



# **The Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of men**



# Daniel Talk 1

## “Daniel purposed in his heart”

Background and chapters 1 and 2



# Background to the rise of the Babylonian Empire

Assyria declined, but Babylonia and Media grew in power.

Egypt tried to prop up Assyria, and defeated and killed King Josiah at Megiddo.

Egypt now ruled Judea (Jehoiakim was their vassal king) and waited for Babylon to invade.

Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt and Judea at Carchemish.

# 1. "Daniel purposed in his heart"

- Daniel (and his friends?) were taken captive into Babylon probably before the battle of Carchemish (B.C. 605), in the fourth year of Jehoiakim (Jer. 25:1, 46:2).
- Nebuchadnezzar became king in the same year but had already taken over the armed forces.
- 2 Chron. 36:6 says Jehoiakim rebelled, and was to be taken as a prisoner to Babylon. However, he died before this, and was accorded an ass's burial in Jerusalem.



Part of the Babylonian Chronicle in the British Museum. It records the defeat of Egypt and Judah, the battle of Carchemish and the accession of Nebuchadnezzar.



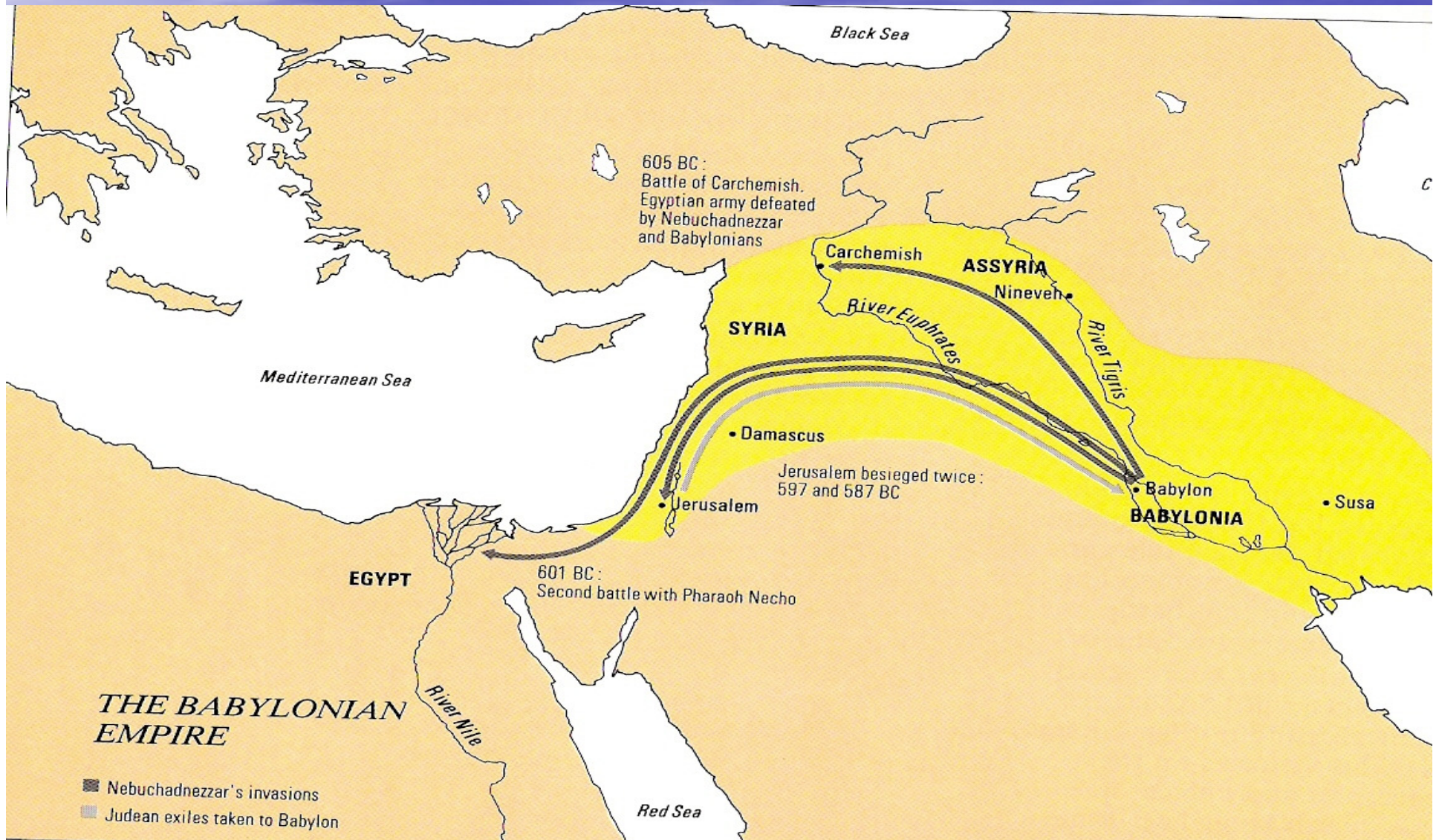


# Land of Shinar [translated as "Land of the enemies' tooth" by Brother Thomas]

- First mentioned as the beginning of Nimrod's kingdom- the first kingdom of men.
- Nimrod was a mighty hunter (Gen.10:10)
- The serpent power in political opposition to the children of God.



