

The Arameans – Outline

I. Early history

- a. Semitic people
- b. Migrated to Syria during the decline of the Hittites (circa 1100 BCE)
- c. Established small, prosperous kingdoms

II. Damascus

- a. Leading Aramean kingdom
- b. Circa 1000-700 BCE – traded heavily
- c. 732 BCE – conquered by Assyria

III. Contribution – language

- a. Aramean alphabet adopted by the new Babylonian empire (7th century BCE)
- b. Common language of the Near East
- c. Temporarily replaced Hebrew
 - i. Used for some later books of the Christian Old Testament/Hebrew Tanakh
 - ii. Spoken in Greco-Roman Palestine and Judea
 1. Spoken by Jesus

IV. Review questions

- a. Where did the Arameans settle circa 1100 BCE?
- b. What is considered to be the most significant contribution of the Arameans to world history?