

Before We Begin

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Sermon Series

Power of Promise

1. Love is a Promise (Feb 13)
2. Promise Presents Choice (Mar 13)
3. Promises Must Be Shared (Apr 10)
4. Promise Precedes Consequence (May 22)



Sermon Series

Power of Promise

5. Promise Follows Following (June 26)
6. Promises Will Be Challenged (July 17)
7. Promises Carry Forward (Aug 21)
8. Unstoppable Promises



Unstoppable Promises



Unstoppable Promises

- Moses
- The Exodus
(of the Children of Israel from Egypt)



Moses: Who Was He?

- Prince of Egypt
- Deliverer
- Lawgiver
- Prophet



Moses: Who Was He?

- Prince of Egypt
- Deliverer
- Lawgiver
- Prophet



Unstoppable Promises

- The complete story of Moses and the Exodus in the Bible is extremely long
 - Exodus (40 chapters)
 - Leviticus (27 chapters)
 - Numbers (36 chapters)
 - Deuteronomy (34 chapters)



Unstoppable Promises

- Today's lesson: Exodus 1-14
- Today's focus:
 - Place the story in context with previous Bible lessons and with Egyptian history
 - Understand God's promise and how he fulfilled it



Previous Lessons

- Abraham
- Isaac, Jacob, Joseph



Acts 7:2,4-6 (NRSV)

2 The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia...

4 God had him move from there to [Canaan].

5 He did not give him any of it as a heritage, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as his possession and to his descendants after him, even though he had no child.



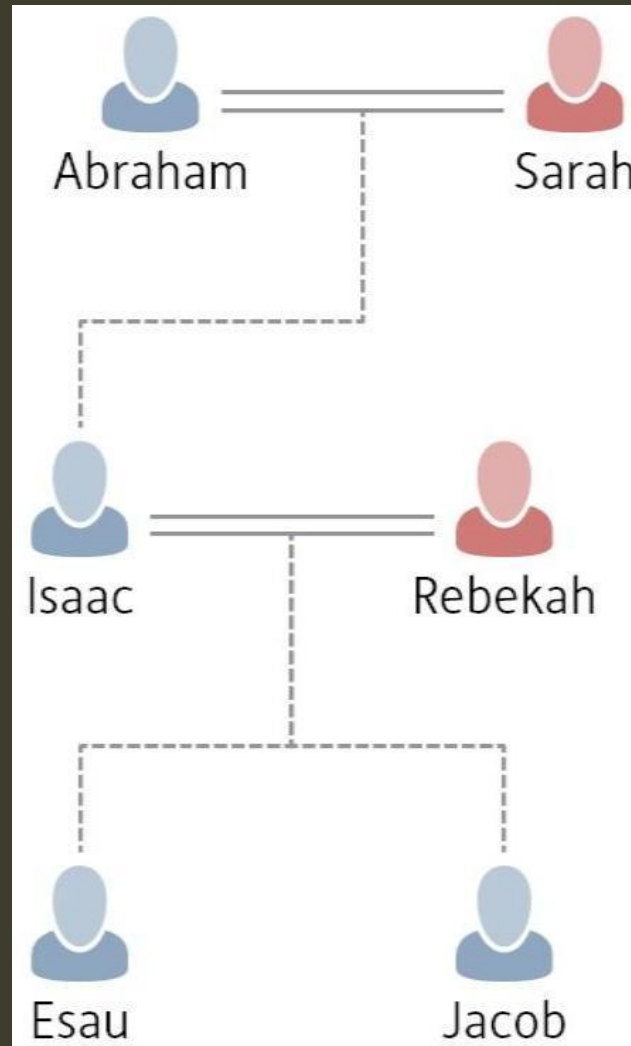
Acts 7:2,4-6 (NRSV)

6 And God spoke in these terms, that his descendants would be resident aliens in a country belonging to others, who would enslave them and mistreat them during four hundred years.

