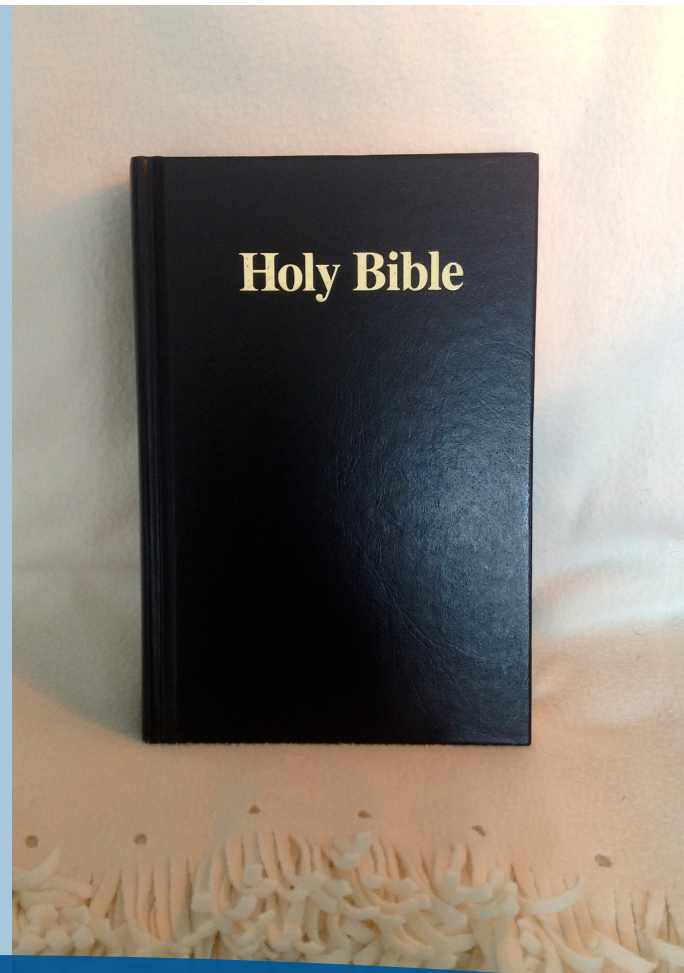


Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself

Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

HOW TO
SEARCH THE
SCRIPTURES:
THE BIBLE
AND HISTORY



Page 1



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Bible Lightstand

The bible has been intimately connected to mainstream world history from 1500BC until now (and on into the future). We intend today to take a synopsis of THE BIBLE AND HISTORY from (about) 700BC to 100AD with a peak at future 'history'. Archaeology only really began in the 1800s, but since then a great wealth of finds have been discovered.



THE TAYLOR PRISM discovered 1830
The Annals of Sennacherib
Written down in 691 BC

The prism was discovered in the ruins of the armoury in Nineveh. As one of the earliest, lengthiest cuneiform texts to be discovered it played a significant role in deciphering and understanding Akkadian cuneiform.

The document includes an account of the siege of Jerusalem in **701 BC**, an event described in the Bible in 2 Kings 18-19 and Isaiah 36-37 2Chronicles 32:9.

Of King **Hezekiah** of Judah it says he was:
'locked up like a bird in a cage in Jerusalem his royal city'.

It details the destruction of 46 towns in Judah, and the payment of a heavy tribute to Sennacherib. **Herodotus** also mentions the Assyrian campaign and says the invasion ended at Pelusium on the Nile Delta.

Eva Miller, University of Oxford says its one of the first cuneiform texts discovered providing a direct link to the Hebrew Bible.

There are now countless discoveries that link to the Bible, and wherever they do, they invariably prove Bible accounts to be accurate. We highlight the fact that the Taylor Prism Annals of Sennacherib (King of Assyria) state, on the one hand, that his campaign conquered virtually all the cities of Hezekiah's kingdom of Judea, and yet failed to take (the besieged) Jerusalem. **Historians have wondered "why"?** The bible tells us why, and **Herodotus** the greek historian (5th century BC) also acknowledges the matter:-

2 Kings 18

13 "Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.