# Map of the Babylonian Empire





# The historical truth and authorship of Daniel

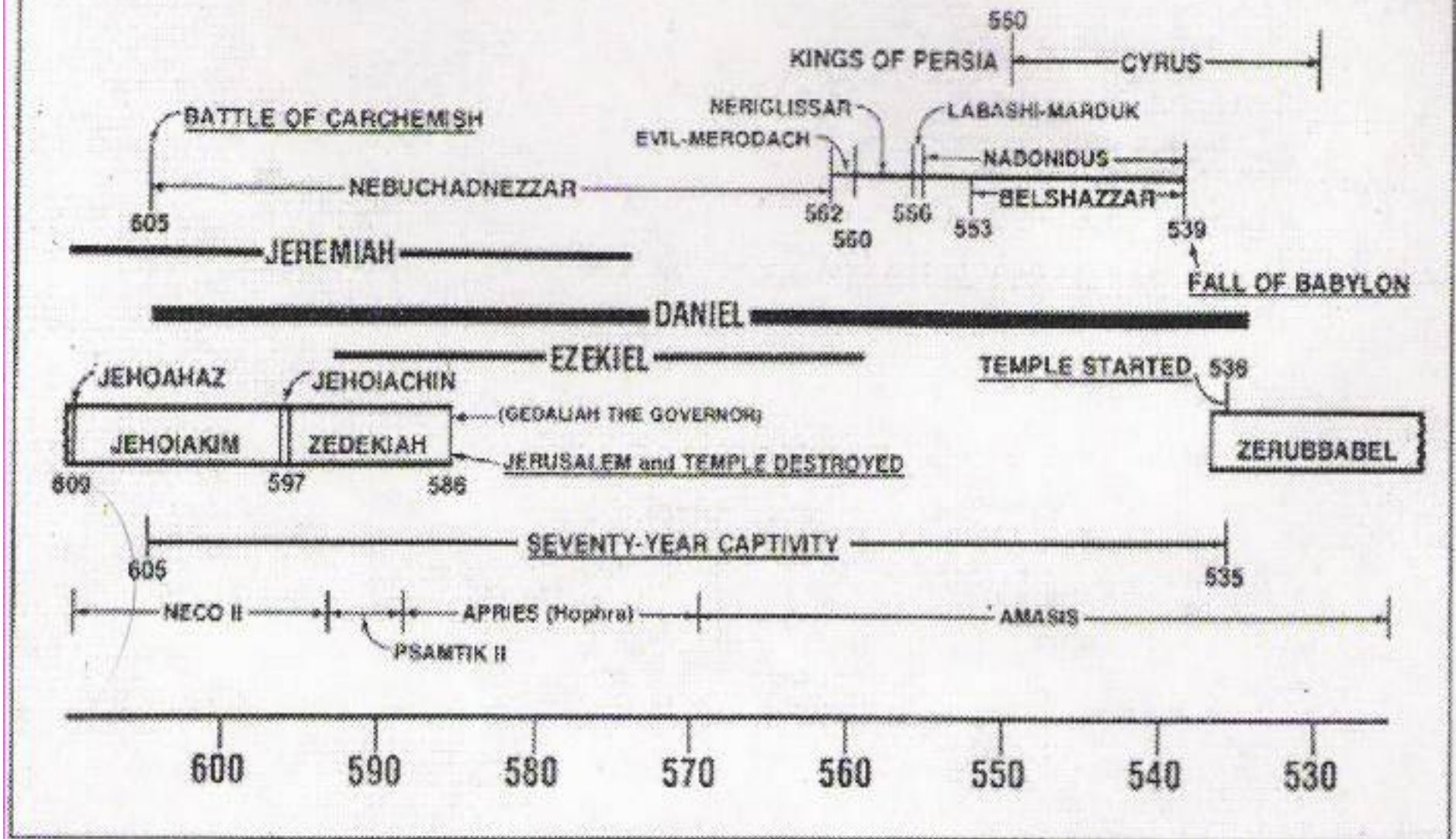
- Critics claim that it was written in the Maccabaeae era 168 B.C. by more than one author.
- The occurrence of Greek words for musical instruments in 3:5 is said to indicate a later date.
- In the past ,before archaeological evidence showed otherwise, critics denied the existence of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, Darius the Mede and Belshazzar.



# Some evidence relating to the date of Daniel

- The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) is said to have been written in 280 B.C. and contains the Book of Daniel.
- There are sections of Daniel in fragments of Dead Sea Scrolls written in Hebrew (not derived from the Septuagint) and dated 100 B.C.
- Studies of the Aramaic language in Daniel 2:4 to 7:28 suggest an early date.