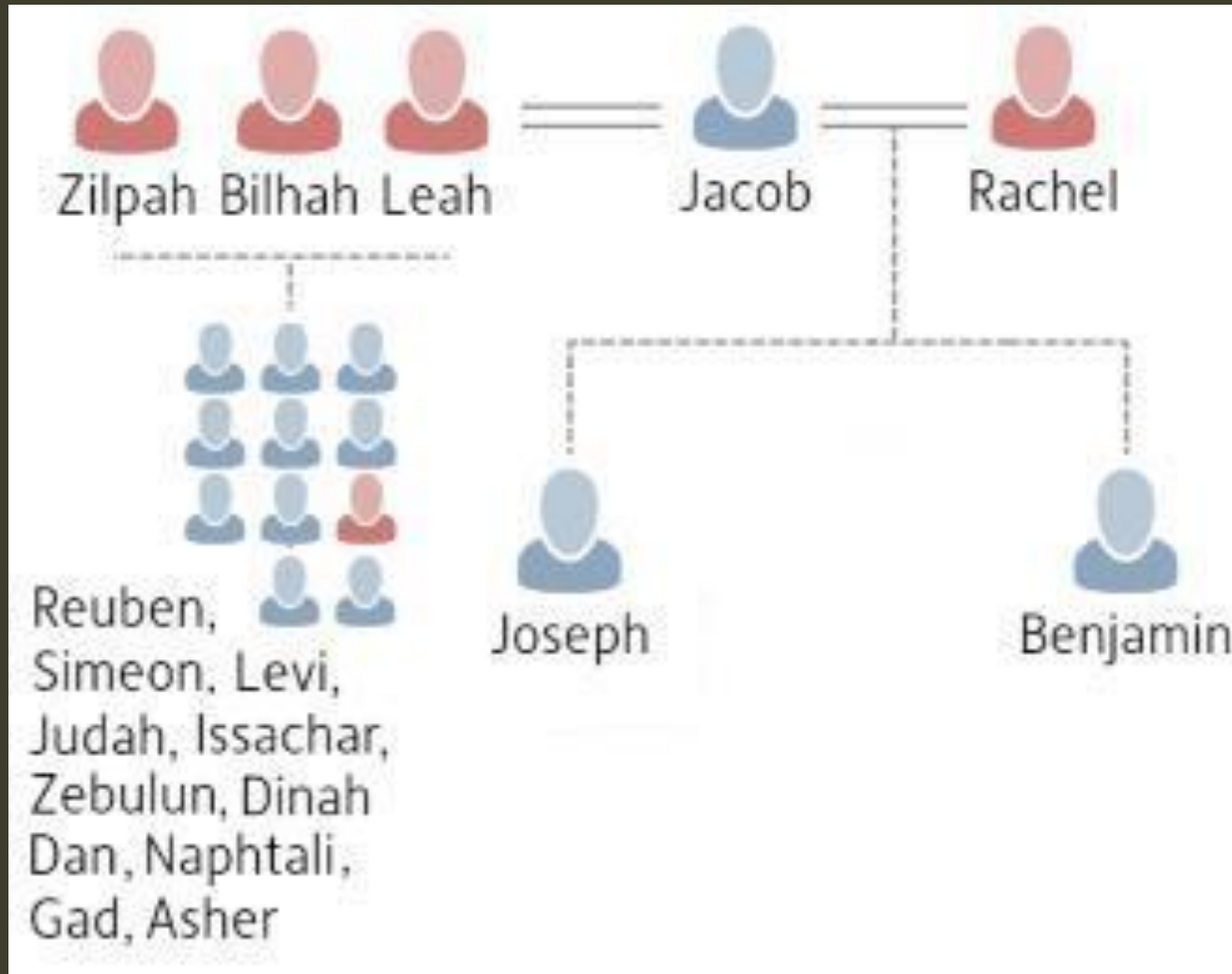




Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob



The Children of Israel



Acts 7:9-10,14-15 (NRSV)

9 The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him,

10 and rescued him from all his afflictions, and enabled him to win favor and to show wisdom when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.

