The Patriarchs

Hajar --- IBRAHIM oo Sara
    |         |
  Ismail   Ishaq
    |         |
ARABS     JEWS

ARABIA

Bedouin (Badawiyin) = “inhabitants of the desert”

- kinship (family, clan and tribe)

- nobility of character: great warrior skills: physical courage
  loyalty and honor
  moral courage
  ethnic superiority

- the centrality of honor
  - family feuds and tribal wars

- the wisest and strongest man > shaikh (translated as “chief”)

- religious beliefs:
  - sacred trees and stones
  - demons worked evil, angels carried out the mission of the gods
  - shamans
  - no afterlife, no final judgment, no paradise
MECCA (Makkah) (from the Sabean word for “sanctuary”)

The hub of a prosperous caravan trade and of a prosperous pilgrimage trade

City god of Mecca: al ilah = Allah (“the God”)

-the Ka’aba / Ka’bah

-Arabian pilgrimage rites: -circumambulation of the Ka’aba shrine
 -drinking from the well of Zamzam
 -casting stones to drive out the devil
 -animal sacrifice and celebration

-the 360 idols

The Quraysh tribe

If you have questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at nhohmann@sfcm.edu