## 10





# Chronology of Daniel's life (likely age range in years)

- Taken captive 17-28
- Interprets Neb's dream 19-30
- Has vision of 4 beasts 67-78
- Has ram and he-goat vision 70-81
- Rebukes Belshazzar at feast 87-98
- Given 70 weeks' prophecy 88-99
- Cast into lion's den 89-100
- Given vision of "One Man " 90-101

# Daniel in the New Testament

Jesus studied Daniel and encourages us to understand the book

- Matthew 13:43 "the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom" (Daniel 12:3)
- Matthew 21:43,44 "the stone falling and grinding to powder" (Daniel 2:45)
- Matthew 24:15 in the Olivet prophecy, Jesus refers to the "abomination that makes desolate" (Daniel 9:27,11:31,12:11)



# Daniel in the New Testament

- Matthew 6:64 Jesus refers to the "Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven" (Daniel 7:13)
- Luke 21:24 "Treading down of Jerusalem" (Daniel 8:13)
- John 5:28,29 "the resurrection of life and the resurrection of condemnation" (Daniel 12:2)

# The character of Daniel

“Greatly beloved” - said THREE times in:

- 9:23 ( 70 weeks' prophecy)
- 10:11 (his typical resurrection)
- 10:19 ( his typical change of nature)

*Only the Lord Jesus and the Apostle John  
are similarly described*



# The learning and tongue of the Chaldeans

- They were an ancient race called Akkadians (means "mountaineers"). The Kurds, in Northern Iraq, are descended from them.
- They were a learned and civilised people whose language had died out. Assyrian translations were made in the same way as translations of Latin are made today.
- Did Nebuchadnezzar and his father, Nabopolassar, belong to this race?
- Their language was called Akkadian.
- Aramaic was the language used for international diplomacy, and chapters 2 :4 through to 7:28 are in this language –the rest are in Hebrew.

# The Babylon Ecclesial Roll

## Hebrew & Meaning

- DANIEL - God is my judge
- HANANIAH - God is gracious
- MISHAEL - Who is as God?
- AZARIAH - God is a helper

## Babylonian & Meaning

- BELTESHAZZAR –Beltis defend the king
- SHADRACH – I am very fearful (of God)
- MESHACH – I am of little account
- ABED-NEGO – The servant of the shining one (Nebo)

