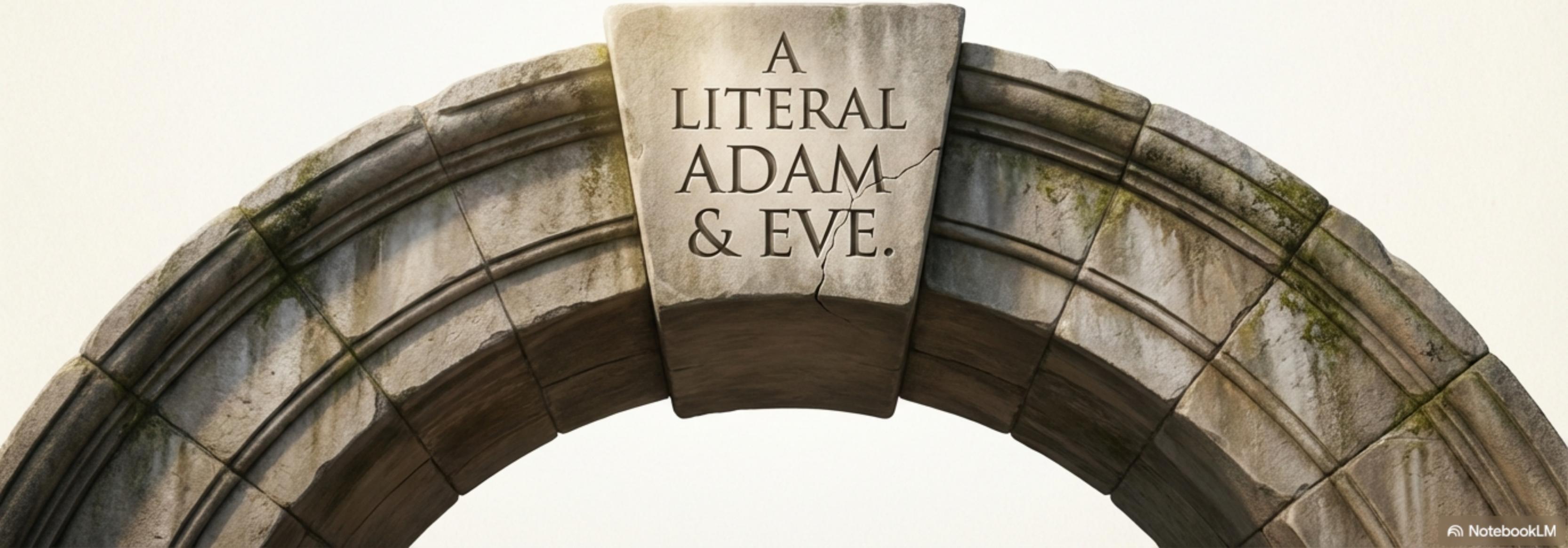


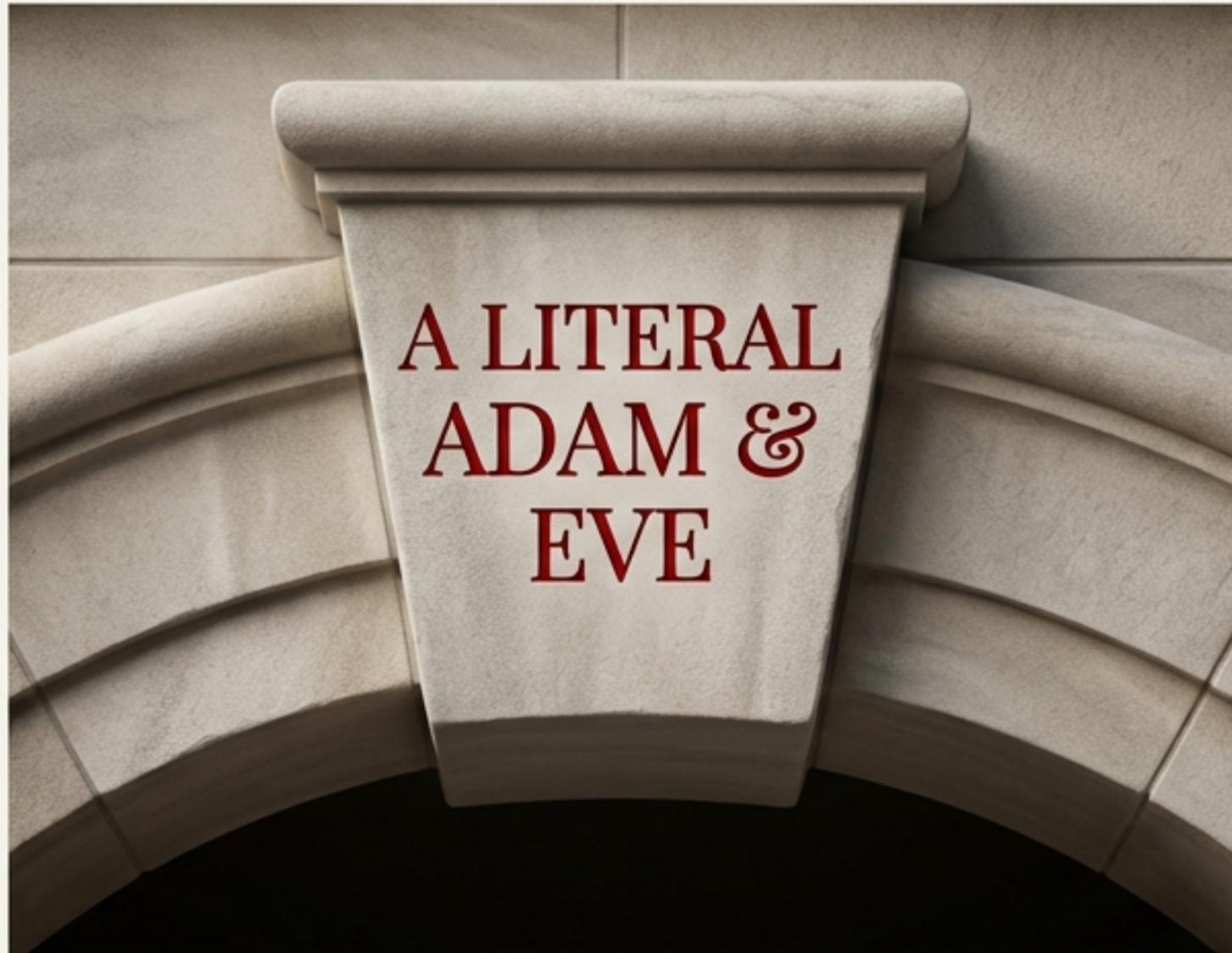
# The Smoking Gun: Why the Adam & Eve Story is Mormonism's Achilles' Heel

A foundational story. A catastrophic failure.

A stone archway with a central stone block containing the text "A LITERAL ADAM & EVE." The archway is made of large, weathered stone blocks with visible mortar joints. The central block is slightly larger and has a crack running down its center. The text is carved into the stone in a serif font.

A  
LITERAL  
ADAM  
& EVE.

