

# MESOPOTAMIA

Mesos – middle  
Potamas - river



Land of blazing sun

Tigris –floods—  
spring

Euphrates – May

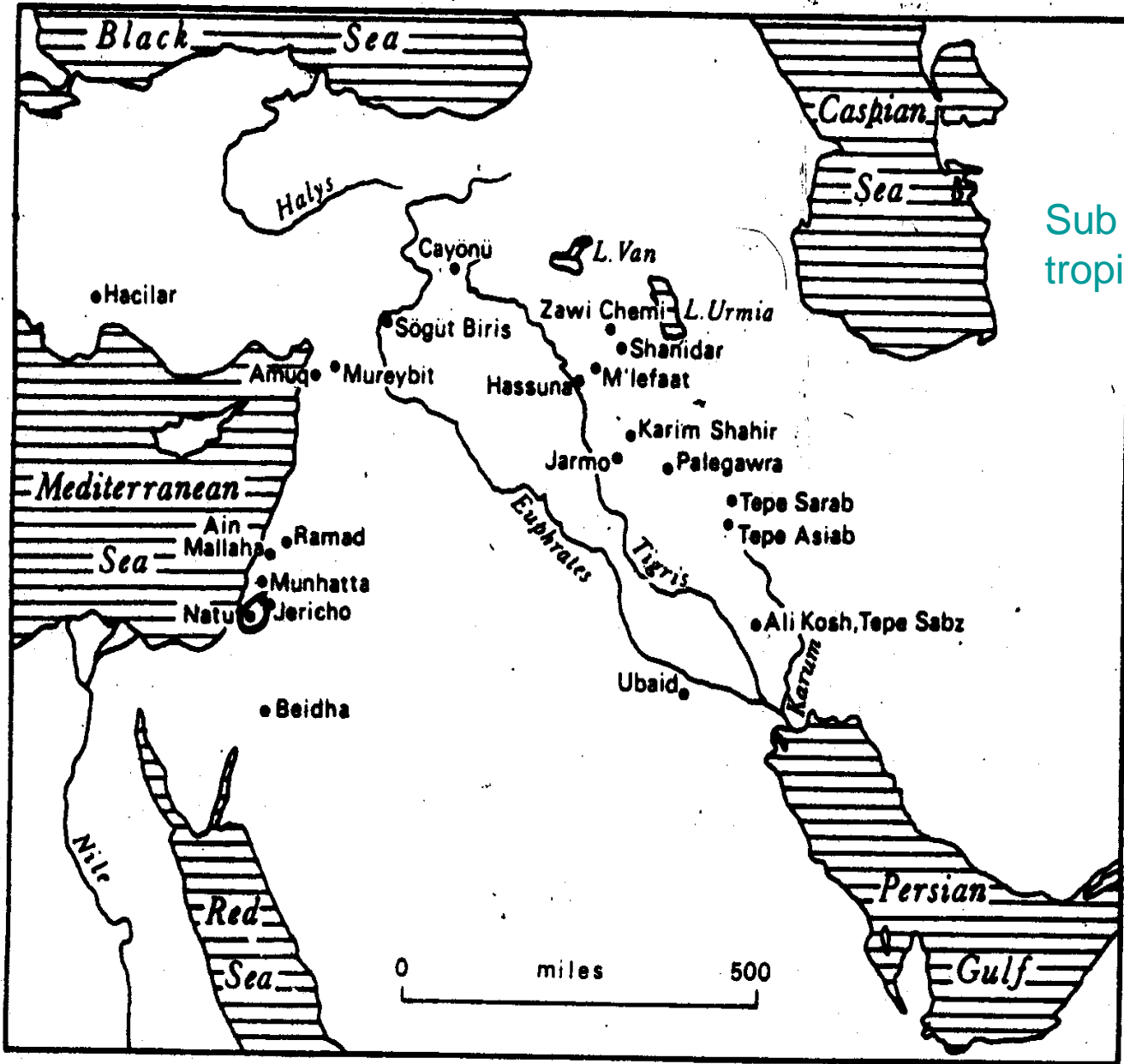
Very little rainfall

Irrigation

Bricks – sundried

Facing – kiln fired  
glazed, coloured

Lime mortar,  
bitumen



Tigris  
 -floods -spring  
 Euphrates - May

Sub  
 tropical

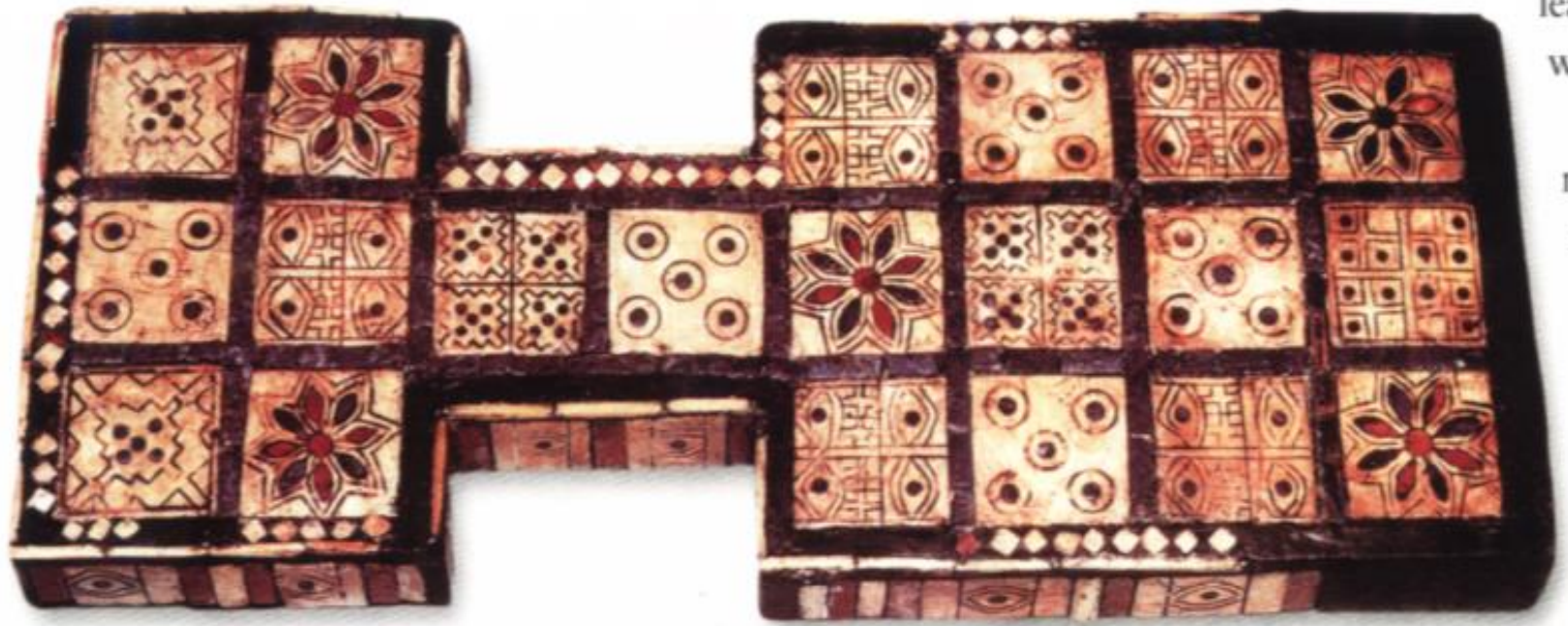
**Inventions – Plough, cartwheels, cuneiform writing**

**Wealthy urban culture based on trade, agriculture**

**Monumental sculpture, origin of city-state**

- Sumer – Ur – Ziggurats 2340B.C.
- Independent city states-Eridu,Uruk, Ur.
- Assyrians – Nimrud –Palaces 9<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>B.C.
- Scientific,literary pursuits military Arch.
- Babylonia – code of Hammurabi
- Persians – Persepolis

