

THE ANCIENT
NEAR
EASTERN
— WORLD —



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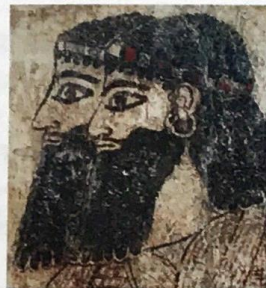
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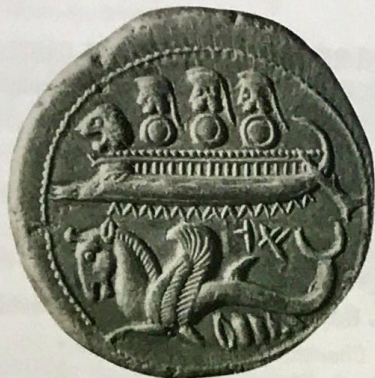
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Because The World in Ancient Times covers many cultures, we use the abbreviations CE for "Common Era" and BCE for "Before the Common Era." The traditional equivalents are BC for "Before Christ" and AD for "Anno Domini," Latin for "In the Year of Our Lord," referring to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Abraham • Man described in the Hebrew Bible as the patriarch of the Israelite people

Adad-Guppi (ah-dahd-GOO-pee), 649–547 BCE • A priestess of the moon god Sin and mother of the Neo-Babylonian king Nabonidus

Adam • Man described in the Hebrew Bible as the first human being

Alexander the Great, 356–321 BCE • Macedonian king of the Greeks who conquered the Persian Empire

Amenhotep III (ah-men-HOE-tep), ruled 1387–1350 BCE • Egyptian king (also called Nimmureya) who married Princess Tadu-Heba of Syria

Ammurapi (ah-moo-RAH-pee), ruled during 12th century BCE • Last king of Ugarit, an ancient Syrian city within the Hittite Empire

Ashurnasirpal II (ah-shur-NAH-zir-pahl), ruled 883–859 BCE • Assyrian king who expanded his empire and built a great palace at Calhu

Azitawadda (ah-ZEE-tah-WAH-dah), around 9th century BCE • Levantine king whose royal inscription describes his rule

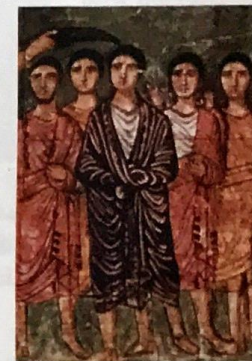
Croesus (KREE-sus), ruled 560–547 BCE • King of Lydia, known for his wealth; defeated by King Cyrus of Persia

Cyrus (SIE-rus), ruled 559–530 BCE • King of the Persian Empire who conquered Babylonia in 539 BCE

Daniel, sixth century BCE • Man described in the Hebrew Bible as a holy person who survived in a den of lions

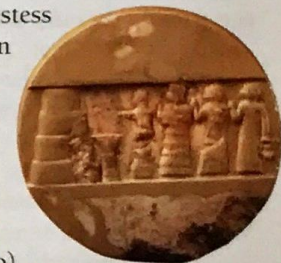
Darius I (duh-RYE-us), ruled 522–486 BCE • Persian emperor who built the city of Persepolis; introduced coins to his subjects

David, around 1000 BCE • King of Israel who united the Israelite people; made Jerusalem his capital city



Eannatum (ay-AH-nah-tum), around 2400 BCE • King of Lagash in the time of the Sumerian city-states

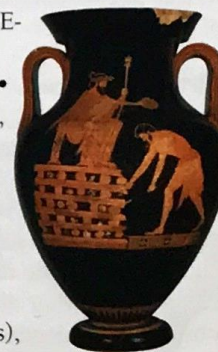
Enheduanna (en-HEH-doo-AH-nah), 24th century BCE • A high priestess of the moon god; first known author in history



Enkidu (EN-kee-doo) • Legendary best friend of Gilgamesh

Eve • Person described in the Hebrew Bible as the first woman

Gilgamesh (GIL-guh-mesh), around 2600 BCE • King of Uruk, whose legendary adventures are recorded in the Epic of Gilgamesh



Hammurabi (HAHM-oo-RAH-bee), ruled 1792–1750 BCE • King of Babylon who built an empire; best known for his collection of laws



