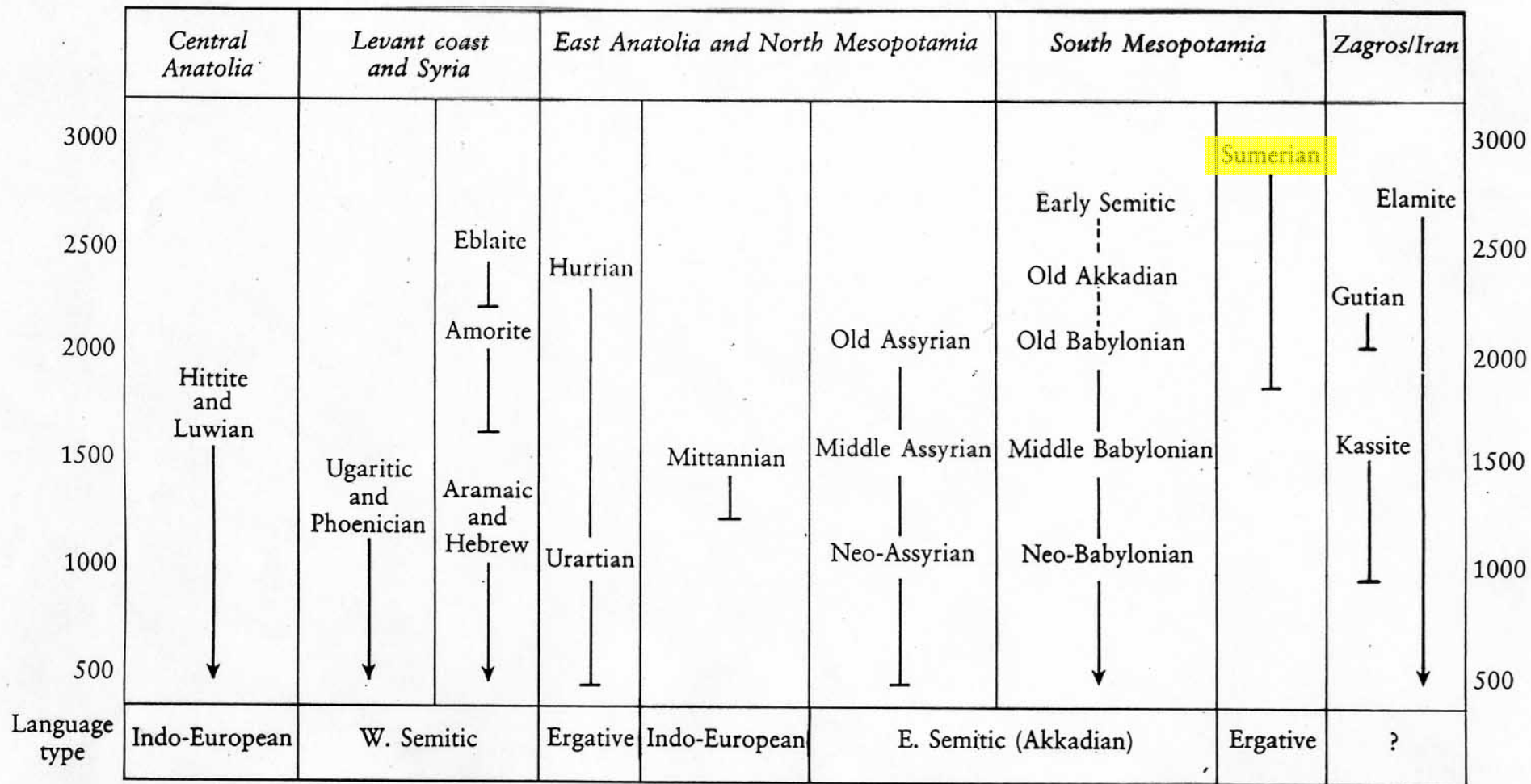


### Mesopotamian Chronology

*(All Dates B.C. and Approximate)*

8000–4000	Neolithic era
4000–2350	Civilization emerges; intercity warfare
2400–2250	Ebla flourishes
2370–2200	Akkadian Empire: Dynasty of Sargon
2100–2000	Empire of Ur: the Sumerians' "Last Hurrah"
2000–1530	Amorite domination: Old Babylonian Empire
1700–1500	Emergence of Indo-European peoples
1700	Code of Hammurabi
1530–1100	Kassites dominate Mesopotamia