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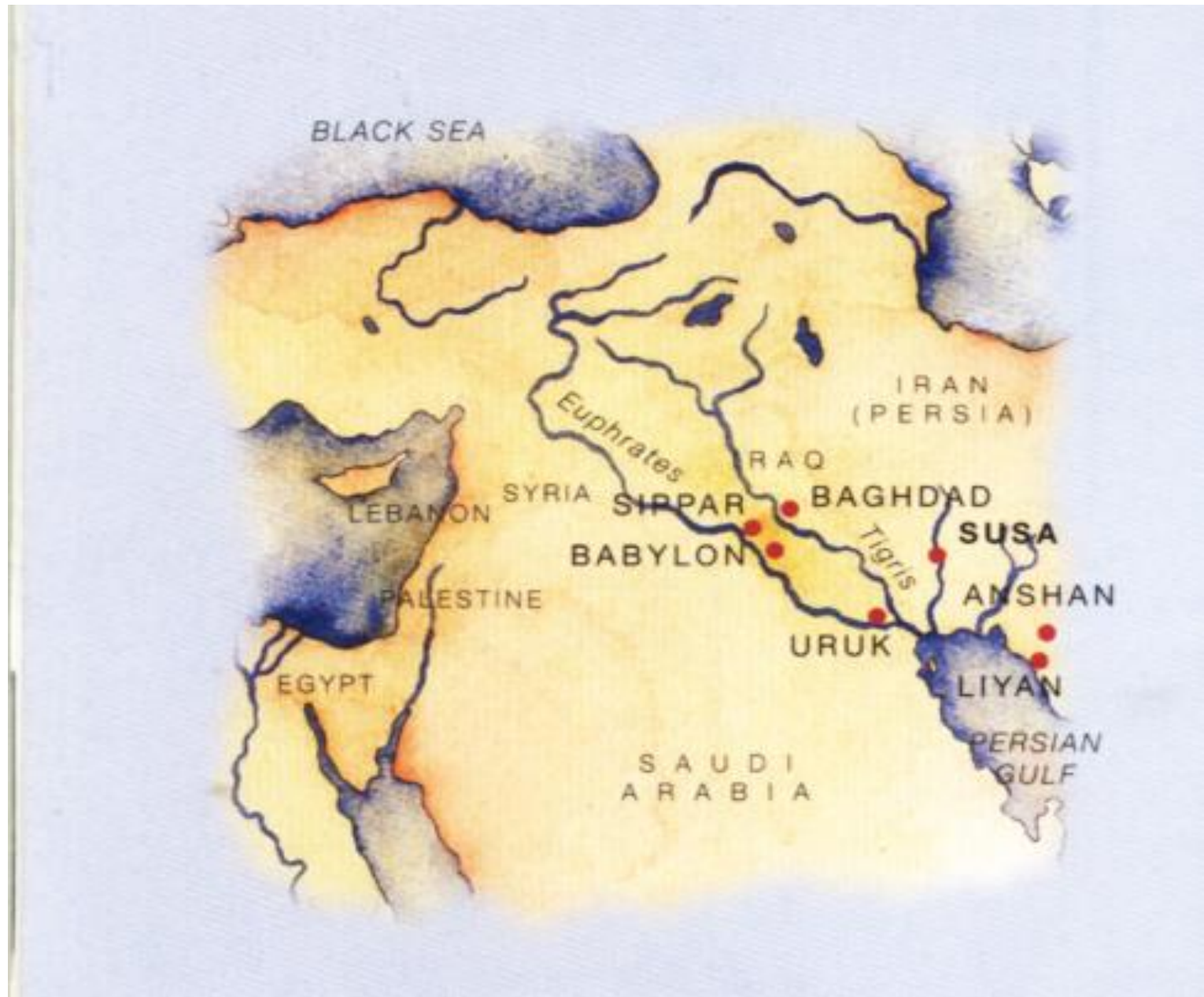
hazard, but when the  
people began to harness the  
waters with canals, dykes, and  
reservoirs, the local economy was  
transformed. Three vital inventions increased

- **ANU –Sky god --patron – Warka (Uruk)**
- **Sin --Moon - “” Ur**
- **Ea(Enki) God of water - Eridu**
- **Enlill – Lord of Sumerian Pantheon-Nippur**
- **Marduk – National God – Babylonia**
- **Ashur - “” - Assyria**
- **Ishtar – Goddess – love**
- **Mithras – Sun God**

# **Ziggurats-** artificial mountains

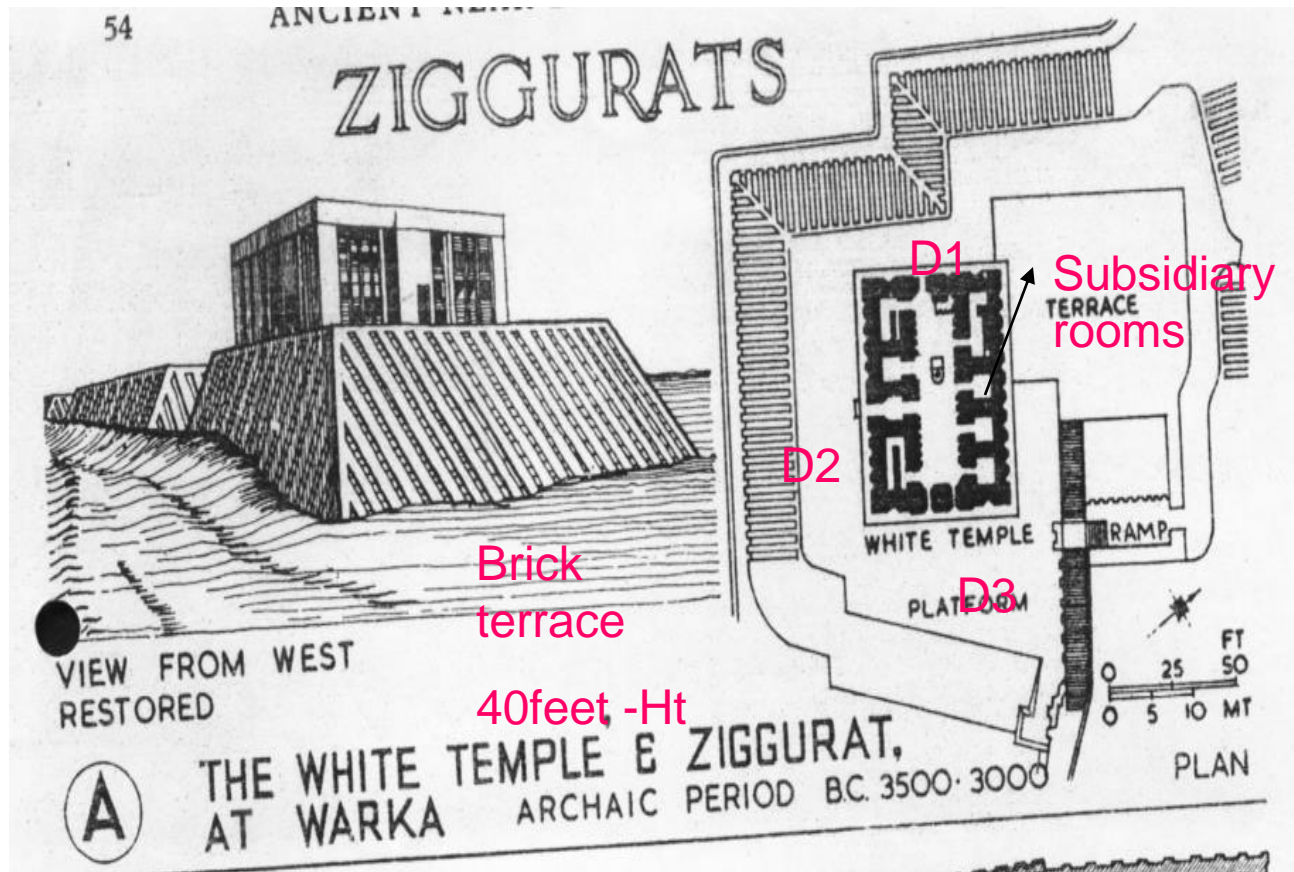
**–tiered rectangular stages which rose from 1-7 tiers.**

- Served as temples
- Stood on spacious raised platform
- ,reached by ramps- staircase
- From the platform rose the temple tower
- Sloped walls- buttresses, recesses
- Grounds – quarters- priests, officials, accts, store, pens –sheep, goat





