

GAZETTEER

---A geographical dictionary---

AL BAD. Al Bad is a town in Saudi Arabia. It contains two important sites: (a) a complex of caves (now called the “Caves of Moses”), undoubtedly the caves in which Moses lived with his father-in-law Jethro for forty years, and (b) an extensive oasis known for its sweet water, undoubtedly Elim, at which the Hebrews stopped on their way from Baal-zephon to Mount Sinai (now Jabal al-Lawz).

ARARAT. Traditionally Mount Ararat of the Bible has been associated with the mountain of that name in eastern Turkey, at the conjunction of the Turkish, Armenian, and Iranian borders. Samuel Shuckford points out, however, that a number of scholars have placed it elsewhere.¹ Portius Cato placed it “in the same latitude with Bactria (now eastern Afghanistan), between the Caspian Sea and Imaus (now the Tian Shan Mountains on the western border of Sinkiang, the westernmost province of China), north of Mount Paroponus,”² and Shuckford placed it “on the hills beyond Bactria, north of India,”³ between the headwaters of the Oxus River (now Amu-Darya) to the northwest and the Indus River to the southeast. These “hills beyond Bactria,” would be the mountains at the northern end of the Hindu Kush. From there, Noah’s descendants would have traveled westward to Shinar (Mesopotamia), as Genesis 11:2 maintains. In my opinion, the three likeliest candidates for Ararat are Kungur (25,825 ft.) and Mustagh-Ata (24,400 ft.) to the east (just over the border with China), and Pik Komminizma (24,590ft.) to the north, but there are also two lesser possibilities: Khan Tengri (22,949 ft.) further to the north and K2 (28,250 ft.) to the southeast, although neither can be regarded as between the Oxus and Indus rivers. In Saga Scythia, Noah and his descendants established several communities which were undoubtedly centered on families or extended families under the general leadership of Noah, and from which Noah’s descendants traveled eastward into Sinkiang (northwest China) and beyond, southward into the Punjab (northern Pakistan) and beyond, and westward through Afghanistan and Iran into Shinar (Mesopotamia) and beyond.

ASSUR. See Assyria.

ASSYRIA (= ASSUR) generally refers to the northwestern half of Mesopotamia. It was occupied by the Assyrians.

BAALBEK was the ancient Dan.

¹ Samuel Shuckford, *The Sacred and Profane History of the World Connected*, Volume 1, 5th edition (1819), Tolle Lege Press, Whitehall WV, 2009, pages 87-92.

² Shuckford, Volume 1, page 89. The Paropamisus Mountains extend from the southwestern end of the Hindu Kush across northern Afghanistan to the border of Iran in the west, but modern maps do not show a Mount Paroponus. It may have one of the peaks at the northeastern end of the Hindu Kush. Only the area north of there (eastern Tadjikistan) lies north of India, between the Oxus River and the Indus Rivers.

³ Shuckford, Volume 1, page 92.

BAAL-ZEPHON (now Ra's ash Shaykh Humayd in Saudi Arabia) is the eastern landfall of the Strait of Tiran (see below).

BABYLONIA (= CHALDEA) generally refers to the southeastern half of Mesopotamia. It was occupied by the Sumerians, later by the Babylonians (= Chaldeans), and later still by the neo-Babylonians (= neo-Chaldeans, = Hittites).

BACTRIA was in eastern Afghanistan.

BOLSENA. See Volsinium below.

CANAAN was undoubtedly synonymous with the Promised Land.

- **Canaan started at the Euphrates.** The scriptures describe Abraham as leaving Haran and entering Canaan. There is no mention of an intermediate land, suggesting that the boundary between the territory containing Haran and Canaan was not far from Haran. The Euphrates is the logical boundary. It was the northern border of the Promised Land (see Genesis 15:18 above); it must have been the northern border of Canaan as well.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came (KJV Gen 12:4-5).

