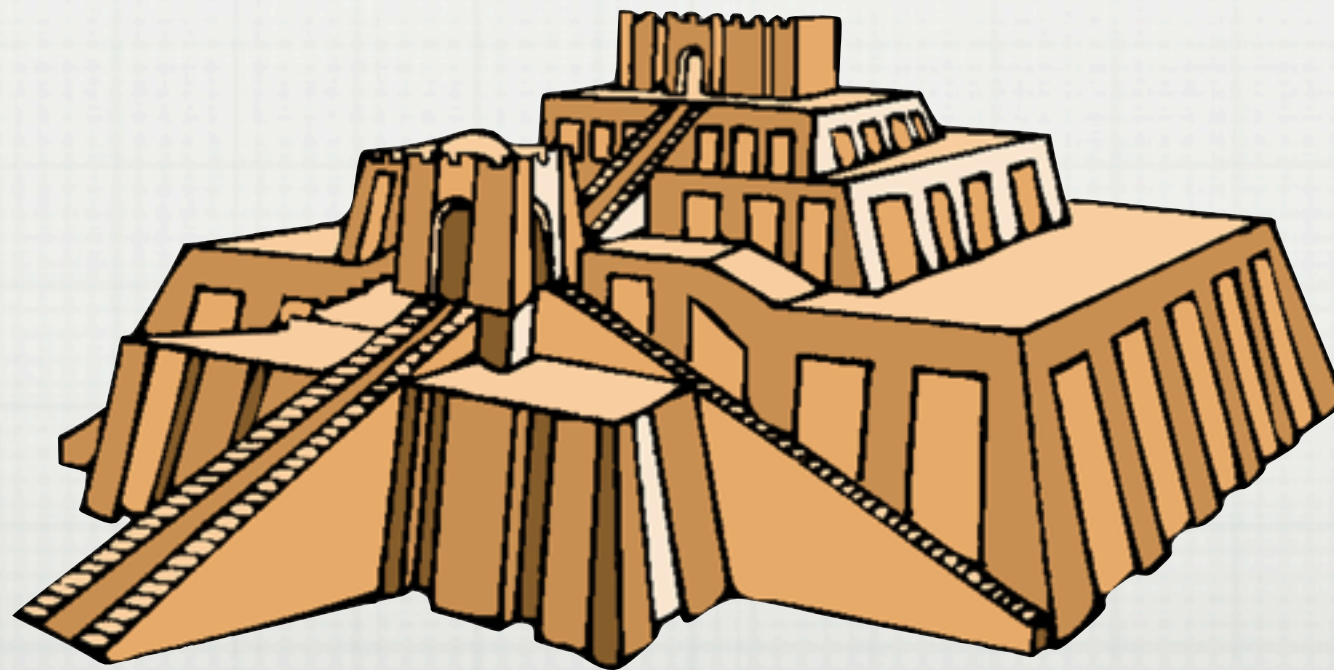


# ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN ART



Turn your watch, turn your watch back,  
about a hundred thousand years.  
A hundred thousand years.

I'll meet you by the third pyramid  
I'll meet you by the third pyramid  
Ah come on, that's what I want, we'll meet  
in **Mesopotamia**. oh oh oh

(We're goin' down to meet) I ain't no student,  
(Feel those vibrations) of ancient culture  
(I know a neat excavation) Before I talk  
I should read a book.  
But there's one thing I do know,  
There's a lot of ruins in **Mesopotamia**.

Six or eight thousand years ago  
They laid down the law. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa  
Six or eight thousand years ago  
They laid down the law. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa

I'll meet you by the third pyramid  
I'll meet you by the third pyramid  
Ah come on, that's what I want, we'll meet  
in **Mesopotamia**. oh oh oh

(We're goin' down to meet) Now I ain't no student,  
(Feel those vibrations) of ancient culture  
(I know a neat excavation) Before I talk  
I should read a book. (**Mesopotamia**, that's where I wanna go)  
But there's one thing that I do know, (**Mesopotamia**, that's where I wanna go)  
There's a lot of ruins in **Mesopotamia**.

Six or eight thousand years ago  
They laid down the law. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa  
Six or eight thousand years ago  
They laid down the law. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa  
In **Mesopotamia**. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa  
They laid down the law. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa  
In **Mesopotamia**. Ah ha ha ha ha ha haa

MESOPOTAMIA

BY THE

B-52s



# CUNEIFORM WRITING SYSTEM

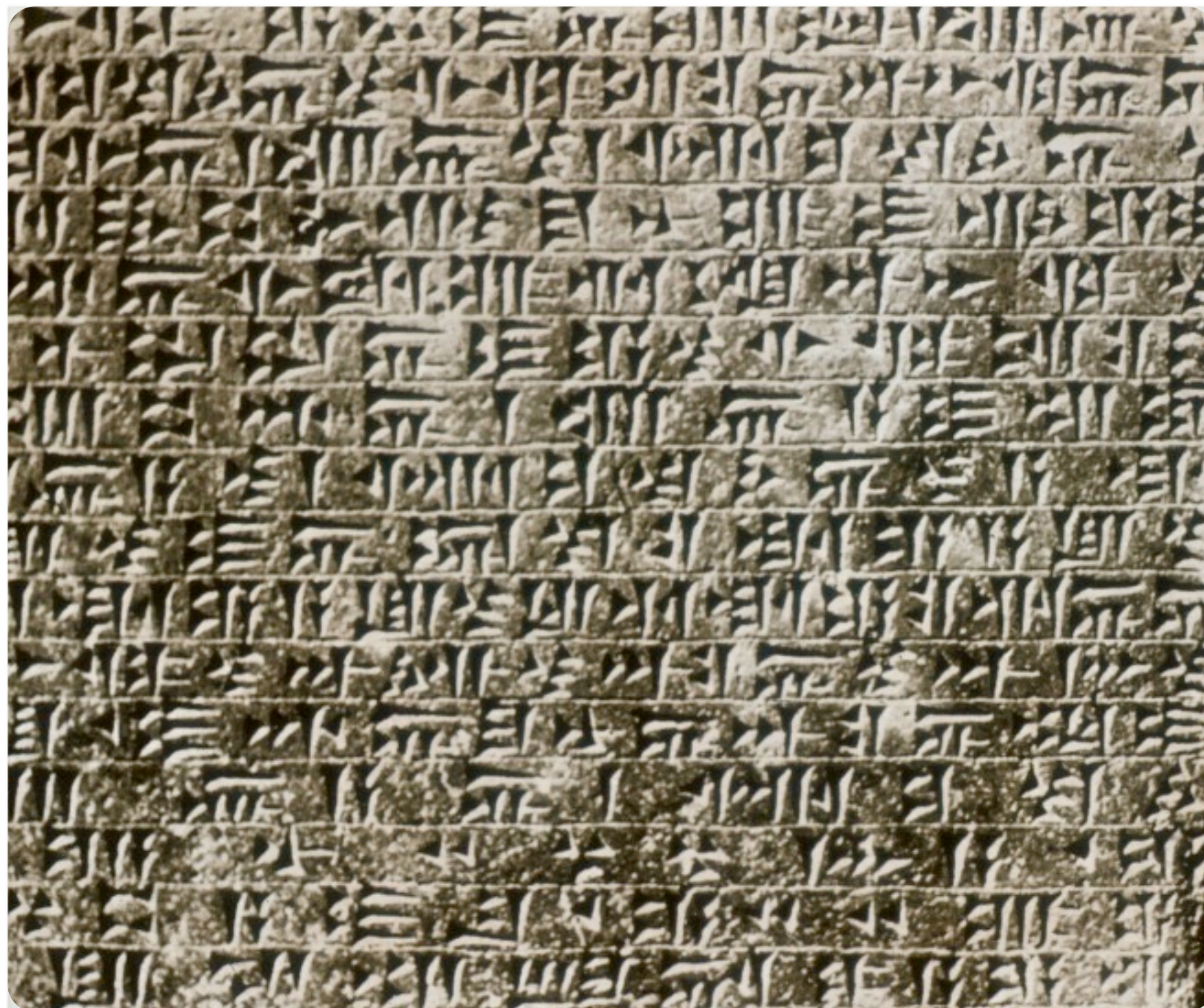


CUNEIFORM IS GREEK FOR “WEDGE-SHAPED”



[illegible]







# SUMERIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

3000 - 2350 BC



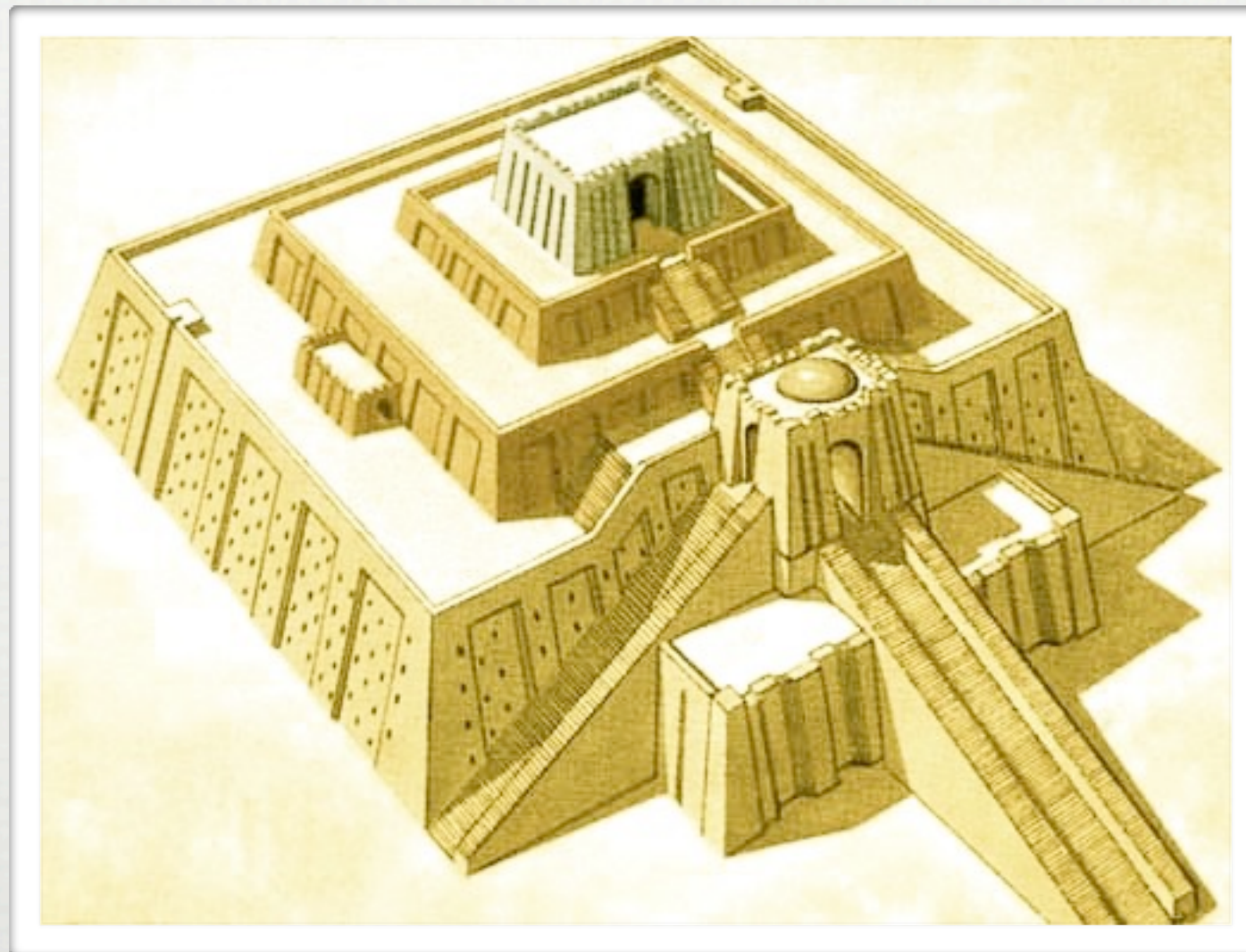
## PURPOSE OF PREHISTORIC ART?

- ▶ SURVIVAL
- ▶ MAGIC
- ▶ FERTILITY

## PURPOSE OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN ART?

- ▶ EXALTING THE KING (GOD-KING)

