

The Middle East

People, Religion, History and Culture

"Whosoever kills a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption (mischief) in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind..." [Qur'an 5:32]

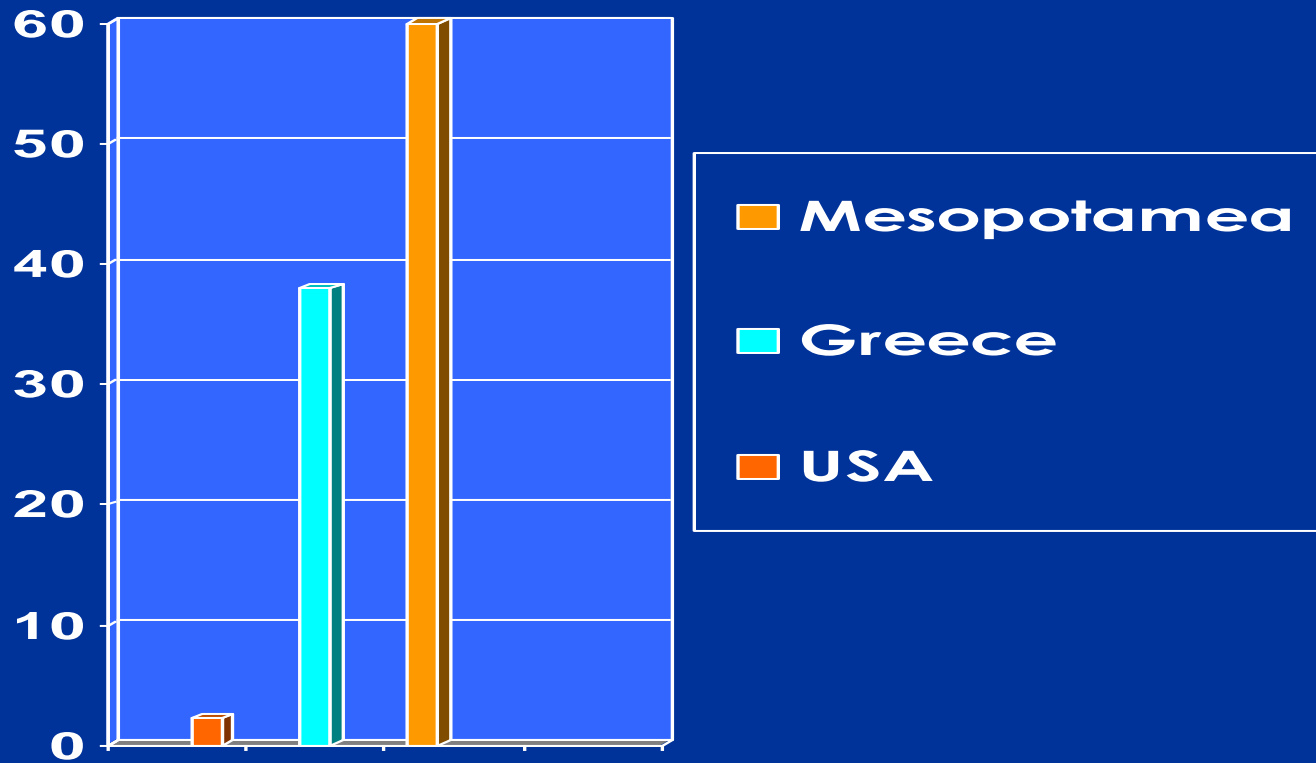
INTRODUCTION



Cities of Iraq



World Civilization



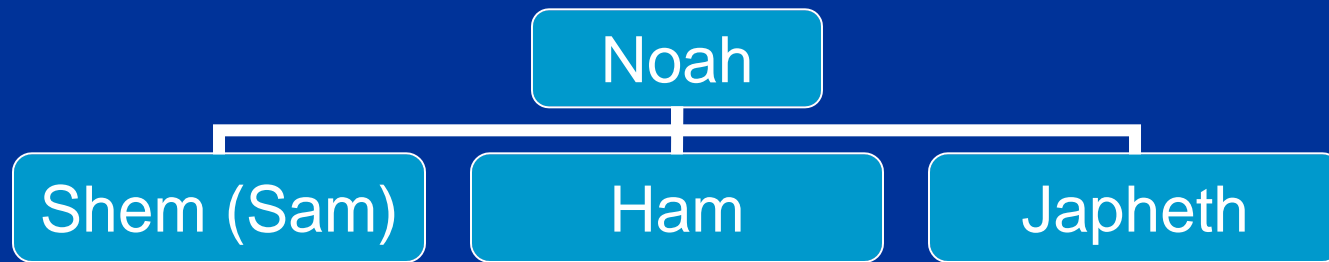
This is a detailed political map of the Middle East and surrounding regions. The map shows the following countries and territories: Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Major cities are marked with stars, including Istanbul, Ankara, Baghdad, Tehran, Riyadh, Cairo, Damascus, Jerusalem, and others. The map also shows the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates a scale of 1:21,000,000. A note at the bottom right states: "Golan Heights is Israeli-occupied Syria. West Bank and Gaza Strip are Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement -- permanent status to be determined through further negotiation. Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital in 1950, but the US, like nearly all other countries, maintains its Embassy in Tel Aviv."

