

## CHAPTER 3 ~ THE MIDDLE EAST OUTLINE (CONTINUED)

### The Nation of Israel

The Founding Fathers of the nation of Israel: Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob

**Abraham the Patriarch** – both Muslims and Christians claim him as their Founding Patriarch

Lived in Ur of Sumer – with wife Sarah

Left Ur around 2000 BC to travel to Canaan

Abraham's sons: Ishmael (by Hagar) and Isaac (by Sarah)

- **Ishmael – Father of the Arabs**
- **Isaac – Father of the Hebrews**

**Isaac** and wife Rebecca and their twin sons:

- **Esau - Father of the Edomites**
- **Jacob** - given new name "Israel" and therefore **Father of the Israelites**

**Jacob** and wives Leah and Rachel

Jacob's wives had **twelve sons** and one daughter:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah, Joseph, and Benjamin

- Descendants of each son become the **Twelve Tribes of Israel**

**Joseph** was sold and ended up in Egypt – due to famine, Jacob and the brothers came to Egypt years later 400 years later....the Israelites have been enslaved in Egypt

**Moses** leads Israelites out of slavery in Egypt

Moses receives the 10 Commandments at Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai)

After 40 years in the Wilderness, they move into the **Promised Land**

**Time of Judges**

**Time of Kings**

1 - **King Saul** – First King

2 - **King David**

3 - **King Solomon**

**Divided Kingdom** - After death of Solomon, Israel splits in two

**Northern Kingdom** – the ten tribes that were "lost" when conquered by the Assyrians in 721 BC

**Southern Kingdom** – not conquered by Assyrians but conquered by the Babylonians in 586 BC



### The Rise of Islam

**Islam** – The religion is **Islam** – the people who practice Islam are **Muslims**

Invented by **Muhammad** inspired by an encounter he claimed to have with the angel Gabriel

- The encounter happened in **610 AD** when he was 40 years old
- The encounter occurred in Mecca, Arabia (now Saudi Arabia)

Escaped to Medina in 622 to avoid persecution – the escape is known as **The Hegira**

The **Quran** – Holy book of Allah's words as revealed by angel Gabriel



## CHAPTER 4 ~ OTHER ASIAN CULTURES OUTLINE

### India

**Indus Valley Civilization:** first rose along plains of Indus River valley

- Their writings have not been deciphered, so we know very little about them! Unlike Sumer and Egypt
- Probably existed from around 2000 to 1500 BC
- Remained unknown to archeologists until the 1920's!!!!!!

**India has two important distinctive features:** (1) Hinduism and (2) the Caste System

**Hinduism**

**Brahma** - one absolute impersonal spirit

- Polytheistic- Brahma is manifested in a bunch of gods & godlings! (like Greek gods)
- Keep reincarnating in order to achieve perfection & nirvana
- Believe animals have souls so they will not kill pests

**Caste System** - Strict division of social classes. You are born into it - you cannot move up to a better class

**Four traditional castes:**

- (1) **Brahmans** - holy priest of Hinduism
- (2) Princes & Warriors
- (3) Merchants & Farmers
- (4) Laborers & Servants

The **UNTOUCHABLES** are the people outside the caste system.

They are considered too low to even be in a caste ( also called "Dalits" or "Pariahs" )

Mauryan Empire in India

- Greatest Mauryan ruler converted from Hinduism to Buddhism

**Buddhism** - Began around 520 BC

Invented by **Siddhartha Gautama**

- a prince from rich, upper-caste noble family in India

Of these main religions, this one has you/yourself at the center most of all

- It is either atheistic or polytheistic - you choose!
- Essentially you are a god in this religion, since you get to choose what is sacred to you.
- There is no eternal life, just a state of consciousness known as **nirvana**.

Transcendental Happiness - rising above the cares of the world to a state of peace

**Golden Age of India** under the Gupta Family

- After Mauryan Empire, the Gupta Family came to power & this is known as the **Golden Age of India!**
- A time of great advances in art, literature, mathematics, sciences...the things that advance a culture!
- During this time, ISLAM was introduced into India

## Major World Religions – see chart!

Christianity

Judaism

Islam

Hinduism

Buddhism

## China

Two great river systems - (1) Hwang Ho and (2) Yangtze

- Hwang Ho Civilization grew up right after Tower of Babel dispersion

China's history revolves around Ten DYNASTIES (or ruling families)

Ancient

- ❖ **Shang Dynasty** (1525 - 1028 BC)
- ❖ **Chou Dynasty** (1122 - 256 BC)
  - China's longest ruling dynasty
  - China's two greatest philosophers: (1)Lao-tse (Taoism) and (2)Confucius (Confucius-ism)
- ❖ **Ch'in Dynasty (or Qin Dynasty)** (255 - 206 BC)
  - During this time, the Great Wall was built
  - The name China comes from the Ch'in Dynasty
- ❖ **Han Dynasty** (206 - 220 BC)
  - Thrived at the same time as the Roman Empire
  - This dynasty marked the height of China's power and glory
  - The Great Silk Road linked China with the Roman World!

Middle Ages

- ❖ **Mongol Empire of Genghis Khan** was largest land empire in all history
- ❖ **Yuan Dynasty** (1279 - 1368 AD)
  - Marco Polo from Italy traveled to China during this dynasty and stayed 20 years (late 1200's)
  - Kublai Khan - the grandson of Genghis Khan was ruler at this time
- ❖ **Ming Dynasty** (1368 - 1644 AD) and **Manchu Ch'ing Dynasty** (1644 - 1912 AD)
  - Both dynasties tried to keep out European influences -- wanted to remain isolated



## Japan

A country of islands - four main ones

**SHINTOISM and BUDDHISM**

are main religions

In Medieval Japan

A system of leadership involving:

- **shoguns** -- feudal lords
- **daimios** -- local landlords
- **samurai** -- warriors or knights

**Japan is known for ISOLATION**

from the western world

