



UNIT 1: STEPPING OUT

Welcome to what promises to be an incredible journey - a journey where we will research, question, explore and discover new things in ancient history as we dig deep into Biblical truths.

We start with questions. Is the Bible filled with stories designed solely to teach us more about God? Did the events in the Bible really happen? Can we prove it? Is it even acceptable to ask hard questions about what we read in the Bible? What if the Biblical accounts of historical events do not match up with the findings of respected scholars, archaeologists and historians who have devoted their lives to their research and findings? It certainly is daunting - even intimidating to challenge our thinking, to challenge the experts, to dig deeper.

Are you ready? It will take determination, it will take courage, it will take perseverance. But, if we arm ourselves with prayer and are willing to dig deep, we can be amazed together at what God helps us to uncover and discover along the way!

HERE WE GO!

EXPLORE (Week 1)

The first week of most units will be a chance for you to Explore. It is an opportunity for you to read and become familiar with what is presented. Next to each section of this unit is the suggested schedule for the unit. The first day of each unit always includes reading and watching scenes from the DVD. These sections require more time than the other sections. There will be weeks that require a significant amount of time for reading and watching. You may want to consider breaking it up in the way that best suits your schedule. Though units will vary, the pattern is much the same.

SURVEY: (Day 1)

To **survey** something is to look carefully and thoroughly at something in order to appraise it.

*In each unit you will have the opportunity to **Survey** the materials we are studying by reading from Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus, reading from scripture, watching portions of the film as well as watching selections from the additional discs that Tim Mahoney created, all designed to help you look carefully and thoroughly through the evidence we are exploring. In this unit we start our survey by looking to God's word.*

Let's set the stage as we start our exploration. Get out your Bible and read the following passages. As you read, note briefly the key characters and events you encounter.

Genesis 12-13 _____

Genesis 15 _____

Genesis 21 _____

Genesis 23 _____

Genesis 24 _____

Genesis 25:1-7 _____

Genesis 26:1-5 _____

Genesis 27-28 _____

Genesis 35 _____

Genesis 37 _____

Genesis 39-50 _____

Exodus 1-12 _____

A lot of reading, I know, but it lays the groundwork as we begin our exploration.
Feel free to break up the scripture reading over several days.

QUESTION: (Day 2)

One of the primary goals of this study is that each of you become a Thinker: Someone who can listen, read and watch the material being presented and learn to filter it for yourself. It is vital you learn to process the information, ask great questions and search for the Truth. This journal is the place that you will be recording all your thoughts and questions along the way. It is not something to be turned in and graded. It is for you to process the information for yourself. Many of these QUESTION sections will provide quotes and prompts for things you may want to consider but, it is primarily a place for you to record your thoughts and questions as you read and watch. The goal is to reach the end of this study and be able to look back at the questions you had that have been answered, what you have learned over the course of this study and what questions linger that you would like to explore further. This is a valuable tool for you... make the most of it! Here we go...

“For over 1,500 years Western Civilization accepted the truth of the Bible. After the 1950s, however, skepticism grew when archaeologists found mounting evidence that appeared to contradict the early history in the Bible. Today the skepticism has only increased”

Questions to consider: Put down your thoughts in your QUESTION journal.

- What questions, doubts, apprehensions do you have as you begin?
- Where do you see yourself?
 - Are you a skeptic?
 - Do you believe the Bible is a book of fictional stories?
 - Do you believe the Bible is historically accurate?
- What if experts disagree with what you think?

NAVIGATING THE COURSE: (Day 3)

We are spending a lot of time in a part of the world with which many may not be familiar. Navigating the Course sections will be in some units to give you the opportunity to become oriented and give you a better sense where we are looking.

We will be examining over 500 years of history and a large geographical region. We need to get familiar with this area. Below is a map with modern geographic borders drawn in. Identify the countries and fill in the map on the next page.

Find and label: Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Jordan and the Nile River



Here is the same map. This time we need to plot the lands of the Exodus.

Find and label: Canaan, Egypt, Syria, Midian and the Nile River



TRACKING THROUGH TIME: (Day 4)

Timelines are a very important part of our study for Patterns of Evidence. Tracking Through Time will allow you to interact with several timelines to help you to understand how things are dated and the importance of chronology.

Time for some perspective. Below is a very broad timeline. Using the events/periods on the right, fill in the blank closest to the approximate dates along the timeline on the left. You may need to refer to several sources to find all these dates!

