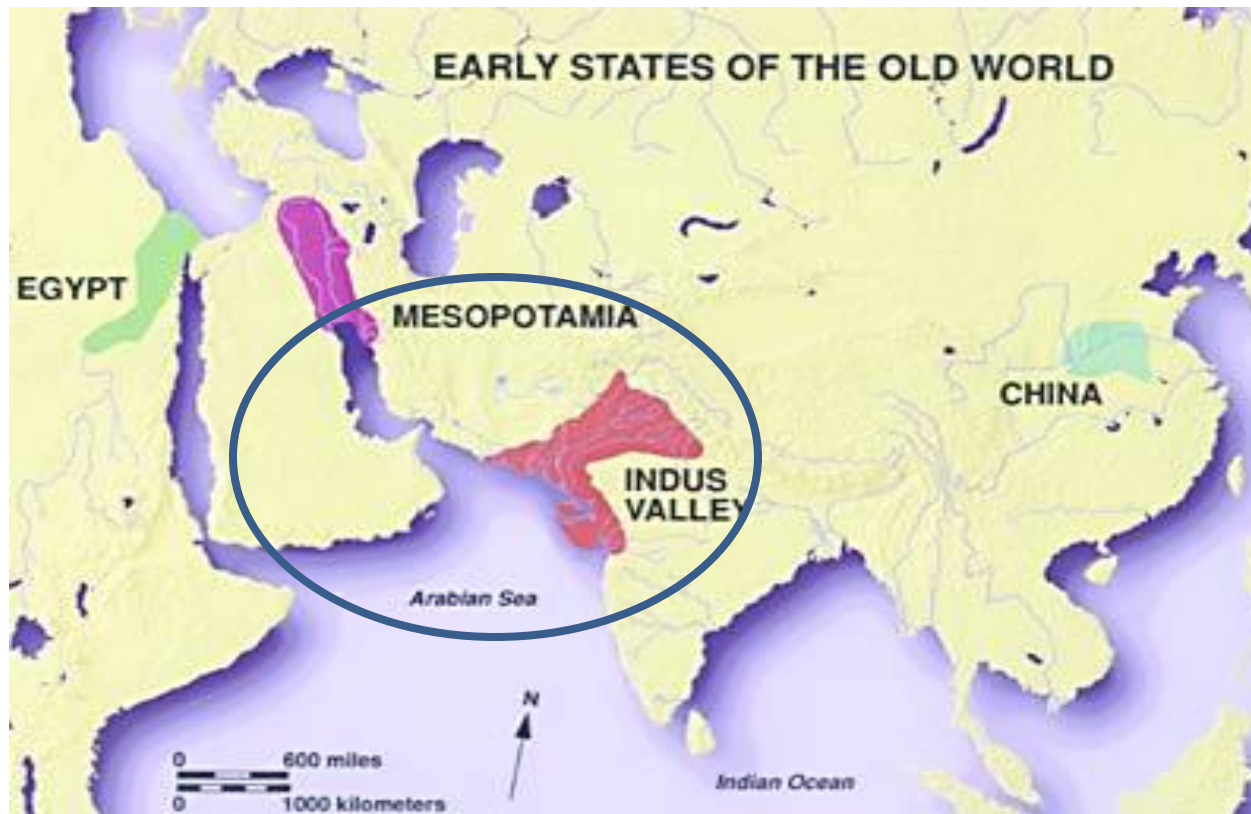


THERE ARE FOUR ANCIENT URBAN CIVILIZATIONS OF EGYPT, MESOPOTAMIA, SOUTH ASIA & CHINA



ALL THE EARLY CIVILIZATIONS DEVELOPED IN FAVOURABLE **GEOGRAPHICAL & GEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.**

THEY WERE **LOCATED ALONG THE FERTILE BEDS OF RIVER VALLEYS.** IT WAS A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE YEARLY FLOODS, BUT THE **SILT** IT BROUGHT MADE THE LAND VERY FERTILE. SO THE RIVER VALLEYS CAN BE SAID TO BE THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATIONS.

CHINESE CIVILIZATION

EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

MESOPOTAMIA CIVILIZATION

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

– ALONG YELLOW RIVER

– ALONG THE NILE RIVER

– ALONG THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS

– ALONG THE RIVER SINDHU WITH ITS FIVE TRIBUTARIES :

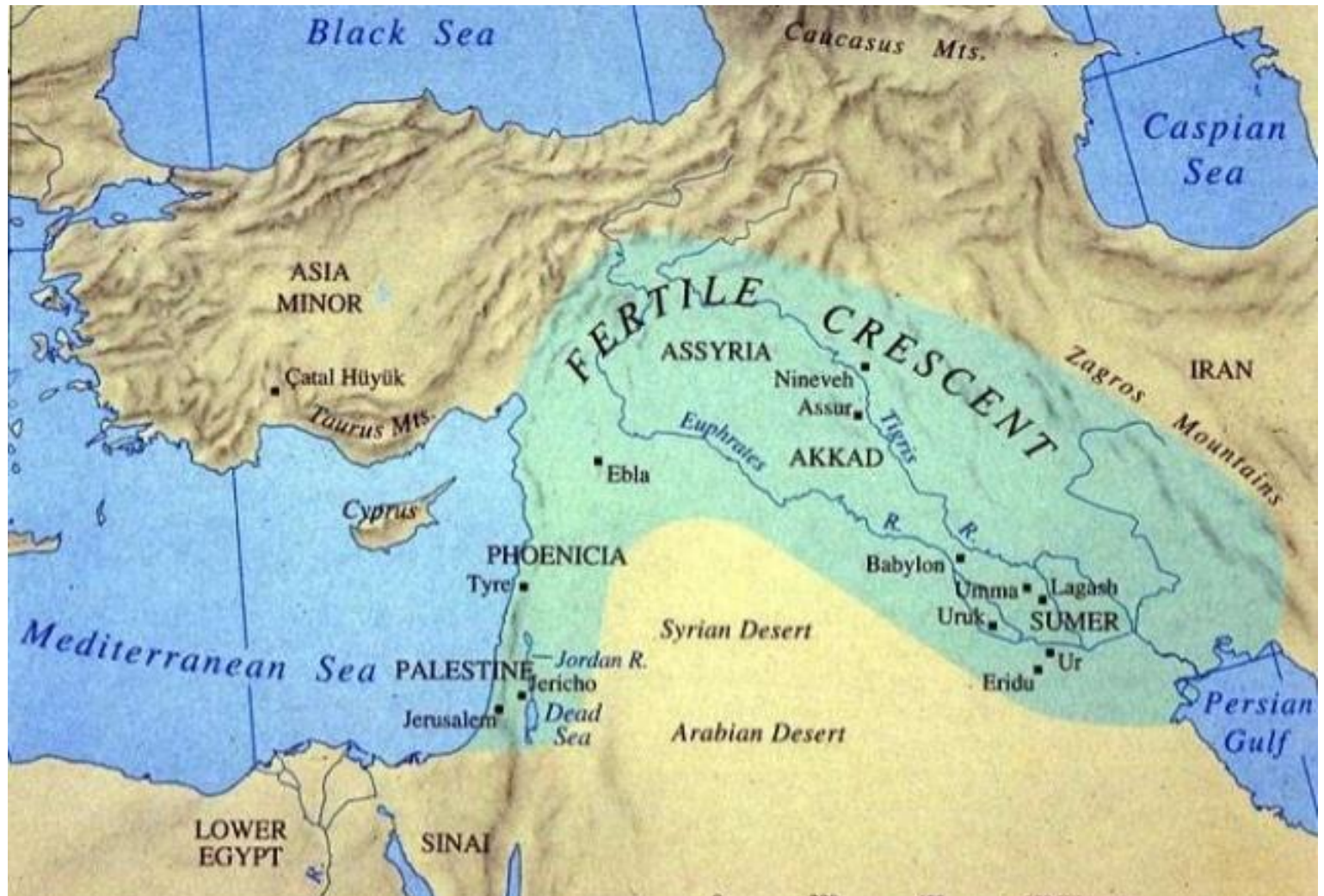
THE JHELM, CHENAB, RAVI, BEAS AND THE SUTLEJ)

LATER THE RIVER SINDHU WAS KNOWN AS THE HINDU & THE GREEKS CALLED IT ¹INDUS

Mesopotamia Civilization

Mesopotamia is a flat plain between the **two rivers, Tigris and Euphrates** in SW Asia.

