

The 1st cities EVER



"THE FERTILE CRESCENT"

"LAND BETWEEN TWO RIVERS"

Many cultures rose + fell here (SUMER 1ST)

Each had gods, rulers; a social order

All polytheistic except HEBREWS

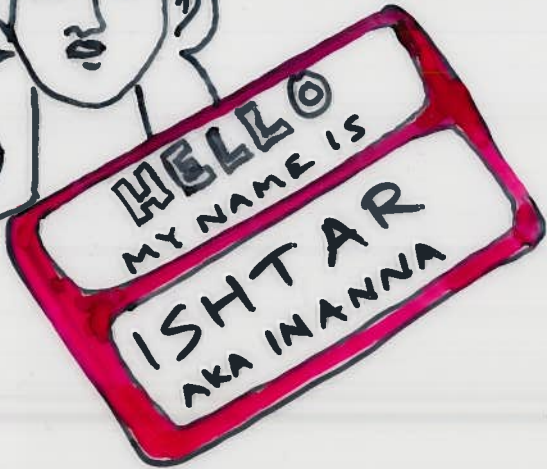
Crazy WEATHER AND FLOODS

Frequent attacks

What's polytheism?



THE GODS OF MESOPOTAMIA



LIKE THE CLIMATE
THEY ARE FIERCE



POLYTHEISM = MANY GODS

↑
EARLIEST
TEXTS SHOW
MOTHER GODDESSES

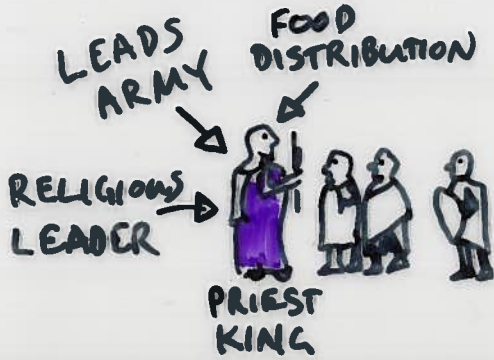


Whole PANTHEON
develops and
THERE IS A GOD
FOR EVERYTHING!

STORMS, RAIN, ARTS, WAR,
SUN, GRAIN and THE MOON!

SUMER

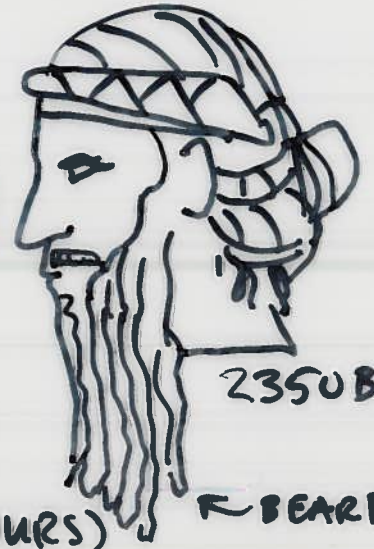
• RIVAL CITY STATES RULED BY PRIEST KINGS



THEOCRATIC RULERS

SARGON I

CREATES AN EMPIRE
(CONQUERS HIS NEIGHBOURS)



2350 BCE

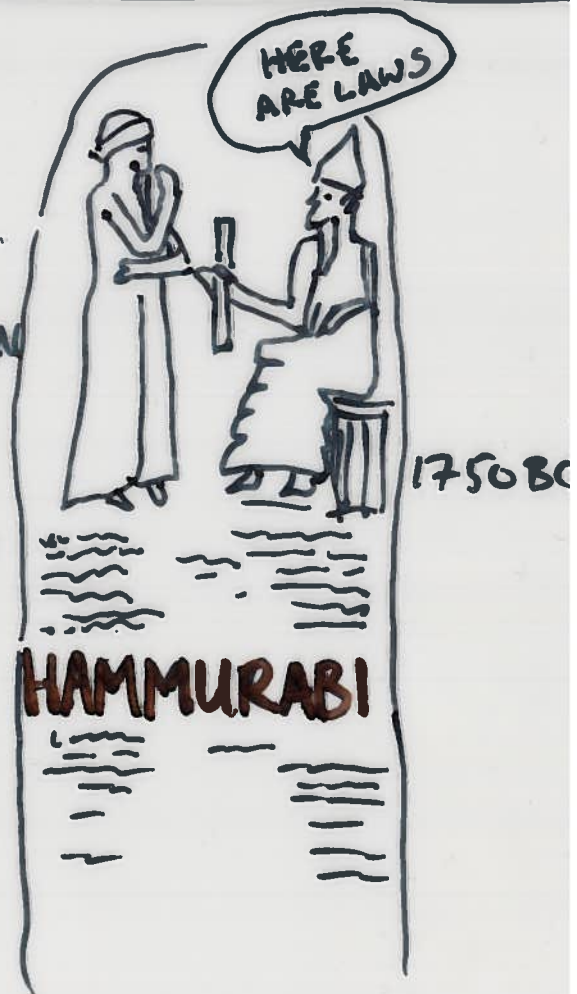
← BEARD!

