



ANSWER GUIDE

Ancient: Episode 10

Heart of Stone

Discussion Questions and Answers

1. What ancient region stood to the east of Turkey? Hint: it's often called the “cradle of civilization.” What is its present-day name?

Mesopotamia, present-day Iraq.

2. Which civilization first carved and inhabited the caves of Cappadocia?

The ancient Hittites.

3. What geological event formed the “fairly chimneys” of Cappadocia?

Ancient volcanic eruptions.

4. What metal did the Hittites use to develop their weapons? Why is this significant to their military clout?

The Hittites used iron. In fact, most scholars believe the Hittites were the first civilization to develop iron weapons. Their unique use of iron helped them battle enemies such as the Egyptians and Mesopotamians, and eventually positioned them as one of the most powerful civilizations of the ancient world.

5. When did the Ottoman Empire start? When was it most powerful?

The Ottoman Empire began in 1299 AD. It reached the height of its power in the 16th and 17th centuries.

6. Which military victory by the Ottoman Empire nearly decimated the Byzantine Empire?

In 1453, the Ottoman Sultan, Mehmed II, conquered the city of Constantinople and renamed it Istanbul. This was a military victory so profound that it largely decimated the once mighty Byzantine Empire.

7. List factors that weakened the Ottoman Empire and eventually led to its decay. Examples include:

The Ottoman Empire was a victim of its own success. It had the challenge of maintaining a diverse and expansive empire, while also protecting its borders from hostile neighbors, which seriously taxed valuable resources and energy.

8. The Ottomans fell behind the Europeans in military technology and industrial and agricultural innovation.

The Ottoman economy began to falter. As Europeans discovered the New World, gold and silver were brought back to bolster the Western European economy. This helped destabilize the East and triggered rapid currency devaluation throughout the Ottoman Empire.

9. The collapse of the Ottoman currency led to a period of general joblessness and lawlessness, sparking mass revolts and rebellions during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

Further military defeats at the hands of the Europeans depleted the Ottomans' strength.

10. Which Roman Emperor seized Cappadocia as an official city of the Roman Empire?

Roman emperor Tiberius, the emperor who ruled during the life of Jesus Christ, conquered Cappadocia and made it an official city of the Roman Empire.

11. How many times is Cappadocia mentioned in the Bible?

Twice.