Who are they?

Where did they come from?

- Race
- Tribe
- Language
- Religion
- Culture
- Nation

Noah and the Ark



The Semites



A list of major Semitic Tribes

- Sumerians
- Akkadians
- Amorites
- Babylonians
- Aramaic
- Canaanites (Phoenicians – a Greek term)
- Assyrians
- Hebrews (Israel, Judah and the Jews)
- Philistines (Palestinians)
- Moabites
- Edomites
- Caldeans (and the relationship to Saddam Hussein?)
- Arabs

Tariq Aziz – Assyrian



What is left of Semitic People Today?

- Arabs
- Hebrews
- Assyrians
- Caldeans
- Aramaic*

Note: The above are references to tribes as well as language.

*It is near extinction – only few hundred families in the Middle East currently speak this language

Twelve Tribes of Israel

Exodus 24:4

Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve **tribes of Israel**.

(Whole Chapter: Exodus 24 In context: Exodus 24:3-5)

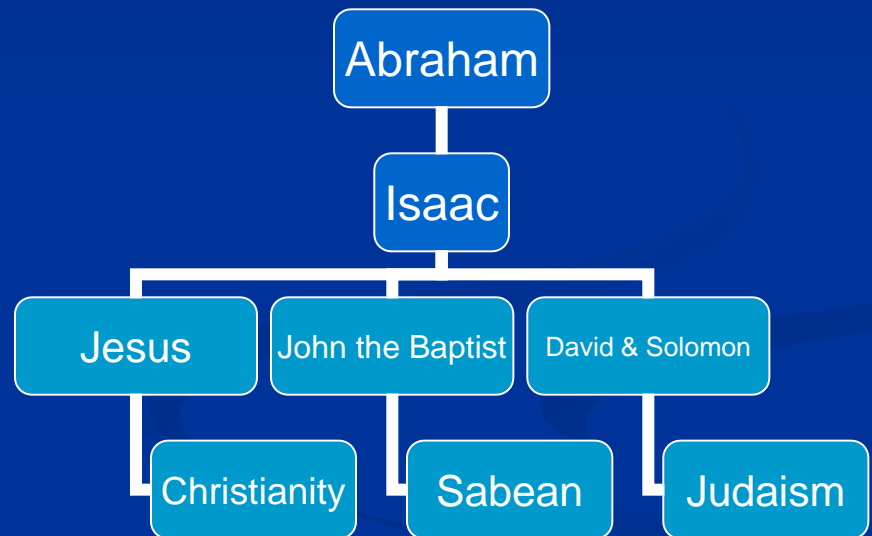
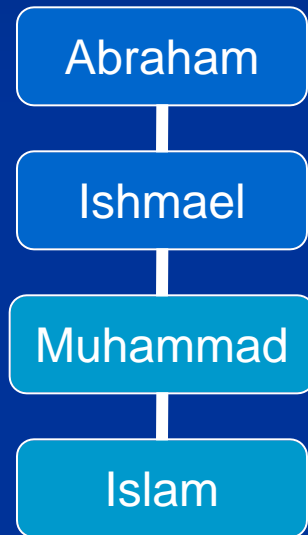
Also reported in Genesis, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings

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Abraham and his Descendants



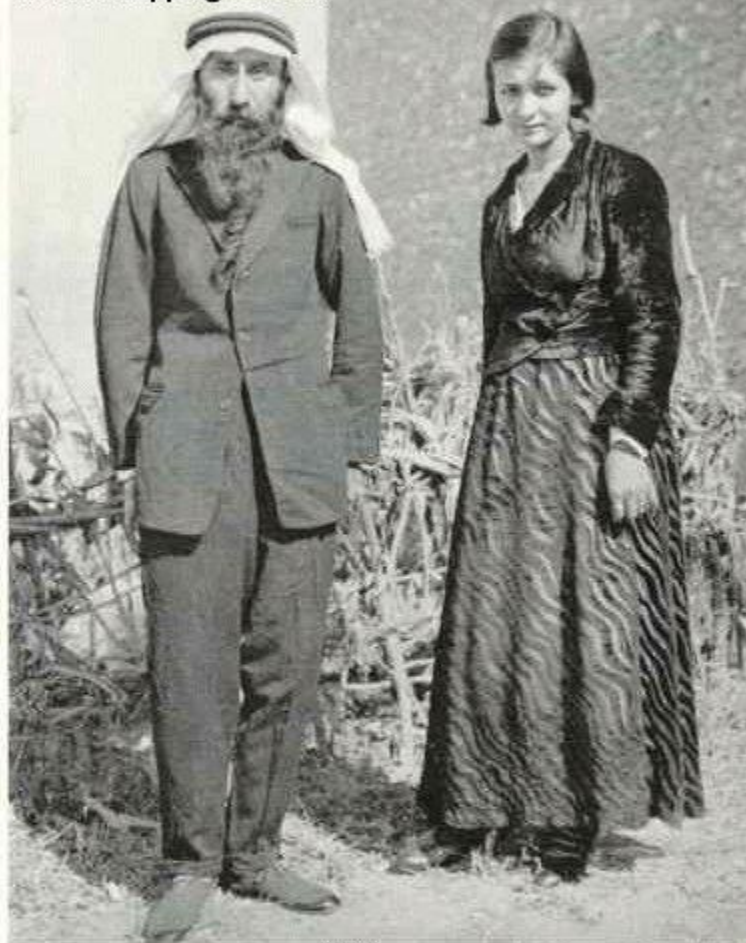
Yazidi Religion

Believe in Satan as the angel of good and Evil, and claim to be direct descendants of Adam. They too believe in God ruling supreme over His creation. Their world HQ is near Nineveh, Iraq. Yazidis are scattered in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Armenia & Azerbaijan.



Yezidi Emir 1941

www.iraqipages.com



1941

Field Museum of Natural History

Mir Said Beg, Head of the Yezidis, and His 13th Bride

The Yezidis have been persecuted for centuries because they propitiated Satan, not as the Evil One, but as the fallen angel restored by God to rule Earth. Visitors to the Mir's fortress-castle north of Mosul have described him as affable and humorous. In reply to a question by Dr. Henry Field about his corkscrew beard, Said Beg replied: "Young man, if you had had 13 wives, your beard would be twisted, too." The Mir's bride, Wansa, who was 15 when married, was educated at the American School for Girls in Beyrouth, Syria.

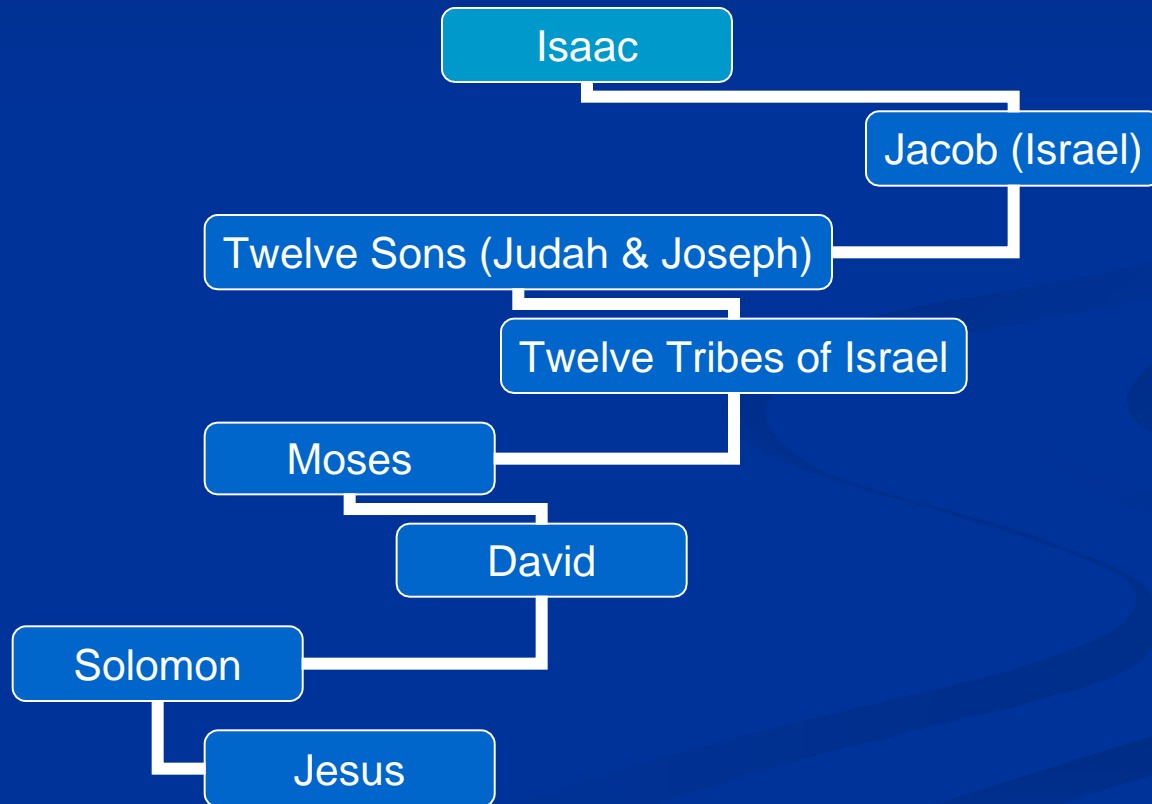
Middle East Major Religions - 2003

Abrahamic Faith Judaism Christianity Sabeian Islam	Persian (the religion of Persia) Zoroastrian
Yazidi	Later Religions Druze (11 th Century AD) Baha'i (19 th Century AD)

Jews and Christians of the Middle East

- Jews: Hazidic, Sephardic and Ashkenazis
- Christians:
 - *Orthodox: Greek, Armenian,*
 - *Coptic: Egyptian and Ethiopian*
 - *Assyrian and Chaldean and others*
 - *Catholics*
 - *WBE championship*
 - *The last temptations of Christ*

The Twelve Tribes of Israel



What the Qur'an say about Jesus!

■ Listen to Recitation (3:59)

The similitude of Jesus before God is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be". And he was. (**Qur'an 3:59**)

- The Truth (comes) from God alone; so be not of those who doubt. (**Qur'an 3:60**)

Judaism, Sabeian, Christianity and Islam

- What do they have in common?
- What are the differences?
- How do they perceive God and what do they call God? God, Got, Khod, Khoda, Dios, Eloh, Alah, Allah (SWT)
- What was his name? Jesus or Esau (PBUH)?
- What did Jesus call God? God or Elahi?

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God, Got, Khod, Khoda, Dios, Eloh, Alah, Allah (SWT)

ALH

- What did Jesus call God? God or Elai? Or Elahi?

The Creator - Eloh, Alah, Allah

- *"Say: We believe in Allah and that which was revealed to us, and that which was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes and that which was given to Moses and Jesus and to the Prophets from their Lord; We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we submit". [Qur'an 3:83]*

Meaning of Islam

- Islam is an Arabic word which means peace, purity, acceptance and commitment
- Islam, Salam, Shalom and Jerusalem
- "Muhammadanism" is a misnomer for Islam and offends its very spirit since the Prophet Muhammad was a messenger of God, and not a divine being worshipped by Muslims

The Five Pillars of Islam

Every action done with the awareness that it fulfills the Will of God is considered an act of worship in Islam. But it is the specific acts of worship termed the Pillars of Islam which provide the framework of Muslim spiritual life. These are given below:

- The DECLARATION OF FAITH.
- PRAYERS
- FASTING
- ZAKAH
- HAJJ

Concept of Worship

- *"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces to the East or West, but righteous is he who believes in Allah and the Last Day and the Angels and the Scripture and the Prophets; and gives his wealth for love of Him to kinsfolk and to orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and sets slaves free; and observes proper worship and pays the Zakah. And those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress; such are those who are sincere. Such are the Godfearing". [Qur'an 2:177]*

Al-Fatihah (The Opening)

(1.1) In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

[1.2] All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

[1.3] The Beneficent, the Merciful.

