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Index A: Unique Elements of the Book of Abraham Supported by Extrabiblical Traditions

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UNIQUE ELEMENTS OF THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM SUPPORTED BY EXTRABIBLICAL TRADITIONS

The Book of Abraham contains information that is absent from the Genesis account of Abraham and, with a few exceptions, from other parts of the Bible. Many of these “unique” elements are supported in extrabiblical traditions included in this collection. These are indexed here by topic and subtopic. Some parallels are stronger than others, so the reader is advised to check each text before inferring support for the Book of Abraham. The texts below are listed alphabetically. The references include the name of the text and, if necessary, the paragraph numbers in the text, followed by the page numbers of the book. Note that each thematic element may or may not have texts from each section.

Idolatry in Abraham’s Day

Abraham’s fathers worshiped idols (Abraham 1:5–6)

- | | |
|--|---|
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(Abraham 1:11)

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Terah, Abraham's father, worshiped idols
(Abraham 1:16–17, 27)

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Targum Neofiti 1 Deuteronomy 6:4, p. 70
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Terah, after repenting, returned to his idols
(Abraham 2:5)

Abū al-Fidā 2, pp. 433–34
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**Abraham connected to Egyptian idols
 (Abraham 1:6–7, 13, 17, 20, 29; 2:13; 3:20;
 Facsimile 1, figures 4–9)**

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Kebrā Nagast 82, pp. 279–80
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Sacrifice of Abraham and Others

**Children were sacrificed
 (Abraham 1:7–8, 10–11)**

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**Those who would not worship idols were
 killed (Abraham 1:11)**

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 Jerome, *Quaestiones Hebraicae in Genesim*
 11:28, pp. 194–96
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 Rabanus Maurus, *Commentaria in Genesim*,
 pp. 232–33
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 pp. 257–58

**Abraham was brought to be killed or sacri-
 ficed because he would not worship idols
 (Abraham 1:7, 12, 15; Facsimile 1, figure 3)**

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Terah was behind the attempt to kill Abraham (Abraham 1:7, 30)

- Al-Nīsābūrī 15:4, p. 401
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 Rashi, regarding Genesis 11:28, p. 125
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**Abraham was fastened or bound
 (Abraham 1:15; Facsimile 1, figure 2)**

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**When his life was in danger, Abraham
 prayed (Abraham 1:15)**

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 Al-Ṭabarī 252–70:31, p. 341
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 (Abraham 1:15; 2:13; Facsimile 1, figure 1)**

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**God rescued Abraham from death
 (Abraham 1:16; 3:20)**

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The altar (furnace) and the idols were destroyed (Abraham 1:20)

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The priest (or leader) was smitten and died (Abraham 1:20, 29)

- Al-Kisāʿī 42, 159, pp. 385, 395
 Al-Masʿūdī, *News* 1, p. 353
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Priesthood

Abraham was heir to the priesthood of his fathers (Abraham 1:2–3, 18)

Ibn al-Ṭayyib 7:6, pp. 254–55
Midrash Rabbah Leviticus 25:6, p. 105;
 Numbers 4:8, p. 109
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Abraham held the priesthood (Abraham 1:2; 2:9, 11; Facsimile 2, figure 3; Facsimile 3, figure 1)

Al-Nisābūrī 18:4, p. 404
 Babylonian Talmud *Nedarim* 32b, pp. 120–21
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Kebra Nagast 105, p. 280
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 p. 109; Song of Songs 5:15.1, p. 117
Pesikta Rabbati 40:6a, p. 81
 Philo of Alexandria, *De Abrahamo* 98, p. 41

Abraham was linked to Noah (Abraham 1:19; Facsimile 2, figure 3)

Al-Kisāʾī 46, p. 386
 Al-Ṭabarī 252–70:6, pp. 335–36
 Augustine, *City of God* 16.12, p. 200
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Believers are the seed of Abraham and are blessed through him (Abraham 2:10–11)

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 Genesis 11:30, versions A and B,
 pp. 284–85
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 14:6, pp. 89–90
 Qurʾan 14:36, p. 293

Abraham sought God earnestly (Abraham 2:12)

Al-Kisāʾī 51, pp. 386–87
 Al-Masʿūdī, *Meadows* 4:1, p. 352
 Al-Rabghūzī 16, p. 438
 Al-Ṭabarī 252–70:8–10, p. 336
 Al-Thaʿlabī 2:10, pp. 364–65
Apocalypse of Abraham 7:12; 8:3, pp. 56, 57
 Armenian Paraphrase of Genesis: after
 Genesis 11:30, versions A and B,
 pp. 284–85
 Augustine, *City of God* 10.32, p. 200
Book of Jasher 11:14, p. 140
Clementine Recognitions 33, p. 186
 Falasha Story 2, pp. 485–86
 George Hamartolos, pp. 237–38
 Gregory of Nyssa, pp. 187–88
 Ibn Ishāq 5–6, pp. 304–5

Abraham sought God earnestly (continued)

Jubilees 11:17, p. 15
Kebra Nagast 14, pp. 278–79
Medieval Testament of Naphtali 10:2, p. 128
 Michael the Syrian 2.6.2, p. 263
 Other Muslim Traditions: Prophet Abraham 5, pp. 460–61
Pesikta Rabbati 33:3a, p. 80
 Philo of Alexandria, *De Abrahamo* 68, p. 39
Pirqe de Rabbi Eliezer 26, pp. 45–46
 Zohar: Genesis 76b, 86a, pp. 155, 160–61

Abraham made converts in Haran (Abraham 2:15)

ʿAbot de Rabbi Nathan 12, version A, pp. 63–64, col. 1
 Abū al-Fidā 3, p. 434
 Al-Kisāʿī 85, 121, 160, pp. 389, 391–92, 395
 Al-Nisābūrī 22:1, p. 410
 Al-Rabghūzī 30, 61, 68–69, pp. 441, 449, 451–52
 Al-Ṭabarī 252–70:41, p. 343

Al-Thaʿlabī 3:1, p. 367
Book of Jasher 12:41–43; 13:2, 10, 21, 24, pp. 147, 149, 150, 151
Chronicles of Jerahmeel 34:13, p. 133
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 39:14, 16; 48:2; 84:4, pp. 93–94, 100, 102; Numbers 14:11, p. 110; Esther 6:2, p. 115; Song of Songs 1:3.3, p. 115
 Other Muslim Traditions: Prophet Abraham 11, p. 463
Pesikta Rabbati 43:6, p. 83
 Qurʾan 14:36, p. 293
 Rashi, regarding Genesis 12:5, p. 126
Story of Abraham . . . with Nimrod 33, p. 174
Study (Midrash) of Abraham Our Father 5, p. 179
Targum Jonathan Genesis 12:5, p. 66
Targum Neofiti 1 Genesis 12:5, p. 69
Targum Onqelos Genesis 12:5, p. 73
 Zohar: Genesis 78b, 79a–b, 86b, 88b, pp. 157–58, 161; Exodus 129a, 147b, p. 162
 Compare *Sefer Yetzirah* Gra-Ari 6:7, pp. 86–87

Revelation**Abraham possessed the Urim and Thummim, by means of which he received revelation from God (Abraham 3:1, 4)**

Babylonian Talmud *Baba Bathra* 16b, p. 123
Bahir 190, 192, pp. 50–51
 Compare George Hamartolos, pp. 237–38

Abraham was knowledgeable about astronomy, which he learned from ancient records and from God (Abraham 1:31; 3:1–18; Facsimiles 2 and 3)

4 *Ezra* 3:14, p. 61
 Al-Baiḍāwī 2:2, 13–14, 18, 20–21, pp. 427, 429–30
 Al-Kisāʿī 51, pp. 386–87
 Al-Maqdisī 53–54, pp. 355–56
 Al-Nisābūrī 14:9–10, p. 399
 Al-Rabghūzī 4, 16, pp. 436, 438

Al-Ṭabarī 252–70:8–9, 16–17; 316–17:1–5, pp. 336, 338, 345
 Al-Ṭarafi 31–32, 42–43, 52, pp. 373, 374
 Al-Thaʿlabī 2:1–2, pp. 360–61
 Al-Yaʿqūbī 1, p. 330
 Alcuin, *Epistola* 83, p. 216
 Anonymous Christian Chronicle 7, p. 228
Apocalypse of Abraham 19:3–9, p. 57
 Armenian Paraphrase of Genesis: after Genesis 11:30, versions A and B, pp. 284–85
 Babylonian Talmud *Shabbath* 156a–b, p. 119; *Yoma* 28b, p. 120
Book of Jasher 9:17–18, p. 139
Book of the Cave of Treasures 25a.1, p. 192
Book of the Rolls 122a, pp. 209–10
Chronicles of Jerahmeel 35:4, p. 134
Clementine Recognitions 32, pp. 185–86

De computo, p. 226
 Eupolemus 3–4, p. 8
 Falasha Story 2, pp. 485–86
 Firmicus Maternus, *Mathesis* 4 Proem 5; 4.17.2,
 5; 4.18.1; 8.3.5–8.4.14, pp. 478–84
 George Hamartolos, pp. 237–38
 George Syncellus 4, pp. 225
 Gregory of Nyssa, pp. 187–88
 Ibn al-Athīr 4–5, pp. 422–23
 Ibn al-Jawzī 1, pp. 418–19
 Ibn Ishāq 4–5, 7, pp. 304–5
 Ishāq ibn Bishr 164A:13, 17; 164B:1–4, p. 316
 Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 1.7.1–2; 1.8.2,
 pp. 47–48, 49
Jubilees 11:8; 12:17, pp. 15, 17
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 44:12; 48:6; 53:4,
 pp. 99, 100, 101; Exodus 38:6, p. 104;
 Numbers 2:12, 14, pp. 107–8
 Orphica 27–29, pp. 12–13
 Other Muslim Traditions: Turkish 5, p. 459
Pesikta Rabbati 11:4a; 43:1, pp. 78, 82
 Philo of Alexandria, *De Mutatione Nominum*
 67, 72, p. 36; *De Somniis* 53–54, p. 37;
Quaestiones et Solutiones in Genesin
 3.42–43, pp. 42–43
 Pseudo-Philo 18:5, p. 24
Qiqel and Yahya 1, 7, pp. 488, 489
 Qurʾan 6:75, p. 292
 Rāwandī 2, p. 415
Sefer Yetzirah Gra-Ari 6:7; Short 6:4; Long 6:8,
 pp. 86–87
Sibylline Oracles 3.218–28, p. 11
 Symeon Logothetes 1–2, pp. 249–50
 Vettius Valens, *Anthologiae* 2.29.1–6,
 pp. 476–77
 Zohar: Genesis 80a, 86a, pp. 158, 160–61
 Contrast Zohar: Numbers 148a, p. 163

Abraham taught astronomy to the Egyptians (Abraham Facsimile 3)

Anonymous Work, p. 10
 Artapanus, p. 7
 Eupolemus 8, p. 8–9
 George Syncellus 5, pp. 225

Ioannes Zonaras, p. 261
 Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 1.8.2, p. 49
 Zohar: Genesis 83a, p. 160
 Contrast *Chronicles of Jerahmeel* 35:4, p. 134;
 Maḥbūb of Menbidj (Agapius) 4, p. 248

Earth has four quarters (Abraham Facsimile 2, figure 6)

Book of Jasher 8:2, 10; 12:9, pp. 135, 136, 144
Chronicles of Jerahmeel 34:1, pp. 130–31
Story of Abraham 1, p. 175
 Zohar: Genesis 78a, pp. 156–57

Abraham knew about the creation (Abraham 1:31; 4–5)

