

## 2022-02-02 - Lecture 07

### 3.1 Aegean in the Bronze Age; Three Empires of War and Two Empires of Nations

- 1) **Five major ancient cities ::**
- 2) **Mycenae** (proto-Greek fortified city)
  - Pronunciation: **Mycenae** (mice-SEE-knee) **Mycenean** (mice-see-KNEE-en)
  - War-like people from mainland Greece dominated Aegean Sea **1600-1200 BCE**
  - Conquered Crete (Minoans)
  - Built on high, defensible rock outcrops, turning them into fortresses building on top
  - **Cyclopean** stonework - large unworked stones piled up with smaller stones between
  - Gave an impression that stones were hurled there by the monster *cyclops* of the *Odyssey*
  - **Lion's Gate at the citadel of Mycenae** - a main gate with a giant lintel with carved lions on top nuzzling a Minoan column (as you might have seen at Knossos). The surrounding masonry was ashlar in this area (not cyclopean) because the stones were worked into flat planes and right angles...
  - Mycenaeans developed a proto-Greek-temple called a **megaron**. The megaron was a primitive version of the refined Greek temple
  - Mycenaeans developed **beehive tomb** and the **dromos** (causeway) leading to it, both out of ashlar masonry. The beehive tomb was a **tholos** (type) that then was covered by earth to make a *cairn* or *tumulus*.
- 3) **Hattusha**
  - The war-like **Hittites** of central **Anatolia** (modern-day Turkey). Also **1600-1200 BCE**
  - Capital **Hattusha**
  - Hattusha also had a Lion's Gate
  - Fortified walls with towers and walls topped by **crenellation** or **battlements** that allowed defenders to shoot arrows through. The masonry parts that bumped up were **merlons**. The voided spaces between merlons were **crenels**.
  - Defensive feature called a **glacis** - an expanse of stone paving running uphill to make the going difficult and slippery for people attacking
  - Use of **apotropaic** symbolic carvings - in this case, human heads, men w beards on lion or bull bodies with wings. Apotropaic meaning: "to ward off evil"
- 4) **Dur-Sharrukin**
  - The capital city of the warlord **Sargon II - 700 BCE. An orthogonal city with a great ziggurat 160 feet tall with a spiral ramp.**
  - This **Sargon II** was 1600 years AFTER **Sargon the Great** (2300 BCE). More than 50 generations.
  - Dur-Sharrukin is now modern-day Iraq
  - These were **Neo-Assyrians**
  - The **apotropaic** carved guardian figures used at Dur-Sharrakin were called **shedus** (masculine) and **lamassu** (feminine)
  - Dur-Sharrukin employed **crowfoot parapets**. Stepped crenellation on the top of walls to help fortify (defenders could shoot arrows between the merlons)
  - Sargon II died and his son moved the capital away.... Dur-Sharrukin fell into ruin
- 5) **New Babylon**
  - **Nebuchadnezzar** ruled **New Babylon - 604-562 BCE** *An evil destroyer and tyrant*
  - *Laid Siege to Jerusalem in 597 BCE and again in 587 BCE when Jerusalem's Solomon's Second Temple on the Temple Mount was destroyed*
  - A city that took great pride in itself as the **Bond of Nations**
  - Famous for **Hanging Gardens of Babylon** (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World)
  - Also famous for its **Ishtar Gates** of blue tile (now in a German museum)
  - Nebuchadnezzar's palace guarded by **great shedus**
  - New Babylon's **Ziggurat of Entemenanki** (en-tem-e-nan-key) was 300 square at base and 320 feet tall (thought to be tallest structure in world at the time but Great Pyramid at Giza was actually taller)
  - Interesting that the word "temenos" is hidden inside of **Entemenanki** (**Entemenanki**) meaning a sacred precinct

Seven heights of the ziggurat represented the *Seven Heavens*

Nebuchadnezzar also rebuilt the ziggurat of Ur in the city of Ur as a way of affirming faith in the gods.

- Esagila Temple dedicated to the god Marduk
- Great Processions down the broad avenue through the Ishtar Gates to celebrate the concept that the *"invisible enemy should not exist."*
- *Babylon* had a very high opinion of itself as a free and happy place and the bond of nations, as well as its diverse and polyglot culture

6) **Persepolis**

- When Babylon fell... **Persepolis** rose - **518 BCE**. These were the Achaemenid (ah-KEY-muh-nid).
- Persepolis literally means "Persian city."
- Cyrus was first ruler (559 - 529 BCE) Capital at Passargadae.
- **Darius I** was the second ruler (**522 - 486 BCE**) builds capital at Persepolis
- An all-embracing empire that called itself the Gateway of all Nations, though it still had characteristics of tyranny and tribute.
- Even had a free-standing pavilion called the **Gateway of All Nations**
- **Grand stair with crowfoot parapets** was set up like a theatrical experience
- Great pomp and circumstance
- Guarded by the giant **shedus** sculptures
- Builders exhibited Greek, Egyptian, and Assyrian influence
- Giant **hypostyle halls** for showy public events. One called the Apadana (ah-pa-da-na).
- The **Bull Capital** on top of the columns was an inventive feature that sculpturally was very symbolic and decorative. The Bull Capital was ingenious — it cleverly allowed for the crossing of a large girder with a beam going at 90° on top of it (going through the bull's horns).