

1 November, 2020

History of the World (Part II)

Rounding out our very quick glance at the history of the region is a summary of the empires and cultures of the ancient world. The history that overlaps with the narrative of the Old Testament covers everything from the time just after the Akkadian Empire's collapse through the wars between the Achaemenids of Persia and Argeads under Alexander. To put it in numbers, this is from around the year 2200 BC through the 400s BC. A lot of change happens, especially in the region of the Holy Land. Understanding the geography helps to keep some of this history straight.

Pay attention to the video. The dates are rather flexible, but we have discussed why that is already. These eras are very fascinating to learn about, and we do not have the time to do them justice. But these empires and cultures are very influential to the happenings we read about in the Old Testament.

Please answer the following questions, based on the information in the video. Bring the handout with you to the next session when we get together for class.

1. Which of the early empires was the oldest? _____
[Options: Assyrian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Egyptian, Persian]
2. How did the region of Mesopotamia get its name?
3. What was the name of the law-writing king from Babylon?
4. TRUE or FALSE – The Philistines were successful merchants from the region of Canaan.
5. TRUE or FALSE – The Midianites, Edomites, Moabites, and Israelites could all be considered relatives.
6. Why is it so helpful that we can read cuneiform and hieroglyphics?