- **Canaan included the land between the above border and Shechem.** The scriptures indicate that Abraham traveled from the northern border of Canaan to Shechem, which was occupied by Canaanites. Sichem or Shechem is located about 17 miles west of the Jordan River, midway between Lake Kinnesseret to the north and the Dead Sea to the south. Mt. Ebal is just north of Shechem; Mt. Gerizim, just south. (The locations of Gilgal and the plain of Moreh are less certain. The name Gilgal is associated with three sites not far from Shechem: one is about 18 miles to the south-south-west, not far from Shiloh, but it is in the mountains; one is about 22 miles to the west-south-west, but it is in the Plain of Sharon; and one is about 25 miles to the south-east, adjacent to Jericho. Perhaps there was another.) Clearly, Abraham was moving through Canaan the entire time.

...and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land (KJV Gen 12:5-6).

And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan-aram; and pitched his tent before the city (KJV Gen 33:18).

[Moses said} . . . And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal. Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh? (KJV Deut 11:29-30).

- **Canaan extended from the mountains in the north to Sinai in the south, and from Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean in the west.**

The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south [JH:Sinai]: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains [JH: the north]: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea [JH: the Mediterranean], and by the coast of Jordan [JH: west bank of the Jordan] (KJV Num 13:29).

And to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and to the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon in the land of Mizpeh (KJV Josh 11:3).

- **Canaan included Lebanon (or Sidonia = Phoenicia), Philistia, and the west bank of the Jordan:**

And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha (KJV Gen 10:19).

Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath (KJV Judg 3:1-3).

Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant (KJV Zeph 2:5).

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan (KJV Num 33:51).

And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel (KJV Josh 5:1).

CHALDEA. See Babylonia.

CIMMERIA was a region in the Ukraine bordering the Black Sea.

DEIR EL BAHARI is the site in Egypt of the “Most Splendid of Splendors,” the famous temple built by Queen Hatshepsut of the 18th Dynasty, the inscriptions and reliefs on which record her trip to the Land of Punt – the Holy Land of Palestine in general and the

Holy City of Jerusalem in particular during the reign of Solomon (see the entry for PUNT below). The temple at Deir El Bahari probably gives us a good idea of what the temple of Solomon looked like.⁴

ELAM. See Persia.

EL ARISH is a town in the Sinai Peninsula. It is located where the Wadi El Arish (often called “the River of Egypt”) runs into the Mediterranean Sea. It was the location of the Hyksos (Amalekite) fortress Avaris, which was destroyed by the combined armies of Saul, who became the first king of Israel (excluding Abimelech), and Prince Ahmose, who then became the first pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty.

EUXINE SEA. See Black Sea.

HAI was a city in Canaan, about 10 miles west of Jericho.

HARAN was a city in Assyria (= Assur). It was located in the curve of the Euphrates as the river turns from running southwest along the foothills of the Taurus mountains to running southeast toward the Persian Gulf. It lay about 600 miles upriver from Ur and about 50 miles inland to the northeast.

INTERSTELLAR SPACE is often described as empty, a perfect vacuum containing “nothing.” There several things wrong with this idea.

- First, there is a conceptual problem. If the word “nothing” has no objective referent by definition, then it indicates the *absence* of “anything,” not the presence of “something.” (See “NOTHING” below.)
- Second, there is a practical problem. If there is “nothing” between the sun and the earth, they should be touching, in which case the heat of the sun would melt the earth within minutes. Something lies between them. Moreover, there are almost 93 million miles of that something, and light traveling at 186,220 miles/sec. requires roughly 8.33 minutes to pass through it. It is not an insignificant factor in Universe.
- The above says something important about Universe. Universe never contains nothingness or emptiness. It is everywhere full of matter.
- Matter exists in one of four states: gas, liquid, solid, or plasma, all of which possess mass. The first three consist of one or more chemical elements. The fourth is a cloud of protons, neutrons, and electrons that have come loose from their respective atoms and molecules and act as a whole. Simple observation tells us that, while heavenly bodies like, asteroids, comets, novae, planets, stars, etc. consist of gases, liquids, and solids, which represent 6% of the matter in Universe,

⁴ Immanuel Velikovsky, *Ages in Chaos*, Doubleday, New York, NY 1952, pp. 129-132.

interstellar space does not and must therefore be full of plasma, which, I believe, represents the remaining 94%.