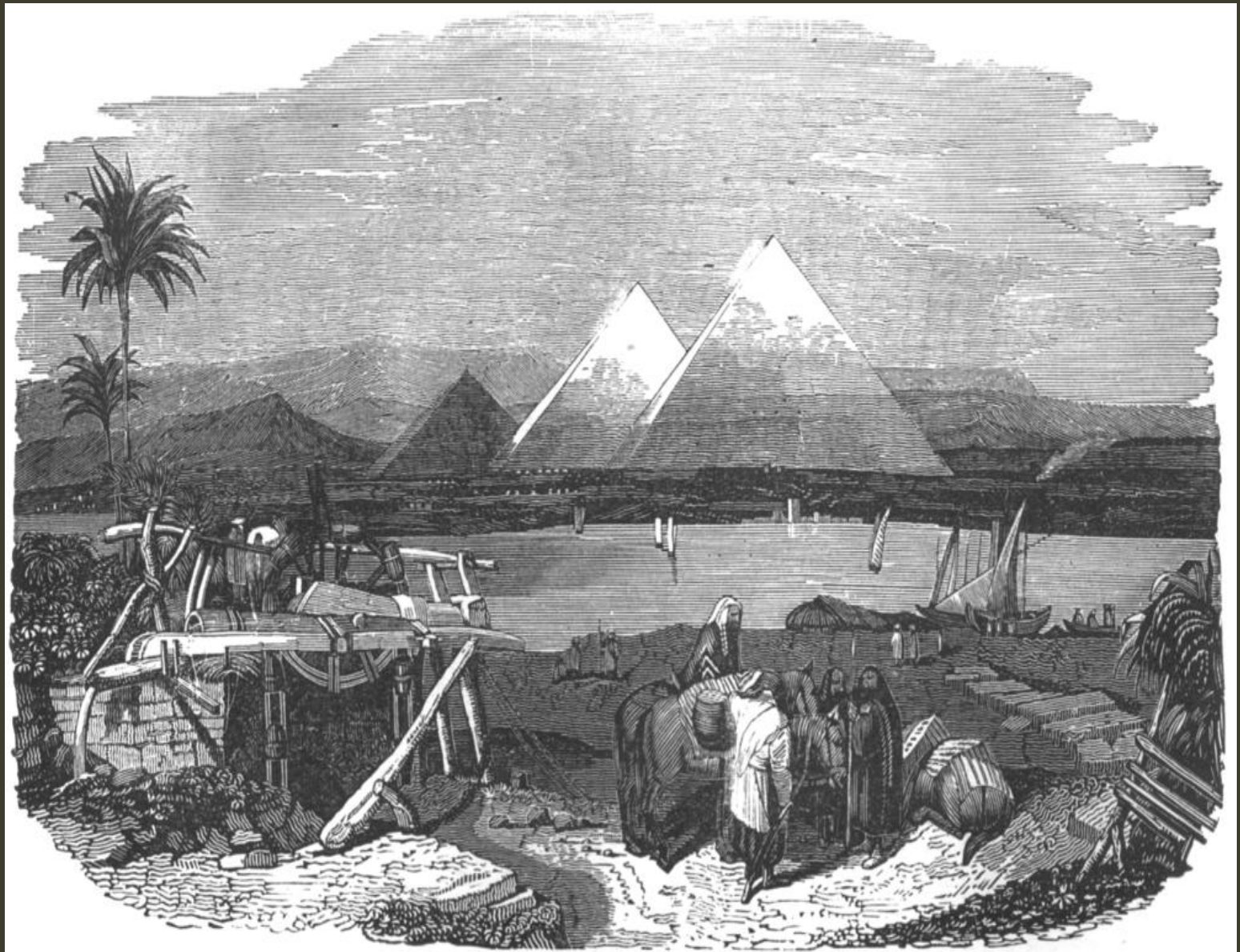


Acts 7:9-10,14-15 (NRSV)

14 Then Joseph sent and invited his father Jacob and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five in all;

15 so Jacob went down to Egypt...





Acts 7:17-20 (NRSV)

17 But as the time drew near for the fulfillment of the promise that God had made to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased and multiplied

18 until another king who had not known Joseph ruled over Egypt.

