

# Contents

Preface	xiii
1. The World of Ancient Biblical Interpreters	1
2. The Creation of the World	51
Wisdom Came First • The “Beginning” Did It • A Special Light The Angels Were Also Created • God and Someone Else Completed on Friday	
3. Adam and Eve	65
Death in a Day • The Punishment Was Mortality Sinfulness Is Hereditary • The Serpent Was Satan Blame It on the Woman • An Extra Proviso The Earthly Paradise • The Garden in Heaven	
4. Cain and Abel	83
Son of the Devil • Cain’s Sisters • Professions Decided Defective Sacrifices • The Problem Was the Sacrificer The Good and the Bad • Killed with a Stone God Knew Where Abel Was • Cain’s Sevenfold Punishment Cain’s Repentance	
5. Noah and the Flood	97
Cain Was the Worst • The Immortal Enoch The Heavenly Scribe • Enoch the Sage • Enoch the Penitent A Bad Match • The Wicked Giants One Hundred and Twenty until Punishment Noah Warned of the Flood • Noah the Righteous Only in His Generation • The Animals Also Sinned The Purifying Flood	

6. The Tower of Babel 121  
 They Tried to Storm Heaven • A War against God  
 Nimrod Built It • The Builders Were Giants  
 The Tower Lies in Ruins
7. Abraham Journeys from Chaldea 131  
 Abraham the Monotheist • Terah, Priest of Idolatry  
 Abraham the Astronomer • Tipped Off by the Stars  
 Abraham Rescued from Chaldea • Abraham Saved from Fire  
 Abraham Was Upset • Abraham's Dream
8. Melchizedek 149  
 A Generous Host • Righteous King and Priest  
 Divinely Appointed High Priest • The Heavenly Melchizedek  
 The Christian "Order of Melchizedek"  
 An Uncircumcised Priest? • Melchizedek in Samaria  
 Melchizedek Was Shem • Services No Longer Needed
9. The Trials of Abraham 163  
 Abraham the Tested • Abraham Saw a Dire Future  
 Challenged by Angels • God Made It Known  
 Isaac Was a Willing Victim • Together in Mind  
 Offering Foreshadowed Crucifixion
10. Lot and Lot's Wife 179  
 Lot the Righteous • Lot the Wicked • Sodomites' Sexual Sins  
 The Proud and the Stingy • Abraham's Hospitality  
 Lot Learned from Abraham • Lot's Wife Sinned  
 A Visible Reminder • Lot's Daughters Meant Well
11. Jacob and Esau 197  
 Jacob Was Not Just "Simple" • Jacob the Scholar  
 Esau the Wicked • Good and Evil in Utero • Esau the Warrior  
 Esau Means Rome • Esau the Deceiver • Esau Didn't Care  
 Jacob Told the Truth • God Wanted Jacob to Be Blessed  
 The Ladder Was a Message • Angels Wanted to See Him

12. Jacob and the Angel 215  
 Jacob Knew Right Away • Deluded in the Dark  
 Additional Trickery Required • Weak, Bleary Eyes  
 “Nice Eyes, But . . .” • God Multiplied Jacob’s Flocks  
 Rachel Was Not a Crook • Jacob Struggled with an Angel  
 Mighty with God’s Help • Israel Means Seeing God
13. Dinah 231  
 Uncontrolled Anger • Shechem Deserved Death  
 Foreigners Are Different • Inter-marriage Is Forbidden  
 A Wise Answer • The Whole City Was Guilty  
 City with a Criminal Past • God Said No  
 God Ordered Their Destruction • Dinah Married Job
14. Joseph’s Ups and Downs 245  
 It’s a Wise Child • Eating from the Flocks  
 Resembled Jacob in All Things • Deeds of Youthful Foolishness  
 For the Price of Shoes • Joseph’s Great Virtue  
 A Very Handsome Man • Girls Climbing the Walls  
 Cast Down Their Jewelry • Joseph Was Not Tempted  
 Remembered Jacob’s Teachings • Saw Jacob’s Face  
 A Collective Accusation • Pharaoh’s Servants Applauded  
 Joseph Had Been Scorned
15. Jacob’s Sons in Egypt 263  
 A Good Reason for Concealing • Joseph Tested His Brothers  
 Joseph Disdained Revenge • Reuben Lost His Inheritance  
 Bilhah Bathing • Bilhah Was Asleep  
 Jacob Foretold the Future • Kingship Will Not Depart *Forever*  
 Another King Will Come • Until a New King Comes  
 A Ruler of the World • Why Did Joseph Put It Off?

