

<https://answersingenesis.org/tower-of-babel/history-and-archaeology-of-worlds-oldest-city/>

After the language splitting at Babel, many patriarchs who were listed at Babel came out with multiple names (due to the multiple languages). One variation of “Nimrod” was “Ninus,” which is where the name Ninevah comes from—Nineveh and Nimroud (also called Calah) were early cities with names derived from Nimrod’s various names.¹² Ninus’ description given by ancient historians Diodorus Siculus (*Library of History*) and Justin (*Histori Romani Scriptorium*) match Nimrod rather well.

After Nimrod’s death, his kingdom fell apart into petty kingdoms in certain local areas. Eusebius relates that event closer to home, stating that Queen Semiramis (which some suggest was the wife of Nimrod) retained power, reigning for 42 years in Assyria,¹³ and was known for building projects in Babylon. *
(Eusebius, *Chronicle* (Beloved Publishing, 2015), 28–29.)

Many of the local rulers vied for power in Nimrod’s broken kingdom, controlling bits and pieces of it. Sometime in the aftermath of Nimrod’s death (and possibly Semiramis’ death), a war broke out between two groups of vying kings, as mentioned in Genesis 14:1–9.

From this point in time, there is a lot of recorded history from Babylon that is quite well-known to historians. As this history unfolds, the Akkadians (some of Nimrod’s descendants through his son Accad/Akkad) held control of the city of Babel/Babylon and were ruled by Sargon the Great (also known as Sargon of Akkad).
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Based on some unreliable (sketchy) history, the Third Dynasty of Ur once held the city for a short time before Sargon and that ruling class quickly floundered. This is possible after all. Given the collapse of the remnant of Nimrod’s empire, particularly when Semiramis’ reign ended, Babylon may have changed hands routinely during this post-empire epoch prior to the Akkadians securing control with Sargon.

From Hammurabi forward, secular and Christian accounts largely agree on the history of Babylon. Hence, much of the following historical information is merely a

record of what can be found in many ancient histories of Babylon and reiterated in modern encyclopedias.

After Sargon and the Akkadians, the dynasty of Isin (who also controlled Ur) took control of Babylon. Then, in a short course of events, the Amorites (descendants of Amoreus [Latinized] the son of Canaan) took control of Babylon. The Old City of Babylon comes to more light historically and archaeologically by the time of Hammurabi, an Amorite king, who reigned out of Babylon. **

After his father, King Sin-Muballit, left his crown, King Hammurabi then ascended to the throne and conquered the Sumerian dynasty of Isin in Mesopotamia, which gave him access to Babylon. King Hammurabi reigned from 1800–1750 BC. This date range would have been around the time of Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Esau (Edom).

Hammurabi then worked to transform the city into a popular trade center. Hammurabi's 282 law codes are well known to this day from archeological finds inscribed in stone (consider Romans 2:15). His policies built up the city and maintained peace. As examples, he built enlarged city walls, more temples, and canals for better access to the city and irrigation.

Just like after Nimrod's death, the empire again fell apart after King Hammurabi's death. After it was in disarray for some time, the Hittites (descendants of Heth, the son of Canaan) attacked and took the city roughly around 1600 BC. For reference, this point in history was just before Aaron and Moses were born (while the Israelites were in Egypt).

After Hammurabi, Babylon was taken by the Kassites * who called the city Karanduniash. They ruled for over 400 years. The language of the Kassites remains unclassified (called a language isolate), differing from most common languages that exist today in the world. It's possible this group was originally at Babel and over time their language became lost due to things such as wars, slavery, intermixing, and conflicts (this is common with many lost languages). Though they generally had good trade relations with most people around them, they still warred with Assyria and a few others.

At one stage during this time, Babylon rebelled against them, which then allowed the Assyrians (a mix of descendants from Asshur and Nimrod), under their famous

king Sennacherib, * to sack the city. For reference, this event took place around the same timeframe as King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah (around the seventh to eighth centuries BC). In fact, Sennacherib even tried conquering Jerusalem, which caused Hezekiah to cry out to God for help and resulted in God rescuing the city and sending Sennacherib back to Nineveh.

When the city of Babylon rebelled, Sennacherib had Babylon destroyed and then flooded. And it was this flooding event that caused the water table to rise against the city, thus causing problems to this day for archaeologists. That is, the Old City of Babylon's ruins (i.e., before/during the time of Hammurabi) are beneath the water table, which means any attempts to excavate the area are met with difficulty due to underground flooding.

The following king of Assyria, Esarhaddon (one of Sennacherib's sons), rebuilt Babylon back to its famed glory in his short 12-year reign, which showed his dedication to build the new city over the previously razed foundations. The scale of destruction by Sennacherib was unlike previous battles for the city where the larger structures (including the temples and towers) were usually rededicated. Not only did Sennacherib devastate the structures, but he also lowered the ground level and increased the water table for flooding. He really hated that the city rebelled against him.

The rebuilding effort initially constructed by Esarhaddon was later expanded under the Babylonian Empire during the rule of * Nebuchadnezzar II, which also used the same name, Etemenanki. World renowned archaeologist Dr. Clifford Wilson suggests this site possibly sits above the original tower of Babel. He writes, "This large pool at modern Babylon is over the ruins of an early structure that was possibly the original Tower of Babel."¹⁹

After the fall of the Assyrians, Babylon was taken over by the Chaldeans (descendants of Heber) under Nabopolassar. They spoke a version of Heber's language called Chaldean (a name itself directly derived from Chesed—Genesis 22:22). This was the beginning of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Nabopolassar's son, Nebuchadnezzar II, renovated the city and built it to its peak glory, which then began the golden age of Babylon.

The Etemenanki tower's reconstruction, initially done by Esarhaddon, needed to be finished because it had fallen into disrepair, with major portions of it decimated due to neglect and weathering.

The Etemenanki of Nebuchadnezzar's day was the last repair and rendition of the tower site. But note that the name of the site remained the same through its various constructions and repairs. This makes sense historically since calling it by any other name would have indicated something entirely different. But due to its design similarity, it is easy to see why the name of the site remained consistent.

Babylon also had the famed Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the famous Ishtar Gate, the Éšagila Complex (the center court and temple of Babylon), and so much more. Without belaboring too much, this era in the history of Babylon is extremely well-known. After this golden age, Babylon fell under the control of the * (By Cyrus) Persians and Medes and then to the Greeks * (with Alexander the Great, who died in Babylon).

Alexander the Great had the tower deconstructed in an effort to totally rebuild it again. But his untimely death ultimately halted the rebuilding efforts. After the Greeks, the Roman Empire took control of the area. Finally, the * Sasanian Empire took over Babylon, which resulted in a brief revival before the city was ultimately destroyed due to Muslim conquests in AD 650, which left its ruins lying in the sand as a "tell" (not excavated until 1899).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Babylon_\(634\)#::~:~:text=Battle%20of%20Babylon%20was%20fought,of%20Iraq%20from%20the%20Persians.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Babylon_(634)#::~:~:text=Battle%20of%20Babylon%20was%20fought,of%20Iraq%20from%20the%20Persians.)

Battle * of Babylon was fought between the forces of Sasanian Empire and Rashidun Caliphate in 634. Muslim Arabs won the encounter to maintain their pursuit of conquering Mesopotamia. After this battle, the Arabs would go on to conquer Ctesiphon and the rest of Iraq from the Persians.