

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

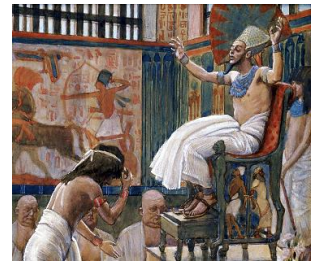
2 - King David

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

