

Deuteronomy 21:22-23: If someone ... is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight ...

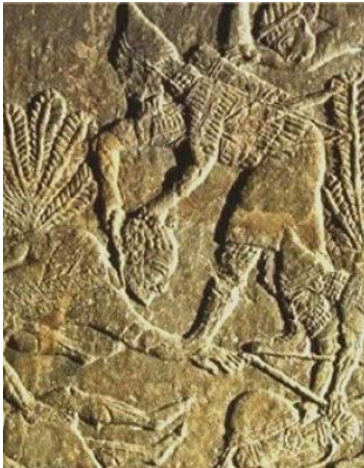


John the Baptist beheaded



Jan de Beer, Byzantine Emperor Heraclius Beheading Khosrau II, King of Persia in 628

**A.D. 680: Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, was decapitated at the Battle of Karbala. He died after claiming the right to become the caliph upon the death of Caliph Muawiya. Muawiya's son, Yazid, also claimed the caliphate and battle broke out. It marked the breakaway of Shiites from Sunni Islam. The day of Hussein's death is commemorated as Ashura by Shiite Muslims.**



Assyrian beheading Elamite King Teumman



David taking the severed head of Goliath to Jerusalem (1Sam 17:54)

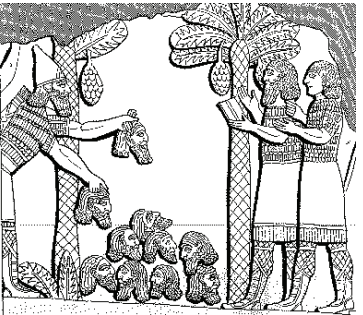


Caravaggio, Judith and Holofernes.



Steven Sotloff, David Haines, 2014

**For centuries before its collapse in 612 BC, Assyria controlled the plains between the Tigris and Euphrates, flat, semiarid, hard-to-defend terrain that is the most often fought-over patch of real estate on the planet, and that is remarkably similar to the IS's domain. Assyria's rival and nemesis was Babylon, a kingdom now held by the Shia government in Baghdad.**



Ashurnasirpal II, Assyrian king (883 to 859 BC): "I felled 800 of their combat troops with the sword (and) cut off their heads."



Conrat Meit, Judith and Holofernes

**"Shake the throne of the cross, and Extinguish the fire of the Zoroastrians / Strike down every adversity, and go reap those heads."**

**Ahlam al-Nasr, "Poetess of the Islamic State," 2015**

ephemera 27 / counting heads in Mesopotamia  
loren madsen, 2016



Beheading in Syria



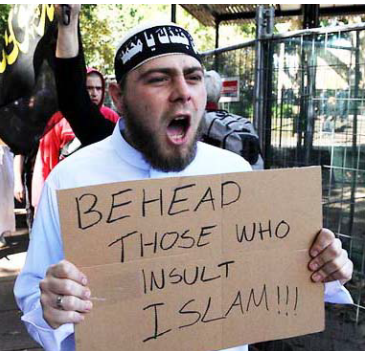
Fra Angelico, Beheading of Saints Cosmas and Damian



The Mongols built pyramids of skulls when they pillaged and razed Baghdad in 1258 and again in 1401  
Vasily Vereshchagin



Lucas Cranach the Elder, Judith and Holofernes



Show them death and they will accept a fever. Iraqi proverb