LECTURE 2 - ON THE EDGE OF CIVILIZATION

A. Indo-European
   a. Quote (285) – “...in the days of Nebuchnezzar, would have seemed like an ocean in which vast swarms of human beings moved about in turmoil, forming and dissolving groups, enslaving and being enslaved, eating and being eaten, killing and getting killed, endlessly. “
   b. Quote (285) – “Throughout the history of the Near East such nomads were a peril to the more settled kingdoms which they almost surrounded; periodically droughts would fling them upon these richer regions, necessitation frequent wars, and perpetual readiness for war”

B. Hittites
   a. Originated in eastern Europe
   b. Reached Height of Empire in 1400 bc.
   c. Collapsed 1180 (Bronze Age Collapse)
   d. Pictographic Writing
   e. Inherit a version Hammurabi
      i. Left to right then right to left.
      ii. They taught Crete the use of clay tablets
   f. Interbred with Hebrews
   g. Military Campaigns
      i. Sacked Syria and Babylon
      ii. King Mutawalli - Defeated by Ramesses II Battle of Kadesh (1274 BC) is the oldest recorded battle.
         1. Ramesses called the Hittites “the feminine one” because of their long hair.
      iii. They perfected the Chariot (Wheel Moved to Center)

C. Armenians – Ararat in the bible
   a. North of Assyria
   b. Were stable and independent until Persia
   c. Argistis II – greatest king (708 BC)

D. Scythians –
   a. Scythes or Sakas – Origins
      i. Spoken a Iranian dialect,
      ii. The may have migrated from Siberia to Ukraine
      iii. Half Mongol and half European
      iv. Most of what we know is from Herodotus.
   b. Shores of the Black Sea
i. Greek set up many cities just to trade with them
ii. They were profitable in the Eurasian slave trade

c. Lifestyle
   i. Lived in wagons, horse culture and mostly nomadic
   ii. A Scythian king challenged King Darius of Persian to find and destroy their idols and temples because they had none.
   iii. Drank blood of enemies, used scalps as napkins
   iv. The built burial dirt mounds with vaulted ceilings and tombs.
   v. They killed their slaves with them when they died, sometimes burying with their wagons and horses. Similar to practices in Siberia.

d. Military Expansion
   i. Swept through Western Asia 630-610
   ii. Fought the Persians the same time the Greeks were fighting them.
   iii. The Scythians survive until modern times, Kazakstan.

E. Semitic Peoples
   a. From the Son of Noah (Shem) on the theory that they were derived from him.
   b. Originated from Arabia
   c. Successions of migrations out of that region
   d. Stoic culture with little religion until Islam

F. Phoenicians – 1200-539 BC
   a. They were Semitic
   b. Liberated from Egypt 1200
   c. Traded as far as Britain and the Black Sea
   d. Engaged in piracy, and trickery on the high sea
   e. Establish Commercial Outpost
      i. Carthage
      ii. Rhodes – where Greeks and Phoenicians traded.
      iii. Cadiz
      iv. Sardinia – largest Phoenician industrial center, glass and jewelry
   f. Trade and Industry
      i. They exported cedar and dyes from where they get there name.
      ii. Traded as far as Britain, West Africa and the Black Sea
      iii. They traded Greek pottery, sculptures and jewelry to Africans for gold.
   g. Worship Canaanite gods like Baal –
      i. Becomes Beelzebub “lord of the flies”
      ii. Because the Jews compared Baal to crap and his followers the flies.
   h. The Phoenician alphabet was one of the first (consonantal) alphabets with a strict and consistent form.
i. Adopted by Greeks and through Med. Culture.

G. Persians
   a. Around 2000, Indo-Iranians moved into the Iranian plateau
   b. Originally a client state of the Assyrians, they achieved independence in the 7th century under the Medes leadership
   c. With the Babylonians and Scythians they assisted in the dismantling of the Assyrian Empire.
   d. The Median clans rule was ended by revolt of Cyrus
   e. The Persian Empire 559-330

H. Judea
   a. Influence and Geography
      i. Greater than Babylon
      ii. Geographically a small region
         1. Area inhabited from 40,000
         2. Origins of people 2000-1600
            a. Jericho was a vassal of Egypt
         3. Midway between the Nile and the Tigris and Euphrates
         4. This brought trade and war.
      iii. Climate
         1. Arid – Rain kept in underground cisterns
         2. When conquered the desert would take over.
   b. Origins
      i. Jews believe they came from UR in 2200.
      ii. They migrated or were enslaved by Egypt
      iii. Egyptian Historian – Manetho - Says Moses was an Egyptian Priest sent as missionary to Jews.
   c. Trade
      i. Caravans from all over crossed through Judea.
      ii. Solomon build fleet on the Red Sea
      iii. Solomon tax caravans and traders
      iv. State monopoly on yarn, horses and chariots.
   d. Moses –
      i. Led the Jews to Mt. Sinai
      ii. Were nomadic for 40 years (conquered Canaan under Gideon)
         1. Slaughters 12,000 people
   e. Tribes
      i. These clans Rarely intermarried
      ii. Elder Councils under a patriarchy
iii. Occasionally they unite under one leader temporarily

f. King Solomon
   i. Brought industry and peace to Judea
   ii. He was epicurean
   iii. Built temple but his house was four times bigger.
   iv. 60-80 wives
   v. Built forts
   vi. He tries to unite all tribes by redrawing districts but this fails
   vii. Builds altars to his wives gods, temple upkeep is costly
   viii. People become less happy

g. Religion
   i. Polytheism – they were Bedouins who worships spirits and a pantheon.
      1. Golden Calf – Bull worship
      2. Yahweh was a vegetarian
      3. Serpent Worship
   ii. Yahweh – was patron god of Jerusalem
      1. Formed into national god
      2. From the Canaan god Yahu
      3. He is stern, warlike and deceitful
      4. He was like god of thunder
      5. Quote (310) – He will have no pacifist nonsense; he knows that even a Promised land can be won, and held, only by the sword’ he is a god of was because he has to be; it will take centuries of military defeat, political subjugation, and moral development, to transform him into the gentle and loving Father of Christ. “
   iii. Other Gods
      1. First Commandment was no other gods before me.
      2. Ba’alsabub – god of another Jewish tribe
      3. Even Babylonian gods were worshipped
   iv. Religious unity
      1. Under David and Solomon worship centered around Yahweh
   v. Theology
      1. Early it was a religion of fear
      2. Sin- led to virtue – led to sacrifice
      3. Little reference to afterlife
      4. Priest performed the “mysteries of faith”
      5. Priest close caste of people and hereditary.