FIGURE 1.6

SEE THE SOCIAL ORDER
(WHO DOES WHAT)
ON THE MOSAIC PANEL
THE "STANDARD OF UR"

READING 1.3
WHAT LAWS MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

BABYLONIAN KING
WRITES A LAW
CODE ON
A STELE



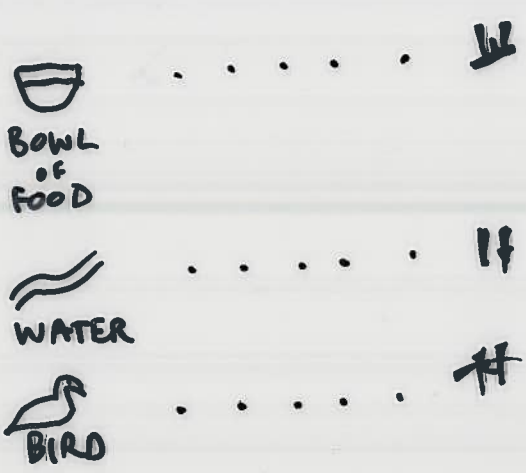
1750 BCE

HAMMURABI

WRITING INVENTED!

← WEDGE SHAPED MARKS PRESSED INTO WET CLAY

START WITH PICTURES → SIMPLIFY → CUNEIFORM



7500 BCE 3000 BCE

WE CAN READ ABOUT THEIR

- TRADE
- LAWS
- GODS + HEROES
- MYTHS

GILGAMESH!

METALLURGY (BRONZE) INVENTED TOO

BETTER TOOLS AND WEAPONS 4000 B.C.E.

WHEN IRON INVENTED ≈ 1000 B.C.E. IT IS ANOTHER LEAP FORWARD

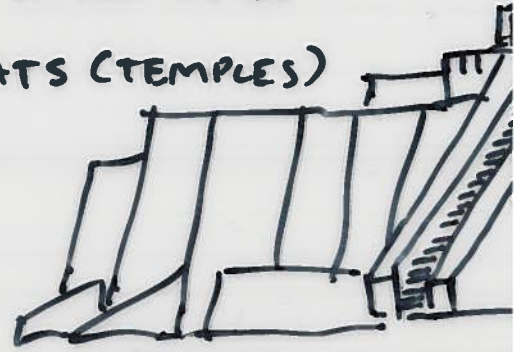
← CHECK PERSIANS AND ASSYRIANS

ART IN MESOPOTAMIA

• WEAPONS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, JEWELRY, HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS FOUND IN ROYAL TOMBS

• ZIGGURATS (TEMPLES)

Please don't smite us!



SHRINE



Please?
Please?

VOTIVE STATUETTES FROM TEMPLES 2900 B.C.E.

HEBREWS

MONOTHEISM ⇒ ONE GOD

very unusual
in ancient
world



FIND
MOST INFO
ABOUT THEM
HERE



ABRAHAM
HAS A
COVENANT
WITH
GOD
(YAHWEH)

MOSES
DELIVERS
THE
10
COMMANDMENTS

ETHICS
(DOING THE
RIGHT THING)
CENTRAL

KINGS SAUL, DAVID + SOLOMON



COMPARE HEBREW
LAWS WITH
HAMMURABI'S CODE

HOW ARE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS DIFFERENT
FROM THE OTHER HEBREW LAWS?