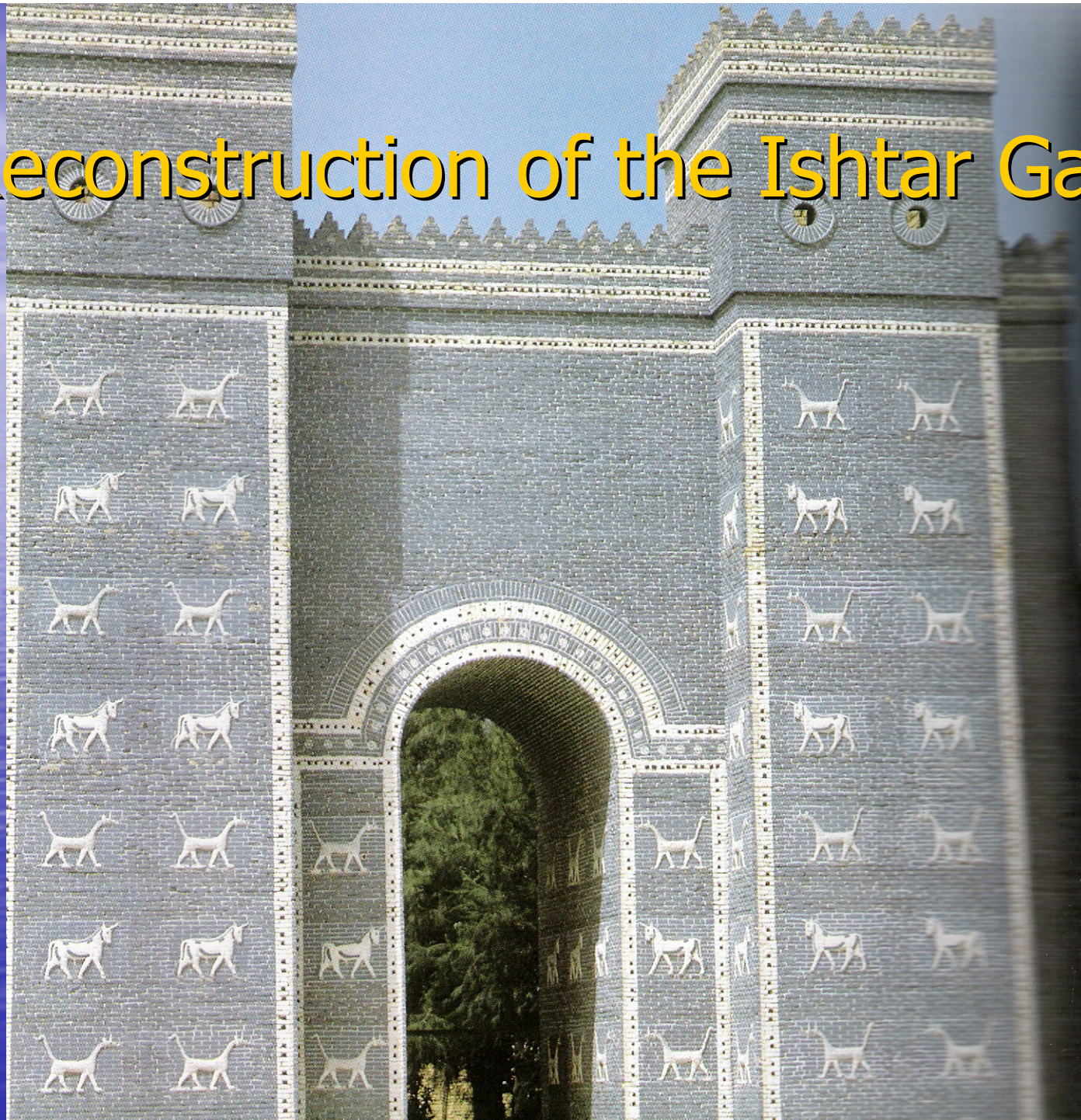


**"Is not this great Babylon that I have built?"**

- **Nebuchadnezzar was a great builder. He needed craftsmen, skilled workers, and administrators and educated men like Daniel and his friends.**
- **The city of Babylon formed a vast square, 45 miles in compass enclosed by a wall 200 feet high and 50 feet broad, in which were 100 gates of brass.**



# Reconstruction of the Ishtar Gate





# Aerial view of the site of ancient Babylon

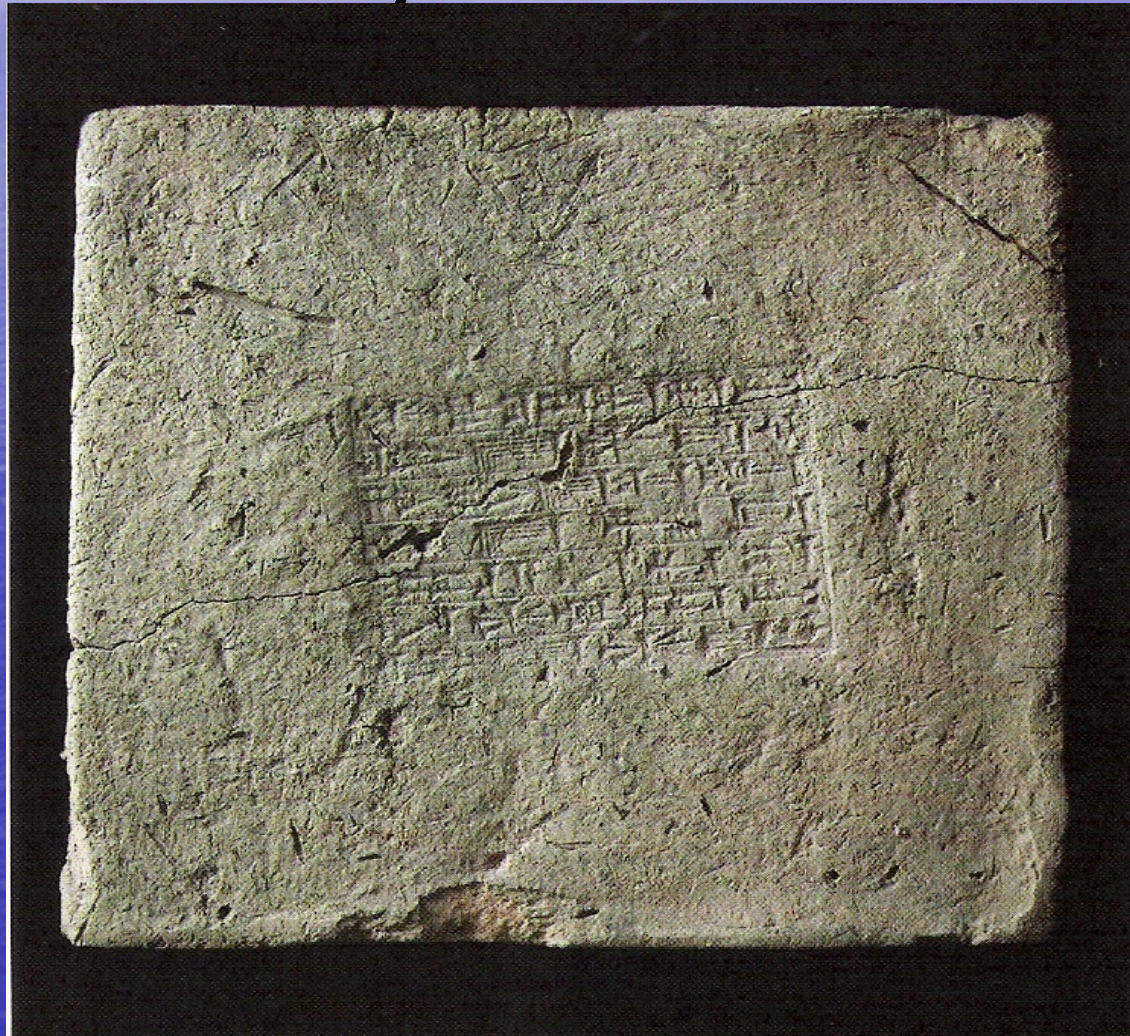
**River Euphrates**



**Temple Base**



Brick inscribed "Nebuchadnezzar....  
son of Nabolpolassar, King of  
Babylon am I"