# The Foundational Premise: “We cannot fully comprehend the Atonement... without an actual Adam and Eve.”



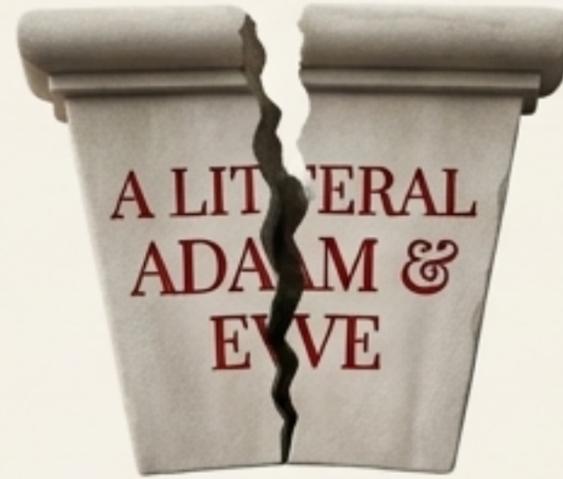
“ There is no way to truly celebrate Christmas or Easter without understanding that there was an actual Adam and Eve who fell from an actual Eden with all of the consequences that fall carried with it.”

— Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, 2015

“ The fall of Adam and the atonement of Christ are linked together inseparably, everlastingly, never to be parted... The fall is as essential a part of the plan of salvation as the very atonement itself.”

— Bruce R. McConkie, 1981

# Exhibit A: The Verdict from Science



## EVOLUTION

Modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) evolved in Africa ~315,000 years ago. We share 99% of our DNA with chimpanzees, indicating a common ancestor millions of years ago.

## FOSSIL RECORD

Hominid species fossils show ancestors walking on two legs over 3 million years ago. Skulls show clear, gradual evolutionary changes over vast timescales.

## GENETICS

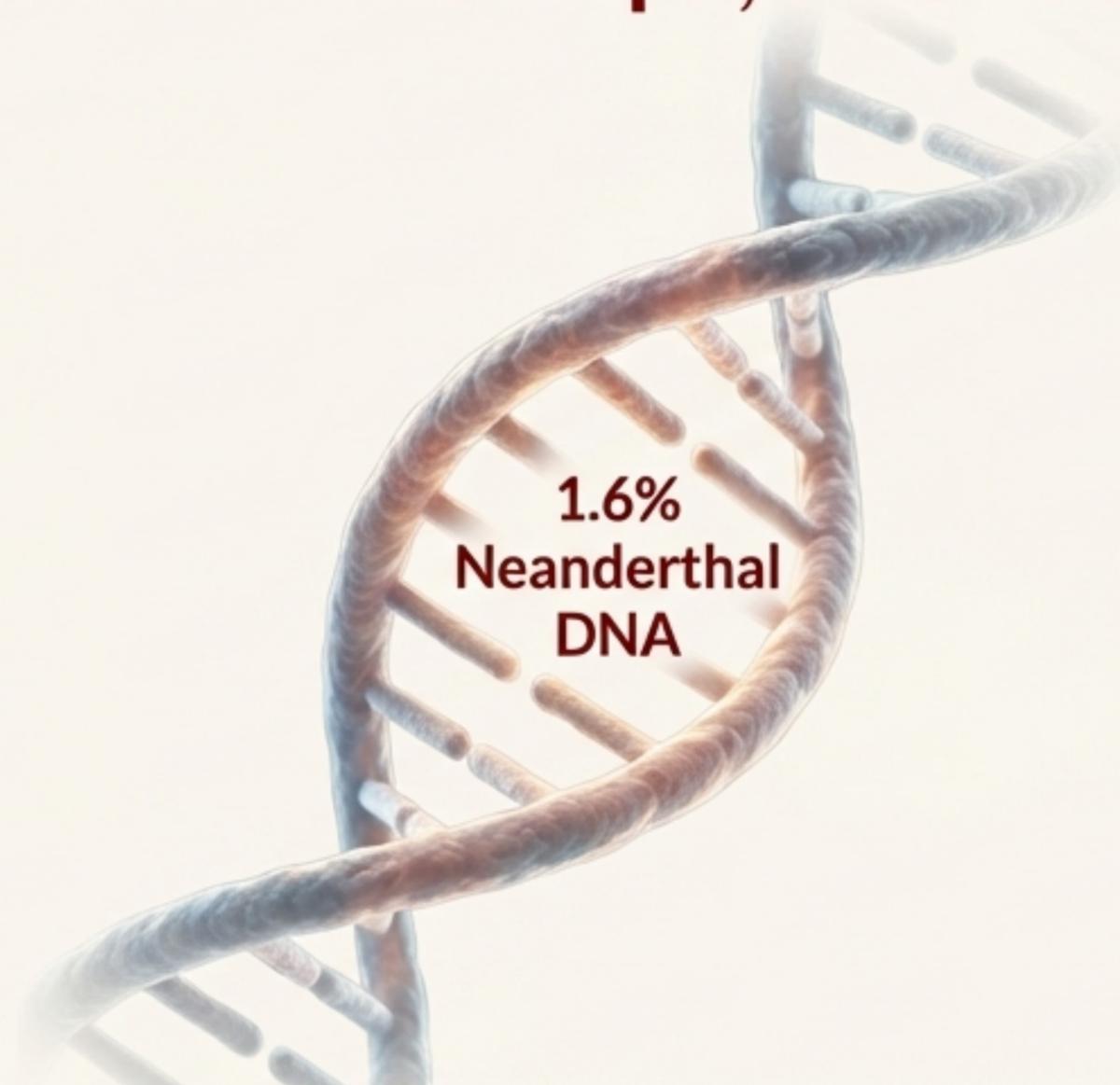
DNA evidence traces human migration recenditors of rmc DNA evidence traces human migration out of Africa at least 200,000 years ago, confirming archaeological findings.

