

***ANCIENT LITERATURE,
ANCIENT CHRONICLES***

VOLUME 1

STUDENT WORKBOOK

J. Parnell McCarter

©2004 J. Parnell McCarter. All Rights Reserved.

**6408 Wrenwood
Jenison, MI 49428
(616) 457-8095**

The Puritans' Home School Curriculum
www.puritans.net

SECTION ONE: COURSE CHECK-OFF LIST

ANCIENT LITERATURE, ANCIENT CHRONICLES I

Course Check-Off List

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

ASSIGNMENT #	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETED? (X)	ASSIGNMENT SCORE (On 100-Point Scale)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
Total of Scores on 14 Assignments		
Average Assignment Score (Total of Scores/14)		

Overall Grade in Course (Letter Grade Equivalent of the Average Test Score): _____

Note: Grading in this course should be done on a 100-point scale, with letter grades assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Score on 100-Point Scale	Score on 4.0 Scale
A+	97 - 100	4.0
A	94 - 96	4.0
A-	90 - 93	4.0
B+	87 - 89	3.0
B	84 - 86	3.0
B-	80 - 83	3.0
C+	77 - 79	2.0
C	74 - 76	2.0
C-	70 - 73	2.0
D	60 - 69	1.0
F	0 - 59	0

In order to determine how many points each question in a test is worth, divide 100 by the number of questions in the test. For example, if there are 10 questions in a test, then each question is worth 10 points ($= 100 / 10$). So if a student got 9 out of the 10 questions right, then his test score is 90 ($= 9 \times 10$) on a 100-point scale. His letter grade, according to the table above, would then be an A-.

We supply in the above table the corresponding grade on a 4.0 scale.

SECTION TWO: ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENT # 1

1. What is the foundation of all study of history and literature?
2. During what historical event was the Jewish chronicler Josephus taken hostage to Rome, where he remained, and became a protégé of three Roman emperors?
3. According to Josephus in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, what do the Armenians call the place where Noah came out of the Ark and sacrificed to God?
4. Is Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews* written in poem or prose?
5. According to Josephus, from which son of Japheth came what Greeks called Galatians or Galls?
6. According to Josephus, what did Greeks call the land between Gaza and Egypt, after Philistim, descendant of Mizraim?
7. What did the Greeks call the Aramites?
8. Where did Josephus say most of the descendants of Joktan settled?
9. Who were the books of the Macabees named after?
10. In the First Book of the Macabees, which Grecian Seleucid king is said to have profaned the Jewish sanctuary in Jerusalem (occurring around 167 BC)?
11. What was the name of the father of Judas Maccabeus, who refused to worship idols, even for silver and gold?

ASSIGNMENT # 2

1. The Eblaite tablets seem to date around 2000 BC. In what language are they written?
2. In a number of significant respects the Eblaite tablets confirm the Genesis account. One tablet, for instance, recorded the same basic order of God's creation found in Genesis. Another example is the language itself. The word for 'man', for instance, implies agreement with the Genesis account. What is the word for 'man' used in the Eblaite tablets?
3. In the Bible, the word 'ya' refers to what is often translated in our English Bibles as Jehovah (or LORD) and the word 'el' (or 'il') refers to what is often translated in our English Bibles as God. From the Eblaite documents, how do we know the people of Ebla had an awareness of Jehovah and God (or Jehovah God)?
4. Which god was the patron deity of Ugarit, as we find in the tablets and other excavated remains of Ugarit?
5. In the Ugaritic texts, who is El?
6. In the Ugaritic texts, who is Yam (or Yah or Yahweh)?
7. In the Ugaritic texts, who is Athirat (or Ashera)?
8. In the Ugaritic texts, who is portrayed as the defeater of the god Yam?
9. In the account commonly referred to as "The Myth of Ba'al", who is called the 'son of Dagan'?
10. Which god is called Death in "The Myth of Ba'al"?
11. In the Ugaritic tablets, who lost his family and his estate in a series of catastrophes?
12. According to Josephus in *Against Apion*, what edifice was constructed in Jerusalem 143 years before the Tyrians built Carthage, as attested by the records of the Phoenicians?

ASSIGNMENT # 3

1. Which was comparatively more powerful, the Old Hittite Kingdom or the New Hittite Kingdom?
2. How did the finding of many tablets with details of Hittite rites and ceremonies impact criticism that had been leveled by critics of the Bible?
3. What was Nesilim a name for?
4. In the Code of the Nesilim, what was the punishment for bestiality?
5. In the Code of the Nesilim, what was the punishment for incest?

