
A hand holds a white, multi-layered picture frame in the foreground. The frame is positioned to capture a view of a coastal landscape. The background shows a grassy cliffside on the left, a sandy beach, and the ocean with waves breaking. The sky is overcast. The text 'Framing the Pagan Myths' and 'Paul Miles' is centered within the frame.

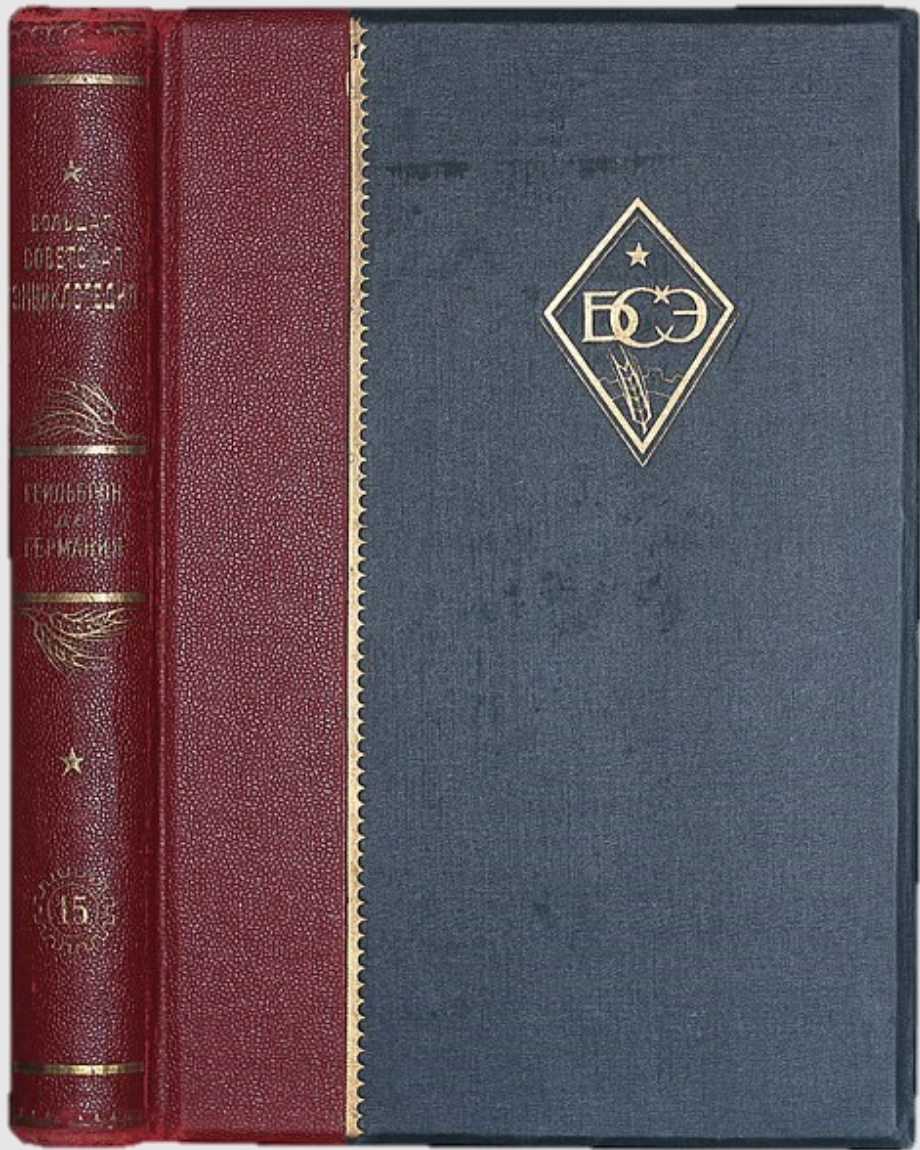
Framing the
Pagan Myths
Paul Miles

Overview



Framing the
Pagan Myths
Paul Miles

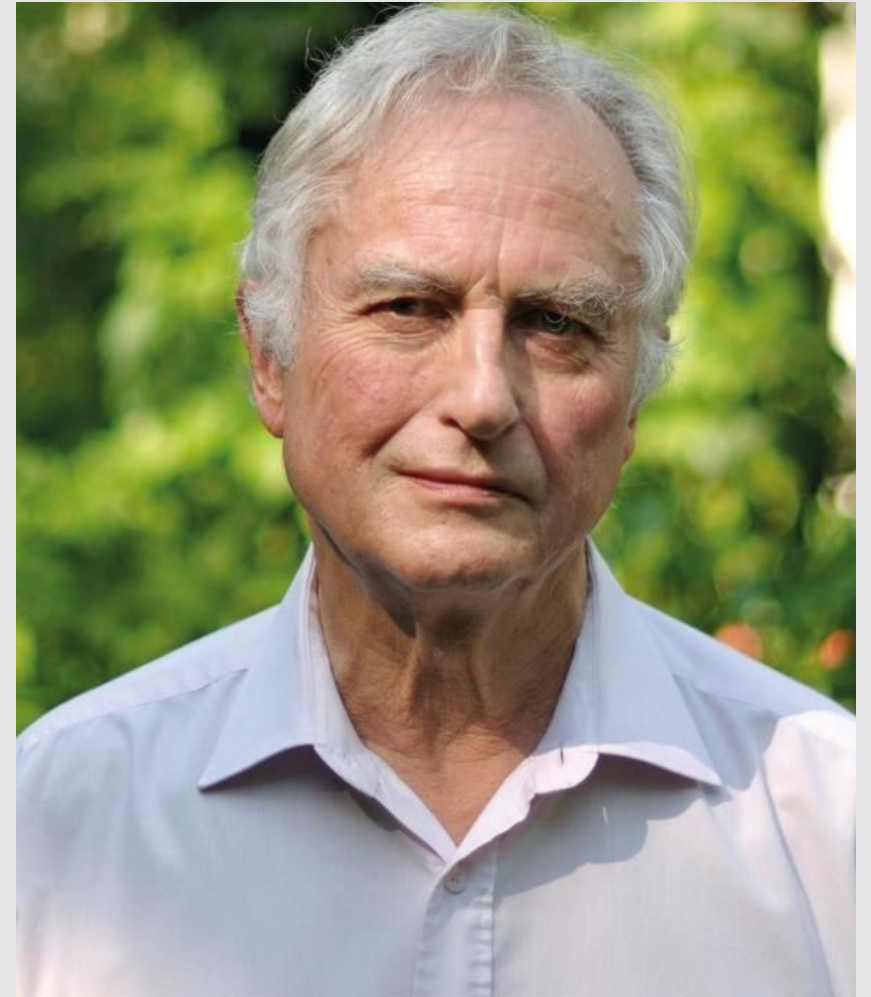
- The accusation
- Six days of creation
- The Egyptian myth
- The Mayan myth
- A biblical framing
- Atheistic evolution