14 And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria **to Lachish**, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

15 And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house.

16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and **gave it to the king of Assyria.**"

The king of Assyria took these treasures but reneged on the agreement and sent forces to besiege Jerusalem: as the next verse says:-

2 Kings 18

17 “And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with **a great host against Jerusalem**. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field.

(And said):

21 Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.

22 But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD [YHVH] our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?

25 Am I now come up without the LORD [YHVH] against this place to destroy it? The LORD [YHVH] said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.”

vv22,25 show how well informed Sennacherib was, about Hezekiah's unpopular ban on local altars. Also on the pronouncements of the Prophet advisor to Hezekiah- Isaiah- by the spirit shows that YHVH did in deed, providentially send the Assyrians to punish Judah:-

Isaiah 10

5 O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.

6 I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Yes vv5,6 show that the God of Israel had sent the Assyrian to chastise Judah for there unfaithfulness, but Hezekiah himself was a good king, so he would be saved, and Assyria would be punished for there pride against God, as vv12-15:-

12 “Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, **I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks**.

13 For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man:

14 And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. **[But God replies:-]**

15 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.”

We see how God was to punish the king of Assyria for his pride if we return to the account in 2 Kings:-

2 Kings 19

20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

32 Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.

33 By the way that he came, by the same **shall he return**, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord.

34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

35 And it came to pass **that night**, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all **dead corpses**.

36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

Comments on the above (2 Kings 19)

Haaretz News article:

“By and large **the biblical and Assyrian accounts harmonise** on many core events. Crucially, both accounts agree that **Sennacherib did conquer Lachish, and overran almost all of Judah but not Jerusalem**. Leaving gods out of it, there could be other explanations for Jerusalem and Hezekiah's survival. **Such as, mice.**”

of which:-

Herodotus comments (200 years after the event):

"**During the night** a horde of field mice gnawed quivers and their bows and the handles of shields, with the result that **many were killed, fleeing unarmd the next day**" -

Herodotus says:-

“**During the night...many were killed...fleeing unarmd the next day**" as:

2Kings 19:35,36 “**that night..the angel of the LORD..smote in the camp** of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: So Sennacherib king of **Assyria departed**, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.”

That some mice frightened the most powerful army in the world to run away, or that mice instantly killed a significant number of them, is beyond credibility, unless it was a miracle, in which case the Bible account is the more credible.

LACHISH RELIEFS

The annals of Sennacherib, written down in 691 BC



Apart from the Taylor Prism, there are more Assyrian accounts of this invasion by Sennacherib, such as the Lachish Reliefs, (**above**) which agree with the Bible accounts.

The left hand side inscription states:

"Sennacherib, the mighty king, king of the country of Assyria, sitting on the throne of judgment, before (or at the entrance of) the city of Lachish. I give permission for its slaughter,"

As to the 2 Kings account we have read vv35,36, but lets read on:

2 Kings 19

35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and **they escaped into the land of Armenia**. And **Esarhaddon** his son reigned in his stead.

Lets look at v37 again:-

"it came to pass...that Adrammelech and Sharezer **his sons** smote him with the sword: and **they escaped into the land of Armenia**. And **Esarhaddon** his son reigned in his stead.(2 Kings 19:37)

Profane History confirms this as follows:

ASSASSINATION OF SENNACHERIB

"When, despite being the youngest son, **Esarhaddon** was named successor by his father, his elder brothers tried to discredit him. Oracles had named him as the person to free the exiles and **rebuild Babylon**, the destruction of which by Sennacherib was felt to have been **sacrilegious**. Esarhaddon remained crown prince, but was forced into exile beyond the Euphrates, Esarhaddon described his exile in the following words:

"Malicious gossip, slander and falsehood they [i.e. Esarhaddon's 2 brothers] wove around me in a godless way, lies and insincerity."

"Esarhaddon returned to the capital of Nineveh in forced marches and defeated his rival brothers in six weeks of civil war. He was formally declared king in the spring of **681 BC**. His **brothers fled to the land of Ararat** and their followers and families were put to death."

