

## I. The Hittites

Years: 1700 – 1200 BCE

- Most important leader was King Suppiluliumas

Contributions:

- Assimilated the Sumerian civilization
- Warrior like people that ruled with cruel and fierce rule
- Developed siege tactics
- Modified law code, many laws survived
- The first people to use iron weapons

Religion:

- They were polytheistic and adopted many gods from Sumerian and Old Babylonian religion

## II. The Assyrians

Years: 911-612 BCE

Contributions:

- a) Created world's first true empire
- b) Built an army of 500,000 people
- c) Equipped with iron weapons
- d) New skill and weapon called cavalry
- e) Created longitude & latitude
- f) Advancements in math & medicine
- g) Leather & parchment used for writing
- h) Conquered Mesopotamia & Egypt
- i) Ruled with ruthlessness & cruelty
- j) Helped spread cultural diffusion

Religion

1. Polytheistic and adapted religion from Sumerians

## III. The Chaldeans

Years: 626 – 539 BCE

People: King Nebuchadnezzar ruled from 605- 562 BCE

Contributions

- a) Known as Neo-Babylonians
- b) Built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- c) Rebuilt canals, temples, walls, & palaces
- d) Contributed greatly to astronomy

Religion

- Borrowed gods from Old Babylon & surrounding areas

## IV The Persians

Years: 530 – 331 BCE

People: Cyrus the Great 559- 529 BCE

Darius the Great 522- 486 BCE

Empire stretched from Libya to Turkey in the east and to India in the west

Contributions

1. Advanced the postal system helped govern the empire

2. Large network of roads
3. Used a single currency
4. Controlled a network of spies, called “the eyes and ears of the king”
5. Ruled with satraps: governors of areas that ruled in the emperor's name
6. The empire fell to Alexander the Great

Religion: Zarathustra or Zoroaster

- a) Zoroastrianism: preached monotheism
- b) Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Deeds" Do good and avoid evil ... good leads to immortality; evil makes one suffer and grope in darkness.
- c) Religion is tolerant of other faiths
- d) Zoroaster convinced king & other areas to convert to this religion

## V. The Hebrews

Years: Existed since 200 BCE

People: Abraham & Moses

Contributions:

- a) Hebrews known as Israelites or Jews
- b) First group to solely practice monotheism
- c) The religious text is known as the Torah
- d) Politically weak throughout history
- e) Enslaved by Egypt 1400- 1200 BCE
- f) Moses prince of Egypt led the Exodus of the Jews out of Egypt
- g) Received the 10 Commandments
- h) Conquered by many other empires throughout history
- i) They managed to keep their identity because they believed they were the chosen people

Religion

1. Judaism
2. Monotheistic
3. Judaism is the basis for Christianity & Islam

## VI The Phoenicians

Years 1200 – 800 BCE

Contributions:

- a) Most known for skilled traders & sailors in the Mediterranean
- b) Advanced economy based on timber, metalwork, embroideries, & purple dye
- c) Expanded empire and added colonies in North Africa
- d) Created the worlds first alphabet

Religion

1. Polytheistic
2. Animism: belief in nature & spirits

## VII The Lydians

Years: 600- 500 BCE Leaders: King Croesus

Contributions

1. Fertile soil, loaded with gold & silver
2. First metal coinage & portable currency