WORLD HISTORY notes Day 3

Mesopotamian Civilizations

HITTITES – 1600 BC

* developed iron
* 3 man chariots

ASSYRIANS – 1300 BC

* Sennacherib
  + ruled during high point of empire
  + invaded Jerusalem
    - in Bible
    - God sent “Angel of the Lord” killed 185K – 2 Kings 19:35
  + later killed by his sons
    - biblical prophecy – 2 Kings 19:1-7
    - gain control of throne
* ruthless warriors
  + iron, horses, bows/arrows, very disciplined
  + extremely cruel
    - slaughtered, cut off noses/legs/tongues/hands
    - built mounds of skulls near defeated villages as reminder
    - ”iron horse”
    - nailed skins to walls
    - threw salt in wounds
    - tortured in public
    - sent captives away to lessen rebellion
* 1st to use cavalry
* built huge library at Nineveh
* latitude and longitude
* 360 degree circle

PHOENICIANS- 12OO BC

* excellent traders
  + spread culture throughout Mediterranean Sea
* used cedar
* Murex
  + purple dye
  + from small snail = phonix
* set up colonies
  + re-supply and protection from pirates
* 22 symbol alphabet

LYDIANS- 1200 BC

* + - 1st to develop “coined” money
    - Increased trade…no longer based just on bartering

CHALDEANS – 600 BC

* NEBUCHADNEZZAR
  + destroyed Jerusalem
    - In Bible (2 Kings 25)
    - brought thousands back to Babylon as slaves **(“**Babylonian Captivity**”)**
  + rebuilt Babylon
  + built 50’ wall around city
    - ”Hanging Gardens of Babylon”
      * built for wife = Amytis
      * she was homesick

PERSIANS – 550 BC

539 BC Cyrus defeated Chaldeans

* ”Cyrus Cylinder”
  + provides written history of Cyrus’ rule
  + records the defeat of Chaldeans and allowing Jews to return home
  + records that treatment of captives is very humane
  + referred to as world’s first “Declaration of Human Rights”

530 BC Cambyses stretched empire from Egypt to Indus River

522 BC Darius

* great organizer
* divided empire into satrapies
* placed satraps in charge
* “kings eyes and ears”
* strengthened infrastructure for trade, travel, military movement
  + ”Royal Road”
    - 1600 miles - station every 14 miles
    - travel empire in 1 week – like “**Pony Express**”
* treated captives respectfully – paid taxes / kept peace

Zoroastrianism

* forces of good/evil battle
  + people must choose
* in future, good would triumph