

Influencing the World

PALESTINE

❖ Home of three religions:
Judaism,

Christianity, Islam

❖ Originally inhabited by
Canaanites

➤ Walled cities; similar to
Mesopotamian culture;
polytheistic

❖ Canaanites forced north;
Phoenicians were their
descendants.



THE ANCIENT LAND OF PALESTINE

Most of our information
about the Hebrew
people comes from the
Bible.



HISTORICAL ROOTS

ABRAHAM:
LEFT UR OF THE CHALDEES
SEARCHED FOR THE PROMISED LAND
FATHER OF ISRAEL



ISRAELITES SETTLED IN EGYPT
ENSLAVED THERE
MOSES LED THEM TO FREEDOM.



LEADERS

- ❖ Kingdom **peaked** under **David** & **Solomon**
- ❖ Kingdom **split** under Solomon's sons
 - **Israel** (north) fell to Assyrians
 - Only **Judah** (south) remained
- ❖ Term "**Jew**" comes from "Judah"

A DIVIDED KINGDOM



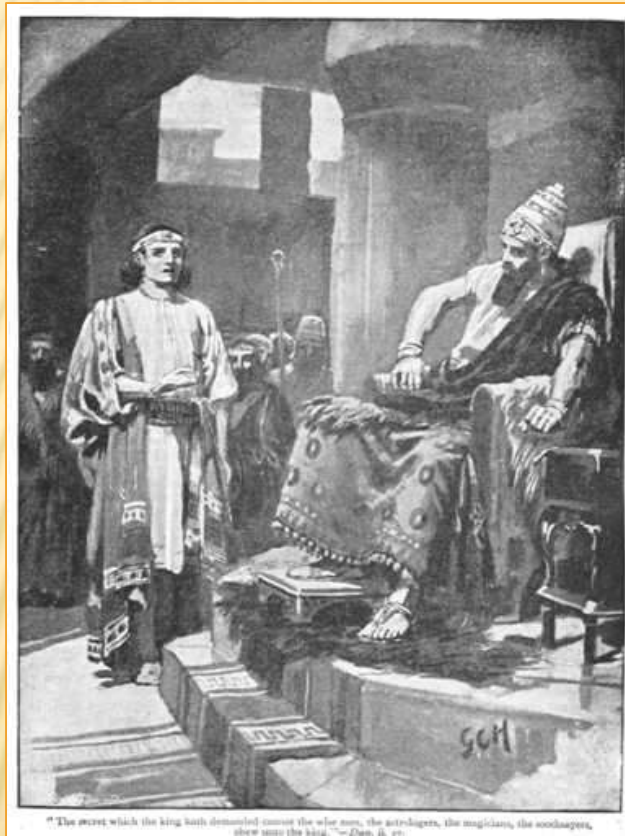
❖ **Nebuchadnezzar II** defeated Judah

- Neo-Babylonian king
- Destroyed Solomon's temple
- Jews taken into captivity



NEO-BABYLONIANS ATTACK ISRAEL

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAMS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR II



SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO IN THE FIRE



BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR II

- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed Solomon's temple
- ❖ Persians defeated Babylon; ended captivity
- ❖ Many Jews went home
- ❖ Cyrus, Darius: "Jews can rebuild walls, temple"
 - ❖ Ezra and Nehemiah



THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON

RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE

MONOTHEISTIC

- ❖ Belief in one, universal, all-powerful God
 - Creator and Ruler
 - Not a natural force
 - Not a “super-human”
 - Not a creature

GOD'S SUPREME POWER

- ❖ Omniscient
- ❖ Omnipresent
- ❖ All powerful (absolutely in control)
- ❖ Elevated beyond imagination

GOD'S RELATIONSHIP TO MAN

- ❖ Personally involved in the affairs of men
 - Covenant with Abraham
 - Chose Jews to be His people
 - Revealed His law to Moses

A HOLY GOD

- ❖ Severe but just
- ❖ Righteous Himself
- ❖ Sacrifice, ritual not enough; live righteous life
- ❖ Committed to man's salvation
 - Promise of the Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus