

The Grammar of History Timeline

For WCA use
only

1. Egyptians settle in the Nile River valley

circa 4,000

BC EVENT: This marks the beginning of the greatest of the ancient river civilizations. **HAND SIGN:** Hold both arms with shoulders, elbows, and wrists at right angles while facing sideways (the "Egyptian" position). As you begin the chant, slowly turn to the front and bring your hands together while making **wave motions** (river flowing to the delta).

2. Invention of writing

circa

3,200 BC EVENT: Writing allowed the transmission of accumulated knowledge to future generations. Cultures that relied upon oral tradition never advanced as far or as fast as those who utilized writing. **HAND SIGNS:** Turn to the right and pretend to write on the back of the person next to you without touching them.

3. Khufu builds the Great Pyramid at Giza

circa

2,900 BC PLACE: The Great Pyramid is the most impressive and enduring monument to the technological and cultural achievements of any ancient people. **HAND SIGNS:** Hold your hands level with your shoulders and begin to bring them together above your head to form a pyramid.

4. Birth of Abraham

circa

2,000 BC PERSON: Abraham was the individual chosen by God to enter into a special Messianic covenant with Him. He will always be the prime example of faith to all believers. **HAND SIGNS:** Pretend that you are cradling a newborn baby in your arms (ASL sign for baby or birth)

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5. Code of Hammurabi

circa

1,750 BC EVENT: The stele of Hammurabi is a testimony to the cultural sophistication of the early Babylonians and an example of how man-made laws resemble and yet fall

short of God's Law as given at Mount Sinai. **HAND SIGNS:** Mimic the action of a judge's gavel as you pound your open left palm with your right fist.

6. The Exodus

circa 1,290

BC EVENT: The deliverance from slavery and giving of the Law are the pivotal events in the history of the Hebrews which welded them together into one nation. It is also suffused with spiritual significance in the establishment of the Passover and the many miracles which sustained the Hebrews in their Wilderness wanderings and possession of the Promised Land, **HAND SIGNS:** Slap your thighs rapidly and alternately with both hands to represent the sound of many feet leaving Egypt.

7. Trojan War

circa 1,180

Bc EVENT: The war between the Greeks and Trojans took on the status of a national myth for the ancient Greeks and Romans and was recorded in epic form by Homer in The Iliad and The Odyssey. **HAND SIGNS:** Pretend that you are riding a horse (the Trojan Horse). Hold the reins in front of you and post up and down in rhythm to the chant by flexing

your knees.