



# IRAQ

day 12

**K**nown in ancient times

as Mesopotamia, Iraq was the location of the Garden of Eden and Babylon. At the end of World War I, Iraq became a British territory. When it was declared independent, the same family who ruled Jordan ruled Iraq. In 1963, the Baath Party took control of the country. In the 1980's, they suppressed a Kurdish rebellion by using weapons of mass destruction on thousands of civilians. In the 1990's, they invaded Kuwait and once again killed thousands of Kurds in the North and Shi'a Muslims in the South who had rebelled against Saddam Hussein's government. The government then started draining the marsh area in the South, so the land would no longer be useful for agriculture. As a result of this, the United States, United Kingdom, and France established protective no-fly and no-drive zones in Northern and Southern Iraq to protect the Iraqi citizens from attacks. In 2003, Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled.

Most of Chicago's estimated 6,500 Iraqi Arabs came to the United States in the late 1970's in search of economic opportunity. Chicago is also home to the largest and oldest Iraqi community, the Assyrians. Assyrians are an ethnic minority in Iraq who claim a heritage dating back to the Assyrian Empire of Mesopotamia, and whose homeland lies in Northern Iraq, Northwestern Iran, and Southeastern Turkey. Most Assyrian Iraqis are either nominal Christian or Muslim, while most Iraqi Arabs are Muslim. Many in the Islamic community in Chicago are becoming nominal in their Islamic faith. **Pray for a growing disillusionment with Islam and an interest in the Biblical story of Jesus. Pray for Iraqi believers to become evangelistic in their faith and for the cultural persecution that many of them experience.**



## FAQS

### SIZE

State of California

### POPULATION

27,499,638

### CAPITAL

Baghdad

### LANGUAGE

Arabic

### RELIGION

Islam

### UPG'S

24



### POP. IN CHICAGO

6,500

### LOCATION

Edgewater, Northbrook, Rogers Park, Uptown



### VISIT

Mataam al Mataam  
3200 W Lawrence  
Chicago, IL  
773-463-0600

MATTHEW 24:14

"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