Haya-Sumu (HIE-ya-SOO-moo), 18th century BCE • King who married two daughters of Zimri-Lim

Herodotus (huh-RAH-duh-tus), fifth century BCE • Greek historian who described Babylon and also the war between Persia and Greece

Ibubu (ih-BOO-boo), around 2400 BCE • Steward of the palace at Ebla

Ilsha-hegalli (IL-sha-hay-GAHL-lee), 17th century BCE • Mother of Ur-Utu

Inanna-mansum (in-AHN-na-MAN-soom), 17th century BCE • Priest and father of Ur-Utu

Inib-sharri (IN-ib-SHAR-ree), 18th century BCE • Daughter of King Zimri-Lim

Isaac (EYE-zak) • Son of the patriarch Abraham; father of the Israelite people, according to the Hebrew Bible

Ishmael (ISH-may-el) • Son of the patriarch Abraham; father of the Arab people, according to the Hebrew Bible

Jacob • Great Israelite leader according to the Hebrew Bible; son of Isaac and father of many sons, including Joseph

Jehoiachin (je-HOY-ah-keen), ruled 598–597 BCE • Last king of Judah; taken captive by the Neo-Babylonians

Joseph • Favorite son of Jacob according to the Hebrew Bible; became powerful in Egypt

Josiah (jo-SIE-ya), ruled 639–609 BCE • King of Judah who reformed the religious practices of the Israelites

Kirum (KEY-room), 18th century BCE • Daughter of Zimri-Lim of Mari and wife of Haya-Sumu

Mebaragesi (may-BAH-rah-GAY-see), around 2700 BCE • King of Umma in the time of Sumerian city-states; author of the earliest known royal inscription. Sometimes called En-mebaragesi, or Lord Mebaragesi

Moses • Leader of the Israelites, said in the Hebrew Bible to have led them out of slavery and received the Ten Commandments from Yahweh

Mursili (MUHR-see-lee), ruled around 1620–1590 BCE • Hittite king who raided the city of Babylon in 1595; brought an end to Hammurabi's empire

Nabonidus (nah-boh-NIE-dus), ruled 555–539 BCE • Last king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire; devoted to the moon god Sin

Naomi (nay-OH-mee) • Israelite described in the Hebrew Bible as mother-in-law of Ruth and great-great-grandmother of King David

Naram-Sin (NAH-rahm-SIN), ruled 2260–2223 BCE • King of the Akkadian Empire and grandson of Sargon; presented himself as divine

Nebuchadnezzar II (NEB-yoo-kad-NEZ-er), ruled 605–562 BCE • Neo-Babylonian king who enlarged the empire; conquered Judah

Ningallam (nin-GAH-lahm), 24th century BCE • Slave woman who raised pigs for the queen's household at Lagash during the time of the Sumerian city-states

Ninshubur-tayar (nin-SHOO-bur-TIE-yar), 18th century BCE • Farmer who adopted a son named Patiya in the reign of Samsu-iluna

Noah • Man described in the Hebrew Bible as the good man who survived a great flood

Omri (OHM-ree), ruled 885–874 BCE • King of Israel who sent tribute to Assyria

Pagirum (PAH-gee-rum), 17th century BCE • Scribe who lived in Terqa and was given a land grant by the local king

Patiya (pa-TEE-ya), 18th century BCE • Young Mesopotamian man adopted by Ninshubur-tayar in the reign of Samsu-iluna

Puabi (poo-AH-bee), around 2500 BCE • Sumerian queen whose burial was the richest of the royal tombs of Ur



Ra'imtum (Ra-IM-tum), 17th century BCE • Wife of Ur-Utu

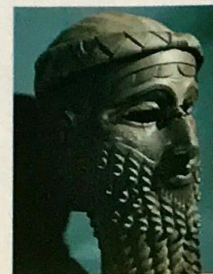
Ruth (rooth) • Moabite described in the Hebrew Bible as Naomi's daughter-in-law and great-grandmother of King David

Samsu-ditana (SAM-soo-dee-TAH-nah), ruled 1625–1595 BCE • Last king of the Old Babylonian Empire; ruler when Hittites raided Babylon