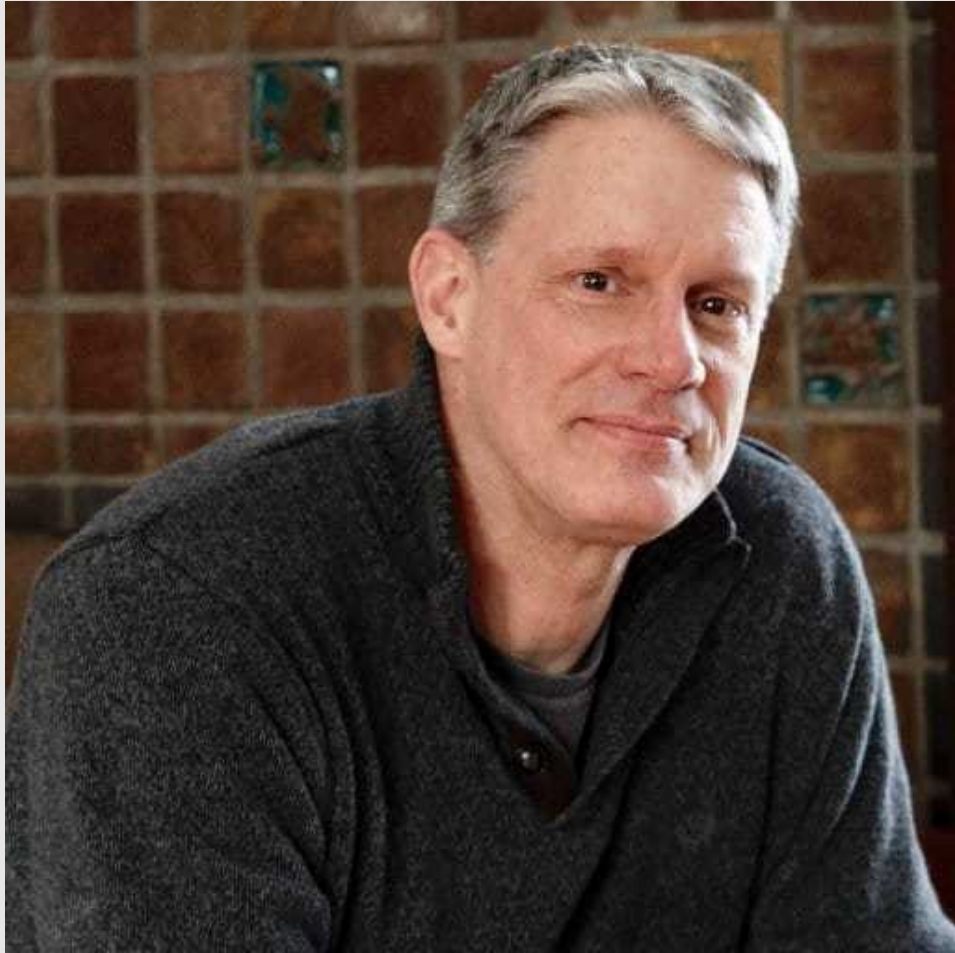
Genesis, the first book of the Pentateuch, expounds the mythological notions of the ancient Jews regarding the creation of the universe, the world, and mankind (in many aspects it is close to the nations of the Ancient Near East), as well as the legendary ancient history of the Jews.

The Great Soviet Encyclopedia

The stories of Adam and Eve, and of Noah and his Ark, are not history, and no educated theologian thinks they are. Like countless such stories from all over the world, they are 'myths'. There's nothing wrong with myths. Some are beautiful and most are interesting, but they aren't history.



Richard Dawkins
Atheist



Peter Enns
Liberal Theologian

[Genesis 1–11] is clearly not prepared to provide an account of history. ... The Israelites wrote as ancient people, and their argument for why Yahweh is above all the others gods... only worked *because of the shared mythic categories between Israel and her neighbors.*



Tim Mackie and Jon Collins
Evangelicals

[The biblical authors] didn't know certain things that we take for granted... Their cosmic geography was flat earth... It's just the biblical conception of the physical construction of the world.

Six Days of Creation

1. Light, matter, day, night
2. Expanse in the waters
3. Land, sea, vegetation
4. Celestial bodies
5. Sea creatures, birds
6. Land animals, man, woman
7. Shabbat



Egyptian Myths

- Yes, there are similarities
- There are also differences
- Does not discredit Bible



Coffin Text 714 —Egyptian Primordial Water

I [Nun, the Primeval Waters] am the Waters, unique, without second.

That is where I developed, on the great occasion of my floating that happened to me.

I am the one who had developed—Circlet, who is in his egg.

I am the one who began therein, (in) the Waters.

See, the Flood is subtracted from me:

see, I am the remainder.

It was through my effectiveness that I brought about my body.

I am the one who made me.

It was as I wished, according to my heart, that I built myself.

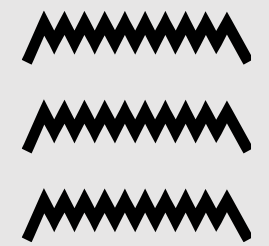
“Nun” in hieroglyphs



nw “Nu” or “Nun”



