

~BABYLON 2 EMPIRE (454) (Bab'y-lon) [Confusion]

- The **Babylonian** Empire was also referred to by the name of its capital city, **Babylon**, and was centered in the lower Mesopotamian valley.
- Sometimes historians subdivide **Babylonia**, calling the northern part Akkad or Accad, and the southern part Sumer or Chaldea. Originally this territory was designated in the Scriptures as **the land of Shinar**.
- And the beginning of his kingdom came to be **Babel** and **Erech** and **Accad** and **Calneh**, in **the land of Shinar**. (**Genesis 10:10**)
- And it came about that in their journeying eastward they eventually discovered a valley plain in the land of Shinar, and they took up dwelling there. (**Genesis 11:2**)
- Later, when dominating rulers made **Babylon** their capital, this area was known as **Babylonia**. Because Chaldean dynasties sometimes held sway, it was also called the land of the Chaldeans.
- This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Like these good figs, so I shall regard the exiles of Judah, whom I will send away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans, in a good way. (**Jeremiah 24:5**)
- And it must occur that when seventy years have been fulfilled I shall call to account against the king of **Babylon** and against that nation, is the utterance of Yehowah, their error, even against the land of the Chaldeans, and I will make it desolate wastes to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 25:12**)
- And I shall certainly spread my net over him, and he must be caught in my hunting net, and I will bring him to **Babylon**, to the land of the Chaldeans, but it he will not see, and there he will die. (**Ezekiel 12:13**)
- Some of the ancient cities in **Babylonia** were Adab, Akkad, **Babylon**, Borsippa, Erech, Kish, Lagash, Nippur, and Ur. The **Babylonian** Empire, of course, extended beyond **Babylonia**, taking in Syria and

Palestine down to the border of Egypt.

See Also SHINAR

- **About the first half of the [Eighth Century B.C.E](#), an Assyrian king by the name of Tiglath-pileser III or Pul, ruled **Babylonia**.**
- **In the days of Pekah the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. ([2 Kings 15:29](#))**
- **So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria, saying; I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me out of the palm of the king of Syria and out of the palm of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me. ([2 Kings 16:7](#))**
- **Consequently the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul the king of Assyria even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser the king of Assyria, so that he took into exile those of the Reubenites and of the Gadites and of the half tribe of Manasseh and brought them to Halah and Habor and Hara and the river Gozan to continue until this day. ([1 Chronicles 5:26](#))**
- **Later a Chaldean called Merodach-baladan became the king of **Babylon**, but after 12 years he was ousted by Sargon II. Sennacherib, in succeeding Sargon II, faced another **Babylonian** revolt led by Merodach-baladan.**
- **After Sennacherib's unsuccessful attempt to capture Jerusalem in [732 B.C.E](#), Merodach-baladan sent envoys to Hezekiah of Judah possibly to seek support against Assyria.**
- **At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan the king of **Babylon** sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, after he heard that he had been sick but was strong again. ([Isaiah 39:1](#))**
- **So Hezekiah began to rejoice over them and proceeded to show them his treasure-house, the silver and the gold and the balsam oil and the good oil and all his armory and all that was to be found in his treasures. There proved to be nothing that Hezekiah did not show them in his own house and in all his dominion. ([Isaiah 39:2](#))**

- At that time Berodach-baladan the son of Baladan the king of **Babylon** sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. (2 Kings 20:12)
- And Hezekiah proceeded to listen to them and show them all his treasure-house, the silver and the gold and the balsam oil and the good oil and his armory and all that was to be found in his treasures. There proved to be nothing that Hezekiah did not show them in his own house and in all his dominion. (2 Kings 20:13)
- After that Isaiah the prophet came in to King Hezekiah and said to him, What did these men say and from where did they proceed to come to you? So Hezekiah said; From a distant land they came, from **Babylon**. (2 Kings 20:14)
- And he went on to say; What did they see in your house? To this Hezekiah said; Everything that is in my house they saw. There proved to be nothing that I did not show them in my treasures. (2 Kings 20:15)
- Isaiah now said to Hezekiah; Hear the word of Yehowah. (2 Kings 20:16)
- Look! Days are coming, and all that is in your own house and that your forefathers have stored up down to this day will actually be carried to **Babylon**. Nothing will be left, Yehowah has said. (2 Kings 20:17)
- And some of your own sons that will come forth from you to whom you will become father will themselves be taken and actually become court officials in the palace of the king of **Babylon**. (2 Kings 20:18)
- Later Sennacherib drove out Merodach-baladan and crowned himself ruler of **Babylon**, a position he held until death. His son Esarhaddon rebuilt **Babylon**. The **Babylonians** rallied around Nabopolassar and bestowed the kingship on him. With him began the Neo-**Babylonian** dynasty that was to continue until Belshazzar. That dynasty from Nabopolassar's son Nebuchadnezzar on to Belshazzar is represented in Bible prophecy by the head of gold of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image

