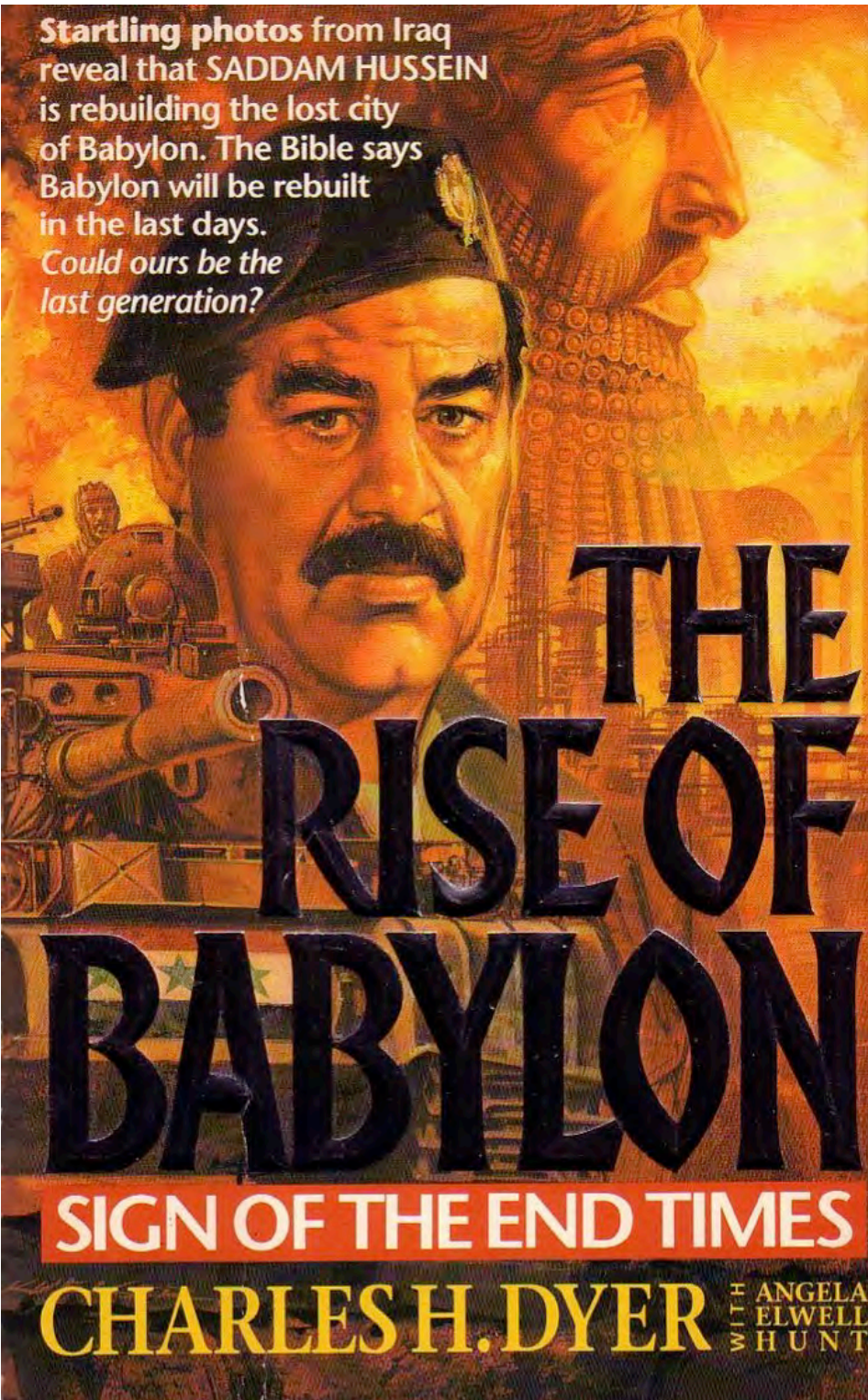


The Babylonians

(Neo-Babylonian Empire)

625-539 BC





Startling photos from Iraq reveal that SADDAM HUSSEIN is rebuilding the lost city of Babylon. The Bible says Babylon will be rebuilt in the last days. *Could ours be the last generation?*

THE RISE OF BABYLON

SIGN OF THE END TIMES

CHARLES H. DYER WITH ANGELA ELWELL HUNT

Babylon has been in the news daily since a Dallas Seminary professor wrote this book in 1991



REVELATION TV

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Daniel 2:1-49

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BABYLON

History of Babylon



Babylonian Society



Israel & Babylon



Babylon & Us

History of Babylon



Genesis 10:8-10; 11:2, 9; Rev. 17:1-6

How did Babylon start?

What motivated this beginning?

What resulted from its founding?

What did Babylon signify?

The Name

The Location

The Tower of Babel



Dominant Peoples in Mesopotamian History

Proto-Literate
Early

**Neo-Babylonian
625-539 BC**

Neo-Assyrian (935-612)
Achaemenid & Chaldean (612-332)
Neo Babylonian (625-539)
Persian (539-332)
Alexander (332-)

Neo-Babylonian Rulers

Nabopolassar 625-605 BC

Nebuchadnezzar II 605-562 BC

Evil-Merodach 562-561 BC

Nabonidus 556-539 BC

Labashum 522-521 BC

Nabonidus 539-538 BC

Nebuchadnezzar II

604-562 BC

Jerusalem's Fall

232
&
342

Key Dates

627 Jeremiah

605 Daniel

597 Ezekiel

Jerusalem's
Fall

586 Joel

Habakkuk

Lamentations

538

Josiah's Sons & Prophets

232
342

Daniel

605

Ezekiel

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

City
Fell

609

(3 mos.)

(11 yrs.)

597

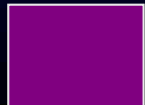
(3 mos.)

(11 yrs.)

586

Jeremiah

627



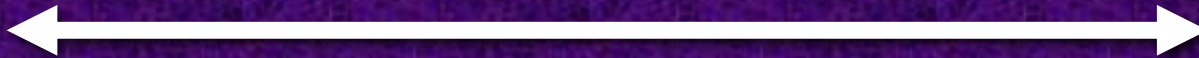
Brief Puppet Kings

Two 70-Year Exiles

560

People Exile

(Jer. 25:11-12; Dan. 9:2; Ezra 1:1)



605

586

539

536

516



Temple Exile

1986 Babylon International Festival Medallion



**SADDAM HUSSEIN and
the ancient world
conqueror
Nebuchadnezzar. Not
only do they look alike,
but their mission was
the same—to control
the world. And the
symbol of this world
dominion is an ancient
city...**

BABYLON: Prelude to Armageddon?

An Evil End to Judah

1 **Josiah**
640-609
(31 yrs.)

Good king in white
Evil kings in yellow

Johanan
(no rule)

3 **Jehoiakim**
(Eliakim)
609-597
(11 yrs.)

5 **Zedekiah**
(Mattaniah)
597-586
(11 yrs.)

2 **Jehoahaz**
(Shallum)
609
(3 mos.)

4 **Jehoiachin**
(Jeconiah/Coniah)
597
(3 mos.)

Exiled  Babylon



Babylonian Geography

Where was Babylonia?

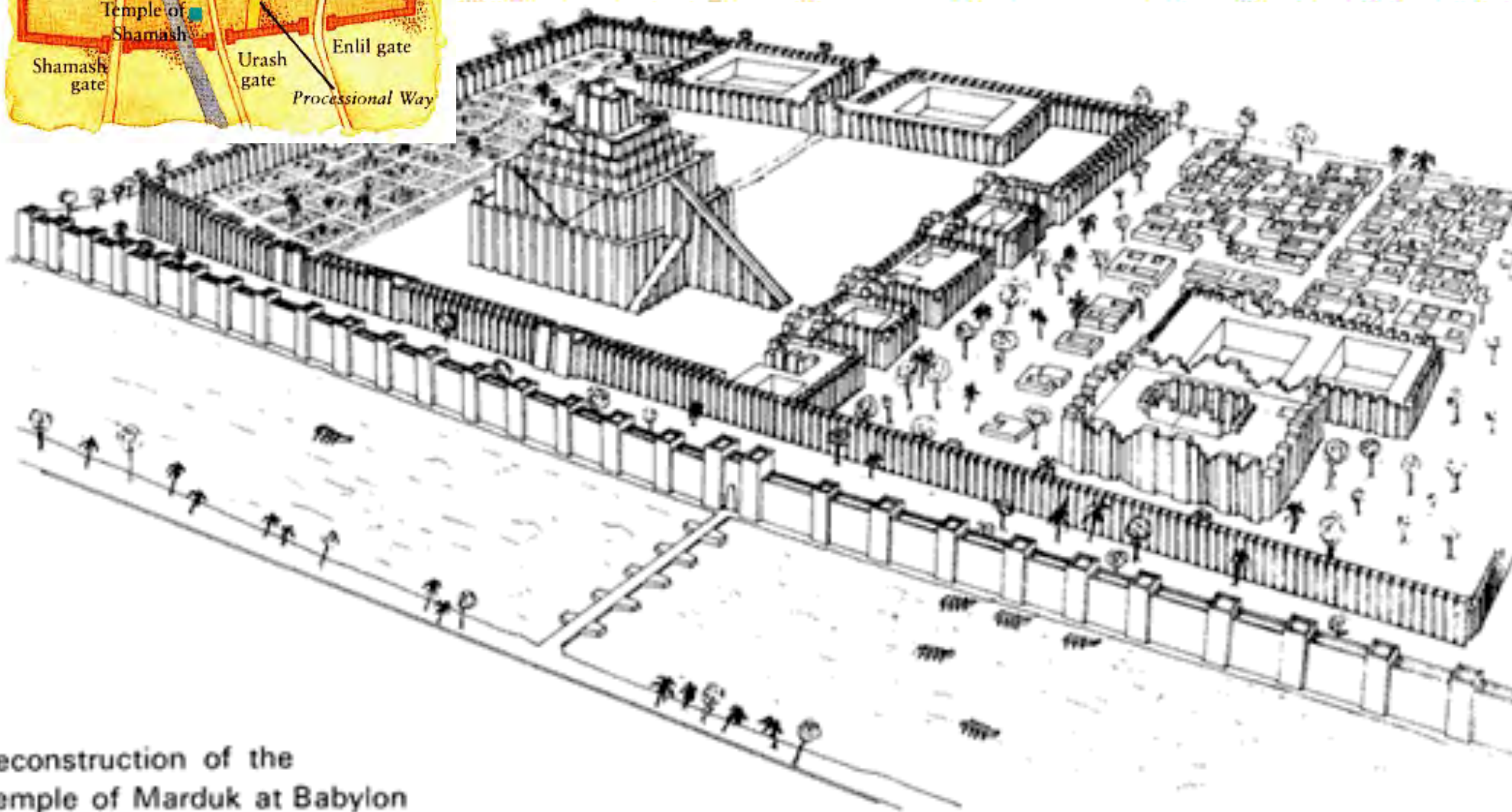
Tigris & Euphrates

Climate

Ideal for Trade

Map of Mesopotamia

Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon



Reconstruction of the Temple of Marduk at Babylon

RELIGION

138

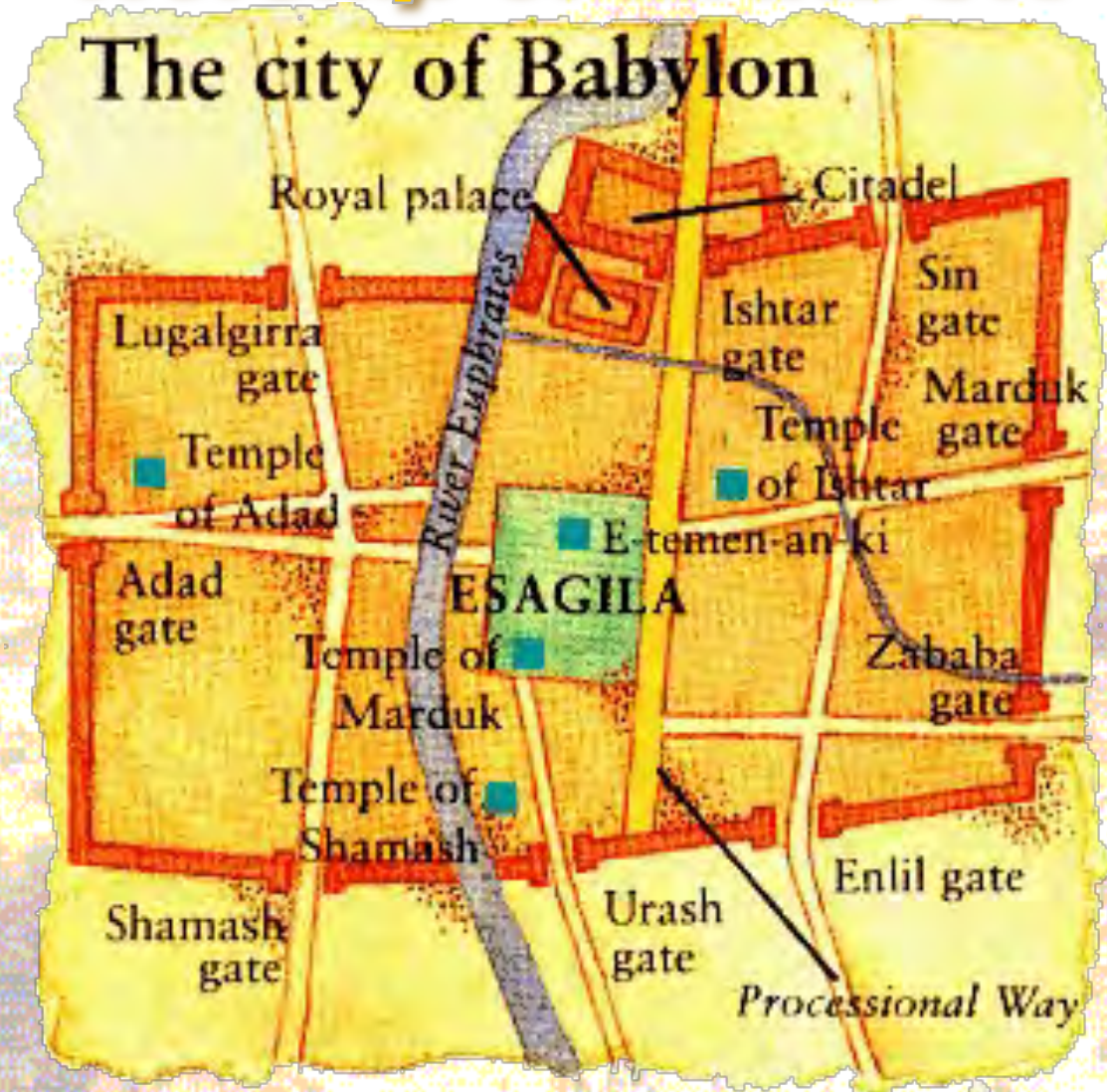
Babylonians had many gods – Sumerian, Akkadian, imports from mountainous regions (N & E of Meso.) – which reflected their needs and fears

Marduk (Bel / Baal)

1. Son of Ea (wisdom)
2. Chief of Babylon's gods (rising sun)
3. Temples & a huge ziggurat (the temple of Esgalia)
4. Wife called Sarpanitu / Son - Nabu
5. Sacred number 10 / Planet Jupiter
6. Statue of pure gold – Babylon
7. Made men and fashioned the world

