# Mesopotamia

## Geography (general rule - geography can tell you how people lived)

### Located in modern day nation of Iraq, it is the first and oldest civilization

### The name was given to them by the Greeks. Meso means “between” or “in the middle” and potam means “river.” Mesopotamia means land between the rivers.

#### The emphasis is on land, not people. This is a geographical term. It is a reference to the landscape. There is no such thing as a Mesopotamian empire or kingdom. That refers to the land, not the people. Rivers provided good water for drinking, bathing, cooking, and fish, provide avenues of commercial traffic.

#### Tigris River and Euphrates Rivers.

##### Euphrates is a lazy river. The Euphrates was slow and bored and slowly oozed its way across the landscape.

##### The Tigris is an ugly river that produces violent/deadly floods

##### It makes a wall of water that comes unannounced and unexpected since it is before the days of technology and we have no early warning systems. THE TIGRIS RIVER DESTROYS AND KILLS

### Geography not only tells us how thy lived, but by looking at Mesopotamia, we can understand how they thought.

#### When your existence is dominated by a killer river that will take away your family with no warning it will color the way we look at the world. We will come to see the universe as a way of chaos without rules where the universe just makes our lives hard. The world is a place of pain. It is a place of loss and death, not the good kind of death. Not the when you die, there is a heaven in the blessed light of god, happy hunting god, land of milk and honey. Not for the Mesopotamians…

#### They are a very dark, very grim people obsessed with death as an event of violence and pain which is expressed in their literature. All because of geography. Unfortunately, the rivers are their primary landscape, but they are not the only features.

### There are deserts in this region. Little mini deserts, most of which don’t even have names. They are wasted scrublands where people will die and crops won’t grow. The land is subdivided by rivers and by the many deserts. Forcing humans into isolation pockets. The pockets are cut off from one and other.

### In addition to deserts, we also have a series of wet marshland. This is strange, how can you have a marshland next to a desert, but it happens. You can’t live in deserts or marshes, so human existence because even more confined into pockets. It is a quilt work into geographic nothingness that forces humans to live in a town. We congregate in communities that are isolated from one and other. The city will become definitive to who I am. It’s where my childhood was. It’s where I have a life, and children. This town is my identity and it is the landscape that did that.

### With cultural pride comes cultural arrogance. I am going to come to your town and share my superior culture with you and lift you out of the mud. What’s the problem with the logic? As I’m sharing my superiority with them, they are sharing theirs with me. Do I want it? No! Do they want it? No! I’m going to have to force them to accept my superior culture. How? War! We see the geographic underpinnings of war! In our isolation the various city-states will go to war with each other. As if the world wasn’t plagued enough with the Tigris River, let’s put a marching army in the front of us! And they behead my family. You thought I was bitter before, now I’m worse. It all starts with geography!

## Writing

### Has its own history… its own evolution.

### Pictography - Cuneiform

#### Writing with pictures

##### When bartering apples for oranges. I need to come up with a written symbol to convey an apple. Draw a picture of the thing. We had the birth of writing.

#### Allows communication between cities/civilizations because no matter where you live, images are universal. (the sun looks like the sun, a tree looks like a tree, a fish looks like a fish, a person a person no matter the language)

#### Able to convey concrete items but if we are pictographic society and we need a symbol for everything in our society, our alphabet will be huge. If the system is so difficult, who do we train? Who become the scribes?

##### The nobles. There are no peasant scribes. Only the wealthy who have the money for lessons to learn all these symbols. Only the wealthy have leisure time to study it.

##### Becomes a problem because pictographic writing is rooted in the tangible, it cannot convey abstract ideas. Pictographic writing is cool because it can convey culture across language barriers. But there are so many symbols only the rich can learn and so many things can’t be conveyed.

### Phonetic – symbols to represent vocal sounds.

#### Pictography will involve elements of the phonetic which is much simpler. As a rule of thumb, no matter the language, there are approximately only 40 vocal sounds. You shouldn’t need more than 40. Phonetic writing is much simpler and easier to learn.

#### Pictographic is better for spread of culture where people who don’t speak language can pick up on message but it’s difficult to learn making education a rich man’s game and can’t portray abstract ideas. Pictographic evolves to incorporate phonetic. We go from learning 30,000 to 40 symbols in whatever language it is. Makes it easier and more people to do it. Phonetic writing becomes democratizer. Small children can learn to read and write. And can convey abstract ideas like god. However it has a problem that you have to speak the language of the writer.