# Tiles on the Ishtar Gate



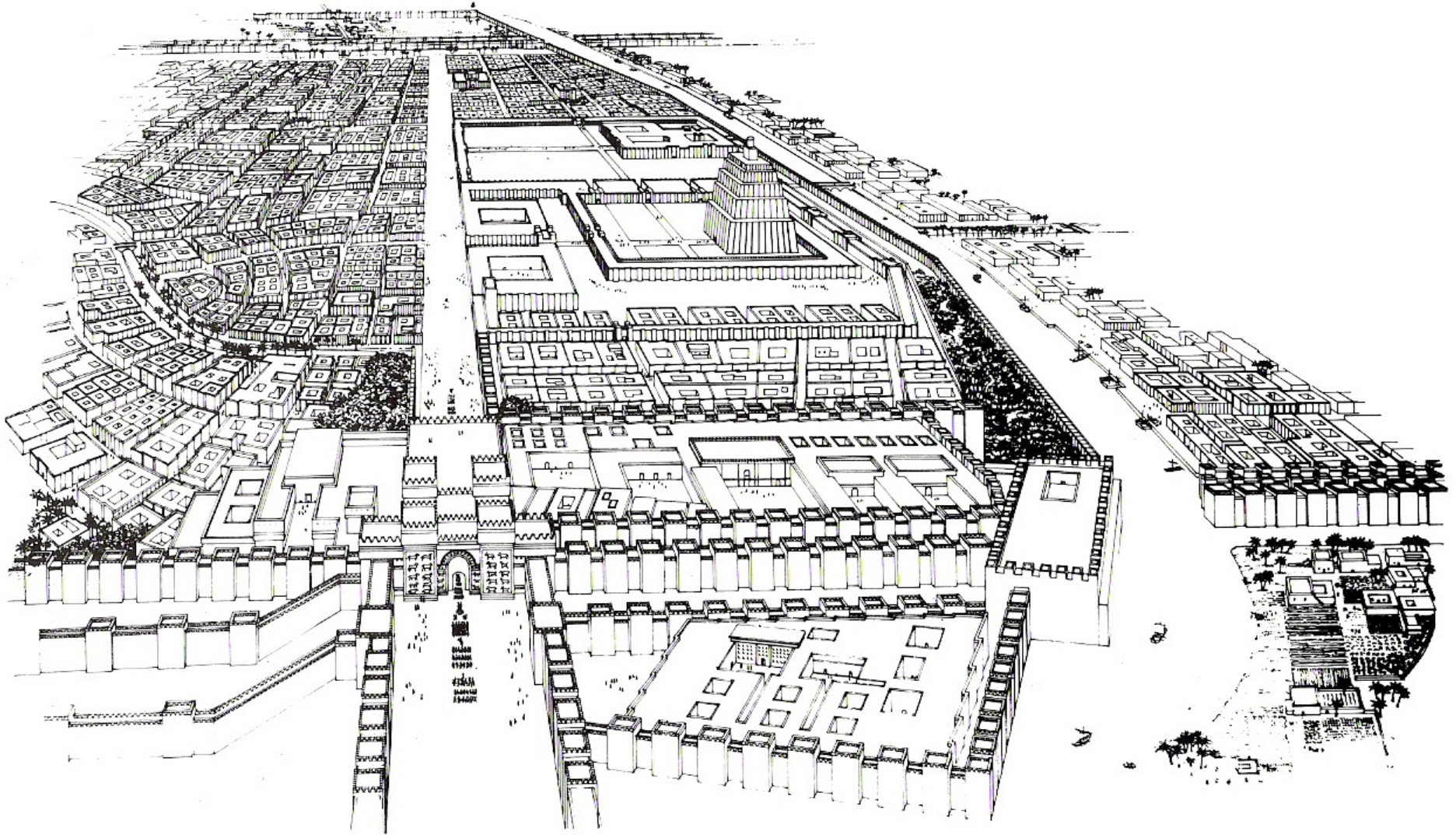


The Babylonian Chronicle names Nabonidus as the last king of Babylon. He is portrayed here





# Reconstruction of "Great Babylon" at the time of Nebuchadnezzar





# Was Daniel a eunuch?

- Daniel was in the charge of the “Master of the eunuchs”. Heb. Rab–saris, 2 Kings 18:17 and Jeremiah 39:3,13. He was an important official who also accompanied the royal party on campaigns.
- “Rab-saris” could mean a literal eunuch.
- No mention of Daniel having a wife or family.
- ***Daniel made himself a eunuch for the kingdom of heaven’s sake – Matthew 19:12.***



# Daniel and his friends' entry qualifications for the 'University of Babylon'

- Youthful.
- Physically without any blemish.
- Good appearance.
- Skilled in wisdom (Ezek. 28:3 and Acts 7:22).
- Cunning in knowledge - able to use their knowledge – analytical?
- Understanding science - able to draw sound conclusions?
- BUT GOD WANTS FAITH AND OBEDIENCE !

