



How Not to Run an Empire: The Assyrians

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #10

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 9
Gilgamesh Essay Due
- Monday, March 17
Midterm Exam
- Sunday, March 15
Responses for Week 7 Due

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Four things today

- The Iron Age
- Philistines and Phoenicians
- The Hebrew migration
- The Neo-Assyrians

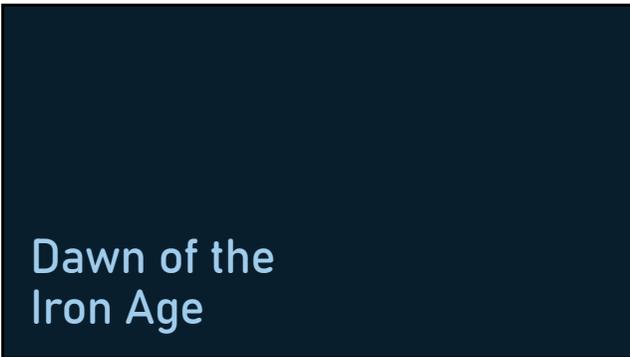
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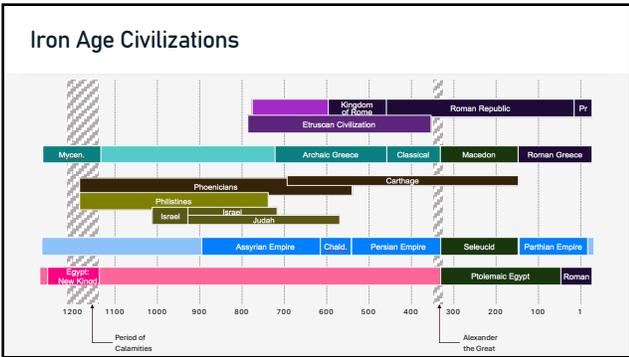
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Iron

- Iron ore is common
 - Found in many places
 - Often in substantial amounts
- Iron tools and weapons can be produced in quantity
- Greater food production
- Larger armies

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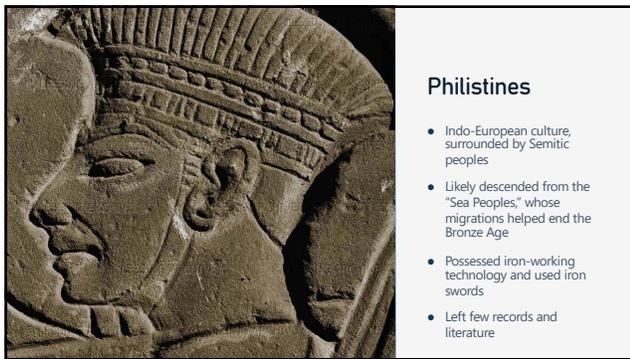
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Iron Age Canaan

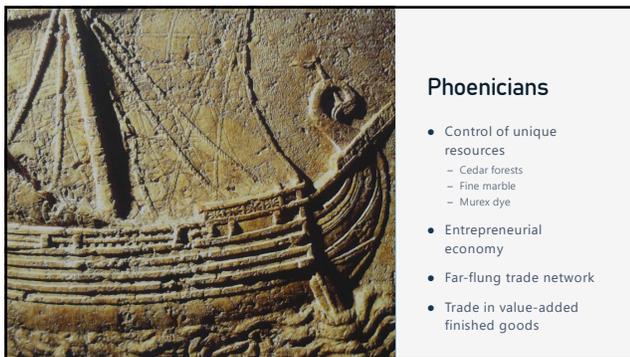
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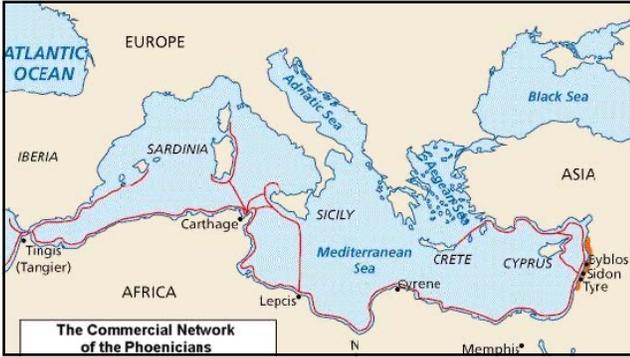
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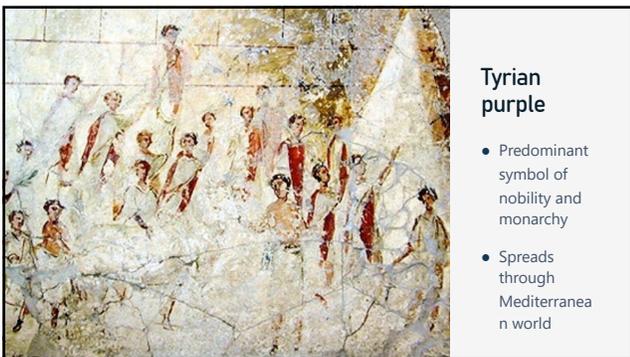
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Writing and language