Samsu-iluna (SAM-soo-ih-LOO-nah), ruled 1749–1712 BCE • Son of Hammurabi; king of the Old Babylonian Empire who lost control of the southern part of the empire

Samuel, 11th century BCE • Religious leader, described in the Hebrew Bible as having anointed the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David

Sargon (SAR-gon), ruled 2340–2284 BCE • King of Akkad who built the world's first empire; subject of many legends



Saul, 11th century BCE • First king of Israel who often fought against the Philistines, according to the Hebrew Bible

Sennacherib (sen-NAH-keh-rib), ruled 704–681 BCE • Assyrian king who destroyed Babylon

Shamash-nasir (SHAH-mahsh-NAHT-seer), 18th or 17th century BCE • Adopted son who went to court to claim his inheritance

Shibtu (SHIB-too), 18th century BCE • Queen of Mari, wife of Zimri-Lim, many of whose letters have survived

Shimatum (SHIH-mah-toom), 18th century BCE • Daughter of Zimri-Lim of Mari and wife of Haya-Sumu

Shulgi (SHOOL-gee), ruled 2094–2047 BCE • King of the Third Dynasty of Ur; author of the first collection of laws

Sin-leqe-unnini (SIN LAY-kay oo-NEE-nee), around 12th century BCE • Scribe who wrote the Epic of Gilgamesh, based on earlier written and oral tales

Solomon (SOLL-uh-mun), 10th century BCE • ruler of Israel who, according to the Hebrew Bible, built a temple to Yahweh in Jerusalem; son of King David

Tadu-Heba (TAH-doo-HAY-bah), 14th century BCE • Princess of Mittani, who married King Amenhotep III of Egypt; daughter of Tushratta

Tira-il (TEE-rah-eel), around 2400 BCE • Scribe at Ebla whose letter is the earliest known example of diplomacy

Tushratta (toosh-RAH-tah), 14th century BCE • King of Mittani, who corresponded with fellow "great kings"; father of Tadu-Heba

Ur-Nammu (ur-NAH-moo), ruled 2113–2096 BCE • King of the Third Dynasty of Ur who supervised the building of ziggurats

Ur-Utu (ur-OO-too), 17th century BCE • Wealthy Mesopotamian priest who kept an archive of his family business

Ut-napishtim (oot-nah-PISH-tim) • Legendary Mesopotamian believed to have survived a great flood by constructing a boat

Xerxes (ZURK-seez), ruled 486–465 BCE • King of the Persian Empire, son of Darius I; tried but failed to conquer Greece

Zimri-Lim (ZIM-ree-LIM), ruled around 1775–1761 BCE • King of Mari; texts found in his palace reveal many details of palace life