Because of this region's shape and the **richness of its soil**, it is called the **Fertile Crescent**.



GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

- Greek words *mesos* and *potamas* meaning "Land between the Rivers" - fertile plain between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates.
- Agriculture is only possible by means of irrigation.
- The climate was cooler – the verdant valleys were far different from the deserts of today.

IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY (LOCATION)

Environmental Challenges

1. Unpredictable flooding during periods of little rain / dry summer months

Dug irrigation ditches... brought water to fields



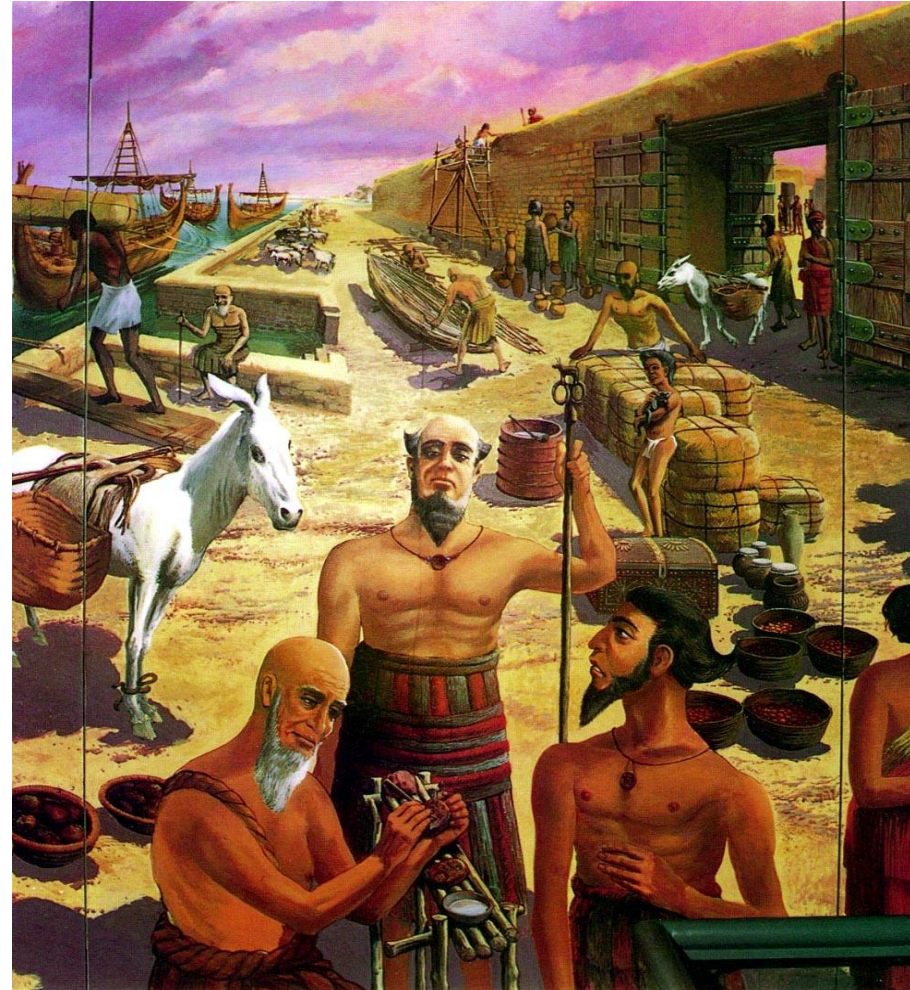
IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY (LOCATION)

2. No natural barriers for protection
 - small villages lying in open plain were defenseless
- Built walls around cities



IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY (LOCATION)

3. Limited natural resources,
especially building materials
 - stone, wood, metal



IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY (LOCATION)

Used Mud bricks



RELIGION, BELIEFS

Polytheistic religion i.e. believe in so many god, goddesses.

They believed it was their duty to serve the gods.

If the gods were not happy then they would be punished by a flood or natural disaster.

The flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was unpredictable and so these people lived in constant fear.



Some of the Mesopotamian gods/ goddesses and other mythological characters

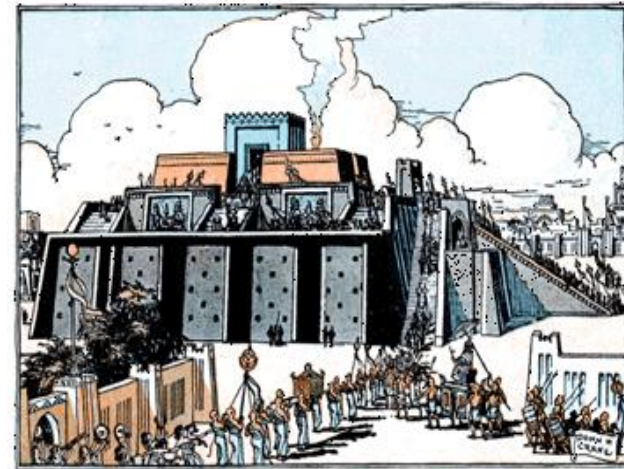
RELIGION, BELIEFS

- Deities were in human forms and represent some natural phenomenon.
- Gods were worshipped at huge temples called **ziggurats**.