It's not one field of science, but a convergence of genetics, archaeology, anthropology, and geology all pointing to the same timeline—a timeline that invalidates a 6,000-year-old origin.

# A Personal Data Point: Your Own DNA Tells a 40,000-Year-Old Story

## Fact

Neanderthals disappeared 40,000 years ago, yet modern humans carry their DNA.



1.6%  
Neanderthal  
DNA

## Case Study



A worse sense of direction



Difficulty discarding rarely used possessions (hoarding)



Less likely to have a fear of heights

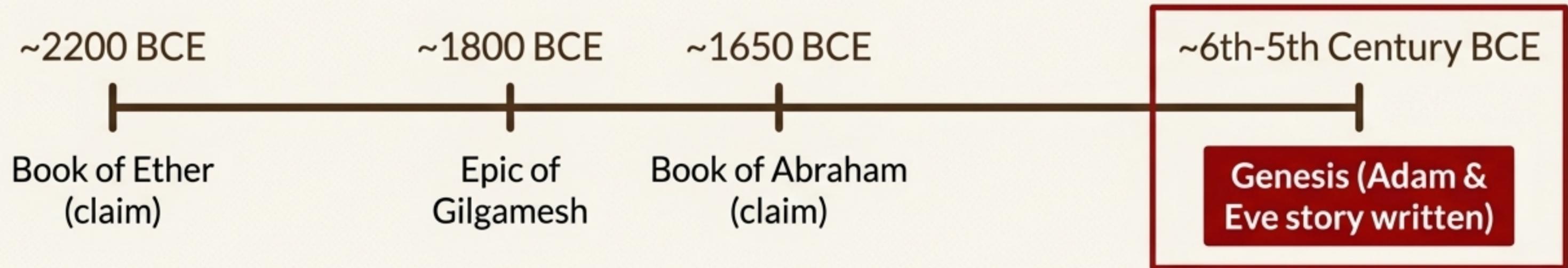


A better sprinter than distance runner

**The Point:** “If DNA science can accurately identify my personal quirks from a 40,000-year-old ancestor, its conclusions about the timeline of human origins cannot be dismissed when they conflict with theology.”

# Exhibit B: The Story's Origin Within the Bible

The story of Adam and Eve is an “etiological myth”—an origin story written to give a community purpose, not to record literal history.



Biblical scholars date the writing of the Genesis creation accounts to the 6th-5th Century BCE, during or after the Babylonian exile. It wasn't the beginning of the Bible's timeline; it was a late addition.