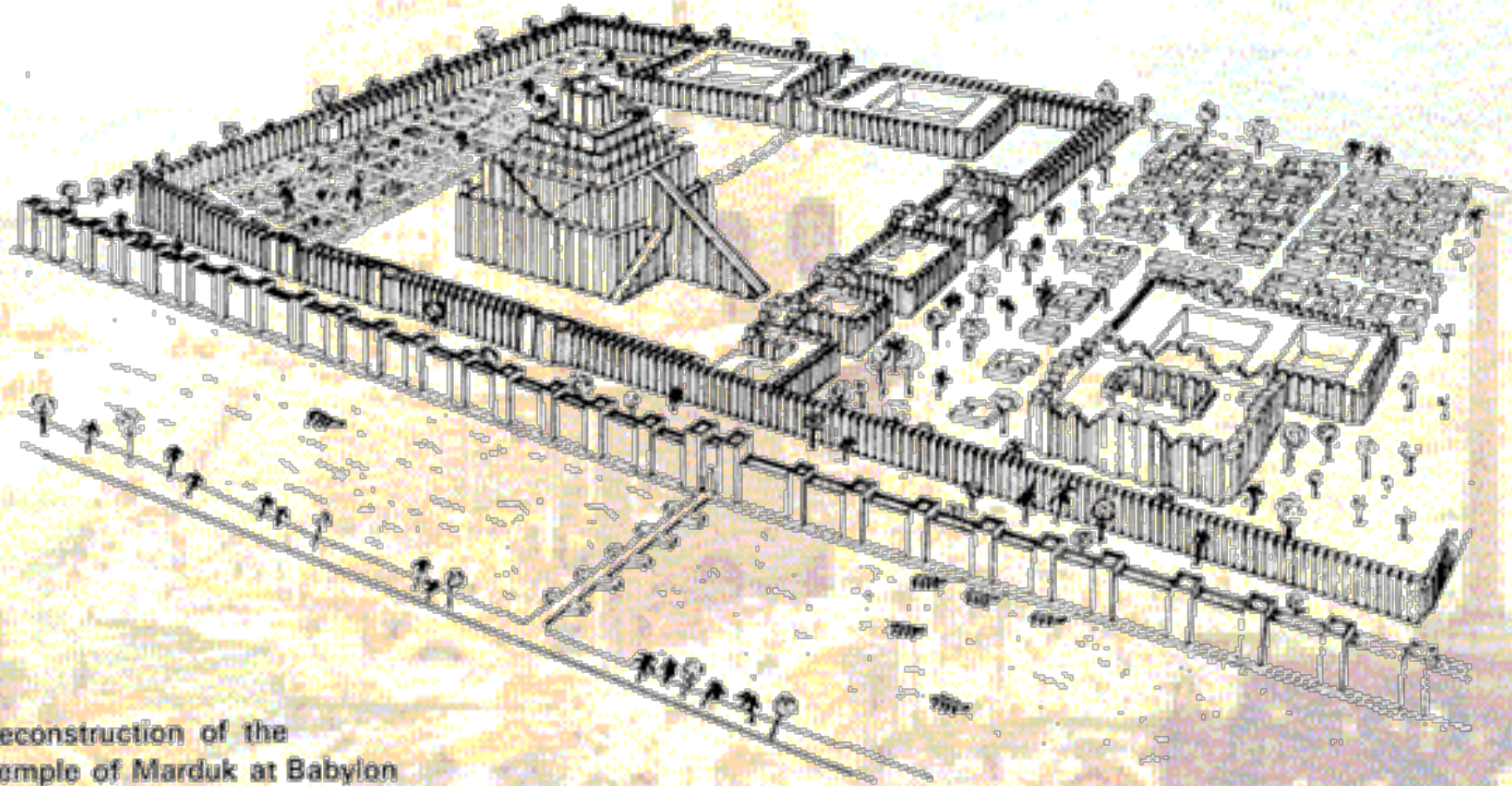


Worship of MARDUK



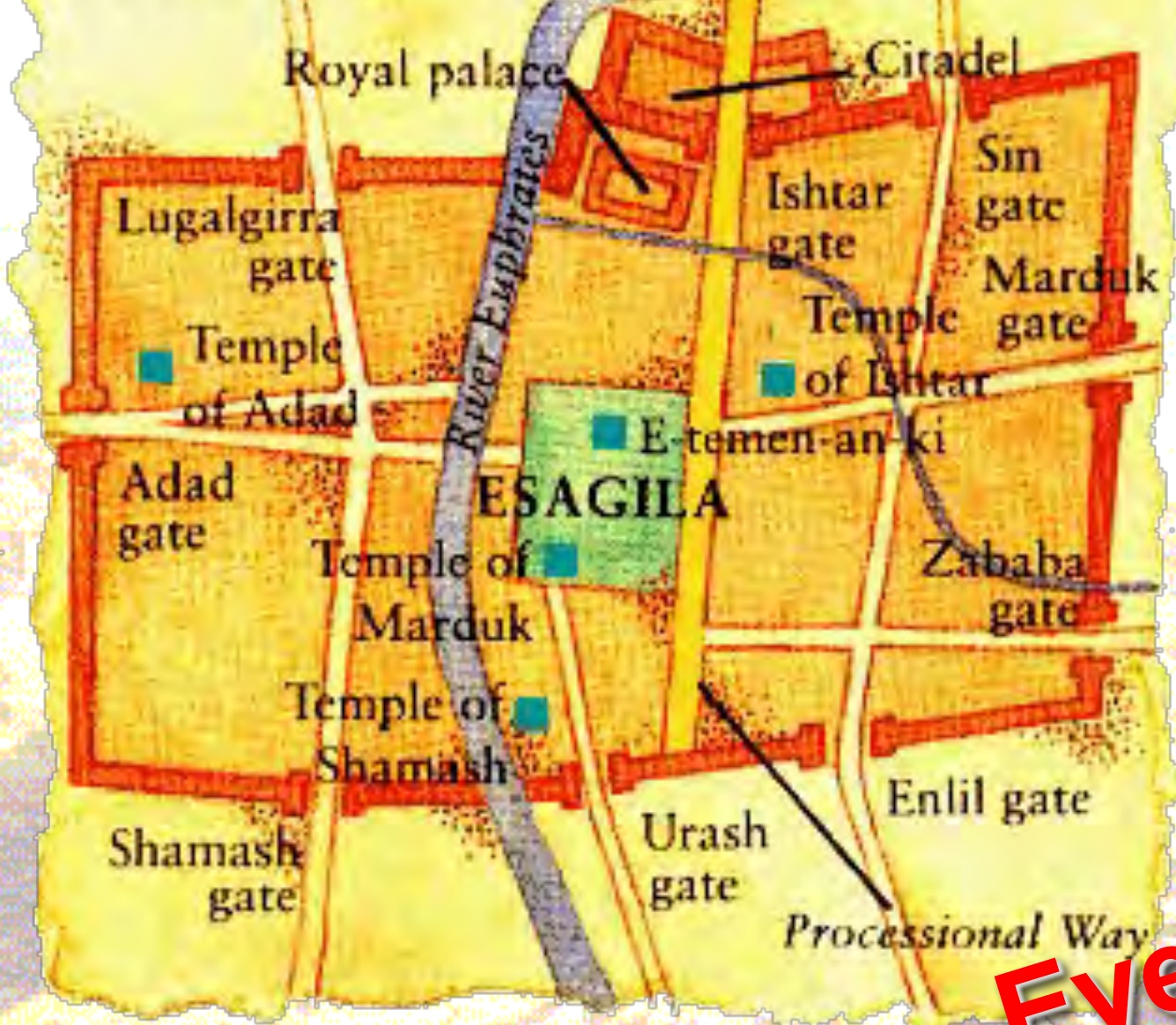
Babylon - time of Nebuchadnezzar II
Esagila - a huge sanctuary complex / temple of Marduk,
and E-Temen-an-ki, the great ziggurat of Babylon, probably the prototype of the Tower of Babel

Worship of MARDUK



Reconstruction of the
Temple of Marduk at Babylon

The city of Babylon



**Where
were the
gods?**

Everywhere!

Temples and Rituals

A RELIGIOUS METROPOLIS

- 53 temples of the chief gods
- 55 chapels of Marduk
- 300 chapels for earthly deities
- 600 for heavenly deities
- 180 altars for the goddess Ishtar
- 180 for gods Nergal and Adad
- 12 other altars for different gods

Temples and Rituals

A RELIGIOUS METROPOLIS

- 53 temples of the city
- 55 chapels of the city
- 300 chariot houses
- 600 houses

Babylon, the mother of prostitutes and of
the abominations of the earth
(Revelation 17:5)

the goddess Ishtar

as Nergal and Adad

her altars for different gods

RITUALS

- Daily presentation of offerings
- Cleaning garments of divine statues
- Purification of temples
- Special festivals (Akitu – New Year)

TEMPLES

- Each city had its own god and temple
- Had own land, slaves, animals & precious stones
- Priests foretold by reading nature & other elements
- Selling of charms and magical formulae

PERSONAL IDOLS

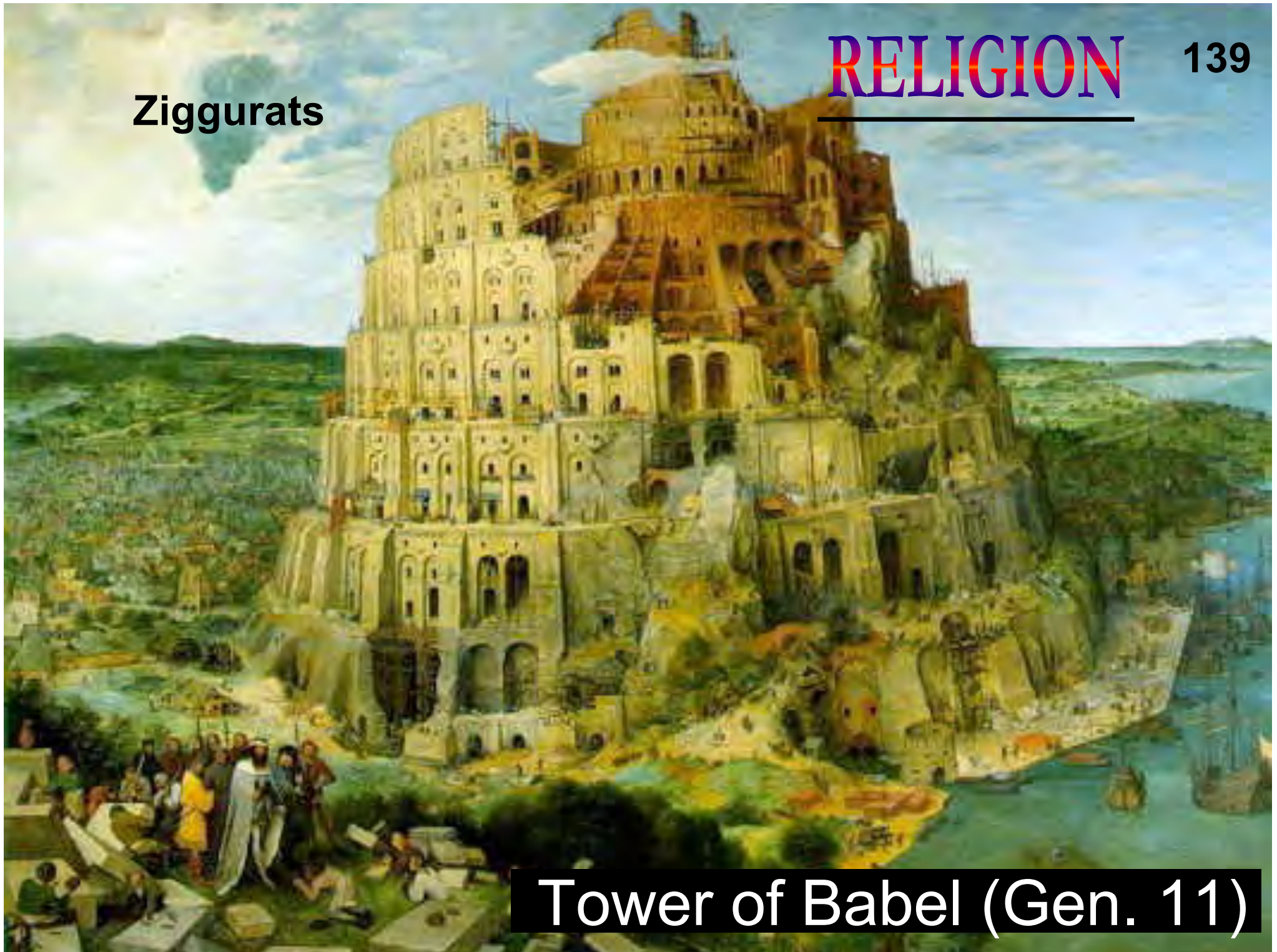
- Each Babylonian citizen had a 'personal' god
- Individuals made special requests (e.g., relief from illness)
- Acted as mediators from devotees to higher gods
- Benefit-driven so one would often abandon his god

Ziggurats

- Shows the city and king's devotion to their city god
- Huge stepped structure



Ziggurats



Tower of Babel (Gen. 11)

RELIGION

Babylon, the jewel of the kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown, by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations. But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses:

There the owls will dwell, hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces.

- Isaiah 19-23

Reconstruction of the Ziggurat at Ur

LITERATURE

139
















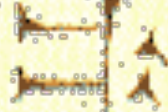


IMPACT OF SUMERIA

- Immersed in Sumerian culture since 3000 BC
- Adopted Sumerian system of formal education
- Nabu – god of scribal arts gave Babylon cuneiform
- Cuneiform in Latin – 'cuneus' (wedge) / ideogrammatical script (symbols)
- Transformed later to syllogrammatical script (simplified symbols) on clay tablets



CUNEIFORM

LITERATURE

PICTOGRAPHIC SIGN c. 3100 BC						
INTERPRETATION	Star	Stream	Barley	Bull's head	Bowl	Head and hawk
EARLY CUNEIFORM SIGN c. 2400 BC						
LATER CUNEIFORM SIGN c. 700 BC						
MEANING	God, sky	Water, seed, son	Barley	Ox	Food, head	Treat

IMPACT OF SUMERIA (continued)

- **Sumerian writings incorporated - translation to Akkadian (*lingua franca* of ANE)**
- **Schools of scribes copied compositions and created catalogs**
- **Sumero-Babylonian dictionaries popularized the myths, epics, hymns, etc.**
- **After fall of Babylon in 539 BC, Aramaic and Greek became the common languages**

POETRY

- **Parallelism rendered ideas 2 different ways side by side**
- **Couplets, singlets and triplets**
- **No rhyme and meter**
- **Several Epics - *Enuma Elish* & *Gilgamesh Epic***

MUSIC

- **Story telling or chanting of a verse - religious ceremonies & entertainment**
- **Used reed, flute, lyre, drum, trumpet and harp**

Gilgamesh Epic

BABYLONIAN VERSION OF THE FLOOD (2000 BC)

Babylonian Mythology

- Many gods (Polytheism)
- Gods quarrel /disagree
- Confusion as to why the Flood came
- Adad - thunder
Ninurta- winds
Annunaki - lightning