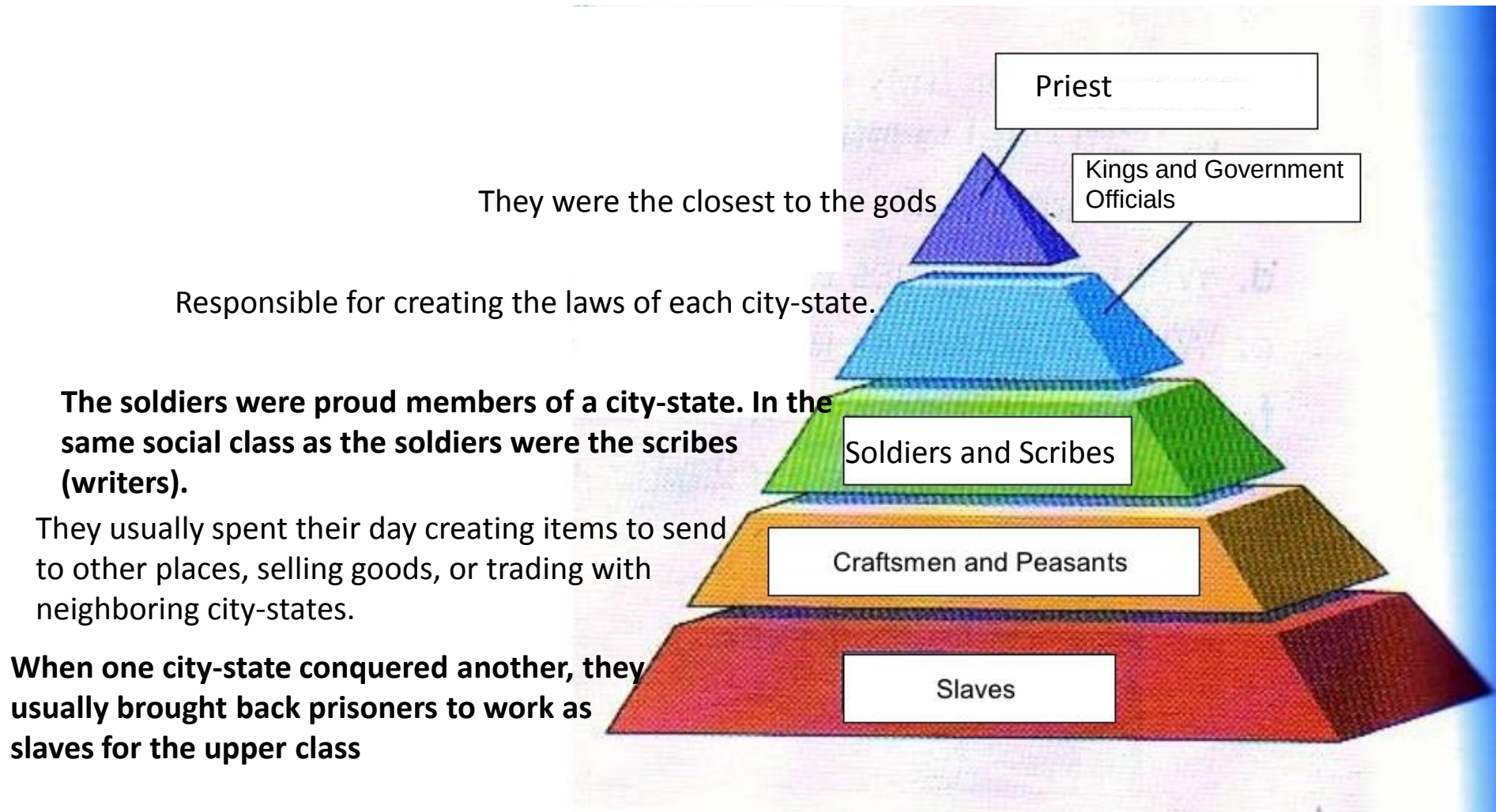
They were **believed to be homes for gods and goddesses**.

Only **priests were permitted on the ziggurat** and it was their responsibility to care for the gods and attend to their needs.

As a result, **priests were very powerful** members of society.



POLITICAL STRUCTURE



GOVERNMENT

Divine Rulers (like god) – Kings who got their power to rule from gods and therefore had **god-like powers** themselves; kings were aided by priests

There was **no central government**.

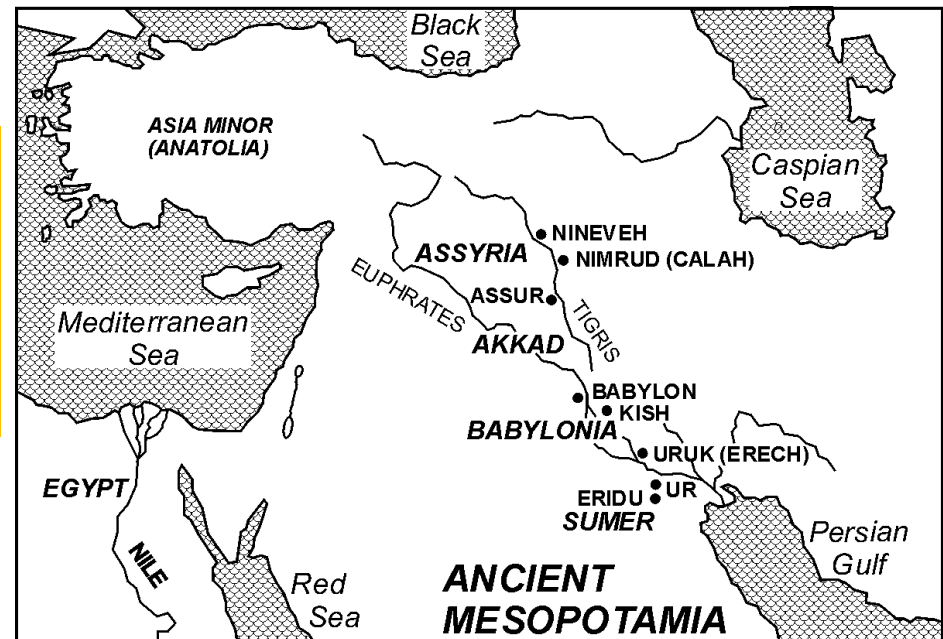
Mesopotamia was divided into independent city-states, which often fought for control of land and water.

Sumer- southern part

Akkad- northern part

Babylonia- these two regions were unified

Assyria- Assyrian Empire



GOVERNMENT

Although all the cities shared the same culture .

Each city had its own government , rulers, warriors. It's own patron god and functioned like an independent country.

At the center of each city was the temple called ziggurat.

Babylon



WRITING

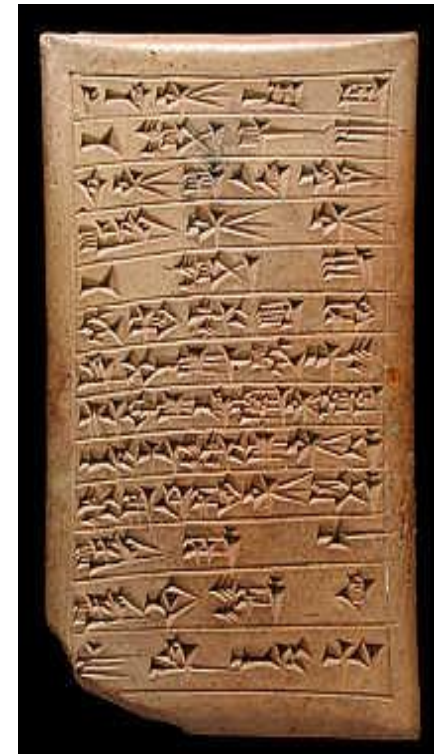
They invented a form of writing called **Cuneiform** that means wedge shaped

It's a **Pictograms** form of writing i.e. a picture used to symbolize a word or phrase .

They wrote on wet clay tablets with the point of a reed, then dried in the sun to make a tablet



	c. 3100
barley	
head	
bird	



INVENTION OF WHEELS BY SUMERIANS



Architecture

- Massive fortifications, temple complexes, and palaces were three types of outstanding built structures.
- Buildings were raised on mud brick platforms, and temples had 'ziggurats', mounds made up of tiered, rectangular stages increases from one to seven in Mesopotamian history
- Buildings were arranged around large and small courts, with room that were thick walled narrow.
- Use of domes and barrel vaults. Mostly outside roof was flat, unless the dome protruded.
- Eridu – First example of Mesopotamian tradition in architecture (of Sumerians)

Architecture

Temples:

A rectangular plan – temple built on a small earthen platform; with time platforms became taller, giving rise to the classic Mesopotamian ziggurat.

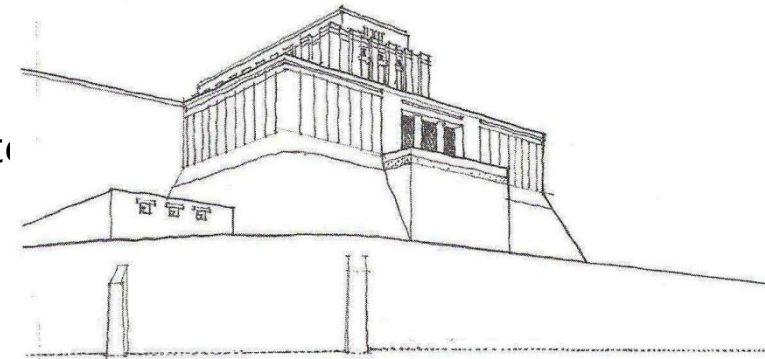
Ziggurats - the sacred mountain where gods and men could meet.