##### Phonetic writing will not transmit culture.

## Literature

### The Epic of Gilgamesh

#### First book in history

##### Written about 2000 B.C.

#### Story parallels Noah’s Ark

##### Mesopotamian literature, you are going to come across many parallels. Stories that ring bells with us.

### Many common stories

#### Meso - the gods create the world from chaos; Christian god said let there be light.

#### Meso - man who was so good, perfect and righteous that no one believed him. The gods didn’t believe it either, so the gods decide to test him. They visit this righteous man every evil they can create. They give him leprecy and his fingers fall off. The gods force him to live a horrific existence; Christian story of Job.

#### Become Hebrew stories and the start of the bible

#### Abraham (got ball rolling on Christianity) was from city of Ur which is city-state of Mesopotamia.

#### Mesopotamian language is dead, culture is dead, but every time we crack open our bible, Mesopotamia is still with us.

## Empires

## Initially, there is no Mesopotamia Empire. There are three areas/cultural zones that exist. Three areas are Sumer (first civilization), Akkad, and Assyria. Nothing more than a bunch of individual city-states that share cultural mores but argue a lot with each other.

### Akkadian Empire – First Mesopotamian Empire

#### Sargon (aka Sargon the Great)

##### Royal Gardener from Sumer. He angers the king and gets exiled. He goes off into Akkad, the land of barbarians. By virtue of his advantage of his Sumerian culture he becomes King.

##### Becomes leader of the new barbarian army and will use this army to invade his homeland. The barbarian army of Akkad will take over the independent city states combining them into one political unit called the Akkadian Empire, the first empire/nation of Mesopotamia.

##### Becomes first world conqueror but likes the culture in Sumer so he and the Akkadians down, marry into local population, etc. then they cease to exist! Culture is stronger than war.

### Amorite Empire (Babylonian Empire) - Second Mesopotamian Empire

#### First of two Babylonian Empires

#### They are star gazers, astronomers. They plot the movement of the stars across the skies to the point where they can predict the eclipses and comets.

#### Create a number system based on the number 6. By virtue of that numbering system, Babylon is still with us. We have our system based on 10 but what about circle degrees is 360; how many seconds in a minute; minutes in an hour, hours in a day (divisible by 6 not 10); months in a year, etc. Whenever we tell time, Babylon is still with us.

#### King Hammurabi gave us Hammurabi’s Code – law code of 282 individual laws written in cuneiform

##### Point 1 - The first codification of law in world history because remember when we were Sumer, we were 40 independent city-states who worshiped same god and spoke same language but had 40 different systems of law. Hammurabi codifies the law and makes it applicable to everyone in the land.

##### Point 2 – It is the origin of our concept of the punishment fitting the crime. Which is why the penalty for almost every crime is death. We know that concept in the biblical concept as an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and a hand for a hand.

##### Point 3 – It is the first expression of consumer protection. This is the understanding that when you pay your hard earned money for a product, good, or service, you have a reasonable expectation of quality.

##### Point 4 – the first expression of government accountability. This is the understanding that the government is there for more than just taking your tax money. The government has an obligation to its citizens to rule wisely, justly etc. ex. In the military it is your responsibility to take care of the citizens. But if you are a soldier who is caught sleeping on duty, the penalty is death. By the same token, if you are a military commander (colonel) and you use that position to bring harm to a soldier under your command the penalty is death.

### Assyrian Empire

#### Barbarians who overthrow the Amorite Babylonians. They have iron weapons and they know how to use them.

#### They excel at genocide…bloody butchers. They were the most accomplished killers of the ancient world. It was almost like a hobby, they reveled in it.

#### Assyrians approach city to be conquered. When they are not let in to the front gate of the city they lay that city under siege. They surround it with soldiers, nothing in nothing out, and we starve the townies inside city walls. (Occasionally they’d thrown infected carcass into city using catapult. Unleash smallpox, etc. ancient form of biological warfare.) They are experts at tearing down walls. We breach walls, we kill everything. If it breathes, pulse, etc. we kill it. Men, women, elderly, children, dogs, cats, birds, goldfish, etc. Assyrians exterminate population of the city but we’re not done. We now go back to the bodies and cut off head of each and every one. We pile heads up into cities outside of gate so anyone walking by would say, damn! Don’t mess with them. Now we go back to headless bodies, we filet the skin off the bodies, take the human skins, and drape them down like flags in the wind. Is this overkill? YES. That’s what they are known for. Then they go to next town.