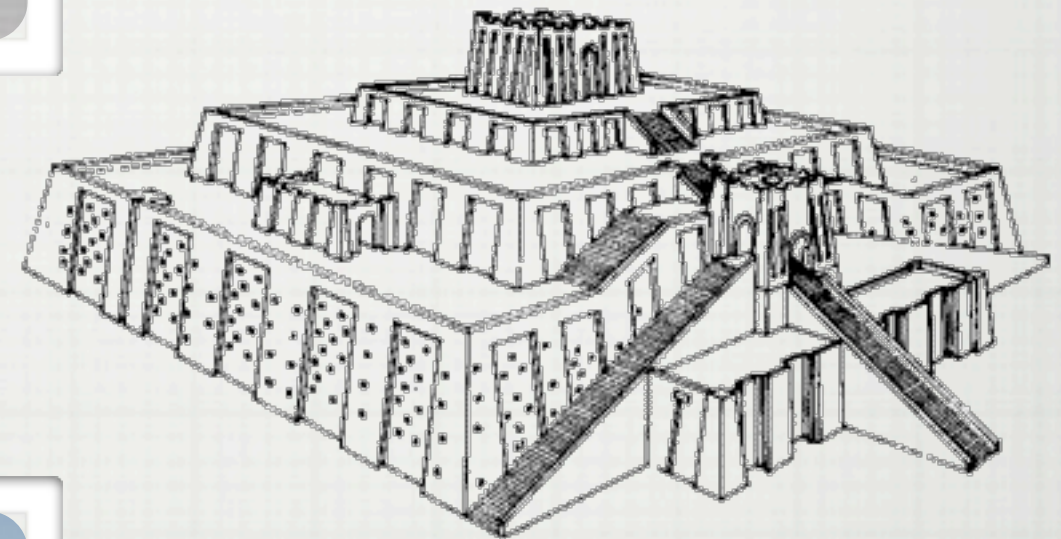
# ZIGGURATS





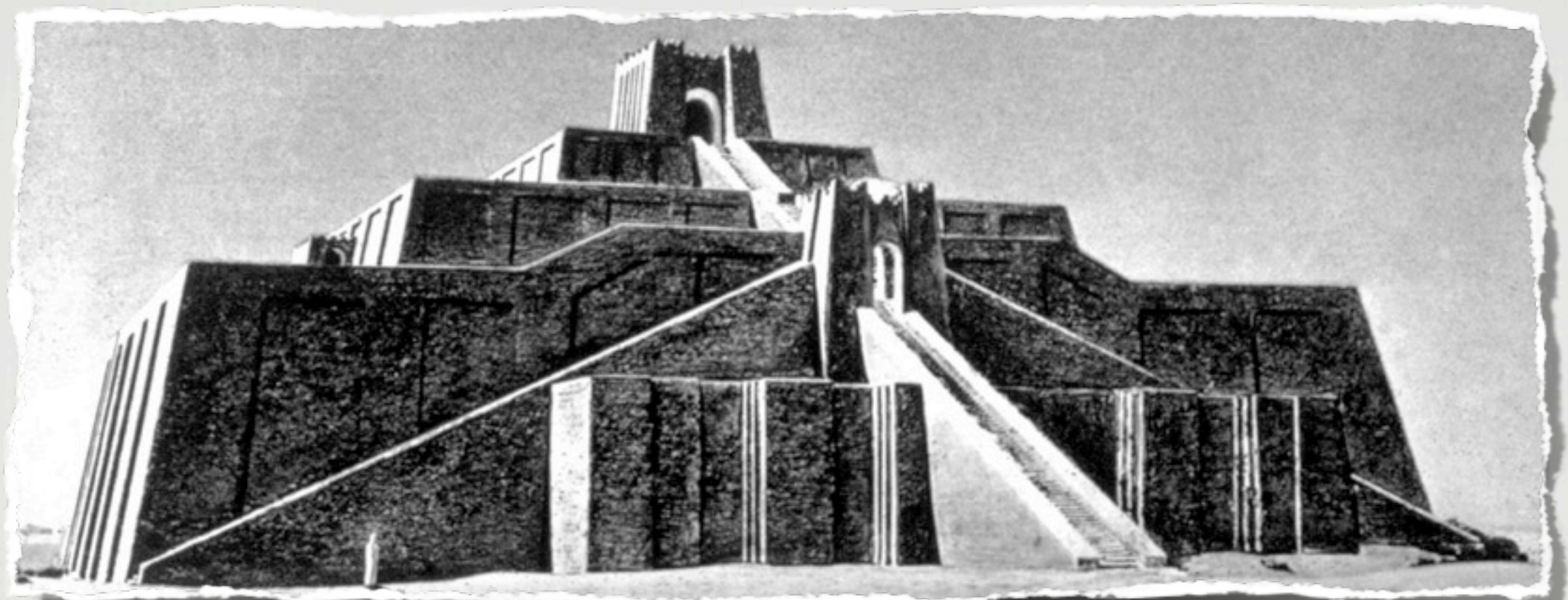


2150 - 2050 BC



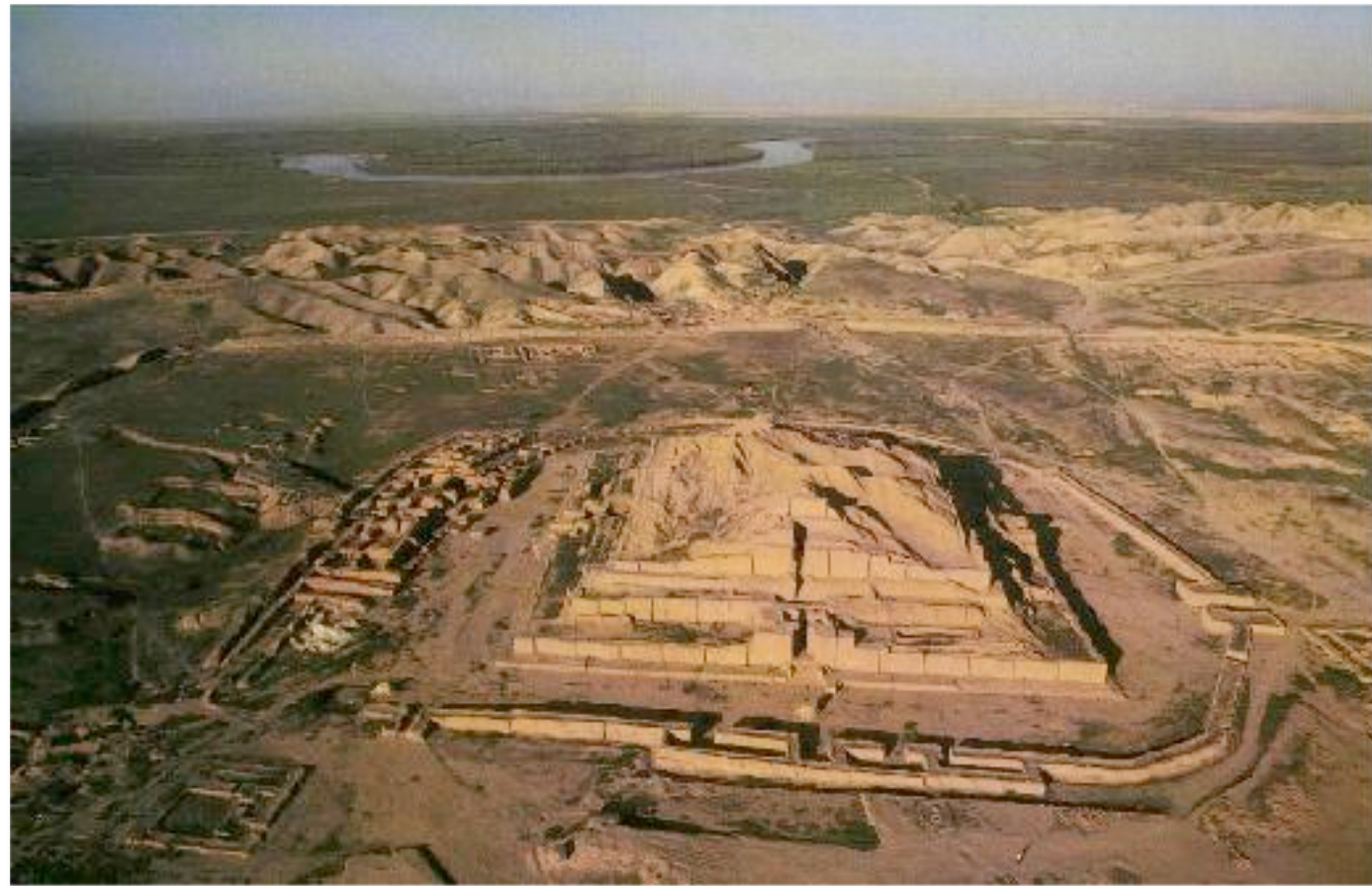
**Reconstruction of the Ziggurat at Ur**





WHY THIS TYPE STRUCTURE?  
WHO COULD CLIMB THE ZIGGURAT?





ZIGGURATS WERE  
CONSTRUCTED OF  
SUN-DRIED (UNFIRED)  
MUD BRICKS.









INANNA (ISHTAR)  
(OR A PRIESTESS?)

MARBLE

CIRCA 3000 BC

IT'S BELIEVED THAT  
THE EYES WERE  
MADE OF LAPIS LAZULI





# WARKA VASE

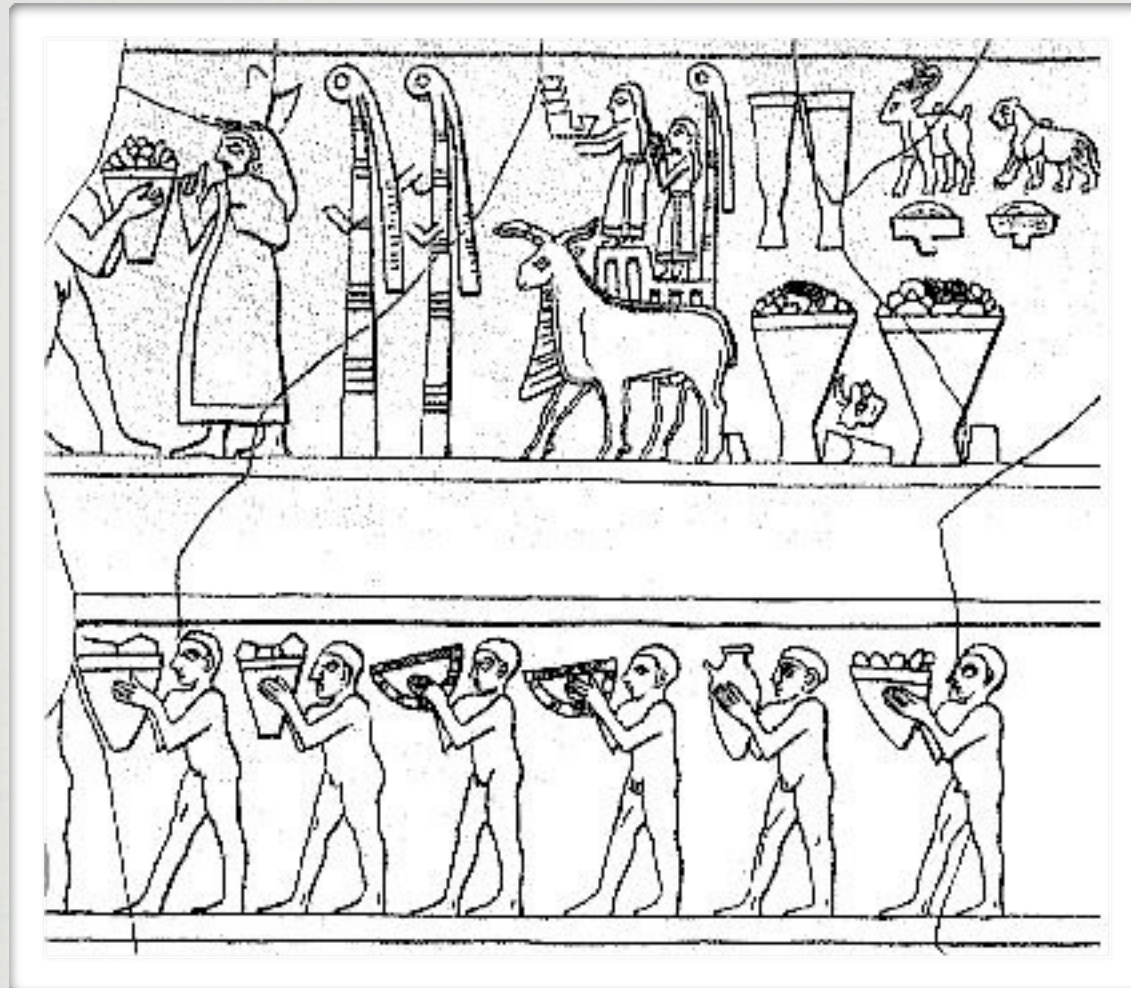


Warka Vase





# WARKA VASE



REGISTERS

- ▶ MADE OF ALABASTER
- ▶ OVER THREE FEET TALL
- ▶ FIRST COHERENT NARRATIVE ON A WORK OF ART



# DAMAGED BY LOOTING WHEN THE USA INVADED BAGHDAD







HE-GOAT  
AND FLOWERING TREE  
CIRCA 2500 BC



WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

# VOTIVE FIGURINES

2600 - 2700 BC



WHAT ARE THEY NOT DOING?

