



The End of Mesopotamia

The End of Mesopotamia



- After the fall of Babylon imperial rule finally returned to the Tigris River with the **Assyrian Empire**.

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- The Assyrians took complete advantage of the Location of this land...building **trade routes** throughout the Northern and Southern areas

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- They also created enormous cities along the Tigris.. Assur was the first chief city of the Assyrian Empire and also the richest.

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- What set the Assyrian Empire apart from previous is that they learned from past events.



- They built a powerful and extremely intimidating military...The Assyrian Age was also known as the **Iron Age**

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- They organized their military into officers chosen based on merit and skill.



- They also supplemented their infantry with swift horse drawn chariots... a design which was taken directly from the Hittites.

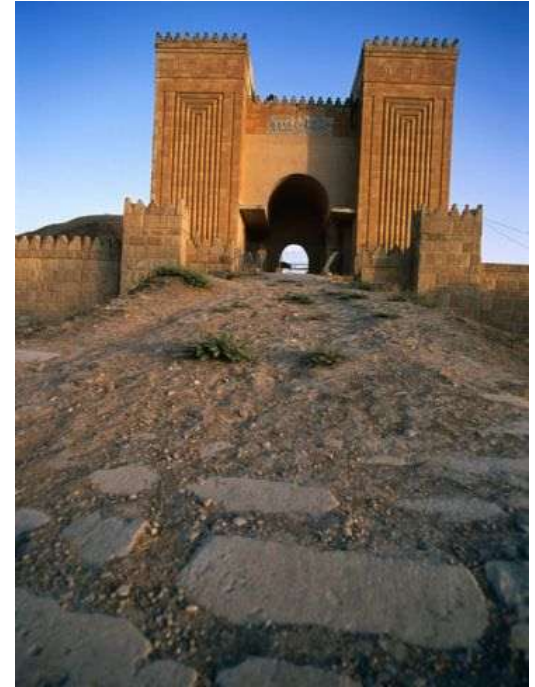
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- Their chariots were the backbone for their military...allowing archers to attack swiftly and rapidly from massive moving platforms.

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- Many small city states and tribes attempted to gain power in Mesopotamia after the fall of Babylon, however, after 1300 B.C.E. the Assyrians were the clear winners.



- They gradually extended their reach and authority west into Asia.

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- During the eighth and seventh centuries the empire reached a high point, actually embracing all of Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine and Egypt.

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- The Assyrians relied on suitable administrative techniques to control their citizens...much like Babylon



- They also followed laws that were very similar to the **Code of Hammurabi**.

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- The Assyrians also were concerned a great deal for the preservation of their histories...
- They developed and maintained enormous libraries and large lavish courts for records.



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- In the mid-19th century at the Mesopotamian city of **Nineveh** about 25,000 clay tablet fragments were found in the ruins of an ancient library.



- They covered information on religion, bureaucracy, science, mathematics, poetry and medicine.

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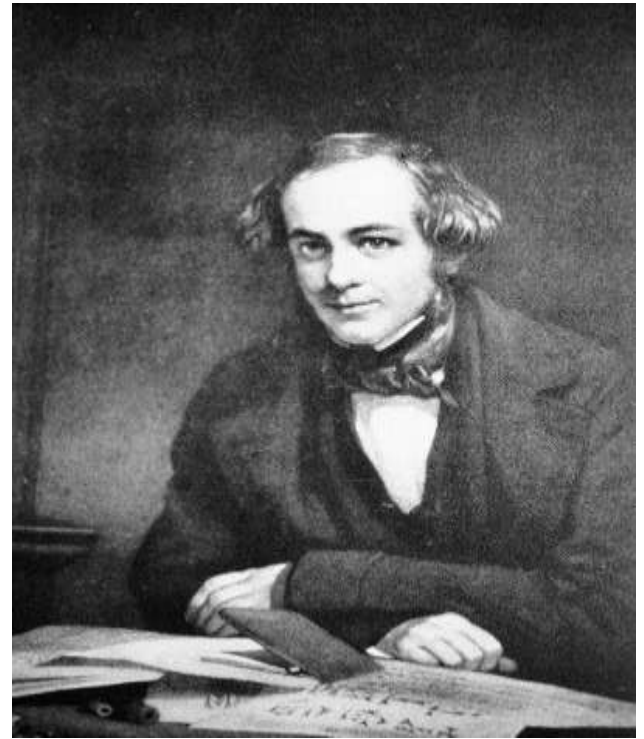
- They were written in **Cuneiform** - one of the earliest forms of writing, which was probably invented in Uruk



