



How Not to Run an Empire: The Assyrians

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #10

1

Four things today

- Midterm Exam
- The Hebrews
- The Neo-Assyrian Empire
- Babylon

2

Midterm Exam

3



The Midterm

- Usual room and period
- Be here on time
- Review sheet is posted on the exams page
- Makeup only in the case of documented emergency

4

Kinds of Questions

Identification and Impact	Short Answer	Multiple Choice	Map	Essay
You'll be provided with a term and you'll need to give both (a) a description of what it refers to, and (b) its significance or importance All terms will come from the review sheet	A couple of paragraphs on a topic we've discussed with examples	Like the quizzes – Choose the best of four answers	Locate important cities, peoples, and key geographic features on a blank map	Your interpretation and analysis of a major theme we've covered You'll be asked to give an opinion and support it with evidence in the form of examples from three societies we've studied

- For each section except Multiple Choice, you will have at least twice as many choices as you need

5

Approach to preparing

- All readings are fair game
- Use resources on the website—quiz notes, slides, and videos
- Look for milestone events in the periods we've discussed and bullet-point their causes and legacies
- "Why" and "how" questions don't have just one answer
- Try to anticipate possible essay questions
- Know centuries and eras for awareness of "before" and "after"

6

Questions about whatever



7

The Hebrews



8

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



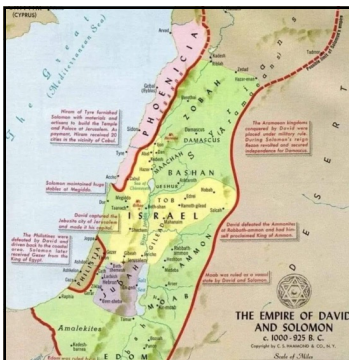
9



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"

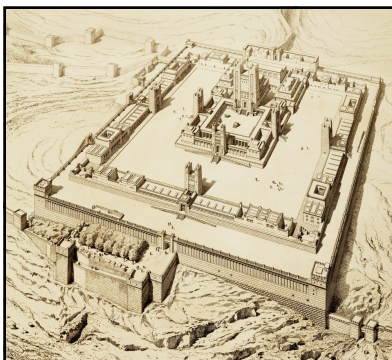
10



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

11



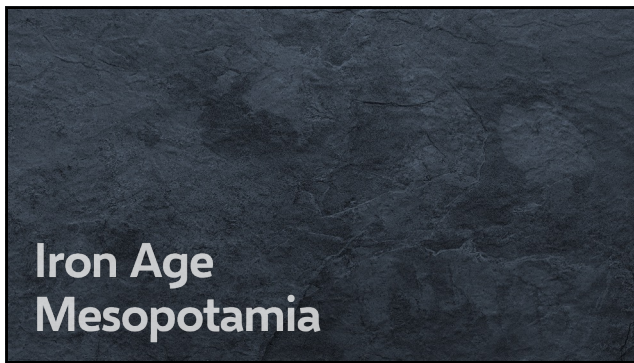
Great Temple

- 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

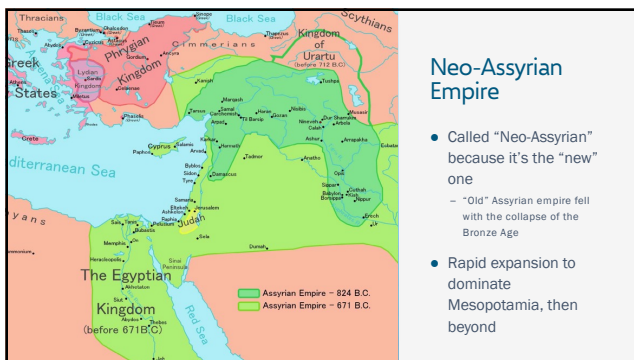
12



13



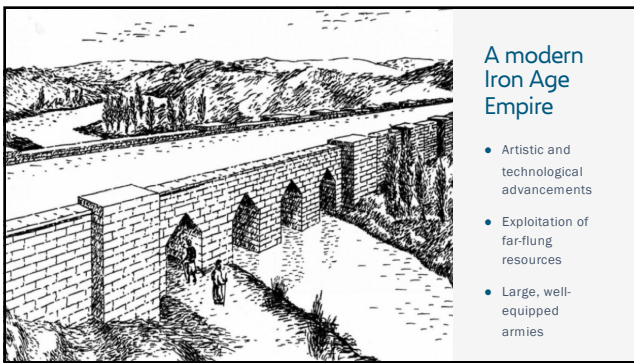
14



15



16

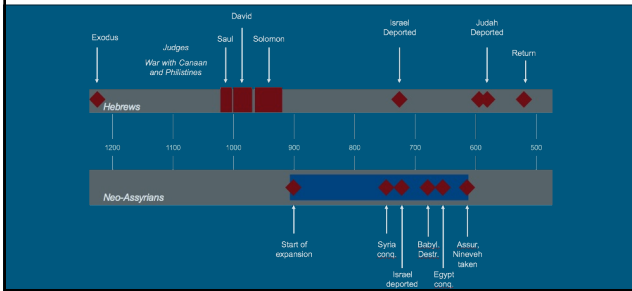


17



18

Timeline – Hebrews and Neo-Assyrians



19



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

20



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

21



22



23



24



"Tower of Babel"

- Hebrew metaphor for Babylonian arrogance

25



Etemenanki Ziggurat

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

26



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

27



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

28



29