19 He dealt craftily with our race and forced our ancestors to abandon their infants so that they would die.

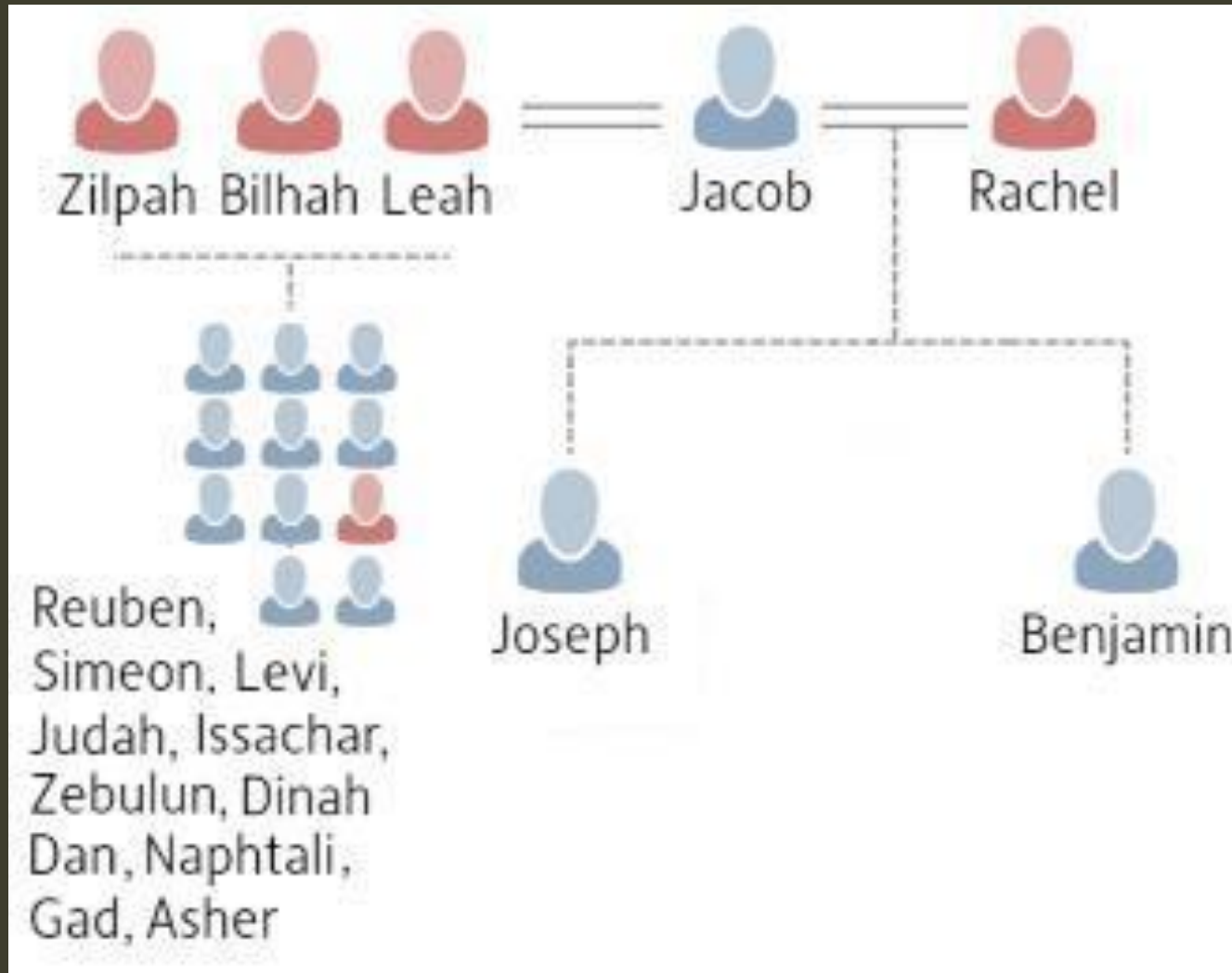


Acts 7:17-20 (NRSV)

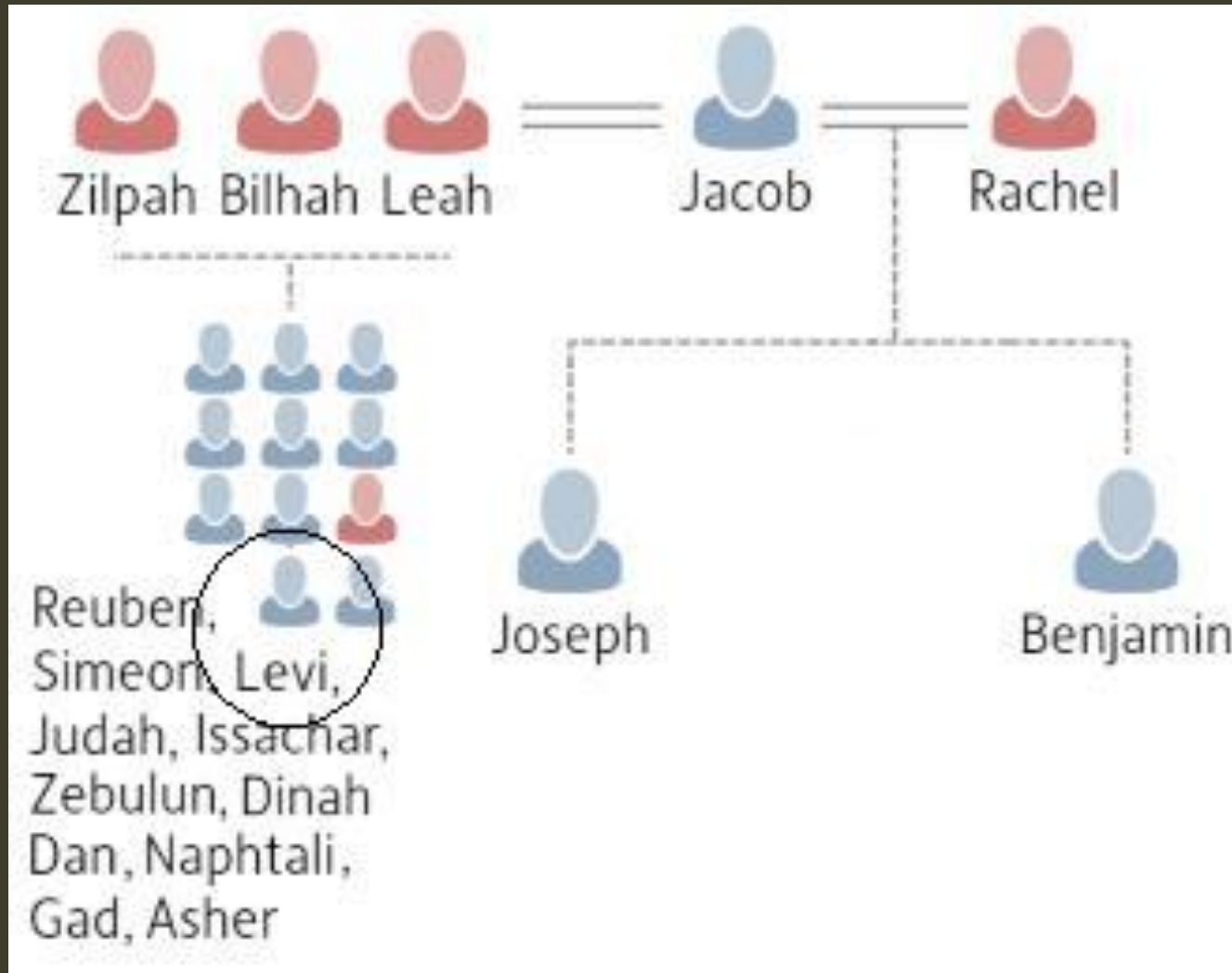
20 At this time Moses was born...



