

Ancient Israel:

Part 1

When studying Reform Lines, there are 4 major Reform Lines that need to be considered. These are: The Alpha and Omega of Ancient Israel, and The Alpha and Omega of Modern Israel. These Reform Lines all follow the same structure – 5 key waymarks and 4 dispensations.

The Alpha of Ancient Israel

To understand The Alpha of Ancient Israel, we need to define the word “Alpha”.

Alpha:

- **the first** letter of the Greek alphabet
- **something that is first:** BEGINNING
- **the first** version of a product (such as a computer program) that is being developed and tested

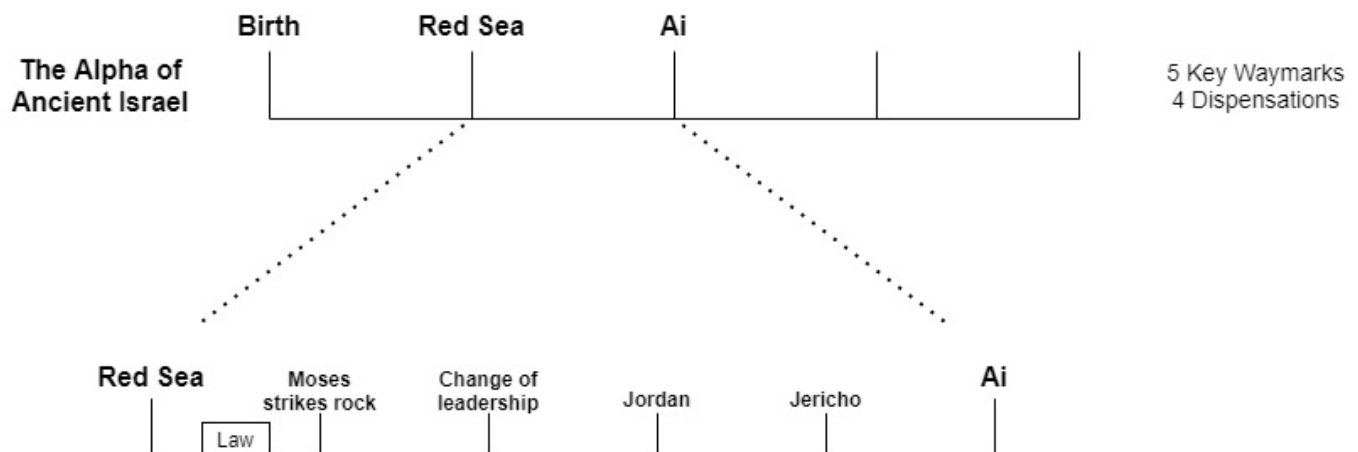
From the definitions above, we see that the word “Alpha”, is **connected to the idea or principle of being the first**. Based on this, we can conclude that the word “Alpha”, means **the beginning**. Therefore, The Alpha of Ancient Israel, means, **The Beginning of Ancient Israel**.

The Alpha of Ancient Israel begins with the **Birth of Moses**. Moses was raised up, and used by God, to do a work of gathering and reforming the children of Israel. He led the children of Israel out of Egypt.

The next step in that process was the **Red Sea**. At this point, the children of Israel, led by Moses, cross the Red Sea and enter into the wilderness.

After this, they determine to attack **Ai**. They decide to overthrow the small town, but they are defeated. They **fail** to overthrow the town.

When looking closer at the time period between the crossing of the Red Sea and Ai, we notice that there are many events that took place. During this time period, God gives the children of Israel **the law**. **Moses strikes a rock** which then results in a **change of leadership** from Moses to Joshua. They cross the **Jordan** and also conquer **Jericho**.



Soon after the fall of Jericho, Joshua determined to attack Ai, a small town among the ravines a few miles to the west of the Jordan Valley. Spies sent to this place brought back the report that the inhabitants were but few, and that only a small force would be needed to overthrow it. {PP 493.3}

The great victory that God had gained for them had made the Israelites self-confident. Because He had promised them the land of Canaan they felt secure, and failed to realize that divine help alone could give them success. Even Joshua laid his plans for the conquest of Ai without seeking counsel from God. {PP 493.4}

The Israelites had begun to exalt their own strength and to look with contempt upon their foes. An easy victory was expected, and three thousand men were thought sufficient to take the place. These rushed to the attack without the assurance that God would be with them. They advanced nearly to the gate of the city, only to encounter the most determined resistance. Panic-stricken at the numbers and thorough preparation of their enemies, they fled in confusion down the steep descent. The Canaanites were in hot pursuit; "they chased them from before the gate, . . . and smote them in the going down." Though the loss was small as to numbers--but thirty-six men being slain--the defeat was disheartening to the whole congregation. "The hearts of the people melted, and became as water." This was the first time they had met the Canaanites in actual battle, and if put to flight before the defenders of this little town, what would be the result in the greater conflicts before them? Joshua looked upon their ill success as an expression of God's displeasure, and in distress and apprehension he "rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads." {PP 493.5}

The children of Israel attempt to overthrow Ai. However, **they fail in that mission**. Based on their failure to overthrow the town, and complete their mission, we can see that the history of **The Alpha of Ancient Israel, is a history of Failure**.

Questions

1. Explain why The Alpha of Ancient Israel begins with the birth of Moses.
2. Explain why there was a change in leadership from Moses to Joshua.
3. Read Patriarchs and Prophets page 493.1-497.4, and explain why the children of Israel failed at Ai.

Activity

Draw the line of The Beginning of Ancient Israel. Overlay the Reform Line of the 144000 on top of it.