So we see again the harmony of the Bible with the historical records. About 70 years later the province of Babylon rebelled against the king of the Assyrian empire as:

ASSYRIAN BABYLONIAN WAR

Profane history:-

"After the death of king Aššurbanipal in **631 BCE**, the Assyrian empire became unquiet, and the Babylonians seized their independence. For one year (**627/626**), two Assyrian officials named Sin-šumlišir and Sin-šar-iškun ruled; in the next year, the Babylonian general Nabû-apla-usur, who had been appointed by Sin-šar-iškun, rebelled and defeated the Assyrians in a battle near Babylon."



**THE BABYLONIAN CHRONICLE KNOWN AS ABC2 SAY:
on the twenty-sixth day of Arahsamnanote Nabû-apla-usur sat upon the throne in
Babylon.**

“This was the beginning of the reign of Nabû-apla-usur better known under his Greek name, Nabopolassar; his accession marks the beginning of the Babylonian Empire, which was to last until its capital was taken by the Persian king Cyrus the Great in October **BC 539.**”

Babylon was often a troublesome province of the Assyrian empire-looking to rebel- and when they heard the Assyrians were forced to retreat from Hezekiah in Judah they sent an emissary to enquire (this was 70 years before the Babylonian Empire). Of which:

THE RISE OF THE BABYLON FORETOLD

2 Kings 20

14 Then came **Isaiah the prophet** unto king **Hezekiah**, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even **from Babylon.**

15 And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, **Hear the word of the Lord.**

17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.

18 And of thy sons [descendants] that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall **they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.**

The Ishtar Gate was ... constructed in about 575 BC by order of King Nebuchadnezzar Dedicated to the Babylonian goddess Ishtar, Through the gate ran the Processional Way, which was lined with walls covered in lions on glazed bricks.. Statues of the deities were paraded through the gate and down the Processional Way each year during the New Year's celebration.



FROM [www.annodomini.org.uk wonders/the-ishtar-gate/](http://www.annodomini.org.uk/wonders/the-ishtar-gate/)

Until the Ruins of Babylon were discovered beneath desert sands of Iraq, the 'Higher Critics' maintained the Babylon was a myth- never existed.

70 years after King Hezekiah was warned, Isaiah's prophecy came to pass:

2 Kings 24

12 And Jehoiachin (r.598-597) the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and **the treasures of the king's house**, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, **as the Lord had said**.

14 And he **carried away all Jerusalem**, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into **captivity** from Jerusalem to Babylon.

KING JEHOIACHIN'S CAPTIVITY IN BABYLONIA

He was eventually released, and cuneiform tablets from Babylonia inform us about his fate:

CUNEIFORM TABLET MENTIONING JEHOIACHIN



“There are several cuneiform texts that illustrate Jehoiachin's position after his release, which were discovered by Robert Koldewey in Babylon and are collectively known as ANET3 308. These documents, now in Berlin, are lists of deliveries of food and oil to **important people**, and **prove that the king of Judah received substantial rations**.

2 Kings 25

27 And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of **Jehoiachin** king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that **Evilmerodach** king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison;

28 And he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon;

29 And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life.

30 And **his allowance** was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.

8 years before the captivity of Jehoiachin Daniel the prophet was taken captive to Babylon:

Daniel1

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

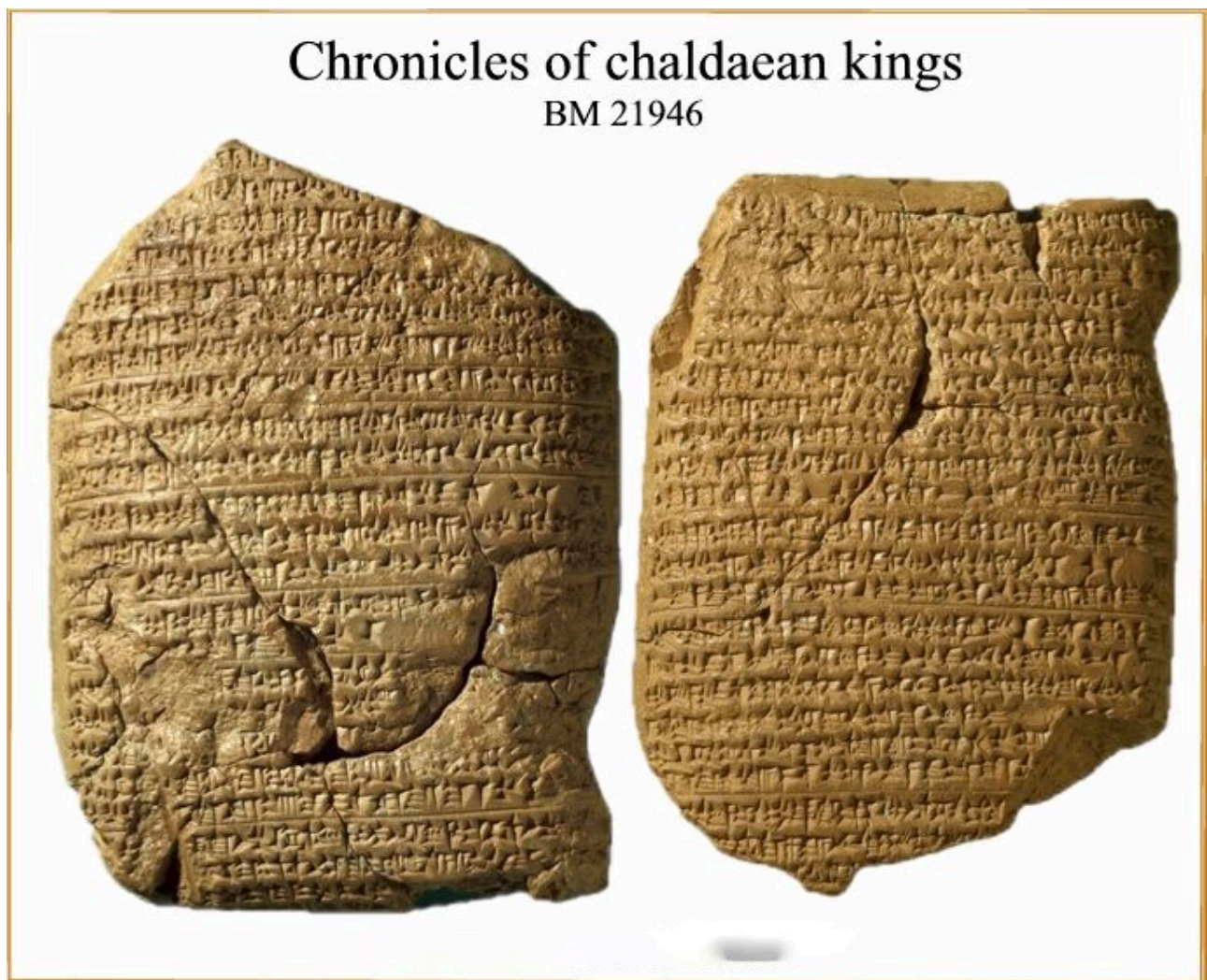
2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the **vessels of the house of God**: which he carried into the land of Shinar **to the house of his god**; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and **of the king's seed**, and of the princes;

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, **Daniel**, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

All these events are verified in the Babylonian (Chaldaeian) Chronicles



Shortly after the young captive Daniel arrived in Babylon, the Emperor had an inspired dream of the future. Only Daniel could interpret it, as follows:-

THE KING OF BABYLON'S PROPHETIC DREAM OF THE 4 WORLD EMPIRES

Daniel 2:

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM

Daniel 2:

37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. [Heb.erez]

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

HEAD OF GOLD

Babylonian Empire

CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER

Medio Persian Empire

THIGHS OF BRASS

Grecian Empire

LEGS OF IRON

Roman Empire

FEET & TOES OF IRON & CLAY

present day situation

but the image is yet to stand!



Each world empire (that is compassing the civilised world of that time) occurred one after the other, but the prophecy shows that in the end times the territories of the 4 world empires must be cobbled together by a despot (feet of clay mingled with iron) who with other territories and allies will wage War in the Middle East at the battle of Armageddon being destroyed by Christ at his return. This is why the image was portrayed as standing as one power to be destroyed by a "stone" smiting the feet.