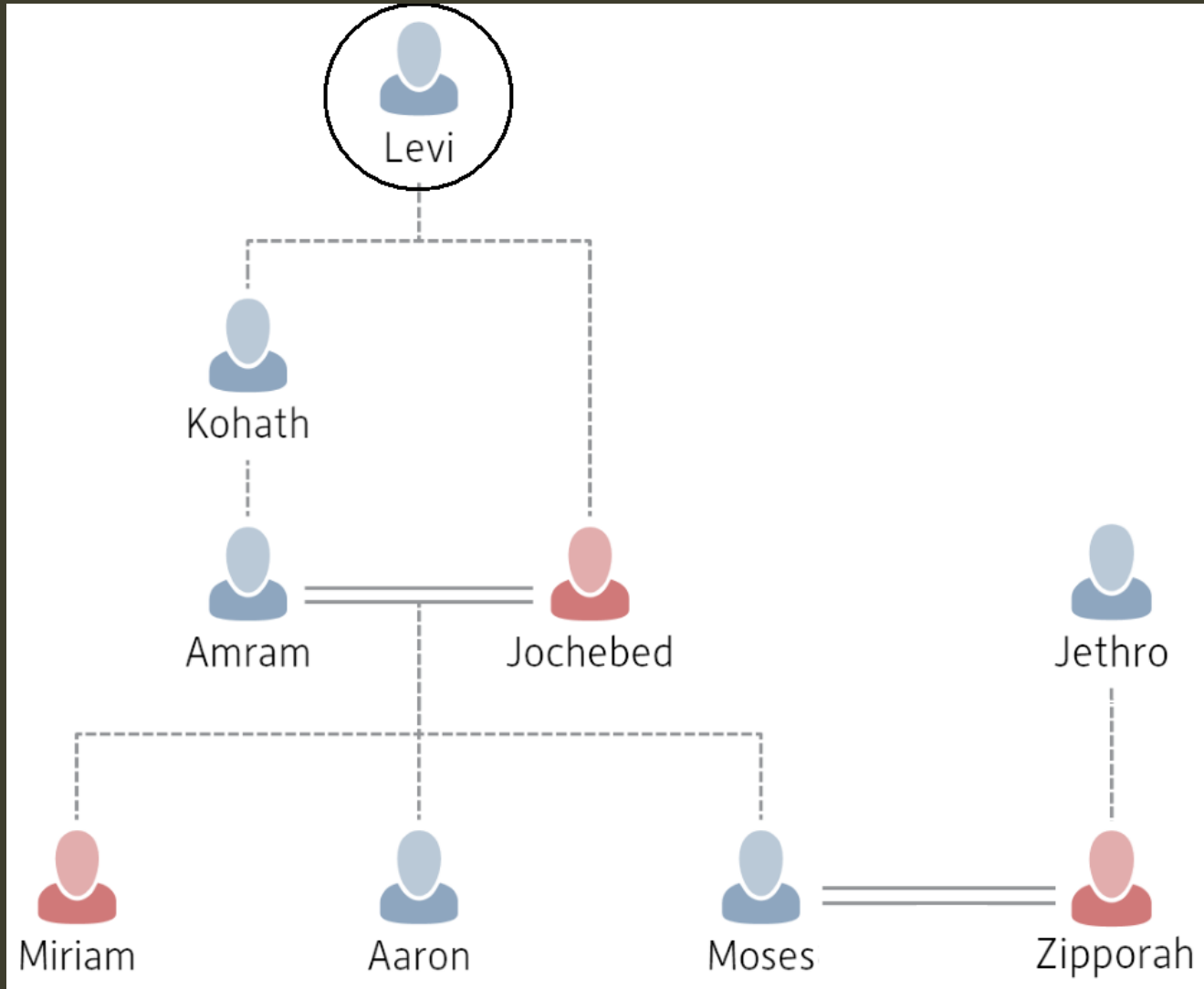
The Children of Israel



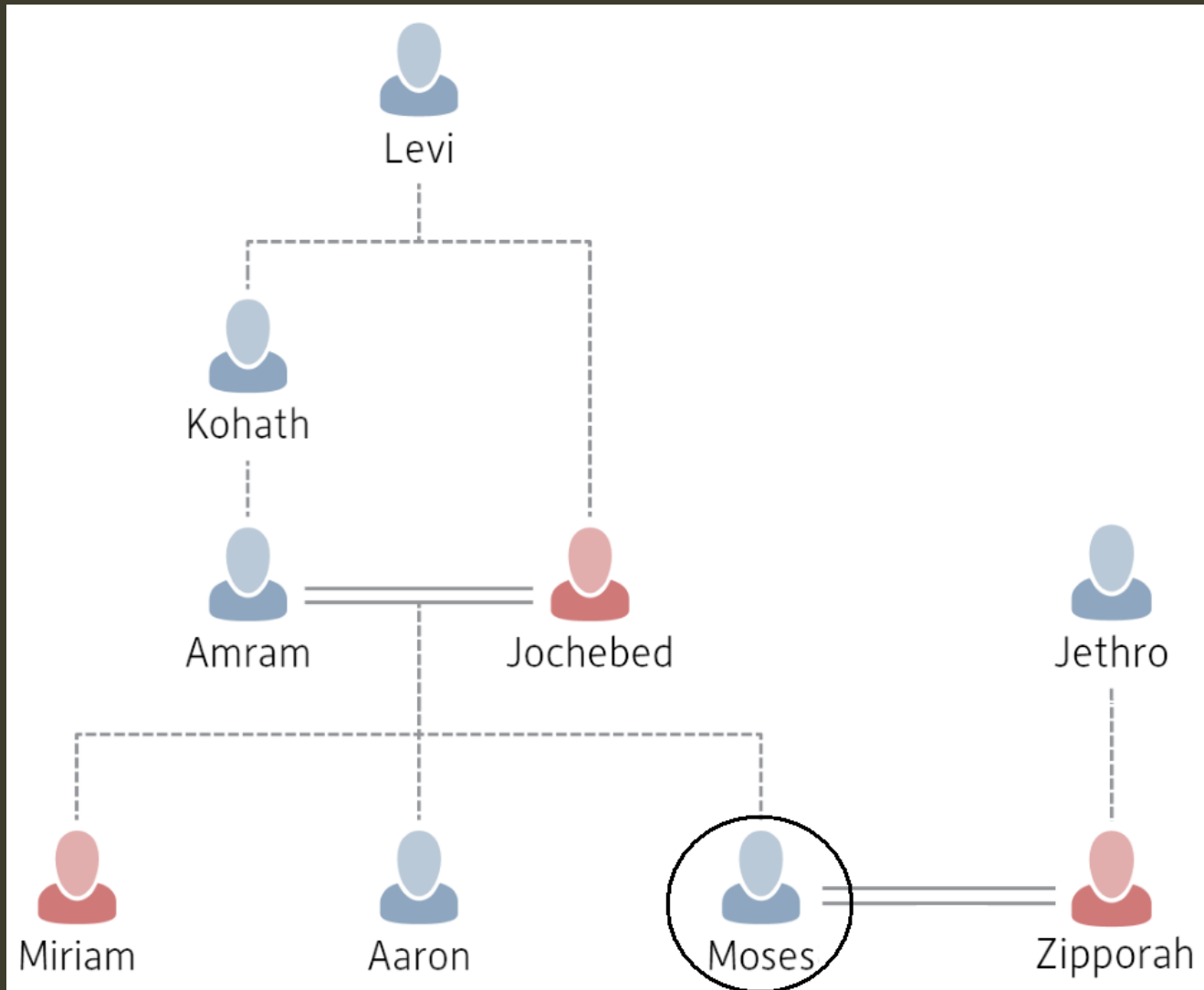
The Children of Israel



Moses in the Tribe of Levi



Moses in the Tribe of Levi



Acts 7:20-22 (NRSV)

20 ...For three months he was brought up in his father's house;

21 and when he was abandoned, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.

22 So Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds.



Moses: Who Was He?

- Prince of Egypt
- Deliverer
- Lawgiver
- Prophet



Acts 7:23-22,29 (NRSV)

23 When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his relatives, the Israelites.

24 When he saw one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian.

29 ...Moses fled and became a resident alien in the land of Midian...