- ⊥ not known to have survived after this time
- ↓ survived after this time
- | descended from or related to

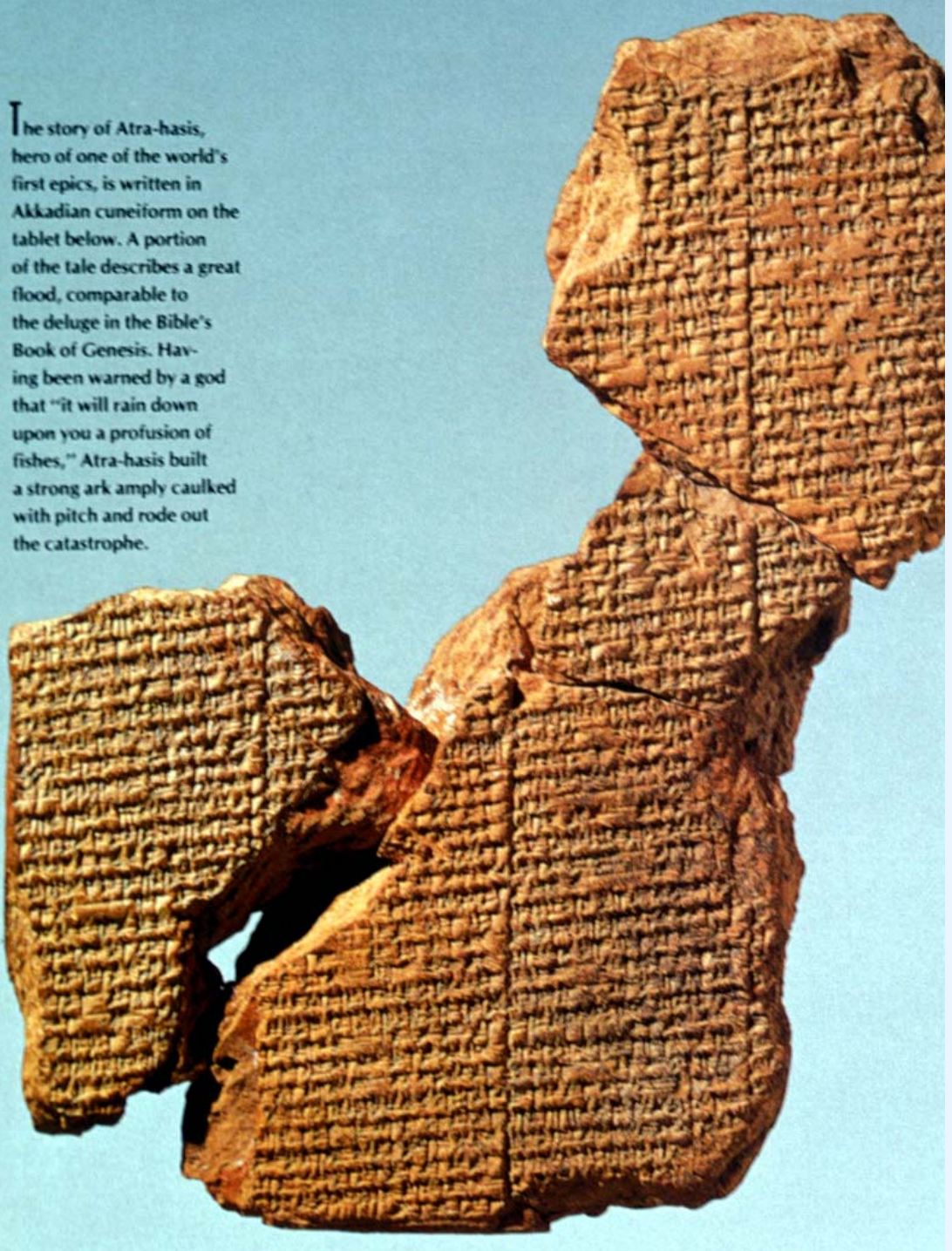
Figure 2.9 Chart of the principal languages of the ancient Near East with their geographical base and genetic relationships.



