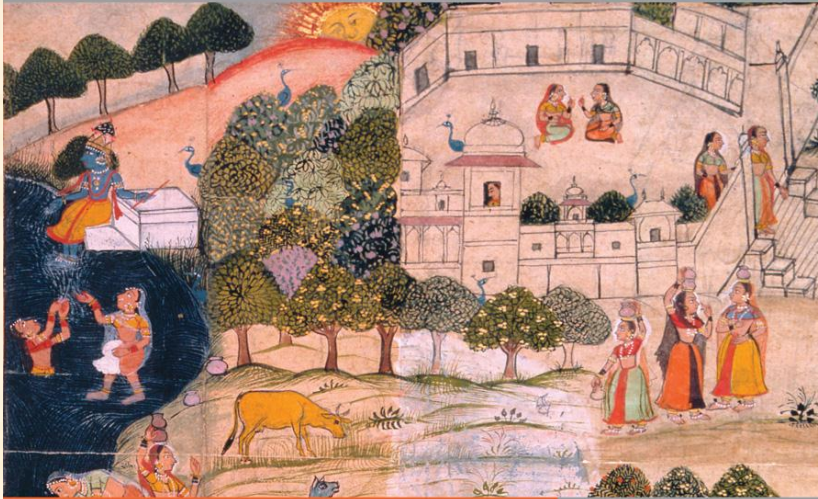


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

# WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



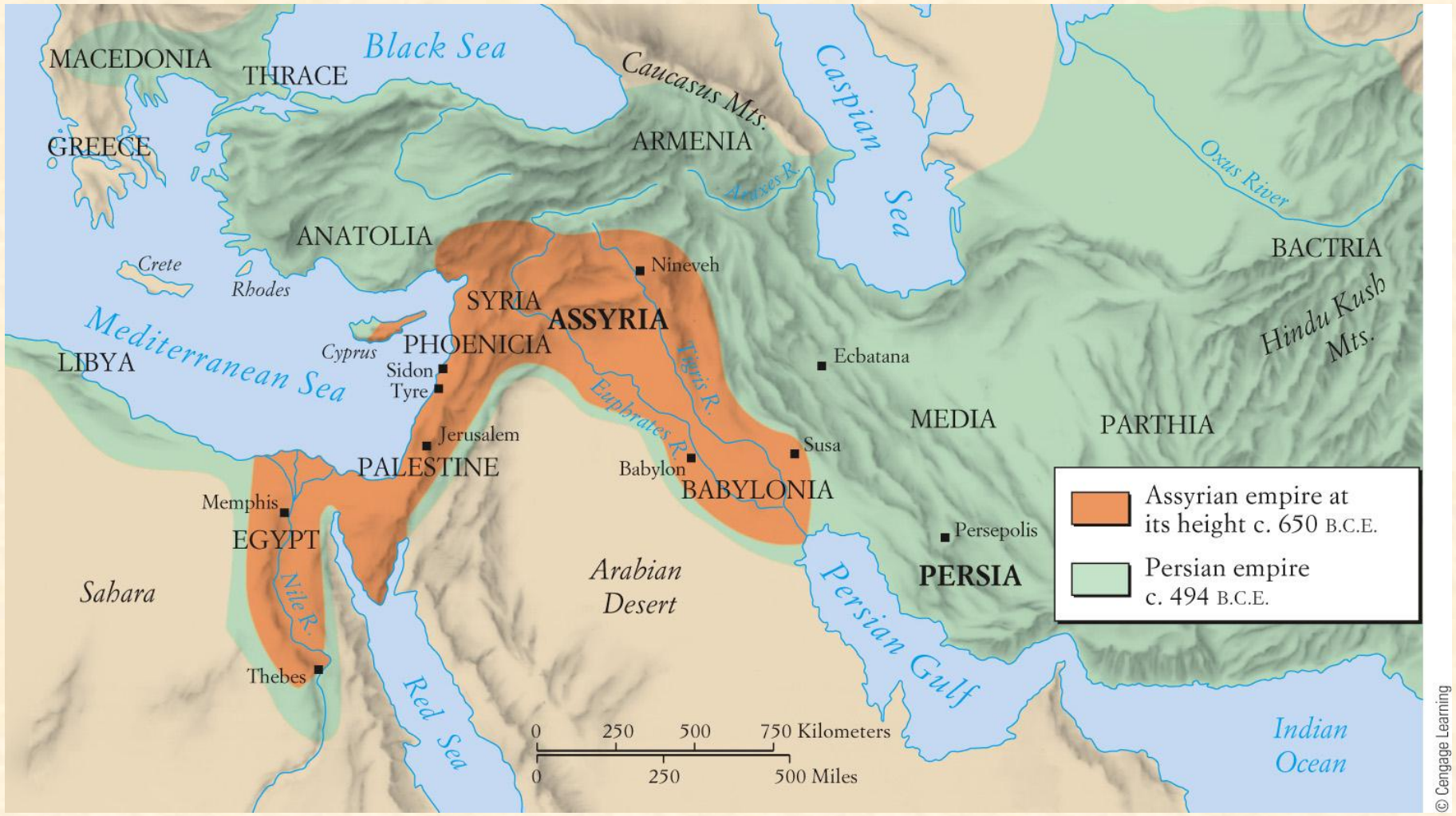
Seventh Edition

## Chapter 5 New Civilizations and Empires in Western and Central Asia

<b>1900s B.C.E.</b>	Hebrews leave Mesopotamia
<b>c. 1250 B.C.E.</b>	Hebrew Exodus from Egypt
<b>c. 1000 B.C.E.</b>	Hebrew Kingdom established; Phoenicians develop early alphabet
<b>c. 800 B.C.E.</b>	Assyrian Empire expands; Carthage founded by Phoenicians
<b>722 B.C.E.</b>	Assyrians conquer Samaria
<b>612 B.C.E.</b>	Fall of Nineveh/end of Assyrian Empire
<b>500s B.C.E.</b>	Establishment and expansion of Persian Empire
<b>586–539 B.C.E.</b>	Babylonian Captivity of the Jews

# Assyrian Empire (900-612 BCE)

- Dominant Semitic people in Upper Tigris River Valley by 900 BCE.
- By 800 BCE: Assyrians conquered Tigris-Euphrates region
  - Chief god was the fierce Assur
- Military advantages
  - tightly-knit well-armed infantry formations able to withstand chariots
  - Siege machinery
  - Terroristic tactics
- Empire reached from upper Tigris to central Egypt
- Conquered peoples united and overthrew Assyrians
  - Nineveh destroyed by 612 BCE
- Assurbanipal built largest library of ancient times
  - 20,000 volumes (clay tablets) have been recovered since early 1800s CE