[1.4] Master of the Day of Judgment.

[1.5] Thee do we serve and Thee do we beseech for help.

[1.6] Keep us on the right path.

[1.7] The path of those upon whom Thou hast bestowed favors. Not (the path) of those upon whom Thy wrath is brought down, nor of those who go astray.

Ants

- *Take, for example, an anthill. Each ant has very limited intellect, but the aggregate behavior of many ants, acting in parallel with one another, is complex and multifunctional.*
- *This is not obedience or even simple cooperation. It is, instead, the result of information transfer and self-correcting feedback processes. It is also something that we humans have to relearn, again and again. We prattle endlessly about leadership and pulling together. But you and I really achieve something when we seek the common good in parallel with one another, even as we disagree and bicker.*

John H. Lienhard, No. 1749 DIFFUSION OF GENEROSITY
<http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi1749.htm>

Solomon and the Ants revealed in the Qur'an

- **27.017** And there were gathered together unto Solomon his armies of the jinn and humankind, and of the birds, and they were set in battle order;
- **27.018** Till, when they reached the Valley of the Ants, an ant exclaimed: O ants! Enter your dwellings lest Solomon and his armies crush you, unperceiving.
- **27.019** And (Solomon) smiled, laughing at her speech, and said: My Lord, arouse me to be thankful for Thy favour wherewith Thou hast favoured me and my parents, and to do good that shall be pleasing unto Thee, and include me in (the number of) Thy righteous slaves.

Human Rights

- Islam protects all noble values and human rights. Freedom, equality, justice, and the right to life, liberty, and security of person are of prime concern in Islamic law.

"Whosoever kills a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption (mischief) in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind..." [Qur'an 5:32]

- Islam places great emphasis on social justice. It opposes all those who exploit, oppress and deal unjustly with people.

"O ye who believe: Be steadfast witnesses for Allah in equity and let not hatred of any people seduce you that you deal not justly. Be just; that is nearer to piety". [Qur'an 5:8]

Some Misconceptions About Islam

- It is unfortunate that some teachings of Islam have been distorted and misrepresented in the West and the communist world.
- The main distortions relate to the status of women, marriage and divorce, jihad or so-called "holy war", the authenticity of the Prophethood of Muhammad (peace be upon him), and the distinction between the Qur'an and the Hadith.

Islam and Science

- Many scientific evidences are revealed in the Qur'an.
- Ocean waves
- Speed of light
- Celestial orbiting
- Atoms
- The stages of the Embryo
- Many other scientific declarations

The Big Bang

- *Do the unbelievers not realize that the heavens and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe? **The Qur'an 21:30***
- *The heavens, We have built with power and, We are expanding it. **The Qur'an 51: 47***

Geological & Astronomical Facts

- *When you look at the mountains, you think that they are standing still. But they are moving, like the clouds. Such is the manufacture of GOD, Who perfected everything. He is fully Cognizant of everything you do. **The Qur'an 27:88***
- *He created seven universes in layers. You do not see any imperfection in the creation by the Most Gracious. Keep looking; do you see any flaw? Look again and again; your eyes will come back stumped and conquered. **The Qur'an 67:34***

The first revelation - The Embryo

The creation of human beings

- *Read in the name of your Sustainer, Who has created man out of a germ-cell! Read, for your Sustainer is the most Bountiful One, Who has taught man the use of the pen, taught man what he did not know ! Nay, verily, man becomes grossly overweening whenever he believes himself to be self-sufficient: for, behold, unto your Sustainer all must return. The Qur'an 96:1-8*

WHEN WILL THE DAY OF JUDGMENT ARRIVE?

- *Men ask you of the Hour. Say the knowledge of it is with Allah only. What can convey to you that may be the Hour is near.*

The Qur'an 33:63

- *They bid you to hasten on the doom. And if a term had not been appointed, the doom would have definitely come on them. And it will come upon them suddenly when they perceive not.*

The Qur'an 29:53

- *The threatened hour is near. None beside Allah can disclose it. Are you surprised then at this statement?*
- The Qur'an 53:57-59**

Chapter 111 - Al-Masad (Palm Fibre)

- 111.001 The power of Abu Lahab will perish,
and he will perish.
- 111.002 His wealth and gains will not exempt
him.
- 111.003 He will be plunged in flaming Fire
- 111.004 And his wife, the wood-carrier
- 111.005 Will have upon her neck a halter of
palm-fibre.

