Dates

- **B.C.**
  - Before the birth of Christ
  - Before the Common Era-BCE
  - BC appears after every date before Christ’s birth
  - How do you count BC dates?
    - Rocket launch: 10 9 8 7 6 5 ...
    - 1BC is closer to the birth of Christ than 50 BC

- **A.D.**
  - Anno Domini
  - In the year of our Lord
  - CE=common or Christian era
    - 1708 in English
    - 1615-Latin: Et annis Christianis vulgaris aerae (common era)
    - 1635-English: Vulgar Era
      - Vulgar Era is still used at same time
      - vulgar is not “crudely indecent”
  - CE abbreviation introduced by Jewish academics in the mid-19th century
  - Later 20th century educational textbooks, academic, and scientific publications used BCE and CE
  - Secular sensitivity to non-Christians
Early Civilizations—Post Flood

- Bible and secular histories usually agree on the sites of early civilizations in the Near East
- Secular ancient history helps understanding of the world at this time
  - Greek historian Herodotus
- Many ancient civilizations in Scripture were important in God’s plans
After the Flood

- Where did Noah’s sons go?
- After God scattered the nations at the Tower of Babel, many of the descendants of Ham and Shem remained and settled in the fertile region of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- The Greeks described this region as Mesopotamia, meaning the land between two rivers.

[Map of the Post-Flood World showing regions of Japheth, Shem, and Ham]
Meso (between) potamia (rivers)

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<th>Traditional Chronology of Early Mesopotamia</th>
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<td>First Dynasty of Babylon (Hammurabi)</td>
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Familiar Names

- Where do the names of ancient lands come from?
  - Greek historian Herodotus, 484-426 BC
  - Bible
  - Greek or Hebrew
- Discovery of cuneiform tablets—different names by those who lived there
- Cuneiform
  - Writing
  - Earliest form of writing
  - A stylus of a split reed on wet clay
  - Baked until hard
  - Write your name in Cuneiform!
  - [http://www.penn.museum/cgi/cgi/cuneiform.cgi](http://www.penn.museum/cgi/cgi/cuneiform.cgi)

Sumerian inscription on a creamy stone plaque, 6+6 columns, 120 compartments of archaic monumental cuneiform script by an expert scribe.
Sumer-Mesopotamia South Land of the civilized kings Native land

- City-states-independent
- Similar culture-no political direct ties
- Cities fought against each other all the time
- Sumerians believed their cities belonged to the gods
  - Temple-place of worship, center of education, government, trade
- Own ruler-a priest who was representative of the gods
- Polytheism
  - Belief in many gods-False religions
  - So close to flood and still not accepting of God
  - Romans 1:20-21: “The invisible things of [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...so that they are without excuse; because that, when they knew God, they gloried him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations.”
Four Empires of Mesopotamia
Sargon and the Akkadians

Sumerian civilization died out around 2000 BC

Culture continued with others

2350 BC Sargon I-city-state Kish

Conquered other city-states

First empire

Rule of one people over another

Akkad capital of united kingdom

Sargon (Sharru-ken) = “the legitimate king”

May be Nimrod of the Bible (Genesis 10:10)

King more powerful than priest
Ur

- City-state
  - Ur of the Chaldees (Bible?)
  - Time when Abraham was born
    - World of polytheism and idolatry
    - God told Abraham (2100 BC) to leave UR-his home and his lifestyle
Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC)

6th king of Amorites

Code of laws-282 of them

Laws engraved on stone pillars and put in the public areas

Punishments tied to social class

three classes of Babylonian society

those who own property (rich), freedmen, slaves

Higher value on property than human life

Innocent until proven guilty

A doctor’s fee for curing a severe wound would be 10 silver shekels for a gentleman, 5 shekels for a freedman and two shekels for a slave

THE CODE OF HAMMURABI

“to promote the welfare of the people, . . . . to cause justice to prevail in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil, that the strong might not oppress the weak.”

friegeman and two shekels for a slave
Amorites

- Hammurabi’s death: Amorite civilization declined
- Invaders came in
- Amorites
  - Trade in gold, silver, tin, textiles
  - Algebra and geometry
  - Astronomy
  - Interpreted human events through astrology
    - Position of planets and stars
    - Horoscope (forecast of events)
Assyrian Empire

- Vicious, fierce and ungodly used by God to punish his own disobedient people
- Best army ever seen
  - Iron weapons, siege towers, battering rams, war chariots
  - Foot soldiers, spearmen, archers, cavalry
- meritocracy
  - Generals based on merit or excellence not right of birth
- Ashur - great god who worked through the king
- Assyrian world view - Conquest kept the world from ending
Book of Jonah, set in the days of the Assyrian empire, describes Nineveh: as an "exceedingly great city of three days journey in breadth". Probably took three days to cover all its neighborhoods by walking.
Quiz Time

1. Mesopotamia means **Land between the rivers**

2. Polytheism is the belief in ____ ____.
   **Many gods**

3. In the Sumerian family, what happened to a child who was late?
   **caned**

4. A.D. means: A. After Death B. In the Year of Our Lord C. Add Deity
   **B. Anno Domini-In the year of our Lord**

5. A ziggurat is like: A. a house B. a pyramid C. the Eiffel Tower
   **B. a pyramid**

6. The ____ and ____ Rivers allowed Mesopotamia to flourish.
   **Tigris and Euphrates**
Egyptians loved cats
- Basenjis
- Barkless dogs

Limestone stele - 1900 BC.
Basenji type dog sitting under the chair

begin 1:41
Egypt-Old Kingdom

- Descendants of Mizraim, son of Noah's son Ham
- Hebrews called Egypt “Mizraim” (Gen. 50:11)
- Old Kingdom (2700-2200 BC) - “Age of the Pharaohs”
  - Why?
    - Because pharaohs were especially powerful at this time
    - Considered gods in human form
- Pyramids
  - Tombs
  - Most famous: Great pyramid at Giza
    - Khufu or Cheops
Egypt Middle Kingdom

1st Intermediate Period (ca. 2181-2055 BC)
- Rebellion between kingdoms
- "Age of the People" (2100-1640 BC)
- Time of peace and construction
- Irrigation canals and ponds to use the Nile's waters
- Israelites moved to Egypt
- 430 year-prospered and increased to million

2nd Intermediate Period (c. 1900 BC)
- Asian people – Hyksos
- Brought horses, chariots, bronze weapons
- Began enslavement of Hebrews

Hyksos depicted entering Egypt from the tomb of a 12th dynasty official Khnumhotep under pharaoh Senusret II at Beni Hasan (cemetery)
Egypt New Kingdom
1570-1075 BC

- Expelled foreign rulers
- Egyptian on throne
- "Age of Empire"
- Egypt became a world power
- Hatshepsut - first great woman ruler
- Peaceful reign
- [YouTube video link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bYRy_wZEJI)
Plagues of Egypt
The Ten Plagues of Egypt

1. Waters Turn to Blood
   Exodus 7:14-25

2. Amphibians (Frogs)
   Exodus 7:26-8:11

3. Gnats (Lice)
   Exodus 8:12-15

4. Flies
   Exodus 8:16-28

5. Disease on Livestock
   Exodus 9:1-7

6. Unhealable Boils
   Exodus 9:8-12

7. Hail and Fire
   Exodus 9:13-35

8. Locusts
   Exodus 10:1-20

9. Darkness
   Exodus 10:21-29

10. Death of First-Born
    Exodus 11:1-12:36
Amenhotep II
Exodus

- Allows children of Israel to leave Egypt after 10 plagues
- Moses parted the Red Sea
- Egyptians drown
- Classic Movie *The Ten Commandments*
Ramses II

- Ramses II came to power about a century and a half after the Hebrews left Egypt
- Mummies
- Canopic jars held internal organs
King Tut
King Tut

- Tutankhamen's tomb-only one to remain intact prior to its discovery in 1921

- Treasures from the tomb fill an entire wing of the Egyptian Museum
King Tut
Egyptian Culture