# A Familiar Tale: Borrowing from Earlier Mesopotamian Myths

## *Epic of Gilgamesh*

## **Genesis**

A man (Enkidu / Adam) is created from the soil by a god.

He lives in a natural setting among animals.

A woman tempts him with food.

After eating, he covers his nakedness and must leave his former realm, unable to return.

A snake later appears and steals a plant of immortality.

*“Without Babylon, there'd be no Bible.”* – David Bokovoy



# The Silence of the Prophets

If Adam was the first man and the origin of humanity, how often did the early Old Testament prophets mention him?

Mentions of Moses

**116**

Mentions of David

**1000**

Mentions of Adam & Eve  
in early OT books

**0**

The foundational figures of the Old Testament were well-known and cited frequently. Adam was not one of them. The story was simply unknown to them.

# The Mormon Anachronism: A Story Told Before It Was Written

## Biblical Scholarship

Biblical scholars show the Adam & Eve story was written in the 6th-5th century BCE and unknown to earlier prophets.

## Mormon Scripture

Mormon scriptures are saturated with the story.

Book of Mormon: 26 mentions of Adam  
Doctrine & Covenants: 28 mentions of Adam

**The Central Problem:** Joseph Smith, operating with a 19th-century view of the Bible as a literal history book, embedded a **5th-century BCE myth** into texts he claimed were written as early as 2200 BCE.



# Exhibit C: Adam in the Wrong Time and Place

## The Book of Ether

**Claimed Origin:** ~2200 BCE

**Quote:** "...the first part of this record, which speaketh concerning the creation of the world, and also of Adam..." (Ether 1:3)

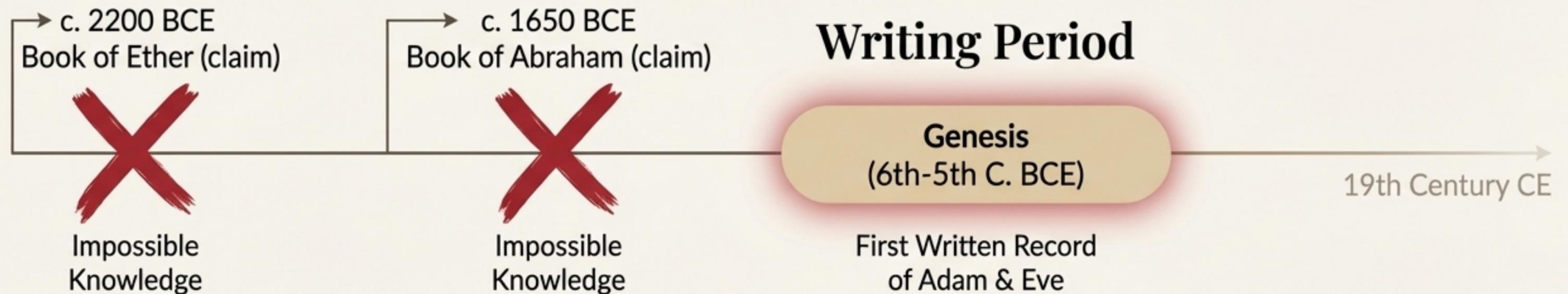
 **Problem:** This text claims knowledge of Adam ~1,700 years before the story was written.

## The Book of Abraham

**Claimed Origin:** Before 1650 BCE

**Content:** Mentions Adam and retells the Garden of Eden story.

 **Problem:** This text claims new knowledge of Adam ~1,100 years before the story was written.



The chronological discrepancy reveals the imposition of a later myth onto supposedly ancient texts.

# Exhibit D: Making the Myth Material

## Step 1: A Prophetic Vision

**Revelation (D&C 137):**  
Joseph Smith records a vision in the Kirtland Temple where "I saw Father Adam, and Abraham; and... Michael."