- We don't know what the script was actually called by its users...the symbols are formed from wedge-shaped objects pressed into soft clay tablets which are then fired to dry

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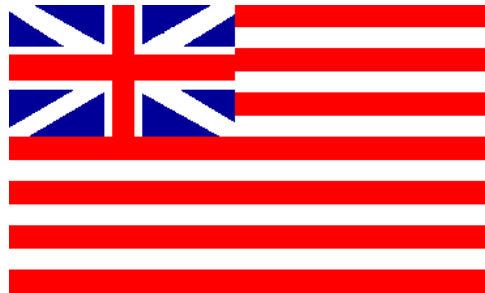
- **Cuneiform** writing was deciphered when 19th century explorer Henry Rawlinson came across a tablet from the Persian King Darius which was written in three different languages.



- (Akkadian, Elamite, and Old Persian).

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- Henry started to work for the **East India Company** in 1827 at the age of seventeen where he learned a variety of Indian and Persian languages.



- The **East India Company** - was an English company formed for pursuing trade with the East Indies , however ended up trading mainly with the Indian subcontinent.

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- In 1835 he was sent to Persia as a military adviser...Near the city of **Kerman-shah (Iran)** he found two inscriptions on rocks which he figured out were the names of **Darius** and **Xerxes**...from there he was able to translate most of the language.

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- The one issue with the Assyrian Empire was that their domination was extremely unpopular and proved to be impossible to maintain.



- In 612 B.C.E. a combination of internal unrest and external assault from invaders brought down the empire. (Their Ruins were not protected)

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- After the fall of the Assyrians a **New Babylonian Empire** gained dominance over areas within Mesopotamia.

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- King Nebuchadnezzar II rebuilt Babylon into a wealthy, lavish capital city.



- It occupied about 2,000 acres and is said to have had a wall around the city so thick that four horse chariots could turn around on top of them.

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- o The **Ishtar Gate** was the eighth gate to the inner city of Babylon

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- Within the walls there were enormous palaces and over a thousand temples, some of which were faced with gold and jewels.



- King Nebuchadnezzar II also was the creator of the Great Hanging Gardens that the city is known for.

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- Molds of the original brick were used to create a pretty impressive replica...

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- By this time however, people from beyond Mesopotamia had acquired advanced weapons and were experimenting with large territory administrations.



- By 550 B.C.E. The New Babylon Empire lost control and foreign conquerors absorbed all of the region into their own empires...which lasted for centuries...the glory of Mesopotamia was gone.

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- Now with Mesopotamia came the emergence of an economy type system with specialized talents, crafts, skills and trading.



- Lets look at some of these advancements.

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1. Metal



- About 3500 B.C.E. experimentation with copper led to the creation of bronze, which is an alloyed mix of copper and tin.

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- Bronze is both hard and strong, and it quickly became the preferred metal for military weaponry...

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- Farmers also began to use bronze knives and bronze tipped plows instead of tools made from bone, wood or stone.

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2. The Wheel



- While some craftsman were focused on metal weapons of death others were looking for an efficient way of transportation.

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- The wheel came about in 3500 B.C.E. and were building wheeled carts by 3000 B.C.E.



- This enabled people to haul loads of bulk goods over much longer distances...within a few years it became the standard means of land transportation.

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3. Ships



- The Sumerians also experimented with technologies in maritime transportation, building the first watercraft by 2300 B.C.E.

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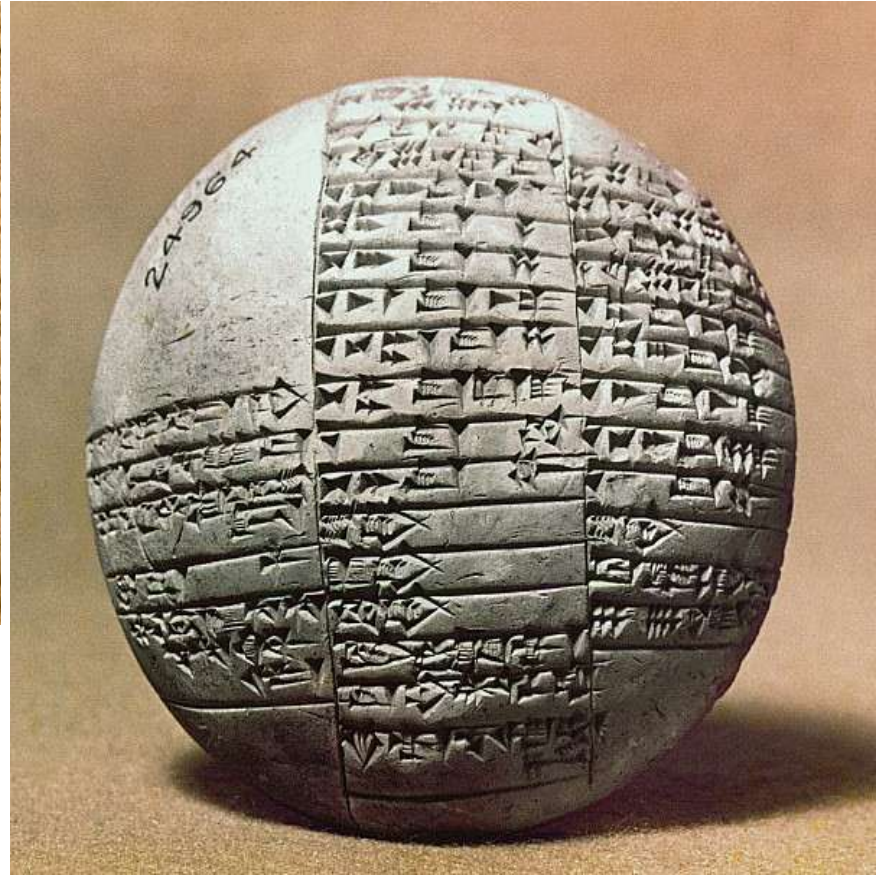


- Ships allowed them to venture into the Persian Gulf and set up trade routes over water ways and import items from Civilizations all over the Middle East.



4. Advancement in Education/ Cuneiform

The advancement in this first form of writing led to an explosion in human education creation!!!



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- The first book ever written came out of this push in education, **The Epic of Gilgamesh**, completed in about 2000 B.C.E.



- The book retold the experiences of an Ancient King and explored themes of friendship, relations with humans, gods and the meaning of life.

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- The story was written on twelve stone tablets and we found in 1853 amongst ruins of ancient Mesopotamian cities.



- The only reason the stone tablets survived was due to the fact that they were hidden from the elements in an underground chamber of a tomb for four thousand years...

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PENGUIN CLASSICS

The Epic of Gilgamesh

- You can buy the book today...the author is unknown

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- 5. Astronomy and Mathematics.



- Literacy led to a rapid expansion of knowledge, with an extreme devotion to math and astrology, both of which were critical for agriculture. (**Black tablet has Zodiac Signs**)

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- Knowledge of astrology helped prepare accurate calendars which enabled people to chart seasonal weather patterns.



- This allowed for optimum planting and harvesting periods.

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- Mesopotamian scientist also divided the year into twelve months, and divided an hour into sixty minutes, each composed of sixty seconds.

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- It is clear that Mesopotamia deeply influenced the development of people for generations.



- Their power was projected to foreign lands...the best known cases involved Hebrews, Israelites and the beginning of **Monotheism**.

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- **Monotheism** - The belief in the existence of one god.



- Monotheism is characteristic of the **Abrahamic** religions, (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)

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- **Hebrews** – Speakers of the ancient Hebrew language, a speech associated with modern Judaism.



- The early Hebrews were Nomads who inhabited lands between Mesopotamia and Egypt.

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- Many Hebrews settled in large Mesopotamian cities...Ur, Urk, Babylon



- According to ancient religious text (Old Testament) the Hebrew Patriarch Abraham came from the Sumerian city of Ur.

