

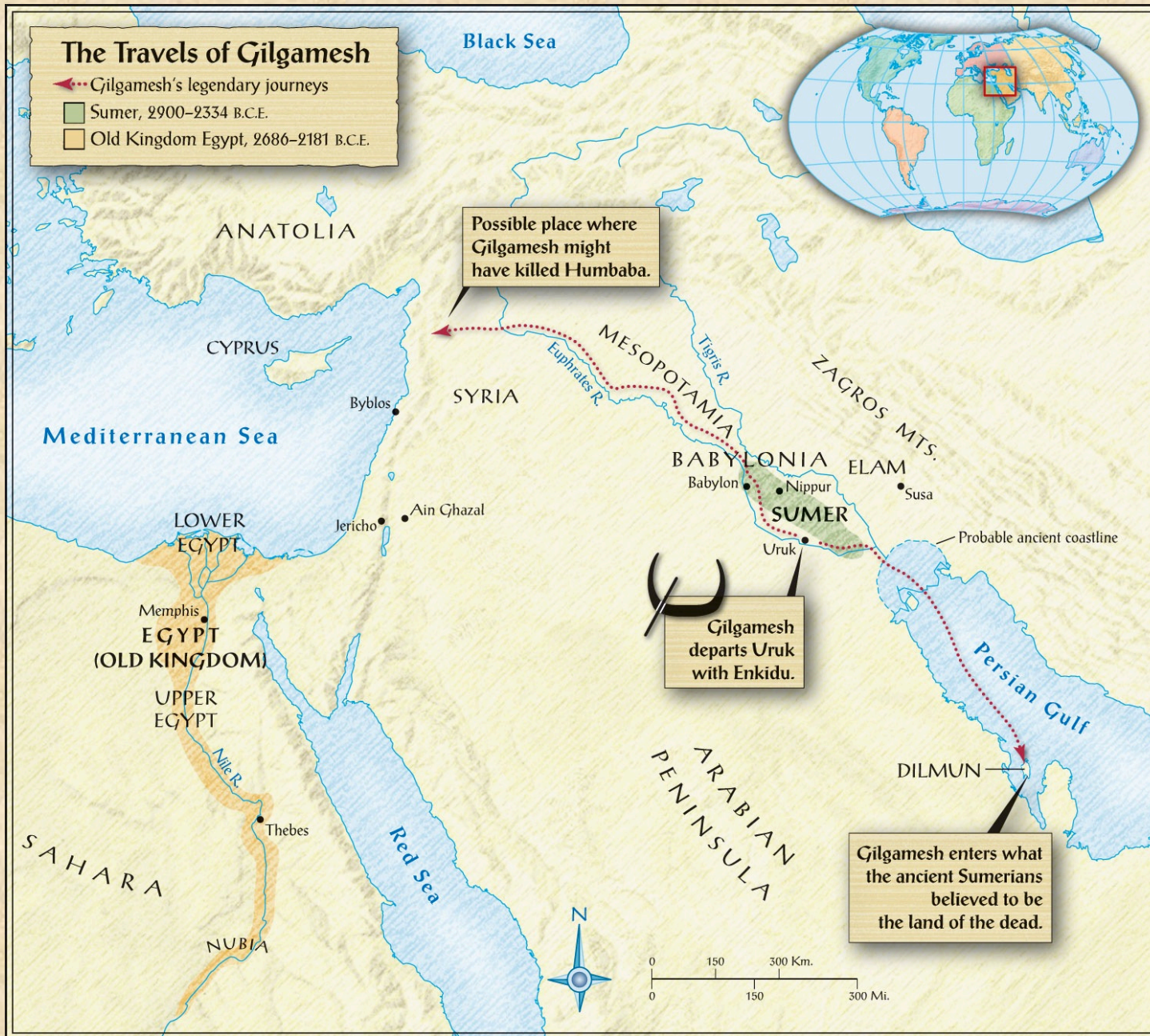
Chapter 2

The First Complex
Societies in the
Eastern
Mediterranean,
ca. 4000-550 B.C.E.



