

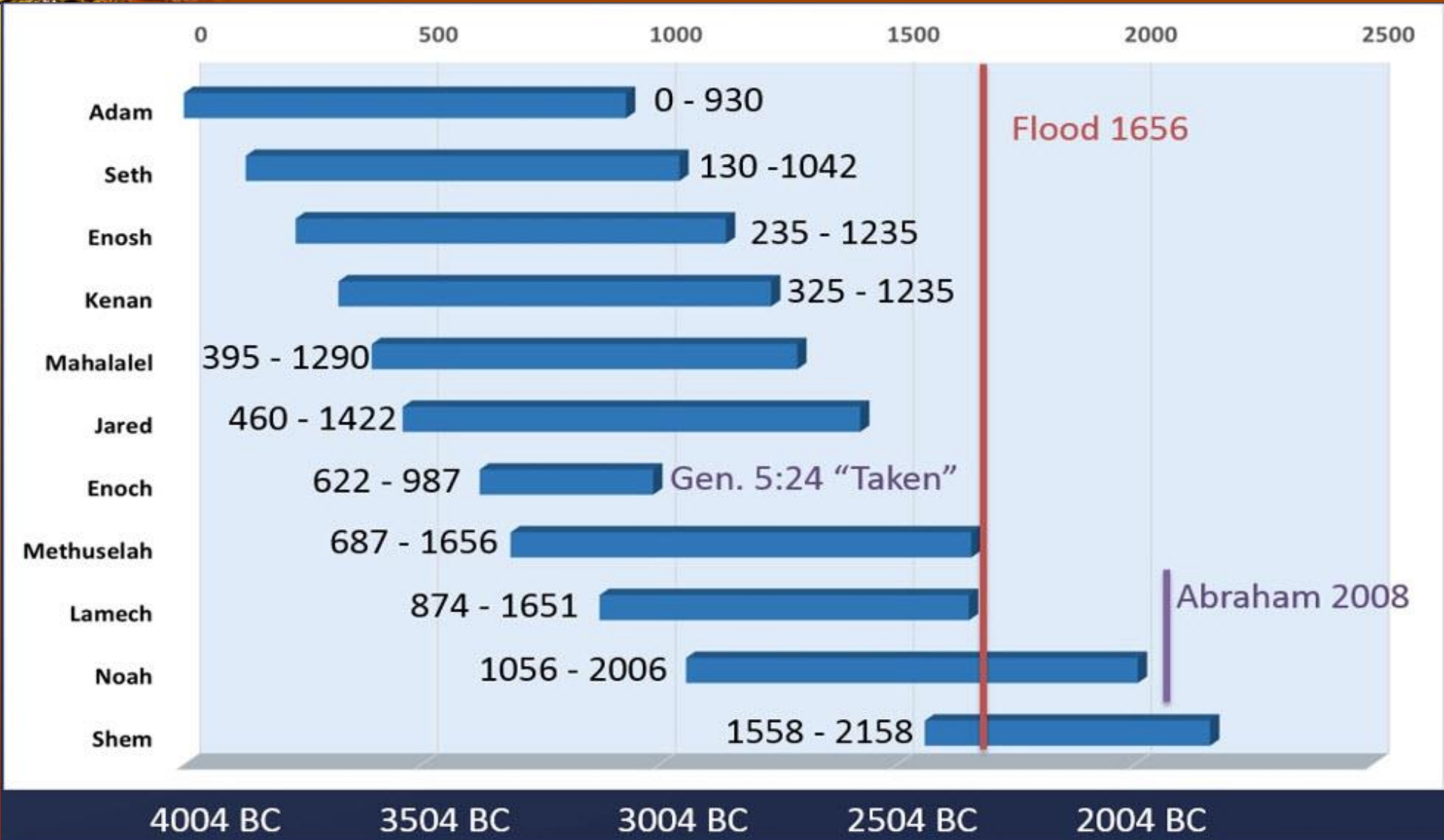
# From God's Creation to God's Nation

Genesis 1:1 to Exodus 17:16