# The King's meat and wine

- Blood not drained out before cooking ?
- It was unclean meat – pork or horse-flesh?
- Used in idol worship and consecrated with the wine to one of the many Babylonian gods?
- Jehoiachin (Jer.52:34) ate from the king's table (Evil - Merodach). See 2 Chron. 36:9 .



# Daniel purposed in his heart

- Daniel took the lead with his friends.
- He was “ready” to give reasons for the hope and faith that he had (1 Peter 3:15).
- He was not afraid of the consequences of standing up for his faith, like the Lord Jesus Christ who “steadfastly set his face to go up to Jerusalem”..... and his crucifixion (Luke 9:51).

# God cared for Daniel

- Rab – saris felt favour and compassion for the young captive.
- Joseph's case was similar (Gen.39:21) as he also interpreted dreams whilst a captive, to be promoted later.
- *Prov.16:7 – if we do what is right our God cares for us too.*



# How did Daniel and his friends resist the temptations of Babylon?

- Godly parents.
- Examples of Josiah and Jeremiah.
- The support of his friends and Ezekiel (his ecclesia in Babylon).



# Josiah's influence

- 12<sup>th</sup> Year - began his reforms (2 Chron.34 :3): Daniel very young –perhaps not yet born?
- 18<sup>th</sup> Year - found the Book of the Law and kept the great Passover.
- Removal of the idols would make a big impression on the youthful Daniel, who may have lived in or around Jerusalem.



# Jeremiah's influence

- Taken captive "for his good" (Jer.24:5).
- Prophesied 70 years captivity and then a return to Israel (Jer.25:12; 29:4-11).
- His letter (chapter 29:11-13) encouraged the captives.
- His letter, brought by the "quiet Prince", Seraiah, helped the faithful captives to anticipate the fall of Babylon.



# Jeremiah's letter read by Seraiah

- Seraiah accompanied Zedekiah, king of Judah, in his visit to Babylon in his 4<sup>th</sup> year.
- Jeremiah (in chapters 50 and 51) prophesies the doom and fall of Babylon; Seraiah read this publicly (Jer.51:59 – 64).
- He bound the letter to a stone and threw it into the River Euphrates.
- Daniel and friends would be encouraged as they watched and heard Seraiah.
- Great Babylon (the Catholic church) will have a similar end (Rev.18:21).

# Daniel's friends and Ezekiel

- His friends were taken captive with him and were related in the same tribe (Judah).
- Ezekiel lived in his own house in Tel Abib by the River Chebar (3:15).
- There was a colony of Israelites there with their elders (8:1; 14:1; 20:1).



# The 10 day vegetarian trial

- They looked better than those who ate the King's meat.
- God also blessed them with knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.
- Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.
- Faith triumphed over human wisdom and ways.

# "At the end of the days"

- The three year "university" course was complete and the four young men stood before King Nebuchadnezzar as arranged ( chapter 1, verses 5,19).
- Daniel had already interpreted the image dream and talked to the King.
- The King found the Jewish captives better than all the magicians and astrologers in his empire.