*Below* The best-preserved copy of the Sumerian King List is inscribed in cuneiform script on the Weld-Blundell prism. This lists the names of the rulers of Sumer from before the Flood to Sin-magir, king of Isin (1827–1817 BC). More than a dozen copies are known from Babylonia, Susa and the 7th-century BC Assyrian royal library at Nineveh. All of these derived from an original that was probably composed in about 2100 BC in the early part of the Third Dynasty of Ur or a little earlier. The purpose of the Sumerian King List was to show that, from the first time “when kingship was lowered from heaven”, a particular city was chosen to exercise dominion over all the other cities. Height 20 m.

# Cuneiform Tablet of the Atrahasis Epic, including the story of the Flood

The story of Atrahasis, hero of one of the world's first epics, is written in Akkadian cuneiform on the tablet below. A portion of the tale describes a great flood, comparable to the deluge in the Bible's Book of Genesis. Having been warned by a god that "it will rain down upon you a profusion of fishes," Atrahasis built a strong ark amply caulked with pitch and rode out the catastrophe.



# Relief of the Flood (from Shuppurak)



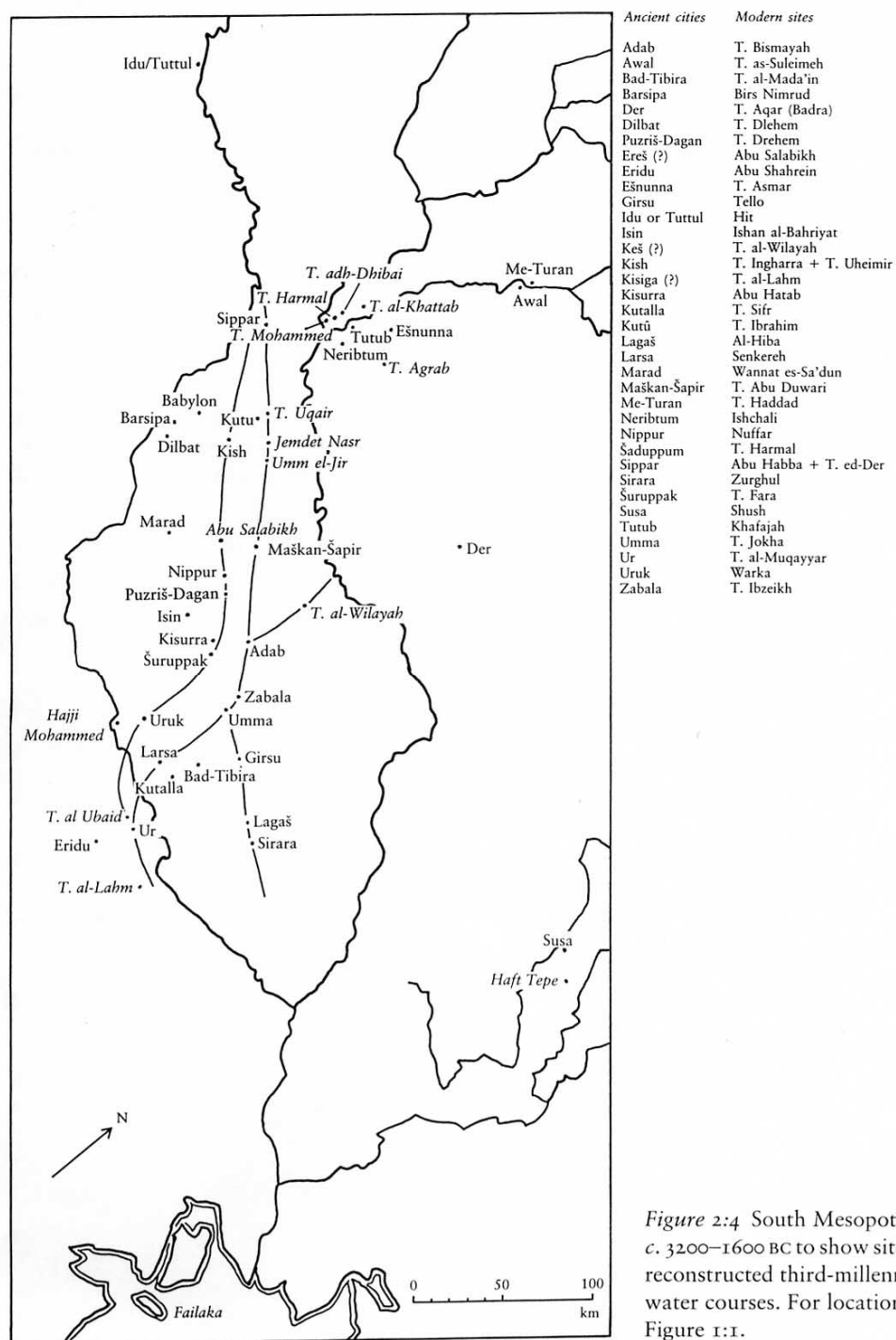
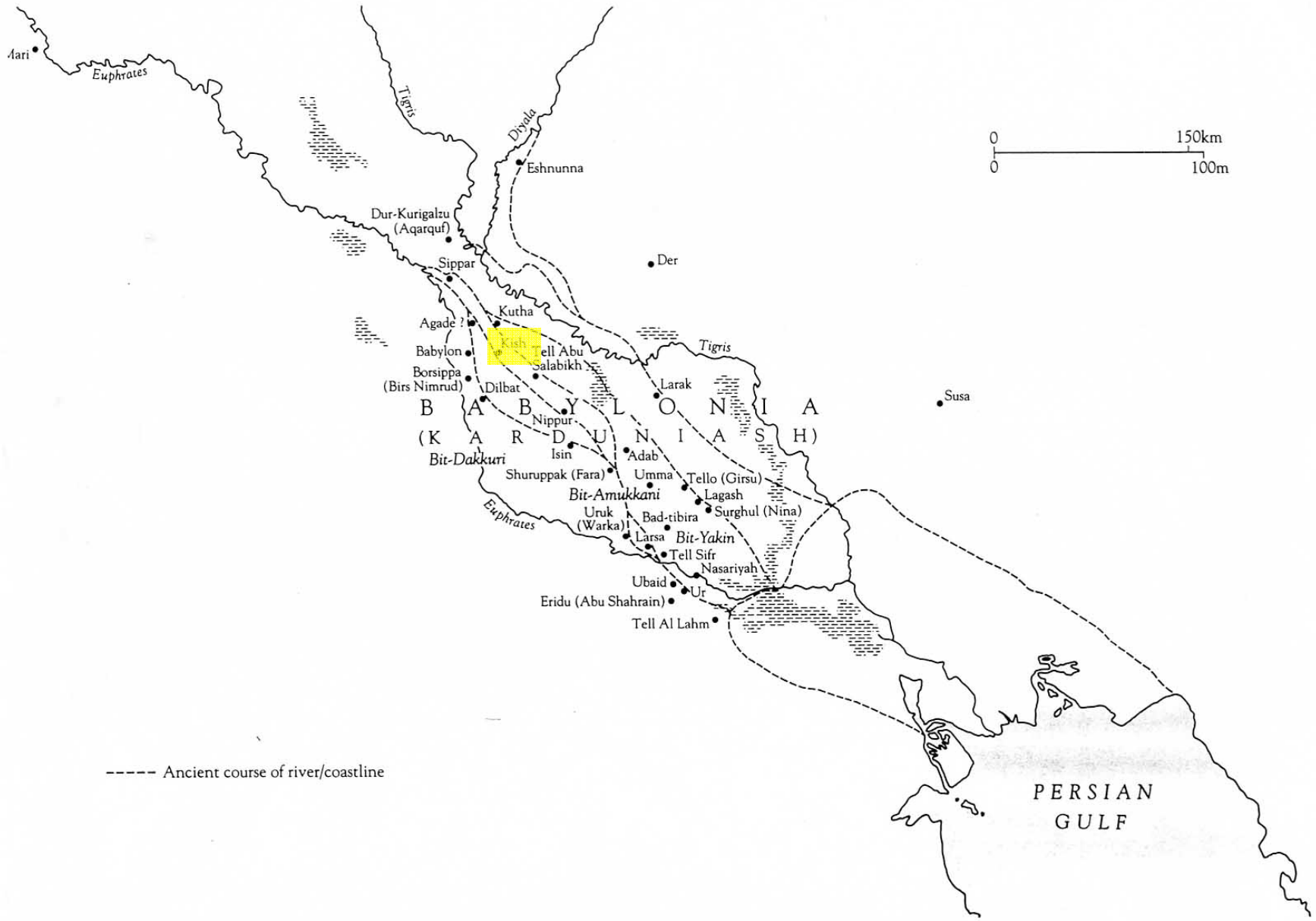


Figure 2:4 South Mesopotamia c. 3200–1600 BC to show sites and reconstructed third-millennium water courses. For location see Figure 1:1.

