

HOW TO WRITE BIBLICAL FICTION

A 3-Layered Approach



QUESTION #1:

How closely do
you follow the
biblical story?



3 LAYERS DEFINED:

1. Study **Biblical TRUTH** as the foundation.
2. Research **Historical Facts** as the building bricks.
3. Add **Creative Fiction** like mortar to hold the story together.



QUESTION #2:

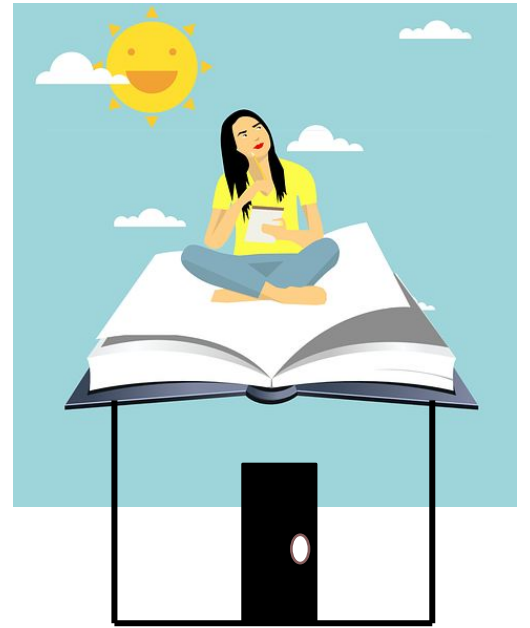
How much
research goes
into your
work?



STUDY **BIBLICAL** TRUTH

■ Variety of Resources

- BibleS – Varied Translations
- Commentaries
- Maps
- Lexicons (Hebrew/Greek)
- Cultural Context Helps (Manners & Customs)
- Encyclopedias



Question #3 very important...



QUESTION #3:

What guidelines do you follow as you use the Bible in writing fiction?



See **Handout #1** – List of Reference Materials
Protestant/Catholic/Jewish



RESEARCH HISTORICAL FACTS

■ Reliable Resources (*contradictions*)

- Books
- Periodicals
- Library/Databases
- Online/Websites

DISCOVER NEW CHARACTERS & PLOT LINES!

Handout #2 – How to Evaluate Resources



QUESTION #4:

Does it work better if I distill the 'lessons' and then craft a story around it?



See **Handout #3** – Figure #1: A lot like life: some you can anticipate, but *some will emerge on the journey*. **Look for plot twists in the research contradictions.**



FIGURE #1	TUTANKHAMUN	AY	HOREMHEB	RAMESES I	SETY I	RAMESES II	MOSES
1336	sole reign begins						
1330	Moses born during Tut’s reign						<u>BORN</u>
1327		sole reign begins					
1323			sole reign begins				
1295				sole reign begins			
1294					sole reign begins		
1279						sole reign begins	
1250						EXODUS (46 y/o)	<u>Ex. 7:7</u> - 80 y/o (Moses Fled to Midian in 1290--while Sety I was Pharaoh)
1213						DIES	

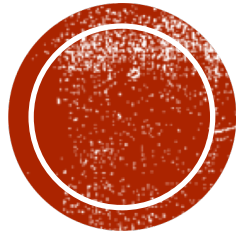
ADD CREATIVE FICTION

- Find the golden thread amid *inevitable contradictions* between Scriptural Truth and historical fact.
 - To connect biblical Truth with historical facts
 - To smooth out contradictions
 - **To breathe life and context into the familiar unknown.**

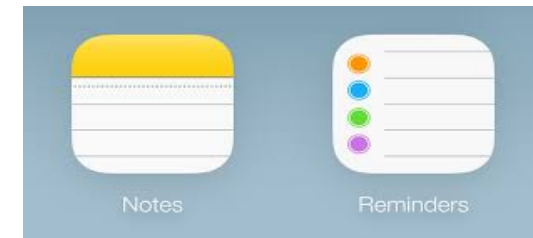
(See **Handout #4** – Excel Sheet: Historical-Fictional-Biblical)