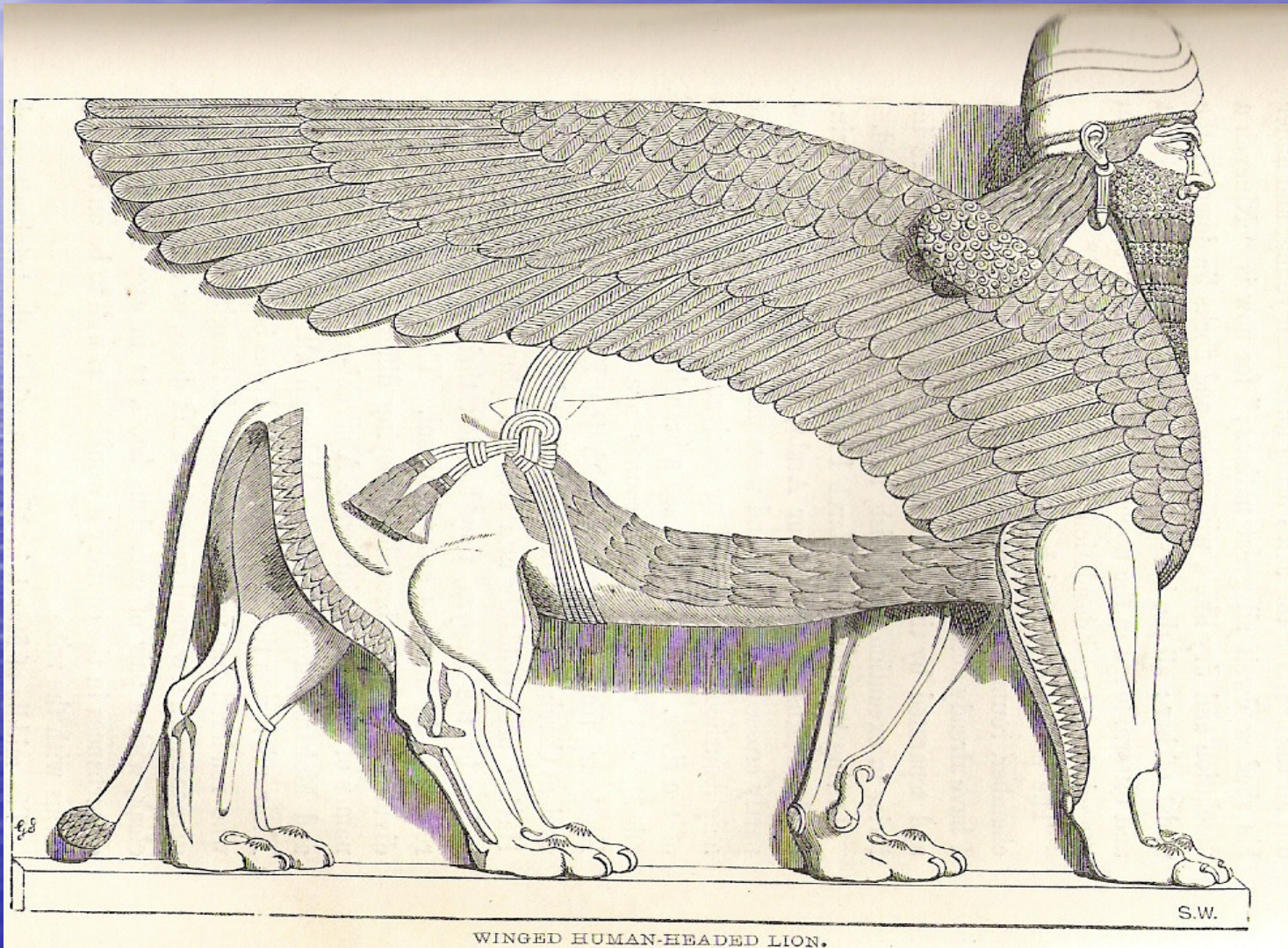


# Daniel 1 foreshadows Christ's great work

- Daniel and his friends represent Jesus and the Saints.
- Nebuchadnezzar represents the Gentile powers who are compelled to acknowledge that the God of Israel is all wise, all powerful and supreme.
- Daniel and his companions refusing the King's food and drink represent the steadfast faith of Jesus and his followers whose meat and drink is to do their Father's will.



# Winged human headed lion found in Nineveh



WINGED HUMAN-HEADED LION.



# The Image dream

- Verse 1 – several dreams – did God give the same dream to Nebuchadnezzar more than once?
- Verse 5 – “your houses a dunghill” – a public toilet!
- Verse 9 – “lying and corrupt words” – like some of the religious leaders today (Jer.16:19).
- Verse 14 – “chief of the slaughter men or executioners” (translated “cut – throats”)!

# The Image dream – the Orders of Magicians etc.

- Magicians: same word used of Egyptian magicians, at the Exodus and plagues. They exorcised demons and evil spirits by incantations and prayers.
- Conjurors (Isaiah 8:19). Condemned by God in Leviticus 19:31; 20:6, 27.
- Astrologers: enchanter – counselling and foretelling the destinies of men.



# The Image dream – the Orders of Magicians etc

- Sorcerers: witchcraft, mutterers of magic formulae.
- Chaldeans: a kind of priesthood: their literature included omens, magic prayers, hymns, myths and legends and scientific formulae for glassmaking, maths. and astrology.
- Soothsayers: dealt with astrological phenomena and portents.
- Wise men: as above. Some call them “physicians” (Matt. 2:1).

# The Image dream – Daniel 2

- Verses 17, 18 - the ecclesia in Babylon prays earnestly (Acts 12:12). "Mercies" means "bowels".
- Verse 19 – the secret revealed to Daniel at NIGHT because the dream concerns the night of Gentile domination over the people of God.



"God maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the  
LATTER DAYS." Daniel 2:28.

