

From the First Farmers to Muslims

The primary purpose of my previous email, [What Do Cavemen and Smartphone Users Have in Common?](#), was to establish the fact that human DNA has remained 99;9% the same for a very long time. DNA creates human bodies that include “half-baked brains.” Dr. David Eagleman introduced us to “*the brain’s dynamic system that continually rewrites its circuitry to reflect the world around it.*” Brains had very little input that required rewriting its circuitry until the first cave paintings appeared. After that there was an extraordinary increase in the human capacity to create and invent.

Now fast forward to **10,000 BCE**. The Ice Age had ended, and the world became warmer and wetter, and the climate became more stable. By **9500 BCE** there are the first signs of domesticated plants and the first farmers. After **8000 BCE** there are the first signs of domesticated animals and shepherds. Pictured below is the Kish Tablet.



It was created around **3500 BCE**. It is the earliest evidence of human writing. It reveals a major step in evolution from paintings on cave walls to clay tablets with pictographs with triangular symbols. The brain had evolved from **painting pictures without meanings** to **writing abstract symbols that have meanings**.

Now let’s jump to **Persian King Artaxerxes I**, who reigned from **465 to 424 BCE**. A copy of a decree the King issued is recorded in the Bible in Ezra 7.

- Ezra is the son of Seraiah . . . the **son of Aaron the chief priest**.
- Ezra traveled from Babylon (to Susa) where he was a skilled scribe in the Torah of Moses, which contains the words of **Yahweh, the God of Israel**.
- King Artaxerxes I appointed Ezra as his representative and governor over the Persian region called “**Beyond the River**” and gave Ezra these instructions.
 1. Teach all the people in *Beyond the River* the **Torah of Moses**.

2. Whoever will not observe “the **Torah your God** and the **Law of the King of Persia**” shall be judged, and the ruling will be administered “*speedily, whether it be death, banishment, confiscation of goods or imprisonment.*”

Ezra was part of a group of scribes whose descendants were taken to Babylon in **586 BCE** by the armies that destroyed the **First Temple in Jerusalem**. They were instructed to produce “*a scroll of the laws of Yahweh*” that he would carry to **the new Temple in Jerusalem**. In the ancient world, temples were the place where writing of the wisdom of the gods were stored and read to people who came there. Divine wisdom was the most valued information. The **Torah Scroll** contains the following stories.

1. *The Creation of the Heavens and Earth and their hosts.*
2. *The Story of the Garden of Eden*
3. *The Story of the Family of Adam and Eve.*
4. *The Story of the Great Flood.*
5. *The Story of the Tower of Babel.*
6. *The Story of Abraham and his descendants.*
7. *The Story of Moses*

Science provided the information above about farming, and it sheds new light on the stories in the Torah.

- *The Story of the Garden of Eden contains the names of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. We know where they are located today.*
- *In The Story of the Family of Adam and Eve, Cain is a farmer and Abel is a shepherd. That places the dates of the story after 8000 BCE when farmers and shepherds first existed.*
- *The Story of Abraham has information that links it to about 1800 BCE. That is important because in the Torah’s story Yahweh creates a covenant with Abraham and gives the land that is in the Persian region “Beyond the River” to Isaac’s descendants, through his son Jacob – whose name was changed to “Israel.”*
- *The Story of Abraham also mentions another one of his sons named Ishmael. Elohim said Ishmael would become a great nation, but he was not given any land.*

Around **610 CE**, over 1,000 years after Ezra brought the Torah to the Temple in Jerusalem, the Prophet Muhammad began teaching in the West Arabian towns Mecca and Medina. His words were written down in **632 CE** and are called ***the Qu'ran***. Today it is the **Scriptures of Islam religions**. It contains a different story about Abraham -- ***Ishmael was given the land instead of Isaac***.



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