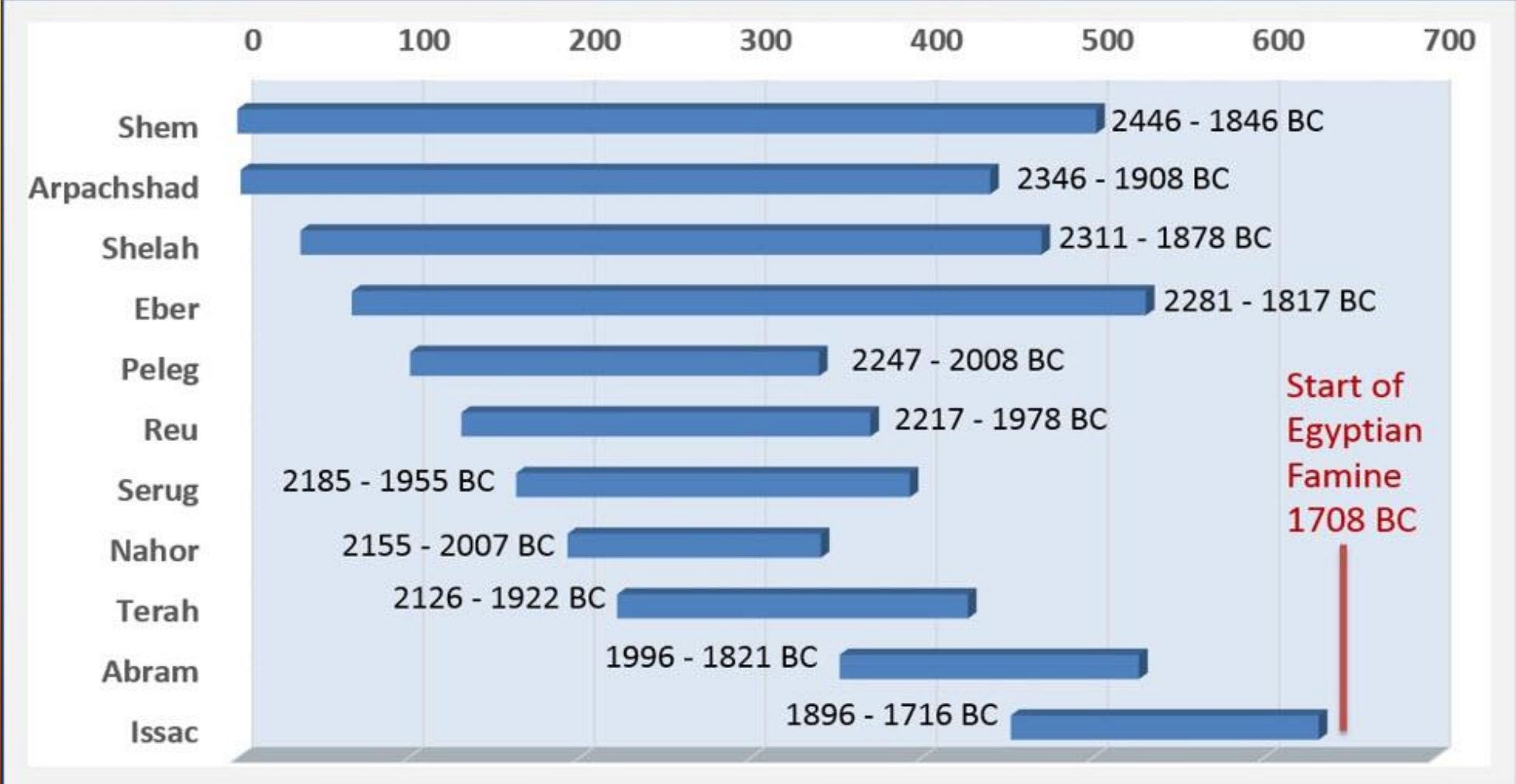
# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?



1656 AM	1756 AM	1856 AM	1956 AM	2056 AM	2156 AM	2256 AM
2349 BC	2249 BC	2149 BC	2049 BC	1949 BC	1849 BC	1749 BC

A glass globe on a wooden surface next to a pocket watch.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### **Genesis 16:11–12 (NASB95)**

**The angel of the LORD said to her further, “Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction. “He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone’s hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers.”**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### Genesis 21:12–21 (NASB95)

But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named. “And of the son of the maid I will make a nation also, because he is your descendant.” So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and gave her the boy, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was used up, she left the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, “Do not let me see the boy die.” And she sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice and wept. God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. “Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the lad a drink. God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### Genesis 25:12–18 (NASB95)

Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham; and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam and Mishma and Dumah and Massa, Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes. These are the years of the life of Ishmael, one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people. They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Ishmael and Hagar being taken to Mecca by Abraham in Islamic texts is an important part in the story of Ishmael, as it brings the focus to Mecca and is the beginning of Mecca's sanctification as a holy area. Islamic tradition says Abraham was ordered by God to take Hagar and Ishmael to Mecca, and later Abraham returned to Mecca to build the Kaaba. In many of these accounts, the Sakina (something like a wind or spirit sent by God), or the angel Gabriel (Jibral) guides them to the location of the Kaaba, at which point Abraham builds it and afterwards, leaves the other two there (other versions discussed below say the construction of the Kaaba occurred later and that Ishmael took part in it).**

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

Generally, it is said that Hagar asks Abraham who he is entrusting herself and Ishmael to as he leaves them. He answers that he is entrusting them to God, to which Hagar then makes a reply that shows her faith, stating that she believes God will guide them. Hagar and Ishmael then run out of water and Ishmael becomes extremely thirsty. Hagar is distressed and searches for water, running back and forth seven times between the hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah. Hagar is later remembered by Muslims for this act during the Hajj, or pilgrimage, in which Muslims run between these same hills as part of the Sa'yee. When she returns to Ishmael, she finds either him or an angel scratching the ground with their heel or finger, whereupon water begins flowing and Hagar collects some or dams it up. This spring or well is known as Zamzam.





# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**At some point, a passing tribe known as the Jurhum sees birds circling the water and investigates. They ask Hagar if they can settle there, which she allows, and many versions say as Ishmael grew up he learned various things from the tribe. There are numerous versions of this story, each differing in various ways. The versions used in this summary, as well as others, can be found in al-Tabari's history and are recounted in Reuven Firestone's Journeys in Holy Lands.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

Many people ask two questions, "When and how did Islam begin and where did Islam originate?" Although Islam is not mentioned directly in the Bible, there is recorded in the Bible an outline of the Arabic people as the Children of Abraham who inhabited the "eastern country". The history of the Muslim peoples, therefore, begins with the prophet Abraham and his descendants through Ishmael, his firstborn son.



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Among the Arabs Ishmael holds the place occupied by Isaac in the Heb tradition. It was to the valley, afterward the site of the town of Mecca, that Abraham conducted Hagar and her son, and that Ishmael grew up and became the father of a great nation. The locality is full of spots connected by tradition with his life history, the ground where Hagar searched for water, the well Zemzem of which Gabriel showed her the place, the mount Thabīr where Abraham would have sacrificed his son (Ishmael), and the graves of Hagar and Ishmael. The Jurhum, among whom Ishmael grew up, gave him seven goats: these were the capital with which he began life. He married a woman of Jurhum. He had twelve sons (Gen 25:16) of whom Kaidar and Nabat are the best known, perhaps the Cedrei and Nabataei of Pliny; other sons were Dumah and Tema (q.v.).**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

The subsequent history of the Ishmaelites is lost for several generations until we come to 'Adnān, who is said to have been, defeated by Nebuchadnezzar, when the latter invaded Arabia. All the Ishmaelite tribes are descended from 'Adnān. They are the north Arabian tribes, as opposed to the Kahtanite or south Arabian. One of them, Koreish, under their chief, Kosay, became master of Mecca, driving out Koda'a. Later, as the tribe of the Prophet, they became the rulers of Arabia and the aristocracy of the Muslim empire; and the descendants of Mohammad remain to this day the only hierarchy known to Islām.