Biblical Account

- One God (Monotheism)
- A Holy God
- God saw evil and punished the corrupt people
- Yahweh:
 - Creator
 - Sustainer
 - Judge

WISDOM LITERATURE

- Many such writings – problem of evil and suffering / devout pious observers
- Examples – The Theodicy, Dialogue of Pessimism

PROPHECY

- Babylonian prophecy – forerunner of many occult religions and mystical books
- Described past events in prophetic terms to validate their foretelling other events

BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION TODAY

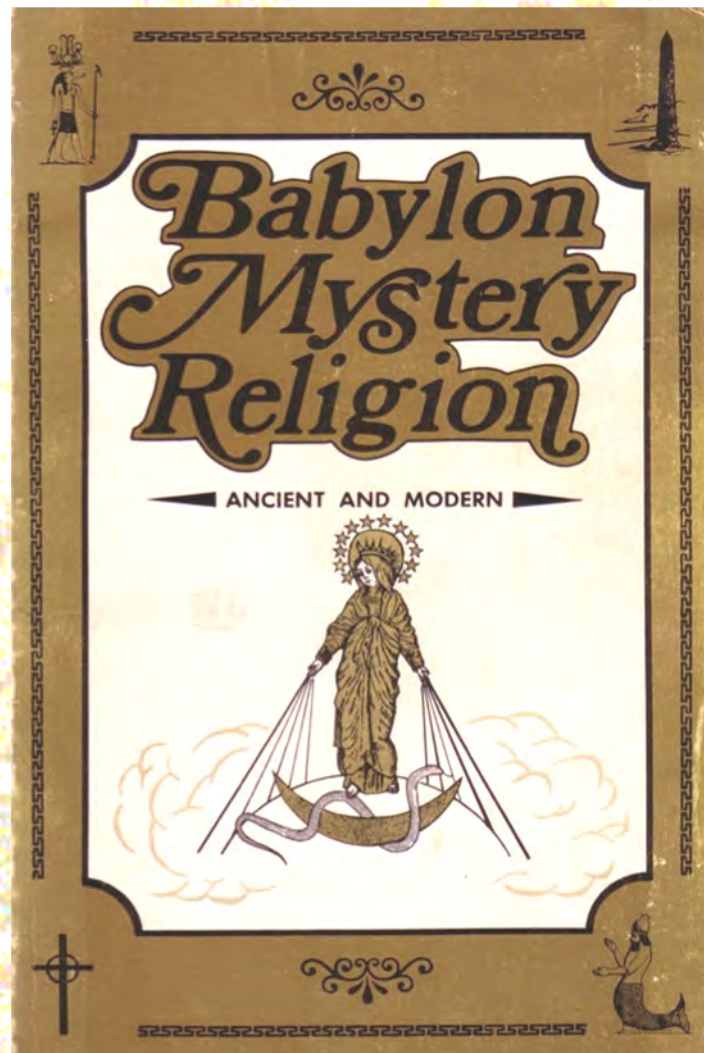
140

Who is the Woman on the Beast (Rev. 17)?

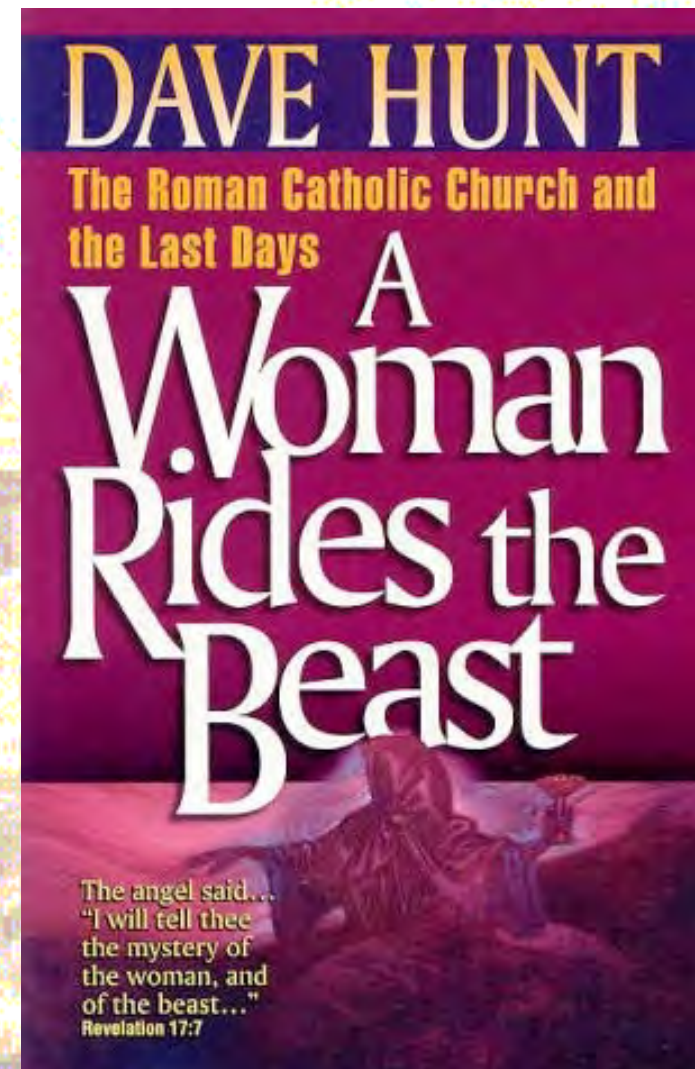


Catholics Repeat Babylon's Mistakes

Sources:



Ralph
Woodrow



Mother and Child Worship



Babylon



Egypt



Greece



Buddhist



Hindu

Mother and Child Worship

Babylonians



The goddess mother Semiramis as wife of Nimrod was called the “Queen of Heaven”

Israel

Jeremiah 7:18 (NIV): “The [Jewish] children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for **the Queen of Heaven.** They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.”

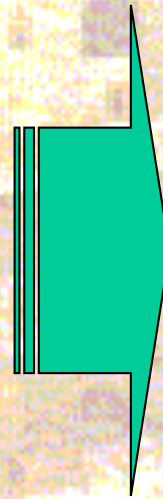
Mother and Child Worship

Babylonians

Catholics



The goddess mother Semiramis held her child Tammuz in her arms



Mary is worshipped along with her son Jesus in the Babylonian fashion





**Who is the
Focal Point of
Michelangelo's
Pietà?**

**Jesus is
much
smaller than
Mary!**

Obelisks

Babylonians

Image
90 feet x 9 feet
(Dan. 3)

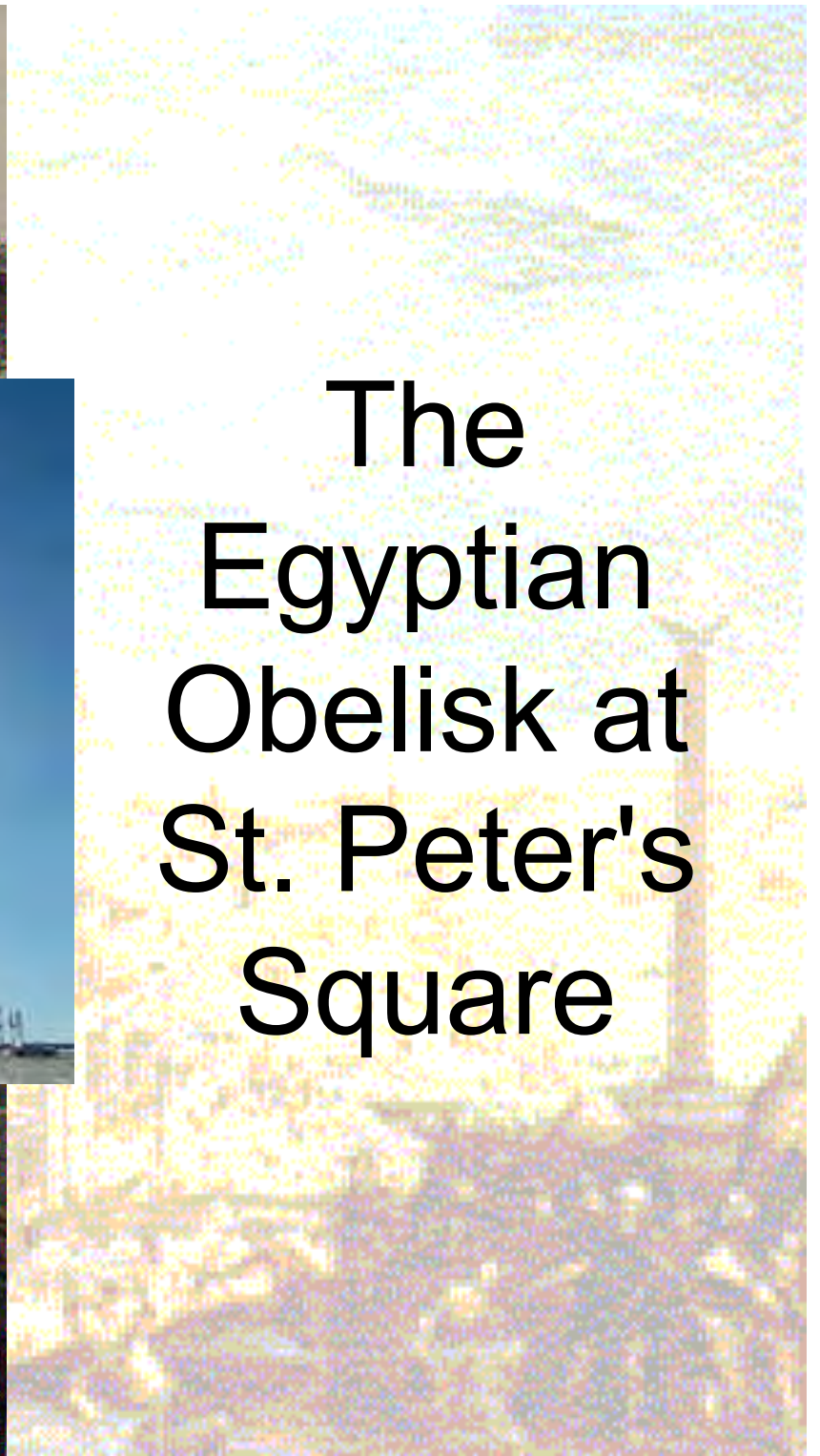


Catholics

The obelisk focal point of St. Peter's Square in Rome was brought by Caligula (AD 37-41) from an Egyptian temple of sun-worship. Pope Sixtus V moved it to the Vatican in AD 1586. He imposed the death penalty if it was broken!



