

ARCHAEOLOGY 215

The Near East in the Bronze or Urban Age I

Final Examination

Date: January 25th 2003

Time: TWO hours

Instructor: Prof. H. Seeden

I
Identifications
50%

Time: One hour

Briefly identify the TEN illustrated archaeological artifacts and sites.

You can use key words or a short paragraph.

- 1.—What does the illustration represent ?
- 2.—Where was it discovered or recorded, and where can you see it now ?
- 3.—Describe its context when it was in use ?
- 4.—What was (or is) its purpose?
- 5.—What does it tell us in the present?

II
Essay question
50 %

Time: One hour

All or most of the inhabitants of the Near East in the so-called Chalcolithic and early 'Bronze Age' periods—4th and 3rd millennia BC—lived in relatively small village settlements, making a living through 'traditional' agriculture, planting and herding domesticated animals. They also hunted and gathered to supplement their diet. Excavations of their material remains have shown that they were well off and lived an apparently peaceful and comfortable life with a number of simple 'luxuries' which had been unknown to people before them.

Later in the period, a changing society developed, often characterised as 'urban', and living in new types of settlements with a very different social order and lifestyle. This development was highly significant in the history of humankind.

Discuss this 'new order' in the ancient world of the time, and try to explain the portent events.

Why was early 'Bronze Age' history almost totally misinterpreted by early archaeologists, and what in the discipline allowed for a gradually more realistic account of those times?



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