# The Ruins of the City of Kish





----- Ancient course of river/coastline

PERSIAN GULF

# The Ruins of the City of Nippur



*Years BC*

5000–4000	Halaf/Ubaid	
4000–3200	Uruk	} Protoliterate period
3200–3000	Jemdet Nasr	
3000–2750	Early Dynastic I	
2750–2600	Early Dynastic II	} Pre-Sargonic period
2600–2350	Early Dynastic III	
2350–2150	Dynasty of Akkad (Gutian interregnum)	
2150–2000	3rd Dynasty of Ur (Amorite interregnum)	
2000–1800	Isin–Larsa Dynasties	} Old Babylonian period
1800–1600	1st Dynasty of Babylon (Kassite interregnum)	

Outline of archaeological and historical periods.

39 Scarlet Ware vessel decorated in red and black paint with chariot and banquet scenes and attendant musicians (one plays a bull-headed lyre; see Fig. 53). This is the earliest object so far known to combine these two recurring themes in Sumerian art (see Fig. 50b). From Khafajeh in the Diyala region north-east of Baghdad. About 2800 BC. Ht 34.5 cm. The drawing below is from P. Delougaz, *Pottery from the Diyala Region*, Chicago 1952, pl. 138.



# Scarlet Ware

n.b. triglyphs  
and metopes



*Years BC*

5000–4000	Halaf/Ubaid	
4000–3200	Uruk	} Protoliterate period
3200–3000	Jemdet Nasr	
3000–2750	Early Dynastic I	} Pre-Sargonic period
2750–2600	Early Dynastic II	
2600–2350	Early Dynastic III	
2350–2150	Dynasty of Akkad (Gutian interregnum)	
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Outline of archaeological and historical periods.