Brick-built temple-mounds, taking the form of a layered platform.

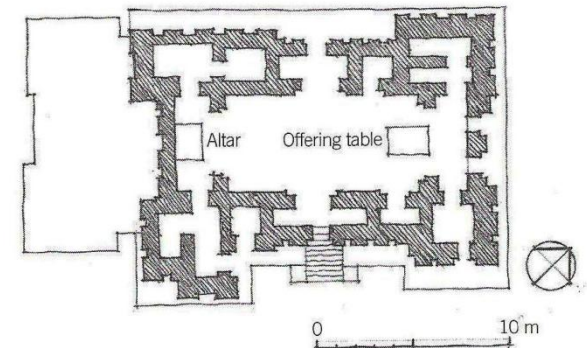
They resembled step pyramids with a flat roof, on which a shrine would be built. Access to this shrine was by a broad staircase or ramp.

Temple complex - ceremonial courtyards, shrines, burial chambers for the priests and priestesses, ceremonial banqueting halls, along with workshops, granary, storehouse and administrative buildings

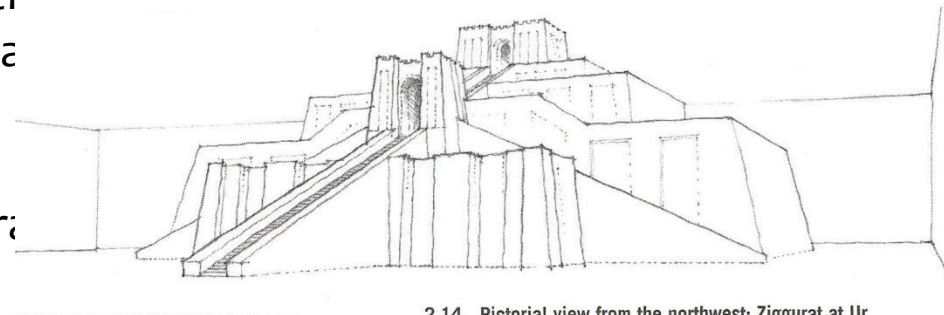
Were main centers of economic and administrative activity



1.28 Temple atop the stone-faced platform at Eridu, near Abu Shahrain, Iraq



1.29 Plan: Temple at Eridu

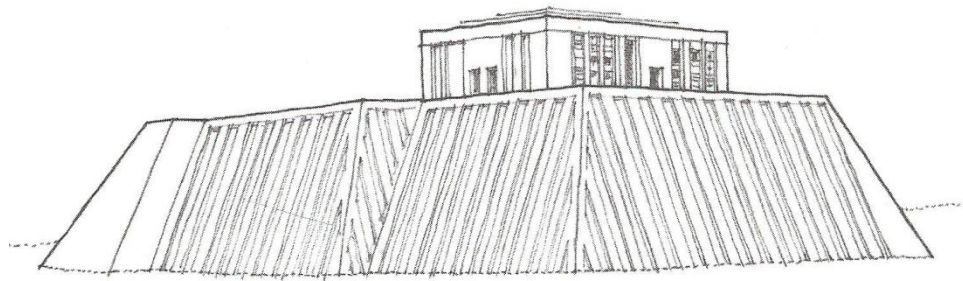


2.14 Pictorial view from the northwest: Ziggurat at Ur

The White Temple (and Ziggurat) at Warka

The raised platform served two purposes

1. Religious
 2. Political and Social
- The white temple platform had **sloping sides**, 3 of which had flat buttresses.
 - The temple had a **span of 4.5 meters** wide
 - Shallow buttresses formed the principal decoration of the hall and external walls. The **platform stood 13 meter high**.



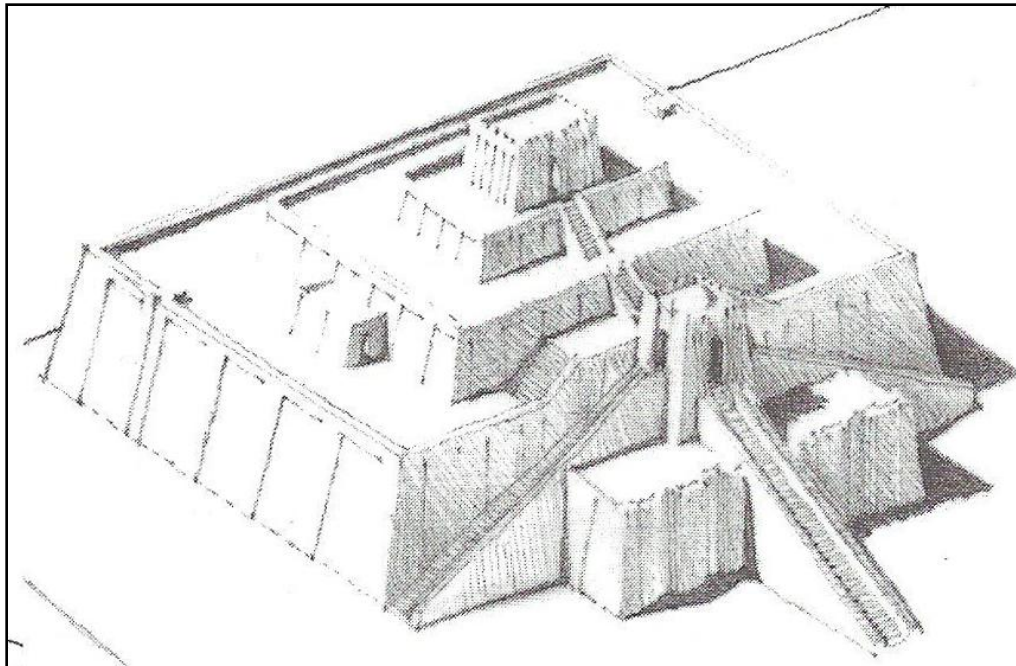
1.32 White Temple at Uruk

ZIGGURAT AND PRECINCT OF UR

The complex comprised of the ziggurat, a court, a secondary court attached to it and 3 great temples.