ASSIGNMENT # 4

1. Who were called “the black-headed people”?
2. Of which son of Noah did the Sumerians apparently descend?
3. According to Sumerian literature, what is the name of the Sumerian parallel to the Biblical Eden?
4. How many ante-diluvian kings precede the Great Flood, according to Sumerian accounts?
5. Does “Enuma Fish, the Epic of Creation” teach a monotheistic or polytheistic view of creation?
6. According to “The Fight with Tiamat”, who is portrayed as the dragon that terrorizes other gods as well as men?
7. According to the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, which Sumerian god directed Uta-Napishtim to build a ship to survive the Great Flood?
8. According to the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, how long did the storms of the Great Flood last?
9. Why is the *Epic of Gilgamesh* called an epic?
10. Which city, also mentioned in the Bible, was the center of most of the hero Gilgamesh’s exploits?
11. Some modernist critics have relegated all of the contents of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to the realm of myth, but why is this an inappropriate interpretation?
12. On the other hand, why would it be mistaken to deny the significant mythical elements of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*?
13. In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, who is called the Queen of Heaven and has fallen in love with Gilgamesh (aka Izdubar)?
14. Various poetic devices are employed in the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to support the themes of the epic poem. What is one poetic device you notice?
15. In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, what is called “the tower-city old”?
16. In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, whose soldiers sack the city of Erech?

ASSIGNMENT # 5

1. According to the Legend of Sargon of Agade, which people to Akkadia's south did Akkadia conquer under Sargon?
2. Was Akkadia Semitic or Hamitic in descent?
3. Cite one similarity between the Akkadian Penitential Psalm and psalms found in the Bible.
4. Cite one difference between the Akkadian Penitential Psalm and psalms found in the Bible.
5. What was the chief city of the Akkadian people?

ASSIGNMENT # 6

1. Babylonia was the product of the union of which two peoples?
2. Babylonia's earlier period of significant power was 2000-1600 BC. Which ruler during this time was Babylonia's most prominent lawgiver and conqueror?
3. In the Babylonian pantheon of gods, which god is called the 'lord of heaven and earth', according to what we read in the famous Code of Hammurabi?
4. According to the Code of Hammurabi, what would happen to an accuser of capital crime if the accuser could not prove his case before the elders?
5. According to the Code of Hammurabi, what would happen if a man wanted to separate from a woman who had borne him no children?
6. According to the Code of Hammurabi, what would happen to a builder who built a house improperly, such that the house fall in and kills its inhabitants?
7. In the Babylonian pantheon of gods, which god is called the 'Moon-god', according to what we read in the famous Code of Hammurabi?
8. One form of literature is proverbs. Proverbs are wise sayings of advice. Ancient Babylon apparently had this form of literature, from records that have been found. What does one of the ancient Babylonian proverbs say about how the strong live in contrast to the weak?
9. Which mountain tribe to the north of Babylonia overran ancient Babylon in approximately 1600 BC?

ASSIGNMENT # 7

1. From which city-state did Assyria originally arise?
2. Who may be regarded as the founder of the first Assyrian empire?
3. Which Assyrian king was a great patron of letters, preserving earlier literature, and overseeing the formation of libraries in the principal cities of the Assyrian empire?
4. According to the Code of the Assura, composed circa 1075 BC, what punishment was to be inflicted for the practice of sorcery?
5. To which god did Tiglathpileser I attribute the enlargement of his Assyrian kingdom, in the inscription of Tiglathpileser ?
6. According to the Sennacherib Prism, which Jewish king refused to submit to the yoke of Sennacherib, precipitating war against the Jewish people?
7. What does the name Ashurbanipal literally mean?
8. Ashurbanipal wrote poetic prayers. One such prayer was to what he regarded as the sun god. What was the name of this sun god?
9. The Greek historian Herodatus wrote about Assyria, as well as other regions of the ancient world. What did Herodatus say about grain production in Assyria in his book *The History of the Persian Wars*?
10. Which people conquered Assyria, overturning the Neo-Assyrian empire?

ASSIGNMENT # 8

1. Which son of Nabopolassar restored Babylon to worldly greatness?
2. From which great imperial capital did the Greeks bring to their city-states, and then to Rome, the foundations of mathematics, astronomy, medicine, archeology, etc.?
3. In what language did Berosus write his three books on the history and culture of Babylonia in 290 BC?
4. Josephus summarizes and quotes from the writings of Berosus. How did Berosus' account of the Noahic Flood compare with that of the Bible?
5. What does Berosus attribute the death of Nabopolassar (aka Nabolassar) in his *History of Ancient Times*?
6. According to Berosus' *History of Ancient Times*, of what ethnicity was Nebuchadnezzar's queen, for which he planted mountainous vegetation in Babylon?
7. What deity does Berosus say appeared to Xisuthrus and warned him of the coming Flood?
8. According to *The Chronicle of Nabonidus*, when Cyrus the Persian reached Babylon with his army, to what extent did they have to do battle to enter Babylon?