A glass globe on a wooden surface next to a pocket watch.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Ishmael, the child of Sarai's and Abram's lapse into unbelief, was the progenitor of the Arabs, the traditional enemies of the Jewish people. Moreover Muhammed, the founder of Islam, whose adherents form Christianity's most difficult missionary problem, came from the line of Ishmael. Islam is the world religion which is, perhaps, closest to Christianity; thus it is the hardest to penetrate with the Gospel of Christ.**

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**WAR IN THE GULF: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, PART 2, January 27, 1991**



A glass globe on a wooden surface with a compass and a watch.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Abraham and Sarah, with their son Isaac, were a true family and the progenitors of the nation of Israel. Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, were set free in lieu of receiving the inheritance, which is similar to the laws of Hammurabi. Ishmael was not forsaken by God. God promised Hagar that he would provide for their needs and that a great people would arise from Ishmael too. Ishmael in fact became the father of the Arabs, and the rivalry between the Jews and the Arabs can be traced to the circumstances recounted in Genesis 21. The two peoples became religious rivals as well, as the history of Jewish-Muslim relations reveals.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

Teaching Christian children Jesus' words, "You shall love your neighbor," with meaning for the practice of daily life requires thoughtful discernment today. Jesus' teaching makes it clear that the neighbor is more than the person next door or the others within one's own group; but what about those who, for any number of reasons, are outside the bounds of the child's sphere? ... It may seem strange to think that learning about Muslims should be a part of responsible Christian education today, but it is certainly important to the discernment of Jesus' words, "You shall love your neighbor." The responsibility for including children in this education is perhaps most easily accomplished when they have some positive interaction with Muslims naturally but, even then, something more than rubbing shoulders with others may be required. ... Here are some stories in the Qur'an that would be appropriate to tell children.





# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### Abraham (Surah 2.122-133)

Going on pilgrimage (hajj) to the shrine at Mecca is one of the obligations of each Muslim once in a lifetime, if able. The story of Abraham (Ibrahim) tells about Abraham and his son Ishmael building a place for worship in Mecca. The ritual of the pilgrimage reenacts the events in the life of Abraham; this can be described to the children or researched by them. Teachers can emphasize the reality that all Muslims worship God in the same way, no matter where in the world they live—shown clearly in the pilgrimage. The climax of the pilgrimage, the Muslim holiday id al-Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice), is a remembrance of Abraham's sacrifice of an animal in place of his son. Children can be led to see Abraham's behavior as an act of faith and can talk about why it is important to remember what he did.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?



"Story of Prophet Ishmael In Islam." YouTube. Accessed February 26, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ-0B-1BzII>.



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Abu Jafar Muhammad bin Jarir al-Tabari (839-923)**

**The most important universal history produced in the world of Islam. It explores the history ancient nations, with special emphasis on biblical peoples and prophets, the legendary and factual history of ancient Iran, and in great detail, the rise of Islam, the life of the “prophet” Mohammed, and the history of the Islamic world down to the year 915.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**“The earliest sages of our Prophet’s nation disagree about which of Abraham’s two sons it was that he was commanded to sacrifice. Some say it was Isaac, while others say it was Ishmael. Both views are supported by statements related on the authority of the Messenger of God. If both groups of statements were equally sound, then—since they both come from the Prophet—only the Qur’an could serve as proof that the account naming Isaac is clearly the more truthful of the two.**

**The account naming Isaac comes down to us through Abu Kurayb—Zayd b. al-Hubab—al-Hasan b. Dinar—‘Ali b. Zayd b. Jud’an—al-Hasan—al-Ahnaf b. Qays —al-‘Abbas b. ‘Abd al-Muttalib—the Prophet in a conversation in which he said, “Then we ransomed him with a tremendous victim.” And he also said, “He is Isaac.””**

**[Note: Quran 37:112 states the one sacrificed was Isaac]**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

“We will now return to the discussion of Isaac b. Abraham and of his wives and descendants, since after the Persians **no nation except for them has a continuous, unbroken history.** This is because the Persian kings continued in unbroken succession from the days of Jayumart, about whom I have already spoken, until they vanished with the coming of the best nation brought forth from humanity, the nation of our prophet Muhammad. Prophecy and kingship continued in an unbroken succession in Syria and its environs among the children of Israel b. Isaac, until those things vanished from among them with the coming of the Persians and Byzantines after John b. Zacharias and after Jesus b. Mary. When we reach the story of John and Jesus, God willing, we will mention the reason for the vanishing of prophecy from among them.”