“sky” determinative



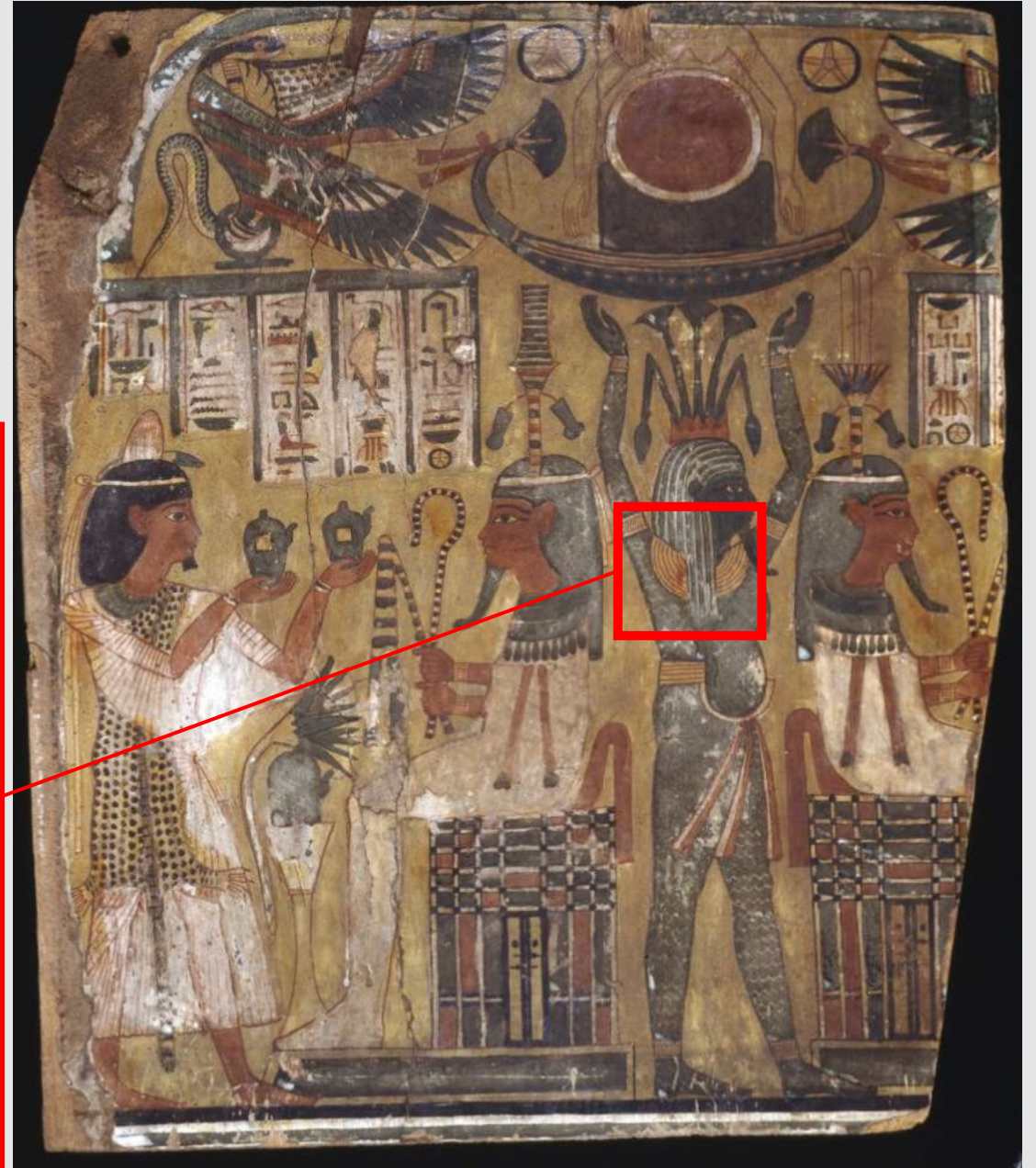
“water” determinative



“god” determinative

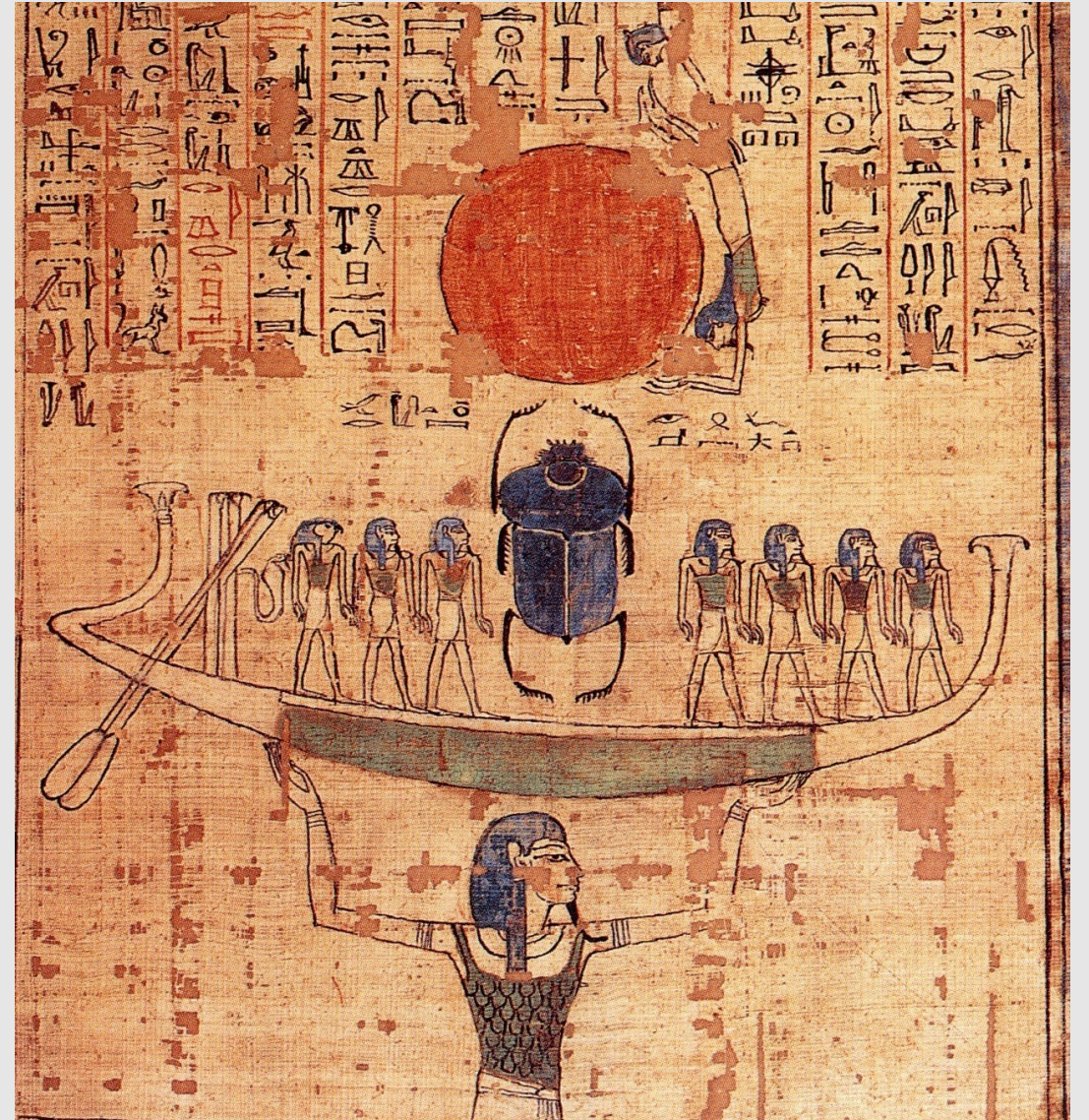
Coffin floor-board

- 21st(?) 22nd(?) Dynasty
- Note watery skin



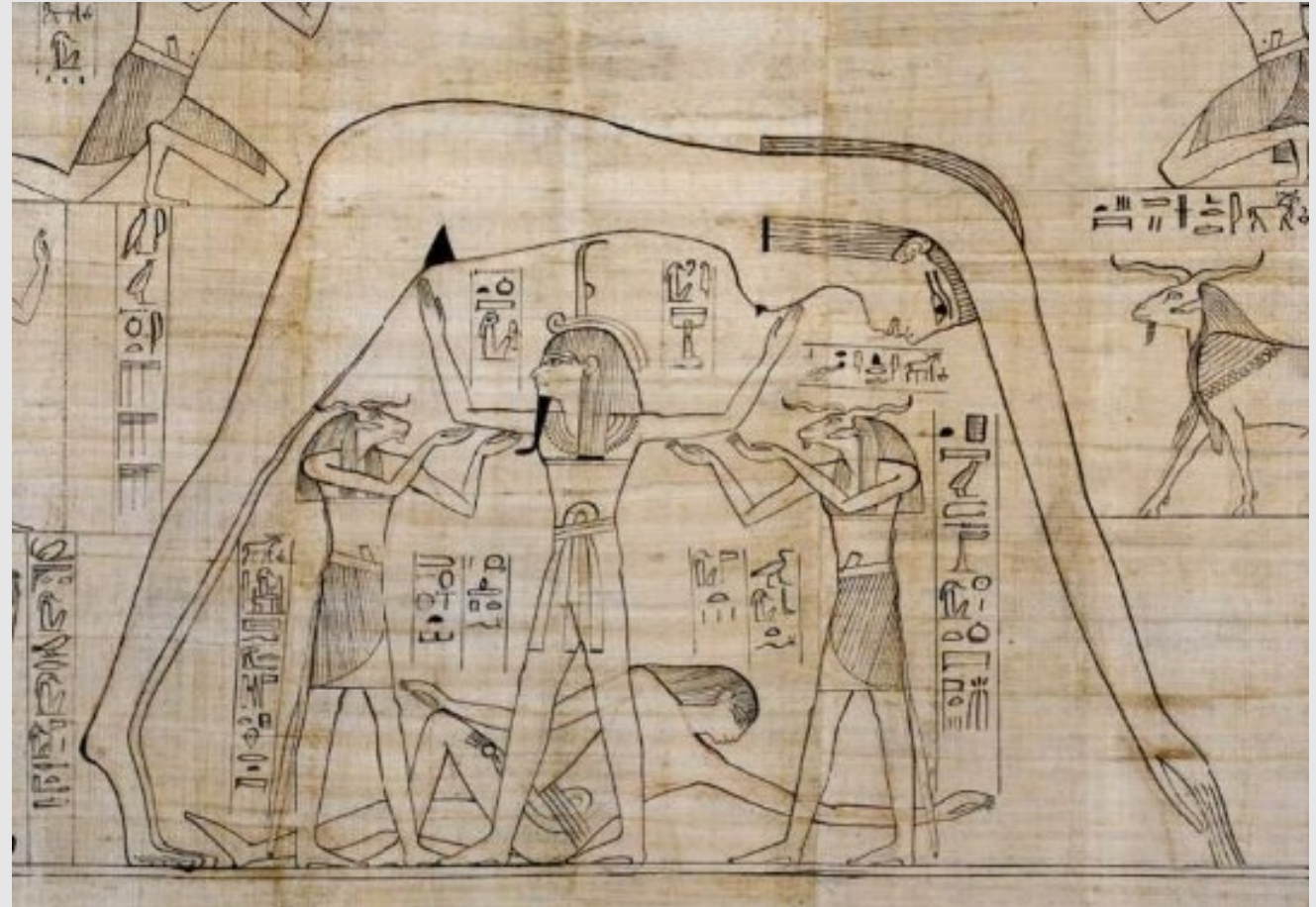
Book of the Dead of Anahai

- Nun is the watery abyss
- Nun raises a solar boat
- Reminiscent of Day 2?



Greenfield Papyrus

- Separation of sky and land
- Sky goddess Nut above
- Held by air god Shu
- Earth god Geb below
- Shu is assisted by Heh deities



Roman Mammisi (Birth House) at Dendera

- The god Khnum, accompanied by Heqet, molds Ihy on a potter's wheel
- Khnum was also thought to make children's bodies from clay



Pyramid Text 600

Atum Beetle! You became high, as the hill... You sneezed Shu and spat Tefnut. You put your arms around them as ka-arms so that your ka might be in them.

[*Ka* is an Egyptian concept of soul]