WHAT'S WITH THE EYES?



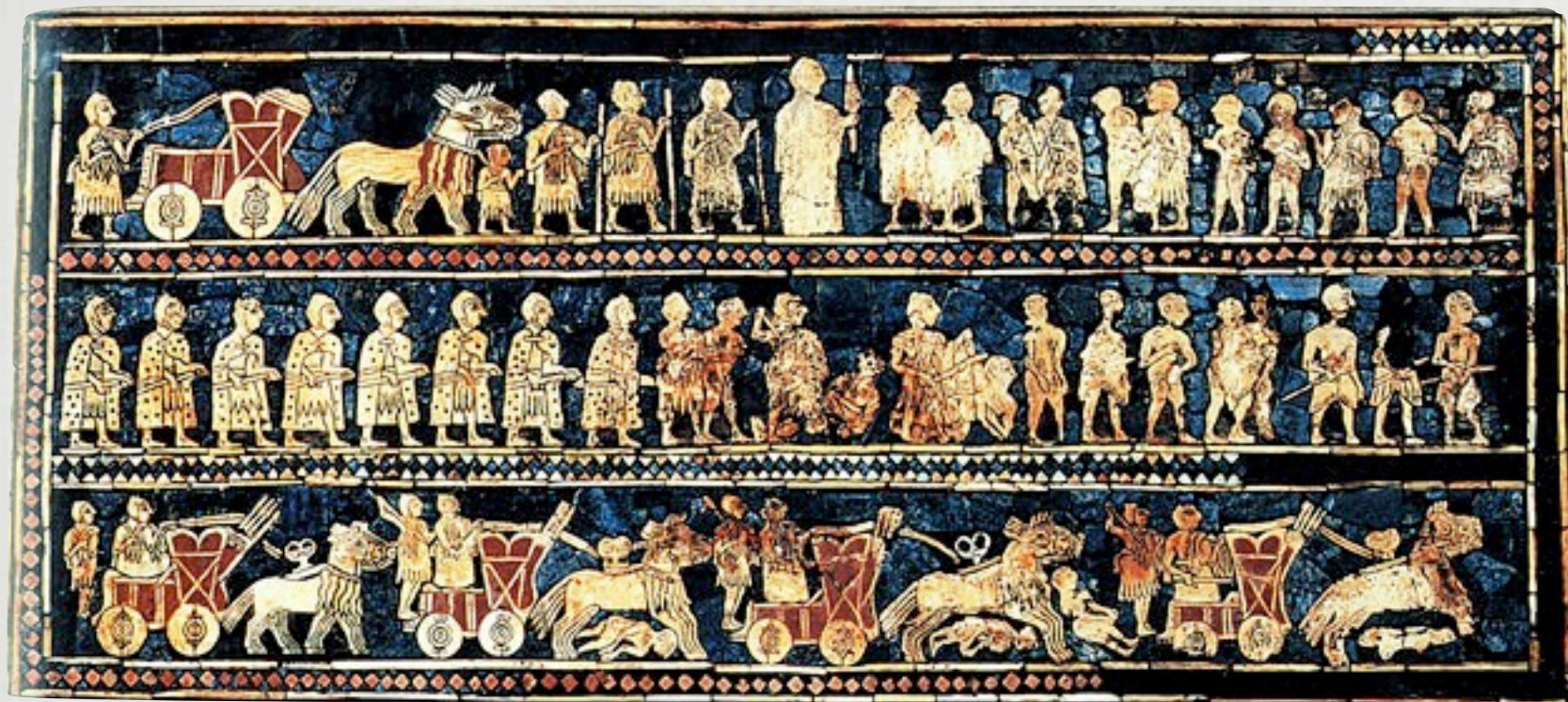
# STANDARD OF UR



CIRCA 2600-2400 BC

FOUND IN THE ROYAL CEMETERY OF UR





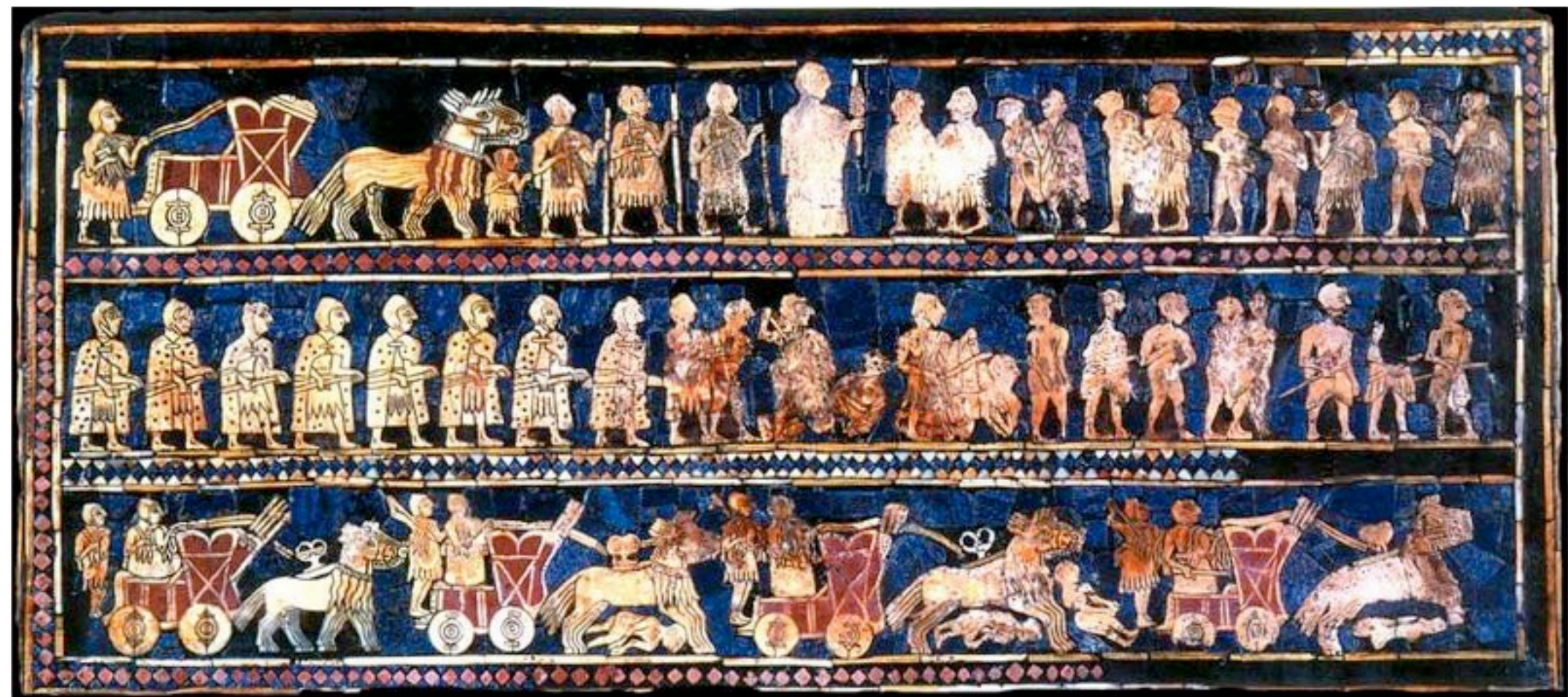
WAR



PEACE



- ▶ NOT A TRUE STANDARD
- ▶ MADE OF LAPIS LAZULI, SHELL, AND LIMESTONE
- ▶ READ LEFT TO RIGHT AND BOTTOM TO TOP
- ▶ FRONTAL, PROFILE, OR COMPOSITE VIEW OF MEN?









# BULL LYRE OF UR

2685 BC









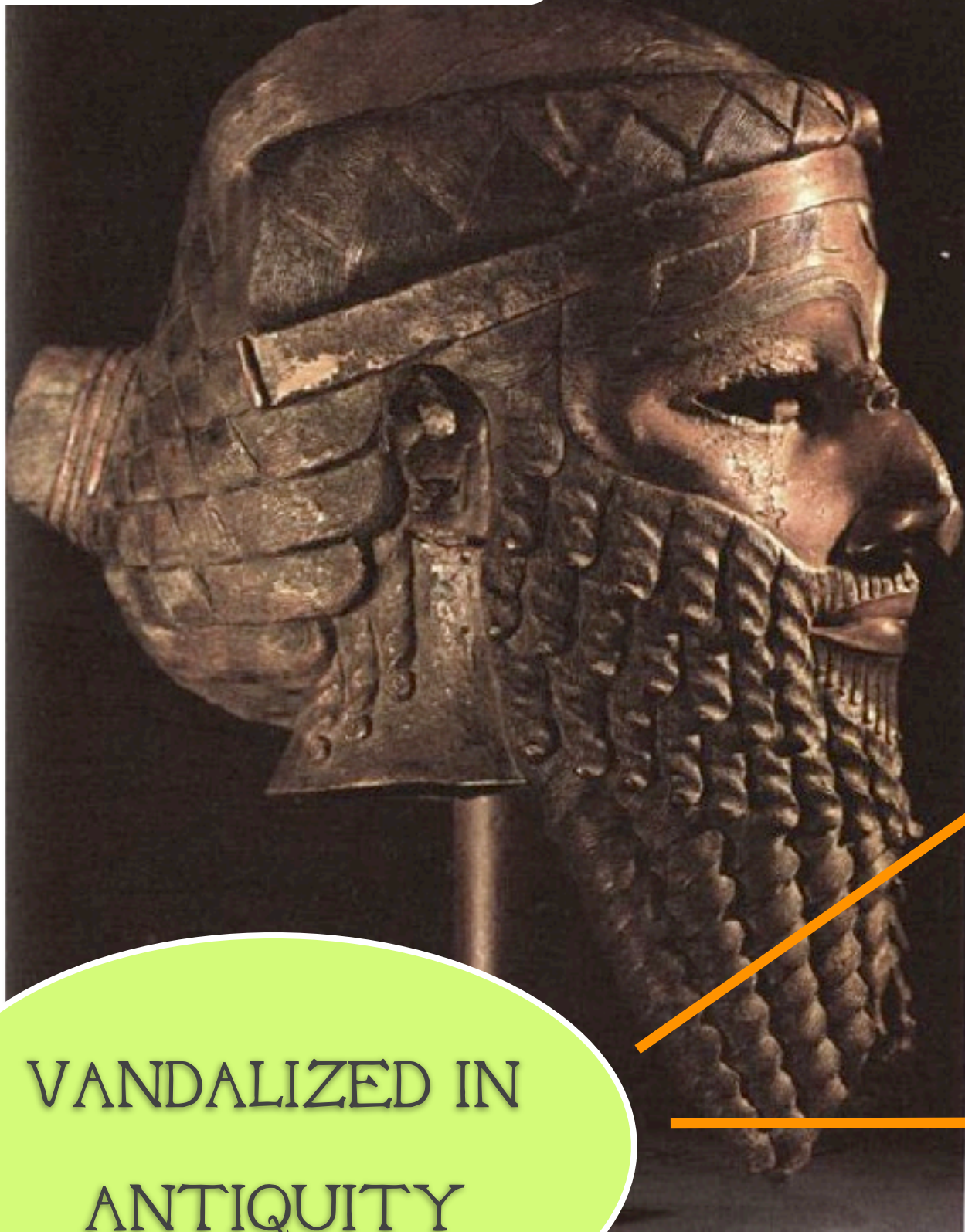
# AKKADIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

2350 - 2150 BC



AKKADIAN RULER

WHY?



VANDALIZED IN  
ANTIQUITY

CIRCA 2350-2150 BC







# STELE OF NARAM-SIN

WHO DA  
MAN?

