

~BABYLONIAN EMPIRE (197)

.. Jerusalem's Conquest By Babylon

- **Babylon was indeed an impressive city with towering walls, its Processional Way, the famous Hanging Gardens, and upwards of 50 temples.**
- **Very early in man's history, Babel, later named Babylon, became a prominent center of worship that defied the true God, Yehowah.**
- **He displayed himself a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. That is why there is a saying; Just like Nimrod a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. ([Genesis 10:9](#))**
- **And the beginning of his **kingdom** came to be **Babel** and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ([Genesis 10:10](#))**
- **Yehowah thwarted the purpose of its builders by confusing the peoples language and scattering them from there throughout the earth.**
- **They now said; Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the surface of the earth. ([Genesis 11:4](#))**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to go down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men had built. ([Genesis 11:5](#))**
- **After that Yehowah said; Look! They are one people and there is one language for them all, and this is what they start to do. Why, now there is nothing that they may have in mind to do that will be unattainable for them. ([Genesis 11:6](#))**
- **Come now! Let us go down and there confuse their language that they may not listen to one another's language. ([Genesis 11:7](#))**
- **Accordingly Yehowah scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth, and they gradually left off building the city. ([Genesis 11:8](#))**

- That is why its name was called Babel, because there Yehowah had confused the language of all the earth, and Yehowah had scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth. (**Genesis 11:9**)
- Thus it came about that false worship spread from **Babylon** to other lands.
- **Babylon's** defiance of Yehowah eventually led to its downfall. In prophecy, Yehowah depicted **Babylon** as a lion having eagle's wings, he also foretold its fall and its eventual desolation.
- On **October 5,539 B.C.E.**, in one night, **Babylon** was taken by Cyrus the Great, whom Yehowah had foretold by name. Babylon fell in the very manner foretold. Eventually the city became piles of stones, never to be rebuilt.
- And **Babylon** must become piles of stones, the lair of jackals, an object of astonishment and something to whistle at, without an inhabitant. (**Jeremiah 51:37**)
- See Also (**Isaiah 44:27–45:2**)

PRINCIPAL CITIES

Babylon Political and religious capital of the empire, many Jewish exiles were here

Tema Apparently a second capital, established by King Nabonidus, who left Belshazzar in charge at Babylon

Nineveh Assyrian capital, which fell to a coalition of Chaldeans and Medes in **632 B.C.E.**

Carchemish Nebuchadnezzar II defeated Egyptian forces here, establishing Babylonian supremacy in Syria

Jerusalem Became tributary to Babylon in **620 B.C.E.** Besieged by Babylonian forces in **618-617** and in **609-607 B.C.E.**

Tyre Capitulated to Babylonian forces after a

•• Jerusalem's Conquest By Babylon

- Ancient Jerusalem enjoyed a unique distinction. It was the only earthly city upon which Yehowah placed his name.
- And to his son I shall give one tribe, in order, that David my servant may continue having a lamp always before me in **Jerusalem**, the city that I have chosen for myself to put my name there. (**1 Kings 11:36**)
- It was also the center for the pure worship of Yehowah. His temple was built there, and for that reason **Jerusalem** could especially be called God's resting-place.
- For Yehowah has chosen Zion. He has longed for it as a dwelling for himself. (**Psalms 132:13**)
- This is my resting-place forever. Here I shall dwell, for I have longed for it. (**Psalms 132:14**)
- Blessed out of Zion be Yehowah, who is residing in **Jerusalem**. Praise Yah, you people! (**Psalms 135:21**)
- In addition, **Jerusalem** was the location where the kings of the Davidic line sat on **Yehowah's throne**, representing him by administering his Laws.
- And Solomon began to sit upon Yehowah's throne as king in place of David his father and to make a success of it, and all the Israelites were obedient to him. (**1 Chronicles 29:23**)
- In contrast, ancient **Babylon** was the center from which false worship spread to all parts of the earth. It was of special significance, therefore, when Yehowah permitted **Babylon** to destroy unfaithful **Jerusalem**. In **620 B.C.E**, **Jerusalem was made subject to Babylon**.
- In his days Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon** came up, and so Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. However, he turned back and rebelled against him. (**2 Kings 24:1**)
- Three years later, in **617 B.C.E**, the **Babylonians** deported many of **Jerusalem's** inhabitants its nobility, its mighty men, and its craftsmen and looted the city's treasures.
- Twenty-five years old was Jehoiakim when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in **Jerusalem**, and he continued

to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah his God. (2 Chronicles 36:5)

- Against him Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon** came up that he might bind him with two fetters of copper to carry him off to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 36:6)
- And some of the utensils of the house of Yehowah Nebuchadnezzar brought to **Babylon** and then put them in his palace in Babylon. (2 Chronicles 36:7)
- For the rest of the affairs of Jehoiakim and his detestable things that he did and what was to be found against him, there they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah, and Jehoiachin his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Chronicles 36:8)
- Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months and ten days he reigned in **Jerusalem**, and he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (2 Chronicles 36:9)
- And at the return of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and proceeded to bring him to **Babylon** with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made Zedekiah his father's brother king over Judah and **Jerusalem**. (2 Chronicles 36:10)
- Finally, the city, along with the temple, was destroyed and thousands of Jews were taken into exile.
- So he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who proceeded to kill their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, neither did he feel compassion for young man or virgin, old or decrepit. Everything He gave into his hand. (2 Chronicles 36:17)
- And all the utensils, great and small, of the house of the true God and the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king and of his princes, everything he brought to **Babylon**. (2 Chronicles 36:18)
- And he proceeded to burn the house of the true God and pull down the wall of **Jerusalem**, and all its dwelling towers they burned with fire and also all its desirable articles, so as to cause

ruin. (2 Chronicles 36:19)

- Furthermore, he carried off those remaining from the sword captive to **Babylon**, and they came to be servants to him and his sons until the royalty of Persia began to reign. (2 Chronicles 36:20)
- **Jerusalem's** destruction took place in **607 B.C.E.**, a very significant year from the standpoint of Bible prophecy. Although this date differs from the one used by many Bible commentators, it is used consistently in this publication. Why?
- Because we give greater weight to the testimony of the Bible than to the conclusions that scholars have drawn from the fragmentary record of history that is available on cuneiform tablets.