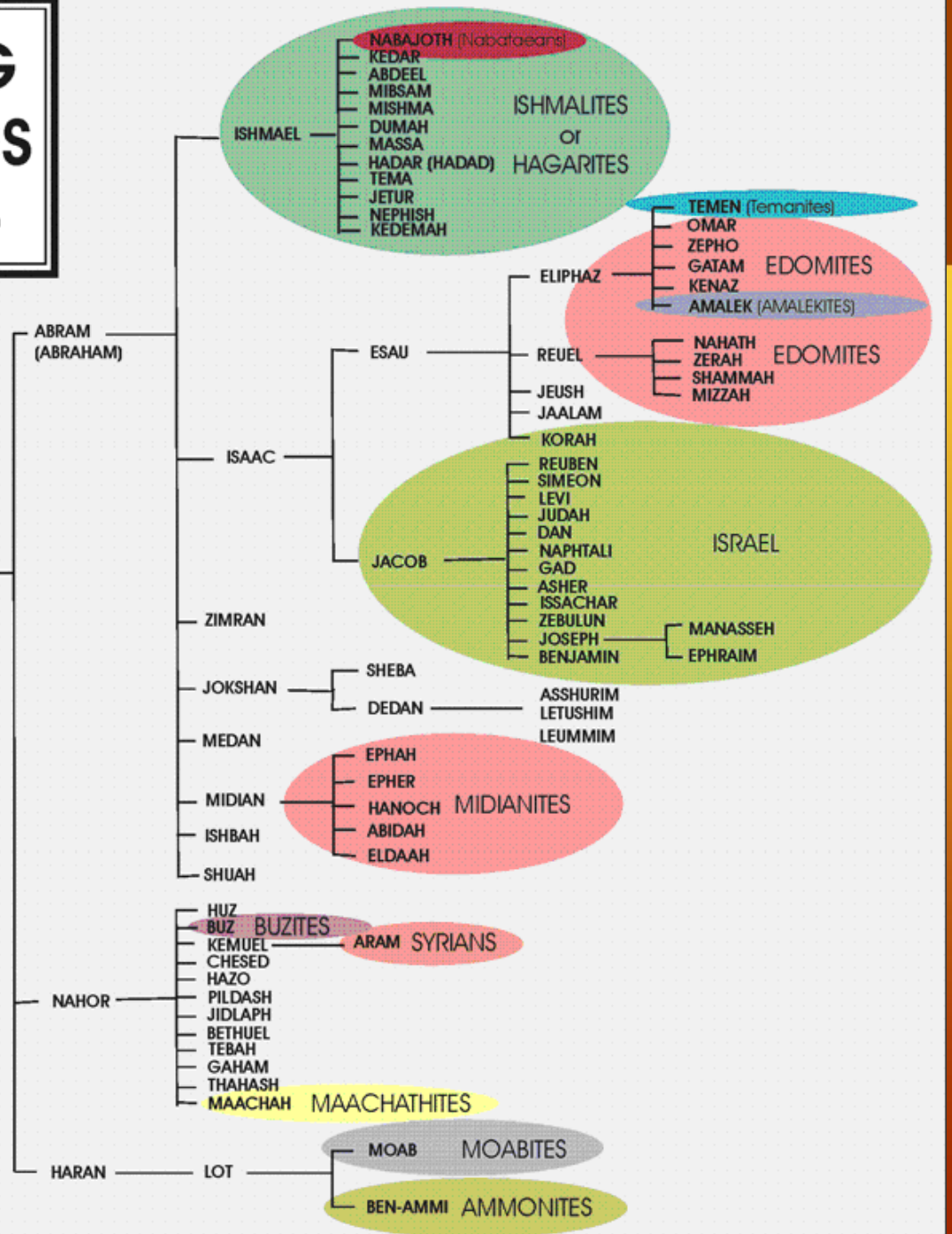
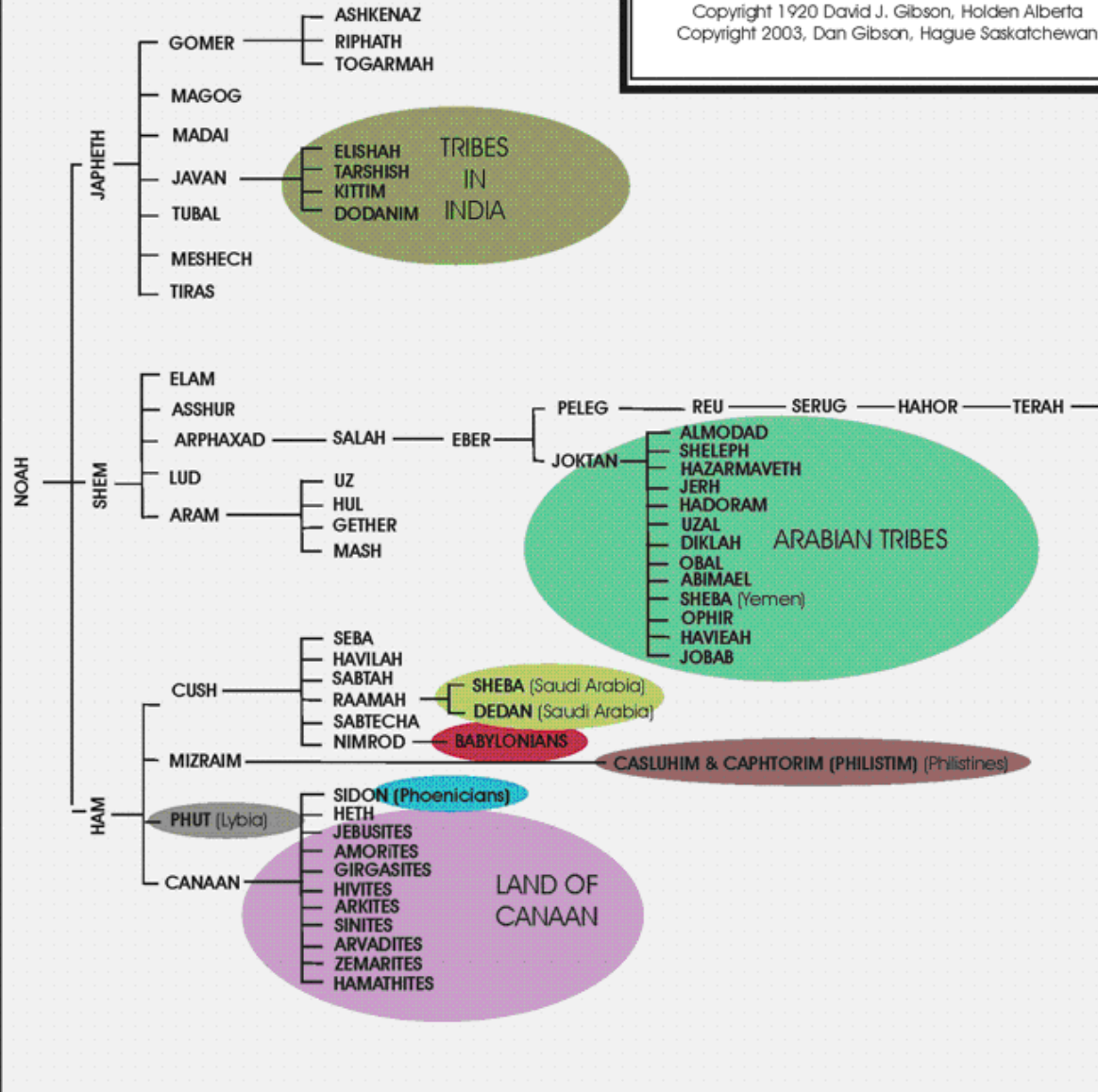
# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Ishmael was born to Abram first, through the slave wife Hagar. Ishmael figures prominently in Islamic thought today because he was the firstborn son; and even though most of the Arab population derives from different ancestors, Ishmael has become the focal point of their heritage. According to their tradition, Abraham and Ishmael established the holy shrine in Mecca, and Ishmael was to be the heir of the promise of the land. Interestingly, the prophecy in Genesis 16 predicted that he and his descendants would lift their hand against everyone, and that everyone would lift their hand against them, and that they would live in hostility to all their brothers (16:12). Under the customs of the day, Ishmael could have been the heir if Sarai remained barren and if Abram declared him to be the heir. But that never happened, according to the Bible (which Islam rejects). God told Abram that Isaac would be the heir, and so Abram was instructed to send Ishmael away (21:11–13). God promised to make Ishmael into a great nation as well—but the line for the covenant and the Messiah would come through Isaac.**

# THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONS

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# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### **Twelve Sons of Ishmael**

#### **Possible Identification**

**Nebaioth – Identified with the Nabataeans by Josephus**

**Kedar – Identified as the Kedarites (Isaiah 21:16-17)**

**Adbeel – Identified with the people of Idibi'ilu of the land of Arubu (in the Sinai)**

**Mibsam – intermarried with the Simeonites (I Chronicles 4:24-27) disappeared**

**Mishma – intermarried with the Simeonites (I Chronicles 4:24-27) disappeared**

**Dumah – generally identified by historians with the Addyrian Adummatu people.**

**Massa – possibly connected with the Masanoi of North Arabia**

**Hadad – may have become known as the Harar and located by Homs, Syria**

**Tema – usually associated with the ancient oasis of Tayma (Saudi Arabia)**

**Jetur – Under Construction**

**Naphish – Under Construction**

**Kedemah. – Under Construction**





# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**What happened to the Ishmaelites? In the book of Judges we start to see evidence that they were assimilating into other peoples - the Midianites against whom Gideon fought are said to be Ishmaelites (Jdg 8:24). David's sister Abigail was married to an Ishmaelite (1 Ch 2:17). The last time we find mention of a distinct Ishmaelite identity in history is during the reign of David (Psa 83:7, 1 Ch 2:17, 1 Ch 27:30). The people of Jetur and Naphish, together with those of the region called Nodab, had by that stage become a separate group to the Ishmaelites, called Hagrites (Psa 83:7, 1 Ch 5:19) - a name derived from Hagar, the mother of Ishmael (Gen 25:12-15). They had been conquered during the days of Saul by the Israelites of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh in Gilead with many being killed (1 Ch 5:10-22).**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**As with the Ishmaelites, a distinct Hagrite identity is last mentioned during the reign of David - the last Ishmaelite (1 Ch 25:30) and last Hagrite (1 Ch 25:31) to be mentioned being servants of David listed together with Israelite servants (1 Ch 27:25-31). (The Agraeans and Gerrhaeans mentioned by classical historians are not the Hagrites, but two distinct peoples living in the An-Nafud desert and the Arabian side of the Persian Gulf respectively, many centuries after the absorption of the Hagrites by the Israelites.)**

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# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**1 Kings 10:14–15 (NASB95)**

**Now the weight of gold which came in to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, besides that from the traders and the wares of the merchants and all the kings of the Arabs and the governors of the country.**

A glass globe on a wooden surface next to a pocket watch.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### **2 Chronicles 21:16–17 (NASB95)**

**Then the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians; 17 and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**2 Chronicles 22:1 (NASB95)**

**Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, for the band of men who came with the Arabs to the camp had slain all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### **Nehemiah 2:16–19 (NASB95)**

**The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work. Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.” I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work. But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard it, they mocked us and despised us and said, “What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”**

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# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Nehemiah 4:7–8 (NASB95)**

**Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.**

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# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

### **Nehemiah 6:1–2 (NASB95)**

**Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm me.**



A glass globe on a wooden surface next to a pocket watch.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Isaiah 13:19–20 (NASB95)**

**And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.**

A glass globe on a wooden surface next to a pocket watch.