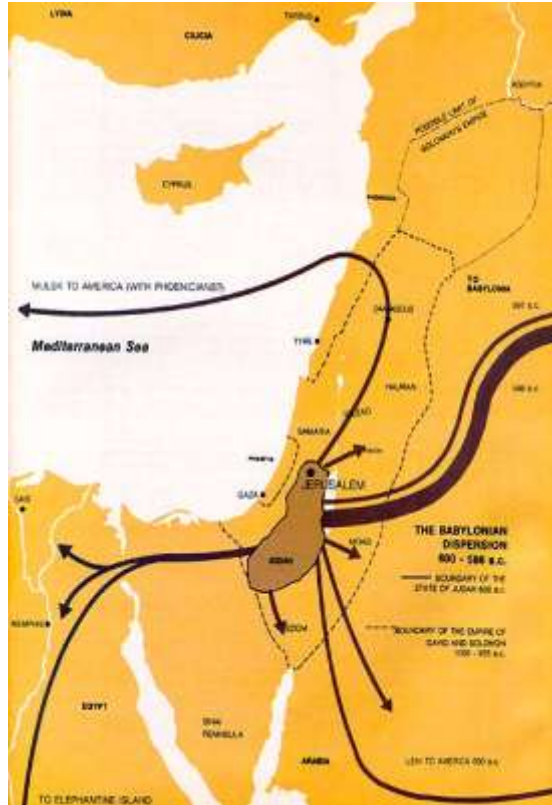
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- Abrahams descendents recognized many deities, values and customs common to the Mesopotamian people.



- Hebrew law actually borrowed heavily from Hammurabi's Code.

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- Hebrew scripture tells of migrations from Palestine to Egypt in about 1300 B.C.E... and later a return from Egypt to Palestine with the guidance of Moses.

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- Upon their return to Palestine these Hebrews were organized into a loose federation of twelve tribes known as Israelites.



- They fought bitterly with other inhabitants of Palestine and carved out a territory for themselves.

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- Eventually the Israelites abandoned their tribal structure in favor of a Mesopotamian style Monarchy.



- During the reigns of King David and King Solomon the Israelites dominated this land and built the broad-based city of Jerusalem.

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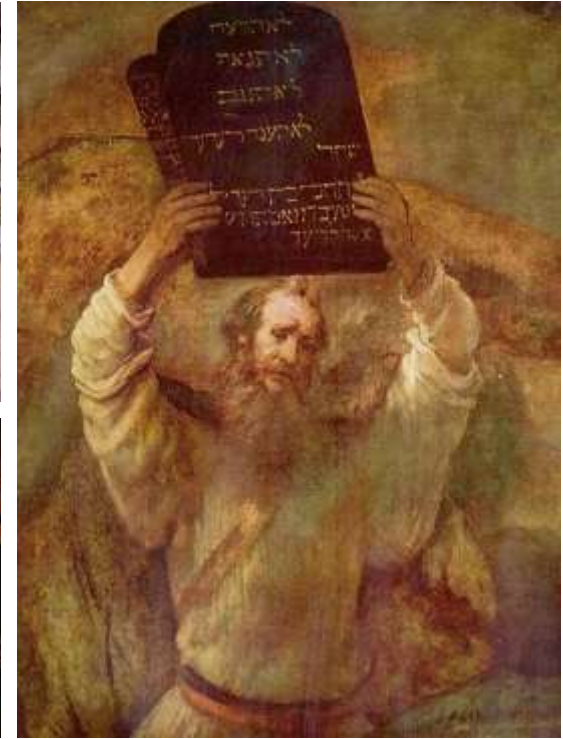
- After the time of Moses the Israelites religious beliefs developed along distinct lines...remember the Hebrews embraced multiple deities.



- Moses embraced monotheism... he taught that there was one God known as Yahweh (YAH-way)

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- Yahweh expected his followers to worship him alone, and demanded that they observe high moral and ethical standards.



- The Ten Commandments set up religious principals that warned against destructive behavior such as lying, theft, adultery and murder.

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- Between 1000 and 400 B.C.E. the Israelites' religious leaders compiled their teachings into a set of holy scriptures known as the Torah (Old Testament).



- This laid down Yahweh's laws and outlined his role in creating the world and guiding human affairs.

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- By placing their devotion on a monotheistic religion the Israelites experienced a series of military a political setbacks.



- Tensions, wars, and political issues for centuries have caused the areas of Palestine and Israel to endure constant struggle.

Current Issues in Israel

- **The Gaza–Israel** conflict is an ongoing dispute within the frame of the long term **Israeli–Palestinian** conflict, currently happening in the territory of the Gaza Strip and Southern Israel.



- The **Israeli–Palestinian** is the ongoing struggle between Israelis and Palestinians that began in the mid 20th century...religious at its core.