#### Psychological war. By performing acts of unspeakable terror, we create less work for us later. And even if they decide to fight us later, they send out armies. But Assyrians created large scale cavalry tactics. We use horses in battle (not new but they do it without battle chariots to eliminate weight and keep horses quicker). Window of military effectiveness for a chariot is small). They use one guy on one horse. Add to that their archery technology (we are in Iron Age). When you combine cavalry tactics with archery technology, we are unstoppable. We stop one hundred feet from enemy and shoot from distance. Assyrians have the ability to exterminate enemy armies without having to draw knife or sword. We do it all from a distance.

#### Assyrians have well-deserved reputation for violence and slaughter. About 100 years ago, in the early start of the 20th century, archaeologists will find and excavate capital city of Assyrian empire Nineveh. The city was found and excavated and in the ruins, we find out a lot of things about the Assyrians that we never saw coming. We were so fixated on the reputation of violence and butchery, we never thought they could be anything else. Ninevah proves us wrong. The Assyrians were accomplished and sensitive artists.

#### We discover largest library of ancient world in Nineveh. It holds thousands of clay tablets in cuneiform. Turns out, the Assyrians were academics. They were scholars who revered the written word. They gathered tablets from previous places they conquered but they saved them and put them in their library. That’s actually where we found the Epic of Gilgamesh. What is most ironic discovery of all is that with the Assyrians, we are looking at one of the most tolerant people in the world. To understand this paradox, you need to understand why we do these things. Why are the Assyrians collecting all these provinces? They want money. We want all you have now plus what you’ll have later. We want cash. All we ask is that you pay your taxes and recognized the lordship of the Assyrian king. As long as you do that, you’re good. Not trying to turn you into next generation of Assyrians, we want them to do whatever they want. We don’t want to change you.

### Chaldeans (the 2nd Babylonians)

#### Shortest lived empire of Mesopotamia (about 70 years) one person’s lifetime

#### Conquered kingdom of Judah and forced the Hebrews captive. This is the Babylonian captivity.

#### King Nebuchadnezzar (technically the second, named after his dad) – he’s a conqueror. He ordered the deportation of the Hebrews. He’s the man who started the Babylonians captivity. However there is another story that generally gets ignored. This is the story of how he loves his wife. He loves her in a way that Shakespeare writes plays about. He loves her deeply profoundly, etc. problem he is king of Babylon and she is queen of Babylon. She must live in city and hates it. She’s from the hill country where weather is beautiful and breezy and now she must live in desert. She can’t leave because she’s the queen. It kills him to see her suffering. He wants to make it better for his beloved bride. I can’t let the girl go to the mountains but I can bring the mountains to her. In the city of Babylon, he constructs a ziggurat – the signature architecture of the Mesopotamian. (Egyptians have pyramids, Chinese have great wall, and Mesopotamians have ziggurats). They are primarily used as temples for the gods. The way they are laid out is important. Today we commonly call them stepped pyramids. Each level going up and up until we get to very top. Go as far as possible because it is closer than the gods. The first level is for the use of the rookies. As you get promoted through the priesthood. Symbolically speaking, a ziggurat is the original stairway to heaven. What Nebuchadnezzar is doing is building a ziggurat for his wife. While it’s being constructed, he sends agents out to corners of the Empire up into hill country and makes them gather up trees, ivy, etc to return to Babylon to replant on this structure. In so doing, he’s created the hanging gardens of Babylon. One of the ancient wonders of the world. All built because his heart was breaking because of his homesick wife.

#### The Chaldeans only last a short time and are actually overthrown and replaced by an empire known as the Persians. (Persians create the largest empire that the world has ever seen. From the borders of India to the east to Greece in the west. The Persian Empire stretches like 4000 miles east to west. But that’s a problem here. It’s still 600 BC. The technology is such that we have all this land, but have no clue what’s in our land because it’s so big. So the man who created the Persian Empire (Persian king Cyrus the great) will go on tour of his new empire. He’s looking to see what’s out there. During his tour of the empire, Cyrus finds himself within the city of Babylon. He’s impressed because Babylon is beautiful. But as he’s walking through city, he’s running into the Hebrews forced to live here against their will who want nothing more than to go home. Cyrus says, if you want to go home, go home! Just like that, the Babylonian Captivity is now over. King Cyrus brings the captivity to an end. The Hebrew in Babylon are allowed to go back to their ancestral homes in the Levant. King Cyrus the great is still held to be an honored man in the Jewish tradition only because he was righteous and ended the captivity.

