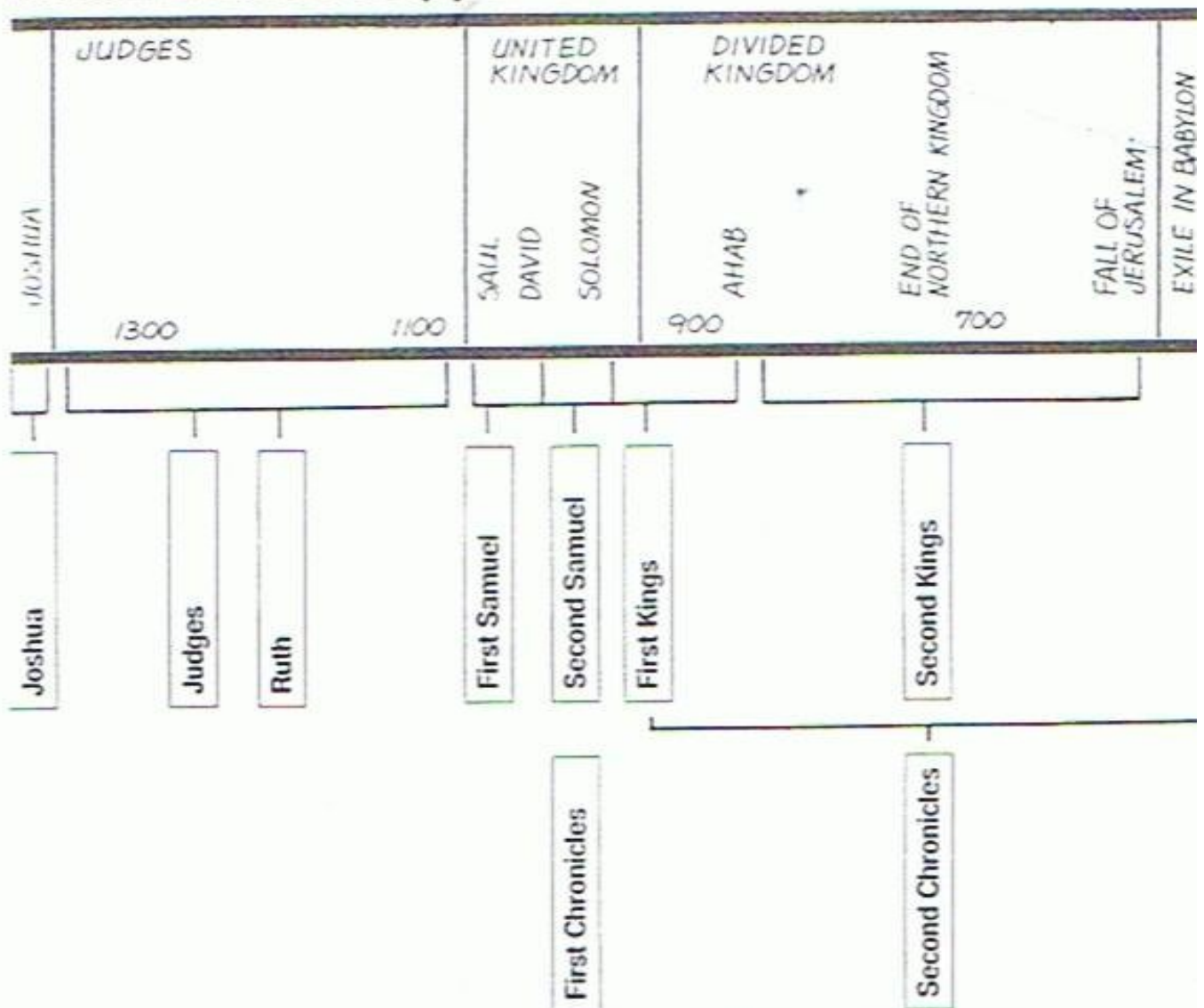
Exodus 12:31—Deuteronomy  
(Summary: Numbers 33:1-49)

# Books of History



God brought His nation to a new homeland. He helped them to defeat their enemies and rule them. Sometimes the people remembered God and His laws. More often they did not and got into trouble. The nation divided itself in half. Both halves ended up being carried away as captives. Then the people had only God's promise to give them back their nation and to set them free of all time.

## When Events Happened



# Old Testament Historical Time Line

Creation	Years BC 2000-1300	1200-900	899-400	399-1 BC
<p>Adam Eve Cain Abel Noah</p>	<p>The patriarchs and wives Abraham Sarah Isaac Rebekah Jacob Leah Rachel Judah</p> <p>The Hebrews live in slavery in Egypt</p>	<p>The Exodus Moses Aaron Miriam</p> <p>The Judges Joshua Gideon Samson</p> <p>The united kingdom Saul David * Solomon</p>	<p>Two kingdoms Rehoboam Ahab Jezebel Elijah Isaiah Amos Hosea Micah Hezekiah</p> <p>One kingdom Josiah Jeremiah Ezekiel</p> <p>The exile Asaph writes Psalms</p>	<p>Return from exile Ezra Nehemiah Haggai Daniel</p> <p>Greek empire</p> <p>Independence Judas Maccabeus</p> <p><i>Jesus is born</i></p>
<p>4241 First Egyptian calendar</p> <p>3100 First pyramids built</p>	<p>1750 Hammurabi organized first laws in systematic order</p> <p>1360-1350 King Tut reigns in Egypt</p>		<p>776 First Olympic games</p> <p>500-400 Plato Socrates Buddha Confucius</p>	<p>Aristotle Alexander the Great</p>