Gilgamesh Killing a Bull

(The Schoyen Collection, MS 1989 www.schoyencollection.com)



The Emergence of Complex Society in Mesopotamia, ca. 3100–1590 b.c.e.

- City Life in Ancient Mesopotamia
 - Settlers learned to drain the floodwater of the Euphrates River, Settled in the area permanently between 6000–5000 B.C.E.
 - By 4000 B.C.E., walled urban centers of 10,000 people had developed, city-states ruled by kings that controlled surrounding countryside.
 - Uruk the leading city-state, 3400–3000 B.C.E.
 - Technology
 - Bronze
 - Wheels
 - Beer and Bread

The Emergence of Complex Society in Mesopotamia, ca. 3100–1590 b.c.e.

- The Beginnings of Writing, 3300 b.c.e.
 - developed to record trade or donations.
 - Most early written records come from the temple.
 - clay tablets, which were baked for preservation
 - cuneiform, or wedge-shaped marks.
 - 700 symbols by 3300 B.C.E., some pictorial and some abstract.
 - By 700 B.C.E. purely phonetic symbols.

The Emergence of Complex Society in Mesopotamia, ca. 3100–1590 b.c.e.

- Sumerian Religion































- deities were anthropomorphic; they had families and emotions.
- The most powerful god was the storm god.
 - Uruk was dedicated to Ishtar, the storm god's daughter.
- ziggurat temples
- king was intermediary between the gods and humans.
- The epic of *Gilgamesh*

The Emergence of Complex Society in Mesopotamia, ca. 3100–1590 b.c.e.

- Sumerian Government
 - In addition to the deities, the king also ruled with advice from one or more assemblies.
 - By 2334 B.C.E., there were thirty-five separate city-states.
 - Archaeological evidence reveals higher city walls, increasing amounts of weaponry, and more artistic depictions of warfare.
 - Sargon of Akkad (r. 2334–2279 B.C.E.) was the first to unify the region.

The Emergence of Complex Society in Mesopotamia, ca. 3100–1590 b.c.e.

- The Babylonian Empire, 1894–1595 b.c.e.
 - Hammurabi's capital was a new city on the Euphrates, Babylon.
 - During the reign of Hammurabi, 1792–1750 B.C.E., Babylon reunified the area.
 - Hammurabi is best known for his law code
 - Actual cases appear to have been heard and decided by assemblies of mixed social status.
 - Babylon was sacked by Hittites in 1595 B.C.E. and reverted to being a city-state.

					SAG head
					NINDA bread
					GU ₇ eat
					AB ₂ cow
					APIN plow
					SUHUR carp
ca. 3100 B.C.E. (Uruk IV)	ca. 3000 B.C.E. (Uruk III)	ca. 2500 B.C.E. (Fara)	ca. 2100 B.C.E. (Ur III)	ca. 700 B.C.E. (Neo-Assyrian)	Sumerian reading and meaning

(From J. N. Postgate, *Early Mesopotamia:*

Society and Economy at the Dawn of History, Routledge, 1992, p. 63. Reprinted with permission of Taylor and Francis Books Ltd.)



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Egypt During the Old and Middle Kingdoms, ca. 3100–1500 b.c.e.

- The Central Role of the Nile
 - Egypt was divided into three regions.
 - Lower Egypt, the delta region in the north
 - Upper Egypt, in the south to the first cataract
 - Nubia or Kush, south of the first cataract
 - Nile floods were regular and predictable, and agriculture in the region was very reliable.

Egypt During the Old and Middle Kingdoms, ca. 3100–1500 b.c.e.

