



Babylonian Civilization

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Babylon

- **Definition**

- a city devoted to materialism and sensual pleasure

- **Babylon**

- (Akkadian: *Bābili* or *Babilim*; Aramaic: *בבל*, *Babel*, Hebrew: *בָּבֶל*, *Bavel*, Arabic: *بابل*, *Bābil*)

- was a major city of ancient Mesopotamia.

The city was built upon the Euphrates river and divided in equal parts along its left and right banks, with steep embankments to contain the river's seasonal floods. Babylon was originally a small Semitic Akkadian city dating from the period of the Akkadian Empire c. 2300 BC.

- The site of Babylon is about 55 miles (89 kilometers) south of Baghdad near the Euphrates River.



The Babylonian Empire



Kings of Babylon

Nebuchadnezzar (604-562 B.C.)

-Nebuchadnezzar was the eldest son and successor of [Nabopolassar](#), founder of the [Neo-Babylonian Empire](#).^[3] Nabopolassar was an Assyrian official who rebelled and established himself as king of Babylon in 626 B.C; the dynasty he established ruled until 539 B.C, when the empire was conquered by [Cyrus the Great](#).

Avilmarduk (Evil-merodach) (562-560 B.C.)
- Son of Nebuchadnezzar, and third ruler of the New Babylonian empire; reigned from 561 to 560 B.C. His name in Babylonian is "Amil-Marduk" or "Avel-Marduk" = "man," or "servant, of Marduk.

Neriglissar (560-556 B.C.)

-Nergal-sharezer or Neriglissar was King of Babylon from 560 to 556 BC. He was the son-in-law of Nebuchadrezzar II, whose son and heir, Amel-Marduk, Nergal-sharezer murdered and succeeded.

- Nergal-Sharezer was married to Nebuchadnezzar's daughter Kashshaia and later became king of Babylon.

Labashimarduk (556 B.C.)

-Labashi-Marduk, was king of Babylon, and son of Neriglissar. Lâbâši-Marduk succeeded his father when still only a boy, after the latter's four-year reign.

Nabonidus (555-538 B.C.)

- Nabonidus was the last king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, reigning from 556–539 BC.

Map of Neo-Babylonian Empire



Babylonian gods and goddesses

- Apsu

The Babylonian god Apsu is Tiamat's husband, the ruler of gods and underworld oceans. Father of Lahmu, Lahamu, Anshar and Kishar. Ea killed him.

- Damkina

Damkina is the Babylonian earth mother goddess, the wife of Ea and mother of Marduk.

- **Enki** - The god of water and the fertile earth
- **Ninlil or Nillina** - The goddess of air (possibly the south wind) and wife of Enlil
- **Utu or Shamash** - The god of the sun, as well as god of justice

- Ea - The god of Wisdom
- An or Anu - the god of Heaven
- Enlil
Enlil is the Babylonian god of the air between earth and sky. In Sumerian mythology he was the son of An and Nintu, the god of air and agriculture, and eventually co-ruler of the gods along with Anu. One of four Sumerian creating gods.

- [Ishtar \(Inanna\)](#)

Inanna is a great goddess, the goddess of love and war. She descended to the Underworld to try to regain her lover.

- [Kingu \(Qingu\)](#)

Kingu is a dragon commander of Tiamat's forces against Marduk. Kingu is the counterpart of the sky god Anu on the side of darkness. He may have been Tiamat's second husband. Ea fashioned humans from his blood when Kingu was ordered to be sacrificed.

- **Kishar**

The Babylonian goddess Kishar is the daughter of Tiamat and Apsu, sister and wife of Anshar.

- **Marduk**

the chief god of the city of Babylon and the national god of Babylonia; as such, he was eventually called simply Bel, or Lord.

- **Mummu (Mommu)**

The Babylonian god Mummu is the son of Tiamat and Anu or their chamberlain/intermediary. He is the god of mist and a craftsman god.