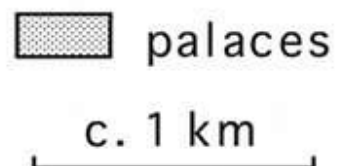
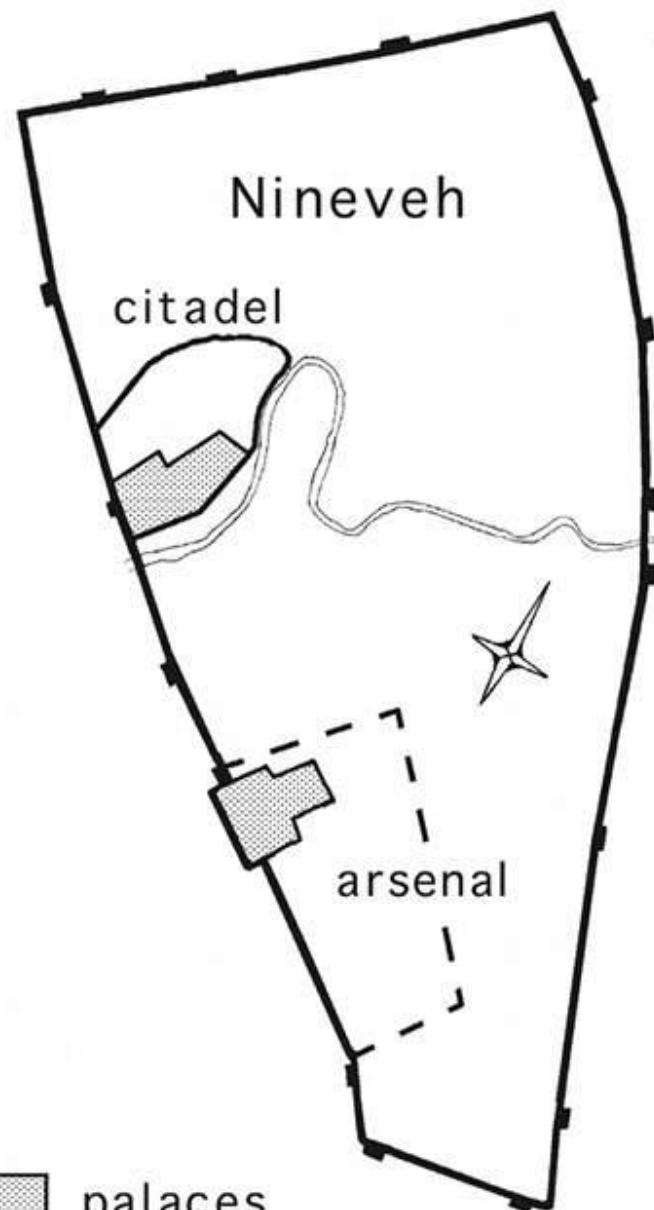
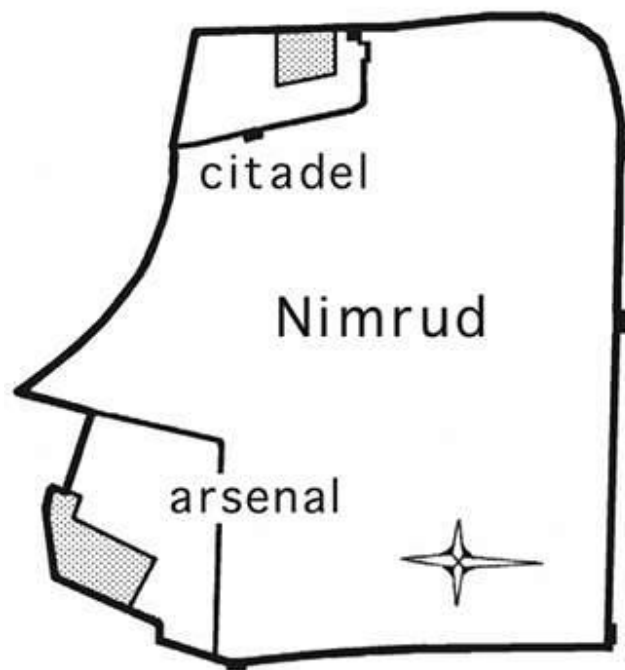
Ziggurat – 62m x 43m as the base and **21m high**. Made solid core of mud brick.

Its sides were slightly convex, giving an added effect of mass.



Settlements

- A typical city - **20,000 people**, and a **larger one 50,000**
- Babylon - as much as 100,000
- **City** built around the **temple**.
- From 2nd millennium, a **monumental royal palace was also built**. Was enclosed with a brick wall, and **guarded gates**.
- One or more **wide streets connected the central area to the city gates**.
- Segregated, the large homes of the elite and the squat mud dwellings of the common people crowded together interlinked with narrow passages.
- Waste was disposed on the streets, hence the better off **houses had all their windows facing inwards onto their courtyards**.
- Just outside these gates were probably reed huts of those unable to afford to live inside the walls.



Architecture

Houses:

- Sun-baked brick made of mud mixed with straw, mud plaster and wooden doors.
- Most large **houses** were built around a **courtyard**.
- Off one side was a large square room, where the family received guests and ate together.
- Leading off this room were the **private family quarters**. Other sides of the courtyard led to the kitchen, store rooms and servants accommodation.
- The homes of the poor were probably built of materials such as mud and reeds.

Palaces:

- Large and lavishly decorated.
- Built around a series of courtyards.
- Housed craftsmen's workshops, servants quarters, food storehouses, shrines, and of course the domestic accommodation for the royal family
- The largest of these led off to the **throne room**. The palace walls were decorated with carved stone slabs on which pictorial and textual depictions of cultural scenes or the the Kings' deeds
- Gates and important passageways were flanked with massive stone sculptures of mythological figures.
- Outside, these palaces were often adjoined to expansive gardens and parks, stocked with wild animals for hunting

CITY OF UR

The city of Ur was almost **oval in shape** with the Euphrates river around its sides.

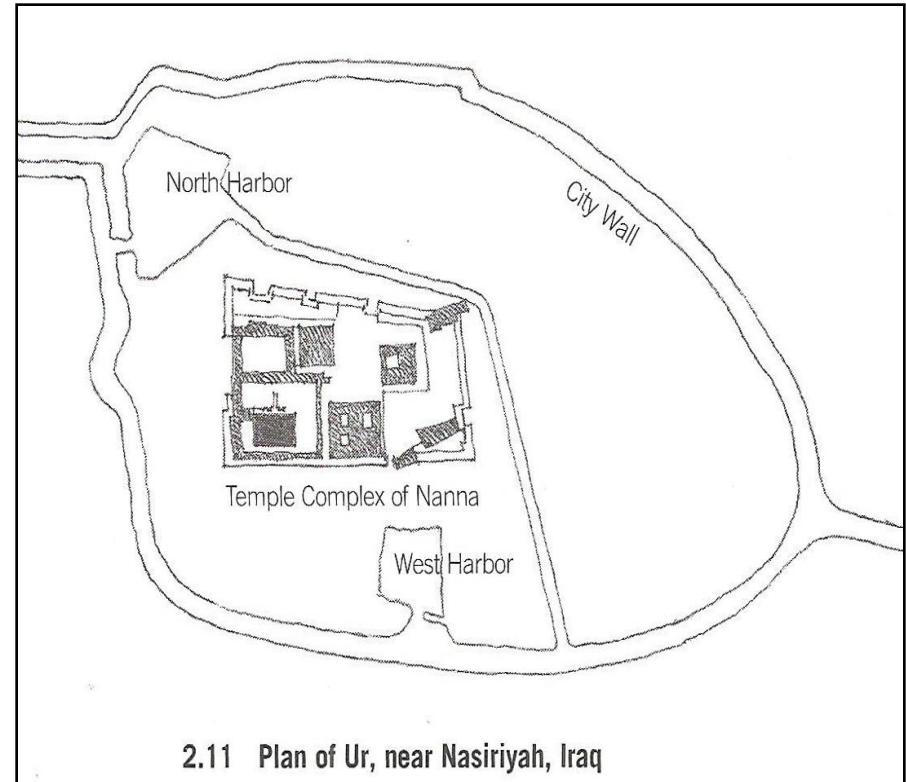
Harbors on the north and west side.

