

CHAPTER 2—THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST: PEOPLES AND EMPIRES

ESSAY

1. What part did the Hebrew Bible, Hebrew law, and the prophets play in the development of Hebrew religion and society?

ANS:

2. How did the Hebrew state and religion differ from earlier Near Eastern states and religions? How were they the same?

ANS:

3. Discuss the role of the husband/father, wife/mother, and the sons and daughters in the Hebrew family.

ANS:

4. What were the major turning points in Hebrew history, and why?

ANS:

5. To what extent did other Near Eastern peoples and societies influence Hebrew culture?

ANS:

6. Compare and contrast the administrative structure and attitudes toward subject peoples of the Assyrian and Persian empires.

ANS:

7. Examine and describe the relationship in Assyrian society between religion and empire.

ANS:

8. Identify Zoroaster. How were his teachings unique? Relate his beliefs to the development of Persian religion.

ANS:

9. What influence, if any, might Zoroastrianism have on later Judaism and Christianity?

ANS:

10. Discuss the political and cultural achievements of Cyrus and Darius.

ANS:

IDENTIFICATIONS

1. Canaan

ANS:

2. Hebrews

ANS:

3. monotheism

ANS:

4. Moses

ANS:

5. Hebrew Bible

ANS:

6. the Exodus

ANS:

7. Yahweh

ANS:

8. Saul

ANS:

9. David

ANS:

10. Solomon

ANS:

11. the Temple

ANS:

12. Jerusalem

ANS:

13. prophets

ANS:

14. the Pentateuch

ANS:

15. Torah

ANS:

16. the Divided Kingdom

ANS:

17. the Assyrians and the kingdom of Israel

ANS:

18. Babylonian captivity of the Jews

ANS:

19. the covenant

ANS:

20. Phoenicians

ANS:

21. Byblos, Tyre, and Sidon

ANS:

22. Phoenician alphabet

ANS:

23. Assyrians

ANS:

24. Tiglath-Pileser I

ANS:

25. Ashurbanipal and Sennacherib

ANS:

26. Nimrud and Nineveh

ANS:

27. Ashur

ANS:

28. Chaldeans and Medes

ANS:

29. Neo-Babylonian Empire

ANS:

30. Nebuchadnezzar II

ANS:

31. Hanging Gardens of Babylon

ANS:

32. Persians

ANS:

33. Achaemenid dynasty

ANS:

34. Ishtar Gate

ANS:

35. Cyrus the Great

ANS:

36. Herodotus

ANS:

37. Cambyses II

ANS:

38. Darius

ANS:

39. Susa and Persepolis

ANS:

40. satrapy

ANS:

41. the Royal Road

ANS:

42. the "king's eye"

ANS:

43. Zoroaster

ANS:

44. Ahuramazda

ANS:

45. Magi

ANS:

46. the *Zend Avesta*

ANS:

47. Ahriman

ANS:

48. Mithra

ANS:

49. patriarchal

ANS:

50. ethical dualism

ANS:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The tradition of the Hebrews states that they were descendants of the patriarch ____ who had migrated from Mesopotamia to the land of Palestine.
- Adam
 - Noah.
 - Abraham.
 - Moses.
 - David.

ANS: C REF: p. 34

2. Scholars agree that between ____ and ____ B.C., the Israelites emerged as a distinct group of peoples who established a united kingdom known as Israel.
- 3000 and 2500
 - 2500 and 2000
 - 1800 and 1500
 - 1200 and 1000
 - 600 and 400

ANS: D REF: p. 34

3. Moses united the Israelites after the Egyptian bondage by putting them under the protection of a new national god named
- Moloch
 - Yahweh
 - Baal
 - Jesus
 - Allah

ANS: B REF: p. 36-37

4. The founder of the Kingdom of Israel (1000-970 B.C.) was the military hero
- Ezra
 - Joshua
 - Solomon
 - David
 - Saul

ANS: D REF: p. 34-36

5. Solomon's most revered contribution to the Hebrew society was to
- centralize royal power along the lines of Mesopotamian despotism.
 - divide the Hebrew tribes into two separate political kingdoms.
 - decentralize royal power and spread it among the 12 Hebrew tribes.
 - construct the Temple, the symbolic center of the Hebrew religion and society.
 - receive the Ten Commandments from God.