Current Issues in Israel



Current Issues in Israel

- Isis is currently operating in this area and all over northern Africa and the Middle East...destroying historical relics from thousands of years ago.



- Their reasoning...they represent false idols and need to be purged from the earth.

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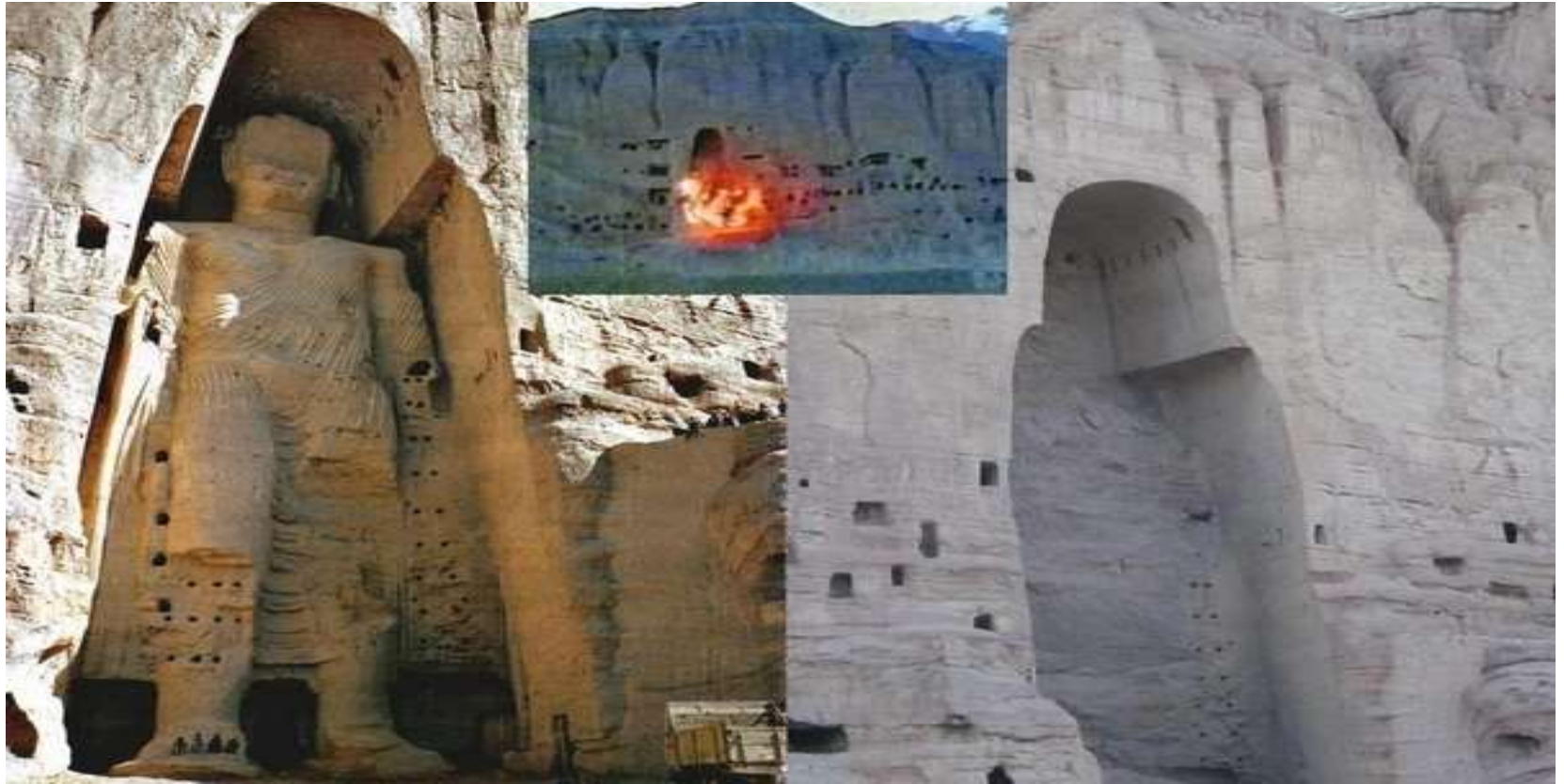


- Our history is being destroyed by Isis or sold off to fund their terroristic war...



- Before and after Isis...Roman Empire arch in Northern Africa

Current Issues in Israel



● Before and after Isis...Roman Empire arch in Northern Africa