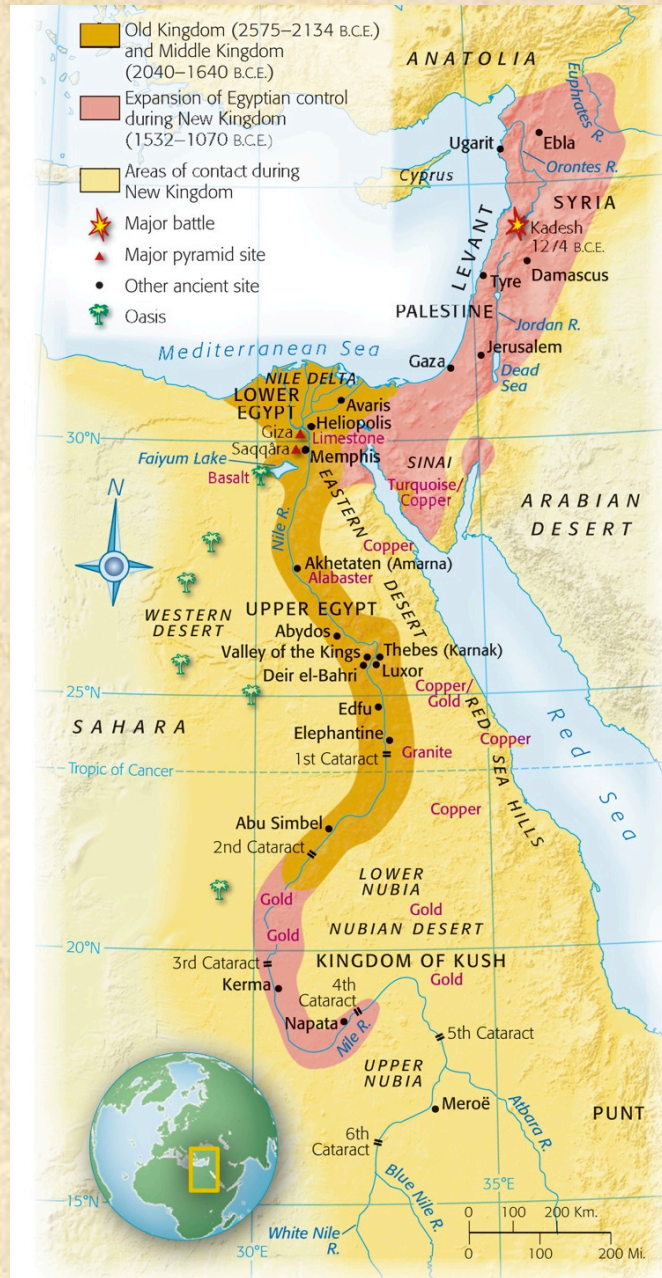
- Egyptian Government and Society: Unity Without City-States
 - writing by 3100 B.C.E.: hieroglyphs on papyrus
 - By 3100 B.C.E., Egypt was ruled by a god-king known as a pharaoh.
 - Egypt was divided into forty districts ruled by a governor.
 - The Egyptian government, at all levels, relied heavily on professional scribes.
 - Being a scribe was a path to social mobility.
 - The pharaoh owned all the land, and farmers owed a part of their crops to him.

Egypt During the Old and Middle Kingdoms, ca. 3100–1500 b.c.e.

