

2020-01-24 - Lecture 08

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)

- 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.

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
- 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 w 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.**
- Dur-Sharrukin is now modern-day Iraq
- These were **Neo-Assyrians**
- The **apotropaic** carved guardian figures used at Dur-Sharrukin were called **shedus**
- Dur-Sharrukin employed **crowfoot parapets**. Corbeled jagged additions to the tops of walls to help fortify (one could shoot bows between the corbels as they protected the defenders)
- The giant guardians were **shedus** (masculine) and **lamassu** (feminine)
- 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 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)

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 yet it cleverly allowed for cross structural beams to be secured above going in both directions.