Fazlollah Nikayin

- Fazlollah Nikayin, lecturer, translator and linguist, was born in Tehran in 1938. He has worked with the B.B.C. and taught at Cambridge, England and the Islamic Azad University, Tehran. Since 1989 he devoted all his time and talent to this brilliant, poetic translation of the Holy Quran. He is married, has two sons and presently **lives in Skokie, Illinois.**
- Visit www.theultimatebook.com & listen to Sura (chapter) 19 titled "Mary" about the birth of Jesus



Photo by Mirhadi, S. Mehرداد

What do they say about Muammad?

- "I have studied him - the wonderful man - and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ he must be called the saviour of humanity.

-- *George Bernard Shaw in "The Genuine Islam"*

- “.... It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I closed the second volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of that great life.” -- *Mahatma Gandhi statement published in 'Young India,' 1924*

Famous people who have embraced Islam

- Roger Garaudy
- Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam)
- Col. Buchanan
- Tuquado Cardilli
- Jemima Goldman

Women of Islam

- Women in high offices

Who are they?

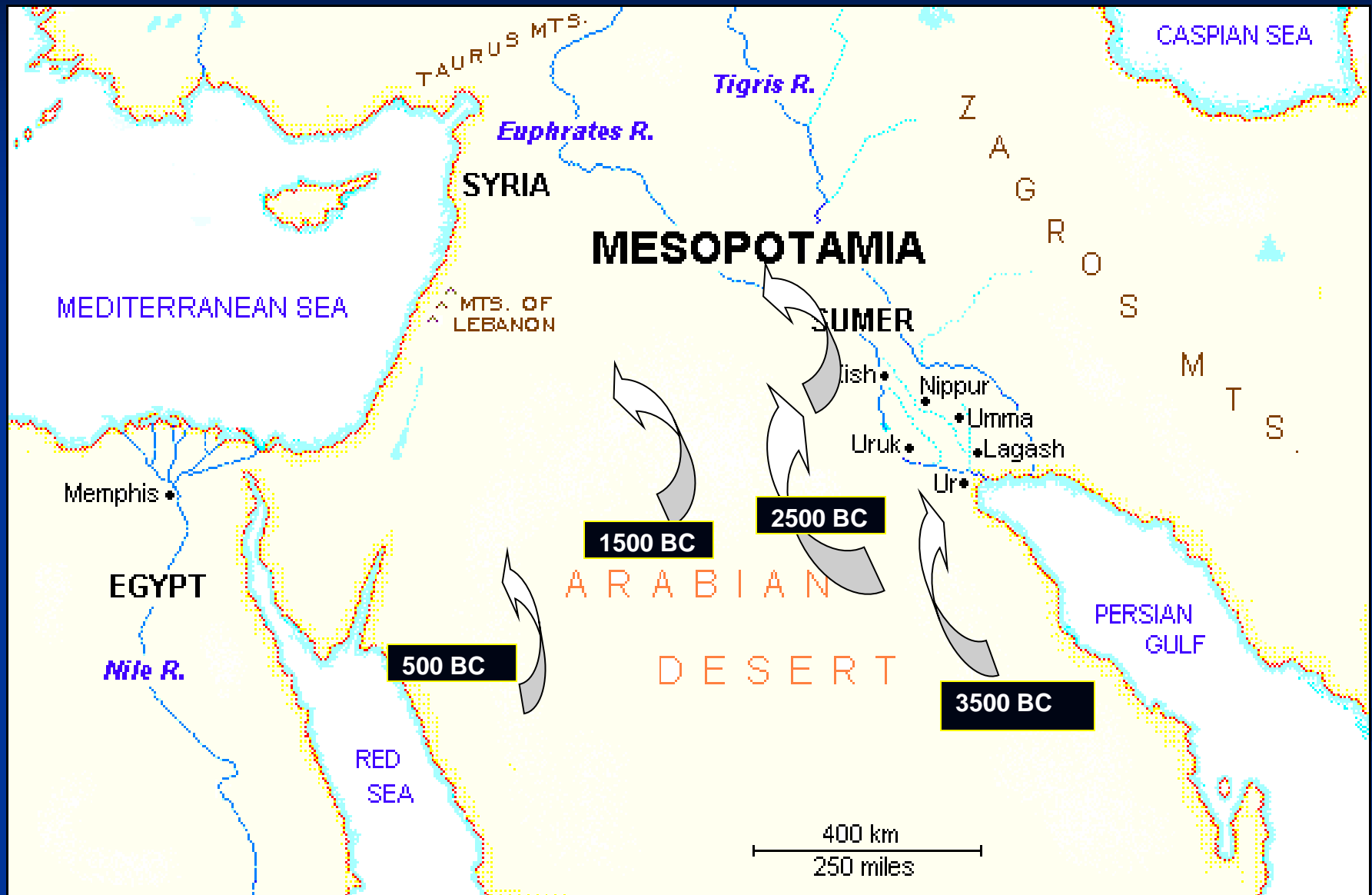
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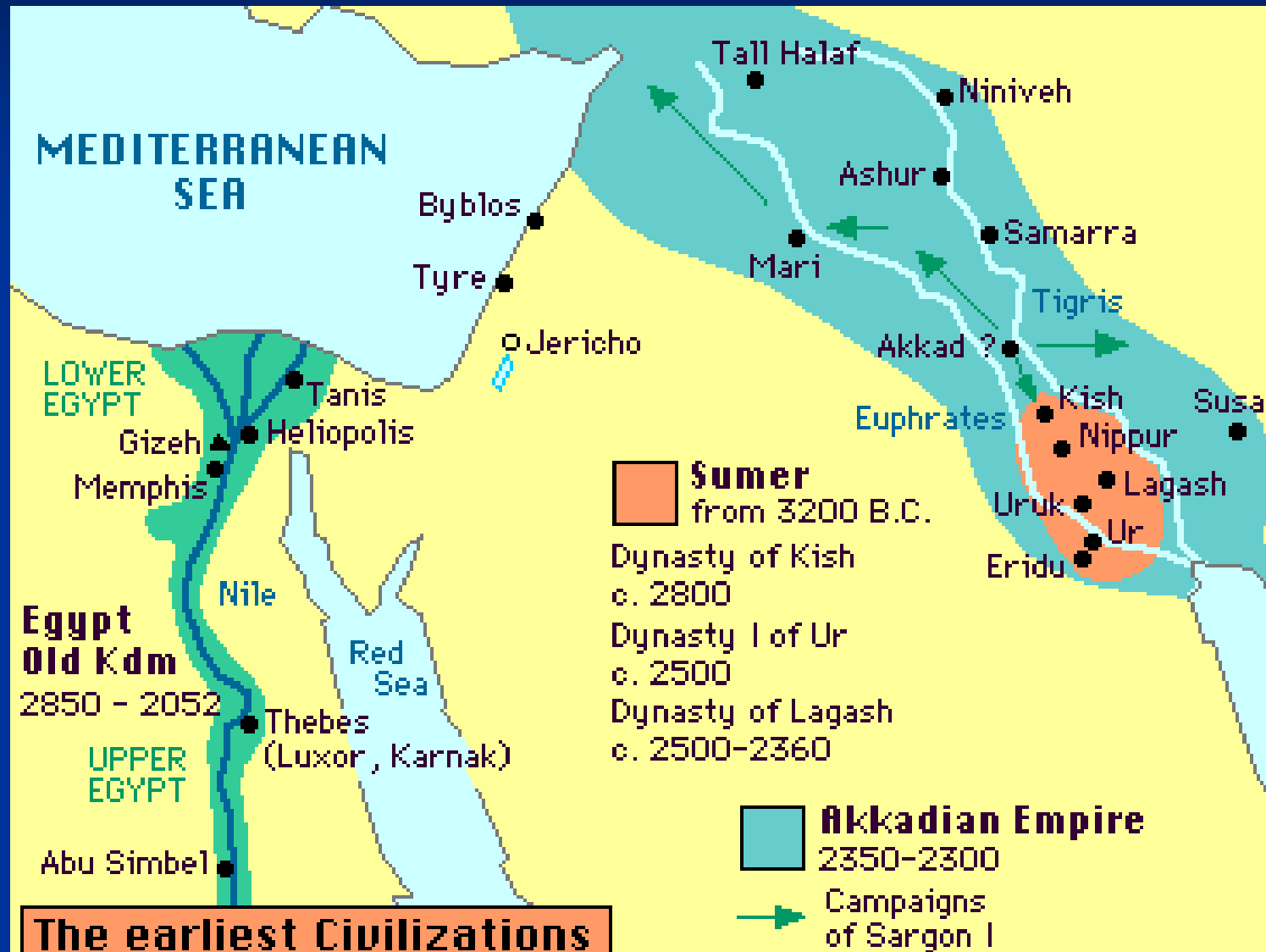
The Middle East

