Eternal Issues, Lesson Seven

Four Map slides in a row:

First map: Phoenician trading routes and colonies

Second map: actually from the Persian Empire days, but shows the Samaritans, the Scythians, the Greeks, and the Carthage areas, plus Phoenicia after Israel and Judah fell…

Third map: pinpoint of Carthage

Fourth map: the proximity of Carthage and Italy/ Greece and the role of the Mediterranean Sea

**653 B.C.** Medes and Cimmerians (Scythian tribe) allied against Assyria, but lost

**650 B.C. CARTHAGE** became an independent power.

Took back Corsica and western North Africa

Warred in Sicily.

Barred Greek passage through Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltor) <preventing access to Atlantic Ocean>

Considered “Queen of the Western Seas”

Refuge for Semitic people fleeing Palestine

Carthage dominated WEST of the Mediterranean

Greece dominated EAST of the Mediterranean

Leather money (ancient predecessor of paper money)

Explored America : Carthaginian artifacts, coins, and inscriptions in Alabama, Connecticut, New York, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Nevada

“richest city of antiquity”

Wheat King of the ancient world

Exported nine billion bushels of wheat/year

700,000-1,000,000 population

300 towns in its sovereignty

23 miles in circumference

Wall of Carthage was 18 miles in circumference, 46 feet high, 34 feet thick, towers 4 stories high

Within the casement of the main wall could fit: 300 elephants, 4000 cavalry, 20,000 infantry

**639-608 B.C.** Josaiah reigned as King of Judah

**639-608 B.C.** Scythian occupation of entire Mideast region (28 years)

**624 B.C.** Scythians launched a massive invasion to the south occupied Asia Minor, Syria, Media, Palestine & much of Assyria south to Egypt [but Egypt gave them tribute so they left Egypt alone]

Burned Calah (Kalakh) headquarter of Assyrian army

Assyrian army took refuge behind Nineveh walls

Babylon revolted against Assyria and eastern Scythians joined, captured Nineveh & destroyed it [612] Jewish cities spared, including Jerusalem

*Herodotus (historian) “…the Scythians took control of all Asia.” from The History 1.104*

**620 B.C.** In a message from the prophet Isaiah, God clearly knows where His people Israel are (toward the north):

*Jer 3:11-12 (NASU) And the Lord said to me, " Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. "Go and proclaim these words* ***toward the north*** *and say, '* ***Return, faithless Israel****,' declares the Lord; ' I will not look upon you in anger. For I am gracious,' declares the Lord; 'I will not be angry forever.*

**612 B.C.** fall of Nineveh

**587 B.C.**  JUDAH was removed from the land

(became known as Jews from here out)

**595 B.C.** Jeremiah wrote:

*Jer 51:5 For Israel has not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the Lord of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.*

**585 B.C.** Jeremiah migrated to Ireland with “Simon Brach” [Baruch, Jeremiah’s scribe], and an “eastern princess” [Tea-Tephi, a daughter of King Zedekiah of Judah]

The princess married a native Irish King who forsook his old religion and changed his capital city’s name to Tara (a Hebrew-Semitic name).

Jeremiah became known on Ireland as “Ollam Fola” or “ollam Fodhla”, became a prominent historical figure of Ireland.

His tomb is supposed to be in a cemetery on Devenish Island, in Lough Erne.

**586 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzer destroyed Jerusalem

**574 B.C.** Tyre fell to Nebuchadnezzer

**530 B.C.** Persia under King Cyrus invaded the eastern Scythians (east of Caspian Sea)

Came against Massagetae & Dahae under Queen Tomyris (Greek name) [Hebrew name: Tamar]

Queen Tomyris warned Cyrus TWICE not to attack, but he did anyway

Massagetae wiped out Persian army and killed King Cyrus

Map slides

First map: Scythia and Parthia empires beside Roman empire

Second map: map of ancient near east twenty years before Parthia became so powerful

[Persian empire, with Parthia within it, Babylonian empire…]

**521 B.C.** **PARTHIA**

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500 year kingdom under ONE dynasty (Arsacid)

Parthia was a subject-nation of Medo-Persia

Persians called them “Parthva”

Parthians were subjects to King Darius

Parthians were known at the time to be of common origin of the Scythians

Parthians revolted from Medes and placed themselves under Scythian protection for a period

Arsacid dynasty = Parthian Kings

Arsaces: first King of Parthia

Parthian word for “city” was “karta” or “kerta” – Carthage, Semitic origin [Semitic: from Shem]

Aramic title (used by Parthians): MLKYN = “king of kings”

MLK is Hebrew word for King used 2500 times in the Bible

BRY = “my son”

Parthia was ruled by “Council of Parthians”

1. Kinsmen (Royal Arsacid male bloodline) -- ROYAL HOUSE
2. Wise Men (secular leaders) -- SENATE and Magi (Levites) – PRIESTS
   1. Wise Men & Magi were known jointly as Megistanes

Kings were elected by a concurrent vote of the two houses (Royal and Senate)

Parthian rulers were well-educated and multi-lingual

Parthia’s empire was based on a feudal system that foreshadowed medieval Europe’s feudal system

Magi:

80,000 males alone

Hierarchy of priests descended from ancient times (Levites)

[Ephraim and Manasseh were the dominant tribes of Parthia and Scythia]

**500 B.C.** Scythian settlements known in Eastern Europe, Hungary, East Germany, Bulgaria

God promised to make Israel too numerous to count **after** He removed them from Palestine. See Hosea 1:6-10 (NASU): *Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the Lord said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them. But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the Lord their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen."*

*When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the Lord said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God."*

*Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."*

**512 B.C.** Persia attacked western Scythians (near Black Sea) (18 years later)

Scythians lured them deep into their homeland (southern Russia), Persians fled

**400-300 B.C.** Scythian settlements in Balkans

*“…all Europe had been peopled by the Cimmerians or Scythians from the borders of the Euxine Sea.”* [Black Sea] John Mitchel, History of Ireland, 1869

**331 B.C.** Parthia ruled by Greece under Alexander the Great (after Persia fell)

*Ezekiel 4:4-6 (NASU) "As for you, lie down on your left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it. For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.”*

*Dan 8:20-22 (NASU) "The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king. The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.”*

721-390=331 B.C. fulfilled prophecy

**323 B.C.** Parthia placed in Seleucid Greek Empire after Alexander the Great died

**256 B.C.** Parthia and Bactria revolted against Seleucid Greek rule, declaring independence

PUNIC WARS Rome vs. Carthage

Map slide: Rome and Carthage at beginning of second Punic war, 218 b.c.

**264-241 B.C.** 1st War

Xanthippus, a Spartan helped military, Sparta (Greek city) sided with Carthage

Rome defeated Carthage

**218-202 B.C.** 2nd War

Hannibal, Carthaginian general

12-yr war, marched over Alps to attack Rome

216 B.C. battle at Cannae, slew 70,000 Romans (1/6 Rome’s military)

Rome recovered, won in subsequent battle

**149-146 B.C.** 3rd War Carthage fell to Rome after a two-year siege, burned the libraries, lost 500,000 irreplaceable volumes. [Library of Alexandria burned in 48 B.C.]

**146 B.C.** Carthage fell to Rome

Map slide: about fifty years later, shows four kingdoms we’re paying attention to Rome and Parthia (notice the size of Parthia)

**64 B.C. – 225 A.D.** **PARTHIA AND ROME co-world powers**

**[**Parthia was considered Rome’s equal in this span of time]

**237 B.C.** Parthia won their independence

Eventually the eastern Scythians merged into Parthia

Their new homeland was called Sacastane (land of Saka or Scyths)

Parthia also consisted of: Medes, Persians, Babylonians, Elamites, Assyrians, Yue-chi (fair-skinned “White Huns” of China who were being pushed into Parthia from China [Naphtali tribe])

**206 B.C.** Parthia treaty with Seleucid after war, kept Parthia independent

“Phares” marker name of David’s royal bloodline PHRS

Phraates I, King of Parthia, controlled Caspian Gates (key mountain passages of the east-west routes across Persia

Mithridates I, King of Parthia, (brother of Phraates I) expanded Parthia further, to become the Parthian Empire, 1900 miles east to west, 1000 miles north to south

Euphrates River was the recognized border of Parthia [between Parthia and Rome]

**136 B.C.** Mithridates died, Phraates II, his son, took Kingship

**129 B.C.** Seleucids attacked Parthia

Seleucids army: 300,000 vs. Parthia army: 120,000

3 battles, Parthia lost all three but still wouldn’t give up

Antiochus (Seleucid monarch) was killed along with the 300,000 army by an inner resistance of the captive provinces in Parthia against Seleucid

Maccabees gained independence in Judea because of this defeat

Parthia asked for the aide of the Scythians, but they got there after the battle was won. Phraates II refused to share the war booty with Scythia so Scythia battled against Parthia, killed Phraates II, then returned to their land.

Map Slide: Parthia in first century b.c.

[pink is area conquered by roman Trajan 116-117 a.d.]

ROMAN-PARTHIAN WARS

Map slide: Roman/Parthian Empires with (pink) Armenia

Seleucid Greek Empire was the buffer between Rome and Parthia until Greece fell.

Rome moved in to take over Armenia. Parthia remained neutral until it couldn’t any longer, then entered the war on Rome’s side.

**62 B.C.** Pompey, leader of Rome, promised Parthia certain territories but then reneged after the war.

Rome insulted the Parthian King Phraates III, refused to call him by title “king of kings”

Euphrates River became the border between the two empires.

Phraates III was assassinated by his sons Mithridates and Orodes, then Orodes was banished by Mithridates.

**56 B.C.** Wise Men and Magi deposed Mithridates and recalled Orodes to rule

FIRST ROMAN-PARTHIAN WAR: Battle of Carrhae

**53 B.C.** Crassus (Roman general who defeated Spartacus) ruled Rome in a triumvirate with Julius Caesar and Pompey, and wanted a war record like Caesar, so tried to subjugate Parthia. Caesar sent 1000 cavalrymen to assist Crassus.

Rome: 40,000 army came in the provinces of Parthia, pillaging them. Parthia (under commander Surenas) met them in battle.

10,000 Roman soldiers died, ¼ fled, 10,000 captured. Crassus killed and his head and right hand were cut off.

**50 B.C.** Parthia retaliated for Rome’s invasion and attacked Rome’s eastern provinces, then withdrew to its side across the Euphrates.

**48 B.C.** Julius Caesar burned the athenaeum of Alexandria, destroying 700,000 of the most valuable scientific works of the classical world.

**40-37 B.C.** Parthia attacked Rome. Took Syria, Judea, and pushed Rome out of Asia Minor. Parthia ruled Judea these three years. The Jews asserted their independence from Rome in this time and the Jewish prince Antigomus ruled Palestine as a Parthian satrap.

**37 B.C.** Rome counter-attacked and regained their territories, re-established the Euphrates boundary.

Phraates IV, son of Orodes, (next king) killed his brothers and father Orodes and some of the nobility.

Mark Antony ordered the Jewish Vassal King Antigomus beheaded. King Herod replaced him.