Moses Timeline

- Age 3 months – Moses is set adrift on the Nile River in a basket, Pharaoh's daughter finds him and adopts him (Exodus 2:2-10)
- Age 40 – Moses flees Egypt (Acts 7:23)
- Age 80 – Moses has an encounter with God; he returns to Egypt and speaks God's command to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:7)
- Age 120 – Moses dies after a 40-year desert journey (Deuteronomy 34:7)



Biblical and Historical Accounts

- How does the Bible fit into Egypt's history as we understand it? In particular...
 - “Pharaoh, king of Egypt, ...appointed him [Joseph] ruler over Egypt...” (Acts 7:10)
 - “until another king who had not known Joseph ruled over Egypt.” (Acts 7:18)



History of Egypt

- Neolithic Period c.12,000-3500
- Predynastic Period c.3500-3100
- Protodynastic Period c.3100-3000
- Early Dynastic Period c.3000-2686
- Old Kingdom c.2686-2181
- First Intermediate Period c.2181-2040
- Middle Kingdom c.2040-1786



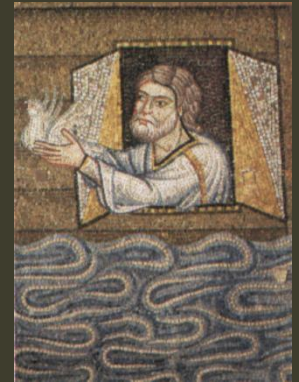
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Neolithic Period (12,000-3500)

- Trace evidence of early people “appear in the form of artifacts and rock carvings along the terraces of the Nile and in the oases.”
- “The period from 9000 to 6000 BC has left very little in the way of archaeological evidence.”



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt



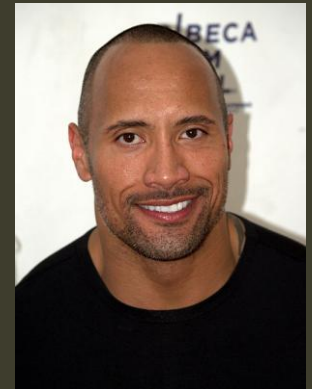
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“Dynasty 0” and Before

- “Between 5500 and 3100 BC, during Egypt's Predynastic Period, small settlements flourished along the Nile”
- “By 3300 BC, ... Egypt was divided into two kingdoms”
- Scorpion: “semi-mythical king of late pre-dynastic Egypt”



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt

<http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/dynasties.htm>

<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/scorpionking.htm>

Dwayne Johnson photo by David Shankbone (Wikimedia Commons)



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Age of Pyramids

- “There are 138 pyramids discovered in Egypt as of 2008.”
- Major pyramids built 2630-1813 BC
 - Old Kingdom through Middle Kingdom
 - 3rd through 12th Dynasties
- “Long before Abraham, Egypt had experienced a millennium of progressive civilization.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_pyramids
Old Testament Survey, 2nd ed. (Eerdmans) 1996, 35.



History of Egypt (cont.)

- Second Intermediate Period c.1786-1567
- New Kingdom c.1570-1070
- Third Intermediate Period c.1070- 664
- Late Dynastic Period 664-332 BC
- The Greco-Roman Period 332- 30 BC
- Roman Emperors 30 BC – AD 324
- The Byzantine Christian Period ...



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Time of the Hyksos

- An invasion of people from Asia came to control Egypt (military/migratory unknown)
- “Egyptian rulers of 13th Dynasty were unable to stop these new migrants from travelling to Egypt from Asia because they were weak kings who were struggling to cope with various domestic problems including possibly famine.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt



Time of the Hyksos

- Hyksos: an Egyptian word meaning “foreign chiefs” (their identity is unknown)
- The rulers of the 15th and 16th Dynasties were Hyksos kings (beginning c.1674)
- According to the Bible, 430 years before the Exodus, Joseph, next in the line of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob, was made a great leader in Egypt by an unnamed Pharaoh (Genesis 41:37-45; Exodus 12:40-41)



Time of the Hyksos



Genesis 50:4–6 (NRSV)

4 ...Joseph addressed the household of Pharaoh, “... 5 My father made me swear an oath; he said, ‘I am about to die. In the tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.’ Now therefore let me go up, so that I may bury my father; then I will return.” 6 Pharaoh answered, “Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear to do.”



History of Egypt (cont.)

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Expulsion of the Hyksos

- “Around the time Memphis fell to the Hyksos, the native Egyptian ruling house in Thebes declared its independence from the vassal dynasty in Itj-tawy and set itself up as the Seventeenth Dynasty.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt



Expulsion of the Hyksos

- “Ahmose I completed the conquest and expulsion of the Hyksos from the delta region...His reign marks this beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty and the New Kingdom period.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt



Exodus 1:8–11 (NRSV)

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

9 He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.

10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.”



Exodus 1:8–11 (NRSV)

11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.



New Kingdom Construction

- Egypt was “now at the zenith of its power. Experiencing no military threat, Amenophis III (1403-1364) pursued a life of pleasure and luxury. He engaged in an unprecedented building program aimed at self-glorification. In Egypt an age of imperial magnificence ensued.”

Source: Old Testament Survey, 2nd ed. (Eerdmans) 1996, 53.



