



Web Resources on Ancient Empires

By Christopher Hooker

Egypt

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html>

Run by the British Museum, this is a great website for introducing Egypt and its culture, which plays an important role not just in Genesis and Exodus but throughout the Hebrew Bible. Topics include Egyptian religion, economy, and writing. Not to be missed are the "Story" components of each area, which often include portions of translated Egyptian texts.

Ancient Egypt

<http://www.ancient-egypt.org/>

This is a neat site that has a lot of information, particularly about the historical periods of Ancient Egypt.

The section about monuments has great maps and pictures of some of the most interesting sites from the ancient world. Just as important is the bibliography to help students who are interested find resources for further study.

Assyria

<http://www.livius.org/as-at/assyria/assyria.html>

Teachers can find at this website an accessible introduction to the Assyrians and their empire. Especially useful are the links explaining areas and peoples whom the Assyrians encountered. There is a tremendous amount of information about the ancient world on this site, and it is a great place to start for teachers and students looking for information on the people and places of the ancient Near East.

Phoenicia

<http://phoenicia.org/>

This website has a number of great articles about who the Phoenician people were and how their culture was an integral part of the world of the Bible. One must, however, be careful of the polemical language of the site's author.

Neo-Babylonian

<http://www.worldtimelines.org.uk/world/asia/western/1000-550BC/NeoBabylonian>

The information on this site is concise, but good. Be sure not to miss the time line (the link is at the bottom of the page). This can help put into perspective the empires of the ancient Near East with events and empire in other parts of the globe.

Code of Hammurabi

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/hamcode.html>

One of the oldest legal texts currently known, the Code of Hammurabi contains the oldest example of the "eye for an eye" principle (see law 196). This text is tremendously important for studying the context of biblical law. This website has the entire translated text as well as great background information. Be sure not to miss the opening and closing statements.

Rome

<http://www.historylink102.com/Rome/index.htm>

This site serves as a great introduction to many aspects of one of the most important empires in world history. Be sure not to miss sections about Roman families, as this is a topic that has been of interest to many New Testament scholars who study the way Roman conceptions of family influence ideals of family, and family metaphors in the Bible.