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# Phoenicians

- Lived along coastal strip (present-day Lebanon)
- Great colonists, traders in luxury wares
  - Around Mediterranean and the Atlantic (coast of Britain)
  - Spread art of iron making
- Established colonies throughout western Mediterranean
  - Carthage (~800 BCE to 200 BCE)
- Most notable contribution was phonetic alphabet, 1000 BCE
  - System of 22 marks (“letters”)
  - Made literacy accessible to more people
  - Adopted by Greeks who added vowels



Zev Radovan/The Bridgeman Art Library



# Persians

Persia (present-day Iran) during 500 BCE – 500 CE

Situated on a high arid plateau

Central point on the Silk Road

Iranian nomadic groups who emigrated south, 1500-1000 BCE

- Indo-Europeans related to Aryans of India
- Achieve dominance due to cavalry tactics
- Adopt agricultural, sedentary, civilized life



# Achaemenid Persian Empire

## Cyrus the Great

- United Persians in mid-sixth century BCE overcoming Medes
- Extended domain: Indus to Mediterranean from 559-530 BCE
- Son Cambyses extends to Arabia, Egypt
- Main cities included Susa, Persepolis, Ecbatana
- Government: umbrella sheltering many different peoples
  - Under supervision of “King of Kings” at Persepolis
- Subjects allowed to keep customs, laws
  - Under Persian supervisors (satraps) ruling provinces (satrapies)
- Local authorities stayed in power
- Religious Tolerance