# Pre-Historic Temple 3000B.C.

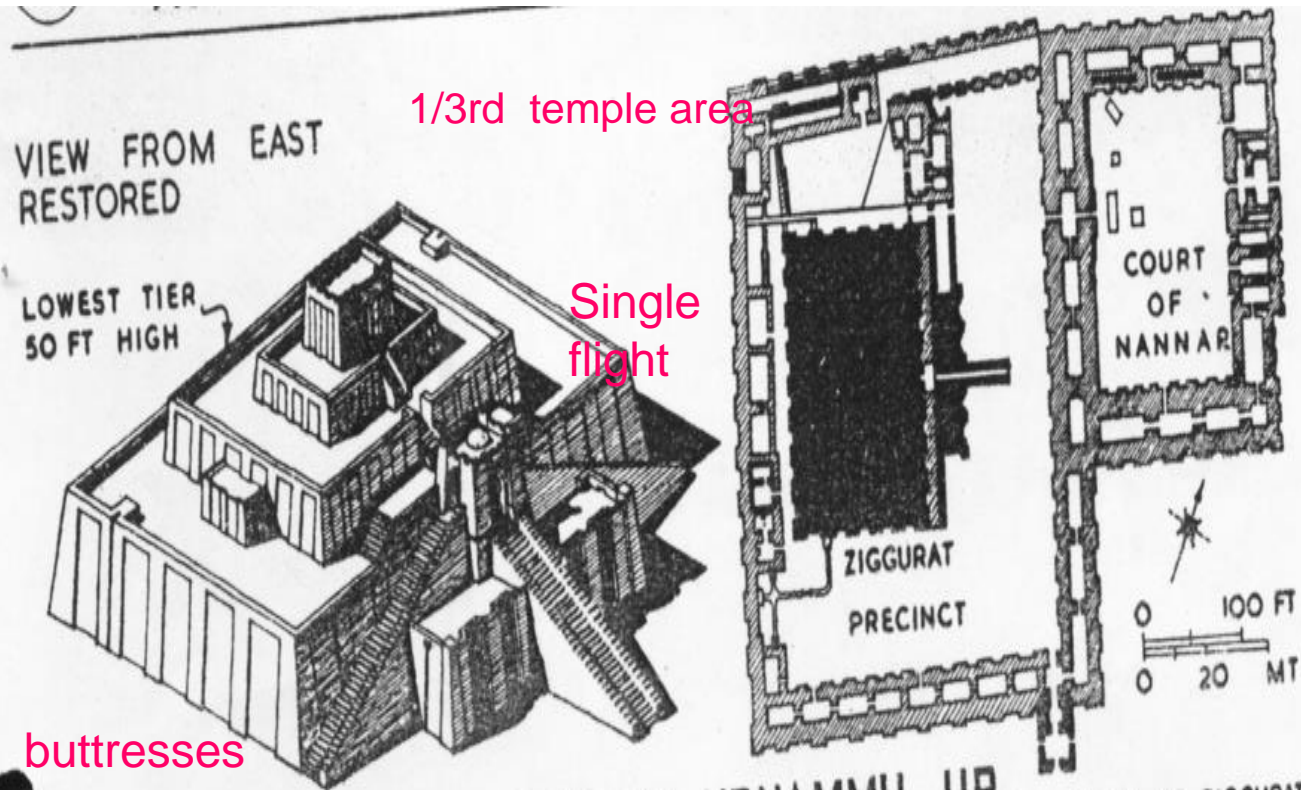


Plan-  
57'0"x73'0"

Dedicated  
ANU –Sky  
God

Brick Terrace

# Ziggurat of Ur, B.C. 2125



THE ZIGGURAT OF URNAMMU, UR.  
C. BC. 2125

**Base -  
197'x47'**

**3 upper  
spacious  
staircase-  
100steps-NE.**

**Moon God -  
Nanna**

**Ramped  
staircase**

**B**

# The Ziggurat, Ur-2125B.C.

built – King A –annipadda walled city, 2 harbours

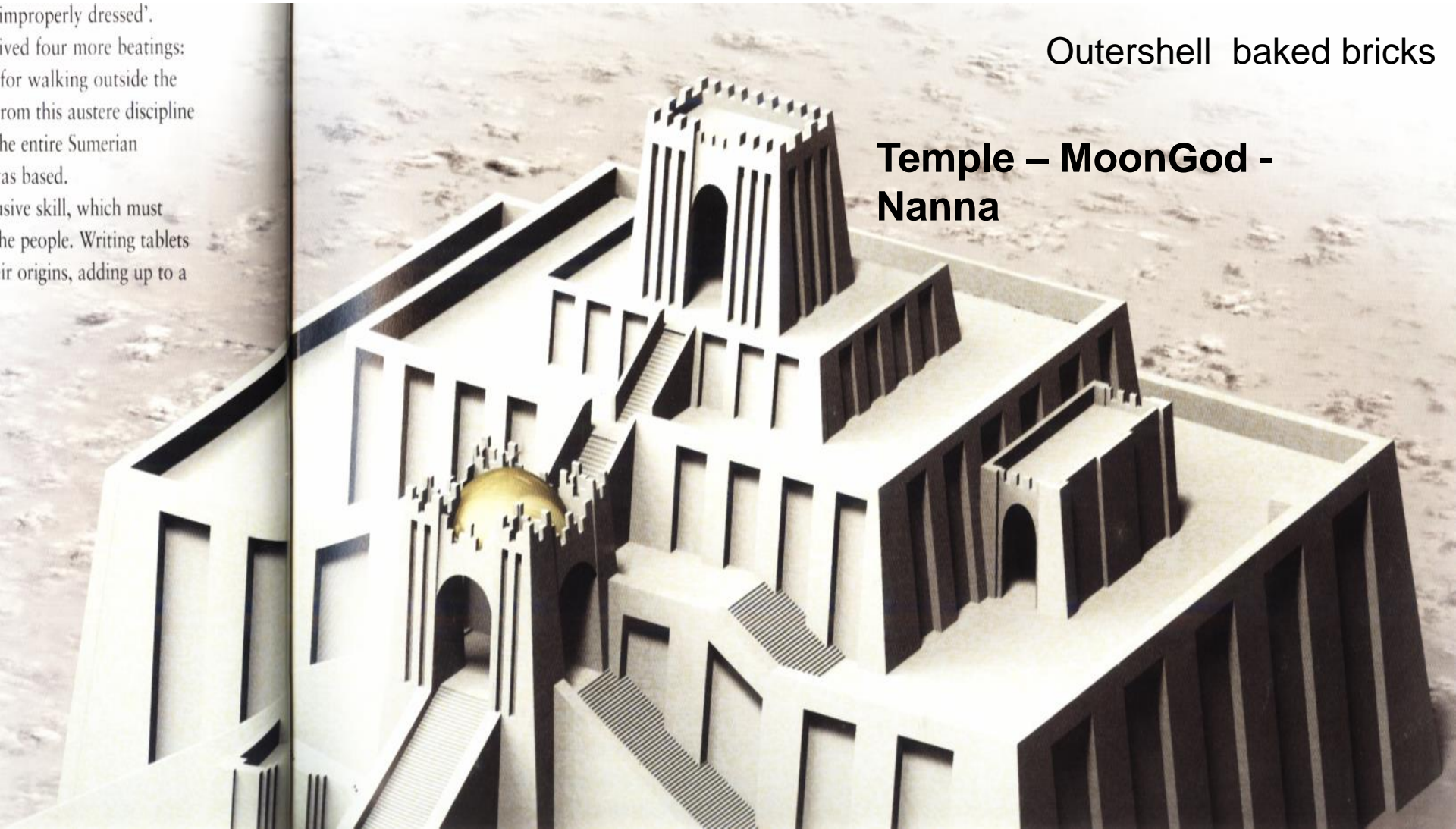
Base –  
60x45m(197x147Ft)

