

## Where in Iraq is it??

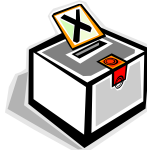
See if you can find these names of places in the Bible that are located in present day Iraq:

1. Where Adam and Eve lived (Gen 2:10)
2. Where men built a tower to reach heaven (Gen 11:9)
3. Where Abram lived before he went to Canaan (Gen 11:31)
4. Where Nebuchadnezzar built a huge statue (Daniel 3:1)
5. Where Jonah preached repentance (Jonah 3:3)



You could look on a present day map of Iraq and compare it to bible maps, to try to locate these places mentioned in the Bible!

There are still battles and problems today in Iraq because it takes time for a country to recover from years of harsh government, but life is gradually getting better there. Right now the people are discussing their new constitution and are holding elections to decide who will represent them in their own government - something we take for granted often in Western countries.



We need to pray for the people to work together, so that the country of Iraq will be rebuilt as a modern, prosperous country where all the people are free to worship and share their views, so that Christians will not be attacked or persecuted, as still many Muslims do not want the Gospel to be preached.

Why don't you write us a letter telling us about YOUR home and life, and maybe we can share part of it in a special Christmas PAL page?

'Til next time,

with love from Shirley

(Answers: 1. Eden; 2. Babel; 3. Ur and Haran; 4. Babylon; 5. Nineveh)  
Facts and testimonies used with kind permission from Voice of the Martyrs Inc.  
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# World Kids PAL Page

Fun facts for kids! True stories!

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## Do you know which country in the world was mentioned FIRST in the Bible?



You probably know that Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, but do you know where that would be found today if it were still there? It would be in the country of **IRAQ!**

In fact many of the stories of famous bible characters took place in the land that is now known as Iraq, although sadly today, it is more often mentioned in the news because of the war that continues there.

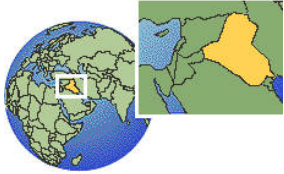


Agriculture, animal farming, codes of law, and even writing were all first developed there in the land that is now called Iraq!

Through thousands of years of history, many wars have been fought in that land, because powerful kings and rulers there built magnificent cities and developed great centers of learning. As these nations became powerful and reached out to conquer other lands, they also influenced other nations with their knowledge and organization of government, and so great wars were fought to gain control of that power.



The people in Iraq today are mostly Arabs, as in the neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran. Iraq is in fact one of the countries in what is known as the "Middle East"

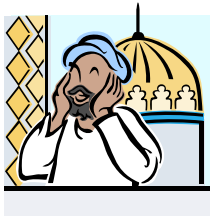


and the two important rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, run from north to south through Iraq, before entering the Persian Gulf. Iraq covers about 170,000 square miles of land (about the size of California)

and its flag consists of three stripes. Red, white and black, with 3 green stars in the center stripe. The capital, Baghdad, is very close to the ruins of the ancient city of Babylon.

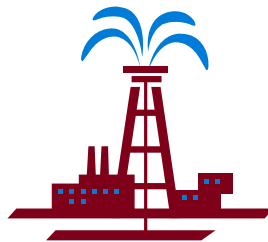


Over the past 1400 years, most of the inhabitants of this area accepted Islam as their religion and so are Muslims, although there are two main groups - the Sunnis (pronounced SOO-nees) and the Shi'ites (pronounced SHEE-ites). More than half the population is Sunni and believes the family and

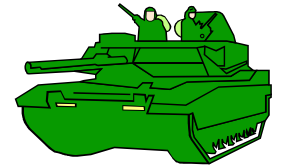


community should make decisions, and so they are more reserved. The Shi'ites follow their "Imams" (worship leaders) and believe that the Imams are infallible and should make the decisions; and so they tend to be more passionate and emotional, and at times, even fanatical.

Over the past 50-60 years, more and more oil has been discovered and produced in Iraq, leading to great changes. In 1978, the famous leader, Saddam Hussein, came to power and took control of the country. His armies not only fought with surrounding countries, but also caused fear among his own people as minority groups in Iraq were driven out of their homes and killed. With the wealth from the oil production, Saddam built at least 50 extravagant palaces for his friends, while most of his people remained poor and in need.



Some people in Iraq were Christians and there were a few churches, but the government continually destroyed bibles and churches, and imprisoned or tortured believers. Many believers had to meet in caves and secret places to worship. For many years, countries around the world, and even the United Nations, were concerned about Saddam Hussein's government and what they were doing, and so in 2003, the US armed forces went into Iraq to put a stop to it. Saddam was finally captured and will stand trial in court; his armies have mostly been overthrown, and now the people of Iraq have been set free, and can form a new government with new constitution and laws that protect the people and help keep order in the country in a fairer way.



**True story!** Soon after the capture of Saddam Hussein, a group of American Christians visited Iraq and went to a Christmas party for about 300 children; it was organized by an ex-prisoner evangelist. The children sang a song about Lazarus (in Arabic). In front of the room, three children stood wrapped from head to toe in white toilet paper. As the song told the story of how Lazarus was raised from the dead and released from his grave clothes, the toilet paper was torn off the three children, and they were "set free". Everyone shouted with excitement, because they realized that God can bring life again where there has been so much death and sadness!

So many children's lives have been completely changed because of the years of harsh rule, and also the brutal war in Iraq, but Jesus can bring peace and joy again! Many people are now able to visit Iraq to take bibles and other much-needed items, and also to help rebuild churches, schools and hospitals. Many of these people are Christians and find ways to share the Gospel and bring hope to those who have lost homes and family members.