Temple complex was clamped between the harbors

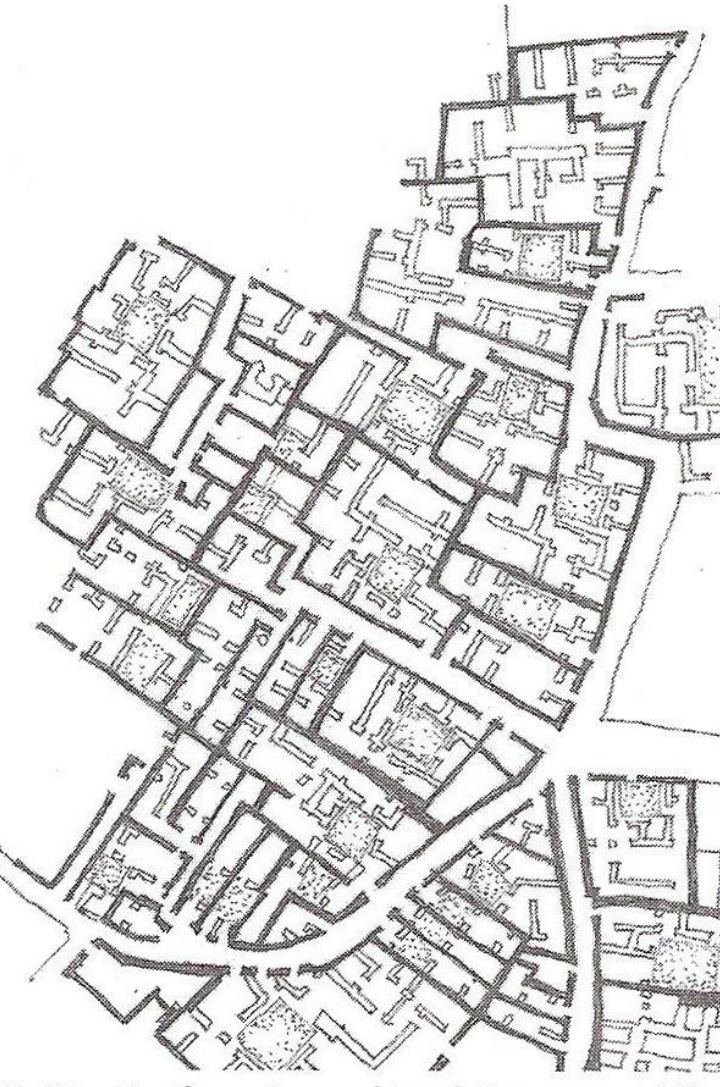
The surrounding walls were to protect and to impress. **Presence of gardens and orchards near the walls was common**

The **gates were flanked by towers** decorated on top with bands of shields.

The city was destroyed many times but was rebuilt and remained important mainly because of its shrines



CITY OF UR



Visitor would enter immediately into a densely built city.

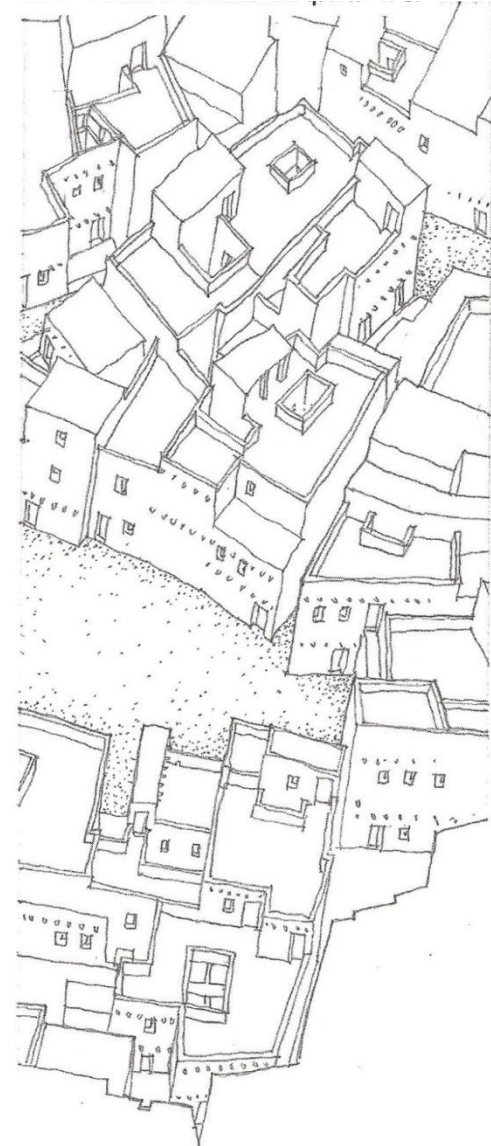
Royal roads were designed only later.

Streets varied from **narrow lanes** to streets only **2-3 meters wide**.

Mostly built in **sun baked mud brick**.

Domestic dwellings were organized around **small courtyards**. The side opposite the entrance usually had the principal room.

Long and shallow was used for meals and receptions.



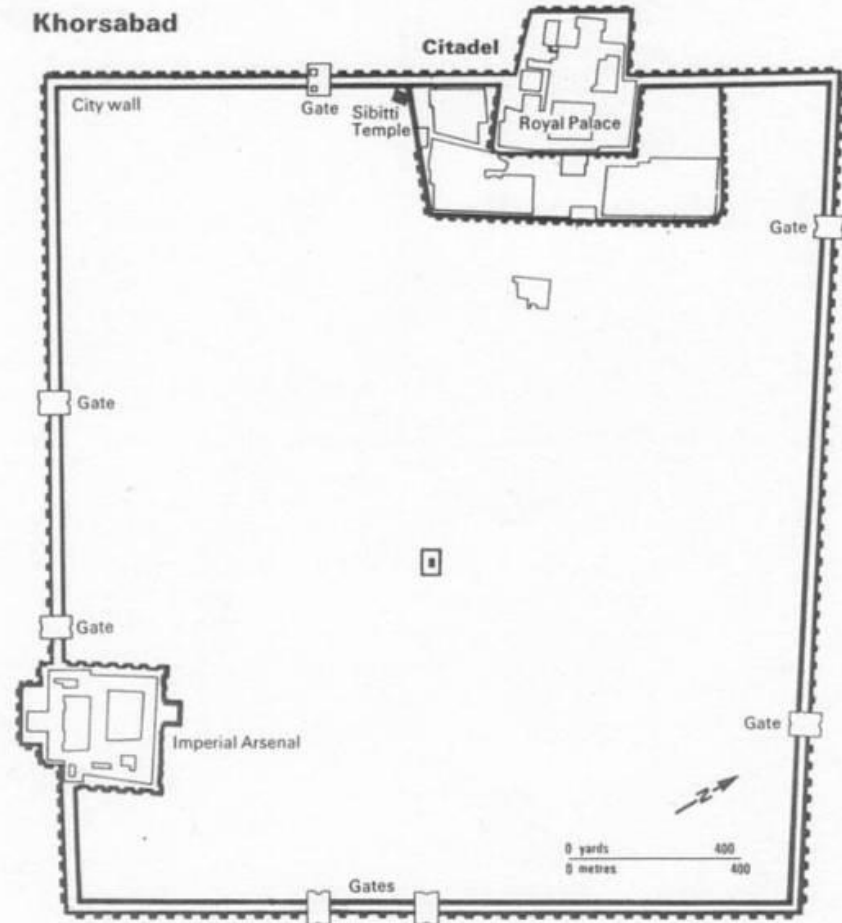
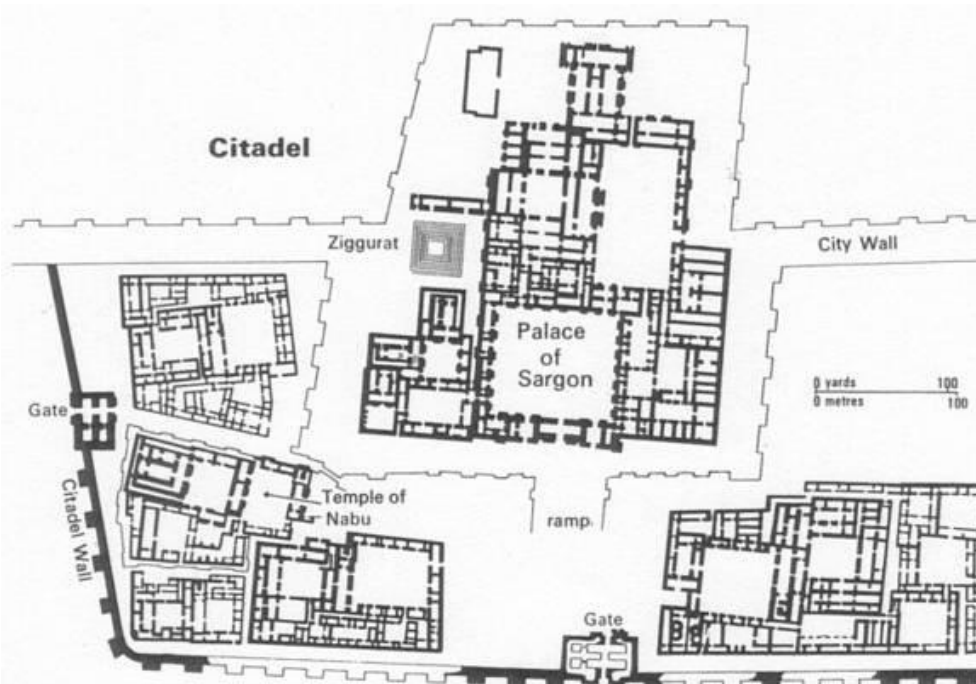
CITY OF KHORSABAD (Dur-Sharrukin)