Mudbrick core

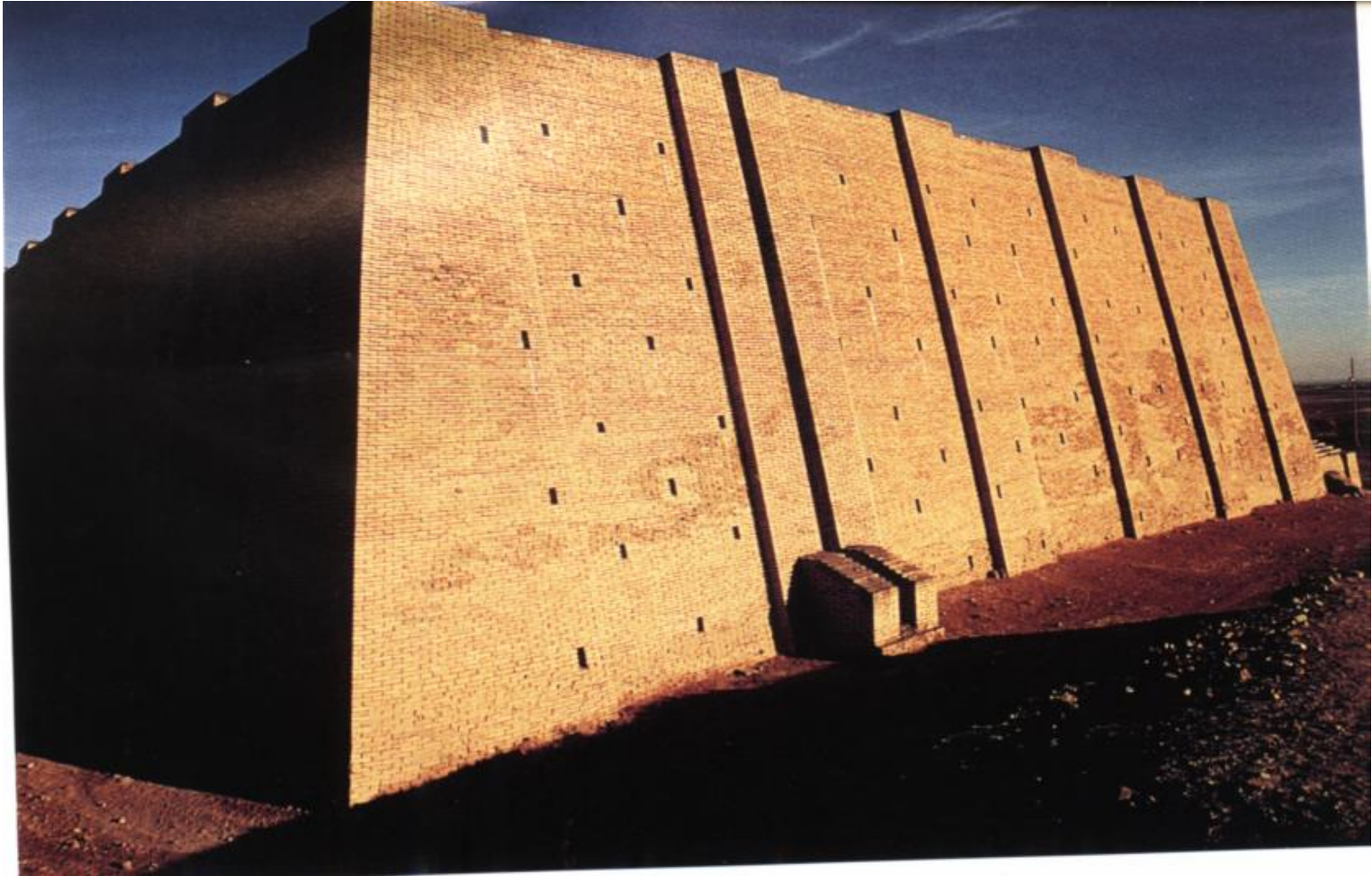
Outershell baked bricks

improperly dressed'.  
ived four more beatings:  
for walking outside the  
rom this austere discipline  
he entire Sumerian  
as based.  
sive skill, which must  
he people. Writing tablets  
ir origins, adding up to a

**Temple – MoonGod -  
Nanna**



**Dramatic walls    battered , recessed -Ur**



# Ziggurat of Chogha Zanbil (Basket Mound)

Built by Untash Nairisha King of Susa – 13thC B.C.

Dedicated – 2 Gods

Inshushinak – Susa

Napirisha – Anshan

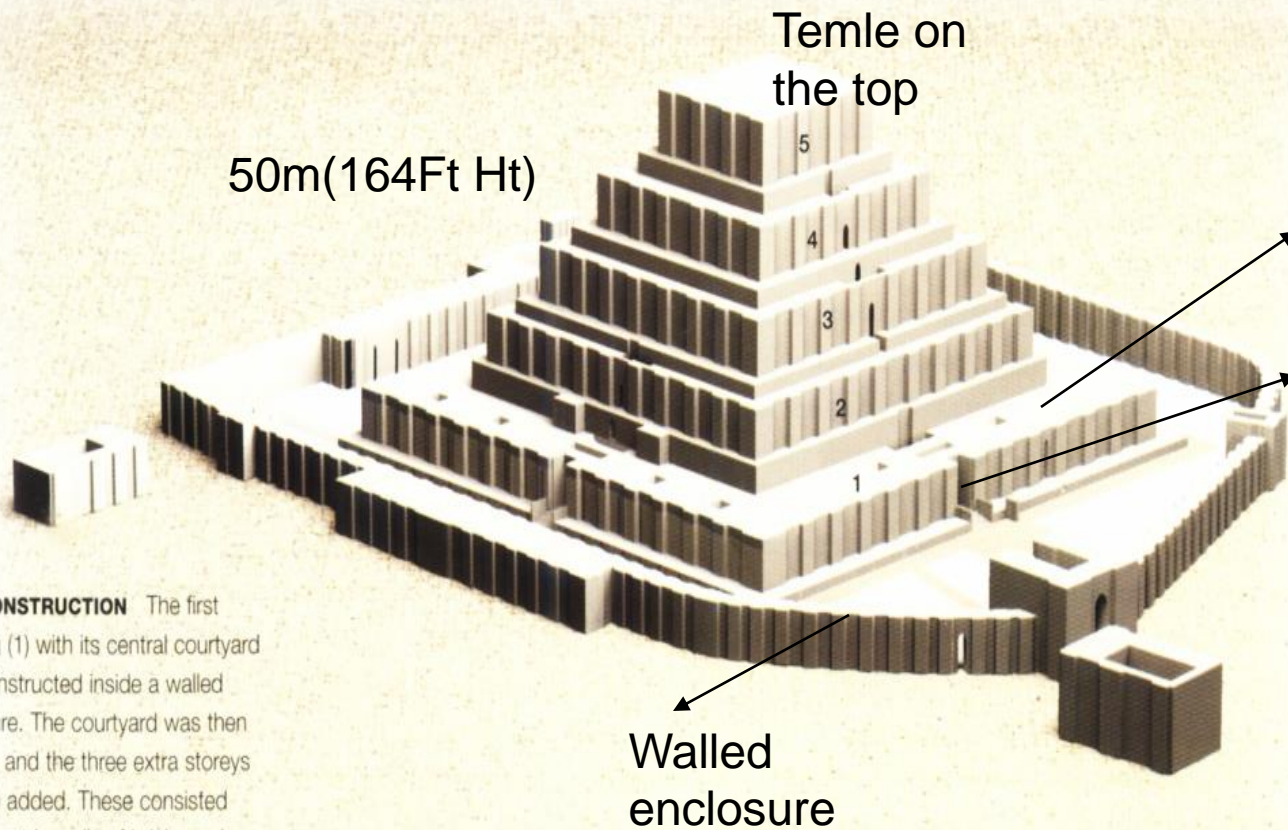
Huge courtyard  
328Ft Square

,unbaked brick

Central doors –  
chambers, stores

Façade glittered  
with glazed blue &  
green terracotta.