JABAL AL-LAWZ is a mountain in west Saudi Arabia, a region which was known to the ancients as Midian. Jabal al-Lawz is referred to in the Bible as Mount Sinai.

JORDAN RIVER. Prior to the catastrophe that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, the Jordan River flowed from the southern and western inclines of Mount Hermon (or Jabal ash Shayk) in the north to the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba in the south. The river coursed initially through the Hula Valley, then through Lake Kinneret (or Sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberius), and then into a trench that terminated in the Gulf of Aqaba. The relatively flat bed of this trench varied in width and formed a lush and fertile valley that was called (a) Zor or Zoar between the Lake Kinneret and Jericho and (b) the Plain of Jordan or Vale of Siddim between Jericho and somewhere south of Masada. At the time of the catastrophe, however, geologic debris blocked the trench just south of Masada, and the accumulating waters formed the Dead Sea. The Jordan below the natural dam became the Wadi al 'Arabah.

KADESH means "Holy City" and usually referred to Jerusalem.

MAMRE was located about 2 miles north of Hebron, and about 18 miles west of the Dead Sea.

MEDIA. See PERSIA.

MESOPOTAMIA. Ancient Mesopotamia had no precise boundaries. It consisted generally of the watersheds of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers which flow from the easternmost foothills of the Taurus mountains of Turkey in the northwest to the Persian Gulf in the southeast and lie between the Kurdish and Zagros mountains in the northeast and the Syrian and Arabian deserts in the southwest. This territory makes up the northeastern – and major – portion of the Fertile Crescent and generally equates to northern Syria and Iraq of today.

MIDIAN was located on the eastern bank of the Gulf of Aqaba, the region of Arabia (now Saudi Arabia) between Jordan to the north and the Red Sea to the south.

MOUNT SINAI (NOW JABAL AL LAWZ) was located in Midian (now Saudi Arabia).

PERSIA (= ELAM = MEDIA).

PIHAHIROTH (= PI-HA-KHIROTH = PI-KHAROTI) (somewhere between Ra's Nasrani and Nabq near the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula). It was the western landfall of the Strait of Tiran. According to Egyptian records, the 13th Dynasty Pharaoh Concharis drowned in a whirlpool here.

PI-THOM – One of two cities in the eastern region of the Nile Delta that were called “Pharaoh’s treasure cities” (Exodus 1:11). After the Hebrews were enslaved by the 12th Dynasty Pharaoh Sesostris III in 1566 BC, they spent the next 144 years (1566-1464 BC) there constructing buildings and monuments using brick. The other city was Ra-amses (see below).

PLAIN OF JORDAN. Today, the Jordan River begins at its source at the south end of Lake Kinneret (near Nazareth), flows southward for roughly 60 miles, and empties into the Dead Sea (just below Jericho). The Dead Sea extends southward for roughly 50 miles. Then the Wadi al Arabah, which is watered by the runoff from the mountains on both of its sides, commences just below the Dead Sea, flows southward roughly 105 miles, and empties into the Gulf of Aqaba (near Aqaba on the east and Elat on the west). Prior to 1870 BC, however, this geography looked very different. A valley extended roughly 215 miles from Lake Kinneret in the north to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south, through which flowed the waters of the Jordan River. The valley was thus well-watered and lush with vegetation, similar to the Nile Valley in Egypt, to which the Scriptures compare it (see Genesis 13:10). It was called the Plain of Jordan. Along its eastern side stood a number of cities, including Admah, Gomorrah, Sodom, the city of the Zeboiim, and Zoar (or Bela). The precise location of these cities is unknown, but ruins have been found at Bah edh-Dgra on the Wadi Kurak, at Numeria, at Petra on the Wadi Musa, and at Safi at the Wadi Hoza. In 1870 BC, however, the Abraham Disturbance destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, caused the Great African Rift or its greater expansion, and probably created the Dead Sea (see Genesis 14:3). At this point, the Plain of Jordan was severely truncated.