The Egyptian Obelisk at St. Peter's Square



**Other
Pagan
Parallels:**

Babylonians

Relics

Pilgrimages

Indulgences

Purgatory

Pontiffs

Celibate Priests

Transubstantiation

Easter Festival

Winter Festival

Catholics

Relics

Pilgrimages

Indulgences

Purgatory

Pontiffs

Celibate Priests

Transubstantiation

Easter Festival

Winter Festival

LAW & ORDER

RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE

- **SHAMASH-** sun god and also god of law and justice
- **Hammurapi (1792-1760 BC) – Punishments for crimes varied / death penalty (drown / burn / decapitate)**

CIVIL LAW

- **Business practices – growing trade**
- **Courts administered laws**
- **4 judges in each court / appeals can be made to the king**
- **Capital punishment – flogging/ reduction to slavery & banishment**

LAW & ORDER

LAW CODES

- A number of documents called the Law Codes (from 2350 to 1750 BC)
- Almost all in verbal agreement – showing no legal codes but royal decrees
- King's divine mission – administer justly

THE CODE OF HAMMURAPI (1780 BC)

- Established legal practice in Babylon's institutions & customs
- Retaliation – tit for tat in cases of physical injuries (*lex talionis*)



Technological Achievements

MATHEMATICS

- **Geometry / algebra (Euclid & Pythagoras later developed)**
- **Developed the numerical system (sexagesimal)**
- **Measurement of time and degrees of the angles**
 - **60 mins (1 hour) / 360 degrees / decimal**
 - **square roots / value of pi**

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Astronomy**
- **Astrology**
 - **recorded meticulously over centuries**
 - **correct calculations of the solar & lunar year**



**Building
the Tower
of Babel**

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Calendar system – 12 lunar months**
- **Measurement – Water or the sun clock**
- **Medicine – Surgery / anatomy / physiology**
- **Circulation of blood/ pulse**



ECONOMY & SOCIAL STRUCTURE

AGRICULTURE

- Economic base – barley, wheat, fruits, vegetables, cattle & sheep

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

- Swamp and desert conditions
- Tigris and Euphrates – Sumerian (Idiglat & Buranin)
- Canal systems / flood banks



ECONOMY & SOCIAL STRUCTURE

ART

- Tapestries / rugs
- Fashion gold and silver goods
- Cut gems and manufactured textiles

TRADE

- Key to Babylon's wealth
- Protection from bandits – prosper till 1000 BC
- Taxation on the people



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Before the Exile (- - 605 BC)



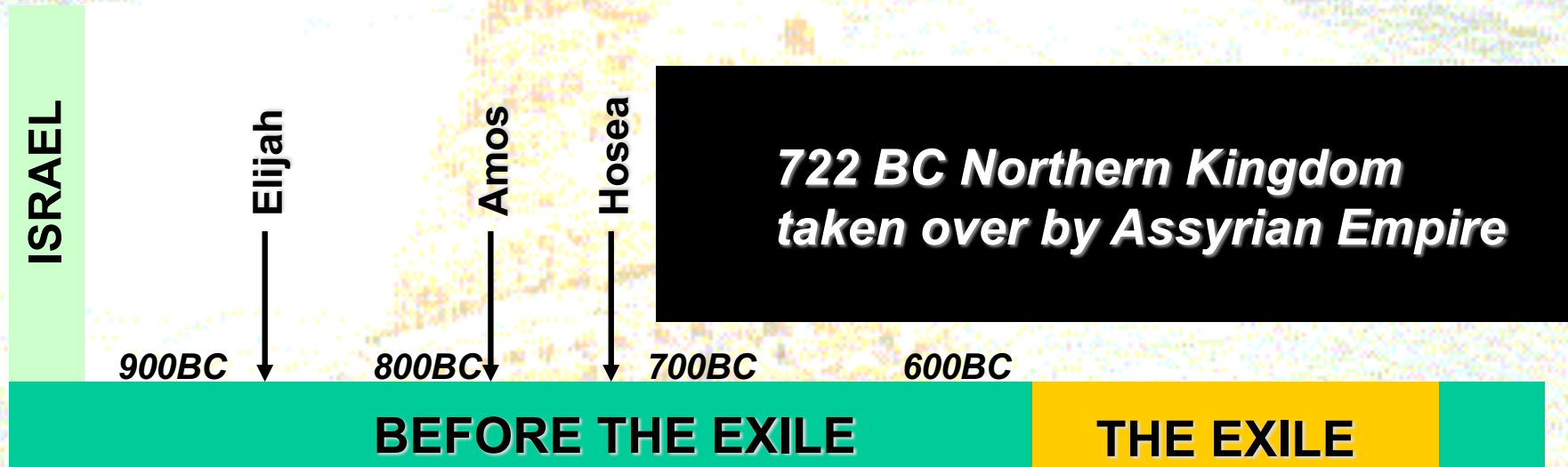
The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)



After the Exile (538 - BC)

ISRAEL & BABYLON

Why the Exile?



Before the Exile (- 605 BC) The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC) After the Exile (538 - BC) 🏠

ISRAEL & BABYLON

Why the Exile?

Mic. 1:5 All this is because of Jacob's transgression, because of the sins of the house of Israel.

What is Jacob's transgression?

Is it not Samaria?

What is Judah's high place?

Is it not Jerusalem



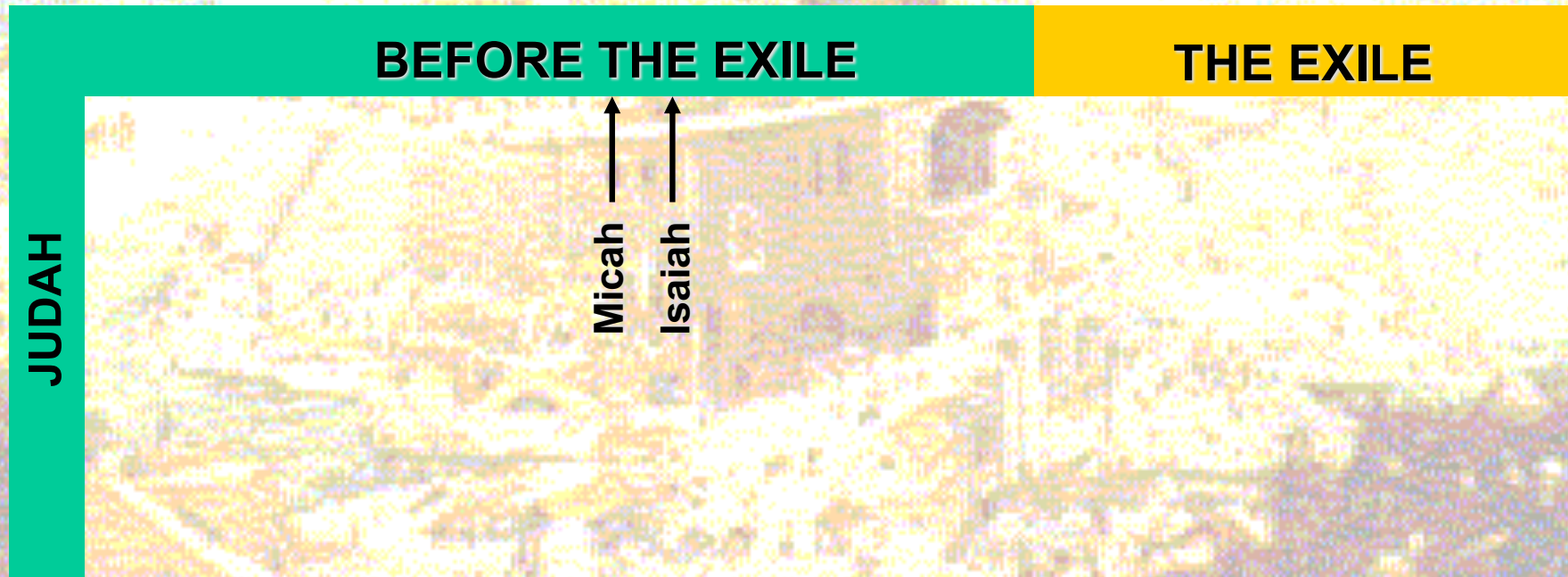
Before the Exile (- 605 BC) The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC) After the Exile (538 - BC) 

ISRAEL & BABYLON

Why the Exile?

Like his contemporaries, he envisaged the social inequities of his day as symptoms of an underlying spiritual malaise which could only be cured by... the exile of the nation...