Internal staircase –  
sanctuary, glass &  
ivory mosaics



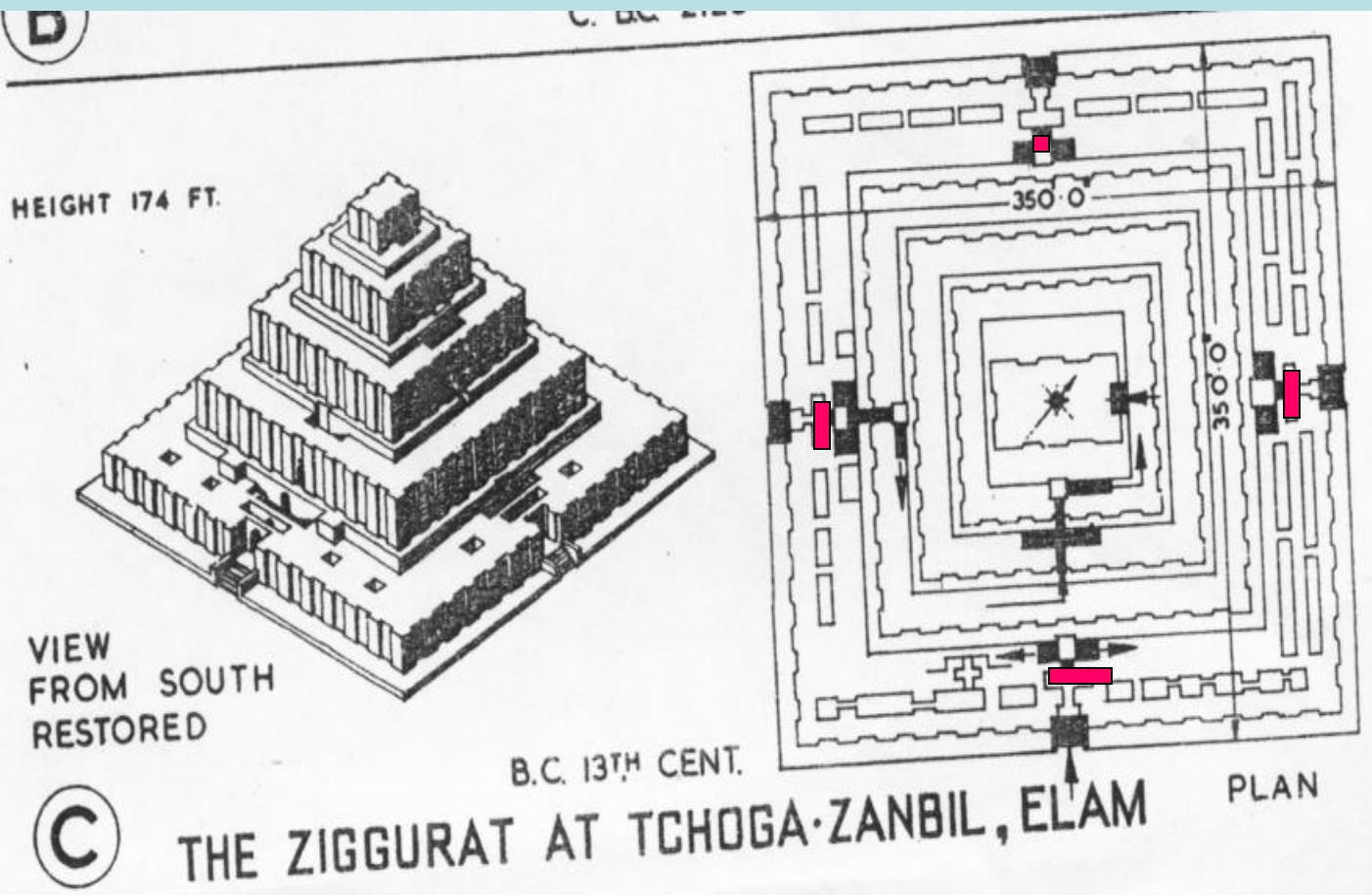
50m(164Ft Ht)

Temple on  
the top

Walled  
enclosure

**THE CONSTRUCTION** The first building (1) with its central courtyard was constructed inside a walled enclosure. The courtyard was then filled in, and the three extra storeys (2, 3, 4) added. These consisted of concentric walls of brick, each resting on the ground rather than on the floor below it. A temple (5) topped the whole edifice.

# Ziggurat - Tchoga-Zanbil, Elam, B.C.13<sup>th</sup> Cent



- Base 350ft sq
- Recessed stairs all 4 sides
- West – single
- Last 2 –no steps
- To scale

