

TODAY'S AGENDA

- · The exodus story and Israelite history
 - Puzzles that inhibit understanding
 - Problems that inhibit belief
 - Possible responses to problems
- Themes in the exodus story
 - Pharaoh's hardened heart
 - The lessons of the plagues
 - Freedom and slavery

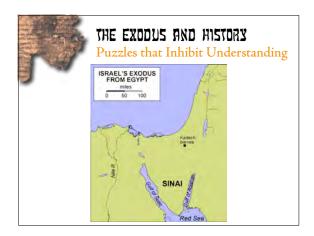
THE EXODUS AND HISTORY

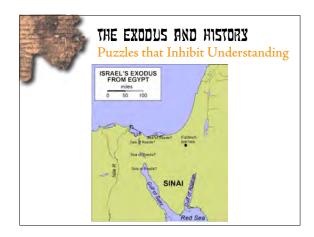
Puzzles that Inhibit Understanding

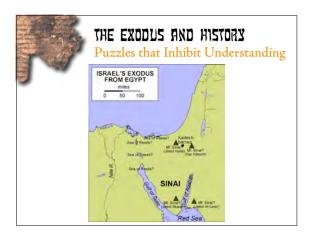
Geography

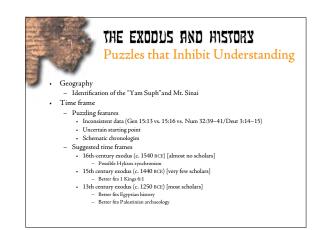
- Identification of the "Yam Suph" and Mt. Sinai













THE EXODUS AND HISTORY

Problems that Inhibit Belief

- Miraculous/supernatural elements
 - The plagues: natural or legendary?
 - Over 2 million Israelites surviving in Sinai?
- · Lack of external evidence
 - No Egyptian documentation





THE EXODUS AND HISTORY

Problems that Inhibit Belief

- Miraculous/supernatural elements
 - The plagues: natural or legendary?
 - Over 2 million Israelites surviving in Sinai?
- · Lack of external evidence
 - No Egyptian documentation
 - No archaeological remains
 - Of Israelite travelers
 - · Of neighboring kingdoms
 - Technological discontinuity



THE EXODUS AND HISTORY

Possible Responses to Problems

- "Extreme" positions
 - Reject biblical narrative altogether
 - Discount (lack of) archaeological evidence
- "Mediating" approaches
 - Compressed narration
 - Exaggerated numbers
 - Large-group assimilation of small-group experience



THEMES IN THE EXODUS STORY

Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

- Pharaoh's Heart?
- 1. Unspecified
- Pharaoh
 Unspecified
- J. Chapter
- Pharaoh
 Unspecifi
- 5. Unspecified
- 6. The LORD
- 7. Pharaoh
- 8. The LORD9. The LORD
- 10. The LORD
- Premise: the LORD doesn't *need* Pharaoh's cooperation
- Purpose of the hardening: to extend the plagues (Exod 7:3; 10:1)
- Purpose of the plagues: to show the LORD's power (Exod 7:4–5; 9:14–16; 10:2; 12:12)
- Addressing the moral dilemma (Rom 9:14–24)

	THEMES IN THE EXODUS STORY Lessons of the Plagues		
Morning warning	Blood	Flies	Hail
"Untimed" warning	Frogs	Murrain	Locust
No warning	"Gnats"	Boils	"Darkness"
	The LORD is real	The LORD favors Israel	The LORD is incomparable



THEMES IN THE EXODUS STORY

Slavery and Freedom

- The "liberation" theme
- Laws for liberated slave-holders
- Freed to serve
 - "I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery (עבדה, 'abodah = 'service') to them."
 - "Let my people go, so that they may worship (עבד, 'abad = 'serve') me in the wilderness."

NEXT TIME IN RELIGION 101



Unit 2C The Torah's Law Codes

- · Six distinct Torah law codes
- · Biblical attitudes toward biblical law
- · Biblical and ancient Near Eastern law
- The sin offering and the Day of Atonement