



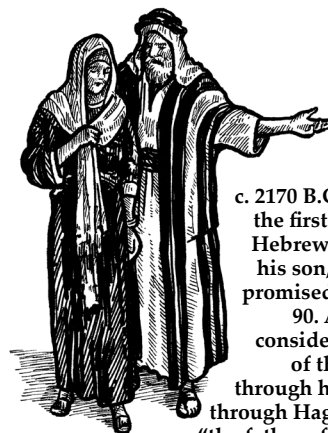
Minoan Civilization

c. 2200 B.C. An early culture established in Crete, named for its legendary King Minos. The Palace at Knossos was excavated by British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans between 1900 and 1926, appearing to have been destroyed and rebuilt several times. Legend says a labyrinth was built beneath the palace that housed a Minotaur. The Minoan culture is known for its frescos, ceramics, ivory carving, metalworking, and pictographic scripts (known as Linear A and B).



Xia Dynasty

c. 2200-1700 B.C. Founded by the Si-clan, the first Chinese civilization to settle around the fertile areas of Huanghe (The Yellow River) and the first political dynasty. Their ancestor and founding father of the clan, Yu, had established the first imperial dynasty in China. Xia's King Jie was conquered by a rebellious official, Tang, ushering the era of the Shang Dynasty.



Abraham and Sarah

c. 2170 B.C. Abraham was the first Patriarch of the Hebrew nation through his son, Isaac, who was promised to Sarah at age 90. Abraham is also considered the founder of the Arab peoples through his son, Ishmael, through Hagar. Also known as "the father of many nations."

In 1927, Sir Leonard Wooley uncovered the area Abram and Sarai lived in before God had called them to leave in search of Canaan.



Joseph c. 1914 B.C. One of the 12 sons of Jacob, and oldest son of his wife Rachel. Jealousy drove his brothers to sell him into Egyptian slavery, but his gift of interpreting dreams eventually placed him in the Pharaoh's good graces. This led to his miraculously providing for his own family during a famine as well as repentance from his brothers.

Jacob and Esau
c. 2005 B.C. Twin sons to Isaac and Rebekah and grandsons of Abraham, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for the cost of a bowl of pottage. The twelve tribes of Israel descended from Jacob's 12 sons.



Isaac

c. 2100-2000 B.C. The son of Abraham, he was offered as a sacrifice to God by his father, only to be divinely prevented at the last minute, sacrificing a ram instead. He later became the father of Jacob and Esau.



Job c. 2000s B.C. Hero of the Old Testament due to his consistent, unshakable faith in the face of repeated calamities and afflictions.

Although the date is uncertain, scholars have found support for a pre-Mosaic, possibly early second millennium date.



Lot in Sodom

c. 2100 B.C. The nephew of Abraham who, after God's direction, escaped the doomed city of Sodom, being told not to look back. When Lot's wife disregarded this warning and turned to look upon the destruction, she was transformed into a pillar of salt.



Mycenaean Civilization

c. 1900-1100 B.C. A Greek culture that flourished in Mycenae in the northeast Peloponnesus. Known for its legendary King Agamemnon, the influence of this civilization spread across the Mediterranean region. Heinrich Schliemann first uncovered Mycenae in 1876.



India & Hinduism c. 2500-1500 B.C. Located in southern Asia and centered in the Indus River valley, the civilization of India was at one time invaded by the Aryans and controlled by various conquerors, such as the Mongols. Hinduism, the country's largest religion, has no exact starting date and was begun with Sruti, "that which was heard." Hinduism was originally known as Santana Dharma, meaning "righteousness forever." The Hindus' beliefs include reincarnation, the law of Karma, the caste system, and various gods, mainly Brahman, the "supreme spirit" composed of pure being and consciousness.