Coffin of Itineb

- Ten panels associating ten body parts with ten deities



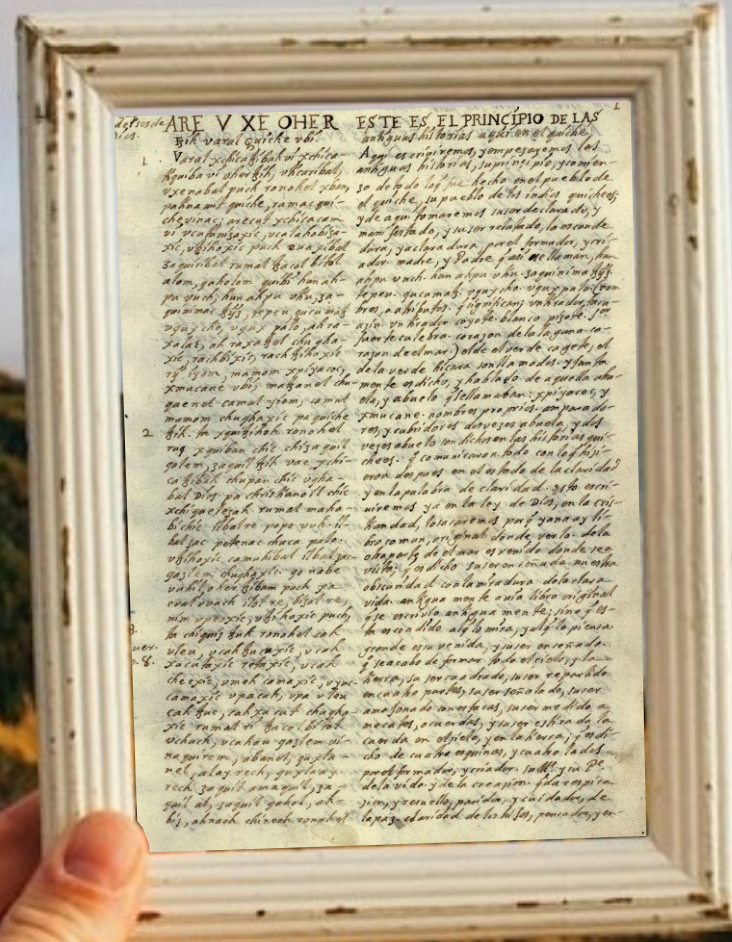
Coffin of Itineb

- Heart-weighing ceremony



Popol Vuh

- Mayan myth (the K'iche' people)
- Preserved in oral tradition
- First written c. 1550



← Oldest Surviving *Popol Vuh* Manuscript
(1701 A.D.)

Popol Vuh – State before creation

THESE, then, are the **first words, the first speech**. There is not yet one person... All alone the sky exists. The face of the earth has not yet appeared... There is not yet anything gathered together... **Only the expanse of the water, only the tranquil sea lies alone.**

Popol Vuh – Order of creation

THEN came his word. Heart of Sky arrived here with Sovereign and Quetzal Serpent in the darkness... Then they gave birth... they gave birth to humanity. Then they arranged for the germination and creation of the trees and the bushes, the germination of all life and creation, in the darkness and in the night, by Heart of Sky, who is called Huracan.

Popol Vuh – Creation through speech and separation

Then the earth was created by them. Merely their word brought about the creation of it. **In order to create the earth, they said, “Earth,” and immediately it was created.** Just like a cloud, like a mist, was the creation and formation of it. **Then they called forth the mountains from the water.**

Popol Vuh – Fall of mud-men and flood

Let us make a provider, a sustainer for us. How shall we then be called upon so that we are remembered upon the face of the earth?

[they make men of mud, then wood]

But they were not capable of understanding and did not speak before their Framer and their Shaper, their makers and their creators.

A flood was planned by Heart of Sky that came down upon the heads of the effigies carved of wood...

Thus they were killed in the flood. There came a great resin down from the sky.

Popol Vuh – Citadel and origin of nations

“But if they do not multiply or are increased, when will the first planting be? When will it dawn? If they do not increase, when will it be so? Therefore we will merely undo them a little now...”

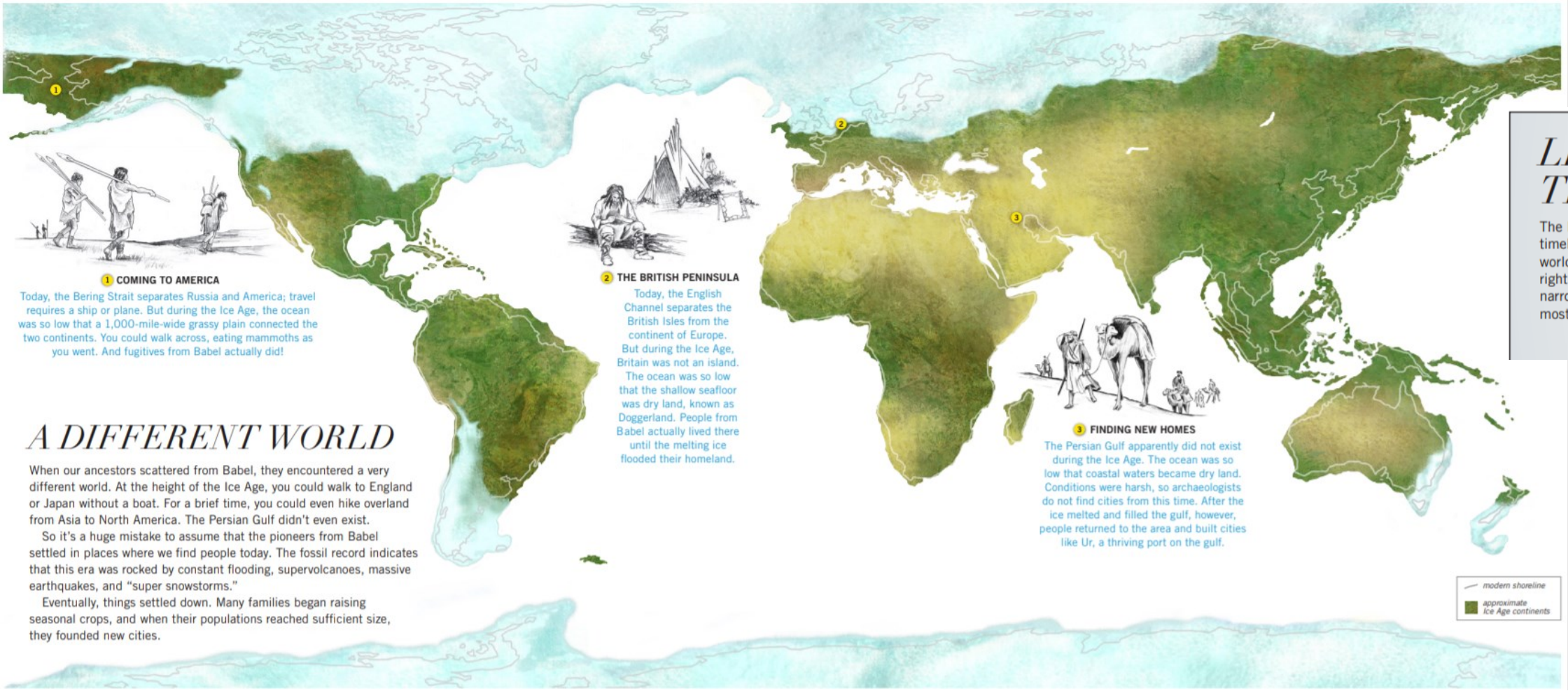
This, therefore, was our foundation, we the Quiché people...
It was there in the East that they multiplied...