PROMISED LAND includes all the land between the Euphrates River on the north and the River of Egypt (the modern Wadi El Arish) on the south, and between the Jordan River on the east and the Mediterranean Sea on the west – that is, Syria south of the Euphrates, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan west of the Jordan River, and Egypt north of the Wadi El Arish. It may even include Gilead, the land on the east bank of the Jordan River that was occupied by Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh.

In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites (KJV Gen 15:18-21).

And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel out of Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go unto the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, whereof they were possessed, according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses (KJV Josh 22:9).

PUNT, LAND OF (=HOLY LAND=PALESTINE) After visiting the land of Punt, Hatshepsut built a “punt” for the god Amon, a sacred place of worship known as the Temple at Deir El Bahari. The place name Land of Punt was obviously associated with the “punt” there. Even in earliest times, Jerusalem was the site of a sacred sanctuary. Genesis 14:18-20 records that

...Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And [Abraham] gave him tithes of all.

Later, Jerusalem became the site of the Temple of Solomon, which was built with the help of Hiram, King of Sidon and Tyre (later known as Phoenicia), who was a descendent of Sidon, for whom the city was named, and Sidon's legendary father, Pontus. The Phoenicians were known for building sacred sanctuaries, or "punts" (see the entry for DEIR EL BAHARI above), for whom Pontus and/or the land might have been named.⁵

RA-AMSES – One of two cities in the eastern region of the Nile Delta that were called "Pharaoh's treasure cities" (Exodus 1:11). After the Hebrews were enslaved by the 12th Dynasty Pharaoh Sesostri III in 1566 BC, they spent the next 144 years (1566-1464 BC) there constructing buildings and monuments using brick. The other city was Pi'thom (see above).

RA'S ASH SHAYKH HUMAYD is the eastern landfall of the Strait of Tiran. It lies in Saudi Arabia and was known as Baal-zephon in the Bible.

RETENU (=PALESTINE) was an Egyptian name for Palestine.

SAGA SCYTHIA (now eastern Tajikistan) was the ancient name for the region at the northern end of the Hindu Kush, between the headwaters of the Oxus River (now Amu-Darya) to the northwest and the Indus River to the southeast.

SCYTHIA was an undefined area associated mostly with the Kirgiz Steppe, which extends from Kazakhstan in the east through southern Russia to the Ukraine in the west, but also extends down into the areas (a) between the western border of Sinkiang in the east and the Caspian Sea in the west (i.e. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) and (b) between the Caspian Sea in the east and the Black Sea in the west, north of the Caucasus) – in which the Scythians led a nomadic life. The Scythians probably originated in eastern Tajikistan, which the ancients called Saga Scythia..

SHEBA was, according to the Talmud,⁶ probably not the name of a place, but rather the personal name of the queen who visited Solomon. Josephus identified her generally as the "queen of Egypt and Ethiopia,"⁷ and Immanuel Velikovsky identified her specifically as Hatshepsut of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt.⁸

SHINAR. See Mesopotamia.

⁵ Immanuel Velikovsky, Ages in Chaos, Doubleday, New York, NY 1952, pp. 132-134.

⁶ I read this somewhere, but I cannot recall where.

⁷ Josephus, Jewish Antiquities, Bk. VIII, Ch. VI.

⁸ Immanuel Velikovsky, Ages in Chaos, Doubleday, New York, NY 1952, Ch. III, pp. 103-141.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH. Sodom and Gomorrah were cities in the Plain of Jordan. Their locations remain unknown. I believe that a careful examination of the following passage will shed light on the matter.

3 And [Abraham] went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; 4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. 8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom (KJV Gen 13:3-12).

This passage establishes that, when Abraham and Lot parted company, Abraham was encamped near Bethel and Lot moved eastward into the Plain of Jordan near Sodom. It is impossible to pinpoint the exact locations of these camps. What is interesting, however, is that Bethel was well north of Jericho and thus Sodom was probably north of Jericho as well, but on the eastern side of the Plain of Jordan.

