Before Abraham…*was I Am*

The Jews of antiquity felt that they were of Abraham and deserving of more because of it. The Muslims are also of Abraham and they even carry the tradition of sacrifice and similar Old Testament concepts in their celebrations. All religions do not understand what is meant when all the nations of the earth would be blessed because of Abraham. Everyone has a different interpretation of this and what you read in this section will probably be dismissed by Mormon tradition. This is due to the psychological principle that tradition avoids the fear of being ordinary and seeks the magic of spiritual darkness in order to feel alive. The Lord uses tradition when the people cannot receive or see the truth.

[John 8:57-59](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/nt/john/8.57-59?lang=eng#57)

Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Before Abraham is like saying “Before Abraham was I Jehovah, the creator of all things.” Jesus Christ is Jehovah the creator. Paul new this when he clarified:

[1 Corinthians 10:1-4](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/nt/1-cor/10.1-4?lang=eng#3)

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Jesus Christ is central to the Gospel of Abraham, the economy of heaven, and the foundation of the Chaldeans. The origin of the Chaldean is assumed to be from Mesopotamia. Many also assume circumcision began with Abraham. It is important to understand that these two assumptions are incorrect. The Egyptians at the time of the construction of the Great Pyramid, practiced circumcision. This is according to Egyptian stone images. This was long before Abraham. If Egypt had circumcision before, it is equally likely that the Chaldean religion of science came from a common source rather than from Mesopotamia. Both Abraham and Daniel were Chaldean.[[1]](#endnote-1)

[Abraham 1:23-25](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/1.23-25?lang=eng#22)

The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who was the daughter of Ham, and the daughter of Egyptus, which in the Chaldean signifies Egypt, which signifies that which is forbidden;

When this woman discovered the land it was under water, who afterward settled her sons in it; and thus, from Ham, sprang that race which preserved the curse in the land.

Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal.

Because of this Mormons would have a negative reaction to the term Chaldean. It was the Egyptians that first practiced the same economic doctrines as Abraham would later develop from a same origin. This came through Noah and passed down orally from the time of Enoch.

Another assumption is that the Great Tower originated in Mesopotamia. Geologically speaking, the time of the building of the Great Pyramid equals the same time of building of the Great Tower. This was after Noah and Ham went west from Noah’s landing and after Shem went to the mount of the East. Since Abraham is a descendant of Shem, we assume that the two civilizations had little in common as to Chaldean origin. In fact. Anthropology assumes Mesopotamia is the cradle of civilization. This is because of preserved clay records found in the flood deposits of the two rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Egypt has only the Nile and flooding was isolated to the farming of Nile Delta, where Alexandria and the Pyramids are located either at high elevations or on the edge of the delta. Egypt did not retain as many records because they used secret orders and oral methods to preserve knowledge. The Greek philosophers would not have obtained their greatness without first entering into circumcision to learn from the Egyptian priests. Circumcision was a form of initiation and covenant to keep the knowledge from the unqualified. We have only the popular myths obtained by archeology. The secret orders passed knowledge orally. This knowledge was retained by the Chaldeans and passed orally. Abraham was one of them. Archeology does not seem to be able to relate this connection.

When you consider the geography of Genesis, Noah would be in Egypt and Shem would be in Mesopotamia, while Japheth would occupy the isles of Greece. Archeology and the recoded history should have a common denominator. Because Genesis was not retained until Moses received from God, archeology considers it mythological. This is a linear assumption and not the result of relational thinking. It also satisfies the desire for mystery and myth to rise above the eternal truth that God is a part of all knowledge.

Abraham also whet west from the alter he built in Canaan. [Abraham's path of travel](http://www.bible-history.com/maps/6-abrahams-journeys.html) indicates that perhaps Noah landed on the shores of Canaan and would have taken the same rout that Abraham would take much later. Shem went to the Mount of the East to ancient Sumer. Abraham was a descendant of Shem and later returned. The reason Abraham went to Egypt is because he new that Egypt was a prophetic source of the Chaldean. Even Christ uses many Egyptian expressions such as the builders that rejected the chief corner stone—the pyramid cap in allegory for the builders of the New Jerusalem would also reject the Kingdom of Heaven. It is also Masonic and preserved orally over hundreds of years from early Christian oral sources.

The pyramids were built to have a certain astronomical orientation. Although many of the religious aspects of Egyptian life were known for centuries, it was not until recently that astronomers found how important astronomy really was in ancient Egypt. When one reads the Book of Abraham, translated by Joseph Smith, it incorporates great astronomical knowledge. Archeology, on the other hand relies on popular myths of the time—unable to obtain the oral secrets.

The Chaldean world was far more extensive than considered. If Noah was the first Chaldean, then there was more knowledge of the solar system at that time than during the later dark ages. For this reason Abraham would have more interest in visiting Egypt than is often assumed. The secret orders were not open about what they taught. With Abraham being a Chaldean, he would have access. This would explain why circumcision dates back to Egypt.

1. The following are references to the scriptural use of Chaldean: [Abraham 1:23](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/1.23?lang=eng#22), [Ezra 5:12](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/ot/ezra/5.12?lang=eng#11), [Daniel 2:10](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/ot/dan/2.10?lang=eng#9), and [Egyptus](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/gs/egyptus?lang=eng). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)