- *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Atlas*



Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

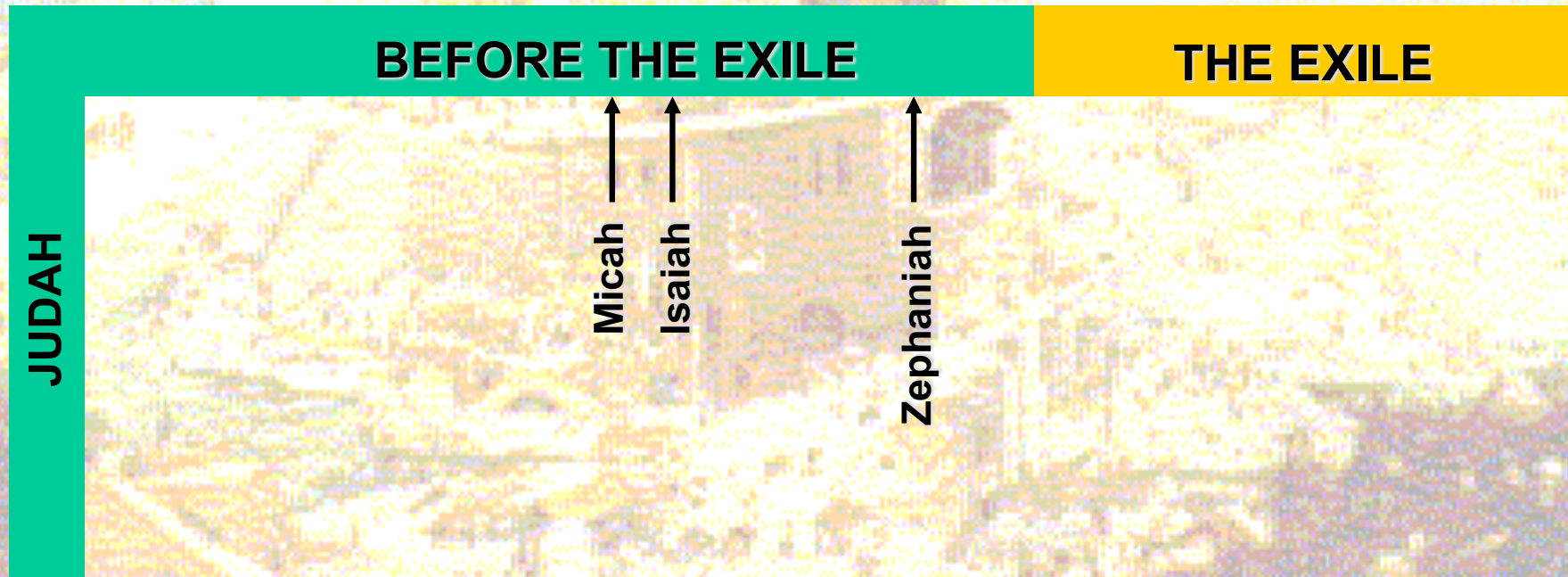
After the Exile (538 - BC)



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Why the Exile?

Zeph. 1:4 “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal, the names of the pagan and the idolatrous priests—5 those who bow down on the roofs to worship the starry host, those who bow down and swear by the LORD and who also swear by Molech, 6 those who turn back from following the LORD and neither seek the LORD nor inquire of him.



Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Why the Exile?

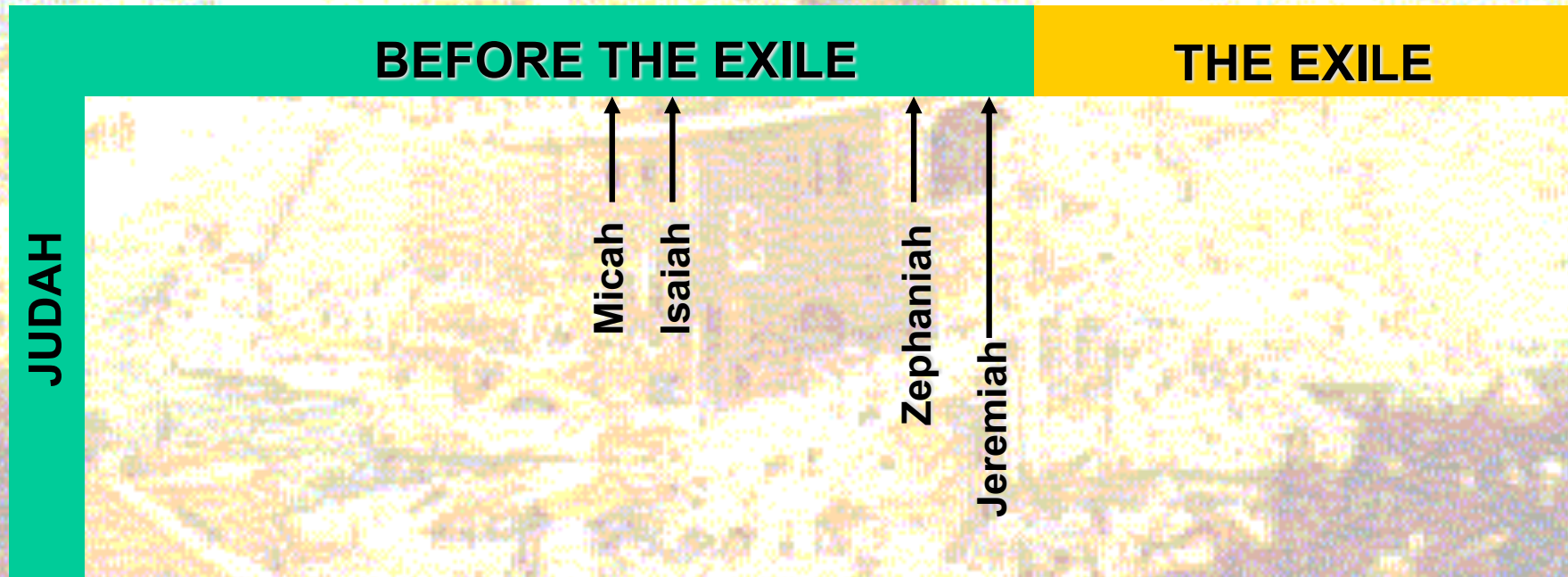
Jer. 2:8

***The priests did not ask,
'Where is the LORD?'***

Those who deal with the law did not know me;

The leaders rebelled against me.

***The prophets prophesied by Baal,
following worthless idols.***



Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

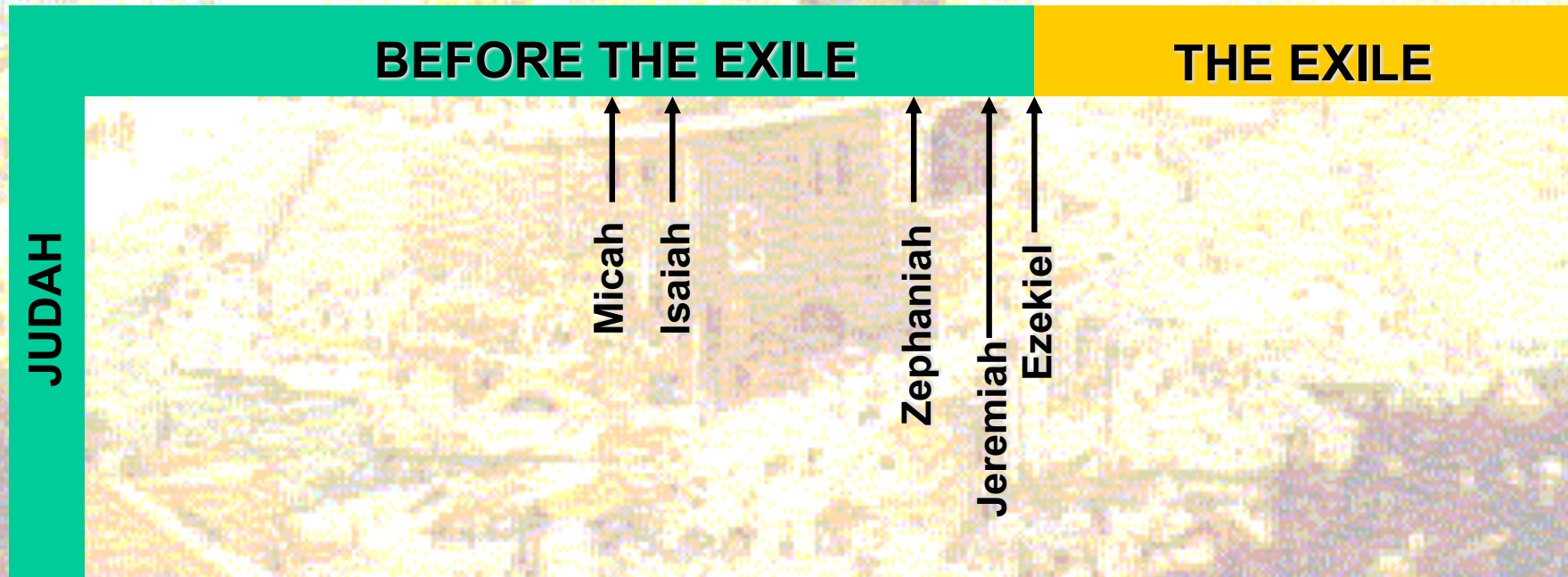
After the Exile (538 - BC)



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Why the Exile?

Ezek. 8:17 He said to me, "Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the house of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually provoke me to anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose!"



Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

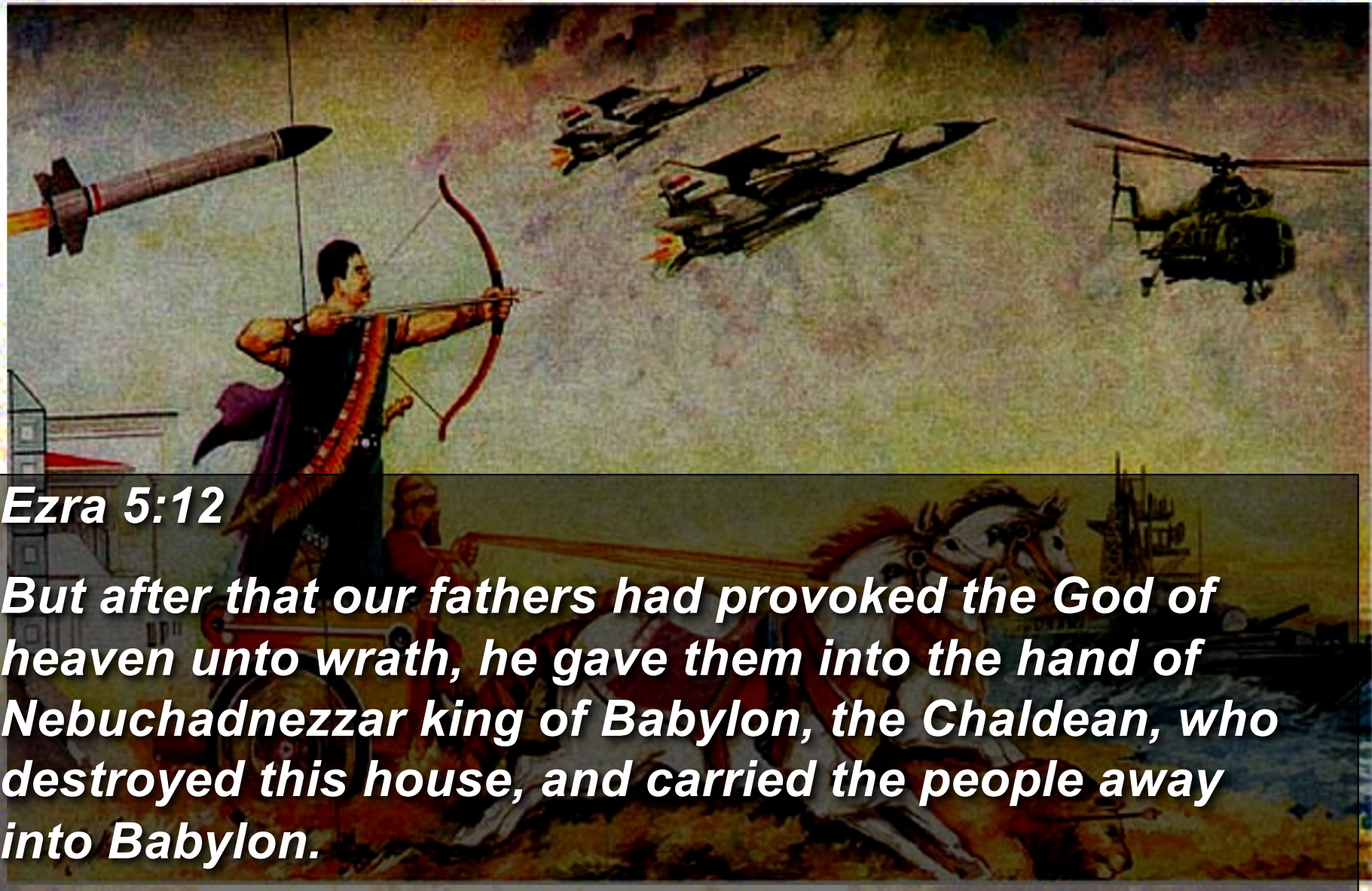
The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