STRAIT OF TIRAN is a narrow passage of water (1.15 miles wide) that (a) connects the Gulf of Aqaba to the north and the Red Sea to the south and (b) stretches between Ra's ash Shaykh Humayd (ancient Baal-zephon) in Saudi Arabia (ancient Midian) to the east and Nabq (ancient Pihahiroth) in Egypt (tip of the Sinai peninsula) to the west. Apparently, there is an underwater land bridge or causeway connecting the two shores. During the Exodus, Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt into Midian when the waters parted, and the 13th Dynasty Pharaoh Concharis and his army drowned when the waters came together again.

THUNDERBOLT – According to Velikovsky, a vivid picture of an interplanetary discharge that created the basin in which Lake Bolsena lies, is given by Pliny:

‘Heavenly fire is spit forth by the planet as crackling charcoal flies from a burning log.’ If such a discharge falls on the earth, ‘it is accompanied by a very great disturbance of air,’ produced ‘by the birth-pangs, so to speak, of the planet in travail’ (Pliny, *Natural History*, ii. 18).

Pliny says also that a bolt from Mars fell on Bolsena, ‘the richest town in Tuscany,’ and that the city was entirely burned up by this bolt (Pliny, *Natural History*, ii. 53). He refers to Tuscan writings as the source of his information. By Tuscan writings are meant Etruscan books.

Bolsena, or the ancient Volsinium, was one of the chief cities of the Etruscans, the people whose civilization preceded that of the Latin Romans on the Apennine Peninsula. The Etruscan states occupied the area of what was later known as Tuscany, between the Tiber and the Arno. Near Bolsena, or Volsinium, is a lake of the same name. This lake fills a basin nine miles long, seven miles wide, and 285 feet deep. For a long time this basin was regarded as the water-filled crater of a volcano. However, its area of 117 square miles exceeds by far that of the largest known

craters on the earth – those in the Andes in South America and those in the Hawaiian (Sandwich) Islands in the Pacific. Hence, the idea that the lake is the crater of an extinct volcano has recently been questioned. Moreover, although the bottom of the lake is of lava, and the ground around the lake abounds with ashes and lava and columns of basalt, the talus of a volcano is lacking. Taking what Pliny said of an interplanetary discharge together with what has actually been found at Volsinium, one may wonder whether the cinders and the lava and the columns of basalt could possibly be the remains of the contact Pliny mentions.⁹

Ralph Juergens elaborates on Velikovsky's observation, writing

Velikovsky quotes Pliny's description of a cosmic thunderbolt: Heavenly fire is spit forth by the planet as crackling charcoal flies from a burning log."¹⁰ This homely simile seems congruent with ancient artistic tradition; early Greek sculptors portraying Zeus, for example, poised him like a quarterback about to launch a football-shaped thunderbolt.¹¹ The impression gained from both these lines of evidence is that the thunderbolts thus referred to and depicted were not luminous streamers akin to atmospheric lightning, but "luminous" objects of missile-like proportions.

If so, it seems likely that such thunderbolts were in the nature of the *plasmoids* described some years ago by Winston Bostick of Stevens Institute of Technology. These objects – "pieces of plasma" with "unexpected capacity for maintaining their identity" – were fired from the electrodes of a "plasma gun."

They emerged from the gun in doughnut form, then expanded axially to form long cylinders. When fired into a thin gas, they bent themselves double and twisted into forms resembling screws. This suggests, if we are correct in equating plasmoids and cosmic thunderbolts, that the early Greek sculptors may have detailed the thunderbolts of Zeus with screw-like twists at each on the basis of accurate descriptions passed down by their ancestors.

While such plasmoids are created in the laboratory by an electric discharge at the "muzzle" or a plasma gun, they are not transporters of an electric charge; their plasma consists of essentially equal numbers of electrons and positive ions. The same could well be true of a cosmic thunderbolt, and its impact site, though impressive, might be indistinguishable from an explosion crater less than 3,000 years old. though it would upset a number of theories now current among scientists, would be of little help in solving the problem we have posed.¹²

UR OF THE CHALDEES was a city in Babylonia (= Chaldea). It was located on the southern bank of the Euphrates, about 150 miles upriver from the Persian Gulf.

UZ was the land in which Job lived,¹³ and of which, according to Jeremiah,¹⁴ Edom was a part.