ANS: D REF: p. 35

6. After the death of Solomon, tensions between the northern and southern tribes led to the establishment of two kingdoms, the kingdom of ____ and the kingdom of ____.
- Palestine and Judea
 - Canaan and Palestine

- c. Palestine and Judea
- d. Israel and Palestine
- e. Israel and Judah

ANS: E REF: p. 35

7. The destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and the Babylonian Captivity of the Hebrews occurred at the hands of the
- a. Chaldeans.
 - b. Assyrians.
 - c. Philistines.
 - d. Persians.
 - e. Sea Peoples.

ANS: A REF: p. 36

8. All of the following are true of the Hebrew conception of God except
- a. he was the creator of but not an inherent part of nature.
 - b. all peoples of the world were subject to him.
 - c. that he would punish those not following his will.
 - d. there was no room for personal relationships with him, as his word was law.
 - e. he was a just and good God.

ANS: D REF: p. 36

9. The Hebrew religion
- a. believed in two gods, both named Yahweh.
 - b. was an ethical religion centered around the law of God.
 - c. taught there was covenant between the Hebrews and Ahurmazda.
 - d. was dualistic under the guise of monotheism.
 - e. all the above

ANS: B REF: p. 36

10. The Hebrew prophets
- a. were considered by the Hebrews to be the voice of Yahweh.
 - b. often served as judges in the Hebrew courts.
 - c. attempted to foretell the future for the Hebrew military leaders.
 - d. were caretakers of the Ark of the Covenant.
 - e. were members of the elite upper class.

ANS: A REF: p. 37

11. The Hebrew Bible
- a. differs fundamentally from the Torah and the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.
 - b. focuses on the basic theme of the necessity of the Hebrews to obey their God.
 - c. related only the words of the prophets and tells us little about Hebrew daily life.
 - d. tells little about the history of the Hebrews before the Babylonian Captivity.
 - e. was written in Aramaic.

ANS: B REF: p. 36

12. The words of the Hebrew prophets
- a. promoted universalism by stating that all nations would one day worship the God of Israel.
 - b. proclaimed that Israel would rise again from the ashes of conquest.
 - c. advocated social justice by condemning the rich for mistreating the poor.

- d. encouraged a separation between Jews and non-Jews
- e. all of the above

ANS: E REF: p. 38-39

13. Many scholars today
- a. believe the Hebrew Bible is a completely accurate historical record.
 - b. contend that the Hebrew Bible was originally written down in the fifth century A.D.
 - c. doubt that the early books of the Hebrew Bible reflects the true history of the Israelites.
 - d. argue that the Hebrew Bible was first written in Greek.
 - e. claim that none of the Hebrew Bible was written before the era of the Roman Empire.

ANS: C REF: p. 34

14. Which of the following was not part of the Hebrew religious tradition?
- a. the law
 - b. the revelation
 - c. the covenant
 - d. the prophets
 - e. monotheism

ANS: B REF: p. 36-37

15. The greatest international sea traders of the ancient Near East were the
- a. Sea Peoples.
 - b. Phoenicians.
 - c. Carthaginians.
 - d. Philistines.
 - e. Canaanites

ANS: B REF: p. 40

16. The Phoenicians' contributions to the ancient Near East included all but
- a. the founding of the colony of Carthage.
 - b. a simplified alphabet and system of writing.
 - c. the establishment of trading stations throughout the Mediterranean.
 - d. their defeat and destruction of the Hebrew's twelve tribes.
 - e. distribution of Egyptian papyrus throughout the Mediterranean.

ANS: D REF: p. 40 MSC: *new

17. All of the following are correct about Byblos except:
- a. It was an Egyptian commercial center.
 - b. It was a Phoenician port city.
 - c. It was a distribution center for Egyptian papyrus.
 - d. The Greek word for book is derived from its name.
 - e. It was located in ancient Palestine.

ANS: A REF: p. 40

18. The Assyrians are important in history for their innovations in
- a. empire building.
 - b. urban architecture.
 - c. trade and commerce.
 - d. fine art and literature.
 - e. religion.

ANS: A REF: p. 41

19. All of the following were Assyrian kings except for
- Sennacherib.
 - Ashur.
 - Ashurbanipal.
 - Tiglath-Pileser.
 - Shalmaneser III.