- **Nintu (Ki)**

A great Sumerian goddess, wife of Anu and mother of all gods, she created humans from clay. One of four Sumerian creating gods. Nintu is a goddess of childbirth (Lady of Birth).

- **Shamash**

Son of Sin, god of the sun who protects the poor and travelers.

- Sin

Moon god and the father of Shamash; counterpart of the Sumerian Nanna.

- Tiamat

Tiamat is the Babylonian Great Goddess, counterpart of Sumerian Nintu. Primeval chaos. Destroyed by her children to create the world.

Babylonian Ancient Wonders

The Hanging Gardens

- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, a term given by the ancient Hellenic culture.
- The Hanging Gardens were built by King Nebuchadnezzar II for his wife, Amytis of Media.



The Hanging Gardens

Ishtar Gate

The **Ishtar Gate** was the eighth gate to the inner city of [Babylon](#). It was constructed in about 575 BCE by order of King [Nebuchadnezzar II](#) on the north side of the city. It was excavated in the early 20th century and a reconstruction using original bricks is now shown in the [Pergamon Museum, Berlin](#).

Dedicated to the [Babylonian goddess Ishtar](#), the gate was constructed using glazed brick with alternating rows of [bas-relief *mušḫuššu*](#) ([dragons](#)) and [aurochs](#) (bulls), symbolizing the gods [Marduk](#) and [Adad](#) respectively.^[1]

