



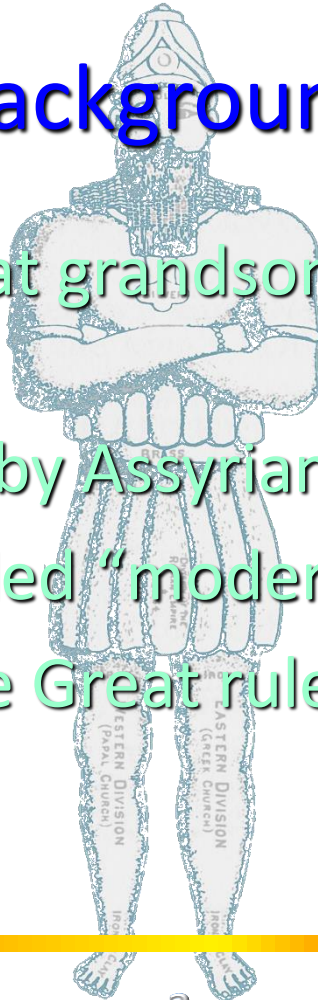
Study of The Book of Daniel

Chapter 5 – Fall of Babylon

Instructor
Ray Whaley

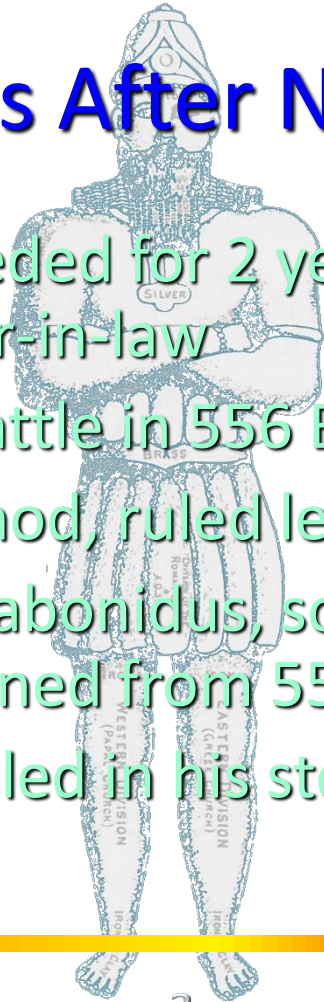
Background

- Nimrod (Noah's great grandson) founded Babylonia around 2000 B.C.
- Babylonia defeated by Assyrians in 1270 BC
- Nabopolassar founded "modern" Babylon in 625 BC
- Nebuchadnezzar the Great ruled from 605 BC to his death in 561 BC



Turbulent Times After Nebuchadnezzar

- Evil-Merodach succeeded for 2 years – killed by Neriglissar his brother-in-law
- Neriglissar killed in battle in 556 BC
- His son, Laborosoarchod, ruled less than 1 yr
- Beaten to death by Nabonidus, son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar, reigned from 555 to 538BC
- His son, Belshazzar ruled in his stead while he was out of country.



