

Outline for “the Ancient, the Traditional, the Current Palestine”

Note: Some Session components coming from “*The Gifts of the Jews*” by Thomas Cahill

Session #1 – The prehistory/early history time period

- “The Temple in the Moonlight” – prehistory, Sumerians, what was happening in Palestine in the 3rd to 4th millennia BCE
- “Journey in the Dark” – Genesis 11:26 – Genesis 12:9, Note: Abram was called out of Ur to Canaan (Palestine) but got to Haran in NW Mesopotamia (again, note – Haran is Lot’s father’s name! Several of Abram’s ancestors had names from their ancestral home in NW Mesopotamia)



Session #2 – Movement to Egypt , twice; The Exodus

- During Abram’s time – Genesis 12:10f
- During Joseph’s time – Genesis 37:12 – 50:26
- Story of the Exodus – what was in Palestine at the time?

Session #3 – The “Promised Land” – Caleb; book of Joshua

- What was going on in the land during the wilderness wanderings?
- What did the Israelites occupy as they entered the promised land during the time of Caleb and Aaron?
- During the Davidic/Solomonic Dynasties?

Session #4 – The Exile and Post-exilic time

- What was nature of the Exile and to how was the promised land left after the exiles were exiled?
- To what did the exiles re-enter in terms of Palestine?
- What happening following their re-entry? Who were the occupants?
- How did the Maccabean time-period change the nature of those living in the land?

Session #5 – The Time of Jesus and the Roman Empire

- Who lived in Palestine during Jesus’ time? What became of those followers of Ishmael? Were other folk living in Palestine during this time?
- What did the presence of the Romans do to the nature and makeup of Palestine?
- The advance of the Muslims and their impact 500 years after Jesus.

Session #6 – Today

- An overview of the history of 1946 and beyond
- How did we get to where we are today?
- Discussion around the impact of millennia of history and understanding of Jews wanting to live in the “Promised Land”.

Neo-Assyrian Empire: Art, History & Quiz

- Lesson

- Quiz

- Like?

Taught by

Patricia ONeill

Ancient Assyria was one of the earliest transcontinental empires; it dominated Southwest Asia for centuries during the era known as the Neo-Assyrian period. Here we will see an overview of the Neo-Assyrian Empire and understand not only the history but the art of this exceptional society.

We also recommend watching [Iron Age Empires: Neo-Babylonian, Neo-Assyrian and Persian Empires](#) and [Ancient Egyptian Art: History and Style](#)

Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia is a Greek word meaning *between the rivers*, and refers to the region between the Tigris-Euphrates river system, an area which is today Iraq, Turkey and Syria. In ancient times, this region encompassed numerous distinct cultures and spanned a period from the 10th century B.C.E. to the 6th century B.C.E.

Although the Mesopotamian region was the setting for such famous stories as the Garden of Eden and the Tower of Babel, it was also one of the places where *civilization* emerged independently, meaning people formed increasingly complex societies, with central governments, intensive agriculture, writing, organized religion, and extensive urban areas.

History Of Assyria

In northern Mesopotamia, a people called the Assyrians took advantage of their location on trade routes to build an extensive empire, including magnificent cities such as Nineveh and Asshur (which gave the empire its name). The Assyrians made use of recently invented **iron weapons** to build a powerful and intimidating military. At its high point, the Assyrian Empire controlled not only Mesopotamia, but also Syria, Palestine, much of Anatolia, and most of Egypt.



The Rise Of A Warrior People

The Assyrians are probably best known for their skill in warfare, which they regarded as their most important activity; in fact, they considered it a divinely-inspired goal to impose their gods upon conquered territories. The Assyrians were the first major power not only to equip soldiers with iron weapons, but also to master the tactics of the light horse-drawn chariot, which turned them into the most successful fighting power the ancient world had yet seen.

The Neo-Assyrian Period

The era from 934 to 609 B.C.E. is known as the Neo-Assyrian Period. It was during this epoch that Assyria became one of the first truly international empires. At its peak, around 650 B.C.E., the Assyrian Empire included almost all of the old centers of civilization and power in Southwest Asia. However, although advanced planning and technical skill allowed the Assyrians to conquer, Assyria's brutality also earned them many enemies.

By 614 B.C.E., the Chaldeans (also known as the New Babylonian) from southern Mesopotamia, allied with the Medes from east of Assyria, staged a massive assault. The empire that had tyrannized Southwest Asia was shattered, and, in 612 B.C.E., the former Assyrian territories were absorbed into the Persian Empire.

Neo-Assyrian Culture

Some of Assyria's most feared rulers also made important cultural contributions. For example, King Sennacherib established Assyria's capital at Nineveh along the Tigris River. Not only was imperial Nineveh one of the largest cities in the ancient world, it also included extensive gardens, zoos, and a 'palace without rival,' decorated with sculptured relief scenes of brutal military campaigns and successful lion hunts.

Nineveh was home to one of the ancient world's largest libraries, with more than 20,000 **cuneiform** tablets (writing formed by the arrangement of small wedge-shaped elements) from throughout the **Fertile Crescent**. The collection included the ancient Sumerian poem the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and provided historians with much information about the earliest civilizations in Southwest Asia. The library was the first to have many of the features of a modern library. For instance, the collection was organized into many rooms according to subject matter, and the collection was also cataloged.