CIRCA 2200 BC



HIERARCHY OF SCALE



# BABYLONIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

*1900 - 1500 BC*



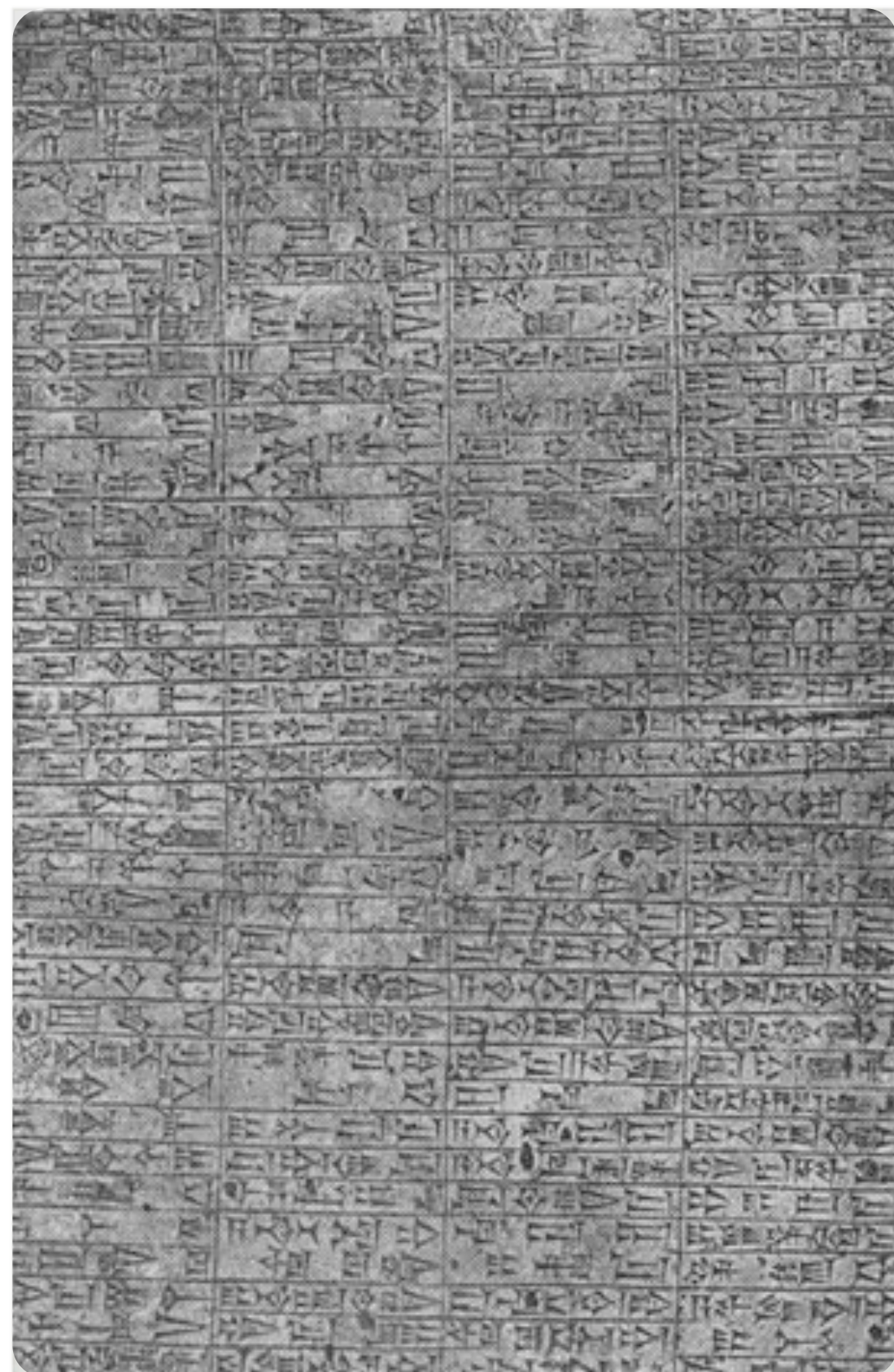


# STELE OF HAMMURABI (HAMMURABI'S CODE)

1760 BC

BASALT











# ASSYRIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

1076 - 612 BC



# LAMASSU

## THE PALACE OF ASSURNASIRPAL II.

883- 859 BC

OVER TEN FEET TALL

ALABASTER

NIMRUD, NORTHERN IRAQ







LAMASSU

HUMAN-HEADED  
WINGED BULL









CLOSE-UP OF  
A SECTION OF  
THE LION HUNT FROM  
THE PALACE OF  
ASSURBANIPAL

668 - 630 BC

GYPSUM





SECTION OF  
THE LION HUNT FROM THE  
PALACE OF ASSURBANIPAL









POLITICIANS  
TRYING TO  
LOOK TOUGH







GILGAMESH

722 - 705 BC

ALABASTER





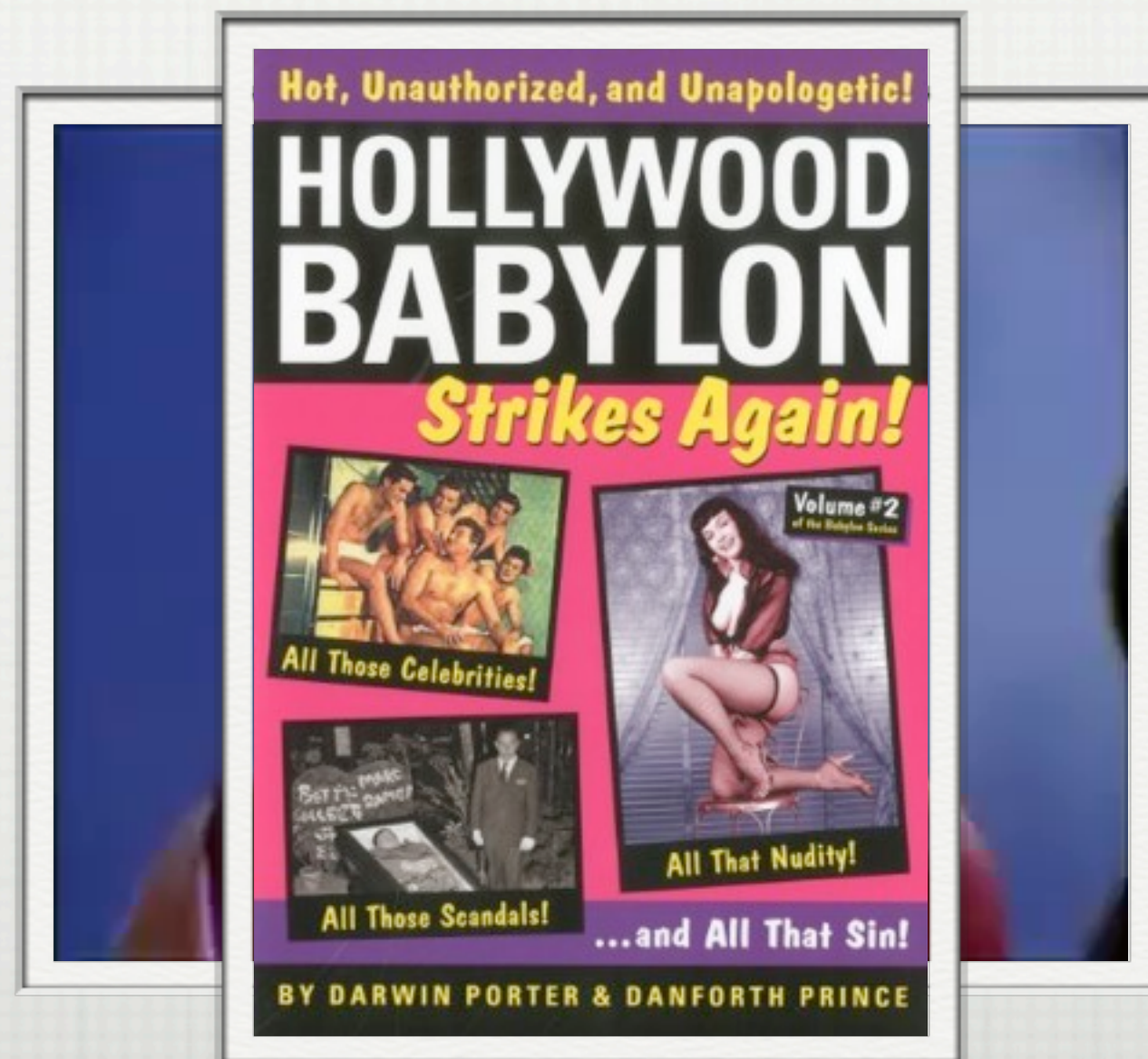


CHALDEAN  
(NEO-BABYLONIAN)  
ART AND  
ARCHITECTURE

*625 - 539 BC*



# WHAT ARE TWO THEMES ASSOCIATED WITH BABYLON?







# ISHTAR GATE

*CIRCA 575 BC*

BABYLON, IRAQ

TODAY: BERLIN







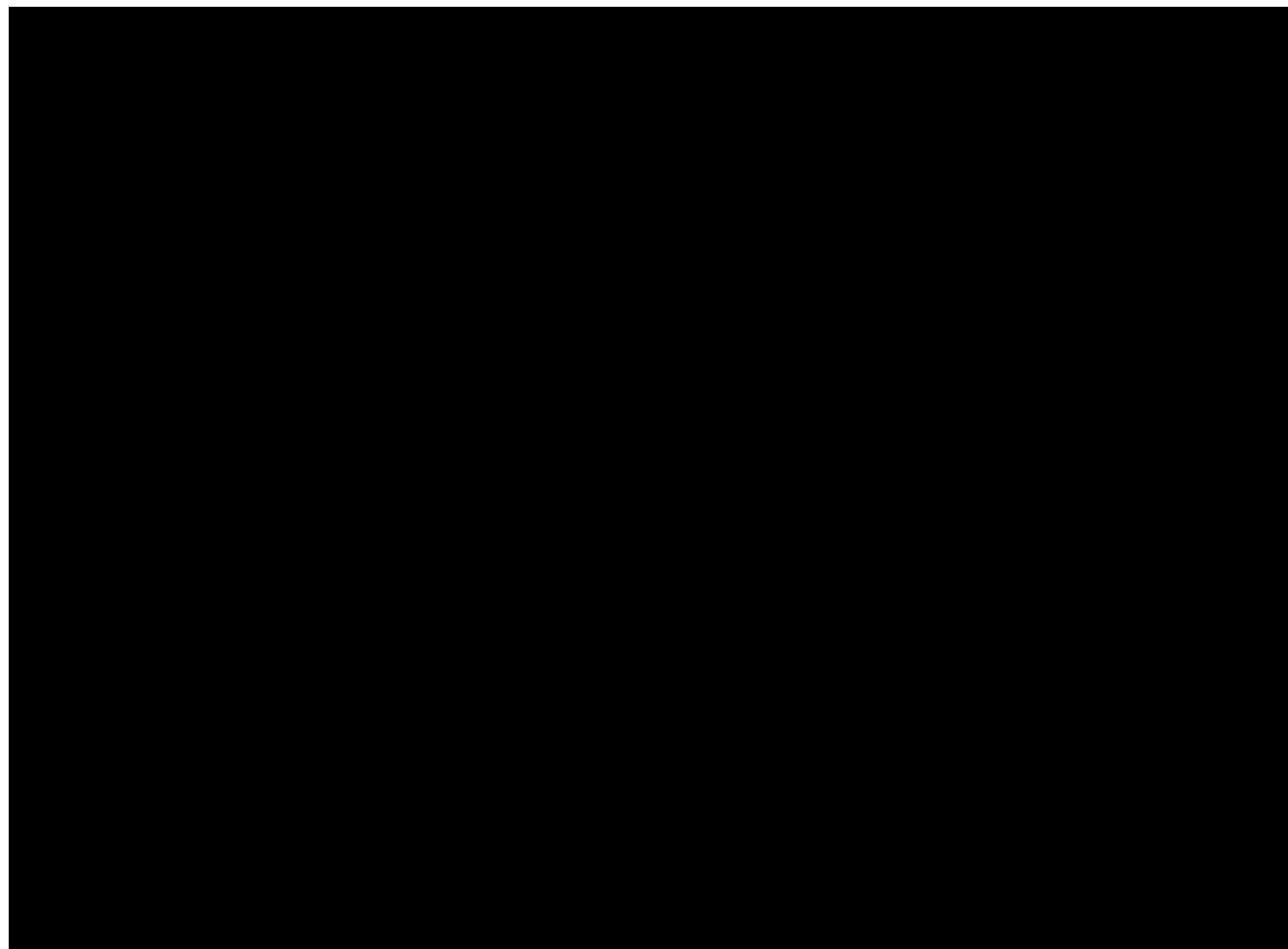






