

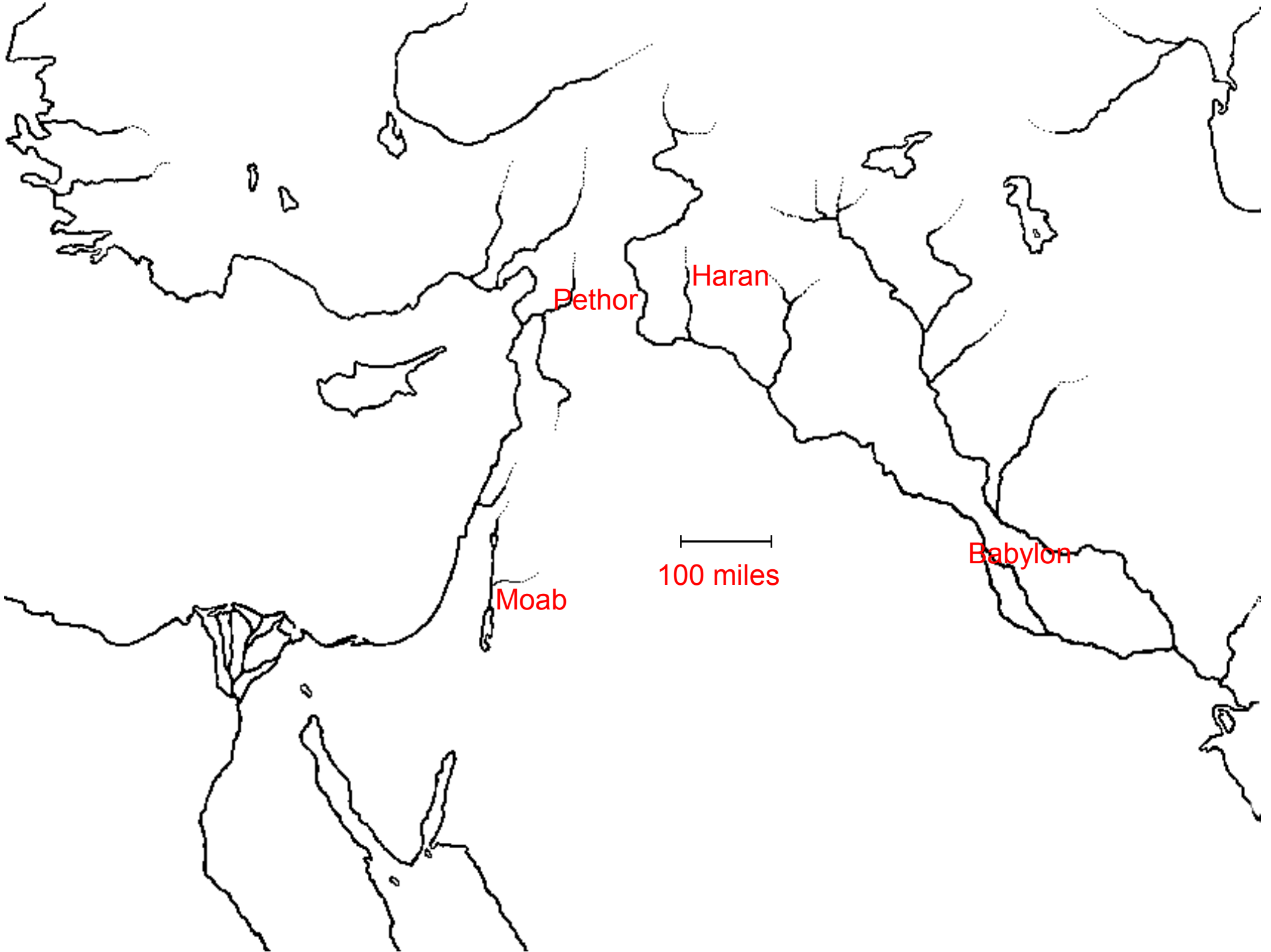
# Treasure Hunt

- Who were the wise men?
- Why did Balak send so far away to get someone to curse Israel?
- Where did Balaam get the idea of a Sceptre rising out of Israel that would have dominion over the nations?
- Where else is astronomical language used of the coming of the Messiah?
- How did people in the homeland of the wise men learn of these prophecies?
- Why did the wise men act on the prophecy when they saw the star?
- What practical lessons can we learn from this history?

# Who are “wise men” (μαγοι, Magi)?

Dan 2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the **astrologers**, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

Dan 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore *there is* no king, lord, nor ruler, *that* asked such things at any magician, or **astrologer**, or Chaldean.



Pethor

Haran

Moab

Babylon

100 miles

# Balaam's Prophecies

Num 23:9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

Num 23:23 Surely *there is* no enchantment against Jacob, neither *is there* any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

Num 24:5 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, *and* thy tabernacles, O Israel! 6 As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, *and* as cedar trees beside the waters.

Num 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and **a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel**, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. 18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. 19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

Gen 49:10 **The sceptre shall not depart from Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

# Later Prophecies of Messiah's Rising

Isa 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is **risen** upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy **rising**.

Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness **arise** with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

# A Side Effect of the Captivity

Daniel's knowledge of Scripture:

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel **understood by books** the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel's reputation in the court:

Dan 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them **ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers** that *were* in all his realm.

Dan 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and **chief of the governors over all the wise *men*** of Babylon.

Dan 5:29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and *put* a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the **third ruler** in the kingdom.

Dan 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king thought to **set him over the whole realm.**