# Achaemenid Persian Empire

## Zoroastrianism

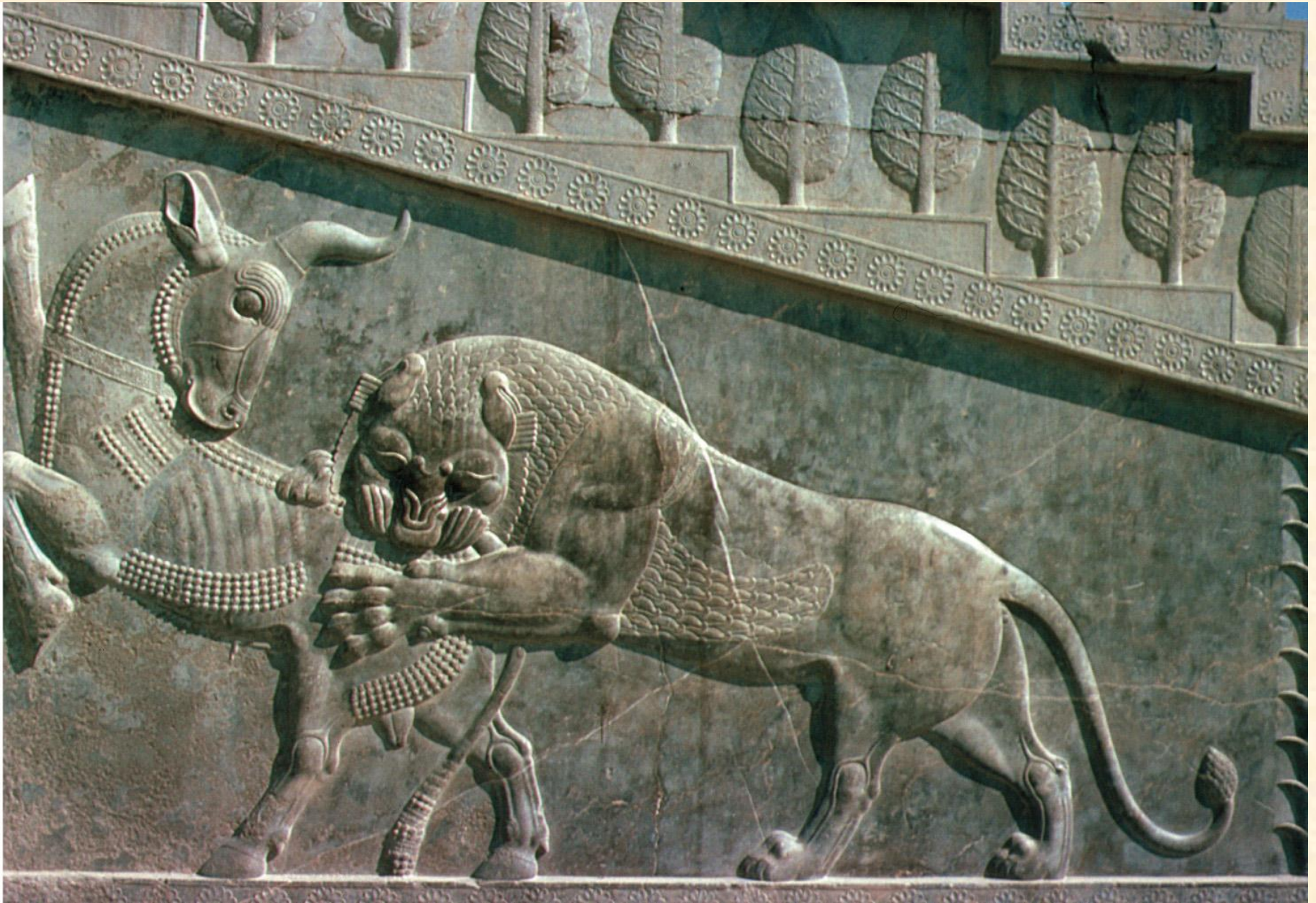
- Ethical monotheistic religion
- Conflict between good and evil
  - Ahuramazda (God) vs. Ahriman (Devil)
  - Ultimate triumph of good
  - Human free will
  - Judgment Day, heaven and hell
- Importance of the priesthood
  - Veneration of the fire



