

Our Lady of Victory School

Ancient History

Notes to Parents and Students

Texts Used in this Course:

AT – *A Brief History of Ancient Times*, Breasted & Hughes-Jones

BH - *Bible History, A Textbook of the Old and New Testaments for Catholic Schools*, Johnson, et al

BHW - *Bible History Workbook*, Ignatz

HWA – *Hammond Historical World Atlas*

SP – *Saint Paul the Apostle*, Windeatt, TAN Books

Other supplies needed:

Very fine point black writing pen for time chart exercises

Colored pencils for mapping exercises

Standard college dictionary

Encyclopedia and other reference books (The *Catholic Encyclopedia*, circa early 1900's, is available online at www.newadvent.org)

General Instructions:

Parents should use the Answer Key from the back of the *Bible History Workbook* (remove it first) for grading. Use the E-Z grader to enter the percentage grade on the lesson plans. Students may use the *Bible History* textbook to answer questions in the workbook, but they may not use the Answer Key.

Additional maps and illustrations in the lesson plans are taken from other editions of *Ancient Times*. Some have been adapted for use in this program. Paragraphs in *Ancient Times* are numbered in the text. These will be referred to as 'Section' in the Lesson plans. (For example: Read Chapter VI, Sections 10 -15).

There is continuous overlapping of civilizations and time periods in the texts. The *Time Chart* the student will use at the back of the *Hammond Historical Atlas* will provide a visual reminder of the interaction of the many civilizations in their actual time periods.

Dates Regarding Creation of Earth, Man and Dates of Eras:

The Church has generally taught, based on Holy Scripture, that man was created sometime around 4000 B.C. Therefore, any date postulated in the texts which places man on the earth before 4000 B.C. must not be accepted uncritically. Some may argue that this is not *ex cathedra* teaching; however, as a constant teaching, it is part of the Deposit of Faith and we owe to it our assent.

Most editions of *The Holy Bible, Douay-Rheims*, contain 'An Historical and Chronological Index Table of the Old Testament' which is a time line with descriptions and dates. These editions also contain helpful maps and illustrations, and a reference or dictionary section. We highly recommend the student use *The Holy Bible, Douay-Rheims*, during this course. Affordable student copies are available from Our Lady of Victory School.

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Why Study Ancient History?

“There is a people of God, and its history is the shaft of light which dissipates the shadows. As for the history of the pagan world, it deserves attention only because of its relation to the other history; it has only the value of concomitant circumstance... The main emphasis must remain with God’s people....through them and through them alone, the history of the world explains itself.
...Emile Male, *Religious Art*

Beginning with ‘*in the beginning God created heaven and earth*’, through all of the eras of ancient times you will become familiarized in a chronological fashion with salvation history, the Hebrews and ancient civilizations and their cultures, including their political structures, arts, sciences and religions. You will learn to appreciate the gifts of these ancient people to our own Western Civilization. You will also learn that the pagan world carried ‘presentiments of Christianity’. Although it’s not possible to study every event, person, and place in the ancient world, this course will help you understand the flow of history from the beginning, and how the ancient world was a preparation for the Incarnation of Our Lord. The primary purpose of this study is to realize that all of the major events of ancient history helped provide the world for the Incarnation of Our Lord. This preparation also helped the apostles spread of the Gospel of Our Lord throughout world.

“... the Christian... historian, however, must deal with the ages preceding this momentous period (the life of the Son of God), in so far as they prepared mankind for the coming of Christ, and are a necessary elucidation of those factors which influenced the historical development of Christianity.”
...Catholic Encyclopedia, 1909

Catholic historians recognize the supernatural forces at work throughout the development of Western Civilization. Studying Bible History along with ancient pagan civilizations will help you avoid compartmentalizing, or separating, salvation history from that of the secular world. Bible History is studied in the course together with the political, cultural, and social history of the rest of the world. The civilizations will overlap in time, however, your maps and time chart will keep it all in order for you.

There are ample *developments* in every area of living during these ‘ancient times’ for the student to become familiar with: language, writing, literature, coinage, architecture, agriculture, science, philosophy, weaponry, ship building, and so on. Many of these developments (architecture, coinage, political structure, writing, etc.) are still with us today, and the great ancient literature, philosophy, and architecture of ancient times are studied and expounded on in our own time.

You will learn that barbarism has had many faces throughout history. Later, when you study other periods of history, including modern times, you will see it resurface again. Throughout history, civilizations rise to great heights only to fall again into darkness and destruction, or they disappear altogether. The pagan world had made great progress in the arts and sciences, but its moral and social conditions had considerably declined without God.

At the end of your journey through ancient history you will become familiar with the Roman Empire when “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us”, and the greatest of all civilizations, Christianity, began.

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Ancient History Lesson Plan

Student's Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Parent's Name _____

Texts for the First Quarter:

AT – *A Brief History of Ancient Times* **BH** - *Bible History*
BHW - *Bible History Workbook* **HWA** – *Hammond Historical World Atlas*

Week 1

In all assignments, as needed for pronunciation of ancient words, use the *Index and Pronouncing Vocabulary* guide on pages 547 -558 in the *Bible History* text, or use a standard dictionary.

Read “*Why Study Ancient History?*” on the previous page.

BH - Read *To Our Boys and Girls*, page v - vi, and the *Introduction*, pages xvii - xxii.

Completed Work _____

BHW – Answer all workbook questions in *Introduction, Why God Gave Us the Bible*, on pages ix – xi.