ASSIGNMENT # 9

1. From which son of Japheth were the Medes and the Persians descended?
2. The religion of Japheth was passed down to his descendants, albeit with doctrinal corruption added over time. The religion of the ancient Medes and Persians is to a great degree represented in the songs of Zarathustra. What are Zarathustra's songs called?
3. Of how many hymns do the *Gathas* consist?
4. In what language were the *Gathas* originally written?
5. In verse 1 of Yasna 28 of the *Gathas*, to whom is supplication made?
6. Perhaps no concept is as consistently emphasized in the *Gathas* as the "Good Mind" or "Vohu Manah". It is treated as an Essence of Ahura Mazda (i.e., the name of God in the *Gathas*), which can also be acquired and refined within man. ***It allegedly comes to a person who chooses "Spenta Mainyu"- the Progressive Mentality (way of thinking) in life, by seeking to examine the "...best things... ponder (reflect & meditate) with a bright (clear and unbiased) mind (and) ...select either of the two discernments (mentalities)..." (Song 3:2). Vohu Manah is described as the enlightenment which comes to a person who perceives the Super Wise Being, as the fashioner of Nature in all its magnificence.*** Vohu Manah personified speaks in verse 29 of Yasna 29. Who does he declare knows the thoughts of Ahura Mazda?
7. In verse 8 of Yasna 31 of the *Gathas*, who is described as the Father of Vohu Manah?
8. One important Gathic concept is Asha. It is an Aryan concept, shared by Hindus as well as Persians. In archaic Sanskrit, it is Rta/Rita, and the Law of the Universe. In both Sanskrit and Gathic Avestan, it literally means "what fits", in any and every situation; in every physical, emotional, ethical, mental, material and/or spiritual relationship. Asha can thus be defined as the Ordering Principle of the Universe, both in the realm of the ethical and spiritual as well as the physical. Within the realm of ethics, Asha is best understood as Righteousness. In verses 19 and 20 of Yasna 31 are described the advantages of following Asha, especially consequent to the fiery Day of Judgment. What are some of the benefits mentioned in those 2 verses?
9. In ancient Persian religion Ahriman (aka Arimanius or Angra Mainyu) stood high in the ranks of the enemies who opposed Ahura Mazda. Daevas means devils or demons, and were regarded as the spirits that chose to follow Ahriman. The *Gathas* mention three daevas by name: Aka Manah, Druj, and Aeshma. According to verse 4 of Yasna 32 of the *Gathas*, who do the daevas love?
10. Which famous Persian dynasty began in the 7th century BC?
11. Which famous Persian shah in 539 BC marched triumphantly into Babylon, and greatly extended the Persian empire?
12. According to Cyrus' Charter of Human Rights, what did Cyrus claim he did for Babylon?
13. According to the Behistan Inscription of Darius, to what does Darius attribute the reason he was king, and how does it relate to the *Gathas*?
14. According to the Behistan Inscription of Darius, there were many rebellions against the rule of Darius. One rebellion in Babylon was led by a man named Arakha. Of what ethnic stock was he?

15. Darius divided his empire into 20 provinces. Who ruled each province?

ASSIGNMENT # 10

1. From which grandson of Noah does it seem the Armenians descended?
2. Which son of Togarmah is considered the patriarch of the Armenian people?
3. What do Assyrian cuneiform writings designate Armenia?
4. How did the Greeks and the Persians come to call it Armenia?
5. In *The Primary History of Armenia* (or *History of the Ancestors*), which Titan is said to have regarded himself above all the races of mankind and summoned all mankind to his services, but who was rejected by Hayk?
6. What does the Nimrod of scripture have in common with this Titan rejected by Hayk, such that most likely he is to be identified with Nimrod?
7. According to *The Primary History of Armenia* (or *History of the Ancestors*), where was Hayk born?
8. According to *The Primary History of Armenia* (or *History of the Ancestors*), who was the eldest son of Aram?
9. According to *The Primary History of Armenia* (or *History of the Ancestors*), which Assyrian queen fell in love with Ara the Handsome?
10. Of which people which came to rule over Armenia, was Arshak king, according to *The Primary History of Armenia* (or *History of the Ancestors*)?
11. In which year did Armenia officially adopt Christianity as the state religion?