# Achaemenid Persian Empire

Darius I (522-486 BCE)

- Empire reached largest size
- Failed attempt to conquer Greece
- Uniform coinage, calendar
- Advanced law code





# Hebrews

- Most knowledge comes from Tanakh
- Story of Abraham leading people from wilderness into the land of Canaan coincides with archaeological evidence of semitic migrations from 2000 BCE to 1500 BCE
- Subsequent migration into Nile Valley
- Exodus from Egypt (13<sup>th</sup> c. BCE)
  - Eventual return to Canaan
  - Conflicts with Canaanites, Philistines
- 1000 BCE, King Saul, set up kingdom in Canaan with lieutenant and successor, David
- David conquered Jerusalem – Hebrew's capital city



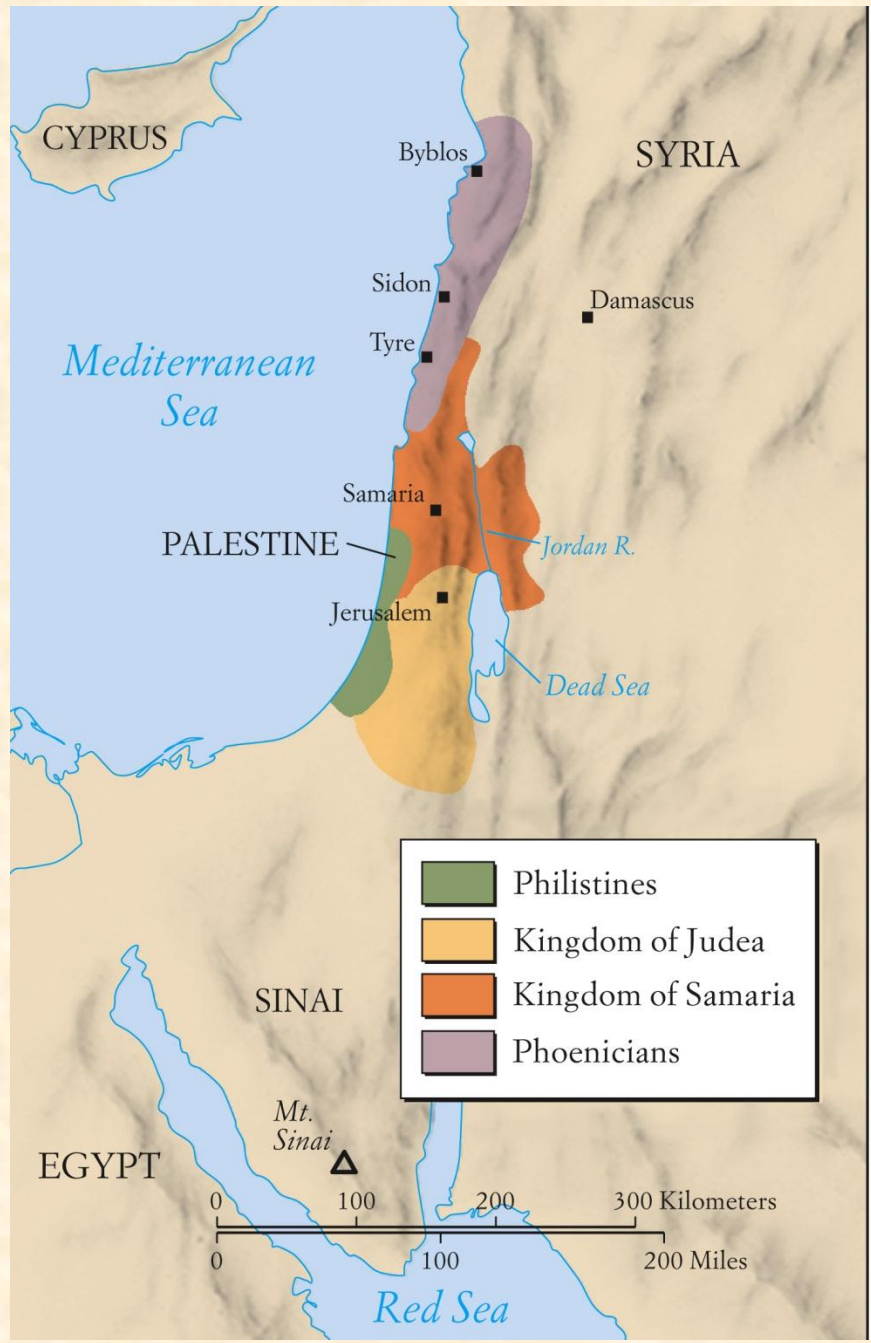
# Hebrews

- King Solomon (973-935 BCE)

Kingdom became trading intermediaries between Mesopotamians and Egypt

Temple of Jerusalem built

- Revolt against successor split kingdom into Kingdom of Judah and Kingdom of Israel (Samaria)
- First Diaspora
  - Kingdom of Israel ends in 722 BCE after failed rebellion against Assyrian overlords
    - Mass deportation of Ten Lost Tribes
  - Judeans ruled by Assyrians to 612 BCE
  - Rose up against Babylonians and defeated, 586 BCE
    - Babylonian Captivity 586-539 BCE
    - Temple demolished
  - Judea comes under Persian rule until Alexander the Great conquered the area (330s BCE)



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# Jewish Religious Belief and its Evolution