Send in Grade _____

HWA – Look at *TIME CHART, A Graphic History of Mankind*, on pages H-64 and H-65. Note the headings of each civilization across the top of both pages and the dates at the left and right margins. Note the events and people listed next to each civilization’s colored column are in chronological order. Read the paragraph in the middle of page H-65, *Early Civilizations – 3,000 B.C.* You will be adding to and underling events and people in this *Time Chart* in this course.

At the tops of pages H-64 and H-65 under the heading *TIME CHART A Graphic History of Mankind*, write in block letters left to right across the top of each page *under the heading*:

(Page H-64) **CREATION - ADAM & EVE - CAIN & ABEL - NOE & THE FLOOD**

(Page H-65) **TOWER OF BABEL - DISPERSION OF NATIONS**

Completed Assignment _____

Week 2

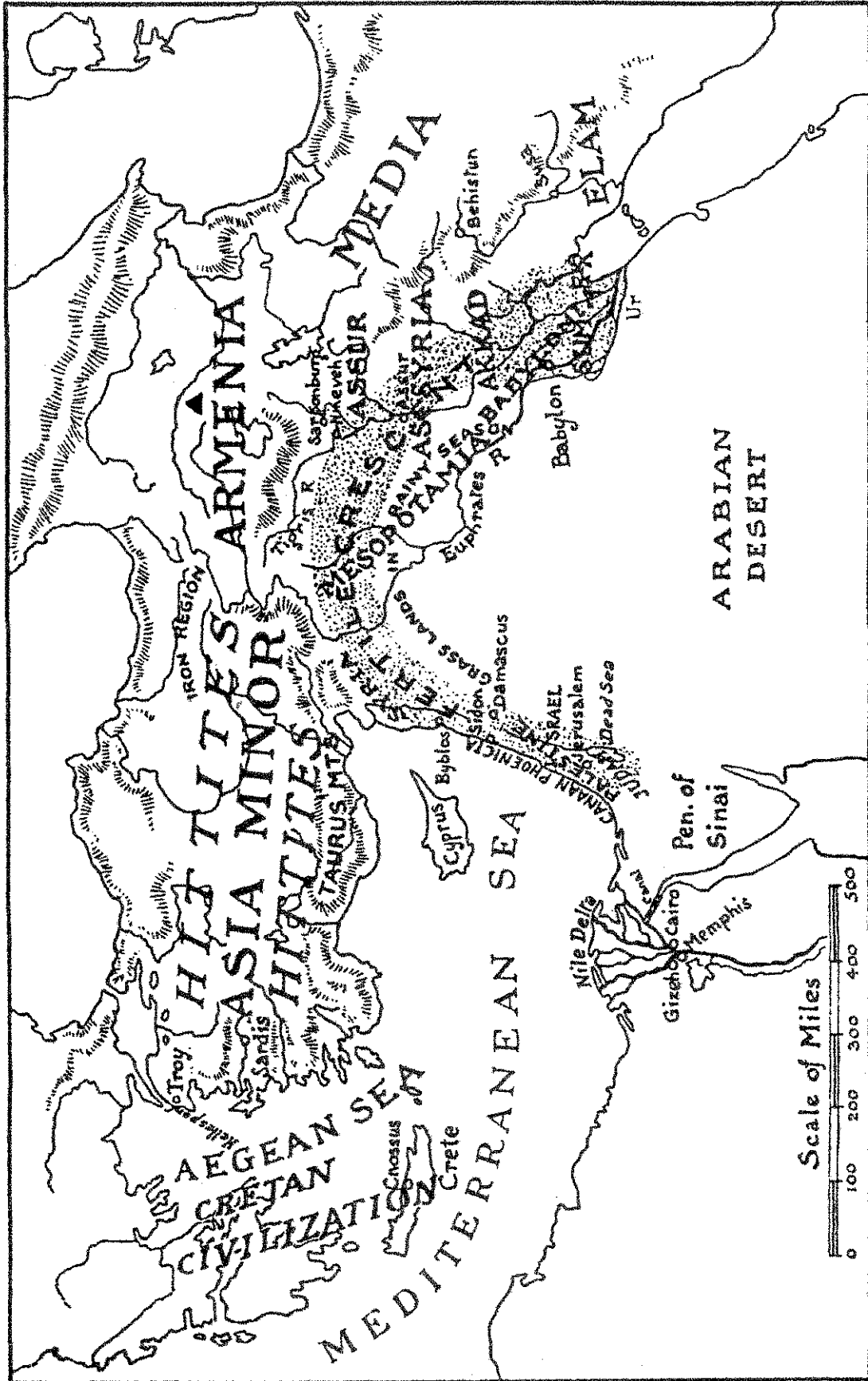
BH – Read *How God Came to Promise Man a Redeemer*, and *The Story of Creation*, pages 1 – 14.

BHW – Answer all questions on pages 3 – 7.

Send in Grade _____

HWA – Using the map on page H-4 as a guide, color the map of the *Ancient Oriental World* on the next page of this lesson plan. Save this map; in future assignments it will be referred to as ‘your map’ which will be sent to Our Lady of Victory School at the end of the First Quarter. Color the seas (Caspian, Black, Great/Upper, Red, Lower) and the lakes in a light blue (they are white in your HWA book). Color them in completely, or just shade the edges light blue where they meet the land. Label the seas with their missing names from **HWA** page H-4. With the same blue color, trace over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers from the Lower Sea to their endings below left of the ARMENIA area. On the *Present-Day World* map, page H-72 of **HWA**, find the area shown in H-4.

Completed Assignment _____



THE ANCIENT ORIENTAL WORLD AND NEIGHBOURING EUROPE BEFORE THE RISE OF THE GREEKS