# Ziggurat of Chogha Zanbil (Basket Mound)







# **Assyria 2nd millennium- 612B.C.**

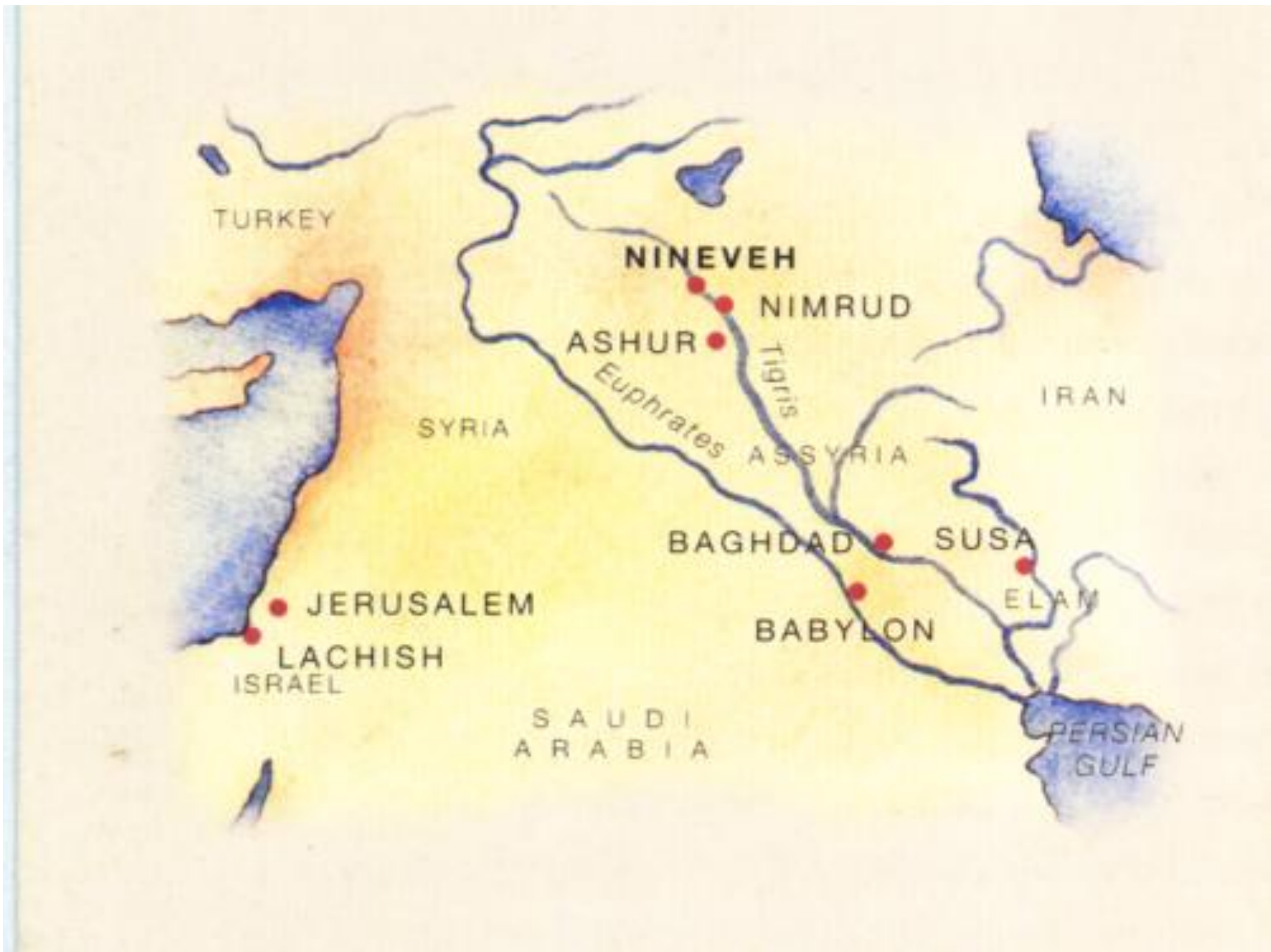
**Fierce fighters**

**Military state**

**Palaces –Khorsabad, Nimrud, Nineveh**

**Stones- wall facings – delicately carved-  
limestones/glowing alabaster**

**Scenes – military, hunting' colossal human  
winged bulls**





# City Of Khorsabad -8thB.C. temporary capital built by Sargon2nd

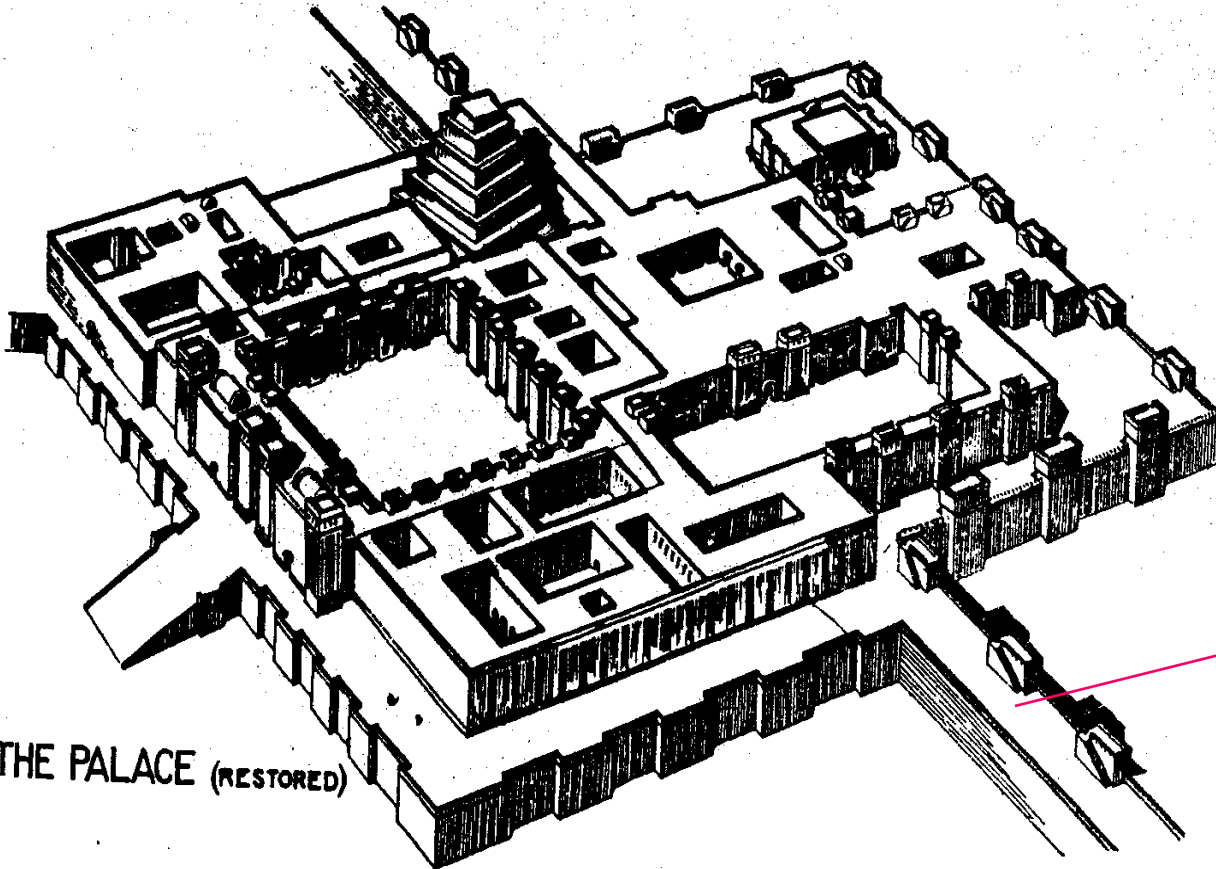
ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN ARCHITECTURE

## PALACE OF SARGON: KHORSABAD

**Symmetrical –  
Plan -23acres**

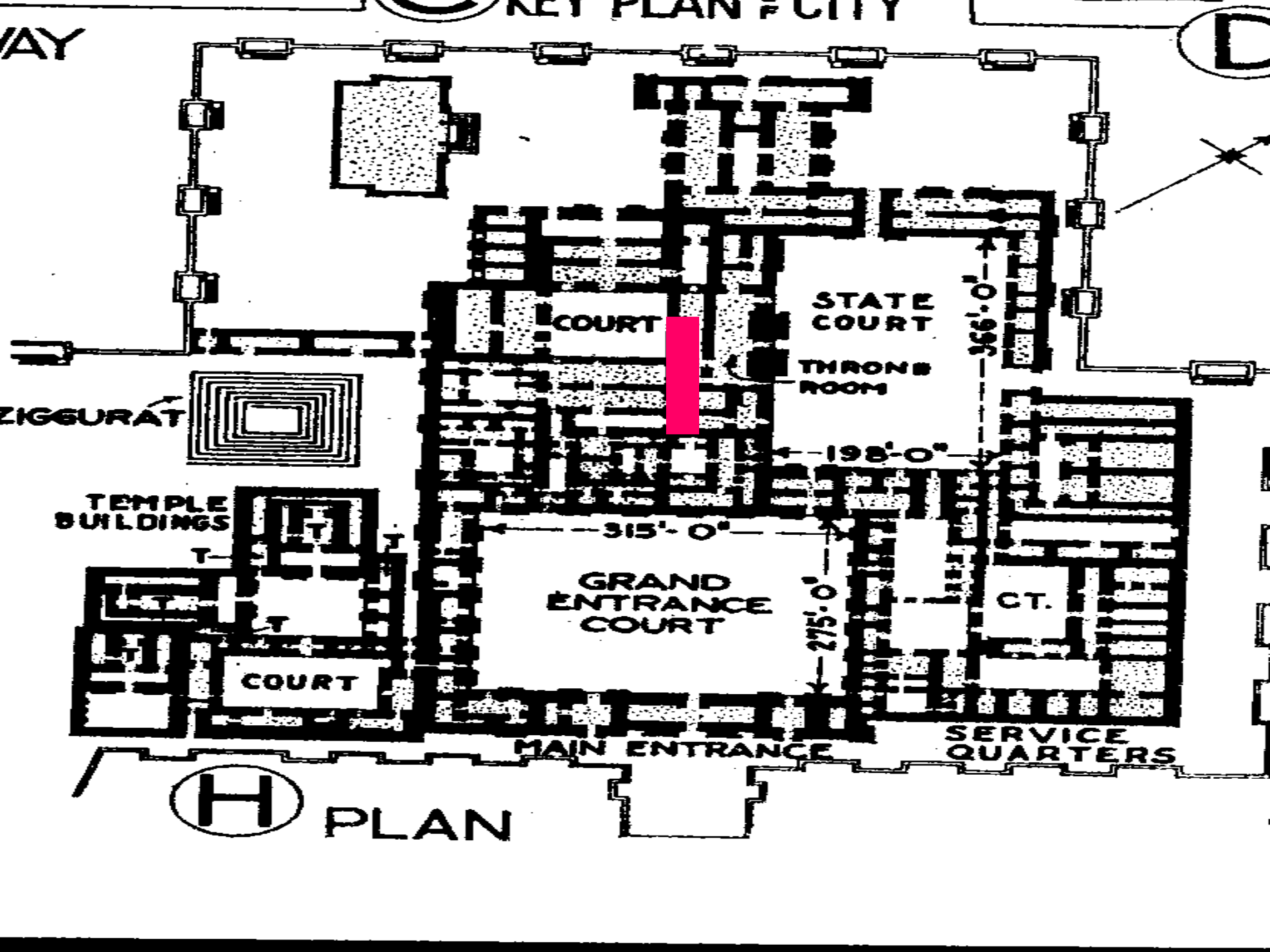
**Artificial  
platform**

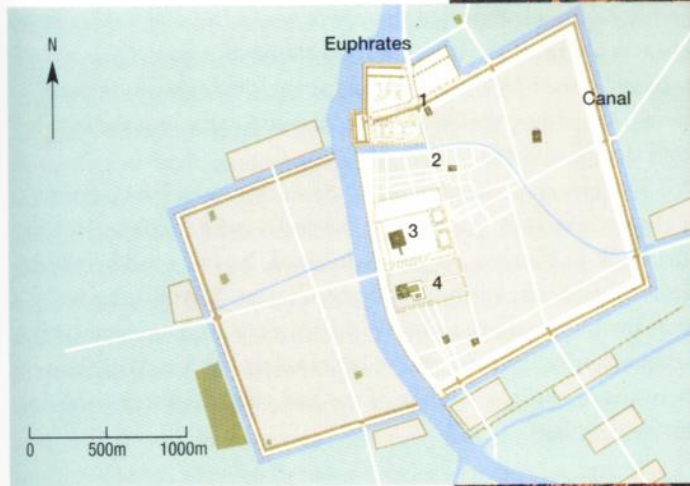
**Reception  
suites, temples  
arranged  
around  
successive  
courts**



Low level ramp  
connected to public  
bldgs

**A** THE PALACE (RESTORED)





babylon

**BABYLON FROM THE AIR** A vast field of ruins (right) is all that remains of Nebuchadnezzar's magnificent city. At the centre, the huge square foundation of the Tower of Babel is still visible. Above: The plan shows the Sacred Way (2) leading from the Ishtar Gate (1) to the Ziggurat (3) and Temple of Marduk (4).

Medes (from Iran) Nabopolassar defeated Assyria in 612 BC and destroyed its capital, Nineveh.

When Nabopolassar's son Nebuchadnezzar mounted the throne in 605 BC, the entire area known as the Fertile Crescent – from Jerusalem to the Persian Gulf – was his. All he had to do was to eradicate the last pockets of Assyrian resistance and to restore Babylon as a capital worthy of his ambitions.





