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*Mankind: The Story of All of Us* Episode 2: “Iron Men”

## Beginnings of the Iron Age 0:00 – 7:40

1. We don’t know the identity of the people who invaded the Egyptian coast. What did the Egyptians call them?
2. How did conflict, including attacks by the people mentioned in the above question, affect the bronze trade?
3. What are the advantages of iron over bronze?

## Persian Wars 7:40 – 21:57

1. What major power was invading the lands of Sparta?
2. What other Greek city-state had to choose whether to stand together with Sparta or accept Persian domination?
3. How did the Athenians decide which side to take in the Persian Wars?
4. The Greeks use a new tactic – the phalanx. What does that involve and what advantages does it give?
5. The Greek historian Herodotus said, “Great deeds are wrought from great risk.” What does this mean?

## Shi Huang Di, China’s First Emperor 21:57 – 32:16

1. How did the Chinese prepare their iron differently than their western counterparts?
2. According to the documentary, war drives technological innovation. Is this true or false? Justify your answer with an example.
3. How did standardized, interchangeable parts give an advantage to the Chinese?
4. Shi Huang Di, the First Emperor, unified China under one leader. What does this symbolize?
5. What caused Shi Huang Di’s death?

## Phoenician Exploration & Trade 32:16 – 37:52

1. What Phoenician invention, carved using iron tools, allowed their ships to remain stable even in unstable seas?
2. The Phoenicians created an alphabet. What advantages does alphabetic writing have over other writing systems?

## Religion 37:52 – 44:11

1. What new religions came up during the iron age?
2. Captured Babylonian Jews codified (wrote) down many of their writings. What book does this become?
3. The writers of the video chose Reza Aslan, an expert on Islam, to be their “talking head” for the segment on the origins of Judaism. Why might they have chosen an Islam expert instead of a Judaism expert for this segment?
4. Persian invaders threatened the new book. What did Zerubabbel do to try to save his people and their holy book?
5. What major empire will represent mankind “leaping forward, with a new pace of life?”