THE FUTURE

Daniel 2:

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

44 And in the days of these kings shall **the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The 2nd Empire, the Persian, was established by overthrowing Babylon, this occurred during a feast held by the last Babylonian King.
The Historians say:

“**Confirmed by the Greek historian, Herodotus**, in October 539 BC Belshazzar hosted a great feast in Babylon, wining and dining a thousand exalted guests.”

The Bible says the same:

Daniel 5

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

The writing was on the wall; the now aged Daniel was called to interpret:-

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Daniel 5

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be **the third ruler in the kingdom**.

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

In bestowing the highest honour he could on Daniel, Belshazzar made him “**the third ruler in the kingdom**” (v29) Why not the 2nd? The critics pondered this, until it was discovered that Belshazzar himself was only the 2nd ruler because his father, King Nabonidus the “first” ruler, was still alive (but absent in Arabia) The inspired bible account had this right, and now it is confirmed by Archaeology:-

ANCIENT BABYLONIA - NABONIDUS STELE

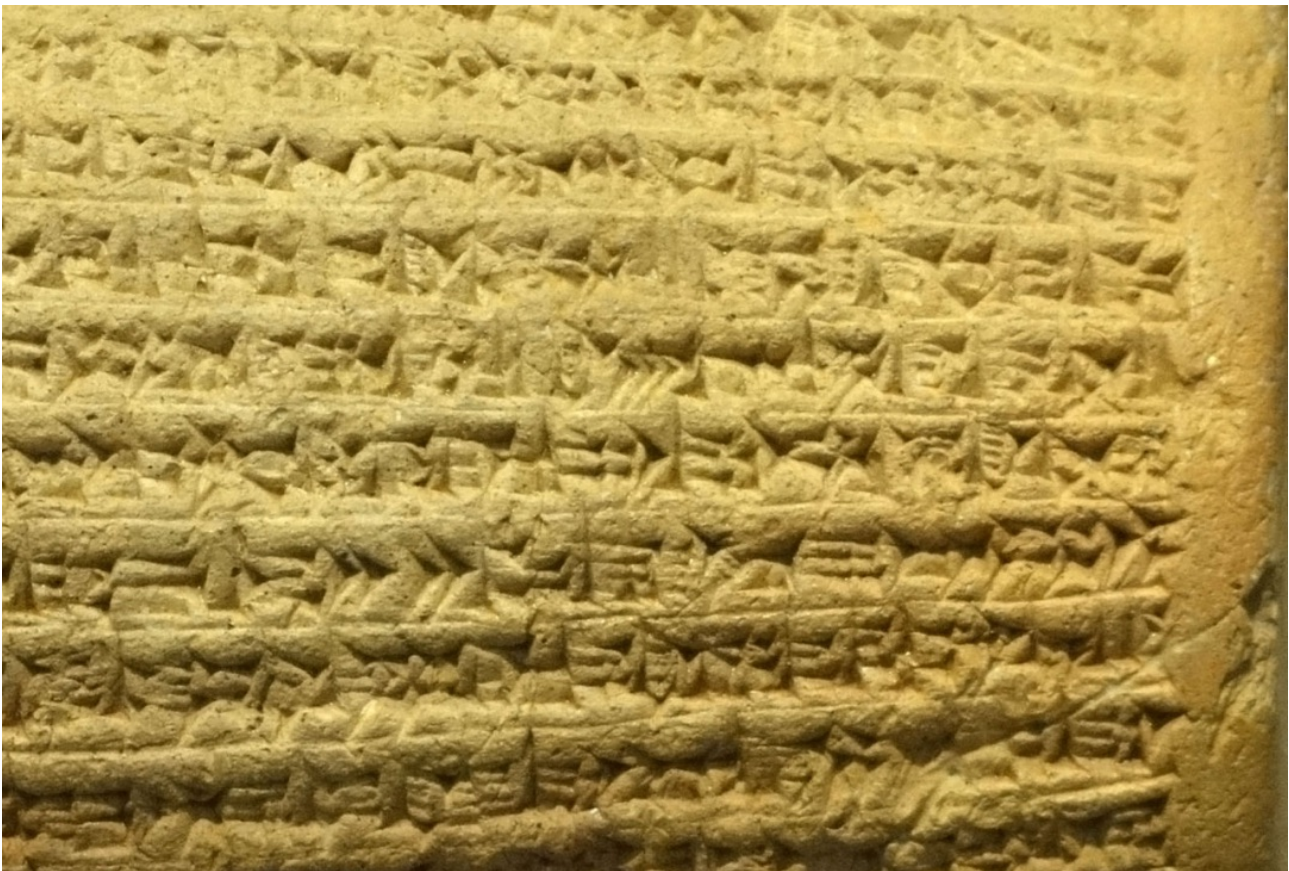


“Nabonidus was known to be the king on the throne at the time of the Medo-Persian conquest of Babylon. However, in 1854 archaeologist Sir Henry Rawlinson found an inscription, while excavating at ancient Ur, which stated that Nabonidus associated with him on his throne his eldest son, Bel-shar"-usur", and allowed him the royal title” (previously the critics said he never existed).

The chronicle of Nabonidus and Cyrus (Cyrus the Persian conquerer of Babylon)

“narrates events beginning with the accession of Nabonidus 556 B.C.E. and ending after the conquest of Babylon by the Persians in 539 B.C.E. At least a part of this chronicle was composed under Cyrus, since it is written in a tone hostile to Nabonidus.” (Encyclopaedia Iranica)

When Cyrus the Persian established himself as sole ruler of the Empire, He made an important decree that the the nations taken captive by Babylon should return to their native lands. This is recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder:-



CYRUS CYLINDER DETAIL

“It extols Cyrus as a benefactor of the citizens of Babylonia who improved their lives, repatriated displaced people and restored temples and cult sanctuaries across Mesopotamia and elsewhere in the region.”

Both the captivity and their release were foretold in the Bible, as:-

Jeremiah 25

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**.

12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will **punish the king of Babylon**, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and **will make it perpetual desolations**.



Jeremiah 29:

10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in **causing you to return to this place**.

After then Fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians, Daniel relates:-

Daniel 9

