

Biblical Connections in The Curious Historian Level 1B

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This optional, supplemental PDF for *The Curious Historian Level 1B (TCH1B)* draws connections between the historical context presented in the chapters and corresponding biblical settings and scriptures, theological concepts, or moral virtues. These connections can be used to aid you in incorporating biblical history into your study of ancient history and to facilitate further discussion with your student(s). Icons in the teacher's edition indicate when to reference this PDF.

This resource is intended for teacher use. To help initiate student interaction with the content, consider having students read the Bible passages aloud to you/the class.

Unit I: The Late Bronze Age

Chapter 1: The Egyptian Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period

The Hyksos were likely favorable toward the Israelites since they were fellow shepherds, and possibly fellow Semitic people.¹ (As mentioned in TE note M of chapter 1, scholars are divided on whether the Hyksos were a Semitic or an Asiatic people.) It is possible that the account of Joseph in the book of Genesis takes place during the rule of the Hyksos in Egypt. Since the Hyksos may have had a mixed ethnic background, it would have been more probable for someone like Joseph, who was Semitic himself, to rise from servanthood to the position of leadership over the land ([Genesis 41:39-44](#)) during a period when foreign rulers, rather than native Egyptian pharaohs, were on the throne.²

Chapter 2: The Egyptian New Kingdom

Akhenaten's Hymn to Aten

In the "Great Hymn to the Aten," written by Akhenaten, the pharaoh praises the Egyptian sun god as the creator of all things and the great giver of life. Compare the following lines from Akhenaten's Aten hymn to lines found in Psalm 104.

"GREAT HYMN TO THE ATEN" ³	PSALM 104
<p>Verse 1: "You have filled every land with your beauty. You are fine, great, radiant, lofty over and above every land. Your rays bind the lands to the limit of all you have made, You are the sun, you have reached their limits."</p>	<p>Verses 1-3a: "LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters."</p>
<p>Verse 3, 7: "The entire land carries out its tasks, every herd rests in its pastures, trees and plants are sprouting, birds flying up from their nests, their wings in adoration for your spirit. . . . Your rays nursing every meadow, you shine and they live and grow for you. You make the seasons to nurture all you made."</p>	<p>Verse 10-13: "He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work."</p>

1. Samuel J. Schultz, *The Old Testament Speaks: A Complete Survey of Old Testament History and Literature*, 5th ed. (New York: HarperCollins, 2000), 49–50.

2. "Joseph Goes to Egypt," in *The NKJV Chronological Study Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2008), 54.

3. Digital Egypt for Universities, "Belief in One God in Ancient Egypt," University College London, accessed October 10, 2020, <http://capress.link/tch1bbc05>.