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Jeremiah 3:2 (NASB95)**

**“Lift up your eyes to the bare heights and see; Where have you not been violated?  
By the roads you have sat for them Like an Arab in the desert, And you have  
polluted a land With your harlotry and with your wickedness.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**Acts 2:8–11 (NASB95)**

**“And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?  
“Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**In the Bible the word “Arab” is ‘arab, which seems to mean a “nomad, bedouin,” i.e., the free moving people of the desert. Arabs are classified as desert Arabs (‘araab) or city dwelling Arabs (‘arab). The Arabic language was named for the ‘araab.**

**The name is first used in secular sources in the Assyrian texts of the 9th century B.C. and then in each subsequent century (750 by Tiglathpileser; 717 by Sargon, etc.). They are desert tribes who had kings and queens, and caravans with camels, and spice trade. Southern Arabia was highly advanced by the 8th century B.C.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**McClintock and Strong's well-known encyclopedia on religion comments:**

**“There is a prevalent notion that the Arabs, both of the south and north, are descended from Ishmael; and the passage in Gen. 16:12 ... is often cited as if it were a prediction of that national independence which, upon the whole, the Arabs have maintained more than any other people. But this supposition (in so far as the true meaning of the text quoted is concerned) is founded on a misconception of the original Hebrew.... These prophecies found their accomplishment in the fact of the sons of Ishmael being located, generally speaking, to the east of the other descendants of Abraham whether by Sara or by Keturah.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**McClintock and Strong's well-known encyclopedia on religion comments:**

**“But the idea of the southern Arabs being of the posterity of Ishmael is entirely without foundation, and seems to have originated in the tradition invented by Arab vanity that they, as well as the Jews, are of the seed of Abraham—a vanity which, besides disfiguring and falsifying the whole history of the patriarch and his son Ishmael, has transferred the scene of it from Palestine to Mecca.... The vast tracts of country known to us under the name of Arabia gradually became peopled by a variety of tribes of different lineage.”**

**Most standard reference works on Islam reject the Arab claim to Abrahamic descent. The prestigious Encyclopedia of Islam traces the Arabs to non-Abrahamic origins. Even the Dictionary of Islam questions the whole idea that the Arabs are descendants of Ishmael.**

# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**the Muslim position is that Allah is the God of the Bible as the Bible was originally revealed (Q29:46; 3:110). Muslims say that we do not have this original revelation; what we do have is a corrupted edition. On this basis, Muslims press Christians to become obedient to the Qur'an and to Muhammad on the grounds that the Qur'anic revelation of Allah is the one true and final revelation of God. This is the first step in the Islamization of Christian thought. Allah is identified with YHWH, and Islam seeks to root its identity in the Old Testament and New Testament revelation. It considers itself to be the final and complete revelation of God. Thus, the attempt at identifying Allah with God and Isa with Jesus results in theological confusion, and untaught laypeople are vulnerable to Muslim dahwa (outreach) activity.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Ishmael, Father of the Arabs?

**The Islamization of biblical persons and the rewriting of some parts of biblical history (e.g., Isaac being replaced with Ishmael, and he going with Abraham to Mecca for the sacrifice) creates a challenge for Christians to know their biblical history, to understand the doctrines identified in the Nicene Creed, and to have assurance about the canon of Scripture. Those hoping for a useful dialogue will find themselves in total opposition to the teaching of a Muslim, with the result that the dialogue becomes adversarial. This is why dialogue never works. Or, the Christian who is looking for a basis for harmony may tend to give way on some historical detail in the hope of winning over some Muslims to a cooperative spirit. Yet, in doing so, they actually Islamicize their own theology.**



# From God's Creation to God's Nation

## Part One: Section One

### Promises made to Abraham

Father of great nation (Israel)

Possess the Promised Land

Father of other nations

Many descendants became kings

Receive personal blessings

Be a blessing to others

Name to become great

### Promises made to Israel

Become a great nation

Become innumerable

Possess the Promised Land

Victory over enemies

### Promises to Gentiles

Blessings for blessing Israel

Cursing's for cursing Israel

Spiritual blessings through the seed of Abraham – The Messiah