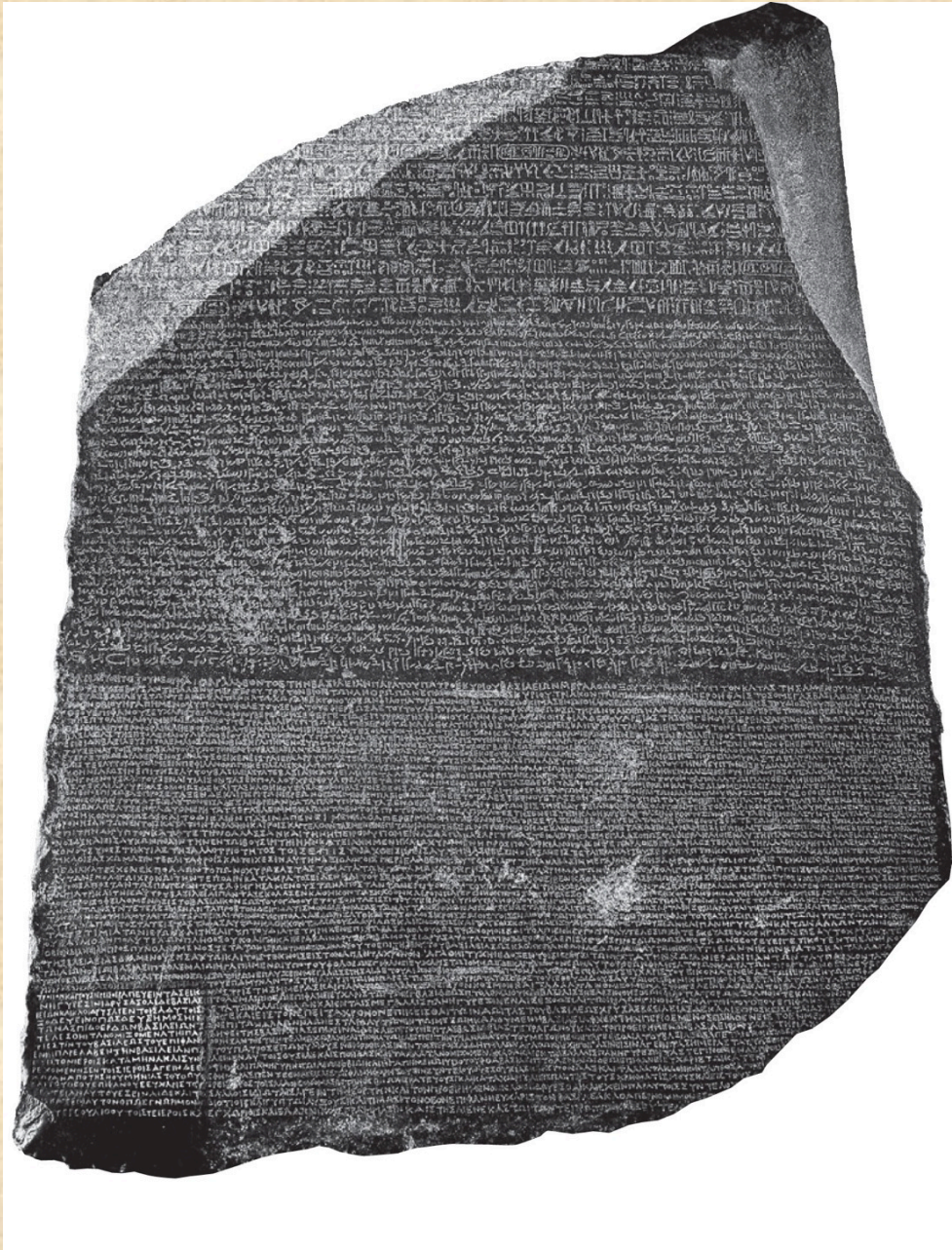
- The Old Kingdom and Egyptian Belief in the Afterlife, 2686–2181 b.c.e.
 - Egyptians believed that each person had a life force known as ka.
 - If the body was preserved after death, the ka would survive.
 - Earliest example of a mummy dates from 2400 B.C.E.
 - Written in 1500 B.C.E., the Book of the Dead contains instructions on what the dead should say to Osiris.
 - The Great Pyramid of Khufu built between 2589–2566 B.C.E.

Egypt During the Old and Middle Kingdoms, ca. 3100–1500 b.c.e.

- Egyptian Expansion During the Middle Kingdom, 2040–1782 b.c.e.
 - First Intermediate Period: The Old Kingdom divided into semi-independent regions between 2180 and 2040 B.C.E.
 - In 2040 B.C.E., Egypt was reunified under a new dynasty; the Middle Kingdom.
 - Egypt expanded trade with Syria, Lebanon, and Nubia.
 - Egypt conquered other peoples in Palestine and Nubia.
 - Nubia was south of the first cataract and was the source of gold, ivory, and slaves.
 - Second Intermediate Period, 1782–1570 B.C.E., led to Hyksos rule over Egypt.



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The International System, 1500–1150 b.c.e.

- New Kingdom Egypt and Nubia, 1570–1069 b.c.e.
 - Sun God Amun-Ra becomes primary deity
 - Conquest and assimilation of Nubia
 - Hatshepsut was the only woman pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty, reigned from 1473–1458 B.C.E.
 - Akhenaten reigned 1352–1336 B.C.E.
 - Instead of worshipping Amun-Ra, he worshipped Aten, a different sun god.

The International System, 1500–1150 b.c.e.

