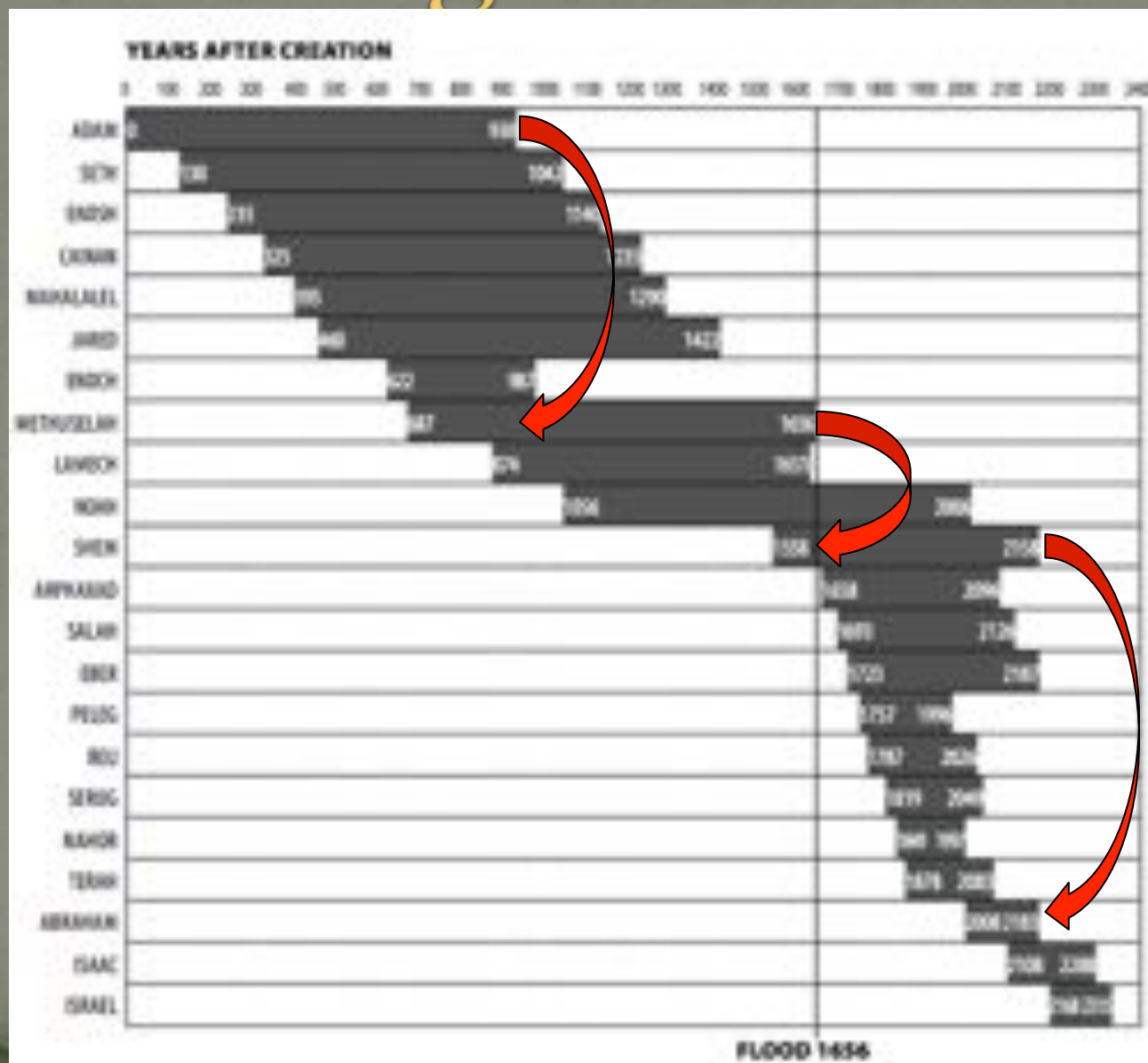


Abram's Historical Context

**A Brief
Chronological
Summary of the
Old Testament**

Chronological Summary



Bodie Hodge, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/07/30/feedback-when-did-methuselah-die>, accessed 11-16-2013.