# Egypt

## Geography

### North eastern corner of African continent.

### Has the Nile River which is the longest river on the planet

#### It’s predictable, gentle and life giving.

#### There is no way to overstate the importance. It floods but unlike the Tigris, it’s gentle flooding. A slow raising flood; It crests. It falls. Next year same thing. The flooding of the Nile is predictable. We know when it’s coming.

##### The flooding of the Nile becomes the central event of the Egyptian calendar. It doesn’t kill anyone because you know it’s coming and the black fertile soil gets deposited into Egypt and giving land new life, new birth, every single year. Egypt doesn’t need to worry about fertilizing or irrigation systems, the river does it.

### Creates Egyptian view of the world

#### Egyptians view gods as life givers who love us. The gods are on our side and want us to succeed. The way we look at word is predicated on that geography.

##### This is important detail because Egypt will become place of timelessness and changelessness. Nothing changes in Egypt, just go with the flood. Egyptians are optimistic, but we are very conservative people who are hostile to change in our lives. We don’t like folks who rock the boat. Egyptians believe if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.

#### We are the gift of the nile. Without the river, we wouldn’t be here. The river gives life, rebirth and absolute proof that the gods like us! The nile is the most important feature of landscape, but not the only feature.

### Natural borders

#### Protected on all sides because of our natural borders

##### The Sahara, the largest desert on the planet, is to the west and the Nubian Desert/Ethiopian Desert is to the east

##### If you go into a desert you die in an ugly fashion which is important because if you think about it, people won’t attack Egypt because they’ll die in desert before reaching them

##### The Mediterranean Sea to the North and the Cataracts of the Nile to the South

##### There is no technology to cross the Mediterranean sea. We are still floating on logs. Land is internally unified by Nile but covered on all points of compass to keep invasions away.

#### Because of protective borders, invasions are rare…once every thousand years sort of thing. In the absence of foreign interference, here in our little cocoon we call Egypt, we create a culture that is breathtaking. Our art forms, architectural forms, writing, etc. we can do that because no one is messing with their game. They were able to create a dazzling civilization which is most well known of all five of the cradles. It’s cool, but not perfection. There is a problem when you live in a cocoon of isolation. When other developments are happening in the wider world, Egyptians never hear about it. Cultural progress only happens when cultures come together and share ideas. In isolation, we get cut off from outside ideas. We’re not hearing about new technology and we go stagnant. And even though invasions are rare, they do happen and inevitable Egypt is caught with her pants down.

##### Example: We outfit army with wooden spears, shields made of cowhide, etc. but in Asia Minor, they have invented the use of bronze. Bronze weapons. If the Egyptians are invaded, they are screwed because Egypt is fighting with sticks and stones. Egypt is caught off guard EVERY TIME because it stagnates and falls asleep. Egypt gets conquered fairly easy because it falls asleep

## Religion

### Egyptian mythology – Story of Osiris, Isis, and Horus

#### According to Egyptian mythology, there was an Egyptian god named Osiris. Osiris was King of Egypt. He has a feud with another god, his brother Set. Set kills Osiris, dismembers him, tosses his body into the Nile and assumes his place on throne. Osiris’s wife Isis gathers up the body parts of Osiris, pulls them out of river, fastens them back together and brings Osiris back to life. (We have a god/divine king guy who dies and gets resurrected) She gets pregnant with his child, another Egyptian god named Horus. He will ultimately become the Egyptian god of justice which is significant because in the capacity that Osiris and Isis will agree to send their son down to earth to lead us. When Horus comes down to live among us, we don’t call him Horus, we call him pharaoh. Thus whereas the Nile river is one focal point of all Egyptian life, pharaoh is the other. Pharaoh is living proof that god loves us (of course the Gods love us, they sent their only son to us). When you are asked who/what is pharaoh, many say king of Egypt but he is so much more. He is the living embodiment of Horus incarnate. Living proof that the gods love us. This is religious center of all Egyptian society.

### Pharaoh is Egyptian gods incarnate so if the pharaoh tells you to do something, do it! To disobey pharaoh is to disobey the gods!