ANS: B REF: p. 41-48

20. Which of the following statements best describes the Assyrian government?
- a limited monarchy, where the king's power was checked by an assembly
 - a theocracy, where the priests of the temple had the real power
 - an aristocracy, with the landed nobility possessing political power
 - an oligarchy, with the aristocracy having the major say in government
 - the king's power was absolute; they were vicars of the Assyrian god Ashur

ANS: E REF: p. 41 | p. 43

21. All of the following helped make Assyria an efficient military machine except for
- iron weapons.
 - terrorist actions.
 - humane treatment of prisoners.
 - superior, diversified tactics.
 - ruthless leaders.

ANS: C REF: p. 41-43

22. Assyrian kings organized their empire more effectively by
- increasing the power of local noble governors.
 - reducing the numbers of royal officials.
 - were middlemen in the international trade of the era.
 - concentrating their resources on internal economic development rather than on military spending.
 - encouraging religious toleration in order to prevent religious uprisings by non-Assyrians.

ANS: B REF: p. 41

23. The Assyrian army was able to conquer and maintain an empire due to its
- ability to use diversified military tactics.
 - avoidance of siege warfare.
 - lenient treatment of rebellious subjects.
 - Assyria's naturally protected boundaries.
 - reliance exclusively upon massive armies of infantry soldiers.

ANS: A REF: p. 42

24. The Assyrians' use of terror tactics and atrocities
- were used universally on all captured prisoners.
 - especially targeted inhabitants of the empire who rebelled against Assyrian rule.
 - were used to make up for an absence of an intelligence network.
 - prevented foreign cultures from mixing with the Assyrian population.
 - was quickly abandoned as unworkable.

ANS: B REF: p. 43

25. Assyrian society was well known for its
- assimilation of other cultures and development of a polyglot society.
 - manumission of slaves.
 - monumental cities.
 - monotheism.
 - monumental religious and burial structures.

ANS: A REF: p. 43

26. The relationship between the Assyrian king and his officials was based on
- fear.
 - loyalty.
 - money.
 - cult of personality.
 - coercion.

ANS: B REF: p. 41

27. The principal economic basis of Assyrian society was
- heavily irrigation-based farming.
 - agriculture based on farming villages.
 - international trade.
 - sea-based commerce.
 - manufacturing of luxury items.

ANS: B REF: p. 43

28. Assyrian art was primarily concerned with
- outshining the remnants of Sumerian and Babylonian culture.
 - illustrating the gods, especially Marduk.
 - glorifying the king, hunting, and war.
 - displaying the virtues of women and female priests.
 - showing the lives of ordinary Assyrian subjects.

ANS: C REF: p. 45

29. Nebuchadnezzar II accomplished all of the following except:
- the revision of the Persian law code.
 - rebuilding Babylon.
 - defeating the Assyrians.
 - building the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.
 - destroyed Judah and carried the population into exile.

ANS: A REF: p. 45

30. Which of the following statements is not true of the Chaldean Empire?
- Babylon was its great central city.
 - It was the longest-lasting of the great Near Eastern empires.
 - The Hanging Gardens was created in its time.
 - The people of the empire welcomed its fall to the Persians.
 - Nebuchadnezzar II was its most successful ruler.

ANS: B REF: p. 45

31. The Ishtar Gate sat outside the city of
- Byblos.
 - Jerusalem.
 - Babylon.
 - Tyre.
 - Sidon.

ANS: C REF: p. 45

32. The founder of the Persian Empire, who defeated Babylon and freed the Jews from captivity in 539 B.C., was
- Cyrus the Great.
 - Artaxerxes.
 - Cambyses.
 - Nebuchadnezzar II.
 - Solomon.

ANS: A REF: p. 46-48

33. The Persian Royal Road stretched from Sardis to the capital at
- Persepolis.
 - Byblos.
 - Athens.
 - Susa.
 - Ephess.

ANS: D REF: p. 46 | p. 47

34. The Persian Empire reached its largest territorial boundaries under
- Cyrus.
 - Darius.
 - Xerxes.
 - Cambyses.
 - Darius III.