Of these we shall speak only of the nations that became great among the allied nations. They who became great we shall declare. There were many others that came out of the citadel after them, each one of them a division.

A Biblical Framing

- The Bible is the correct record
- Interdisciplinary models could help explain human dispersion
- The Tower of Babel event could explain the origin of similarities in the Pagan myths





LINING UP THE ICE AGE

The Bible gives us an absolute timeline for understanding world events. By lining up the right clues, it is possible to narrow down when the Ice Age most likely occurred.

1 COMING TO AMERICA
 Today, the Bering Strait separates Russia and America; travel requires a ship or plane. But during the Ice Age, the ocean was so low that a 1,000-mile-wide grassy plain connected the two continents. You could walk across, eating mammoths as you went. And fugitives from Babel actually did!

2 THE BRITISH PENINSULA
 Today, the English Channel separates the British Isles from the continent of Europe. But during the Ice Age, Britain was not an island. The ocean was so low that the shallow seafloor was dry land, known as Doggerland. People from Babel actually lived there until the melting ice flooded their homeland.

3 FINDING NEW HOMES
 The Persian Gulf apparently did not exist during the Ice Age. The ocean was so low that coastal waters became dry land. Conditions were harsh, so archaeologists do not find cities from this time. After the ice melted and filled the gulf, however, people returned to the area and built cities like Ur, a thriving port on the gulf.

A DIFFERENT WORLD

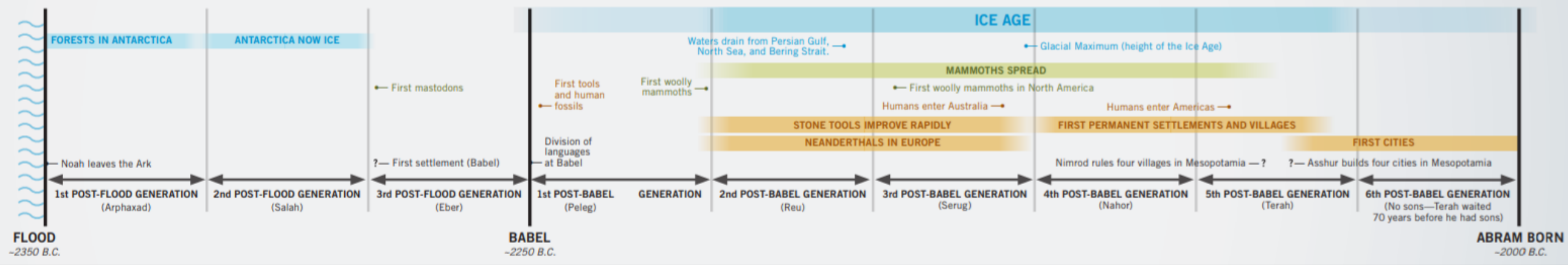
When our ancestors scattered from Babel, they encountered a very different world. At the height of the Ice Age, you could walk to England or Japan without a boat. For a brief time, you could even hike overland from Asia to North America. The Persian Gulf didn't even exist.

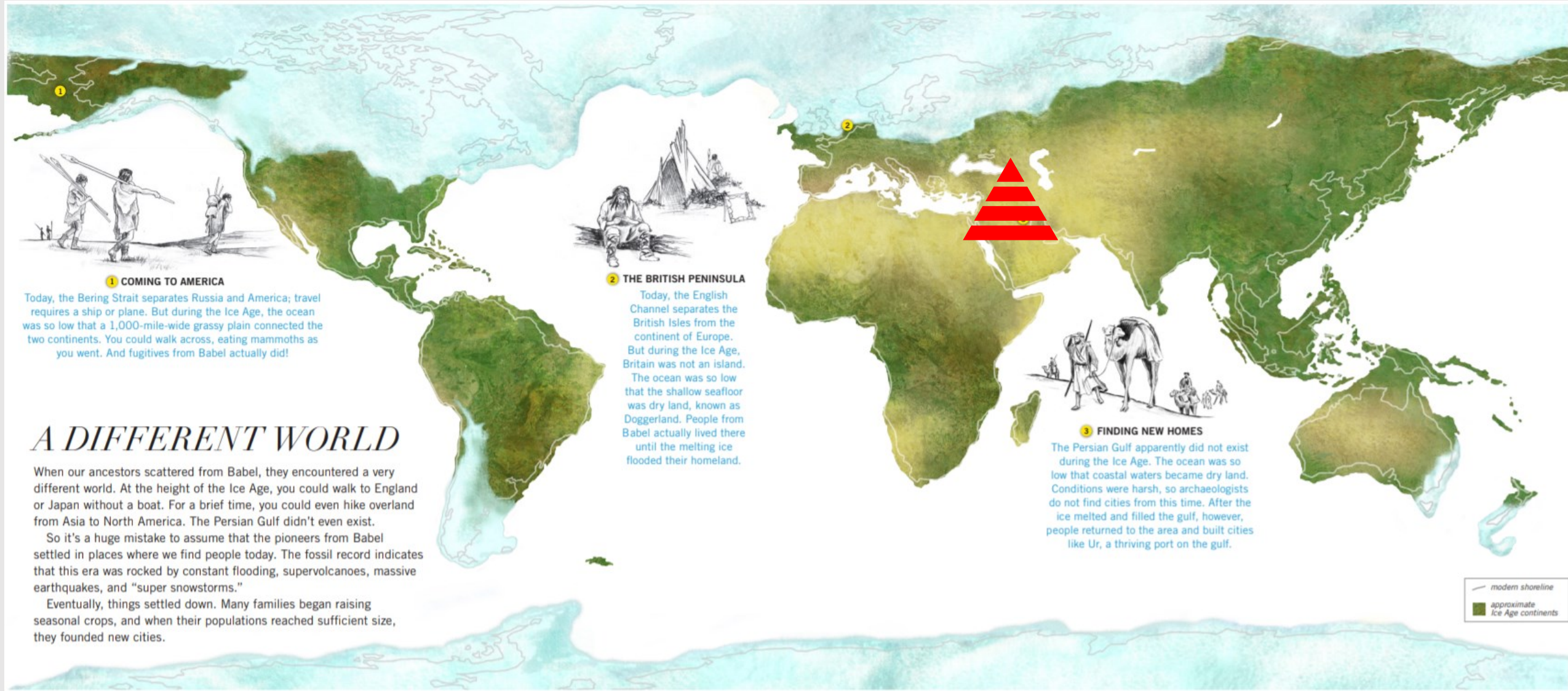
So it's a huge mistake to assume that the pioneers from Babel settled in places where we find people today. The fossil record indicates that this era was rocked by constant flooding, supervolcanoes, massive earthquakes, and "super snowstorms."