New Kingdom Construction

- “Amenhotep III ruled (c.1417-1379 BCE) Egypt at the height of its power. His extensive diplomatic contacts with other Near Eastern states, especially Mitanni and Babylonia, are revealed in the Amarna tablets. Of the great temple he built near Thebes, only two statues, the so-called colossi of Memnon, remain.”

Source: <http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/history18-20.htm#Amenhotepiii>



New Kingdom Construction

- “Amenhotep III built extensively at the temple of Karnak including the Luxor temple which consisted of two pylons, a colonnade behind the new temple entrance, and a new temple to the goddess Ma'at.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt



Other 18th Dynasty Pharaohs

- Queen Hatshepsut – rare female Pharaoh
- Thutmose III ("the Napoleon of Egypt") – expanded Egypt's army
- Akhenaten – “began to worship the Aten (the Solar Disk) whom he proclaimed the only god. The Aten cult, though not strictly monotheism, seems to have approached it.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt
Old Testament Survey, 2nd ed. (Eerdmans) 1996, 53.



Other 18th Dynasty Pharaohs

- “King Tut”
 - Tutankhaten, “Living Image of Aten”
 - Tutankhamun, “Living Image of Amun”
- His “significance stems from his rejection of the radical religious innovations introduced by his predecessor and father, Akhenaten.”



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutankhamun>

Photo by Bjørn Christian Tørrissen (Wikimedia Commons)



The 19th Dynasty

- The last Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty chose his military commander Rameses I to be his successor, he ruled 1293-1291
- Seti I succeeded his father, Ramses I and ruled 1291-1278
- Ramses II succeeded his father, Seti I and ruled 1278-1237
- ...

Source: <http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/history18-20.htm#Amenhotepiii>



The 19th Dynasty

- Common to Seti I and Ramses II
 - Extensive building projects in Egypt
 - Military campaigns in Canaan against Hittites and various nomadic tribes
- The conflicts in Canaan concluded with a peace treaty in the 21st year of the reign of Ramses II (1257 BC)

Source: <http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/egyptian-hittite-peace-treaty.htm>



Exodus 3:15–17 (NRSV)

15 God also said to Moses, “...

16 Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt.



Exodus 3:15–17 (NRSV)

17 I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ”



Survey of Egyptian History: Conclusions

- Egyptian history and the Bible account are complimentary to each other
- Joseph's appointment as ruler in Egypt coincides with the Hyksos era during the Second Intermediate Period
- The 17th Dynasty: "new king...who did not know Joseph"



Survey of Egyptian History: Conclusions

- The period of New Kingdom construction during the 18th and 19th Dynasties coincides with the domination of and eventual enslavement of the Hebrews
- Egypt's military campaigns in Canaan would have brought knowledge of that area to the inhabitants of Egypt; i.e., “a land flowing with milk and honey”



Survey of Egyptian History: Conclusions

- Egypt's peace treaty with the Hittites lines up nicely with the Bible's description of Canaan when the Hebrews arrive there (next lesson)
 - Hittites everywhere
 - Egyptians nowhere
- 430 years total time in Egypt is consistent with the Hyksos/New Kingdom chronology



Unstoppable Promises

- Today's lesson: Exodus 1-14
- Today's focus:
 - Place the story in context with previous Bible lessons and with Egyptian history
 - Understand God's promise and how he fulfilled it



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Unstoppable Promises

- God promised Abraham that his descendants would inhabit the land of Canaan
- God reaffirmed his promise to Moses that he would bring them to the “promised land”
- What stood in the way? Domination by the most powerful nation on Earth



Hebrews 11:23 (NRSV)

23 By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.



Hebrews 11:24-26 (NRSV)

24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

26 He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward.



Hebrews 11:27-28 (NRSV)

27 By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible.

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn* would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

**The last of the ten plagues that God used to break the will of the Egyptians*



The Ten Plagues

- Water turned to blood (Exodus 7:14–25)
- Frogs (Exodus 8:1–8:15)
- Lice (Exodus 8:16–19)
- Flies (Exodus 8:20–30)
- Disease on livestock (Exodus 9:1–7)
- Boils (Exodus 9:8–12)
- Hail, thunder, and fire (Exodus 9:13–35)
- Locusts (Exodus 10:1–20)
- Darkness (Exodus 10:21–29)
- Death of the first-born (Exodus 11, Exodus 12)



Unstoppable Promises

- After the 10th and final plague, the Pharaoh agreed to allow the Hebrew slaves to leave Egypt
- After they departed, the Pharaoh regretted his decision and pursued them to the edge of the Red Sea
- The Hebrews were boxed in: the sea on one side, the Egyptian army on the other



Hebrews 11:29 (NRSV)

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.



Unstoppable Promises



Deuteronomy 7:8-9 (NRSV)

8 It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations



John 3:6 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.



Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

9 ...If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.



Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Coming to God

God's love is a promise,
and his promises are unstoppable...

Will you begin a relationship with God today?