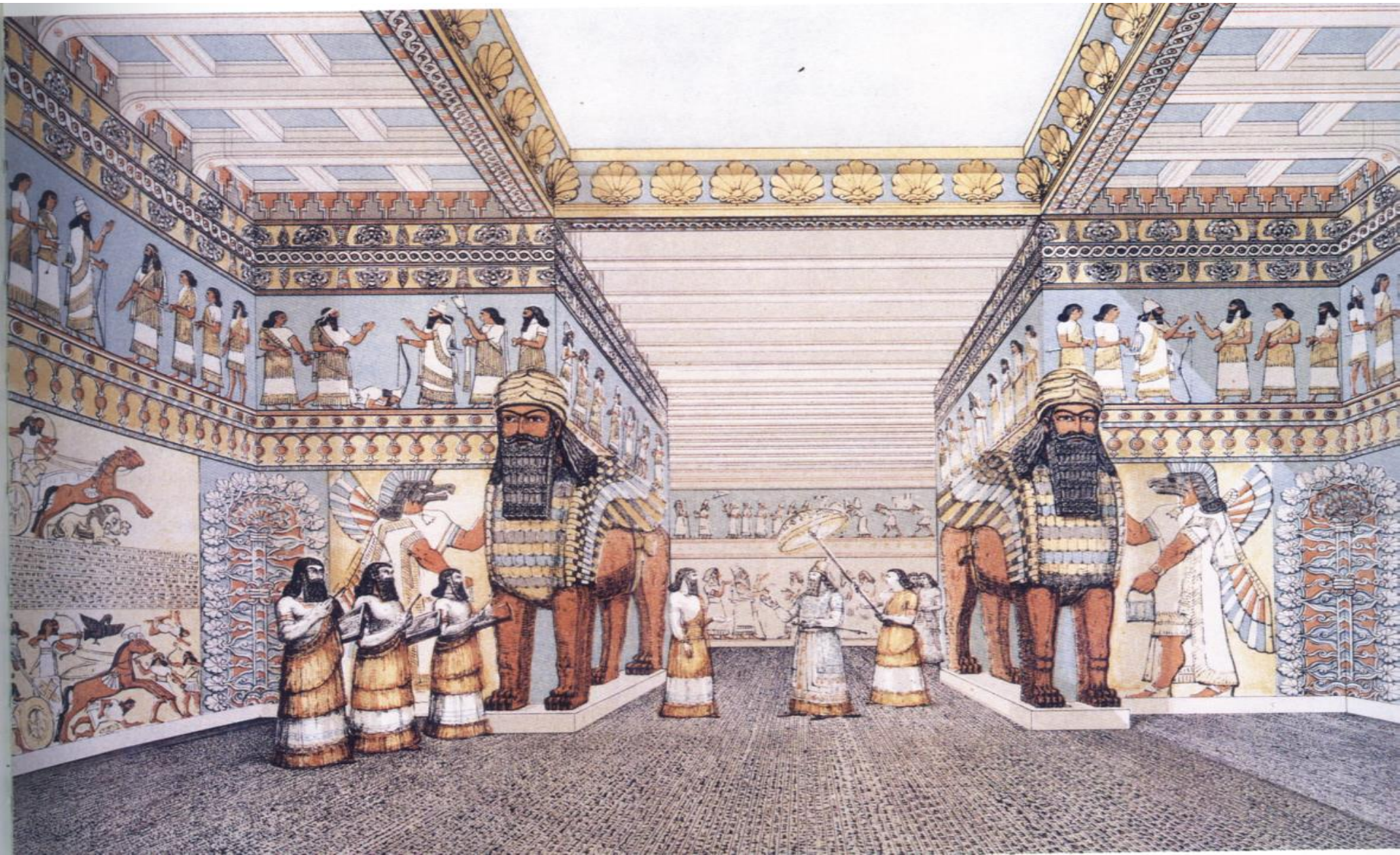






**Nimrud**  
**890acres**

# Throne Room







# Persia capital Babylon, Susa, Persepolis

Cyrus the Great, Darius, Xerxes

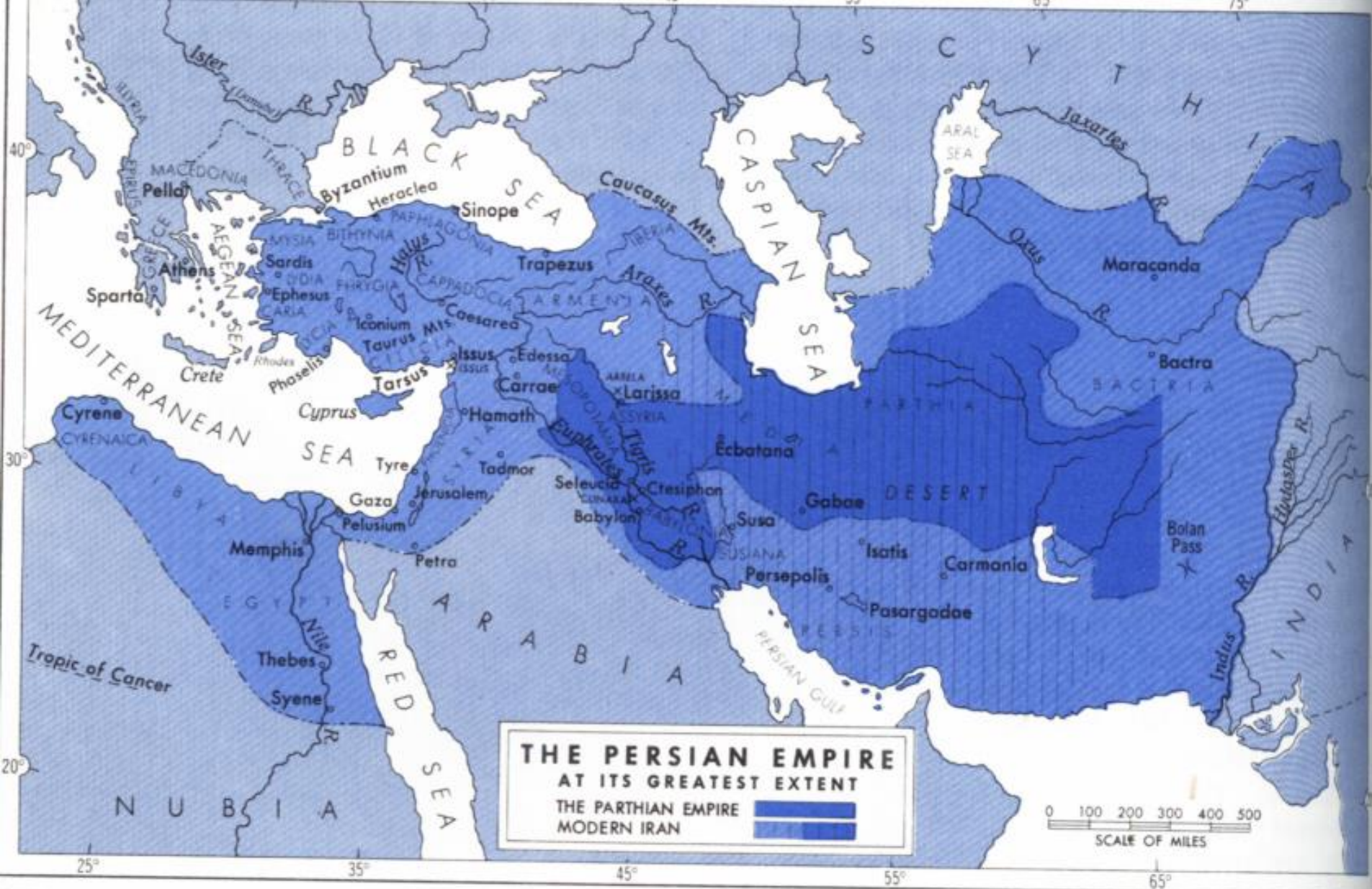


- Persians - persa or Persis.
- Cyrus the Great – founder 6thC B.C.
- Warriors, Fine Horsemen.
- Empire divided into 20 satrapies-satrap
- Minted gold coins –Daric
- Highways Royal Road 1600 miles
- Relay system - postal system

- Religion – Zoroaster
- Ahura Mazda – Lord of life and creator of matter – sky god, creator of god
- Ahriman – Destructive spirit- power of evil
- Fire – symbol of spirit
- Gathas – oldest writings
- Magi – priests- wise men
- Indian Parsees.