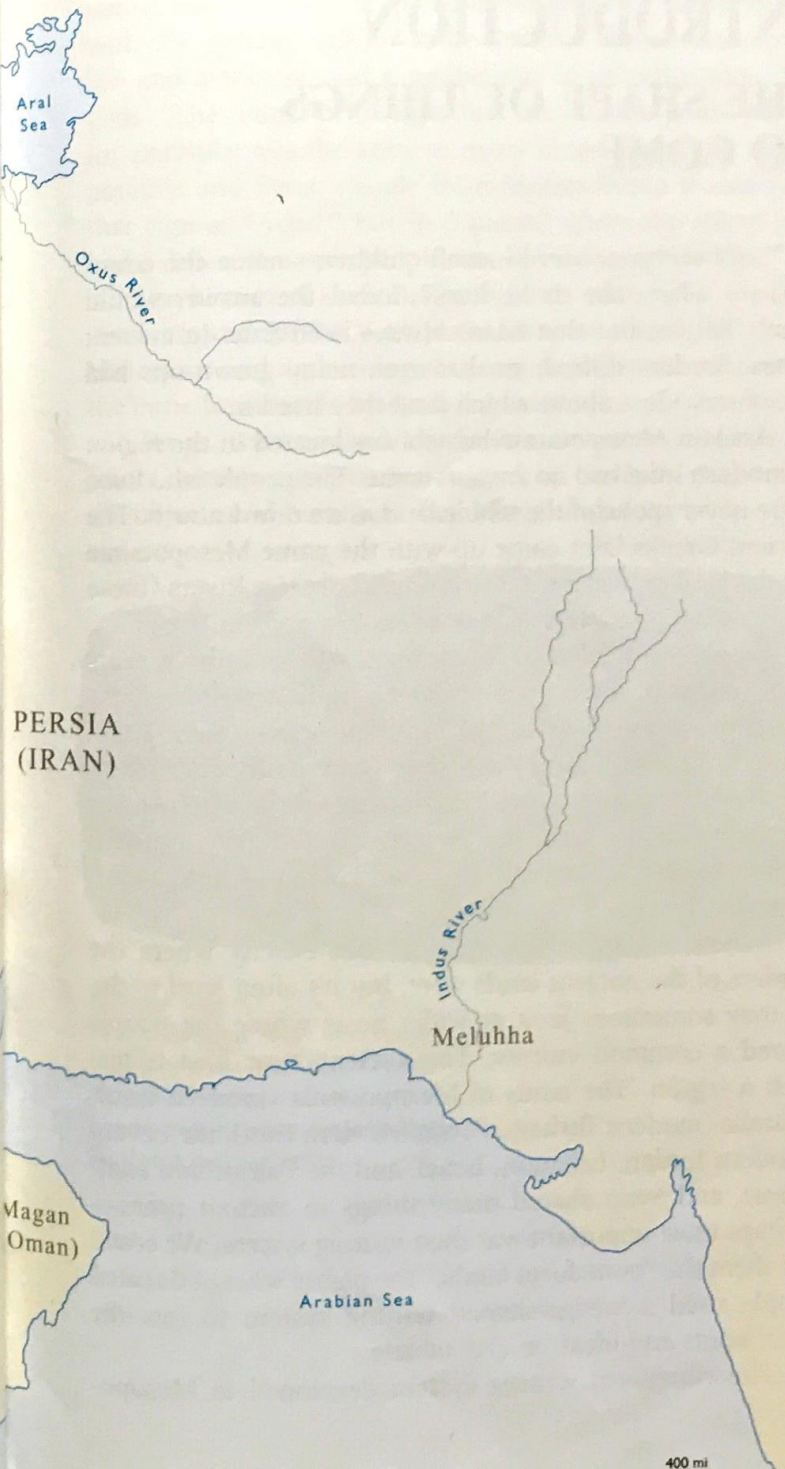
Zoroaster (ZOR-oh-ASS-ter), early first millennium BCE • Religious teacher in Persia who founded Zoroastrianism



THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN WORLD



ASIA



SOME PRONUNCIATIONS

- Agade (uh-GAHD-ay)
- Akkad (AHK-ahd)
- Alashiya (ahl-ah-SHEE-uh)
- Ashur (ASH-er)
- Assyria (uh-SEER-ee-uh)
- Babylon (BAB-uh-lon)
- Babylonia (bab-uh-LO-nee-uh)
- Calhu (CAL-hoo)
- Canaan (KAY-nun)
- Carchemish (KAR-kuh-mish)
- Ebla (EB-luh)
- Eridu (EHR-uh-doo)
- Euphrates River (YOO-fray-teez)
- Harran (huh-RAHN)
- Hatti (HAH-tee)
- Hattusa (hah-TOO-sah)
- Lagash (LAH-gahsh)
- Levant (luh-VANT)
- Mari (MAR-ee)
- Mesopotamia (MES-uh-puh-TAY-mee-uh)
- Mittani (mih-TAH-nee)
- Nineveh (NIN-uh-vuh)
- Nippur (NIP-ur)
- Persepolis (per-SEP-uh-lus)
- Persia (PER-zhuh)
- Phoenicia (fi-NISH-uh)
- Sumer (SOO-mehr)
- Syria (SEER-ee-uh)
- Terqa (TAIR-kuh)
- Tigris River (TIE-griss)
- Ugarit (oo-GAH-rit)
- Umm el-Marra (OOM-el-MAR-uh)
- Ur (oor)
- Uruk (UR-uhk)

The area that historians call the Near East is called the Middle East in modern times. The ancient and modern borders are not exactly the same, but the region once known as Mesopotamia is now called Iraq; ancient Anatolia is modern Turkey; the Levant is now Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories; and Persia's new name is Iran. Only Syria has kept its ancient name.