- The Kingdom of Nubia, 800 b.c.e.–350 c.e.
 - Nubian state centralized ca. 800 B.C.E.
 - In 747 B.C.E., King Piye of Nubia conquered Egypt.
 - Under King Taharqo (690–664 B.C.E.), Nubians built Egyptian-style pyramids
 - Nubians developed their own writing, combining hieroglyphics and hieratic.
 - Hieratic was written phonetically, but has not been translated.
 - Nubians had a matrilineal system, and the title passed to the king's sister's son.
 - Nubian queens had all the power of Nubian kings.

The International System, 1500–1150 b.c.e.

- The Hittites, 2000–1200 b.c.e.
 - The Hittite kingdom was located in Anatolia and Syria.
 - Iron was stronger and more durable than bronze.
 - Hittites also developed a two-horse chariot.
 - Used the chariot in warfare, with two warriors and one driver per chariot
 - Hittites were defeated in 1200 B.C.E. by an unknown people, possibly seafaring

The International System, 1500–1150 b.c.e.

- Wen-Amun's Voyage to Lebanon and Cyprus, 1130 B.C.E.
 - Egyptian priest travelled to Lebanon to buy cedar
 - Represented the temple of Karnak
 - During the voyage, his money was stolen.
 - Wen-Amun was able to write to Karnak and have more funds sent.
 - Reveals the extent of international trade.



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(Martin Gray/NGS Image Collection)



This funerary mask does not show Hornedjitef at death, but the younger man he hoped to be reborn as.

This artificial beard is attached to his funerary mask with straps. Priests shaved off all their body hair, including beards, because body hair was believed to be unclean.

This winged scarab beetle represents the sun god, who grants life. The eight baboons standing on the beetle's wings worship the sun god.



This wooden case is made of sycamore.

This is a list of the planets and the stars.

This text gives Hornedjitef's biography in hieroglyphs. As "overseer of the abattoir" at the Karnak temple to Amun, he ensured that the meat from animals killed at the temple was used correctly in ceremonies.

This shows the sky goddess Nut with her hands stretched above her head.



This section lists the constellations and protective gods and shows scenes of the zodiac.

This spell to unite the soul and the body in the underworld comes from Chapter 89 of the *Book of the Dead*.

This space is for the feet of the mummy.

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Syria-Palestine and New Empires in Western Asia, 1200–500 b.c.e.

- The History of the Ancient Hebrews According to the Hebrew Bible
 - Israel's population ca. 1000 B.C.E. has been estimated at 150,000.
 - Jerusalem had about 5000 in 700 B.C.E.
 - Historical value of the Hebrew Bible debated.
 - a version of the flood story told in Gilgamesh.
 - Abraham is tested by his god, who asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac.
 - Before this, the Hebrews sacrificed animals and children to God.
 - also recounts the exodus of Hebrews out of Egypt
 - No archaeological evidence

Syria-Palestine and New Empires in Western Asia, 1200–500 b.c.e.

- The History of the Ancient Hebrews According to Archeological Evidence
 - Hebrews in Palestine between 1300 and 1100 B.C.E.
 - Evidence of 12,000 to 15,000 people in small villages.
 - Urban centers, with large walls, do appear ca. 1000–900 B.C.E.
 - No archaeological evidence of a united kingdom
 - Refuse pits show little to no evidence of pig bones.
 - Wrote ancient Hebrew, a Semitic language.
 - Most popular gods were El and Yahweh, storm gods, and Ba' al

Syria-Palestine and New Empires in Western Asia, 1200–500 b.c.e.