YEAR	HISTORIC EVENT	FICTIONAL EVENT	BIBLICAL/FAITH ELEMENT
1352	AMENHOTEP IV -- REIGN BEGINS	HOREMHEB (born 1368) 16 yr/old impressionable--youngest son of a military commander; father given land and titles upon retirement--father became High Priest of Horus of Hutnesut--until Akhenaten banned all other gods but Aten (sun disk, not Horus' hawk-head); SEBAK BORN	
1349	PARAMESSU (RAMESES I) BORN (Thomas, p. 13--Rameses 1 in his 50's, Horem. in his 60's--Sety I already a married adult w/son.)--19 yrs younger than Horemheb.		
1349	celebrated SED-FESTIVAL -- UNPRECEDENTED IN 2 WAYS: didn't wait for 30th yr as usual (see Feasts Info); Nefertiti performing rituals in reliefs normally reserved for king (see Pharaoh Info--SHAW)	King of Mittani Empire sends daughter as gift to new King Akhenaten--wife (Mittani princess) KIYA and falls in love with her (Great Beloved Wife);	
1347	began bldg Amarna; used Nubian slaves to build w/brick rather than huge sandstone blocks; severed ties with Amun; changed name to AKHENATEN; dispossessed priests of Amun in Thebes and d/c'd all bldg projects in Thebes	Nefertiti has only borne daughters (6); HOREMHEB becomes MASTER OF HORSE;	
1346	??YR?? MEKETATEN (Nefertiti's 2nd daughter) dies in childbirth; TUT BORN (historical data)	(If Nefer's 2nd daughter was even 14y/o when died, her 3rd born would have been born no earlier than 1358=Senspa); Nefertiti enraged that Anubis took her daughter and gave Kiya a son!	
1345		KIYA'S 1st-born daughter (ANIPPE), named Meryetaten-tasherit (to fool Anubis); named after Nefertiti's firstborn	
1346-44	MOVED TO AMARNA; Offical boundaries sworn in 1344		
1343	traditional gods BANNED; Amun removed from inscriptions; state temples closed; religious festivals and public holidays no longer celebrated; MILITARY SUPPORT NEEDED!!!	HOREMHEB (age 25) BECOMES GO-TO MILITARY ADVISOR FOR KING; doesn't care about god Amun (still stinging about Horus, however); KIYA bears 2nd born daughter and must name her Ankhesenpaaten-tasherit (nicknamed, Ankhe--becomes handmaid that betrays Anippe)	
1340-39	REBELLION IN NUBIA (HOREMHEB/army sent to quash); Hittites defeat Mittani empire in north (vassal buffer state loyal to Egypt); KIYA (Mittani princess and Great Beloved Wife) DISAPPEARS FROM EGYPT'S INSCRIPTIONS	HOREMHEB fighting in Nubia, while Hittites defeat Mittani Empire in NE (Palestine); Nefertiti realizes KIYA no longer protected by her father (King Tushratta)--makes demands on Akhenaten: she co-regent in Thebes; eldest daughter new Great Wife; third daughter marry current heir, Tut; HOREMHEB ARRIVES IN TIME TO DISCOVER CONSPIRACY AND INFORMS KING--TAKES TUT AND SENSPA to Memphis...see below	
1338	NEFERNEFERUATEN (SHAW, NEFERTITI)--CO-REGENCY BEGINS; Occupies mansion in Thebes; Nefertiti's eldest daughter (Meryetaten) becomes new Great Wife Queen Consort to Akhenaten; Tutankhaten (SHAW, KIYA's son) marries Ankhesenpaaten (Nef's 3rd daughter), and Tut named crown prince.	HOREMHEB age 30 (loyal to Akhenaten) and AY (Nefertiti's father) take Prince Tut (Kiya's son) and Princess Senpa (Nefertiti's daughter) to Memphis with promise to protect as heirs to throne; HOREMHEB also takes away Queen KIYA (with Akhenaten's approval) from dangerous Nefertiti's plans; takes both daughters and is pregnant; she and baby die in childbirth (Anippe is full-blooded sister of Tut). WHAT HAPPENS TO OTHER SISTER? (Senspa=20; Tut=8; Anippe=7)	
1336	TUTANKHAMUN -- REIGN BEGINS (age 10); HOREMHEB (Executive at Head of Two Lands) suggests move captial to MEMPHIS, chg Tut's name (Amun), and restore Amun worship to Thebes; AY is VIZIER (Nef's father)	He and his sister-wife, Senpa, daily life with Amenia, HOREMHEB'S WIFE; Keeps king's mind off "dirty-work" of Nefertiti, Meryetaten, etc. assassinations; AY (Nef's father) sends other daughter (Mutnodjmet) to Cush with Nakhtmin as Vizier of South	**BOOK BEGINS HERE**
1335	TUT's RESTORATION DECREE: Temples of other gods run down under his father (see Pharaoh info); Egypt's power in Syria-Palestine waned under his father (see Pharaoh info); Chief Treasurer, MAYA, responsible for MANY building projects and taxation for the state.		
1334-28	HOREMHEB--sent to quell Hittite threat (Syria-Palestine)--UNSUCCESSFUL; NAKHTMIN--Vizier, Army commander in Cush--SUCCESSFUL!	Senspa's miscarriage and still-birth create grief/vengeance in Tut; Horemheb questions Tut's order to kill Hebrew babies, and king verbally attacks--both regret their last words b4 Horem. returns to fight Hittites 1332	Midwife Puah married to Mered, a palace slave overseer in the treasury (in charge of the flax/weaving/linen/exports); Puah becomes asst. to midwife Shiphrah; (at AY's suggestion) orders Hebrew midwives to cast baby boys into Nile. Ex. 1:15
1331		Hittites defeat Horem's army at Amqa (near Kadesh); Egyptians retreat back to Avaris/Memphis; Tut displeased; Horem sees AY's influence increase; Horem makes Sebak (age 21) MASTER OF HORSE (as Horem was under Akhenaten), and gives him Anippe (age 14) as wife--to take her to safety in Avaris; away from Memphis royal intrigue (away from 1st wife--Amenia); gets to know Pirameses' wife/family	While Tut at Avaris for wedding, he chastises midwives for NOT killing all Hebrew male babies; Anippe hears courage of midwives and respects them Ex. 1:18-19
1330	MOSES BORN (accd'g to BIBLICAL EXODUS)	Horemheb, Sebak & Pirameses return to battle; Sebak thinks Anippe might be pregnant; Anippe discovers not pregnant soon after Sebak leaves for battle but keeps secret from household;	(Moses 80 in 1250 BC - Ex. 7:7) Anippe goes to Nile for ritual cleansing after red moon and finds Hebrew babe in Nile; hidden girl suggests Hebrew woman as wet nurse -- Ex. 2:5-10
1327	TUT DIES UNEXPECTEDLY--ca. age 19 (??chariot accident, TUT EXHIBIT)--Young widow, prompted by AY, sends marriage proposal to Hittite prince; prince agrees but is murdered en route to Egvnt by Horemheb loyalists: prolongs Hittite tensions	SETY I BORN (AVARIS)--(Parameses was 22 when his son was born); Tut summons her b4 death to warn her of AY's suspected double-cross; AY kills Horem's wife Amenia; Anippe bears of trouble and sends msg to Horem. Anippe feigned 8 mo/pregnancy and calls	



**Technology is our
friend.**



FIND THE ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR YOU!