Chronological Summary

	<u>Timeframe</u>
Creation	~4000BC
Flood	~2350BC
Abraham born	~2000BC
God's Covenant with Abram	~1920BC
Shem dies	~1850BC
Exodus	~1490
Fall of Troy	
David born	~1085BC
Neo-Assyrian Empire	911-605BC
Israel falls to Assyria	721BC
Neo-Babylonian Empire	605 - 539BC
Jerusalem falls to Babylon	586BC
Persian Empire	539 - 331BC
Alexander the Great	356 - 323BC
Roman Empire	~200BC - 400's AD

**Who, Where, and When:
Abram and Sarai**

Abram's Contemporary

Genesis 14:1-2

In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ² these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

‘a and Ha are identical,

e.g. ‘apiru (Egyptian) = Hapiru (Mari)

B=P are interchangeable in Semitic

Amraphel ~ Hamrab-el

Hammurabi in Ugarit = “*mrpi*”

‘amumurapi = ‘Ammu (or Hammu) is great [‘Am = moon god]

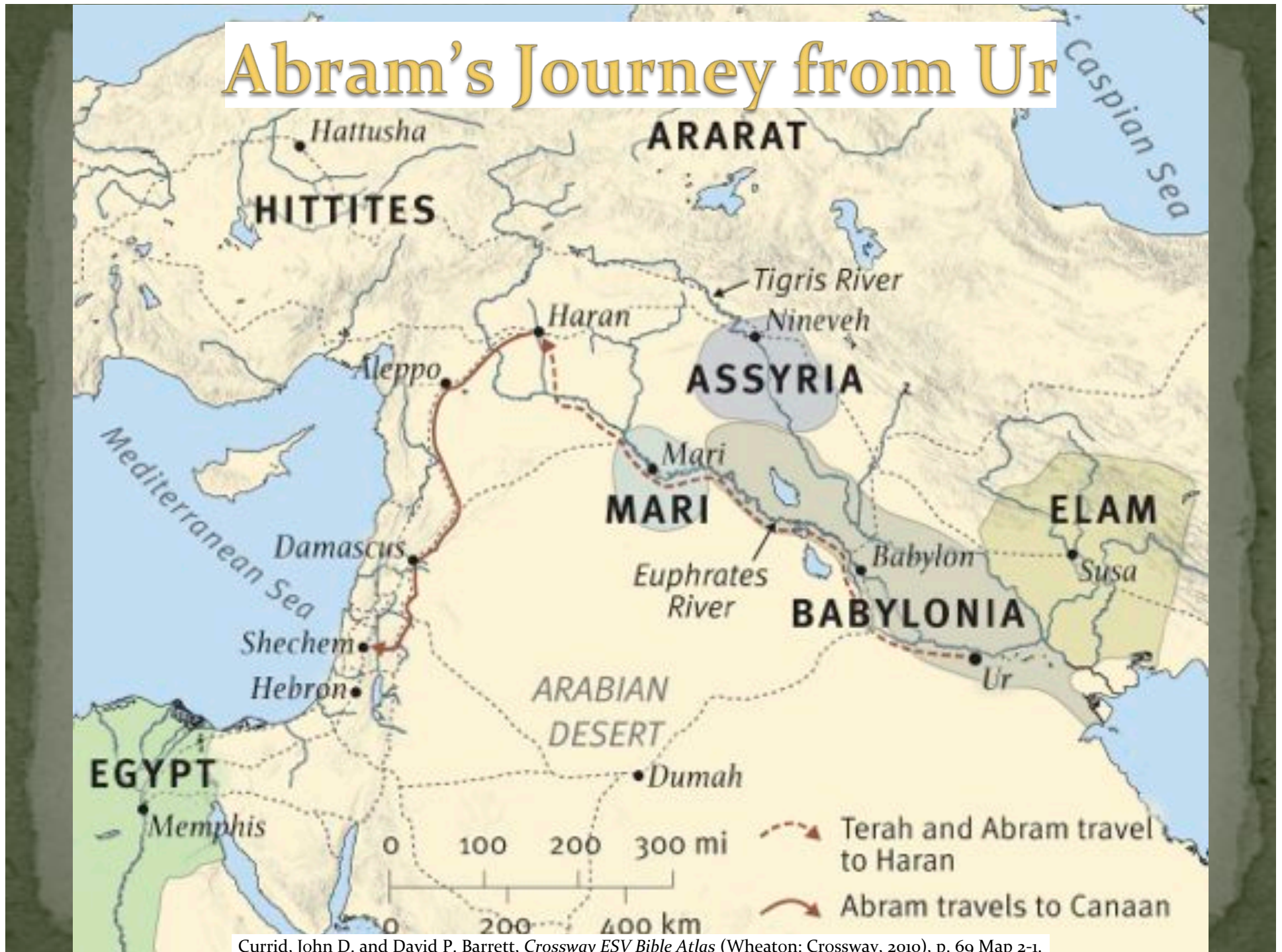
Amraphel = “Ammu is a great god” -el specified that Ammu was a pagan god (Moses’ readers may not have known that, it was a Babylonian god)

Abram's World



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Abram's Journey from Ur



Was Abram from Ur in Southern Mesopotamia?

A problem: The Chaldeans did not migrate to Ur until 1000 years after the time of Abraham

Chaldeans are first referred to in sources as being in southern Babylonia in 878 BC

Not found in Ur in Abram's time

Came from north (Armenia) according to Xenophon

Is Ur of Chaldea an anachronistic scribal addendum?

An error from 1st millennium author? Fact written by Moses?

Was Abram from Ur?

Critics observed the anachronism of the phrase “Ur of the Chaldees” in referring to Ur in southern Mesopotamia. This reinforced liberal critical attempts to discredit Scripture

Academic critics interpreted the facts in this way:

There was no Moses and Genesis is a collection of myths, compiled by various Israelite scribes (JEDP theory) much later in history when Chaldeans ruled southern Mesopotamia. The redactors composed Genesis in the context of their own times, not realizing the error.

This put believers Scriptural inerrancy on the defensive

Was Abram from Ur?

Christian commentators did not respond well:

In a poorly thought out knee-jerk reaction, most Christian commentators replied in this way:

In defiance of all Biblical scholarship, Christian commentators began to reply that everywhere Scripture reads “Ur of the Chaldees” originally read only “Ur” and that a later redactor included the words “of the Chaldees” to specify for Israelites of their day which Ur was being referred to. However, this assertion lacks any evidence whatsoever; no documentary evidence of originals reading only “Ur” have ever been found.