Al-Nīsābūrī 14:10, p. 399
 Al-Ṭarafī 53–54, pp. 374–75
 Al-Thaʿlabī 2:1, pp. 360–61
Apocalypse of Abraham 7:10–11; 19:9; 21:1–6,
 pp. 56, 57, 58
Chronicles of Jerahmeel 34:3, p. 131
Clementine Recognitions 33, p. 186
 Ibn Ishāq 4, p. 304
 Ioannes Zonaras, p. 261
Jubilees 12:19, p. 17

There was advance planning for the creation (Abraham 4:31–5:5; Moses 3:4–5)

Apocalypse of Abraham 22:2, p. 59

The elements of the earth obeyed God (Abraham 4:9–12, 18, 21, 24–25, 31)

Apocalypse of Abraham 19:9, p. 57

Abraham saw the premortal spirits (Abraham 3:21–24)

Al-Kisāʿī 28, p. 384
 Al-Ṭabarī 216, p. 333
 Al-Ṭarafī 32, p. 373
Apocalypse of Abraham 19:6–7; 21:7–22:5, pp. 57,
 58–59
Book of Jasher 12:38, p. 146
Clementine Recognitions 33, p. 186

**Abraham saw the premortal spirits
(continued)**

- Firmicus Maternus, *Mathesis* 4.18.1, p. 479
 Medieval *Testament of Naphtali* 9:5, p. 127
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 14:6, pp. 89–90;
 Ecclesiastes 3:11.2, p. 113
 Philo of Alexandria, *De Cherubim* 4, p. 35
Sefer Yetzirah Long 6:8; Saadia 8:5, pp. 87–88
 Symeon Logothetes 2, pp. 250–51
 Vettius Valens, *Anthologiae* 2.29.1–6, pp. 476–77

**The Lord instructed Abraham to say that
Sarah was his sister (Abraham 2:22–25)**

- Bakhayla Mikâ'êl (Zôsîmâs) 17b.1, p. 283
Genesis Apocryphon XIX, 14–21, pp. 26–27
 Ishâq ibn Bishr 169B:17–170A:1, p. 325
 Zohar: Genesis 81b, 82a, p. 159
Contrast Zohar: Genesis 82a, p. 159; see al-
 Ṭarafî 115, pp. 379–80

Ancient Records**Abraham possessed records from the
fathers (Abraham 1:28, 31)**

- Al-Mas'ūdî, *Meadows* 4:5, p. 353; *News* 2,
 p. 353
 Al-Ṭabarî 350, p. 350
 Al-Tha'labî 1:2, p. 358
Book of Noah, versions B and C, p. 124
 Eupolemus 8, pp. 8–9
Genesis Apocryphon XIX, 25, p. 27
 Ibn al-Ṭayyib 7:3, p. 253
Jubilees 11:16; 12:27; 21:10, pp. 15, 18, 19
Midrash Rabbah 39:10, p. 93
 Zohar: Genesis 55b, p. 154

**Abraham left a record of his own
(Abraham 1:31)**

- Babylonian Talmud *ʿAbodah Zarah* 14b, 25a,
 pp. 122, 123
 Firmicus Maternus, *Mathesis* 4 Proem 5;
 4.17.5; 4.18.1; 8.3.5, pp. 478, 479
Jubilees 39:6, p. 20
 Qur'an 87:19–20, p. 297
Sefer Yetzirah Gra-Ari 6:7; Short 6:4; Long 6:8,
 pp. 86–87
 Vettius Valens, *Anthologiae* 2.28.3, p. 476

Pharaoh and the Founding of Egypt**The founding of Egypt (Abraham 1:21–27)**

- Al-Kisâ'î 59–60, p. 387
 Al-Mas'ūdî, *Meadows* 3:1, pp. 351–52
 Al-Rabghūzî 9, p. 436
 Al-Ṭabarî 215; 216; 252–70:5, 42, pp. 333, 335,
 343
 Al-Tha'labî 1:1; 3:1, pp. 357–58, 367
 Anonymous Christian Chronicle 16, p. 229
Armenian Question, p. 286
 Artapanus, p. 7
Book of the Cave of Treasures 22b.2, p. 189
Book of the Rolls 118b, pp. 207–8
Conflict of Adam and Eve III, 23:4–8, pp. 219–20