Turbulent Times After Nebuchadnezzar

Nebuchadnezzar
The Great Builds
Babylon
605 BC

Evil-Merodach
Becomes king

Neriglissar

Laborosoarchod

Nabonidus



561 BC
559 BC

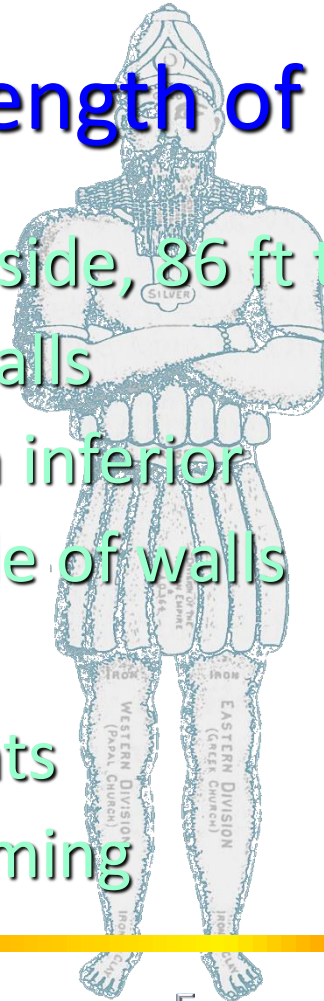
556 BC
555 BC

Fall Of
Babylon
538 BC



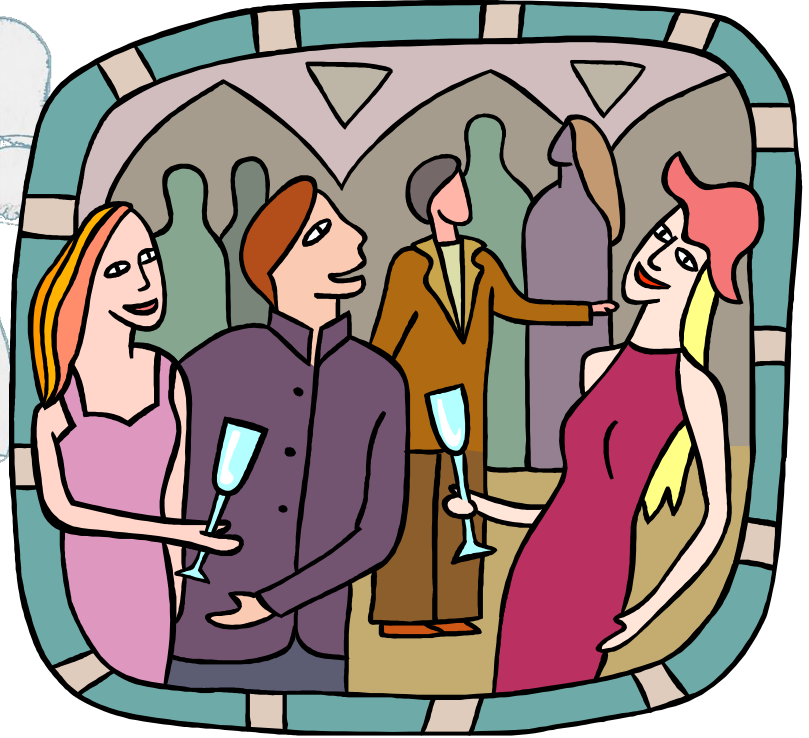
The Strength of Babylon

- Walls 17 miles on a side, 86 ft thick, 311 ft high.
- 250 Towers along walls
- Inner wall not much inferior
- Moat around outside of walls
- Hanging Gardens
- 1,000,000 inhabitants
- Vast acreage for farming



Belshazzar's Reign

- Babylon was besieged by Medes & Persians
- City was impregnable
- Plenty of food
- Land to grow more
- Belshazzar needed to reassure his nobles
- His way of doing this ...



God's Pronouncement of Judgment

- The vessels of the Temple had been put in storage 67 years before
- God was ready to clarify the truth of Who was in charge by having the vessels of the Temple brought to the forefront.
- This is the reason Belshazzar brought out the vessels of God
- Perhaps no one else saw the hand
- Everyone could see the writing (not a vision)
- Belshazzar became unstuck



Interaction Between Belshazzar & Daniel

- Belshazzar asks whether Daniel is a Jew (maybe he knew the message was bound up in the desecration he had ordered)
- Tries to gain Daniel's favor with offer of position of honor (3rd ruler of Babylon)
- Daniel relates to him with judgment unlike his interaction with Nebuchadnezzar
- Daniel shows disdain for Belshazzar's gifts
- Daniel's message: God hates pride and punishes it (1 Pet 5:5b-6; Prov 16:18; Prov 16:19)



Why the Chaldeans Couldn't Read the Message

- Words were written in Aramaic which they understood
- Talmud suggests they were arranged in acrostic



PTMM
RKNN
SLAA

- Chaldeans would read from right to left
- Daniel read from top to bottom & left to right

Judgment Pronounced

- Mene – God has numbered your kingdom & finished it
- (repeated for emphasis)
- Tekel – You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting (lacking)
- Peres – Babylon has been given to the Medes and the Persians

(first transition in Nebuchadnezzar's vision)



Historical Perspective

- 2 years after death of Nebuchadnezzar, war broke out between Babylon & Medea
- War continued for 20 years.
- Darius, king of Medea, summoned Cyrus (his nephew and a Persian) to aid him.
- Cyrus laid siege to Babylon
- Cyrus dug canal & diverted Euphrates
- Soldiers went in under the walls.
- Would have failed without the drunken party



God's Hand

- God foretold 175 years before (Isa 44:28 – 45:4)
- God waited for corrupt king to judge
- God's timing – sacred vessels and drunken party
- God's instrument – Cyrus (Medes & Persians)