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Ancient languages and writing systems

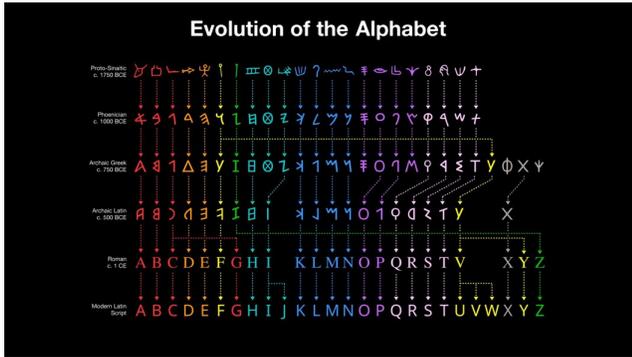
Pictographic	Syllabic	Phonetic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cuneiform - Sumer Cuneiform - Hittites Cuneiform - Iron age Assyria Cuneiform - Iron age Persia Hieroglyphs - Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linear A - Crete Linear B - Mycenae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phoenician Greek Etruscan Latin

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Phonetic alphabet						
Z Zayin Weapon	W Waw Hook	H He Window	D Daleth Door	G Gimel Carnel	B Beth House	' Aleph Ox
N Nun Fish	M Mem Water	L Lamedh Ox-Goad	K Kaph Palm of Hand	Y Yodh Hand	T Teth Unknown	H Heth Fence
T Taw Mark	SH Shin Tooth	R Resh Head	Q Qoph Monkey	S Sadhe Fishhook	P Peh Mouth	' Ayin Eye
						S Samekh Support

- Based on earlier ideographic systems
- Each symbol now stands for the starting sound, not an idea

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Descended from the Phoenician alphabet

<p>LATIN ALPHABET - ENGLISH Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.</p> <p>LATIN ALPHABET - GERMAN Wer sich nicht an die Vergangenheit erinnert, ist dazu verdammt, sie zu wiederholen.</p> <p>LATIN ALPHABET - FRENCH Ceux qui ne se souviennent pas du passé sont condamnés à le répéter.</p> <p>GREEK ALPHABET - GREEK Ὅσοι δὲν θυμούνται το παρελθόν είναι καταδικασμένοι να το επαναλάβουν.</p> <p>CYRILLIC ALPHABET - RUSSIAN Те, кто не помнит прошлого, обречены на его повторение.</p> <p>CYRILLIC ALPHABET - UKRAINIAN Ті, хто не пам'ятає минулого, приречені повторити його.</p>	<p>ARABIC ALPHABET - ARABIC أولئك الذين لا يتذكرون الماضي محكوم عليهم بتكراره.</p> <p>ARABIC ALPHABET - PERSIAN کسانی که گذشته را به یاد نمی آورند محکوم به تکرار آن هستند.</p> <p>HEBREW ALPHABET - HEBREW מי שלא זוכר את העבר ניזון לחזור עליו.</p> <p>HEBREW ALPHABET - YIDDISH די אדם וועלעךן קען נישט די פארפאסענדיגקייט פון זיין אידענטיטעט פארעסען.</p> <p>INDIC ALPHABETS - HINDI जो लोग अतीत को याद नहीं रखते वे दुर्दैव होने के लिए अशिक्षा हैं।</p> <p>INDIC ALPHABETS - TAMIL கடந்த காலத்தை நினைவில் கொள்ளாதவர்கள் அதை மீண்டும் செய்வது கண்டிக்கப்படுகிறது.</p>
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Aramaeans

- Semitic people originating at the north end of Mesopotamia
- Spread throughout Fertile Crescent
- Aramaean becomes a common language found in many diverse lands

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The Hebrews

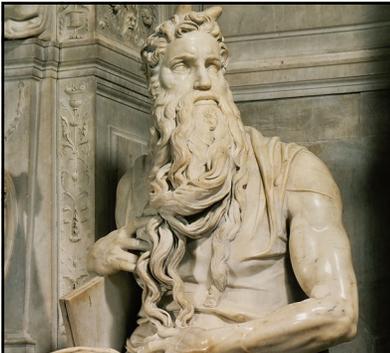
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The Exodus

- Semitic labor force in Bronze Age Egypt includes many Hebrew tribes
- New Kingdom disrupted at the end of the Bronze Age
- Evidence of Hebrew departure from Egypt comes only from Hebrew legends

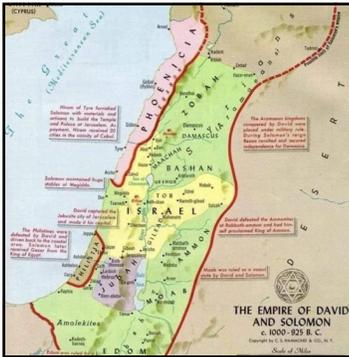
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Hebrew tribes in Canaan

- Fertile and strategic areas already occupied
- Risk of attrition as young drawn to Canaanite cities
- Hebrews divided into mutually hostile tribes
 - Each tribe trying to take its own lands
 - Tribal leaders called 'Judges'

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Expansion of the Kingdom of Israel

- Flourishes under kings Saul, David, and Solomon
- Israel aggressively expands in territory and influence
- Phoenicians retain coastal cities and trade network
 - Extensive trade with Israel
 - Material and expertise made Great Temple possible

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Great Temple

- Built under David and Solomon
- Challenge to other great cities (e.g., Babylon)
 - Economic and political power of Israel
 - Unmatched power of the one god Yahweh

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Divided Kingdom

- After Solomon, cohesion ends
- Two hostile kingdoms result
 - Kingdom of Israel (Northern)
 - Kingdom of Judah (Southern)
- Northern kingdom has more cities and resources

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Iron Age Mesopotamia

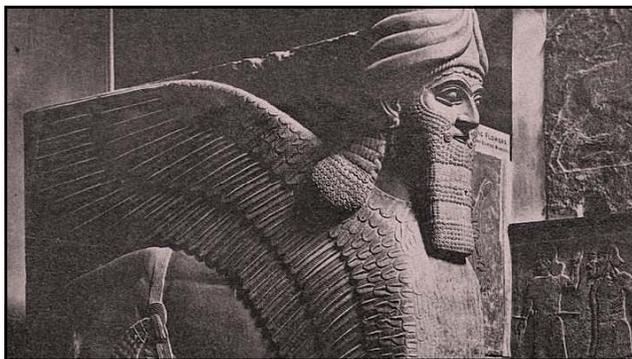
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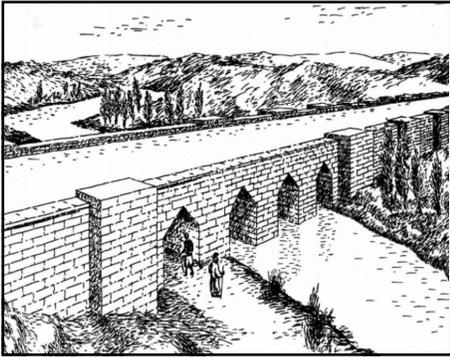
Neo-Assyrian Empire