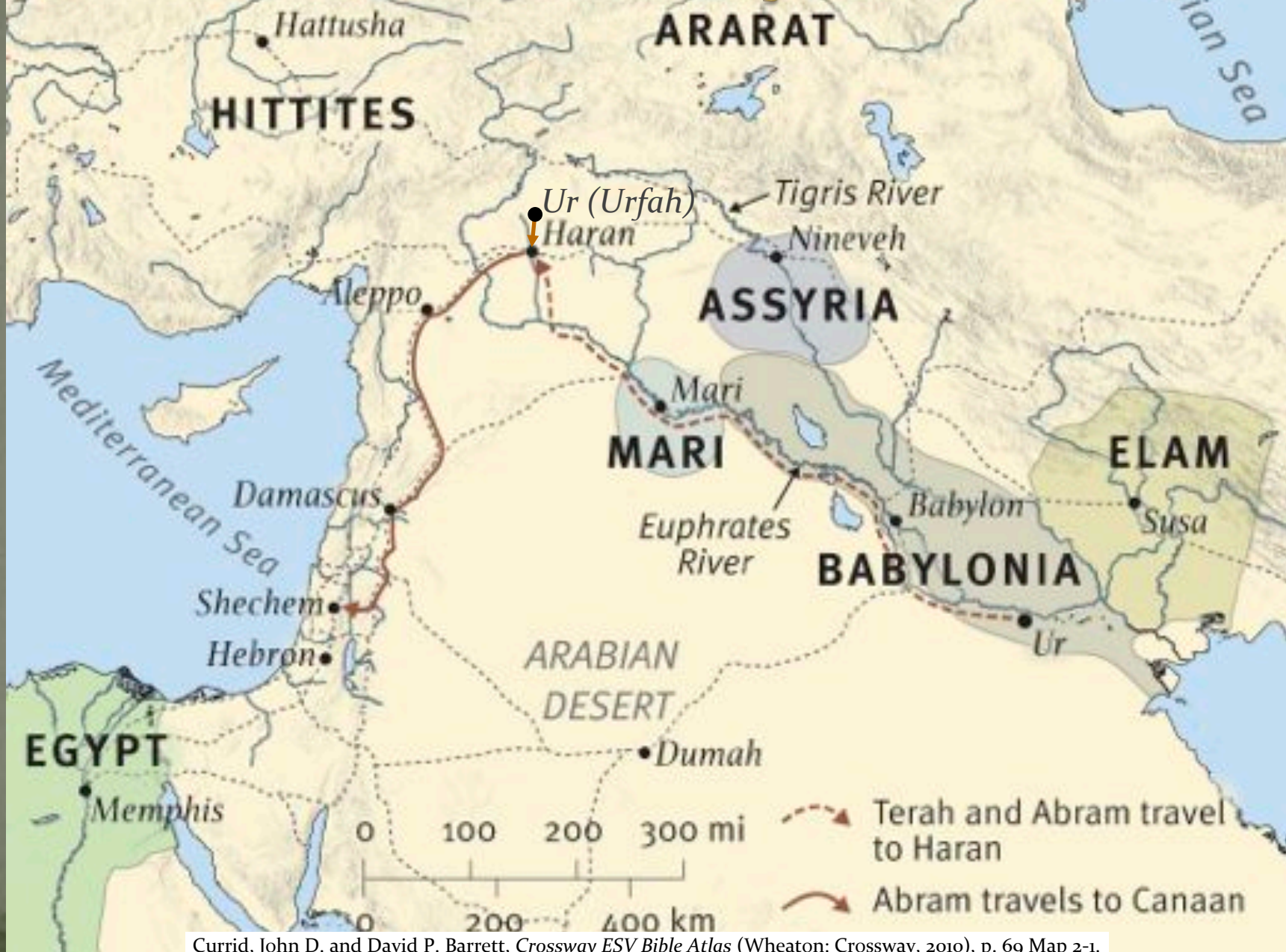
Was Abram from Ur?

Prior to 1920, traditional belief was Urfah, this was always their local belief and still is: a sign entering Urfah even today reads “birthplace of Abraham”

“Ur of the Chaldees” specifies a smaller, lesser city of the same name as a bigger, more well-known city

Xenophon locates Chaldees in now eastern Turkey, N. Meso. Neighbor of Armenians at that time

Abram's Journey from Ur



Other Side of the River

And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

Joshua 24:2

Route: Harran is not on the way from Ur to Canaan, but it is from Urfah, in fact only about 20 miles down the road (they didn't make it very far vs. they made it most of the way when they stopped at Harran)

My Father Was A Syrian

“And you shall answer and say before the Lord your God: ‘My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.’ Deut. 26:5

If Abraham were from southern Mesopotamia, he would have been a Sumerian and not a Syrian

Scripture gives no indication that Abraham was really a Sumerian rather than a Syrian

Abraham was a Syrian, Ur of the Chaldees (Urfah) and Padan Aram are in the region of Syria

My Father Was A Syrian

Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.” Gen. 25:20

Bethuel and Laban were both called Syrians, Scripture does not indicate that they were really Sumerians living in Syria, but rather simply calls them all Syrians

It's clearer that they moved from Ur of the Chaldees in Syria to Haran (Padan Aram) also in Syria

Where (and Who) Did Abraham Send His Servant To?

KJV Gen. 24:4

But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

KJV Gen. 24:38

But thou shalt go unto my father's house and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.

Abram sent his servant to his own people and his own country, not his own father's house specifically. The servant went to Padan Aram in north Mesopotamia, not Ur in southern Meso. When he spoke to Laban, he changed the instruction to "his father's house", more specific than what he was told

Why Ur?

