

Ancient Mesopotamia History and Culture

Course #	20FAM
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Monday, 1:30-3:30 10 weeks, starting September 21
Location:	Wesley United Methodist Church, Hadley
Maximum number of participants:	17
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to become acquainted with the history and culture of the peoples of the Tigris and Euphrates, focusing especially on their contributions to Western civilization.

Description: This seminar will explore the history, culture, art, literature, religion and technology of the people of ancient Mesopotamia during the period from Hammurabi to Nebuchadnezzar (approximately 1800 BCE – 530 BCE).

This period in the Tigris Euphrates Valley produced the great Babylonian and Assyrian civilizations. In this seminar we will discuss especially their contributions to Western civilization, including time measurement, mathematics and astronomy. We will also look at documents such as the code of Hammurabi and such events as the enslavement of the people of ancient Israel by Babylon, which produced, among other things, the magnificent writing of II Isaiah in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Role of participants: Participants will be asked to read at least one book on the topic, prepare and deliver a 30-40minute presentation, and participate by asking questions and making relevant comments

Resources: None required. Suggested collateral reading: The Babylonians by Gwendolyn Leick (available as a used paperback), and some Internet articles, provided by the moderator.

About the Moderator: Jim Harvey has moderated over 30 seminars, and has a particular interest in history and culture, even though his careers were in physics, computers and theology