ASSIGNMENT # 11

1. Which son of Ham was founder and patriarch of Egypt?
2. According to *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*, which god of the Egyptians is associated with the sun and is described as 'the of heaven' and 'the maker of gods'?
3. According to *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*, which god of the Egyptians referred to as the eldest son of the womb of Nut, father of Horus, and the 'king of eternity'?
4. According to the Hymn of the Great God Aton, what is another name of the god Aton?
5. What astronomical object was associated with Aton, according to the Hymn of the Great God Aton?
6. According to the Book of Wisdom of Amenomope, what is the consequence of a young man cursing an old man?
7. In the Hymn to the Nile, what is the Nile treated as?
8. Which Egyptian historian living circa 300 BC is known to us through the writings of others, and his writings continue to be important for outlining Egyptian history?
9. In *Against Apion*, Josephus compares the antiquity of Grecian writings with that of Egyptian writings. Which does Josephus assert is older?
10. In *Against Apion*, Josephus quotes Manetho at length. In this quoted text, Manetho wrote that the Hycsos were expelled from Egypt by which Egyptian king?
11. Where did Manetho say these Hycsos settled, after their departure from Egypt?
12. What is the Egyptian word for water, and how does it relate to the name Moses, according to Josephus?
13. What does the Israel Stela of Pharaoh Merneptah say he did to Israel?
14. Among the Amarna tablets is a letter from Abdu-Heba of Jerusalem. What does Abdu-Heba say the Hapiru doing in his letter?

ASSIGNMENT # 12

1. Which people entered the Indus Valley, overthrew the Hamitic Harappan civilization, and formed the upper caste of Indian society?
2. In which language were the Rig-Veda originally written?
3. In the Hymn to Indra (part of the Rig-Veda), a battle is described. In this battle, who did Indra fight and slay?
4. In the Hymn to Purusha (part of the Rig-Veda), it is explained how the body of the god Purusha was divided up and became the different castes of Hindu society. What did the mouth of Purusha supposedly become?
5. What are the principal texts of the Hindu religion, compiled between 800-500 BC, and are the result of meditations on the Vedas?

ASSIGNMENT # 13

1. What people make up the majority of the Chinese population?
2. The Miao are a minority group in China. They preserved their history by poetry, passed down orally. According to this poetry, who was Patriarch Noah's wife?
3. According to this Miao poetry, from which son of Patriarch Noah did the Miao people come?
4. Which Chinese dynasty has so far been the first to bequeath us with the earliest written records?
5. Which is the most ancient of Chinese classical books?
6. Who is the ShangTi mentioned in the *Shu Jing*?
7. How does the Chinese pictogram for boat recall the Noahic Flood?
8. According to the selections from the *Shu Jing*, how does a monarch lose the Mandate of Heaven, and what are the consequences of this loss?
9. What evidence can you find of the Chinese practice of reverence for the ancestors in the *Shu Jing*?
10. What evidence can you find in the *Shu Jing* to support the conclusion that classical Chinese political philosophy perceived the state as an extended family?
11. According to the selections from the *Shu Jing*, what sort of harmony does the monarch maintain?
12. According to the selections from the *Shu Jing*, would Yi Yin accept the notion that there can be a distinction between ruler's private morality and public policies?
13. How does Yi Yin's view regarding the success or failure of a ruler compare with that of the Bible?
14. In what book were Confucius' ethical sayings compiled?
15. What did Confucius compare "riches and honors acquired by unrighteousness"?
16. What did Confucius believe were 3 requisites of government, and which of those 3 did he regard as most important?
17. In the classic Chinese poem about warfare, what aspect of warfare is addressed?

ASSIGNMENT # 14

1. Who were the aboriginal people of the islands of Japan?
2. To what people in Spain does the language of the Ainu seem very close?
3. What did Japanese poets of the early waka and later haiku forms strive for?
4. In the poem entitled “In the autumn fields”, what are flowers a metaphor for?
5. In the poem “On Kasuga plain”, to what did the poet compare the blades of grass sprouting between patches of snow?
6. What are the two main collections of historical accounts in Japan?
7. According to Book One of the *Kojiki*, how many creating deities are there in the universe?
8. Does the *Kojiki* teach monotheism or polytheism?
9. According to the *Kojiki*, who was the first emperor of Japan?
10. Why did His Augustness Kamu-yamato-ihare-biko and his elder brother His Augustness Itsu-se decide to move their empire east?
11. Interspersed in the *Kojiki* are poems. How does the *Kojiki* indicate these poems were spoken?
12. In book 2 of the *Kojiki* we read of how the Empress Jin-go conquered Korea. In order to delay the birth of the child in her womb until she returned back to the “Land of Tsukushi”, what did she do?
13. Why was the reign of Emperor Nin-Toku called the reign of the Emperor-Sage?
14. What are 3 examples of cognates between the Japanese and Hebrew languages?