

The Life of Jesus Christ, Part 4

Setting the Stage, Part 3

The Babylonian Empire

Daniel 7:

- What are these beasts? 7:15-18
- First year of Belshazzar: uncertain, but probably around the 550's, after Daniel had been in exile around 50 years, and about 30 years after the fall of Jerusalem; Daniel himself probably in his 60's
- 7:1-8: Lion/eagle: Babylon, bear: Medo-Persia, leopard: Greece, fourth beast: Rome
- 7:9-14: Coming of the Son of Man

Daniel 8, vision of ram and goat: vv. 20-21 say that the ram is Media/Persia, goat is Greece

Daniel 11 has very detailed prophecy of what will happen with the Persians and the Greeks

Liberal scholars have said that due to the amazing detail in these prophecies, they must have been written after the fact.

Babylonian Empire

Babylon seen way back in the Bible: linked with Nimrod in Genesis 10, and the tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

Abraham may well have traveled through the city of Babylon around 2000 BC as he made his way from Ur to Haran.

Hammurabi: 1792-1750 BC transformed the city-state to a strong empire, but afterwards power declined

Fast forward ~1000 years, Assyrian power waned

- 626 BC: Babylon captured by Chaldean Nabopolassar, first king of Neo-Babylonian Empire
- 612: Babylonians captured Nineveh
- 605: Nebuchadnezzar (crown prince) defeated Assyrians and Egyptians at Carchemish
- 605: Nebuchadnezzar became king, reigned until 562
- 605: First deportation of Judah into captivity: Daniel 1:1-2
- 601: Nebuchadnezzar turned back from Egypt; Jehoiakim rebels: 2 Kings 24:1 (Jehoiakim was the king who cut up the scroll from Jeremiah)
- 598: Nebuchadnezzar returned
- 597: Second deportation, Jerusalem surrendered: 2 Kings 24:10-16
- 588: Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon: 2 Kings 24:20
- 586: Third deportation, temple destroyed: 2 Kings 25:1-12; vv. 13-17 detail the plunder of the temple furnishings; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21
- After Nebuchadnezzar's death in 562, no strong leader
- 556: Nabonidus revolts and becomes emperor; his son Belshazzar is in charge of Babylon for the last years of the empire
- 539: Babylon captured by Persians: Daniel 5:1-6, 22-23, 30-31; at the time of this party, Babylon was surrounded by Persians, thought they could never be conquered; Persians diverted Euphrates and were able to enter by the river gates when the water went down

Beauty of Babylon: Daniel 4:29-30, hanging gardens; destroyed for wickedness and pride: Isaiah 13:19