THE GATE AS IT  
MAY HAVE LOOKED







# PERSIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

539 - 331 BC

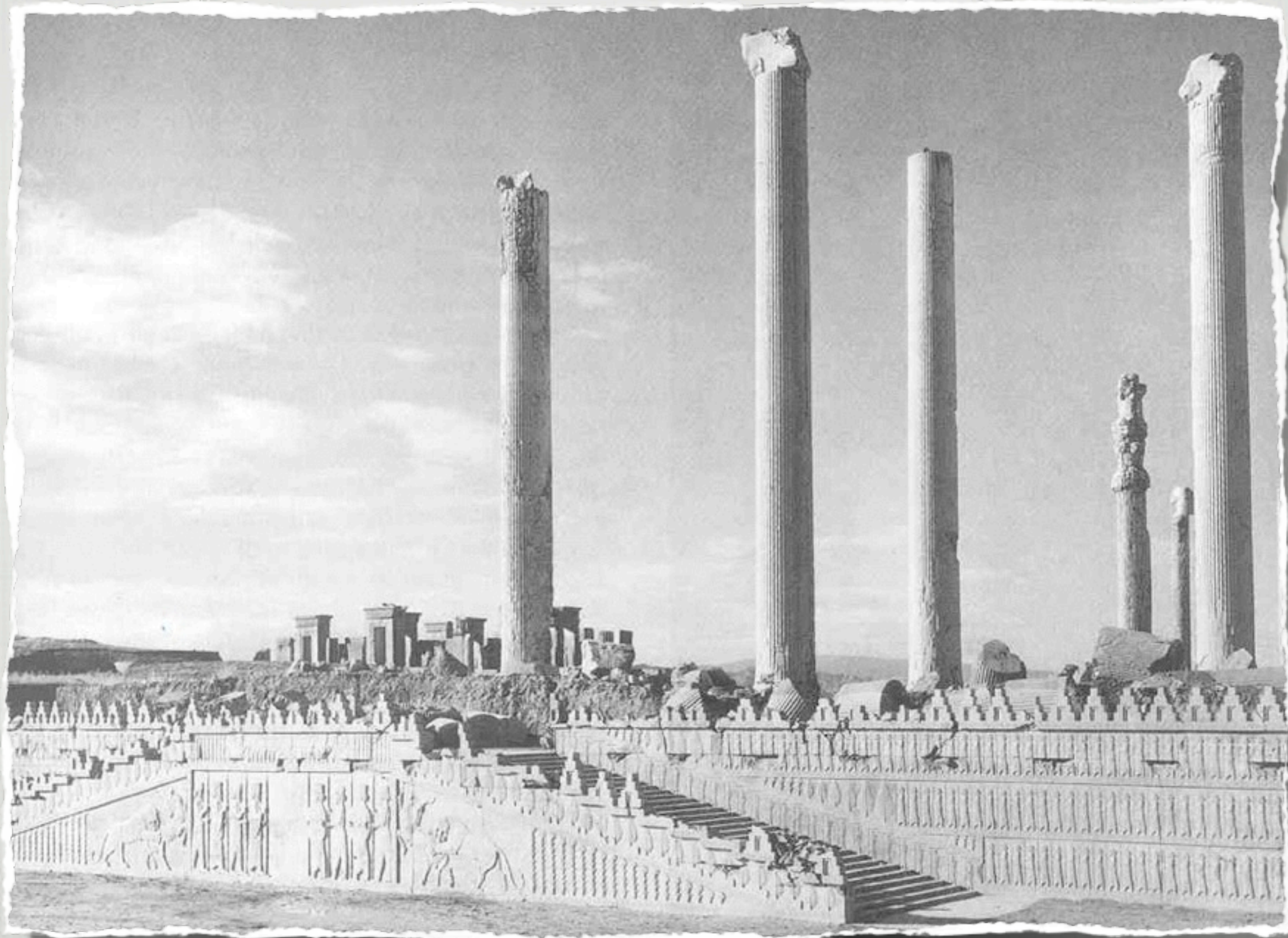


# PERSEPOLIS

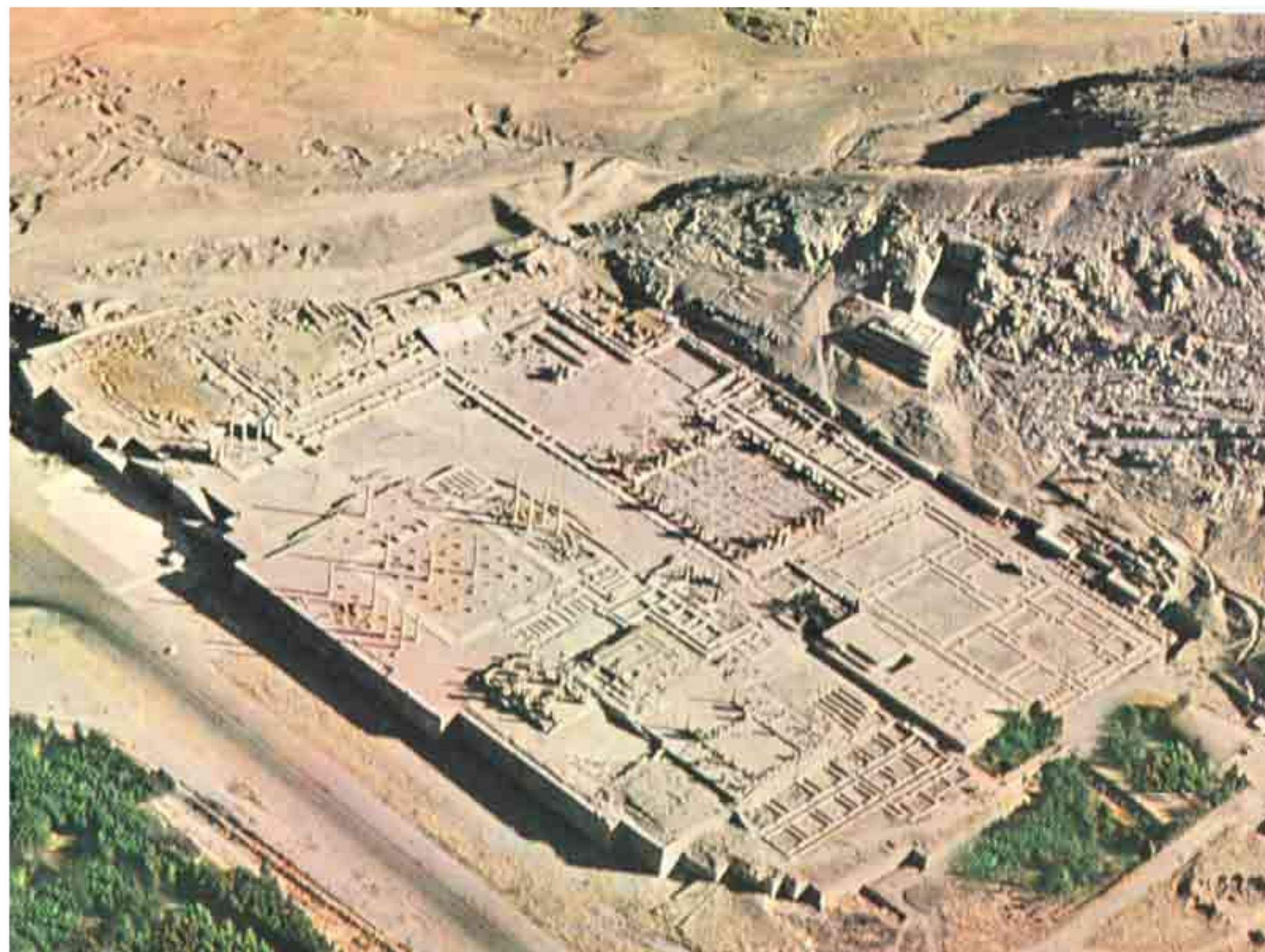
CIRCA 500 BC



































KING DARIUS  
PERSEPOLIS WALL







# ZOROASTRIANISM

---

▶ ZOROASTER = ZARATHUSTRA

▶ BORN CIRCA 660 BC

▶ FOUNDED IN PERSIA

▶ MONOTHEISTIC OR DUALISTIC?

▶ GATHAS: SCRIPTURE ATTRIBUTED TO ZOROASTER





AHURA MAZDA (OR ORMAZD):

- ▶ TRUTH
- ▶ HOLY SPIRIT
- ▶ CREATING WORD THAT EXISTED  
BEFORE THE WORLD
- ▶ LIGHT

TWO FORCES AT  
WAR

AHRIMAN:

- ▶ EVIL
- ▶ DECEIT
- ▶ DARKNESS



# ZOROASTRIANISM

---

- ▶ ORIGINALLY NO RITUALS, PRIESTS, OR TEMPLES
- ▶ EMPHASIZED MORAL LIVING
- ▶ ESCHATOLOGY: BELIEFS ABOUT FUTURE/END TIMES
  - ▶ LOOKED FORWARD TO THE SAOSHYANS (SAVIOR) WHO WOULD RESURRECT AND JUDGE THE DEAD
  - ▶ HEAVEN AND HELL (HOUSE OF SONG AND HOUSE OF LIE)
  - ▶ FRASKART: ULTIMATE LIFE AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF AHRIMAN.