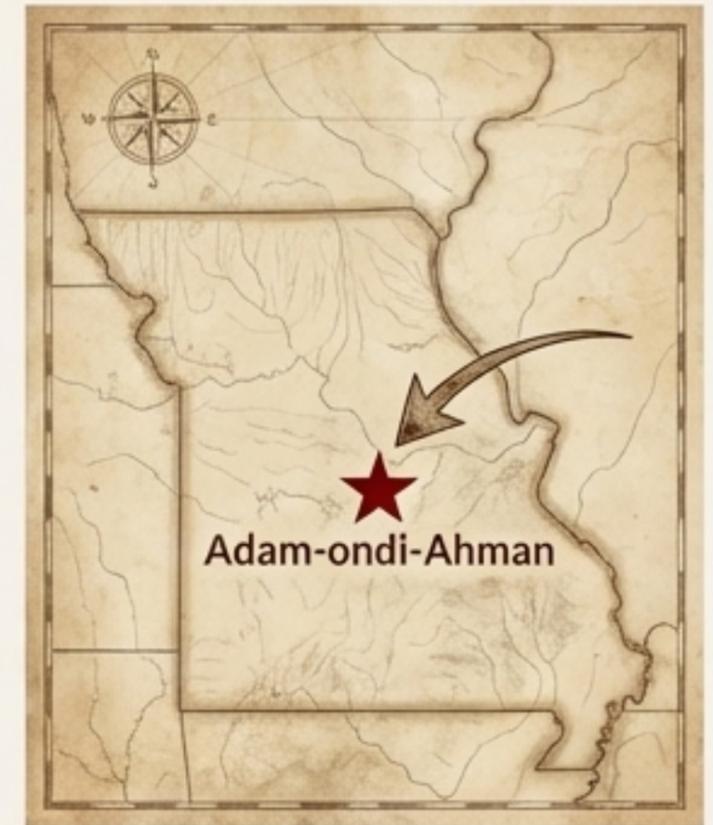
**Implication:**  
A mythological character is now claimed as a literal being seen in a vision.



## Step 2: A Prophetic Geography

**Revelation (D&C 116):**  
A location in Missouri is named "Adam-ondi-Ahman," revealed as the place Adam and Eve lived lived after leaving the Garden of Eden.

**The myth is now physically located in America, conveniently where the early Saints were settling, reinforcing an American-centric theology.**



# The Creation of a New Doctrine: Adam as “Ancient of Days”

## Source Text (Daniel 7)

The “Ancient of Days” is described in terms universally understood by biblical scholars to be **God sitting on his throne.**



## The Influence (May 1834)

Sidney Rigdon writes an article theorizing that the Ancient of Days is **Adam.**



## The Revelation (1835)

Joseph Smith revises an earlier revelation (D&C 27) and adds, in the voice of God, the phrase: “...**and also with Michael, or Adam, the father of all, the prince of all, the ancient of days.**”

## The Contradiction

In D&C 137, Joseph claims to see Adam and Michael as separate individuals. By 1835, he retrofits a revelation to declare them the same person—**“Adam, or Michael”**.

# The Doctrine Solidified: “He is our Father and our God.”

“When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body... He is Michael the Archangel, the Ancient of Days... **He is our father and our god, and the only god with whom we have to do.**”

— Brigham Young (1852), Lato

## Taught in the Temple

This doctrine was explicitly part of the temple ceremony script during Brigham Young’s presidency.

