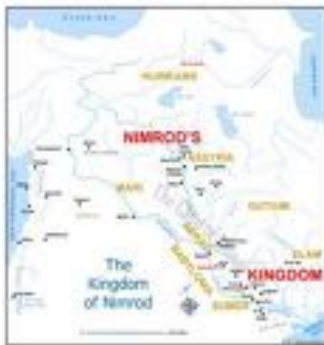


Jonah 01 – Discovering Jonah’s World

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Introduction

Bible Timeline Post-Diluvian



- Nimrod, at Haran, develops prototype world kingdom
- God “scatters” them, as groups, from this center
- This prototypical kingdom is copied in some form in subsequent the kingdoms

Bible Timeline History



- Nimrod built Nineveh, Babylon later, as waters receded due to Ice Age
- Other groups moved into different areas
- Each group *reinterpreted* Nimrod’s god-man rule

Bible Timeline (PreHistory-Man's)



- These "civilizations" adapted Nimrod's forming cultures
 - Each culture est. truth by altering God's truth
- Each ethnos adapted truth according to their worldview

Bible Timeline (Copper Age)



- Three Early Kingdoms
 - Sumer - First, small
 - Akkadian - Sargon I
 - Egypt (Old Kingdom)
 - Built the "Pyramids"
 - Longest surviving "old" kingdom until Greeks conquered them

Modern Man labeled ancient man's history based on war technology - Insightful

Bible Timeline (Bronze Age)



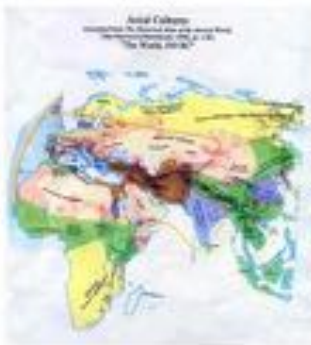
- Assyria forms from people in Nineveh region
- Assyria was weak during this period dominated by Mitannis then Hittites
- Ashur capital city named for main god

Bible Timeline (Iron Age)



- Ashur required Assyria to expand or be extinct
- Assyria expanded by her use of technology
- Assyria was the first kingdom to enter iron age

Axial Age - Period of Empires



- Axial Age (800-200 BC)
 - Assyria declined during Bronze Age collapse
 - During the Axial Age Assyria entered Bible history due to her interactions with the northern kingdom Israel

Major Cities of Assyria

- Ashur: Name of their god and first capital city
- Kalakh major city near Nineveh, later is capital
- Nineveh very ancient city; will be the capital after events in Jonah



Assyria's Civil Achievements

- Civil achievements support military achievements
 - Developed first centralized administration system
 - First known library was Nineveh
 - Developed Aramaic language - Replaced Akkadian
 - Recognized other nation's gods same as theirs with different names - adopted them into their pantheon to unite conquered peoples {All descended from Nimrod}

Assyria's Military Achievements

- Military achievements support expansionist demands
 - First to make iron weapons with better military tactics
 - Developed road system for trade and military usage
 - Siege engines to support attack against walled cities
 - Two-wheeled chariots with archer and driver/defender
 - Cavalry as independent units of attack
 - Deportation of upper classes who became Assyrian

Clausewitz - War Is Merely the Continuation of policy by Other Means

Masters of Fear

- Assyria known as fierce enemy not to be trifled, the conquered could expect: {Intimidation: War weapon}
 - Piercings of lips, limbs
 - Flayed or boiled alive with skins on display
 - Beheaded with heads on display
 - Women and Children sold into slavery
- Ashur, king as head of religion, demanded punishment

Importance of Assyria

- Through its strong influence Assyria brought many nomadic tribes under its leadership bringing stability
 - Stability brings growth in culture, trade, innovations which percolate throughout the region to other cultures
 - Common language facilitates trade and wealth
 - Trade brings influence from other cultures
 - The Law, being different, invited investigation by others

Assyria Leading to Jonah's Time

- Assyrian expansion into Syria during period of the Judges caused Syrians to flee through Israel to Egypt (Stripping the land like locusts) (1287-1243 BC) (Egypt's words)
- Jehu (Israel king) paid tribute to Shalmanesar III (860-830)
- Shalmanesar IV lost Syria - Assyria declines (791-781)
- Ashur-Nirari V weak king - Power of governors grow (762-754 BC)

Assyria in Flux

- Assyria not a monolithic unchanging empire but a dynamic empire in flux with periods of expansion and contraction in relation to external and internal events
- During Jonah's time Assyria was in confused state
 - Weak king internally and externally
 - Governors of provinces with major cities very powerful
 - Nineveh was the major city due to antiquity (Nimrod)

Assyria at its Zenith {After Jonah}

- Assyria is becomes the first major empire
- Many of its achievements were copied by later empires and used today



Assyria is not Syria?

- Because of the English similarity in names
 - Many Christians confused as to who is whom
 - Assyria and Syria fought which only wrought further confusion to modern Christians
 - Since many Christians pay on slight attention to the Old Testament Assyria is little regarded by most

Assyria Not in Daniel's Nations

- Because Assyria is not listed in Daniel's list of empires (Babylon, Persia, Hellenism, Roman) it is also not considered as important and thus little regarded
- Assyria did not control Judean territory as the four empires above
- It did control Israeli territory

Understanding History

- Normative hermeneutics requires some study of ancient history
 - Author's worldview
 - Problems author is addressing
 - Solutions, if any, author is proposing
 - Learning God's true message to those readers and to us
- Failure to understand history is to miss God's message

Jonah's International World

- This quick overview necessary to understand Jonah's world
 - Assyria brutal military power in temporary stagnation
 - Nineveh major city/province but not its capital
 - Repentance of Nineveh would not change Assyria
- Nineveh's repentance example to Assyria of truth of God {Judah's God}: Rejected with return to power

Assyria God's Tool for Israel

- Pul, governor of Kalakh, conquers Syria then deposes the king declaring himself king as Tiglath-Pileser III
- His successor, Shalmaneser V, conquers Israel
 - Israeli upper society deported - One priest returned (2K 17:24-40)
 - Upper classes from other lands imported into Israel
- Never a case for "Ten Lost Tribes" - Myth of RCC