# ZOROASTRIANISM

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- ▶ OVER TIME, ZOROASTRIANISM DEVELOPED A LITURGY, SACRIFICES, AND A PRIESTHOOD
- ▶ EVENTUALLY, ISHTAR AND MITHRA (GOD OF LIGHT) WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE RELIGION
- ▶ ZOROASTRIANISM SUFFERED FROM THE INVASION OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE MUSLIM CONQUEST OF PERSIA.
- ▶ MASS MIGRATION OF ZOROASTRIANS FROM PERSIA TO INDIA.
- ▶ PARSISM = ZOROASTRIANISM IN INDIA



# ZOROASTRIANISM

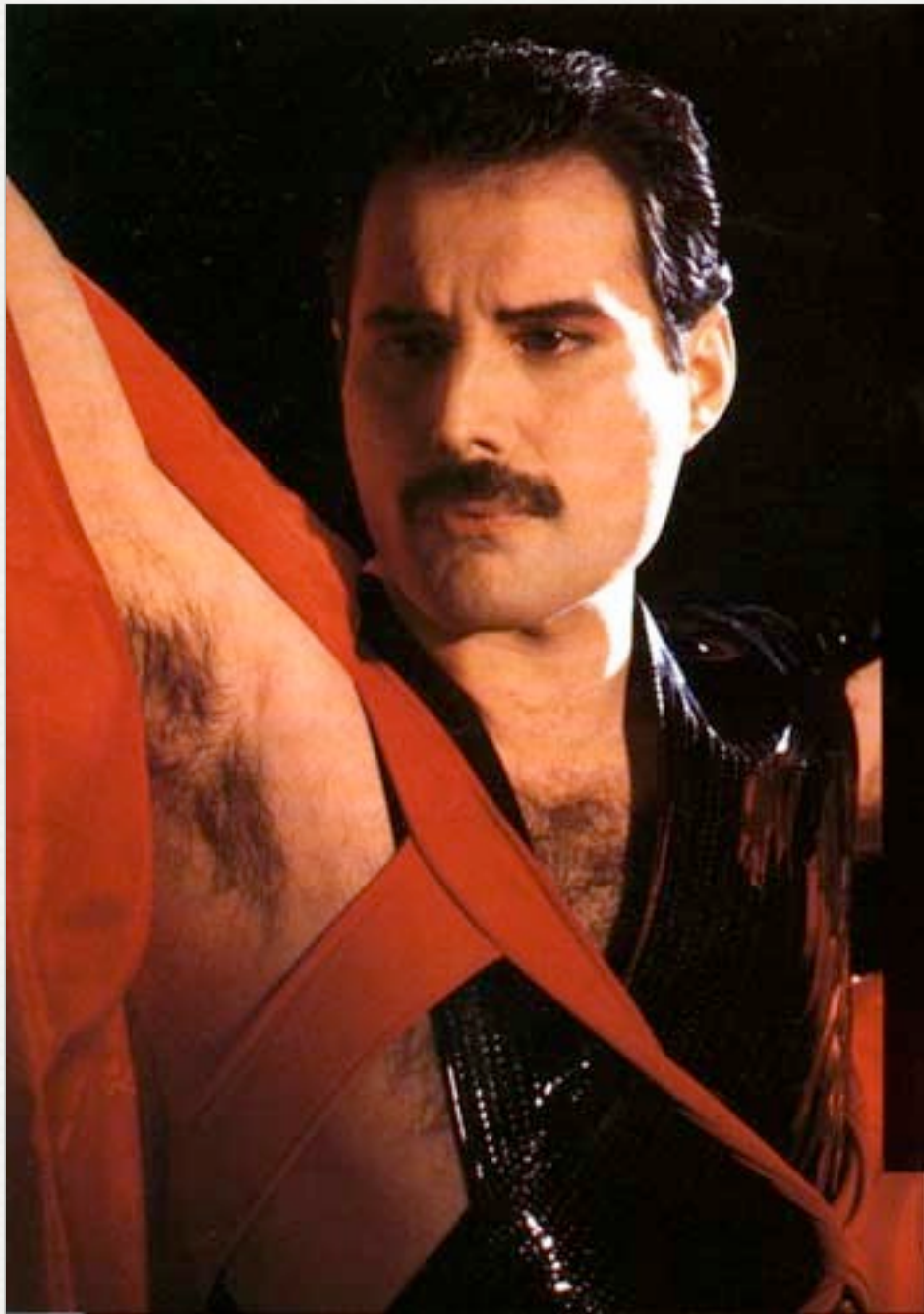
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- ▶ THEY DON'T BURY THEIR DEAD. THEY LEAVE THEM OUT FOR ANIMALS (VULTURES) TO CONSUME.
- ▶ FIRE AND THE EARTH ARE SACRED SO CREMATION AND BURIAL ARE OUT THE QUESTION.



# FAMOUS ZOROASTRIAN

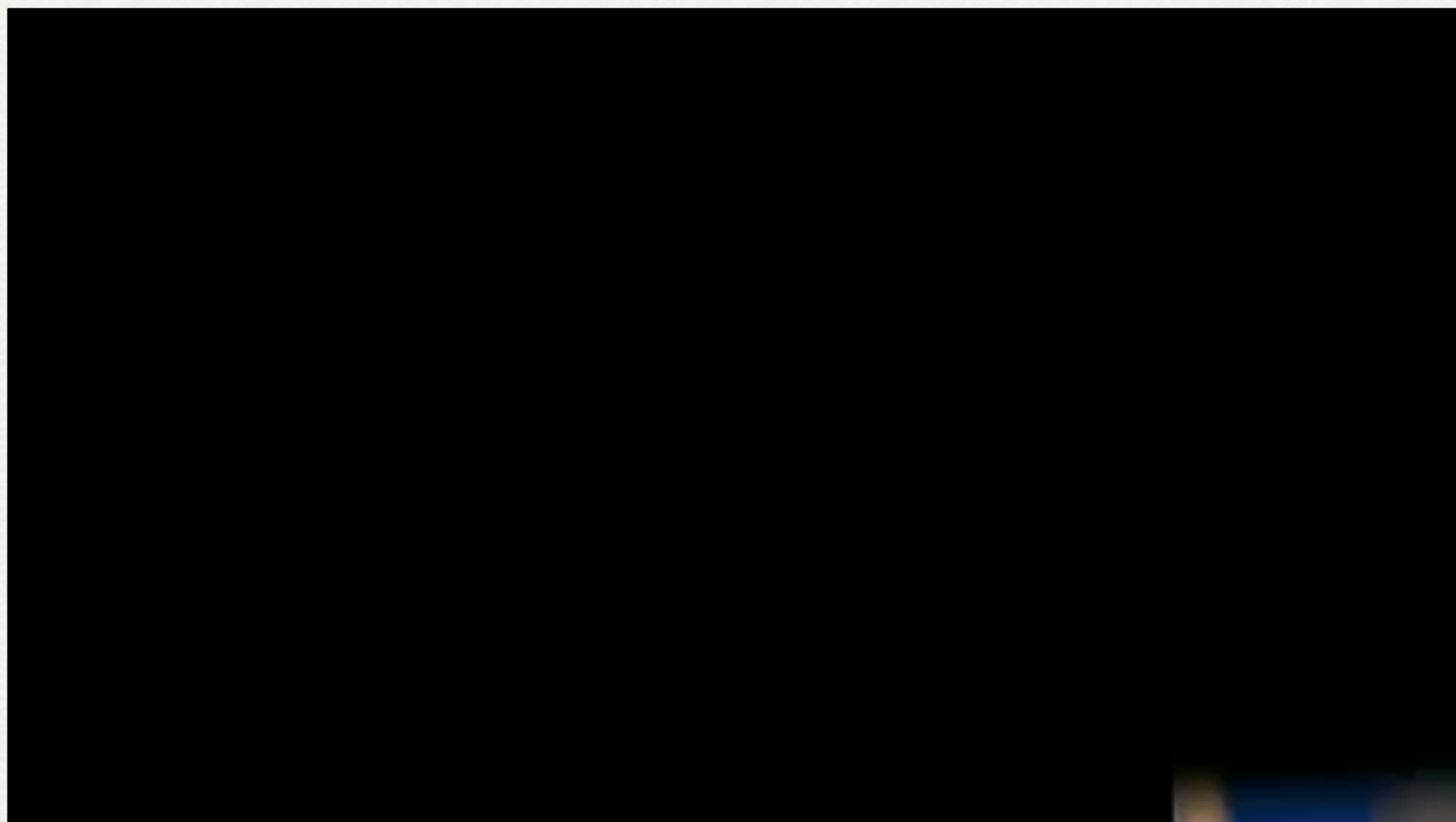
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FREDDY MERCURY









FIN