- **You, O king, the king of kings, you to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the might, and the strength and the dignity. (Daniel 2:37)**
- **And into whose hand he has given, wherever the sons of mankind are dwelling, the beasts of the field and the winged creatures of the heavens, and whom he has made ruler over all of them, you yourself are the head of gold. (Daniel 2:38)**
- **And after you there will rise another kingdom inferior to you, and another kingdom, a third one, of copper, that will rule over the whole earth. (Daniel 2:39)**
- **And as for the fourth kingdom, it will prove to be strong like iron. Forasmuch as iron is crushing and grinding everything else, so, like iron that shatters, it will crush and shatter even all these. (Daniel 2:40)**
- **And whereas you beheld the feet and the toes to be partly of molded clay of a potter and partly of iron, the kingdom itself will prove to be divided, but somewhat of the hardness of iron will prove to be in it, forasmuch as you beheld the iron mixed with moist clay. (Daniel 2:41)**
- **And as for the toes of the feet being partly of iron and partly of molded clay, the kingdom will partly prove to be strong and will partly prove to be fragile. (Daniel 2:42)**
- **Whereas you beheld iron mixed with moist clay, they will come to be mixed with the offspring of mankind, but they will not prove to be sticking together, this one to that one, just as iron is not mixing with molded clay. (Daniel 2:43)**
- **And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite; (Daniel 2:44)**
- **Forasmuch as you beheld that out of the mountain a stone was cut not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the copper, the molded clay, the silver and the gold. The grand God himself has made known to the king what is to occur after this. And the dream is reliable, and the interpretation of it is trustworthy.**

(Daniel 2:45)

- **And, in a dream-vision of Daniel, by a lion that had the wings of an eagle and the heart of a man.**
- **The first one was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I kept on beholding until its wings were plucked out, and it was lifted up from the earth and was made to stand up on two feet just like a man, and there was given to it the heart of a man. (Daniel 7:4)**
- **In 632 B.C.E. Assyria was subdued by this new Chaldean dynasty, with the assistance of Median and Scythian allies. In 625 B.C.E, Nabopolassar's eldest son, Nebuchadnezzar (II), defeated Pharaoh Necho of Egypt at the battle of Carchemish, and in the same year he assumed the helm of government.**
- **This is what occurred as the word of Yehowah to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations. (Jeremiah 46:1)**
- **For Egypt, concerning the military force of Pharaoh Necho the king of Egypt, who happened to be by the river Euphrates at Carchemish, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon** defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah: (Jeremiah 46:2)**
- **Under Nebuchadnezzar, **Babylon** was a golden cup in the hand of Yehowah to pour out indignation against unfaithful Judah and Jerusalem.**
- **For this is what Yehowah the God of Israel said to me; Take this cup of the wine of rage out of my hand, and you must make all the nations to whom I am sending you drink it. (Jeremiah 25:15)**
- **And I proceeded to take the cup out of the hand of Yehowah and to make all the nations drink to whom Yehowah had sent me: (Jeremiah 25:17)**
- **Namely, Jerusalem and the cities of Judah and her kings, her princes, to make them a devastated place, an object of astonishment, something to whistle at and a malediction, just as at this day. (Jeremiah 25:18)**
- ****Babylon** has been a golden cup in the hand of Yehowah, she**

making all the earth drunk. From her wine the nations have drunk. That is why the nations keep acting crazed. (**Jeremiah 51:7**)

- In **620 B.C.E.** he compelled Jehoiakim to pay tribute, but after about three years Jehoiakim revolted. In **618 B.C.E.**, or during Jehoiakim's third year as tributary ruler, Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem.
- 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**)
- 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**)
- However, before he could be taken by the **Babylonians**, Jehoiakim died. Jehoiachin, having succeeded his father, quickly surrendered and was taken captive along with other nobility to **Babylon** in **617 B.C.E.**
- At length Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of **Babylon**, he with his mother and his servants and his princes and his court officials, and the king of **Babylon** got to take him in the eighth year of his being king. (**2 Kings 24:12**)
- Zedekiah was next appointed to the throne of Judah, but he too rebelled, and in **609 B.C.E.** the **Babylonians** again laid siege to Jerusalem and finally breached its walls in **607 B.C.E.**
- And it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth month on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon** came, yes, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem and began camping against it and building against it a siege wall all around. (**2 Kings 25:1**)
- And the city came to be under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. (**2 Kings 25:2**)
- On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was severe in the city, and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (**2 Kings 25:3**)

- And the city got to be breached, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and the king began to go in the direction of the Arabah. (2 Kings 25:4)
- And a military force of Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake him in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (2 Kings 25:5)
- Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of **Babylon** at Riblah, that they might pronounce a judicial decision upon him. (2 Kings 25:6)
- And Zedekiah's sons they slaughtered before his eyes, and Zedekiah's eyes he blinded, after which he bound him with copper fetters and brought him to **Babylon**. (2 Kings 25:7)
- And in the fifth month on the seventh day of the month, that is to say; the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon**, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:8)
- And he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and the house of every great man he burned with fire. (2 Kings 25:9)
- And the walls of Jerusalem, all around, the entire military force of Chaldeans that were with the chief of the bodyguard pulled down. (2 Kings 25:10)
- For on account of the anger of Yehowah it occurred in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from before his face. And Zedekiah proceeded to rebel against the king of **Babylon**. (Jeremiah 52:3)
- Finally it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon** came, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem, and they began to camp against her and to build against her a siege wall all around. (Jeremiah 52:4)
- So the city came under siege until the eleventh year of King