- Yahweh (Jehovah) chief deity of the Hebrews becomes the only god of the Jews.
- Jews bound to Yahweh by the Covenant said to have been given through Moses
  - Faithfulness to it would assure prosperity
- Rules Yahweh gave to Moses:
  - Ten Commandments chief among them.
- Along with Zoroastrianism. one of earliest attempts to link ethics, worship
  - Yahweh as enforcer of correct ethical actions
    - Evil would be punished

*Inscription*

*Darius*

*Chariot driver*

*Ahura mazda*



*Dead lion*

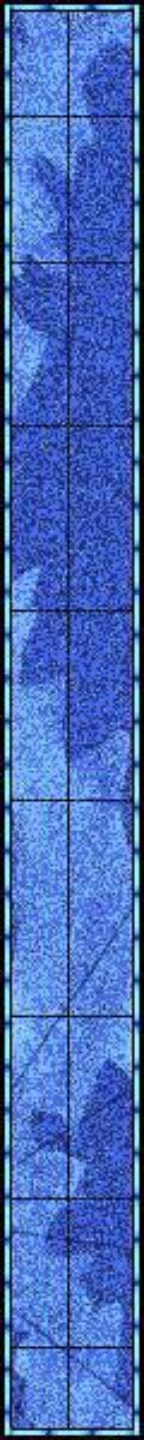


*Chariot driver*

*Assyrian King Assurbanipal*



*Spearmen push away the lion*



# Economic Change and Social Customs

- Jews were mostly minor players in economic affairs, politics
  - Division into two kingdoms weakened both
  - Frequent, expensive wars followed
- Made transition from nomadic herders (Abraham, Saul) to town life
- Social tension between rich and poor appeared
  - Prophets of 700s-400s BCE repeatedly called for “social justice”



# Economic Change and Social Customs

- Yahweh, a male deity
- Women
  - Marriage, divorce reflected patriarchy
  - Male polygamy allowed
  - Wife married into husband's family, moved into his house
  - Retained separate property rights
  - Divorce easy for husband, unusual for wife
  - Adultery defined by marital status of the woman
- Children the key reason for marriage
  - Boys shared inheritance, girls did not
  - Education carried out within family