*“Father Adam’s oldest son Jesus the savior... is father Adam’s first begotten in the spirit world.”*

**The Point:** This doctrine, born from a misinterpretation of Daniel and an anachronistic view of Adam, became official, temple-taught theology. Lato

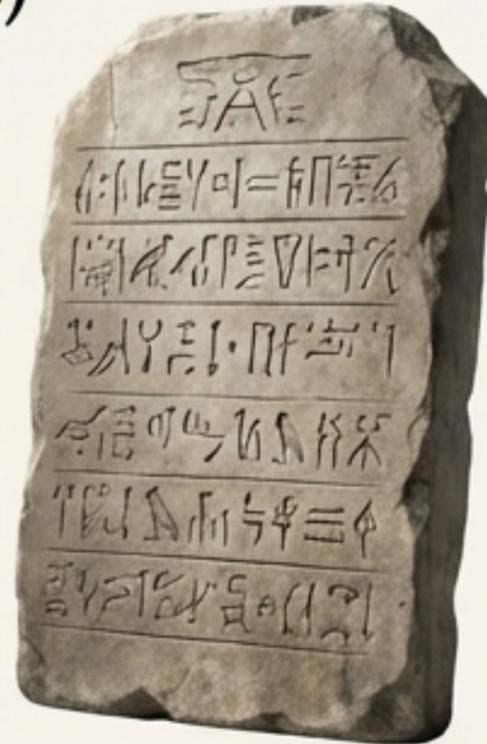


# The Modern Dilemma: Reconciling the Irreconcilable

## The Hardline Stance (Prophets & Scripture)

Elder Holland's 2015 quote demands a **"literal"** Adam Adam and Eve.

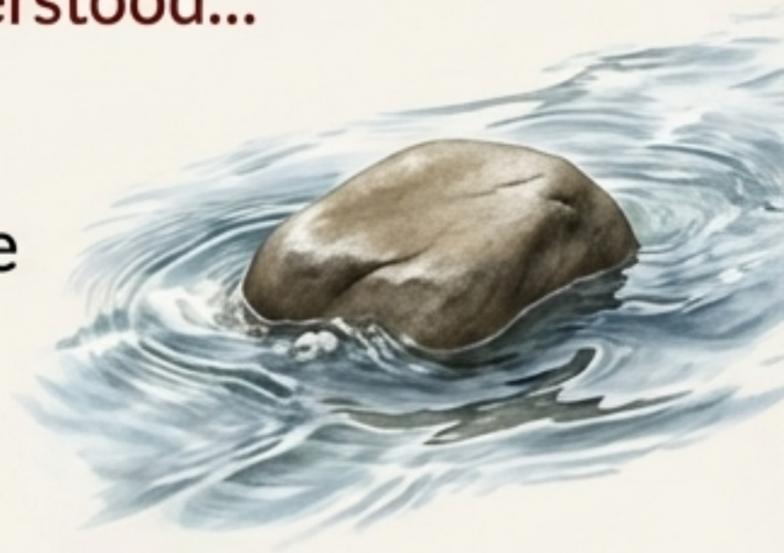
D&C 77 explicitly defines the earth's temporal existence as 7,000 years.



## The Apologetic Retreat (FairMormon)

"Beyond the existence of a historical Adam, **the rest of it can be understood... metaphorically.**"

FairMormon suggests the issue of the "first man" is a "flexible concept."



## The Core Conflict

The Church's prophets and canonized scriptures demand literalism, while its apologists, facing the evidence, are forced to argue for flexibility. The two positions are mutually exclusive.

# The Verdict: A Foundational Collapse

- Mormonism makes a literal Adam & Eve **foundational**.
- **Science** proves this foundation is chronologically impossible.
- **Biblical Scholarship** proves the story is a late, non-historical myth.
- **Mormon Scripture** contains massive anachronisms by placing this myth centuries before it was written.
- **Prophetic Revelations** built increasingly elaborate, contradictory, and physical doctrines upon this non-existent foundation.



# An Unintended Assertion

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“It is only when we try to **assert something through the text that was never intended** that we run into trouble.”

– FairMormon

The fatal error of Mormonism was not believing in the Adam and Eve story. The error was Joseph Smith taking a mythological text never intended as literal history and asserting it as the historical, physical, and doctrinal foundation for a new religion. He created the problem that the modern church cannot solve.

