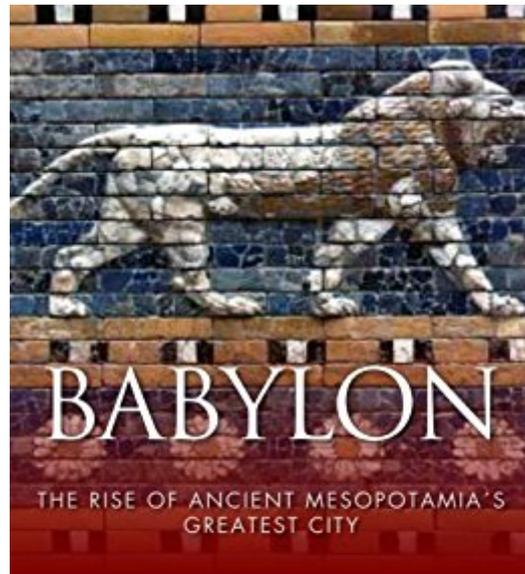


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# Babylon: The Rise And Fall Of Ancient Mesopotamia's Greatest City



by

CHARLES RIVER EDITORS



## Synopsis

\*Includes pictures.\*Includes historic accounts about the city and its history.\*Profiles Hammurabi, Nebuchadnezzar and the Hanging Gardens.\*Includes a bibliography for further reading.\*Includes a table of contents. The ancient world was full of many fantastic cities and places, and like today's major cities, the great ancient cities were hubs of trade, religion, and science. Writing was first invented in ancient cities, and many important scientific discoveries were also made in them, some of which are still used in the modern world. Among the many cities of the ancient world, Rome and Athens may come to mind first, but the city of Babylon in the land of Mesopotamia was already an ancient, venerated city when the others were still inconsequential settlements. Today, Babylon has become a byword for greed, excess, and licentiousness, mostly due to its mention in the Bible, but a closer examination reveals that Babylon was so much more, and even perhaps the most important city in the ancient world. Ancient Babylon was home to great dynasties that produced some of the world's most influential leaders, most notably Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar, and these rulers invoked their wills on the entire ancient Near East and have been remembered as both progressive and cruel all at the same time. Babylon was also the seat of culture in ancient Mesopotamia and the place where scholars made amazing scientific advances that would not be eclipsed for several centuries. An examination of ancient Babylon demonstrates that it was truly the first great city in the ancient world. Of course, the sheer span of history between Babylon's power and today has produced plenty of historical questions and controversy. One of the things people most closely associate Babylon with is the Hanging Gardens, which, like the Great Pyramid of Giza, were considered both a technological marvel and an aesthetic masterpiece. Ancient historians believed that the Hanging Gardens were constructed around the 7th century B.C. after the second rise of Babylon, which would make them the second-oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and they were reputedly created by the biblical Nebuchadnezzar II (the king who conquered Judea) to please his homesick wife, after the model of Egyptian pleasure gardens. However, in 1993, British Assyriologist, Stephanie Dalley, proposed a theory that the Hanging Gardens were ordered built by the Assyrian King Sennacherib a century earlier for his giant palace at Nineveh instead. She believed that the two sites were easily confused by ancient sources, resulting in the Gardens being incorrectly located in Babylon a century later. Babylon was also instrumental in the development of the region's religions. Ancient Mesopotamian religion continues to captivate people for many of the same reasons today's best known religions and their histories fascinate people. The religion practiced by the Ancient Mesopotamians provides a certain mix between the mundane and the surreal, and at the same time aspects of it are both familiar and bizarre to people

today. Some find themselves drawn to it based on its preeminent position in religious history as the oldest documented religion in the world. Others become fascinated with the close connections between some of the Mesopotamian religious texts, which include a flood story, a creation story and a story of the righteous sufferer, and their parallels in the Hebrew Bible. *Babylon: The Rise and Fall of Ancient Mesopotamia*™s Greatest City traces the history of the city and its rise as the center of the Babylonian empire. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about the city of Babylon like never before, in no time at all.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Very interesting read (though I wish the pictures were larger). I'm still reading it, so may have more to say later. That said, I recommend it for anyone interested in the ancient Mesopotamian culture...

Visited Babylon in 2004. Hammarabi's babylon is about ten meters below Neo babylon, Saddam Hussein had Neo Babylon rebuilt as in the last days before Cyrus the Persian conquered it. A half size model of Ishtar's gate is present as is the Lion of Babylon, this book presents a balanced discussion of the true location of the Hanging Gardens, The bitumin of Babylon was asphalt mortar

between fired brick. Used for those sections of Babylon which would have been underwater, before Cyrus the Persian diverted the Euphrates. the book needs more pictures , allegedly there were over a billion bricks in Babylon

HAVING READ AND FOUND THE AUTHOR'S FIRST NOVEL (ESTHER) CAPITAVATING, I WELCOMED THE PUBLISHING OF HER SECOND NOVEL "BABYLON". THE AUTHOR AGAIN INTERWEAVES BIBLE HISTORY AND PROPHECY WITH HER RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF OTHER BIBLE SCHOLARS, IN PRODUCING A FICTIONAL NOVEL THAT CHRISTIAN OR NON-CHRISTIAN WOULD ENJOY READING. WHEN I READ A NOVEL IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT THE AUTHOR PLACES ME MENTALLY IN THE ACTION AS A HIDDEN OBSERVER. AGAIN, THE AUTHOR DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB OF DOING THIS. SHE TAKES YOU ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET DANIEL. SHE PLACES YOU (THE READER) WITHIN BABYLONIA AND PERSIAN EMPIRES: POLITICAL DESIRES/PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS, COURT INTRIGUES, BATTLES AND BIBLICAL PROPHECIES FULLFILLED. I DID NOT GO INTO A LOT OF DETAIL FOR THE AUTHOR DOES THAT - SO READ THE NOVEL AND ENJOY.

maps were legible which helped follow narrative. jumped around a lot so that was hard, but generally a useful primer to the region and the period.

Needs to be proofed; many errors. The jumping around in time frames made for lots of rereading and sometimes just scratching my head.

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