

## Some History in the Middle East – Part 1

10/21/23

- Today – Opportunity to give two presentations
  - First Title – Some History in the Middle East – Part 1
  - Will Discuss – Three Reasons for Conflict in the Middle East  
(The 3 main points of this presentation – mentioned in 2002, 2006 and 2020)
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- Family History

- New comments to this presentation – Does Ishmael represent the Arab people?
  - “The Biblical Origins of the Arab Peoples” – Gary Petty – [ucg.org](http://ucg.org)
  - “Ishmael is Not the Father of the Arabs” – Mark Durie – [meforum.org](http://meforum.org)

Gen. 12:2-4	God promised blessings through Abram’s family – Abram was 75
Gen. 15:2-3	Abram to God – I am childless – heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus
4	Eliezer shall not be your heir – your heir shall come from your own body
Gen. 16:1-4	Sarai convinced Abram to have children with her handmaiden (Hagar)
11-16	prophecy about Ishmael – Abram was 86 – when Ishmael was born
Gen. 17:1-14	Abram was 99 – God promised blessings through Abram’s family
18	Abraham asked – if blessings could come through Ishmael
19	God promised a son named Isaac
20-21	God blessed Ishmael – but promised a covenant through Isaac
Gen. 21:12-13	God reminded Abraham – He would make a great nation through Ishmael

- Territory Conflict

Judges 11:4	the people of Ammon made war against Israel
5-11	the people of Gilead asked Jephthah to be their leader
12	Jephthah asked leader of Ammon – why do you want to start a war?
13	king of Ammon replied – because Israel took away our land
14-22	Jephthah reviewed the history with them
	15 – Israel did not take the lands of Moab or Ammon
	16-19 – Israel requested to pass through the lands
	20-22 – attacked Israel – God gave victory – Israel took possession
26	for 300 years, Israel dwelt in the land – why did you not recover it earlier?

- Religious Conflict

Judges 11:23	if the Lord God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites (to give the land to the people of Israel), shall you then possess it?
24	if your God Chemosh gives you land, do you keep it? – so whatever the Lord our God takes possession of, we will possess

## Some History in the Middle East – Part 2

10/21/23

- Today – Opportunity to give two presentations
  - Comment – The presentations are related, but not dependent upon each other
  - Title – Some History in the Middle East – Part 2
  - Will discuss – the story of Queen Esther
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- Background material

- When was the book of Esther written?
  - The events occurred between 483-473 B.C.
  - The events fit between chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Ezra
- Who is the author of the book?
  - Unknown
  - Knowledge of Persian customs – did he live in Persia during this period?
  - Jewish nationalism and knowledge – was the author Jewish?
- What is the theme of the book? – God’s protection of His people
- Interesting item – The name of God does not appear once in the book

- Review of the Story

Esther 1:1-22	King Xerxes divorced Queen Vashti
12	Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s command
19	King Xerxes decreed – to give her royal position to another
Esther 2:1-20	Marriage to Esther
21-23	Mordecai revealed a plot to murder the king
Esther 3:1	King Xerxes promoted Haman
2-5	people bowed to Haman – Mordecai did not bow
6	not only did Haman hate Mordecai – he hated the Jewish people
7-14	Haman convinced King Xerxes to decree for the Jews to be killed
Esther 4:1-17	Mordecai asked for Esther’s help
Esther 5:1-8	Esther invited the King and Haman to a dinner
9-14	Haman plans to kill Mordecai
Esther 6:1-14	the King honors Mordecai
Esther 7:1-10	Haman dies on gallows prepared for Mordecai
Esther 8:1-17	the Jews destroy their enemies
Esther 9:1-19	the Jews destroy their enemies
20-23	the Festival of Purim
24-32	the reason for the Festival of Purim
Esther 10:1-3	the greatness of Xerxes and Mordecai