



WHO ARE THE CHALDEANS?

By Rita Ghazala



THE CHALDEAN PEOPLE

- Ancient origins in Mesopotamia, particularly northern Iraq.
- Associated with the Babylonian Empire and King Nebuchadnezzar II.
- Historically connected to the rise of Babylonia and its cultural achievements.
- Today, many Chaldeans live in Iraq, the United States (especially in Michigan and California), and other parts of the diaspora.
- Chaldeans have maintained close-knit communities with a strong family and cultural ties.

THE CHALDEAN LANGUAGE

שלמא

SHLAMA (HI)

- Chaldeans speak a modern dialect of Aramaic, the ancient language of Christ.
- Aramaic is still used in religious services and cultural events.
- Language preservation is key in Chaldean diaspora communities.
- There are efforts to teach and preserve the language through schools and cultural organizations.



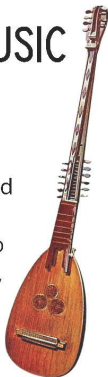
THE CHALDEAN FOOD

- Meals are central to family gatherings and community celebrations, often shared with extended family and friends.
- There are many famous Chaldean dishes. some of which are Kubba, a dish that is made of bulgur or rice, filled with spiced meat, and served fried, boiled, or baked.
- Another famous cuisine is Dolma, grape leaves stuffed with rice, meat, and spices.



THE CHALDEAN MUSIC

- Traditional Chaldean music features the oud (a stringed instrument) and darbuka (a hand drum).
- Chaldean music is deeply tied to liturgical and religious practices, nut also includes folk music for celebrations and social events.
- Songs often reflect themes of faith, love, and nostalgia for their homeland.



- Modern Chaldean musicians blend traditional sounds with contemporary influences, keeping the music alive in the diaspora.





THE CHALDEAN CELEBRATIONS

- Christmas and Easter: Key religious celebrations, observed with special prayers, church services, and feasts.
- Weddings: Major social events, with traditional Chaldean dances, music, and elaborate ceremonies.
- Festivals and holidays are deeply intertwined with faith, family, and food, often lasting several days.



THE CHALDEAN RELIGION



- Most Chaldeans belong to the Chaldean Catholic Church, an Eastern Rite Catholic Church in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.
- Chaldean Christianity traces its roots to the Apostle Thomas and the early Christian communities of Mesopotamia.
- The church follows a unique liturgy in the Aramaic language of, with traditions that have been preserved for centuries.
- Religion plays a central role in community life, guiding moral values, cultural traditions, and communal gatherings.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHALDEAN CULTURE

For more information, check out these resources:

- Chaldean Cultural Center:
www.chaldeanculturalcenter.org
- Learn Aramaic:
www.learnaramaic.com
- Chaldean Diocese of St. Thomas the Apostle:
www.chaldeanchurch.org