16. Growing Up in Pharaoh's Court 285
- A Plan to Finish Them Off • Why Only the Boys?  
 A Future Savior • Jannes and Jambres • Balaam, Job, and Jethro  
 Death by Water • Schooled in Every Wisdom  
 Moses' Speech Defect • Jealous of Moses  
 Zipporah the Ethiopian • Miraculously Burning Bush  
 The Medium Was the Message • "I Am the One Who Is . . ."  
 "I Am the Eternal . . ." • An Angel in the Hotel  
 Circumcision Delayed Is Circumcision Denied  
 A Prenuptial Agreement
17. The Exodus from Egypt 309
- A Godlike Man • No Mere Magician's Trick  
 Pharaoh Didn't Realize • Divine Punishment of the Egyptians  
 Deservedly Punished by Water • A Dark Dungeon for Egypt  
 Metaphorical Darkness • Justifiable Death for the Firstborn  
 Egyptians Gave Willingly • Fair Wages at Last  
 The Symbolic Passover Laws • The (Paschal) Lamb of Christianity
18. The Red Sea 331
- Pillar of Luminous Cloud • Protective Covering  
 An Angel in the Cloud • Final Payment  
 Get Back Our Goods! • Rebellion at the Sea  
 More than One Miracle • A Grassy Plain • Miraculous Timing  
 If Looks Could Kill . . . • Light and Dark Together  
 Ups and Downs of the Egyptians • Red Sea as Baptism  
 How Did They Know the Words? • Seeing God at the Sea  
 Infants Sang Too • Miriam's Separate Song • A New Song
19. Into the Wilderness 353
- Water, Water . . . • A Symbolic Tree  
 The Water Was Divine Wisdom • The Food of Angels  
 Heavenly Grain • Adapted to Any Taste • Spiritual Sustenance  
 The Traveling Rock • Miriam's Well  
 Amalek Destroyed at the End-Time  
 The Symbolic Hands of Moses  
 The Christian Battle with Amalek • Jethro the Polytheist  
 Jethro the Good



20. At Mt. Sinai 371
- Heaven on Earth • Celestial Sinai • Heavenly Moses  
 God Spoke All Ten • God Spoke Only Two • The Ten Were All  
 The Decalogue Epitomizes • Five and Five  
 Which Ten Commandments? • No Talk of Weekday Matters  
 Guard the Sabbath Borders • Do Not Go Out Too Far  
 Do Not Take Vain Oaths • No False Oaths  
 Honor Your Heavenly and Earthly Fathers  
 A Mishap to the Baby • A Mishap to the Mother  
 Money for an Eye • Traditions of the Elders  
 Moses Was Given More than the Torah  
 Oral Teachings from Moses • A Hidden Torah  
 Moses' Secret Book • A Book before Moses  
 Children of the Chosen • Singled Out from the Start  
 Other Nations Knew Anyway • Other Nations at Fault  
 Remember This Blood
21. The Golden Calf 415
- A Celestial Sanctuary • Copied from Heaven  
 A Likeness of the Universe • Aaron Tried to Stop Them  
 Aaron Feared for His Life • Hur Murdered by the Rabble  
 The Letters Flew Off • Tables Became Too Heavy  
 Divine Traits of Character  
 Steadfast Love for Thousands of Generations  
 No Pardon for the Wicked • Thousands of Sins Forgiven  
 Moses' Face Beamed Light • Moses Grew Horns
22. Worship in the Wilderness 439
- An Error in Priestly Procedure • A Holy Death  
 Coats Not Burned • Control of Appetites  
 Ruminating with One's Mind • Gentle Birds for Gentle People  
 Day of Repentance • The Day of Partial Atonement  
 Hatred Means Hypocrisy • Reproach Prevents Hatred  
 Reproach Gently to Prevent Sin • Reproach before Charging  
 Love As You Would Be Loved • Love Only Your Neighbor  
 The Whole Torah

23. Trouble along the Way 461  
 Quails Weren't for Grousing • A Wife Related to Prophecy  
 Trusted Servant Par Excellence  
 Whose Bad Idea? • Solemnly Warned • Tassels Set Off Revolt  
 Moses Accused of Favoritism • Moses Was Polite  
 Korah's Symbolic Death • A Truly Dangerous Figure  
 Aaron's Symbolic Staff
24. The Bronze Serpent, Balaam, and Phinehas 477  
 Looking Didn't Cure • Serpent Was Like Moses' Hands  
 Balaam the Wicked • God Knew Who They Were  
 A Prophet for Hire • Balaam Foresaw the Messiah  
 A Ruler of the World • The Star Is the Messiah  
 The Star Will Precede the Scepter • Balaam Counseled Seduction  
 A Leader among Priests • Phinehas the Immortal  
 Phinehas Is Elijah
25. The Life of Torah 501  
 The Great Teaching • These Words Twice a Day  
 A Particular Prophet • Do Not Displace Old Practices  
 Necessary Paperwork • No Divorce—Except for Indecency  
 Any Old Reason Is Valid • Don't Muzzle Me  
 Small Commandments as Important as Big  
 Torah Refines (Like Fire) • The Gift of the Torah  
 Not in Heaven Anymore • A Choice for Each Person  
 A Choice of Two Paths • Nice Road at First  
 The Path to the Afterlife • Consider Heaven and Earth  
 Heaven and Earth Were Already Witnesses  
 Moses Did Not Want to Die • Moses Disputed with an Angel  
 Moses' Last Vision • Buried by God (or the Angels)  
 Buried under a Cloud • Not Buried at All  
 The Supreme Philosopher
26. Afterword 549  
 Abbreviations 563  
 Terms and Sources 567  
 Bibliography 617  
 Illustration Credits 647  
 Index 649