Eventually, things settled down. Many families began raising seasonal crops, and when their populations reached sufficient size, they founded new cities.

— modern shoreline
 ■ approximate Ice Age continents

<https://assets.answersingenesis.org/doc/articles/am/v8/n2/ice-age-map.pdf>





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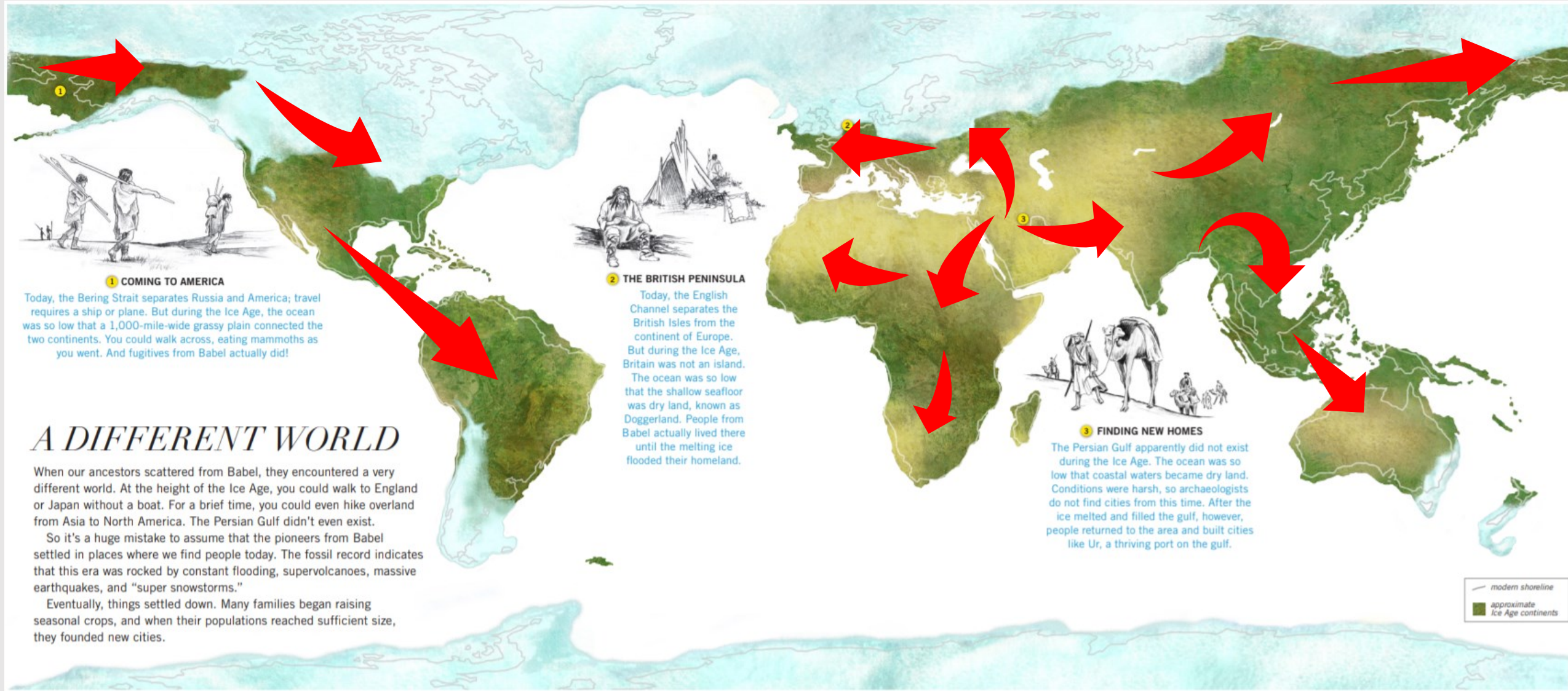
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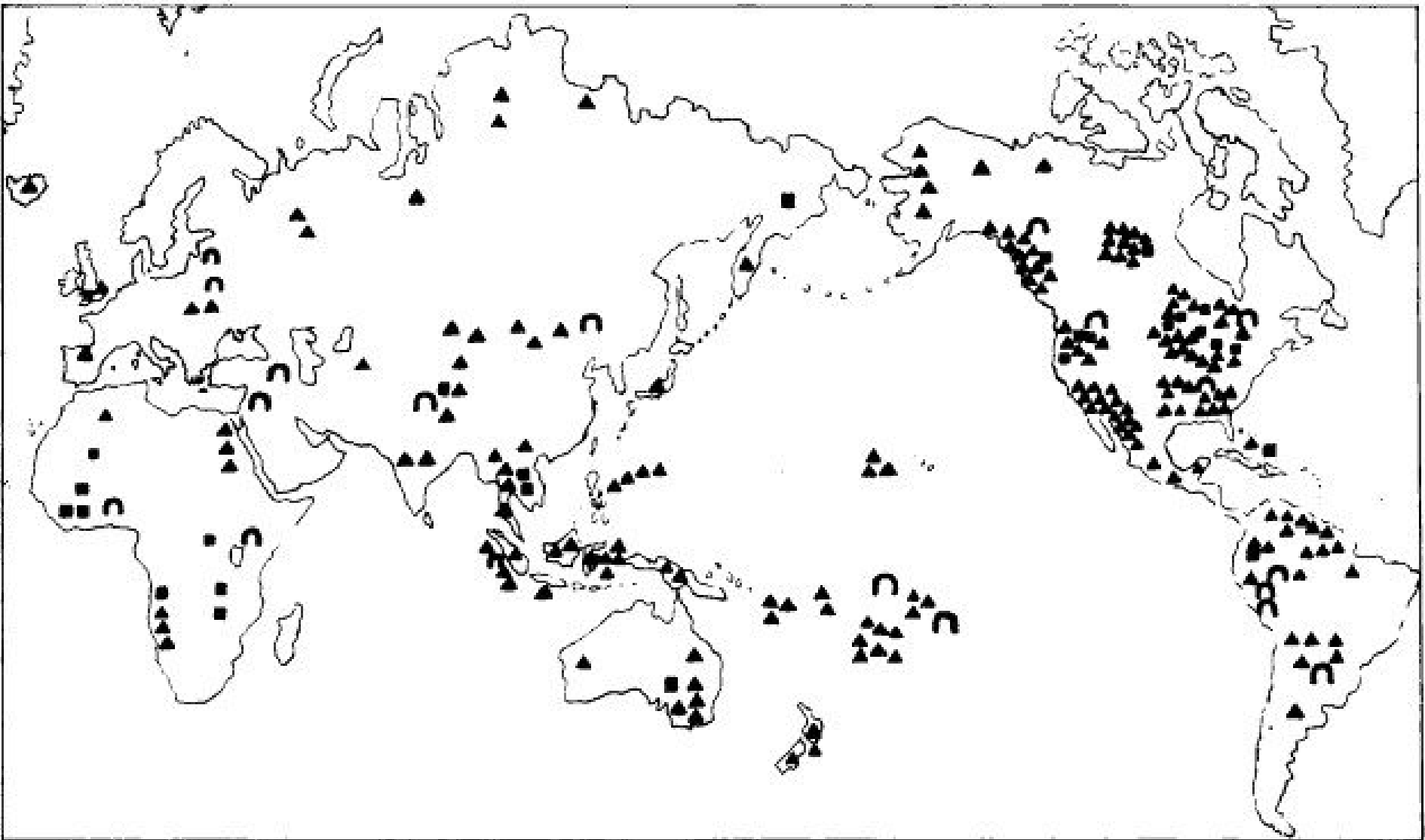
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Map 1:

- Deluge traditions including the rainbow motif
- ▲ Extensive documentation of deluge traditions
- Fragmentary evidence (according to Riem 1925a)

Atheistic Evolution

- Paganism for today



Two Worldviews

Creator/Creation Distinction

- God created *ex nihilo*
- Nothing about me is God-stuff
- Human exceptionalism
- Foundation of Gospel

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Continuity of Being

- Preexistent matter becomes universe
- I am made of God-stuff
- Humans are part of nature
- Foundation of self-righteousness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QADMMmU6ab8>



We Are Star Stuff - Cosmic Poetry

82,645 views • May 30, 2008

1K 15 SHARE SAVE

“We are made of star stuff...”

“We are all connected to each other biologically, to the earth chemically, and to the rest of the universe atomically.”

“I actually feel quite large at the end of that.”

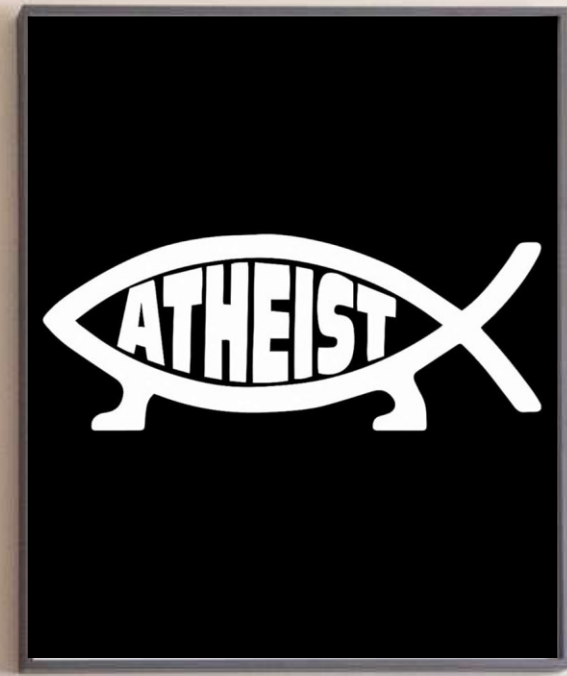
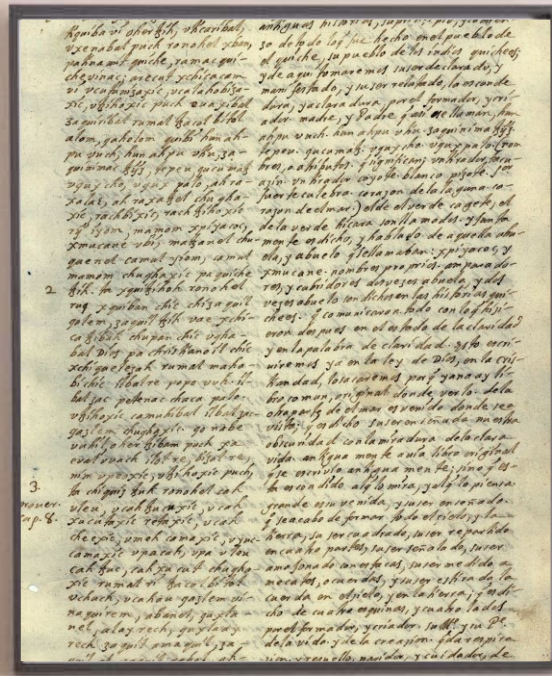
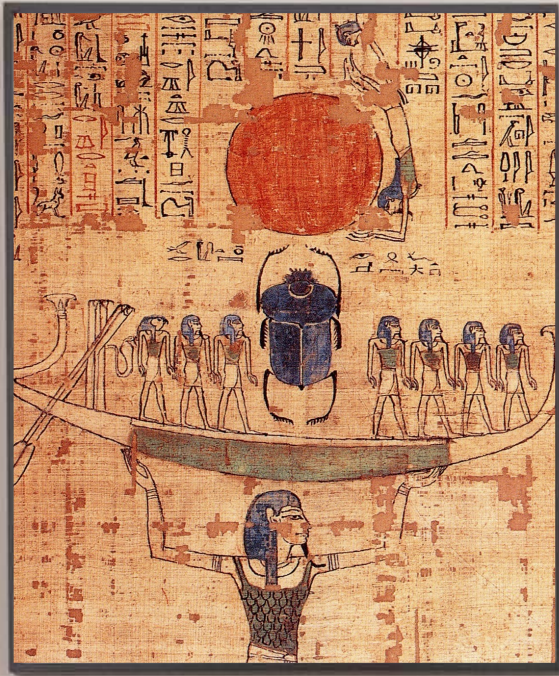
“It's not that we're better than the universe; we're part of the universe.”

“We're in the universe and the universe is in us.”

“We're not the center of the universe, but we are in it and of it.”



Neil deGrasse Tyson



Framing the Pagan Myths

