

Why are they called Hebrews?

Genesis chapter 11 provides the genealogy of the patriarchs from the time of the Flood to Abraham. The third patriarch to be born after the Flood was named 'Eber'. It is this patriarch whose name is rendered 'Hebrew'. So, why are Abraham and his lineage referred to as 'Hebrews', instead of something else from one of the other patriarchs?

Patriarchal Sequence	Patriarch	Year of Birth	Year of Death
10	Noah	1057	2007
11	Shem	1559	2159
12	Arphaxad	1659	2097
13	Salah	1694	2127
14	Eber (Hebrew)	1724	2188
15	Peleg	1758	1997
16	Reu	1788	2027
17	Serug	1820	2050
18	Nahor	1850	1998
19	Terah	1879	2084
20	Abraham	2009	2184
21	Isaac	2110	2290
22	Jacob	2170	2317

Eber outlived all of his fathers (that came through the Flood). He also outlived all of his children (in the patriarchal lineage) including Abraham. He lived long enough to have known Isaac and even Jacob to the age of 18.

Moses recognized Eber's longevity before his lineage was even given.

Genesis 10:21, 'Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born.'

And Abraham was the first to be called a 'Hebrew'.

Genesis 14:13 'And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.'

Eber, so called Hebrew, was the elder father of the patriarchs after the Flood.