VALE OF SIDDIM. See the "Plain of Jordan" above. Prior to 1870 BC, the Vale of Siddim referred to either (a) the entire Plain of Jordan, which stretched 215 miles from Lake Kinneret in the north to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south, or (b) the 50 mile portion of the Plain of Jordan now occupied by the Dead Sea. Although Genesis 14:3, "...in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea," implies that alternative (b) was the case, I believe alternative (a) was the case. In the text concerning Sodom above, I argue that Sodom was

⁹ Immanuel Velikovsky in *Worlds in Collision*, pp. 272-273.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 272.

¹¹ Schwabacher, W., "The Olympian Zeus before Phisias," *Archaeology* 14 (June 1961): 104-9.

¹² Juergens, Ralph E., "Of the Moon and Mars – Part 1," *Pensees*, Vol. 4, No. 4, Fall 1974, pp. 21. There is more here about the probable identity of the source of the thunderbolts at the time.

¹³ Job 1:1.

¹⁴ Lamentations 4:21.

located to the east of Bethel, on the eastern side of the Jordan River, well north of Jericho's latitude.

Soon after Lot encamped near Sodom, an alliance of four eastern kings, consisting of (1) its leader **Chedorlaomer**, king of Elam (Persia), (2) **Amraphel**, king of Shinar, (3) **Arioch**, king of Ellasar, and (4) **Tidal**, king of Nations, swept down from the north to reestablish their hegemony over the cities in the Vale of Siddim. They were opposed by a confederation of five kings from the cities in the Vale, consisting of (1) **Bera**, king of Sodom, (2) **Birsha**, king of Gomorrah, (3) **Shemeber**, king of Zeboiim, (4) **Shinab**, king of Admah, and (5) **Zoar**, king of Bela. The ensuing battle occurred in the Vale of Siddim (see Genesis 14:8), which was apparently won by the four kings from the east, because "...the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there" (Genesis 14:10) – there being the slime pits in the Vale of Siddim.

The foregoing description of the battle reinforces my opinion that the Vale of Siddim was not confined to the area of the Dead Sea, but extended well above its top and probably coincided with the entire Plain of Jordan prior to the Abraham Disturbance in 1870 BC.

VOLSINIUM (later Bolsena) was one of the chief cities of the Etruscans, the people whose civilization preceded that of the Latin Romans on the Apennine Peninsula. It is located about 50 miles northwest of Rome. Pliny wrote that a thunderbolt from Mars struck the city, entirely destroying it.¹⁵

Nearby Bolsena today is a lake of the same name. Velikovsky describes it as follows: "This lake fills a basin nine miles long, seven miles wide, and 285 feet deep. For a long time this basin was regarded as the water-filled crater of a volcano. However, its area of 117 square miles exceeds by far that of the largest known craters on the earth – those in the Andes in South America and those in the Hawaiian (Sandwich) Islands in the Pacific. Hence, the idea that the lake is the crater of an extinct volcano has recently been questioned. Moreover, although the bottom of the lake is of lava, and the ground around the lake abounds with ashes and lava and columns of basalt, the talus of a volcano is lacking. Taking what Pliny said of an interplanetary discharge together with what has actually been found at Volsinium, one may wonder whether the cinders and the lava and the columns of basalt could possibly be the remains of the contact Pliny mentions."¹⁶

An interplanetary thunderbolt or electrical discharge would have devastated, not just Volsinium, but the entire region, thereby severely weakening other Etruscan cities in Tuscany and its southern neighbor Rome. From all appearances, the Etruscans never recovered from this blow.

According to my chronology, Troy fell to the Greeks in 802 BC. A contingent of Trojans under the leadership of Aeneas then fled from Troy and sailed first to Carthage and then to Rome, arriving c. 795-792 BC. The Trojans occupied Rome for 38-41 years – more

¹⁵ Pliny, *Natural History*, ii. 53).

¹⁶ Immanuel Velikovsky in *Worlds in Collision*, pp. 272-273.

than a generation. In 754 BC, however, the city was severely weakened by the thunderbolt that struck Volsinium, which represented an open invitation to invasion and occupation by a new force – specifically the Latins from Alba Longa led by Romulus and Remus.