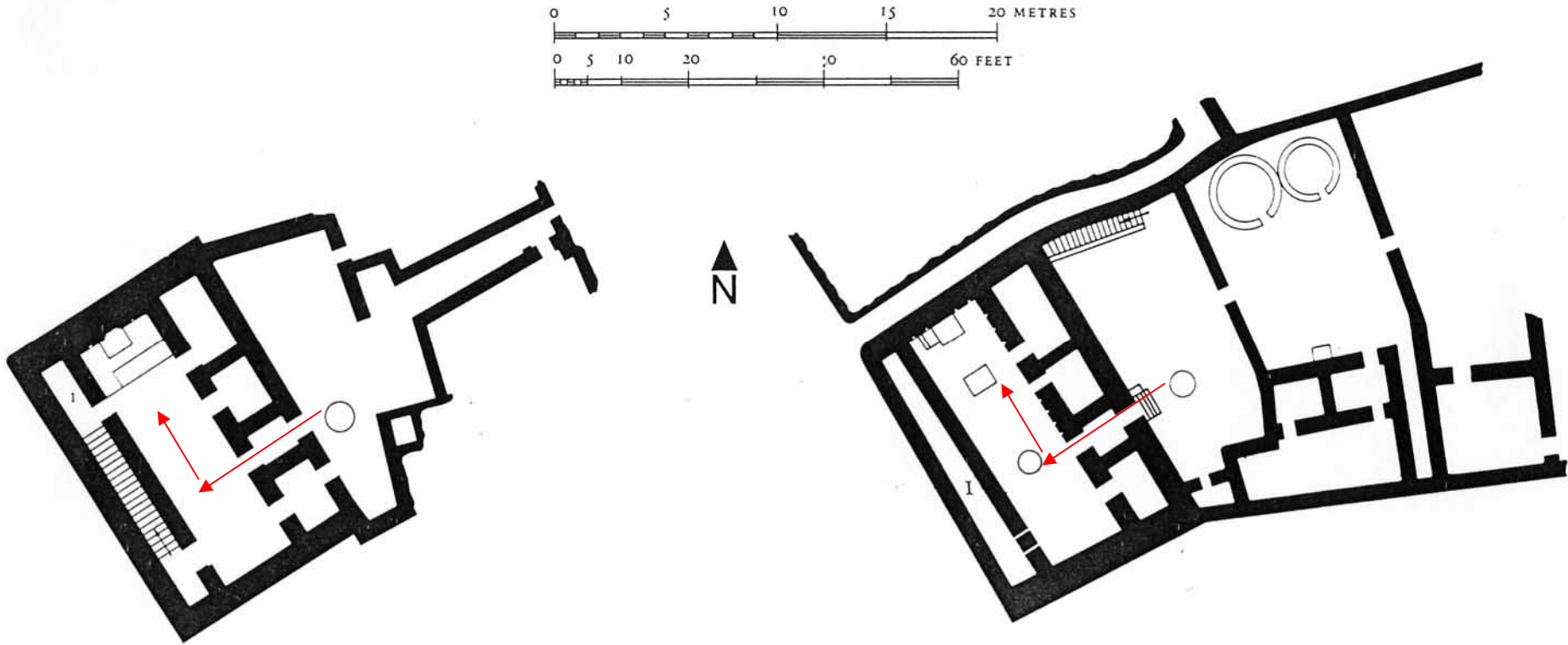
# The Ziggurat of Nippur



Male  
Figurine from  
the Square  
Temple  
(Tell Asmar)