- Pyramid-shaped society
- Religion: polytheistic, many gods
- Pharaohs as gods
- Amen and Ra became Amen-Ra, sun god
- Osiris and Isis, husband and wife rulers of the underworld
- Hieroglyphics: form of picture writing
Hittites

- Descendants of Heth, son of Canaan, son of Noah
- Hittite king=commander of the army
- Produced iron from iron ore deposits
- Empire expanded with iron weapons and horse-drawn chariots
- Absorbed into other cultures
- Superpower vs Egypt
Phoenicians
Merchants of the Mediterranean

- Who were the Phoenicians?
- Phoenicia Greek word that means purple people or traders of purple
  - Dye from a mollusk (sea snail)
- Cedar wood from trees
  - Supplied King Solomon with wood for his temple in Jerusalem
- Alphabet
  - Creators of the alphabet
Tyre
Phoenician city-state

- Worshippers of Baal-rejected true God
- Responsible for growth of paganism in Israel
- Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon
- Married King Ahab
- Introduced Baal-worship in Israel
- Molech-child sacrifice
  - Statues of bronze with arms outstretched
  - Children rolled into a blazing fire at the foot of the statues
Quiz - Review

1. The internal organs were removed from the body and stored in: A. canning jars **B. Canopic jars** C. the mummy’s casket

2. A polytheistic culture is one in which people believe in: A. one true God B. 15 gods **C. many gods**

3. The Hittites were descendants of: A. Heth B. Luther C. Solomon

4. How many artifacts were found in Tut’s tomb? A. 4,000 B. 2,800 C. 4,500 **D. 5,000**

5. Phoenicia is a Greek word that means A. blue **B. purple** C. orange

son of Canaan, son of Noah
Chaldean Empire—Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

- Nebuchadnezzar reigned 605-562 BC
- Jeremiah (27: 5-7) explained this power

“5 With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. 6 Now I will give all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him. 7 All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him.”
The Persian Empire

- Who was a Persian king who was one of the greatest conquerors who ever lived?
  - Cyrus

- What country is Persia today?
  - Iran

- What happened in 546 BC between the Lydian king and Cyrus?
  - Cyrus defeated the Lydian King Croesus

- What did Cyrus do to Croesus?
  - Took him as a prisoner and allowed him to enjoy the life of the Persian royal court

The Persian Empire
Persian Empire

- Cyrus the Great:
  - Around 700 BC, all nomadic tribes are united under Cyrus the Great, a military and political genius. He is an excellent and benevolent leader and the first of the Achaemenids. Architectural ruins reveal his mastery of design and function.

- Determined to conquer the whole world, Cyrus the Great conquers one kingdom after another. He refuses to enslave his new subjects, and he frees the Jews. Cyrus dies in battle in 530 BC. His unadorned tomb is remarkably well preserved.
Persian Empire - review

- Were they vicious like the Assyrians?
  - No!
- Cyrus-wise and merciful ruler
  - Allowed defeated enemies self-rule
  - Tolerated their religious beliefs
  - Restored captive people to their homeland
  - Bible calls Cyrus the “Lord’s anointed”
- What did God use Cyrus for?
  - Freed Hebrews from their captivity in Babylon
  - Conquered Babylon in 539 BC
  - Directed Jews to rebuild the Temple of God in Jerusalem
  - Ezra 1:2-3 “Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of
  heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and
  he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem,
  which is in Judah.”
Persian Empire

- Empire provinces called satrapies
  - Satrap – governor
  - Appointed by Persian king
  - King’s secret police-“king’s eyes’

- Excellent roads
  - Royal Road – 1,677 miles

- Mail system
  - American pony express
Persian Empire continued 200 years after Cyrus's death. Darius, a general in the army, secured power and became one of the greatest Persian leaders and builders. His masterpiece is Persepolis. Darius never stops expanding his Empire.
Deductive Reasoning
An Example
Chapter 3-Persia & Greece

- Time to turn to Greece