GOLD - Babylonian Empire

SILVER - Medo-Persian Empire

BRASS - Grecian Empire

IRON - Roman Empire

THE STONE

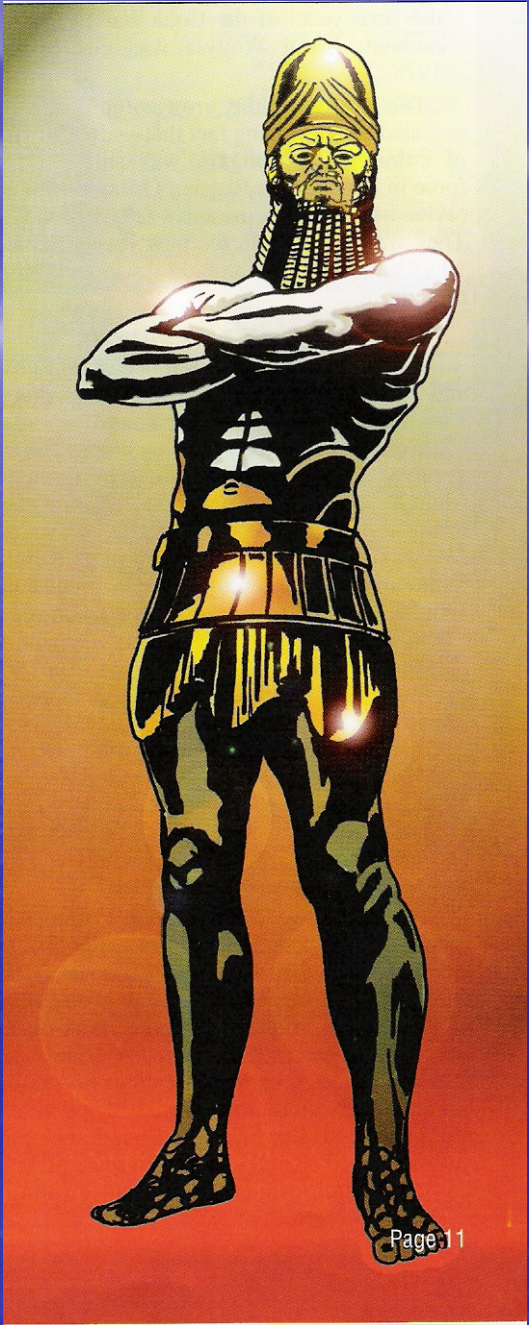
IRON & CLAY MIXED



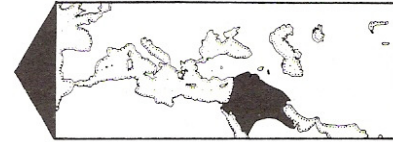
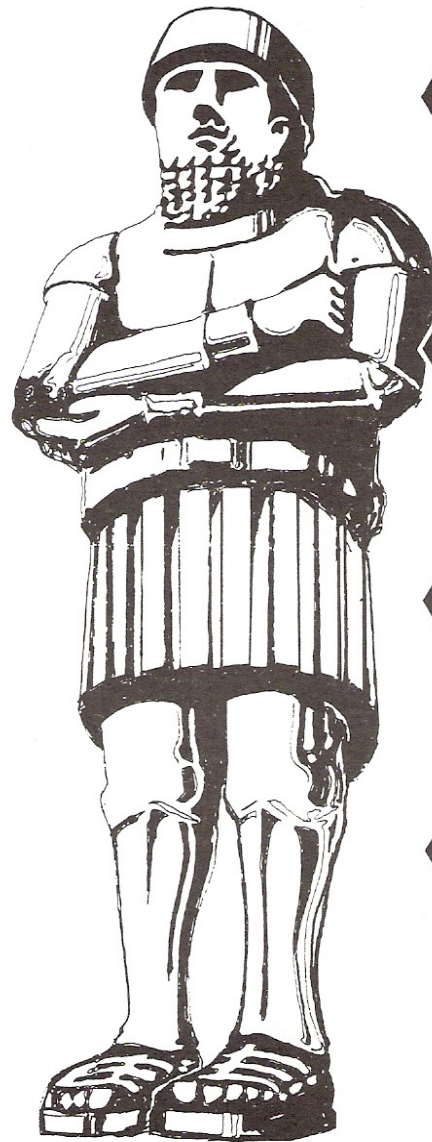












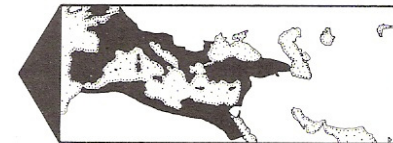
*Head of Gold*



*Breast and Arms of Silver*



*Belly and Thighs of Brass*



*Legs of Iron*

*Feet of Iron and Clay*



# “Thou art this head of gold” – the dynasty of Nebuchadnezzar

- Nebuchadnezzar reigned 43 - 44 years (605-562 B.C.)
- Evil-Merodach ( Amel-Marduk), his son, reigned 2 years (562–560 B.C.).
- Neriglissar, his son- in-law, reigned 4 years (560–556 B.C.).
- Labaroso–Archod, another son, reigned a few months.
- Nabonidus, yet another son, reigned 17 years (556 -539 B.C.), but for much of this time Belshazzar, Nabonidus’ son, reigned as acting king in Babylon.



The Cyrus Cylinder . It records how he took the city without a battle, by surprise.





# The exhortation of the Image dream

- It was for " their sakes that shall make known the interpretation". (2:30)
- God is in control- the supreme ruler in the kingdom of men. (1 Sam.2:7,8; Psalm 75:7;Daniel 5:21)
- *He is also in control of our little lives.*
- *He is able to raise us up to be Kings and Priests in the Kingdom – if we are faithful and obedient like Daniel and his friends.*