- Genesis Apocryphon* XIX, 13, p. 26
 Ibn al-Ṭayyib 6:2, p. 253
 Maḥbūb of Menbidj (Agapius) 3, p. 248
 Other Muslim Traditions: Turkish 1, p. 458
Targum Jonathan Genesis 16:1, 5, p. 67
 Zohar: Genesis 73a, pp. 154–55
Contrast Abū al-Fidā 3, p. 433; al-Ṭabarî
 325–26:1, p. 349

**Pharaoh was a descendant of Ham but also
of Canaan (Abraham 1:21–22, 24–25, 27)**

- Al-Baiḍāwî 2:1, p. 427
 Al-Ṭarafî 4, 35, pp. 371, 373

Al-Thaʿlabī 1:1, pp. 357–58
 Eupolemus 9, p. 9
Jubilees 22:20–21, p. 20
Pesikta Rabbati 21:22, p. 80
Story of Abraham . . . with Nimrod 7, p. 166

The first pharaoh, a good man, was blessed by Noah (Abraham 1:26)

Ibn al-Ṭayyib 6:1–2, pp. 252–53
 Other Muslim Traditions: Turkish 1–2, pp. 458–59

Abraham was allowed to sit on a king’s throne (Abraham Facsimile 3, figure 1)

Al-Kisāʿī 170, p. 396
 Al-Rabghūzī 64–65, 69, pp. 449–50, 451–52
 Babylonian Talmud *Sanhedrin* 108b, p. 122
Book of Jasher 15:22, p. 153
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 42:5; 55:6, pp. 97, 101;
 Deuteronomy 2:33, p. 112; Ecclesiastes 4:14.1, p. 114
Tanna debe Eliyahu 8–9, p. 76

Famine in Chaldea

There was a famine in Abraham’s homeland (Abraham 1:29–30; 2:1, 5)

Al-Kisāʿī 120, p. 391
 Al-Rabghūzī 29, 44, pp. 441, 445
 Anonymous Christian Chronicle 26, p. 230
 Bar Hebraeus 6, p. 275
Catena Severi 2, p. 241
 Jacob of Edessa 2, p. 211
Jubilees 11:11–13, p. 15
 Michael the Syrian 2.6.2, p. 263
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 25:3; 40:3; 64:2, pp. 90, 94, 102

Other Muslim Traditions: Turkish 4, p. 459
 Philo of Alexandria, *De Abrahamo* 91, p. 40

Abraham prayed that God would end the famine in Chaldea (Abraham 2:17)

Al-Kisāʿī 121, pp. 391–92
 Al-Rabghūzī 44, p. 445
Catena Severi 3–4, p. 241
 Jacob of Edessa 3, pp. 211–12
Jubilees 11:18–24, pp. 15–16

Haran died in the famine (Abraham 2:1)

Al-Rabghūzī 21, 47, pp. 439, 445–46

Other

Abraham was sixty-two years of age when he left Haran, not seventy-five as Genesis says (Abraham 2:14)

Al-Masʿūdī, *News* 2, p. 353
 Babylonian Talmud *ʿAbodah Zarah* 9a, p. 122
 Genesis Commentary: 4QcommGen A, p. 31
 Georgius Cedrenus 3, p. 270
Pesikta Rabbati 42:3a, pp. 81–82
 Saʿīd ibn Batriq (Eutychius) 3, p. 246
Contrast Ishāq ibn Bishr 169A:16, p. 324

Abraham became like God (Doctrine and Covenants 132:29, 37, 49)

Armenian Paraphrase of Genesis: after Genesis 11:30, version A, pp. 284–85
Midrash Rabbah Genesis 43:7; 44:4, pp. 97–98;
 Numbers 14:2, p. 110; Song of Songs 1:3.3, pp. 115–16