#### Pharaoh Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten

##### He attempts to convert Egypt to monotheism.

##### He tells the people of Egypt “we’ve been doing it wrong” and we’ve been chasing shadows of superstitions because there is only one god, the creator god, Aten. He actually changes his name as Pharaoh Akhenaten. Remember the Egyptian people are very conservative are hostile to change, they are mistrustful of change. What does Akhenaten do? By the very nature of the Egyptian mentality, pharaoh has basically, instantly, alienated the entire population of Egypt. We have to obey pharaoh, we don’t have to like it. What are we going to do about it? We’re going to do what he says…why, because if we disobey pharaoh, we will anger the gods.

##### That’s a problem because he says there is only one god, but we have a large number of gods each with its own priesthood and temple dedicated to them. The priests were very wealthy and high on the status totem pole. Akhenaten is telling those priests, “you are fired.” He’s just picked a fight with the most powerful social class in all of Egypt.

##### He’s pharaoh so we have to obey but by saying there is only Aten, the Pharaoh is saying that he is only a guy, not divine.

##### His religious reform is a rejection of his divine nature. That’s good, because if he’s only human, then he’s going to die because all humans die. There is no need to revolt, let’s just wait it out. Eventually he does die and is replaced by his son, King Tutankhamen.

#### King Tutankhamen/King Tut

##### Becomes pharaoh at age of 8.

##### He is easily manipulated by the priests who convince him to restore religion back to polytheistic ways

##### All those monuments and inscriptions that mention Pharaoh Akhenaten, his name and his whole reign is erased from Egyptian conscience.

### Although the religious reform of Akhenaten is a failure, it is the first important step into moving into monotheism.

## Technological stagnation

### Hyksos – come from Asia Minor, modern day nation of Turkey

#### Compared to the cultural sophistication of the Egyptians, the Hyksos are barbarians. They don’t have the cultural advancement that the Egyptians have, but the Hyksos have bronze and the Egyptians don’t.

#### Hyksos invade Egypt with bronze armor and bronze weapons. The Egyptians are fighting with sticks and stones. The technological inferiority sets up for the fall. Hyksos also have chariots (horse drawn battle wagons with speed and agility) while Egyptians are on foot. The Hyksos run circles around the Egyptians literally and they take over.

#### Hyksos are so enamored with what they find in Egypt, they don’t want to leave. They ultimately settle down, meet wives, and have children thereby ceasing to exist as the “Hyksos” people but instead become the new generation of Egyptian people.

#### The paradigm…barbarians with superior military skills win military engagement but lose culture war. The lesson…culture is strong than a bullet.

## Leaders and Reigns

### Rameses II – very dynamic and believed to be the greatest Egyptian leader

#### In power when we get caught napping again by a group called the Hittites.

##### They are full-blown civilization from Asia Minor, not barbarians. They have modern architecture, written language, etc. they are expanding and encroaching on Egyptian territory.

##### Hittites come down the Levant and Egypt should be steamrolled because they are once again technologically inferior to the iron weapons of the Hittites.

#### Rameses is considered to be the most powerful/capable pharaoh of them all so while we are technologically inferior, we are able to compensate through dynamic leadership.

##### They fight each other to a standstill, a draw, a stalemate. We will solidify our lines, we each invade the other repeatedly, neither gets the upper hand and we agree that neither side will defeat the other, so let’s just call it even. The result is the very first international peace treaty. It is the Treaty of Kadesh.

##### Turns the Levant into a playground. Dominated by two bullies. One is named Egypt and the other is named Hittite. In that playground of that Levant, nothing happens without their say so. They are the power of the land. They were never allies, they were frenemies! “We’re watching you because we don’t trust you.”

### Around 1200 B.C. the Hittite empire will be destroyed, their civilization will become extinct and they will cease to exist. The Egyptians will be diminished to mere shadows of their former glory. No one knows what happened.

#### The sea people

##### We don’t know who they are or where they are from

##### Assume they are illiterate because everything we read about the sea peoples comes from either Egyptian or Hittite sources

##### Assume not civilized and without culture because they do not even have a cultural name, we only know them as the people from the sea.

