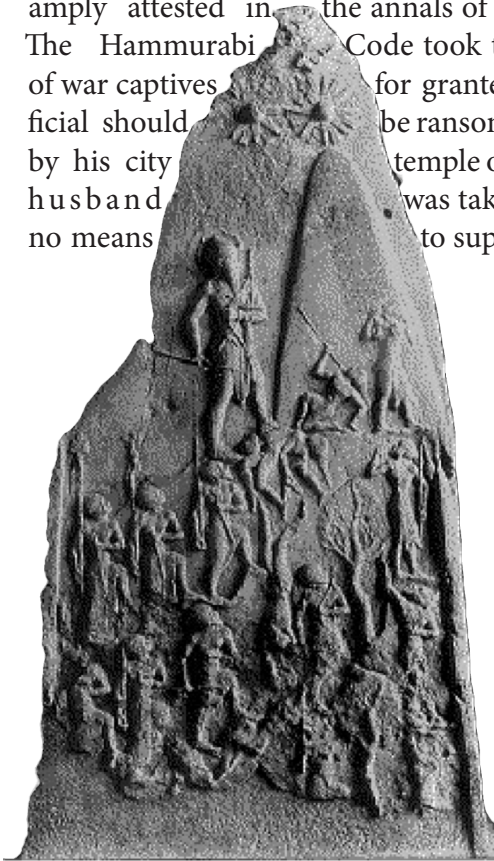


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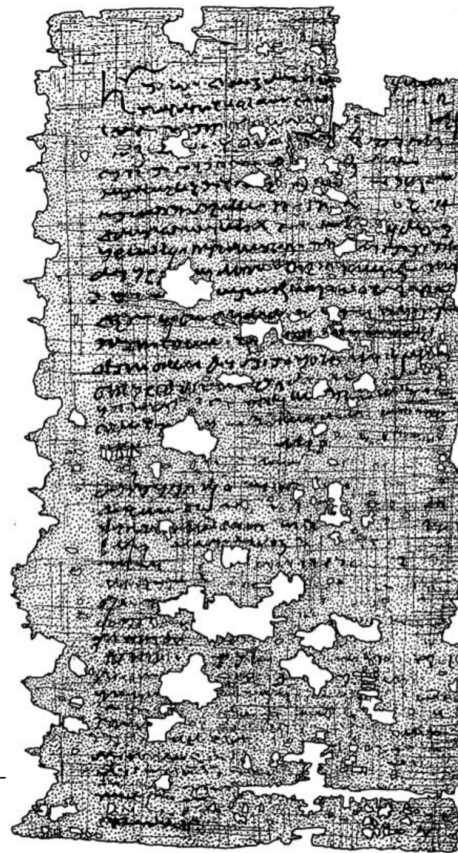
Mural of prisoners from ancient wall (49:9)

That prisoners of war, spared on the battle field, were reduced to slavery is amply attested in the annals of the long history of the Ancient Near East. The Hammurabi Code took this universal practice of the enslavement of war captives for granted and decreed that (1) a captive state official should be ransomed, in case he had no resources of his own, by his city temple or by the state, and (2) that a woman whose husband was taken prisoner may re-marry in case she had no means to support herself and her children.



Divorce Letter (50:1)

In the Wadi Murabaat, in the dry climate of the Judean desert, a divorce letter has been preserved that dates back to the 1st century AD. With such a letter, a man could divorce his wife if she has done something to him that merits such a procedure.



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