2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof **the word of the Lord** came to **Jeremiah** the prophet, **that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem**.

3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Daniel's Prayers were answered

2 Chronicles 36

22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that **the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah** might be accomplished, **the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to **build him an house in Jerusalem**, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.

Ezra was one who went up to re build the Temple

Ezra 1

1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, **that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah** might be fulfilled, **the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Juda

7 Also Cyrus the king **brought forth the vessels of the house of the Lord**, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;



Here we have a representation of the second Temple as it may have appeared 500 years later at the time of Christ, but the matter does not end here; of this Temple Jesus says in Luke 21.

Luke 21

5 And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he [Jesus] said,

6 As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

22 For these be the days of vengeance, **that all things which are written may be fulfilled.**

24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**

and when “ the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”:-

Luke 21

27 And then shall they see **the Son of man** coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

“the son of man” is how Jesus referred to himself; he’s foretelling his return, of which we have already read in” Daniel 2:

Daniel 2

44 “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

So we have seen a brief synopsis of how the Bible and History are in complete harmony; and how the Bible and the hand of the Lord are intimately connected with the main world events, from the beginning, to the future and the end of History.

BC 701 The Assyrian world power invading Judea

BC 605 The fall of Assyria

BC 605 The rise of the Babylonian Empire

BC 597 Judah’s captivity in Babylon and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple

BC 539 The fall of Babylon

BC 539 The rise of the Persian Empire

BC 537 Judah’s return from captivity the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple

AD 70 The destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem

AD???? The return of Christ

AD???? The restoration of Israel, The Kingdom of God on Earth.

Much of the Old Testament foretold the events we have been considering right up to the coming Kingdom of God on earth. The New Testament also foretold the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70, as we have also seen in Luke 21.

The New Testament as well as The Old, foretell’s the coming Kingdom and the restoration of Israel. And we have seen that the Bible, whenever put to the test always proves to be true, and reliable, as the inspired word of God.

The next Talk/pamphlet (4) shows how:

4 FULFILLED PROPHECY PROVES THE BIBLE TRUE