ANS: B REF: p. 49

35. The Persian King Cyrus the Great was succeeded by his son
- Nebuchadnezzar II.
 - Darius.
 - Xerxes.
 - Cambyses II.
 - Zoroaster.

ANS: D REF: p. 48

36. Darius accomplished all of the following except
- building a canal that linked the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.
 - conquering Egypt.
 - creating a Persian province in western India.
 - conquering Thrace.
 - built a new Persian capital at Persepolis.

ANS: B REF: p. 48-49

37. The Persian king who undertook an invasion of the Greek mainland in the early fifth century was

- a. Cyrus.
- b. Cambyses.
- c. Zoroaster.
- d. Darius.
- e. Nebuchadnezzar.

ANS: D REF: p. 48

38. The Persian Empire's system of satrapies allowed for
- a. subject peoples to play a dominant role in civil administration.
 - b. a sensible system of collecting tribute based on an area's productive capacity.
 - c. noble offices to be filled by election rather than hereditary means.
 - d. widespread corruption by the satraps, who acted without the king's knowledge.
 - e. the enforcement of religious uniformity throughout the empire.

ANS: B REF: p. 49

39. Which of the following statements concerning the Persian kings is false?
- a. As he was considered a god, the king held the power of life and death over all subjects.
 - b. The Great Kings tended to become greedy and hoard their treasuries.
 - c. Events like the "king's dinner" were meant to demonstrate the luxurious power of the king.
 - d. The king's palace demonstrated the international flavor and wealth of the empire.
 - e. The Persian kings were relatively tolerant in matters of religion.

ANS: A REF: p. 49

40. The elite infantry of the Persian army were known as the?
- a. Immortals
 - b. Marines
 - c. Praetorian Guard
 - d. Assassins
 - e. Invisibles

ANS: A REF: p. 50

41. The weakening of the Persian Empire was largely attributed to
- a. a corrupt system of satraps that was never closely monitored by the king.
 - b. the constant erosion and diminishment of its standing army.
 - c. the kings' hoarding of wealth and over taxation of their subjects.
 - d. a lack of communication due to its vast size.
 - e. earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

ANS: C REF: p. 50

42. Which of the following statements about the Persian army is true?
- a. By the time of Darius, the army had disintegrated.
 - b. By the times of Darius, the army had seized control of the empire.
 - c. By the time of Darius, the army had become professionalized.
 - d. The army was less important than the navy.
 - e. The army was made up entirely of foreign mercenaries.

ANS: C REF: p. 50

43. Which of the following statements concerning Zoroastrianism is false?
- a. It was dualistic and monotheistic in nature.
 - b. It had few followers outside the Persian Empire.

- c. It did not include a final judgment or a last judgment among its beliefs.
- d. Its supreme deity was Ahuramazda.
- e. Eventually, it regressed into a type of polytheism.

ANS: C REF: p. 51

44. Zoroastrianism was
- a. monotheist (one god).
 - b. dualist (two gods).
 - c. polytheist (many gods).
 - d. atheist (no god).
 - e. agnostic (undecided)

ANS: A REF: p. 50-51

45. The central, sacred text of Zoroastrianism is the
- a. Talmud.
 - b. *Vedas*.
 - c. *Zend Avesta*.
 - d. prayers of Ashur.
 - e. *Bhagavad Gita*.

ANS: C REF: p. 50

46. In Zoroastrianism, the evil spirit was known as
- a. Avesta.
 - b. Ahriman.
 - c. Ahuramazda.
 - d. Mithra.
 - e. Vishnu.

ANS: B REF: p. 51

47. The sun god, who became a helper of Ahuramazda and later, in Roman times, the source of another religion, was
- a. Avesta.
 - b. Osiris.
 - c. Buddha.
 - d. Vishnu.
 - e. Mithra.

ANS: E REF: p. 51

48. The decline of the Hittites and Egyptians around 1200 B.C.
- a. brought an end to Near Eastern civilization.
 - b. created a power vacuum which allowed several small states to emerge and temporarily flourish.
 - c. allowed the Persians under Cyrus the Great to immediately establish an empire.
 - d. was caused by Assyrian conquest.
 - e. was caused by the conquests of David and Solomon.

ANS: B REF: p. 51

49. The most tolerant and efficient of the Near Eastern empires was the
- a. Egyptian.
 - b. Assyrian.