##### This is a lesson in the idea of historiography, they study not of history, but about the writing of history. Becomes very important when you are doing historical research. Historiography is the study of the biases of history…not the events, but about the people who write the stuff that becomes history

##### Everything that is written is written from a specific point of view. This is relevant because who’s telling us about the sea peoples? The Egyptians and the Hittites. And neither of them won against the sea peoples. When they write, the Egyptians and the Hittites were fabulous but then explain the sea peoples. Writing is a lie. People write their own biased into things.

### Power Vacuum

#### The mystical sea peoples come in, kill the Hittites, the Egyptians get put into intensive care. The playground that yesterday had two bullies, today has no bullies. Yesterday everything was controlled by Egyptians and Hittites, today there is no control. All power is gone.

#### In the absence of control, we see the rise of small kingdoms. This should’ve never happened because these are people who lived under the power of large kingdoms. In the vacuum that’s left behind we see the rise of small kingdoms such as the kingdom of the Phoenicians. They were one of the small kingdoms that come out of the woodwork and see the light of day for a short time.

#### Also in the power vacuum we come across the Hebrews. There are two Hebrew Kingdoms, Israel and Judah. We will look at them from an academic scholarly point of view, not a believer’s point of view.

##### Much of our history of the Hebrews is in the Old Testament which is written by the Jews for the Jews; therefore it is a biased document. It’s written by and for a population that believes in miracles that cannot be proven or replicated. That is why it’s tricky when you talk about history of the bible. It’s not really history, its’ biased storytelling with an agenda. According to the tradition in the Old Testament (the Hebrew bible) there was a guy living in the Mesopotamian city of Ur. A guy who was born and raised in a storytelling tradition of Gilgamesh, etc. ABRAHAM, born and raised a Sumerian. One day, according to the biblical story, he is given a choice by God, you can kill your son (Isaac) or ignore the voice of the divine and suffer the anger of god. For Abraham it’s a damned if you do, damned if you don’t situation. Ultimately, Abraham decides to heed the voice of god and prepares to sacrifice his child. God saves him from having to kill his son.

##### At heart, the story of Abraham and Isaac is God is telling Abraham, I will stop your hand, the sacrifice isn’t necessary because you can honor the gods without killing things, there is another way. You can please your god by showing love and obedience.

##### This story represents the Hebrews declaration of independence. This is the moment when they broke away from the herd, from everyone else, one that is dominated by blood sacrifice. They now have religious view of love and obedience. They forge a new road. We Christians that are descended from Hebrew tradition are inheritors of that tradition.

##### While lost in desert, according to story in Exodus, Moses will climb a mountainside and finds The Ten Commandments written by God

##### I am the lord god, put no other gods before me – god is saying there are other gods because we have always in a knee jerk reaction given credit to the Hebrews as being a monotheistic faith. Even at the point of Moses, we are still not completely monotheistic but we are getting there

##### The ten commandment are the written form of what the Hebrews refer to as their covenant with god. It is a binding agreement.

##### We don’t follow The Ten Commandments because we don’t keep the Sabbath holy, we worship other gods, we covet, etc. If you take the biblical explanation of these turns of events, the Hebrews break the faith, they break the convenant.

##### Israel and Judah only see the light of day for short amount of time (6000 years ancient Egypt vs. 300 years of Hebrew). We broke the faith, god got pissed and in 720 BC, he brings punishment to the Israelites in the form of the Assyrians.

##### Assyrians (ring a bell?)– most accomplished butchers of the ancient world. Murder and genocide was a hobby for them. When the Assyrians conquer land of Israel, the completely wipe out the entire population. They killed everything. Israel is turned into a wasteland. Those few who were lucky enough to escape the general slaughter become scattered people in the wind – we call them the lost tribes of Israel. According to Hebrew tradition, it happened because we broke the faith.

##### Judah sticks around a little bit longer (about 150 years after Israel dies). The day of their demise is 586 BC where Judah itself is invaded by conquerors called the Chaldeans (also known as Babylonians)

##### The Chaldeans (ring a bell) are the second Babylonian empire

###### The neo-Babylonians or Chaldeans are the ones who give us the Babylonian captivity with King Nebuchadnezzar.

## Minoans

### City of Knossos – Capital City of the Minoans

### Unique because they were not warmongers but rather more pacifistic because of their geography.

#### They lived on an island which made them dependent on trade with others

### They worshipped bulls and incorporated sacred bulls into their religious worship

### King Minos (for who they are named)

#### Builds a labyrinth to hide the beast that resulted from the union between his wife and a bull