- The Assyrian Empire, 911–612 b.c.e.
 - Invaded Israel, Judah, Mesopotamia, and Egypt ca. 721 B.C.E.
 - Assyria had iron weapons and cavalry but neither saddles nor stirrups.
 - Assyria demanded that conquered peoples submit to their king and gods.
 - Conquered people were resettled
 - king Asshurbanipal (r. 668–627 B.C.E.) built one of the first libraries.
 - Collected over 1500 texts, including the most complete copy of Gilgamesh to survive

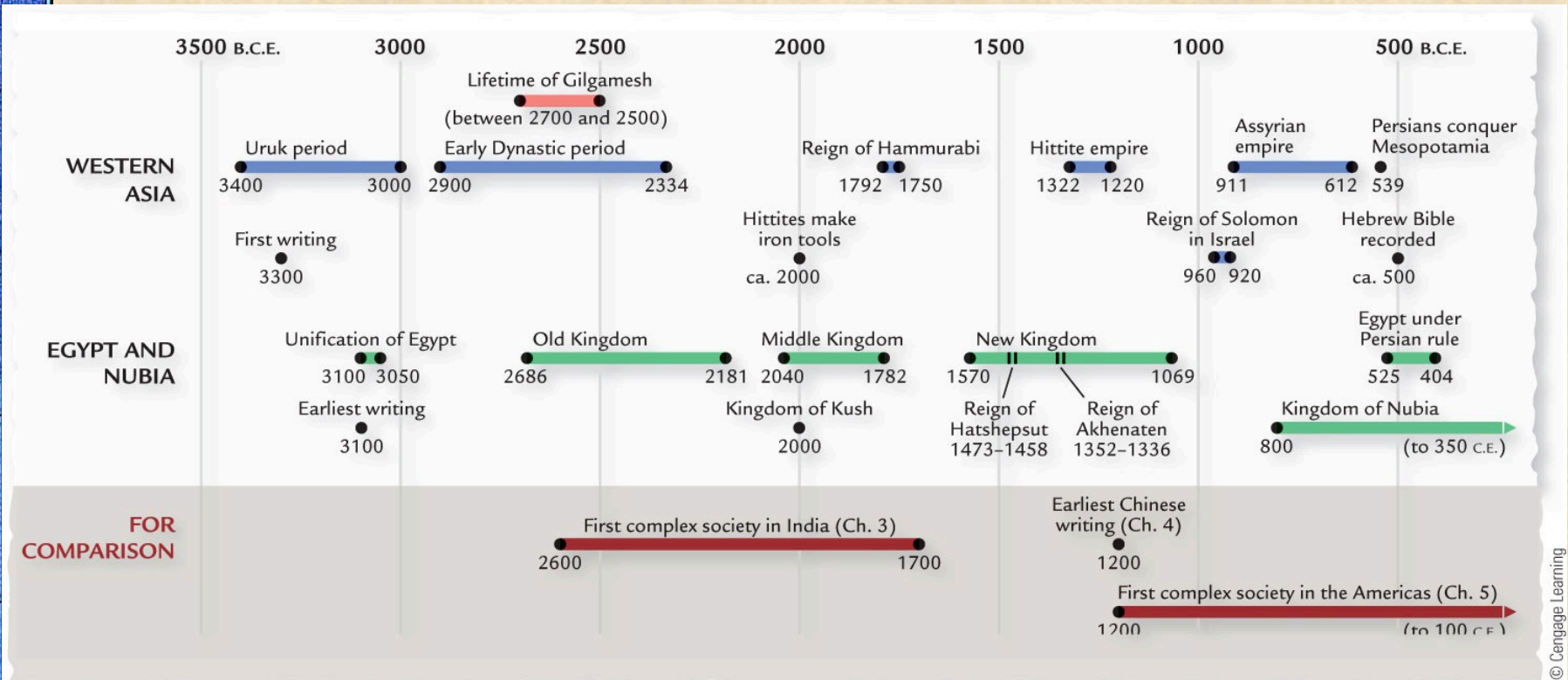
Syria-Palestine and New Empires in Western Asia, 1200–500 b.c.e.

- The Babylonian Captivity and the Recording of the Bible, 612–539 b.c.e.
 - Nebuchadnezzar II (r. 605–562) repaired Babylonian temples, built the hanging gardens
 - Extended his empire to Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon
 - Sacked Jerusalem, 597 and 586 B.C.E., destroyed the temple
 - Deported thousands of Hebrews to Babylon; known as the Babylonian Captivity
 - During the Babylonian Captivity, the exiled Hebrew community reinterpreted their past.
 - Babylonian Captivity ended when the Persians conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.E.
 - Allowed the Hebrews to return to Judah, Rebuild Temple



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