Built by Sargon II as his new capital

Square planned – covered 1 sq mile

Two gateways in each tower serrated walls. 7 gates in total

Comprised – Palace of King's brother (his vizier), a temple to Nabu, official buildings and PALACE OF SARGON



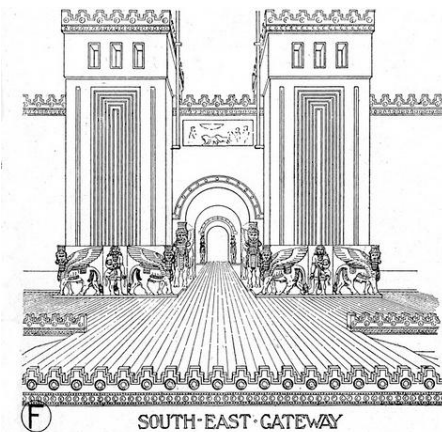
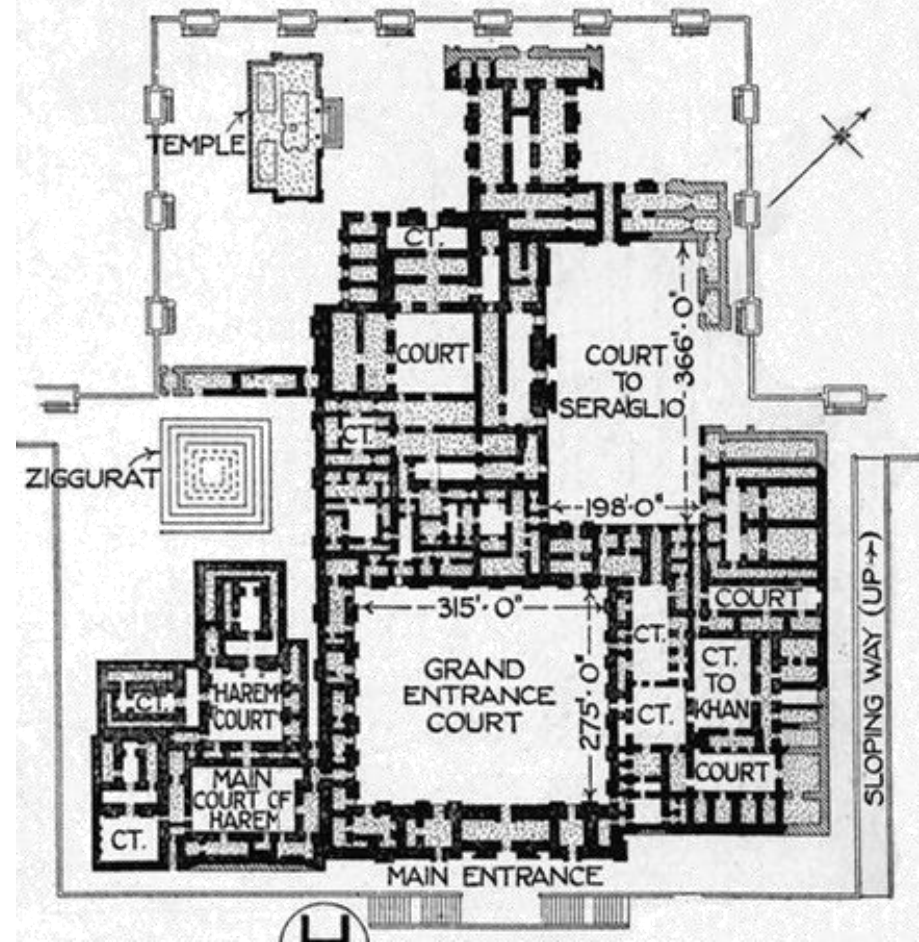
CITY OF KHORSABAD

Palace of Sargon

- Located North west of the City
- Complex of large and small courts, and rooms covering 23 acres.
- Each building was raised upon a **terrace**
- **The main entrance** to the palace court had towers with man headed winged bulls 3.8 mt high, with a bold semi circular arch.

The palace had:

- three main courts,
- 3 large & 3 small temples on the left
- service quarters and administrative offices on the right
- private and residential apartments opposite.



CITY OF KHORSABAD

Palace of Sargon

Throne room was 49m x 107 m, few rooms to have a flat timber ceiling.

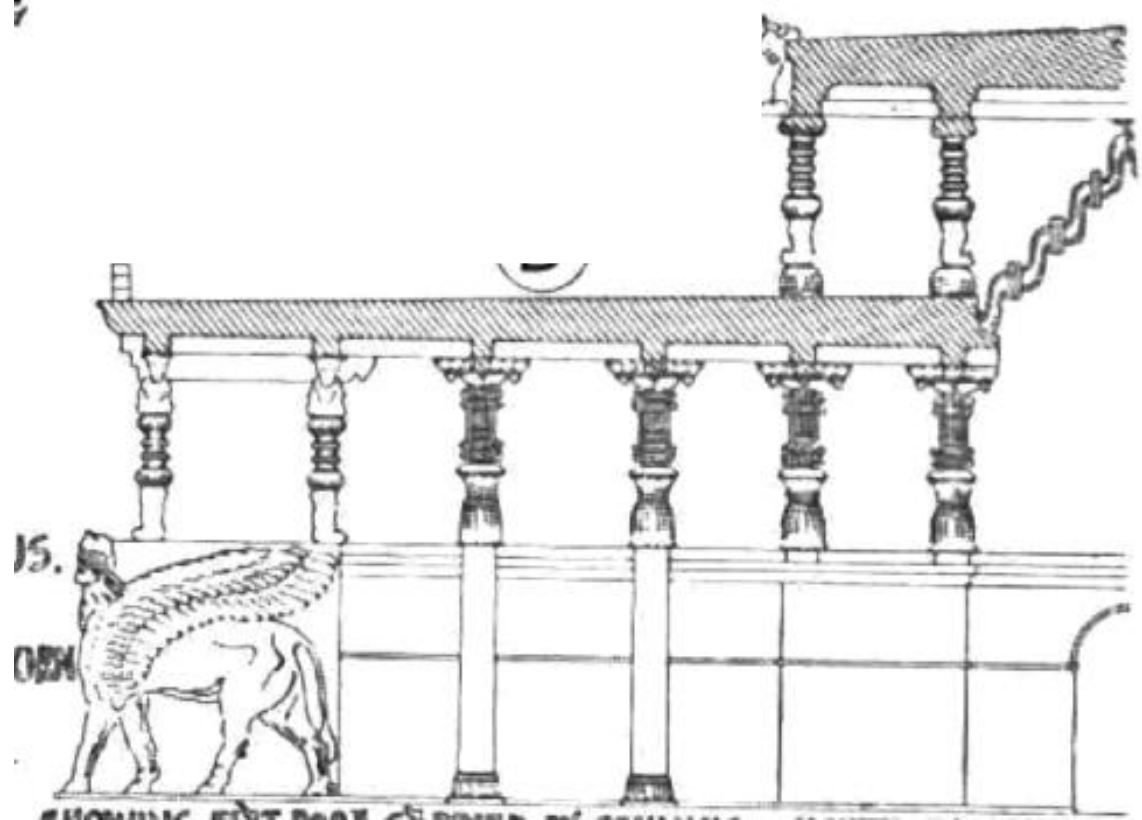
Throne room had plastered walls with decorations painted, around 5.5 m high overall throughout the room

There were **terracotta drains** to carry away rainwater.

