

The Arameans



Early History

- Semitic people
- Migrated to Syria during the decline of the Hittites (circa 1100 B.C.E.)
- Established small, prosperous kingdoms



Damascus

- Leading Aramean kingdom
- Circa 1000-700 B.C.E. – traded heavily
- **732 B.C.E. – conquered by Assyria**



Contribution: Language

- **Aramean alphabet adopted by new Babylonian empire (7th century B.C.E.)**
- **Common language of the Near East**
- **Temporarily replaced Hebrew**
 - **Used for some later books of the Christian Old Testament/Hebrew Tanakh**
 - **Spoken in Greco-Roman Palestine and Judea – spoken by Jesus**



Review Questions

- **Where did the Arameans settle circa 1100 B.C.E.?**
- **What is considered to be the most significant contribution of the Arameans to world history?**