- Ancient History – From Sumer to 610 AD

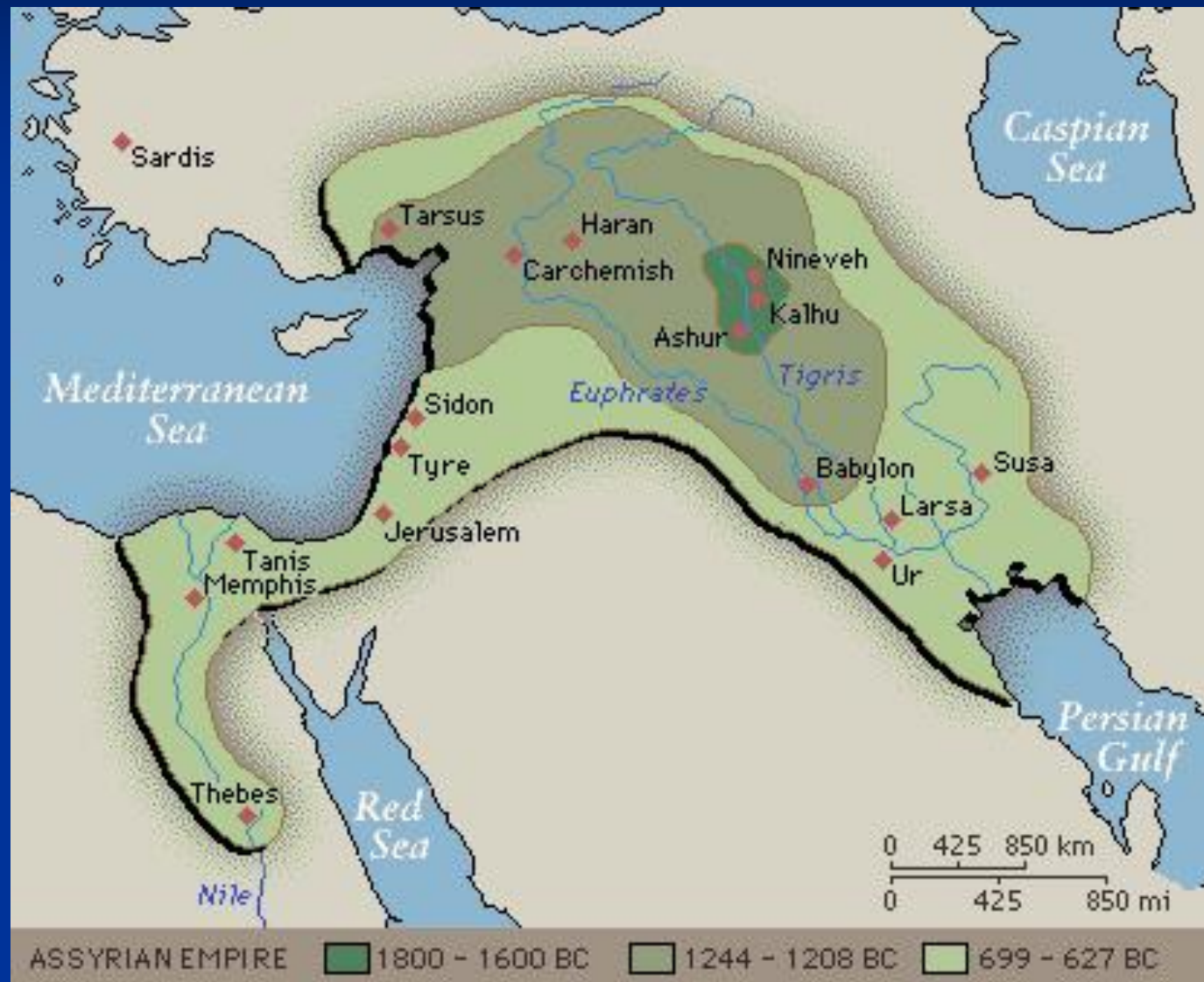
Semitic Tribes' Migration



Sumer and the Akkadians



Assyrians



Medes (ancestors of Kurds) and Babylonians

