



**Zarathustra/Zoroaster**

# Zoroastrianism

- **Dates back nearly three millennia**
- **Gathas—early hymns of Zoroastrianism**
- **NB—Aryans went to Indian and the remainder became Zoroastrians**
- **Mithra—god of light**
- **Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord)**
- **Zoroaster as a possible reformer (Saoshyant)**

# Mithra, Persian Sun God

- Mithra predated Christianity by centuries
- The Roman soldiers followed Mithraism
- Mithra was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>
- He was a teacher with twelve disciples, performed miracles, Lord's Supper, buried in a tomb, resurrected after three days
- His resurrection was celebrated every springtime
- Mithra was called the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth and the Light, the Redeemer, the Savior, the Messiah
- He was identified with both the lion and the lam
- Sunday was Mithra's sacred day or the Lord's Day



**Mithra  
slaying the  
Sacred Bull**



# **Zoroaster Spitama, “possessor of camels”**

- **There is far more extra-biblical material on Zoroaster than Christ**
- **The devil was out to get him**
- **At fifteen he puts on the kusti as a sign of maturity/manhood**
- **Vision by the river with a message that parallels Mohammad—one God**
- **Ministry started very slowly and then picked up**

# Zoroaster's Teachings

- **Monotheism—Ahura Mazda**
- **Early concept of faces of God (parallel trinity)**
- **Dualism**
- **Shaitin/Satan are united with Ahura Mazda**
- **We have free will and reason will bring you to righteousness**
- **Eschatology=maidens or hag for a time and then paradise for all**
- **Religious ecologists**



**Sandalwood sacred eternal flame**

# Zoroastrian Worship Practices

- **Purification of mother and child after birth**
- **Sacred shirt and thread, which is a type of rosary**
- **Tower of Silence parallels Tibetan “sky burial”**

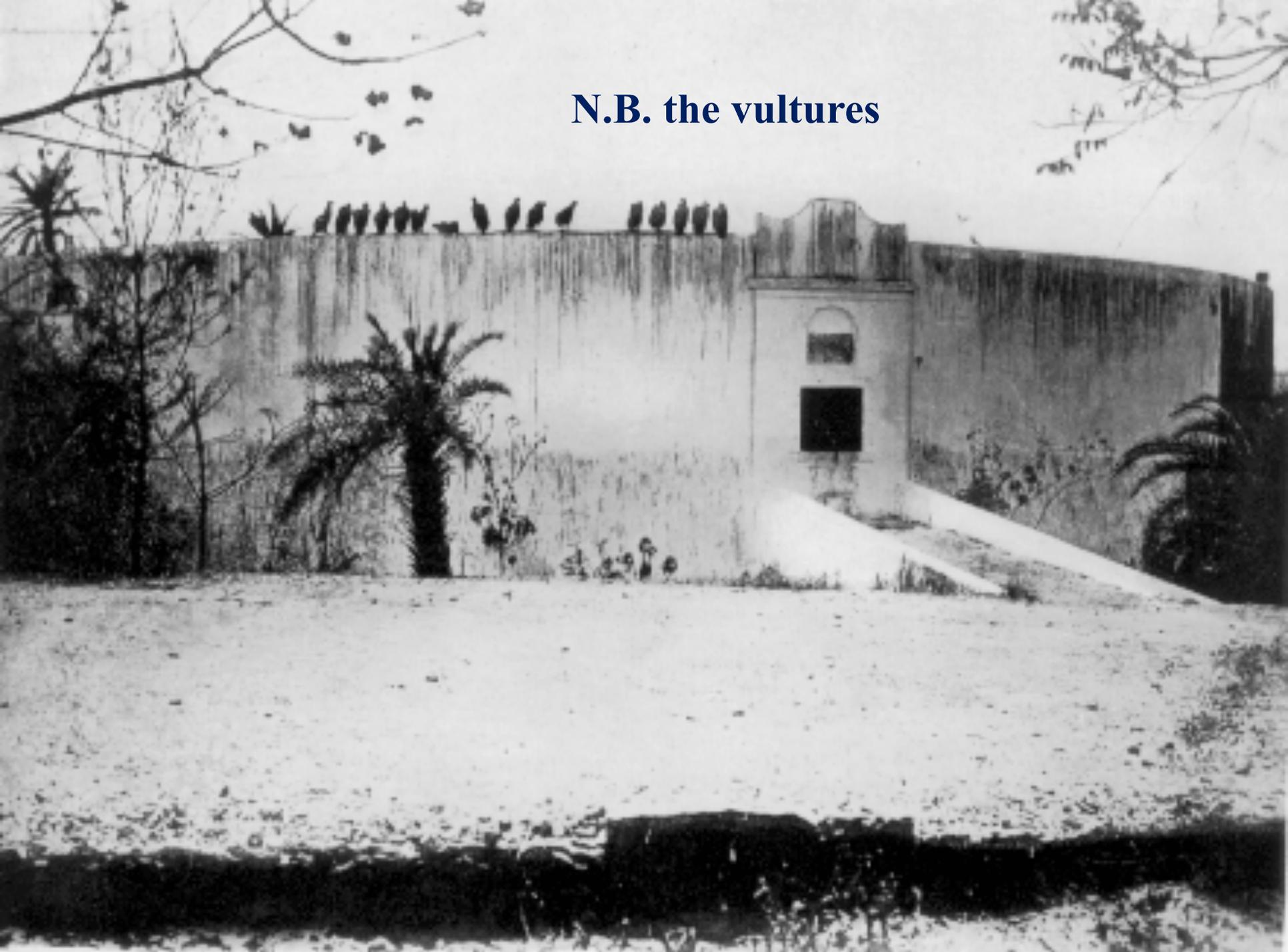


**Tower of Silence**



**Another Tower of Silence**

**N.B. the vultures**





# Zoroastrian History

- **Cyrus of Persia was a Zoroastrian believer**
- **Cyrus was a OT messiah—providing return from the Babylonian Captivity**
- **Exilic Jews picked up Satan from the Persians**
- **Therefore, the NT also was affected by Persian theology—resurrection of the body, last judgment, angels, etc.**
- **Islam also picked up much of their theology from Zoroastrianism**



**Ahura  
Mazda**





[p://www.zarathushtra.com/z/temple/index.htm](http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/temple/index.htm)