Zedekiah. (**Jeremiah 52:5**)

- In the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the famine also got to be severe in the city and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (**Jeremiah 52:6**)
- Finally the city was broken through, and as regards all the men of war, they began to run away and go forth from the city by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and they kept going by the way of the Arabah. (**Jeremiah 52:7**)
- And a military force of the Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake Zedekiah in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (**Jeremiah 52:8**)
- Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of **Babylon** at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might pronounce upon him judicial decisions. (**Jeremiah 52:9**)
- And the king of **Babylon** proceeded to slaughter the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also all the princes of Judah he slaughtered in Riblah. (**Jeremiah 52:10**)
- And the eyes of Zedekiah he blinded, after which the king of **Babylon** bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon and put him in the house of custody until the day of his death. (**Jeremiah 52:11**)
- And in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that is, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of **Babylon**, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, who was standing before the king of Babylon, came into Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 52:12**)
- That year, **607 B.C.E.**, when Jerusalem was laid desolate, was a significant one in the counting of time until Yehowah, the Universal Sovereign, would set up the world ruler of his choice in Kingdom power.

See Also APPOINTED TIMES OF THE NATIONS (Beginning of trampling)

- One cuneiform tablet has been found referring to a campaign against Egypt in Nebuchadnezzar's 37th year, **588 B.C.E.** This may be the occasion when mighty Egypt was brought under **Babylonian** control, as foretold by the prophet Ezekiel evidently in the year **591 B.C.E.**
- Now it came about in the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, that the word of Yehowah occurred to me, saying; (**Ezekiel 29:17**)
- Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar himself, the king of **Babylon**, made his military force perform a great service against Tyre. Every head was one made bald, and every shoulder was one rubbed bare. But as for wages, there proved to be none for him and his military force from Tyre for the service that he had performed against her. (**Ezekiel 29:18**)
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am giving to Nebuchadnezzar the king of **Babylon** the land of Egypt, and he must carry off its wealth and make a big spoil of it and do a great deal of plundering of it, and it must become wages for his military force. (**Ezekiel 29:19**)
- Finally, after a 43-year reign, which included both conquest of many nations and a grand building program in **Babylonia** itself, Nebuchadnezzar II died in October of **582 B.C.E.** and was succeeded by Awil-Marduk or Evil-merodach. This new ruler showed kindness to captive King Jehoiachin.
- And it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin the king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-merodach the king of **Babylon**, in the year of his becoming king, raised up the head of Jehoiachin the king of Judah out of the house of detention. (**2 Kings 25:27**)
- And he began to speak good things with him, and then put his throne higher than the thrones of the kings that were with him in **Babylon**. (**2 Kings 25:28**)
- And he took off his prison garments, and he ate bread constantly before him all the days of his life. (**2 Kings 25:29**)
- As for his allowance, an allowance was constantly given him from

- the king, daily as due, all the days of his life. (**2 Kings 25:30**)
- Little is known about the reigns of Neriglissar, evidently the successor of Evil-merodach, and of Labashi-Marduk.
 - More complete historical information is available for Nabonidus and his son Belshazzar, who were evidently ruling as coregents at the time of **Babylon's** fall.
 - By now the Medes and Persians under command of Cyrus the Great were on the march to take over control of **Babylonia** and become the fourth world power. During the night of **October 5,539 B.C.E**, Gregorian calendar, Babylon was seized, and Belshazzar was slain. In the first year of Cyrus, following the conquest of **Babylon**, he issued his famous decree permitting a group that included 42,360 males, besides many slaves and professional singers, to return to Jerusalem.
 - Some 200 years later, Persian domination of **Babylonia** came to an end when Alexander the Great captured **Babylon** in **331 B.C.E**. By the middle of the **Second Century B.C.E** the Parthians, under their king Mithradates I, were in control of **Babylonia**.
 - Since Jewish communities had been flourishing in this land, Peter the apostle to the Jews went to **Babylon**, and it was from there that he wrote at least one of his inspired letters.
 - But, on the contrary, when they saw that I had entrusted to me the Good News for those who are uncircumcised, just as Peter had it for those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:7**)
 - For He who gave Peter powers necessary for an apostleship to those who are circumcised gave powers also to me for those who are of the nations. (**Galatians 2:8**)
 - Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:9**)
 - She who is in **Babylon**, a chosen one like you, sends you her greetings, and so does Mark my son. (**1 Peter 5:13**)

- Jewish leaders in these Eastern communities also developed the **Babylonian Targum**, otherwise known as the **Targum** of Onkelos, and produced a number of manuscripts of the Hebrew Scriptures. One of the most important of the Eastern or **Babylonian** line of texts is cataloged as the **Codex Babylonicus Petropolitanus** of **916 C.E.**, now in Leningrad, U.S.S.R.