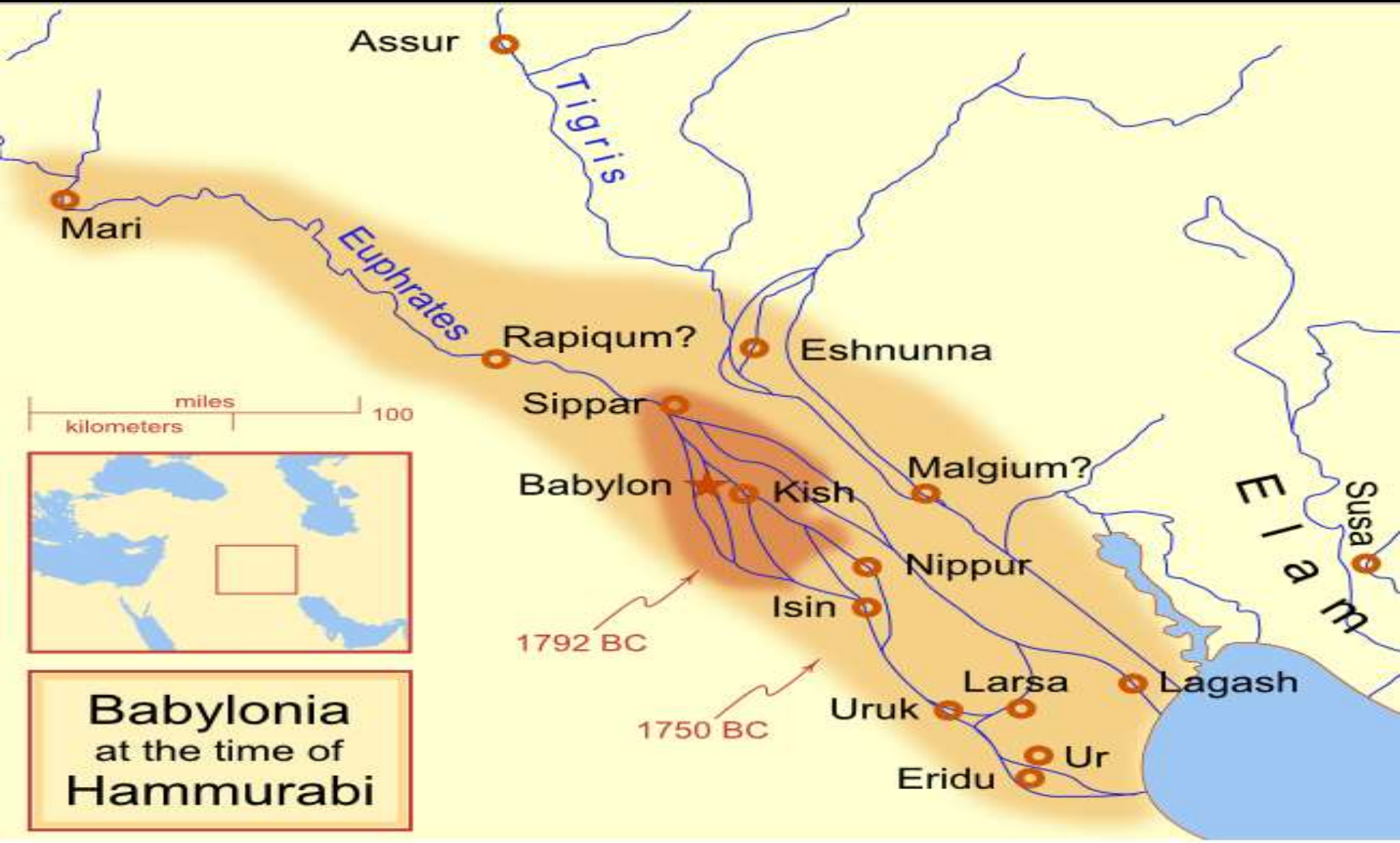


- The roof and doors of the gate were of [cedar](#), according to the dedication plaque. The gate was covered in [lapis lazuli](#), a deep-blue semi-precious stone that was revered in antiquity due to its vibrancy. These blue glazed bricks would have given the façade a jewel-like shine. Through the gate ran the Processional Way, which was lined with walls showing about 120 [lions](#), bulls, dragons and flowers on enameled yellow and black glazed bricks, symbolizing the goddess Ishtar. The gate itself depicted only gods and goddesses. These included Ishtar, Adad and Marduk. During celebrations of the New Year, statues of the deities were paraded through the gate and down the Processional Way.
- The gate, being part of the Walls of Babylon, was considered one of the original [Seven Wonders of the World](#).

Lapiz lazuli



Map of Babylonian cities



Babylonian Cities

- **Babylon** – central city
- **Eridu (Eridug/Urudug)**: Site of the temple of Enki
- **Eshnunna**: Located in the Diyala Valley, gateway to the kingdom of Elam
- **Kish**: Symbolic center of northern Mesopotamia
- **Ur**: Biblical home of the Hebrew forefather Abram, later Abraham
- **Uruk**: Seat of the legendary king Gilgamesh
- **Nippur**: Symbolic center of southern Mesopotamia
- **Sippar**: Sun-cult center on the banks of the Euphrates
- **Umma**: Rival to Lagash
- **Larsa**: Another center of a sun cult
- **Adab**: A vassal of Kish
- **Lagash**: Especially ancient city, center of artistic development
- **Isin**: Important city to the Third Dynasty of Ur, ca. 2000 B.C., and thereafter

People of Babylon



People of Babylon



Babylonian Habitat

- Ancient Babylon was located in Mesopotamia between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.
- That's why its ground is very fertile and produces wild barley, chickpea, and sesame. The marshlands produce an edible root that is equal in nutrition to barley. The land is also rich with dates, apples, and other fruit as well as fish and birds.



Babylonian Culture

- The most famous innovation of ancient Babylonian culture was astronomy, which began as a study of astrology.
- They created stellar catalogues and a nearly perfect calendar, of which the Jews later copied. They were able to predict eclipses, which they believed announced dangerous and evil times. Eclipses were predicted through two mathematical systems they developed. These systems were the scientific basis of the mathematical and astronomic legacy of ancient Babylonia.

The Fall of Babylon



- In 539 B.C., Babylon fell to the Persian king, Cyrus the Great

” And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.” Isaiah 13:19 – 20