Sources for the study of early Islam

- **Quran**
- **Sira** – the prophetic biographies (mostly later accounts)
- **Hadith** – Records of Prophetic sayings and activities
- Contemporaneous non-Muslim accounts
- Archaeological materials
Mecca: Caravan trade and Pilgrimage Center
The Prophet Muhammad
A Timeline of events

- 570  Muhammad's Birth and Infancy
- 575  Muhammad Becomes an Orphan
- 578  Muhammad in Mecca in Care of an Uncle
- 580-594  Muhammad's Teens
- 594  Muhammad Acts as Caravan Agent for Wealthy Tradeswoman, Khadija
- 595-609  Muhammad's Marriage and Family Life
- 610  Muhammad Receives First Revelation
- 613  Muhammad Takes his Message Public
- 622  Muhammad and the Muslims Emigrate to Medina
- 625-628  The Military Period
- 630  The Conquest of Mecca
- 630-632  Muhammad's Final Years
From Yathrib to Medina
The Atam/utum of Medina

- Clan based structures
- Medina would undergo a social and physical transformation under Muhammad
- Landscape of Yathrib also composed of several fortresses (*husun*) – particularly held by the Jewish tribes.

Image: Yemini “tower-house” which may be related to the form of the *atam*
Masjid al-Nabi (The mosque of the Prophet):
Mihrab and Haram:
Parallel Developments of the Mosque as an institution