# A Changing Theology

- Concept of Yahweh changed over time
- Long spiritual crisis during Babylonian Captivity
  - Hope for triumph over enemies NOT realized
- New interpretation of the Covenant (the Talmud)
  - Not only was Yahweh the only god, He was the universal god of all
  - He was just and merciful, omnipotent and omniscient
- Granted Man free will, thus allowing principle of evil to appear
- Last Judgment concept
- Yahweh became a PERSONAL deity
  - Could be prayed to directly
  - Actions were not impulsive or unpredictable
  - Relationship between God and Man is meant to be one of mutual love

# A Changing Theology

- Messianic Hope
  - Belief in a king from the line of David who would redeem the Jews from captivity and restore the Kingdom of Israel
- Disbelief in Jesus because he spoke of a kingdom “not of this earth”
- Zealots unwilling to bend before any nonbeliever,
- Tension: Jewish nation and Roman overlords:
  - Zealots rebelled against Romans
  - Their defeat led to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Diaspora
- National badge of distinction: belief in their identity-the Chosen
- Relationship between the deity and his creations:
  - mutually dependent, ethical, and just
  - merciful on the Lord’s side; submissive but not slavish on Man’s side
- The mold for the evolution of Christianity

וידבר אל זכריה בלבוש את הכהן על  
 על הידור האחדות דאת זכריה ואת לוה חודש  
 ואמר אשר לפני ה' יקרא שמו  
 בשקדו על בורח היצק אשר חודשו אל את  
 על דיו זכריה עבדו העבד ברא עיר חון  
 לביטח וטח לקח ולוא וטב  
 פשרו אשר יגרוך הקן האחרון וזר על כול  
 אשר יצרו העבדים ברא דיו אל לחמיה  
 את העבדים חכו לו ברא ברא וברא ולוא  
 פשרו על אנשו האבת  
 ואחר  
 עושה התורה אשר לוא ידעו וידעו בעצרת  
 זדאבת בדישק על זוחם הקן האחרון ברא  
 כול קוץ אל וצוא לתנען נאשר הקן  
 על עירם חנה עושה לוא וישקו  
 פשרו אשר זכריה וזכריה  
 יאמר בראשית

והנה אמר וזכור את הונם עני כול שלום  
 בראת חונם ואשר אשר על ג' זכור לחנני  
 וזכור לפשרו בראו אשר חכו  
 זכריה לאתותם וכלי מלחמותם חכה X  
 פיראם ברא בראת שכן חלקו וצאכיו ברא  
 פשרו אשר חנה פחלקום את עולם ואת  
 כסם פאכים על כול העצמים שנה בשנה  
 לחשוב ארצות דברת על כן וזכור חרבו תכיר  
 לחונם ואת ולוא וחצי  
 פשרו על דכרתו אים אשר זכריה רכסם כריב  
 נשדום אשרים וזקעם נשום וסוף ועל כרי  
 כמן לוא וידעו על כשפרות אעבודו X  
 ואטעבוד על פשרו ואבת לראת כח וידעו  
 ת כחות וועב פפג  
 על חלוחות לפעו חנני

פארו על כול עו  
 זכריה אל פצות  
 בפדיוו היצק  
 יצח אשר חרין  
 וזכריה חלו כול  
 חלוא כולם כול  
 וזכריה חון חכר  
 עבדום  
 נקרא על שם חן  
 צושראל דין לב  
 חון חננו וזקן  
 זחון עבדתי לקן  
 ח חבת כני צנ  
 ח חן וזכריה  
 כ חנה שלוחת

פארו עני כול שלום  
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 על חלוחות לפעו חנני

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel/The Bridgeman Art Library



# Summary

Key Empires of the first millennium BCE included

- Assyrians-with their efficient but brutal military
- Phoenicians-known for the invention of the Alphabet
- Persian Empire-who brought peace and progress to much of the Near East

Rise of ethical monotheism

- Zoroastrianism
- Judaism