Babylon Not Destroyed


- The kingdom of Babylon ceased to exist
- Babylon was not destroyed.
- Persians used the city
- Alexander would have set up his capital there
- Jews lived there for 1,000 years
- Spirit of Babylon Lives On!!! (Rev 18:9-13)
- Babylon will not truly be destroyed until the Great & Terrible Day of the Lord



The Christian's View – Examine Daniel

- He was not fearful
- He looked with expectancy for God's fulfillment
- We look to Jesus (Heb 12:1-3)
- Impossible to do with out having an active and living faith
- Not just for salvation, but for facing whatever comes in our lives



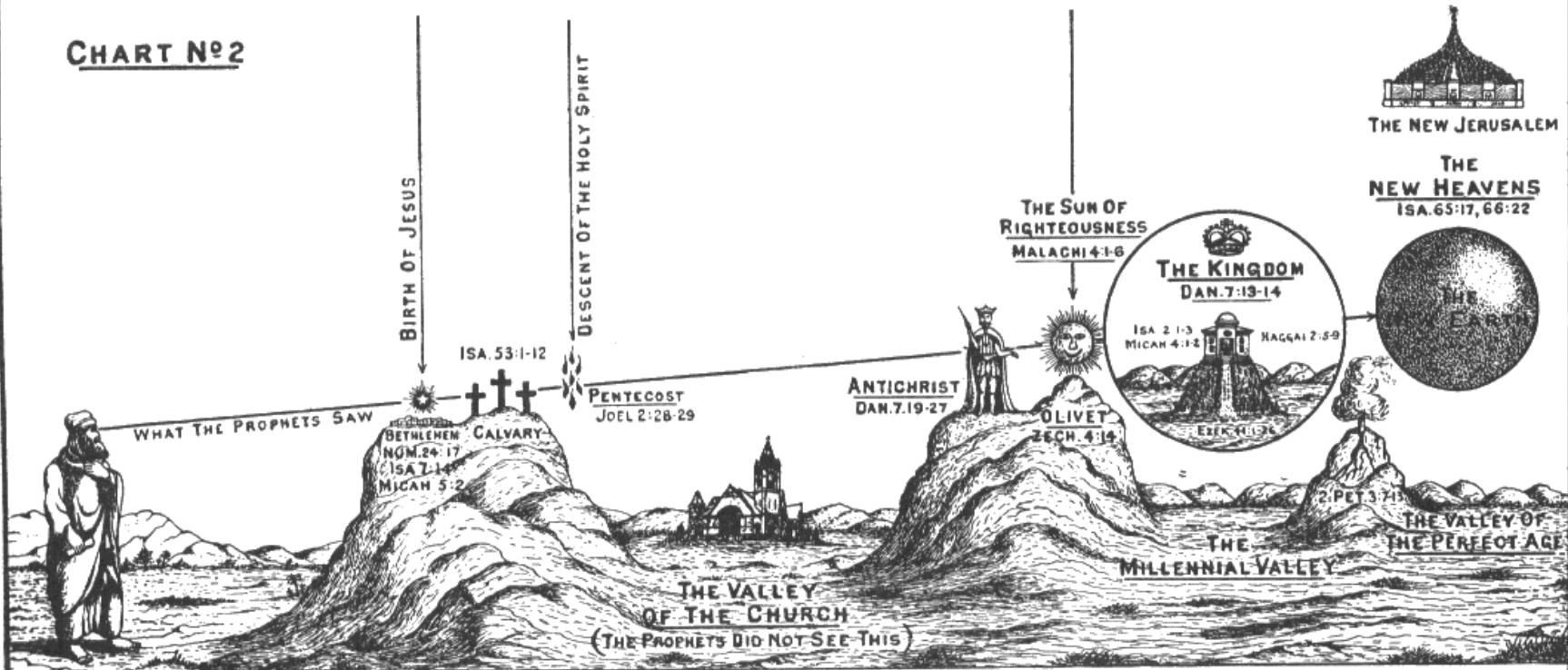


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CHART N°2



THE OLD TESTAMENT VALLEY
 THE "VIEW-POINT" OF THE PROPHETS

OUR VIEW-POINT
 WE SEE THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" AND "VALLEYS" FROM THE SIDE
 AND SO CAN SEPARATE THE FIRST AND SECOND COMING PROPHECIES

THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" OF PROPHECY

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