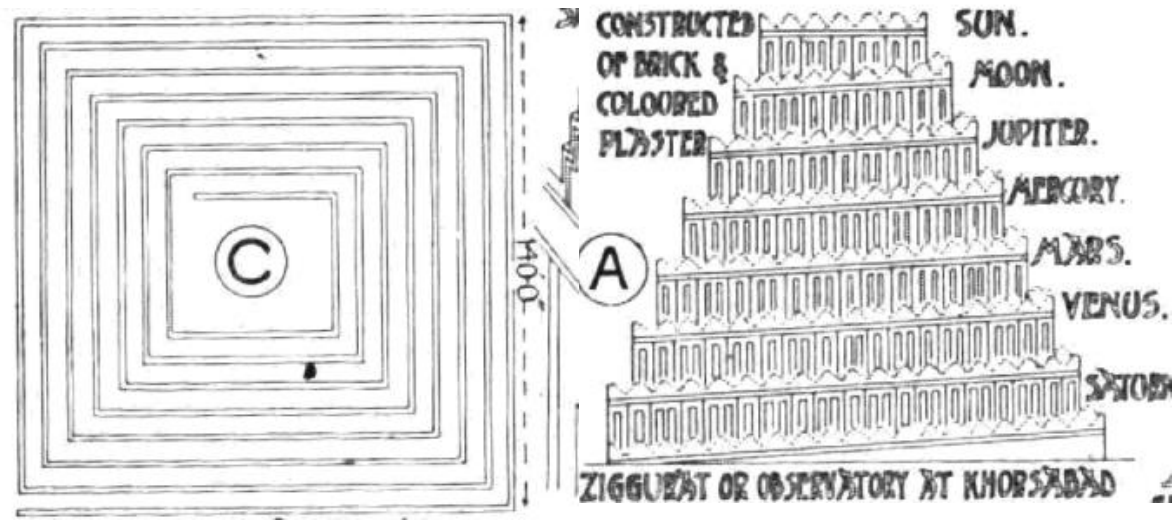
The only ziggurat of the city is associated with the palace and not the temple of Nabu.

The ziggurat is a 7 tiered square based structure with winding ramp 1.8 mt high.

Each tier was painted in different colors on plastered faces.

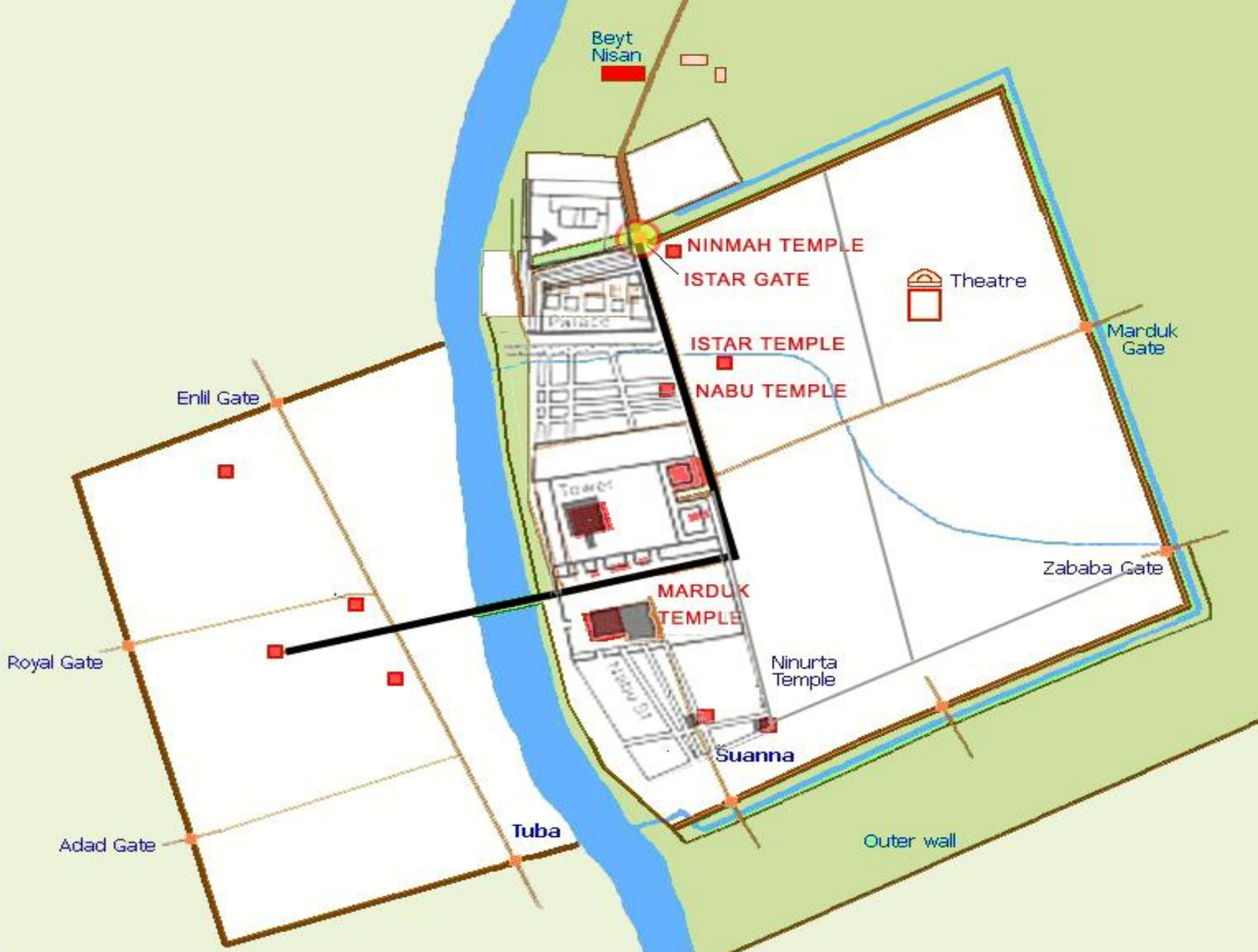


Flat roof carried by columns and lit by clerestory



BABYLON – “Gate of Gods”

- Modern day – 94 kms of Baghdad
- Use of Burnt brick for the city
- Rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar II
- It had inner and outer walls, strongly fortified
- **Inner city** – square plan -1300 mt side
- Few **main streets** intersected starkly at **right angles**, terminating in tower framed bronze gates.
- The main streets had dwellings, temples, businesses, shrines in a lively disorder.



BABYLON – “Gate of Gods”

The principle sites lined the river front and behind them was a processional street, **approached by ISHTAR GATE.**

ISHTAR GATE made in colored glazed bricks, patterned with yellow and white bulls and dragons in relief

There were palace citadels and along the river Euphrates, were the **HANGING GARDENS** 275m x 183 m

The central site on the river front had a temple for the chief god Marduk

To the north, was the associated ziggurat, “tower of Babel” - square plan, 90m sides, and there were 7 stages in all, the summit had blue glazed bricks.