- Columnar – slender, graceful, ornate
- Flat timber roofs
- Square large rooms
- Stone – temples, palaces – platforms, door surrounds,
- Relief sculpture
- Altitude of 6000ft, frequency of light, columned halls, porticoes.



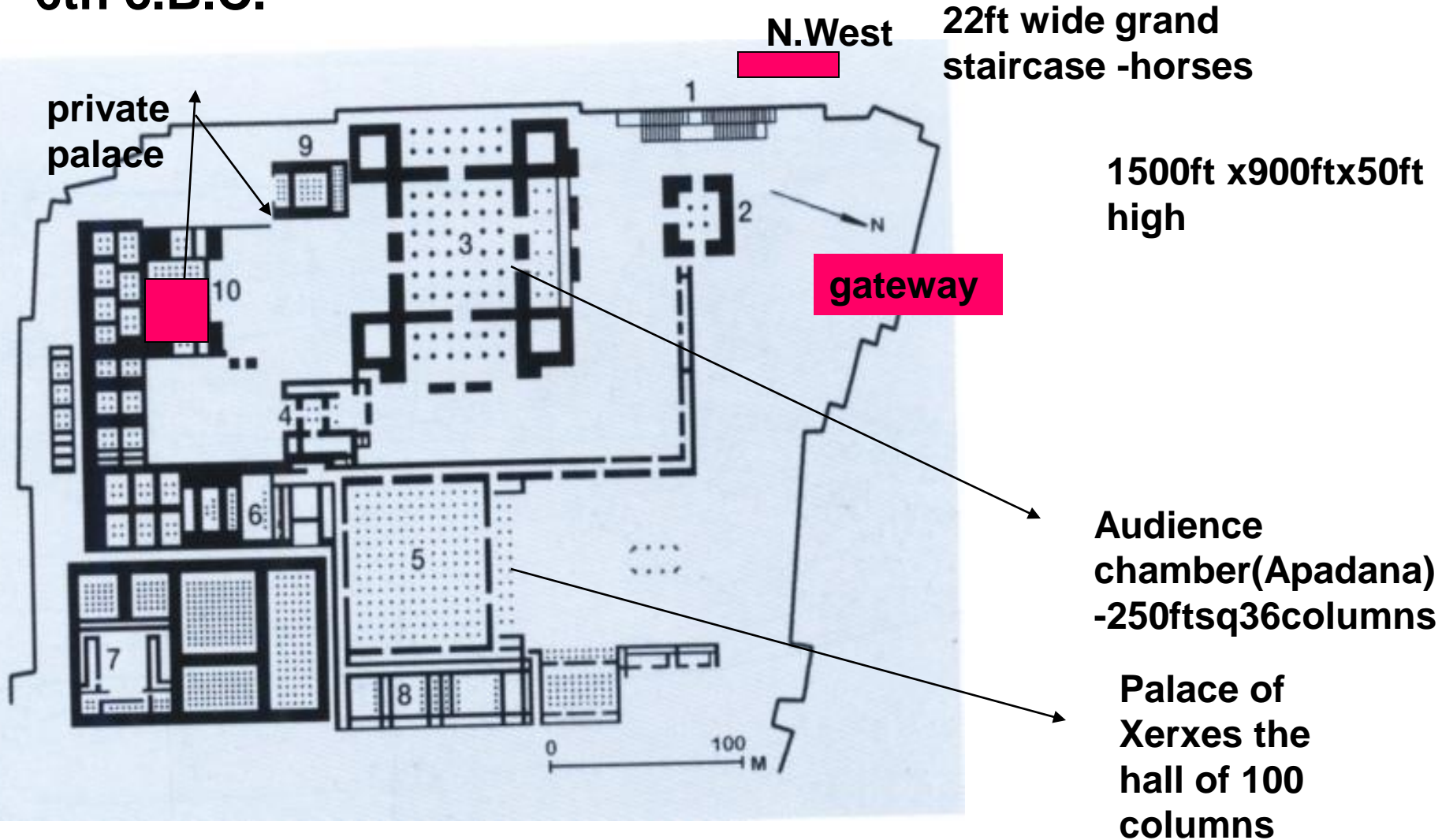
## THE VAST PERSIAN EMPIRE AND THE PARTHIAN EMPIRE

At its height (about 500 B.C.), the Persian Empire stretched from the Aegean Sea to the Indus River and included Egypt. The

Parthian Empire flourished in Roman times. The stripes indicate the area of modern Iran.

# Palace of Persepolis

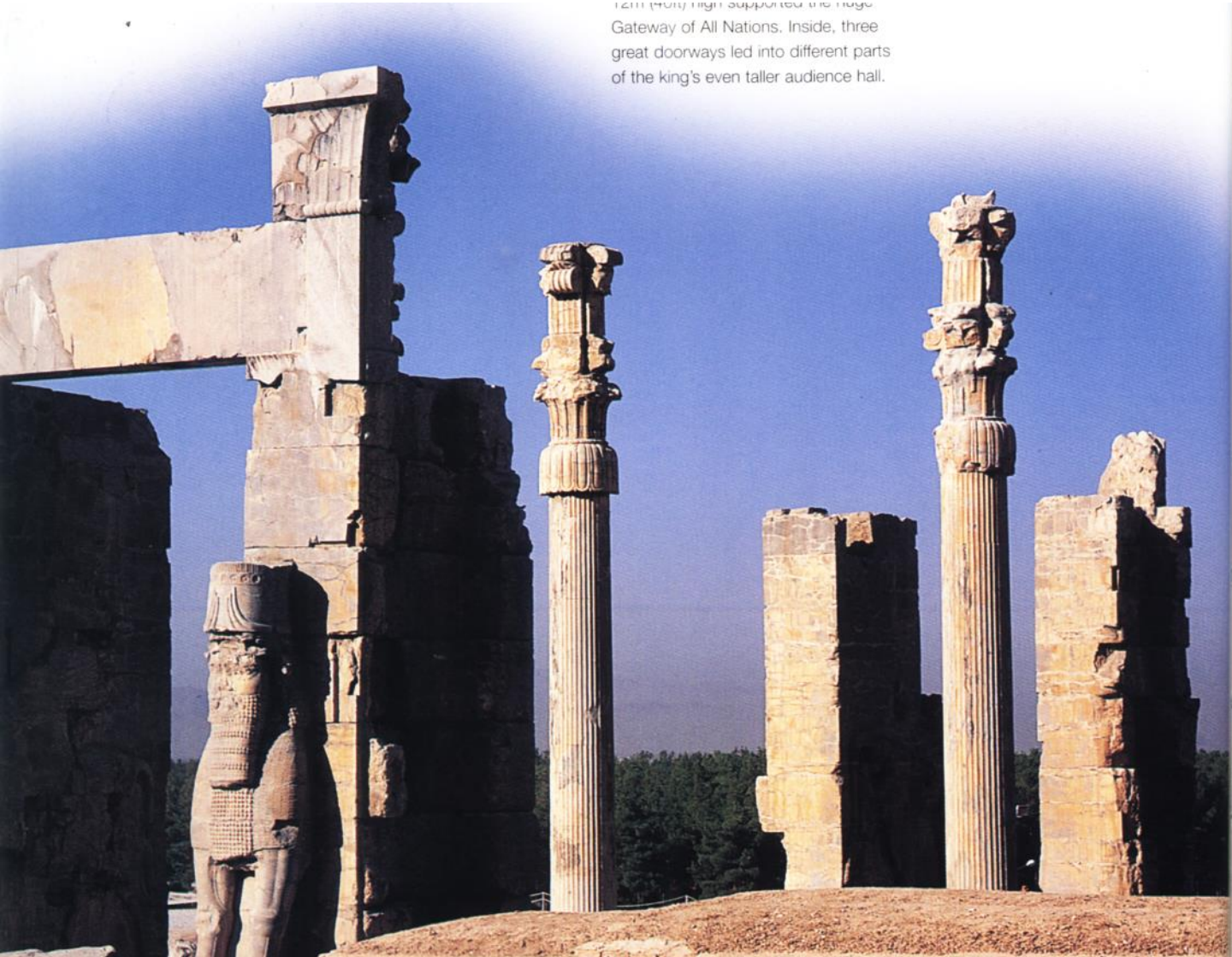
6th c.B.C.







12m (40ft) high supported the huge Gateway of All Nations. Inside, three great doorways led into different parts of the king's even taller audience hall.



40ft high -  
gateway

**Relief depicting –New year celebration- delegates bearing gifts – staircase to apadana**