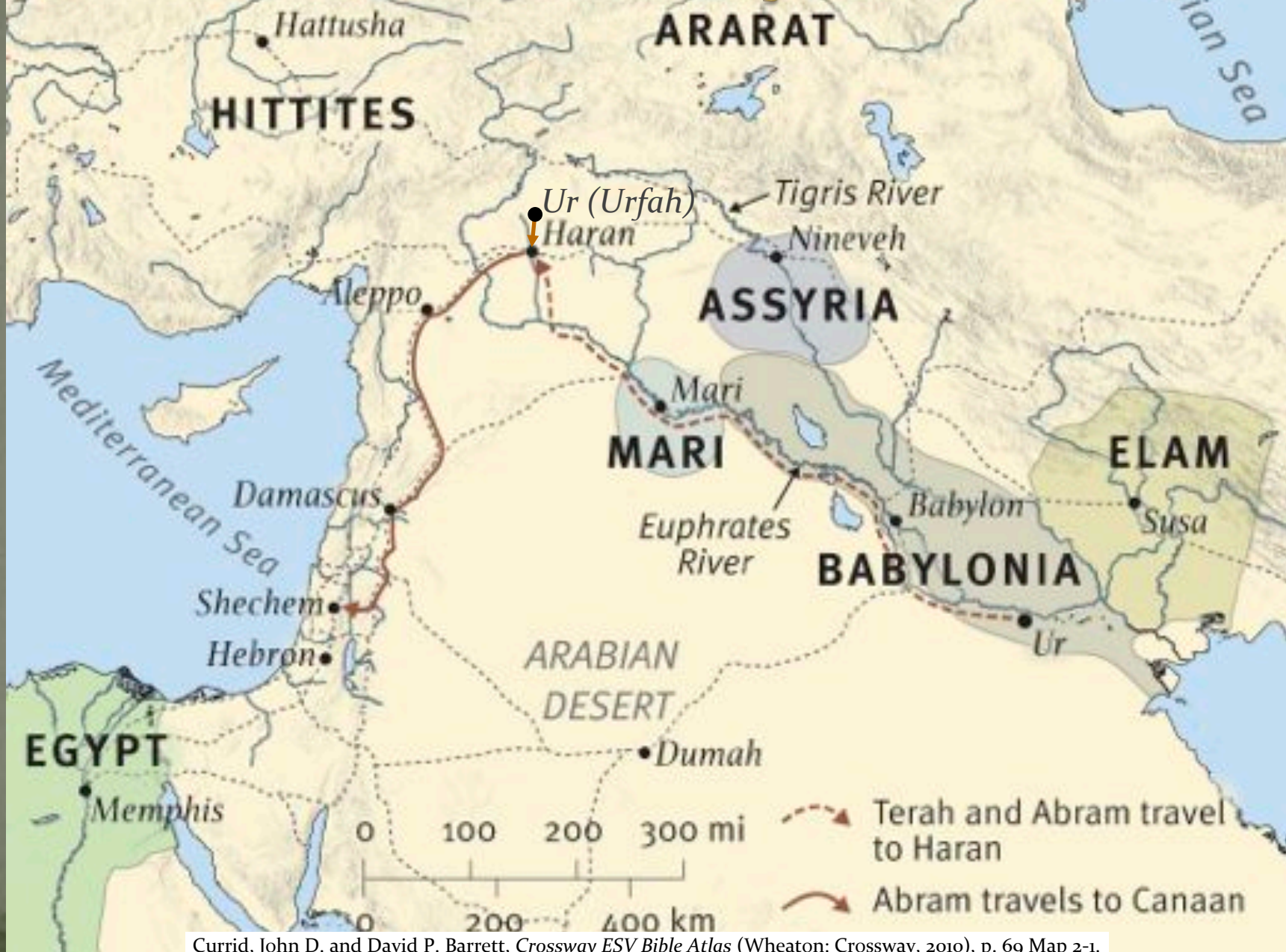
Ur vs. Urfah

Ur – excavated in 1920's by Leonard Woolley

Announced discovery of the birthplace of Abraham with no evidence whatsoever

Now, this belief is almost universally accepted as true and is in Bible atlases, dictionaries, commentaries, and sermons

Abram's Journey from Ur



Who Was Abram?

Did Abram start as a city-dwelling moon worshipper?

Was Abram really a big city dweller converted to a life of pastoral nomadism? He seems to have been a very accomplished and wealthy nomad. More likely this was his profession his whole life long

Abram the moon worshipper? Joshua 24:2

And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

Worship of Sin, the moon god, in Ur, not in Padan Aram