# Bent-Axis, Sin Temple



6. Khafaje, Sin Temple II

7. Khafaje, Sin Temple V

# Cylinder Seal with mythological monsters (bull-men)

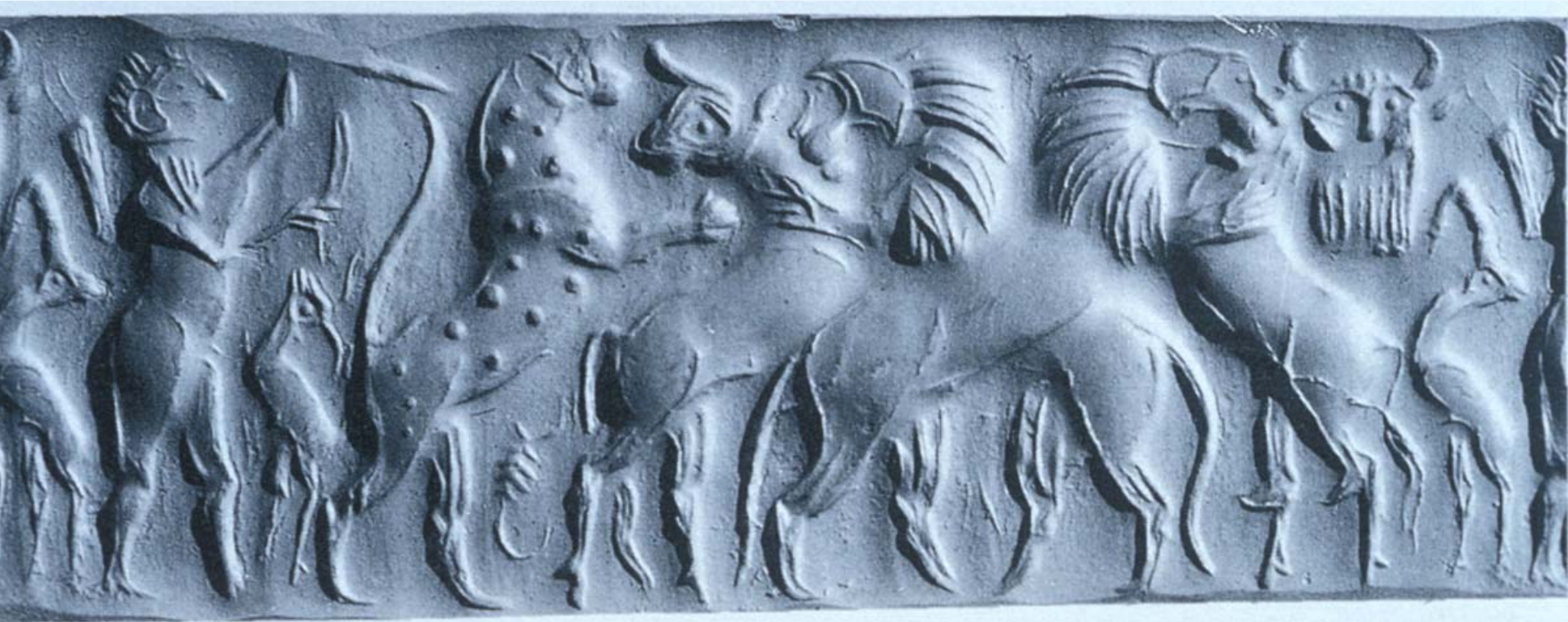


# Cylinder Seal with crossing figures



84. Early Dynastic III seal impression.  
*Baghdad, Iraq Museum*

# Cylinder Seal with crossing figures



# Abu Statuettes (from Tell Asmar)

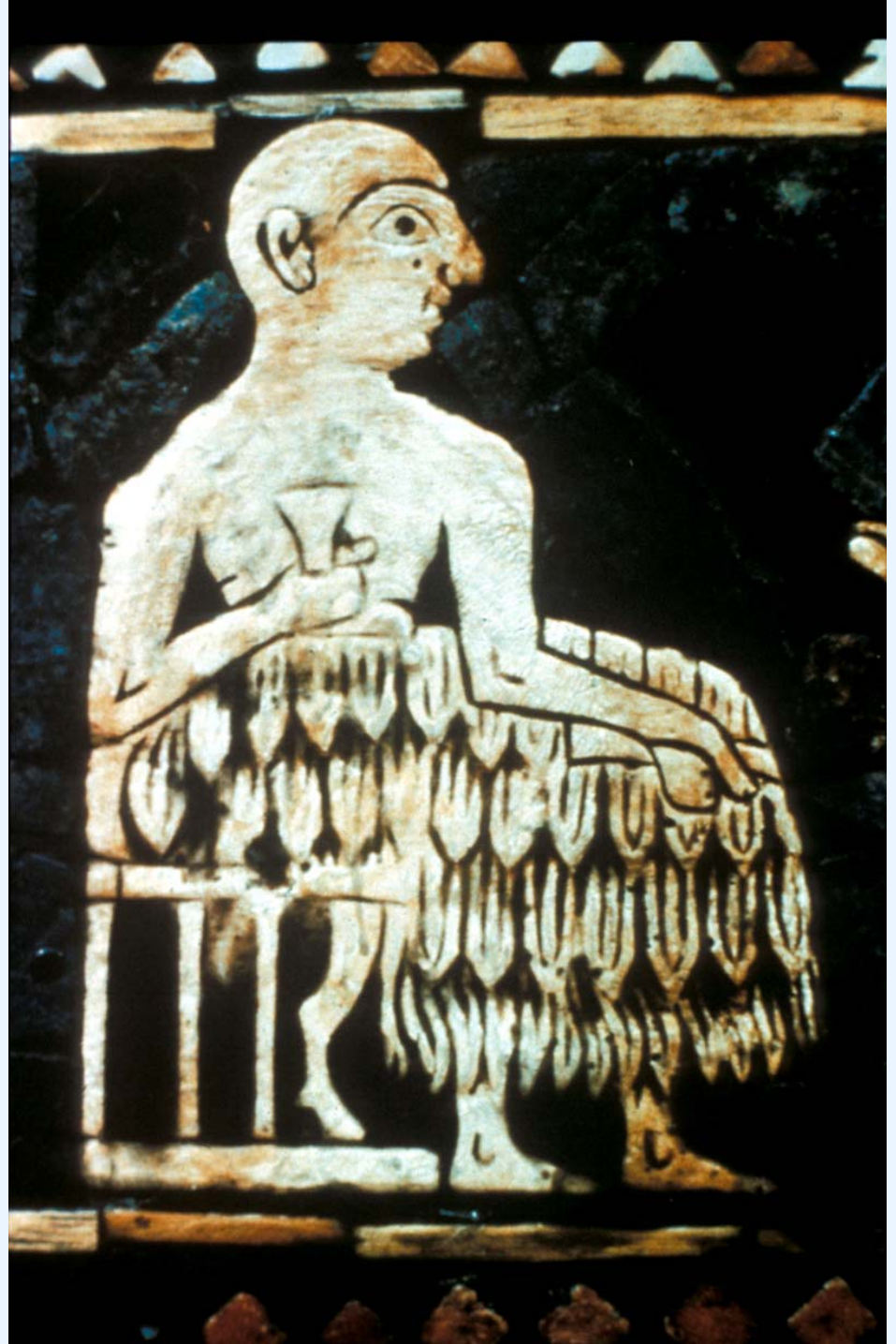


M2-11

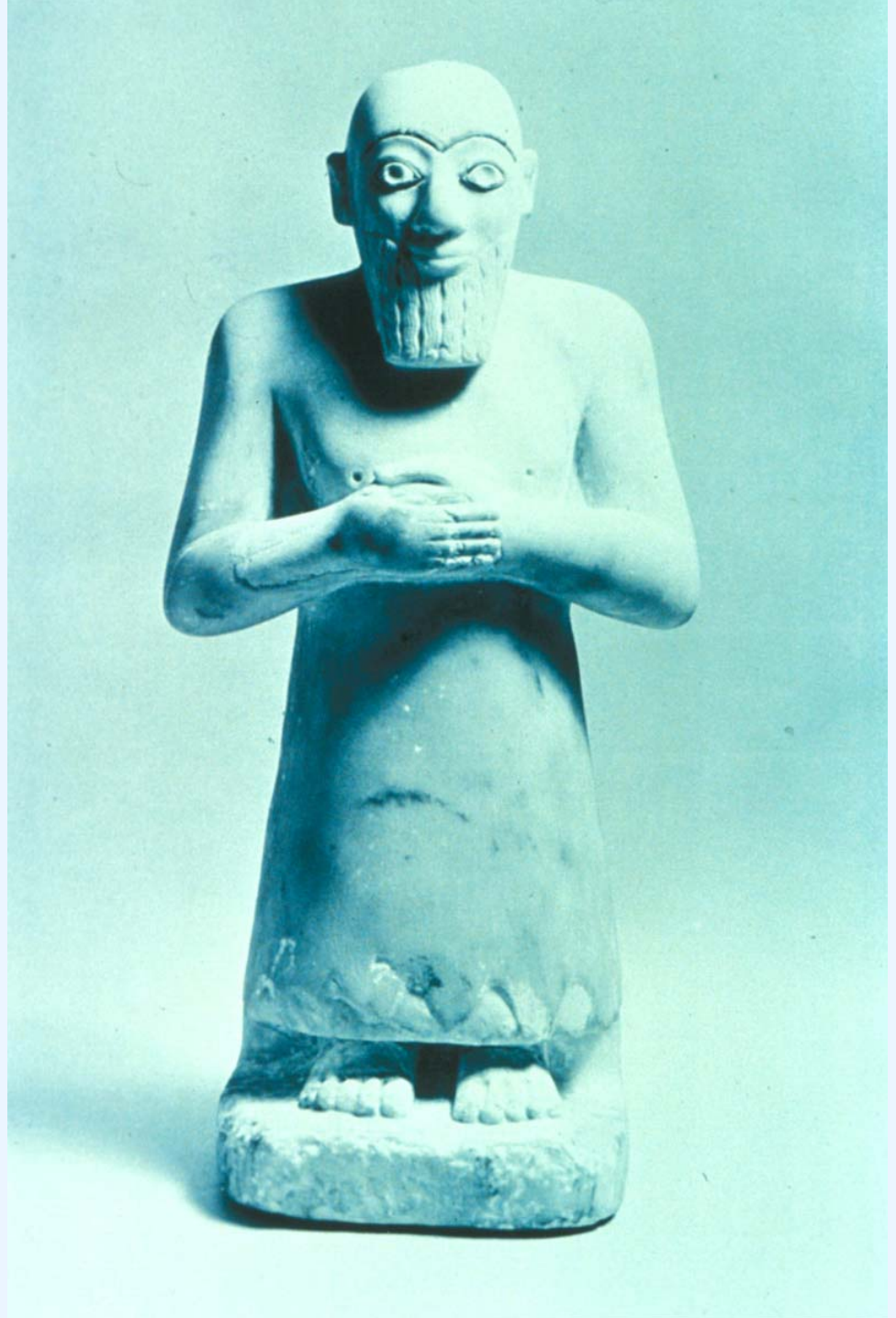
# Abu Statuettes



Standard  
of Ur:  
King at  
Banquet



Sumerian  
Statue,  
with square  
beard



Abu  
Statuette,  
n.b. eyes



40. Head of the god Abu (cf. 39)  
*Baghdad, Iraq Museum*

39. Group of statues, from the Abu temple,  
Tell Asmar.  
*Baghdad, Iraq Museum, and University of Chicago,  
Oriental Institute*



Abu  
Statuette,  
with hands  
clasped  
(libating?)



39. Group of statues, from the Abu temple,  
Tell Asmar.  
*Baghdad, Iraq Museum, and University of Chicago,  
Oriental Institute*





M2-18