- Called "Neo-Assyrian" because it's the "new" one
 - "Old" Assyrian empire fell with the collapse of the Bronze Age
- Rapid expansion to dominate Mesopotamia, then beyond

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A modern Iron Age Empire

- Artistic and technological advancements
- Exploitation of far-flung resources
- Large, well-equipped armies

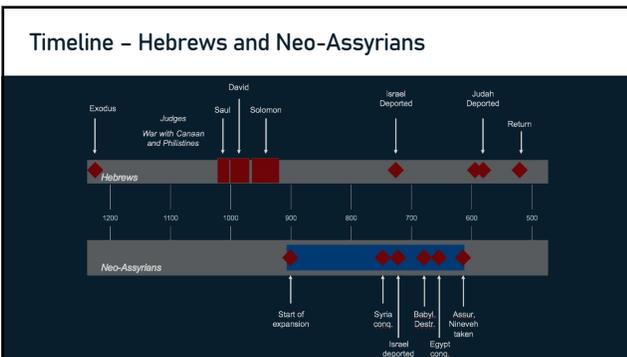
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Ruling the Neo-Assyrian Empire

- "How not to run an empire"
- Standing armies
- Wealth and resources all dragged to Nineveh
- Brutal suppression of local culture and identity
- Destruction of cities
- Deportation

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Deportation of Northern Kingdom (722 BCE)

- Monotheism gives the Hebrews a stronger identity
- Assyrians try to crush Northern Kingdom (Israel) with tributes and oppression
- Finally deport landholders to Assyria
- Northern Kingdom resettled with foreign colonists

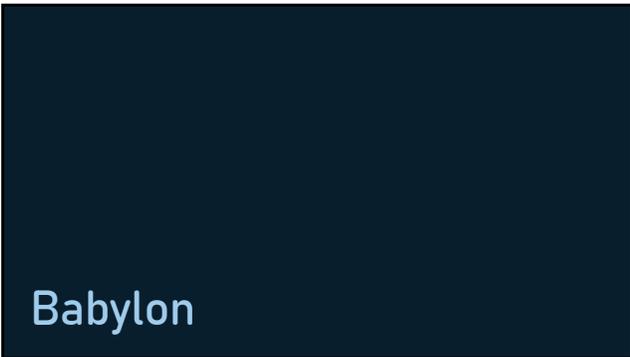
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Failure of the Neo-Assyrian Empire

- Oppressive rule and draining of conquered lands
- Conquered lands start to rebel
- Medes and Chaldeans ally to overthrow Assyrians

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Babylon

- Exerts authority through cultural and technological dominance
- Babylon draws the skilled and wealthy

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The Hanging Gardens

- Engineering marvel
- Demonstration of Babylon's preeminence
 - Economic power
 - Technological power

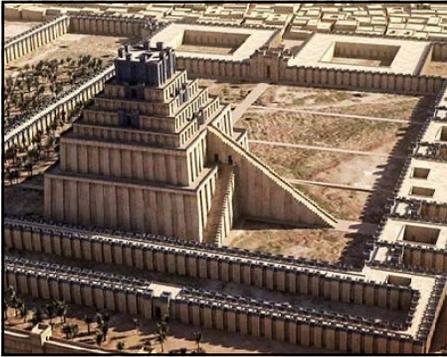
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"Tower of Babel"

- Hebrew metaphor for Babylonian arrogance

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Etemenanki Ziggurat

- Largest ziggurat in the world
- Home of Babylon's patron god, Marduk

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The Babylonian Captivity (587-538 BCE)

- Southern Kingdom (Judah) resistant to Babylon
- Babylon deports landholders
- In Babylon, Judeans (Jews) fight assimilation
 - Preservation of history and language
 - Food and clothing taboos
 - Circumcision
 - Sabbath
- Jewish identity preserved

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Monotheism as a religious revolution

- Pagan gods represent natural forces
 - Bound to the land
 - Local
- Yahweh creates a covenant of mutual benefit
 - Protection in exchange for faith and rejection of other gods
 - Covenant is personal, not group
 - Relationship exists regardless of location
- No other gods
 - Pagan peoples are sinners/barbarians
 - Yahweh will protect

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