Why the Exile?

ISRAEL & BABYLON



Ezra 5:12

But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.

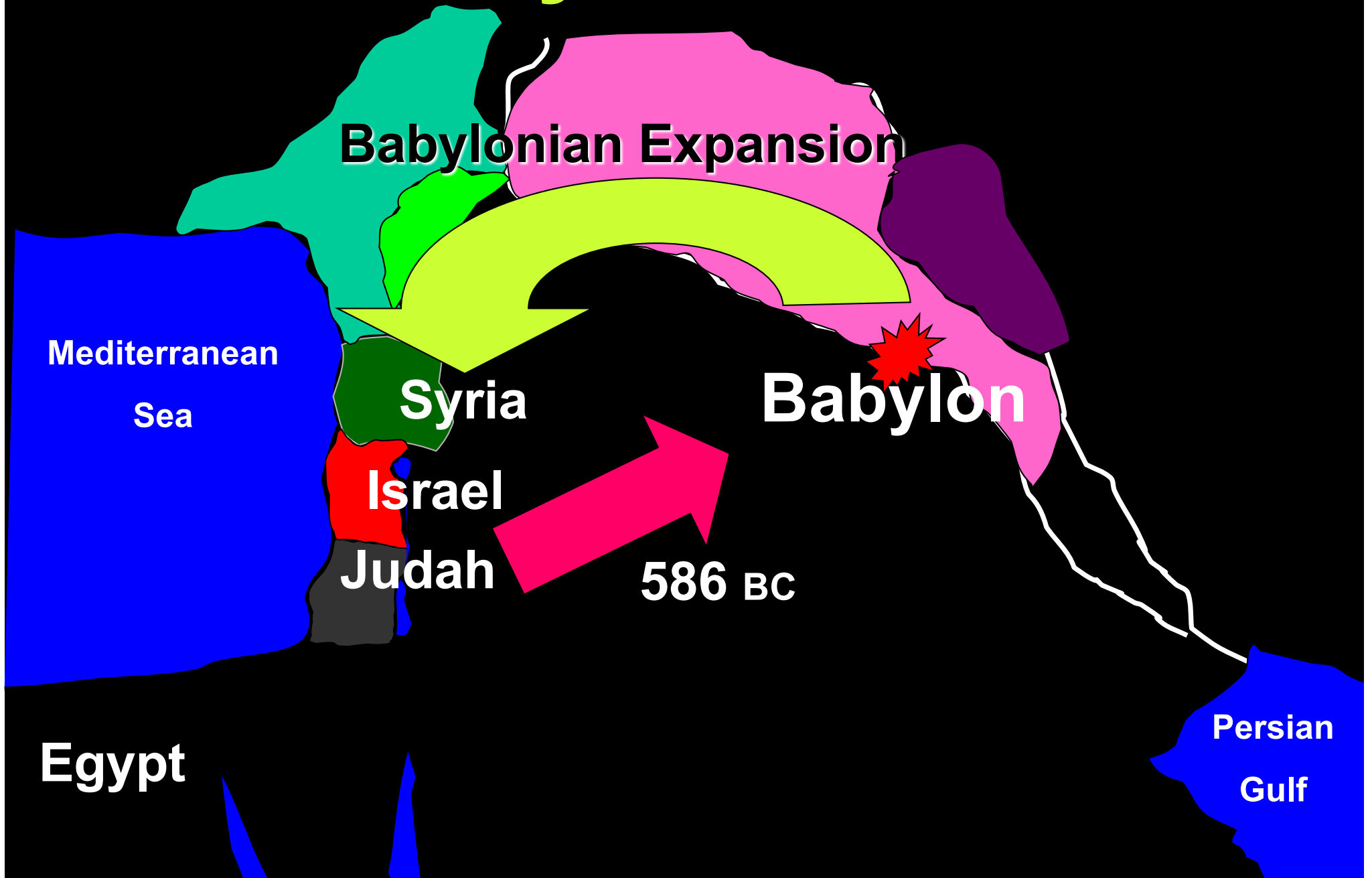
Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



The Babylonian Threat



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Summary of the Exiles

Sequence and Size	Date	King of Judah	Key Captives
1: Minor	605 BC	Jehoiakim	Daniel, 3 friends and other nobility and royalty (Dan 1:3)
2: Moderate	598 BC	Jehoiakim	3023 people (Jer 52:28)
3: Major	597 BC	Jehoiachin	10,000 (Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, Mordecai) (2 Kings 24:12b, Ezek. 1:2, Esther 2:6)
4: Minor	587 BC	Zedekiah	832 people (Jer 52:29)
5: Major (Temple Ruin)	586 BC	Zedekiah	ca. 10,400 people (2 Kings 25:11)
6: Minor	582 BC	-	745 people (Jer. 52:30)

Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Captives in Each Exile

Daniel 1:3 (605 BC)

And the king spoke to Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring in certain of the children of Israel, even of the **seed royal and of the nobles.**

2 Kings 24:14 (597 BC)

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

2 Kings 25:11 (586 BC)

And the residue of the people that were left in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the residue of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive. **But the captain of the guard left of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.**

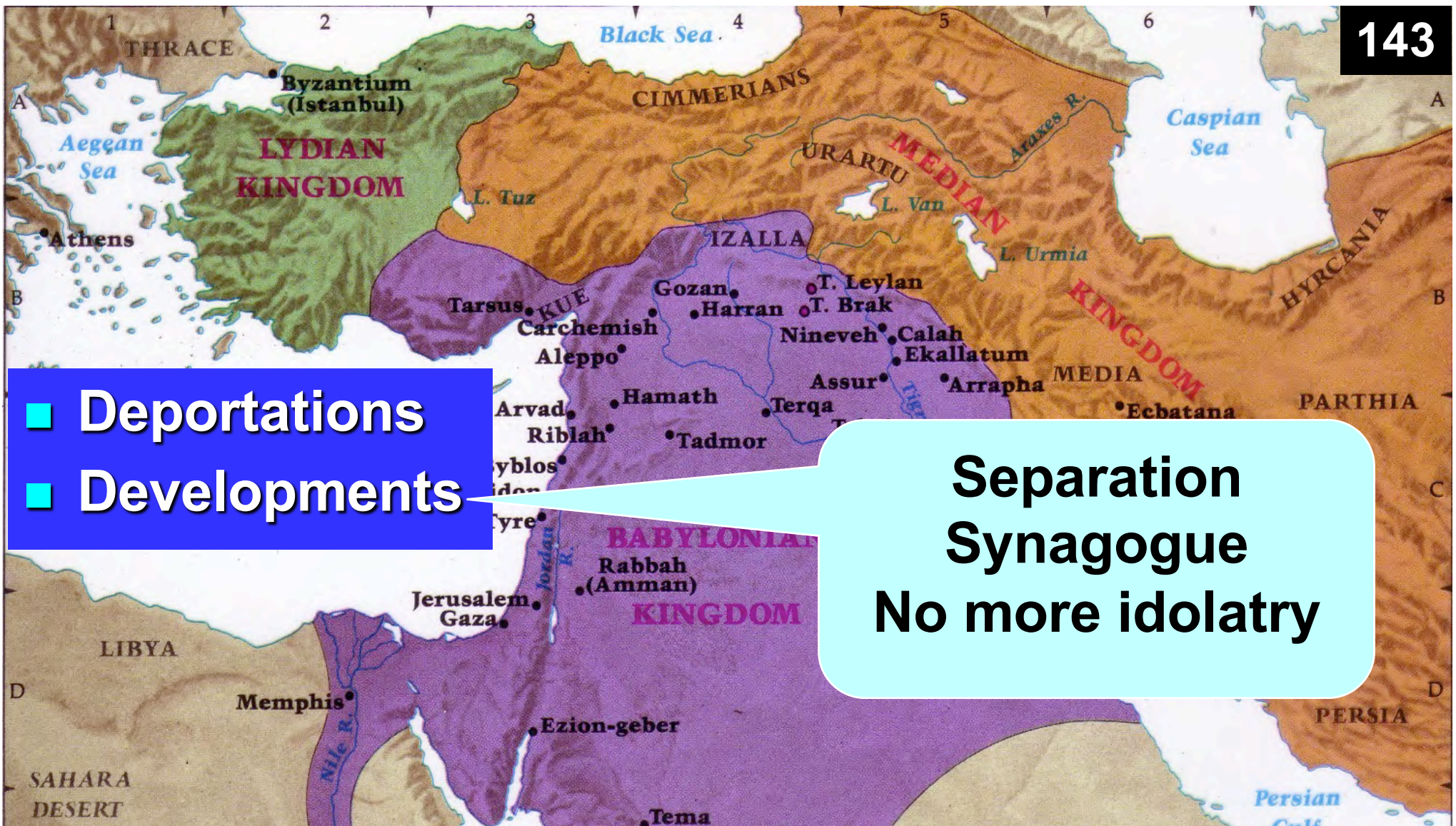
Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Chaldeans, only deported the most prominent citizens of Judah: professionals, priests, craftsmen, and the wealthy

Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)





- Deportations
- Developments

Separation
Synagogue
No more idolatry

Babylonian Rule over Israel

Pros due the Exile

PRESERVATION OF JUDAH'S NATIONAL HERITAGE

But the Jews in Babylon also creatively remade themselves and their world view. In particular, **they blamed the disaster of the Exile on their own impurity.**

Along with a theology of judgment, the prophets also had emphasized a **theology of salvation**. Ezekiel and Isaiah noted that the Israelites would be gathered together once more, their society and religion purified, and the unified Davidic kingdom be re-established.

Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Pros due the Exile

SEPARATION

Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down, yea, we wept,
When we remembered Zion. ...
How shall we sing Jehovah's
song In a foreign land?

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, Let
my right hand forget *her skill*.

Let my tongue cleave to the roof
of my mouth, If I remember thee
not; If I prefer not Jerusalem
above my chief joy.

IDOLATRY ELIMINATED

This period had a resurgence in Jewish tradition instead of idolatry, as the exiles looked back to their Mosaic origins to revive their original religion.

BABYLONIAN TALMUD

The Torah was copied during this time (or shortly afterward). It became the central text of the Jewish faith.

Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



Pros due the Exile

Dan 1:3-4

And the king spoke to Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring in *certain* of the children of Israel, even of the seed royal and of the nobles; that **he should teach them the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.**

“These prisoners joined other peoples previously enslaved to supplement the vast labor force employed in the **gigantic tasks of reconstruction and expansion** which were current in the empire”



Cons due to the Exile

Exposure to gross idolatry & immorality

Exposure to materialism

**...Not everybody went back to Jerusalem
when permission was granted...**

***It was a risky business to leave this wealthy country of
Babylon where they had established themselves...***

-The Bible as History

Before the Exile (- 605 BC)

The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC)

After the Exile (538 - BC)



ISRAEL & BABYLON

Materialism in the Exile

*The
Hanging
Gardens*



© M. Larrinaga

ISRAEL & BABYLON

Materialism in the Exile



The City of Babylon



Before the Exile (- 605 BC) The Exile Period (605 - 538 BC) After the Exile (538 - BC) 

ISRAEL & BABYLON

After the Exiles (Summary)

In 458 BC more Jews returned under the leadership of Ezra (Ezra 7). Then, 12 years later, Nehemiah returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and to govern Judea.

He arrived in 444 BC. Despite much opposition, Nehemiah completed this seemingly hopeless task in **52 days**.

Then a revival followed. ***Ezra and Nehemiah canonized the books of the Old Testament.*** They read aloud to the people and gave its interpretation.

About 40 years later, the prophet Malachi condemned the people for slipping back into their sinful ways.



TO REMEMBER

BABYLON

B - Babylonia (Geography)

A - Akkadian (Language)

B - Babel (Religion)

Y - Years of Judah's Captivity = 70 (Spiritual)

L - Lots of Trade (Economics)

O - Only 73 years long (History 612-539 BC)

N - Nebuchadnezzar (Military)

Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us



Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us



Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us



Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us



Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us



It must take incredible faith to believe in a God you can't see.

Not really.

Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us





American Idol™

FOX 17

fox17.com



Babylon's Materialism Cult

Trust in Riches

Glory in Wealth

Self Determination

Consumerism

Worship of Self

Pride & Greed



Democracy

&

Capitalism

Belshazzar Humbled



• Rembrandt

BABYLON FELL (539 BC)

Cyrus entered under the water gates



Daniel 5

(Belshazzar's Feast)



Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

144

“[Cyrus] placed a portion of his army at the point where the river enters the city, and another body at the back of the place where it issues forth, with orders to march into the town by the bed of the stream, as soon as the water became shallow enough: he then himself drew off with the unwarlike portion of his host, and made for the place where Nitocris dug the basin for the river, where he did exactly what she had done formerly: he turned the Euphrates by a canal into the basin, which was then a marsh, on which the river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable.

“Hereupon the Persians who had been left for the purpose at Babylon by the river-side, entered the stream, which had now sunk so as to reach about midway up a man's thigh, and thus got into the town.

The History of the Persian Wars 1.191 (430 BC)

Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

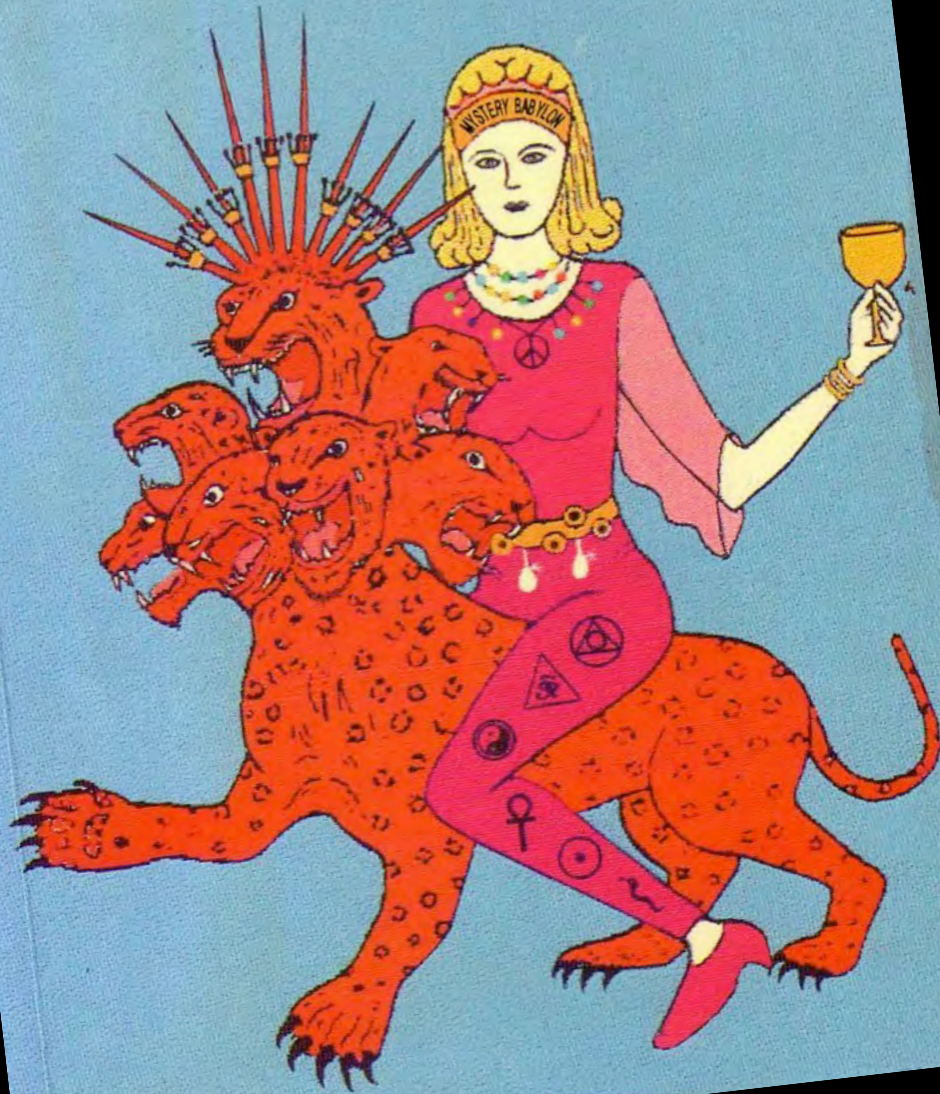
144

“Had the Babylonians been apprised of what Cyrus was about, or had they noticed their danger, they would never have allowed the Persians to enter the city, but would have destroyed them utterly; for they would have made fast all the street-gates which gave upon the river, and mounting upon the walls along both sides of the stream, would so have caught the enemy, as it were, in a trap. But, as it was, the Persians came upon them by surprise and so took the city. Owing to the vast size of the place, the inhabitants of the central parts (as the residents at Babylon declare) long after the outer portions of the town were taken, knew nothing of what had chanced, but as they were engaged in a festival, continued dancing and reveling until they learnt the capture but too certainly. Such, then, were the circumstances of the first taking of Babylon.”

The History of the Persian Wars 1.191 (430 BC)

Who is MYSTERY BABYLON?

Dr Chan Kai Lok



Babylon the Great
of the End Times
Rev. 17–18

What can we learn from Babylon?

- a) **Idols are useless.**
- b) **Affluence and materialism do not last.**
- c) **Avoid the influences of Babylon that exist today: religious formalism, Catholic traditions, etc.**
- d) **Avoid the Babylon of the future.**
- e) **Giving people the chance to fail may be the best way to see them succeed.**
 - 1. **God's forcing Judah into the most idolatrous country cured his people of their own idolatry.**
 - 2. **Be “in the world” rather than be a monk.**

BABYLON

THE CITY OF DOOM



Come out of her, My people

And never go back again

For all her vulgar vanities

Have been heaped as high as heaven

The nations drank her maddening wine

Now God remembered all her crimes

She'll be paid back double

For all that she has done

BABYLON

THE CITY OF DOOM

Fallen, Fallen is Babylon

Fallen, fallen, fallen is the city of doom

The queen of every dark desire

Fallen by famine, plague and fire

Fallen is Babylon

Fallen is the City of Doom

BABYLON

THE CITY OF DOOM

Never will the sound of a song

Be heard in you again

Nor the voice of the bride and the bridegroom

Nor the echo of the worker's din

Your merchants were the world's great men

By consumption's cult, your greed and sin

And you'll become a spectacle

They weep and mourn and cry

BABYLON

THE CITY OF DOOM

Fallen, Fallen is Babylon

Fallen, fallen, fallen is the city of doom

The queen of every dark desire

Fallen by famine, plague and fire

Fallen is Babylon

Fallen is the City of Doom

- Michael Card-



Adapted from the Presentation

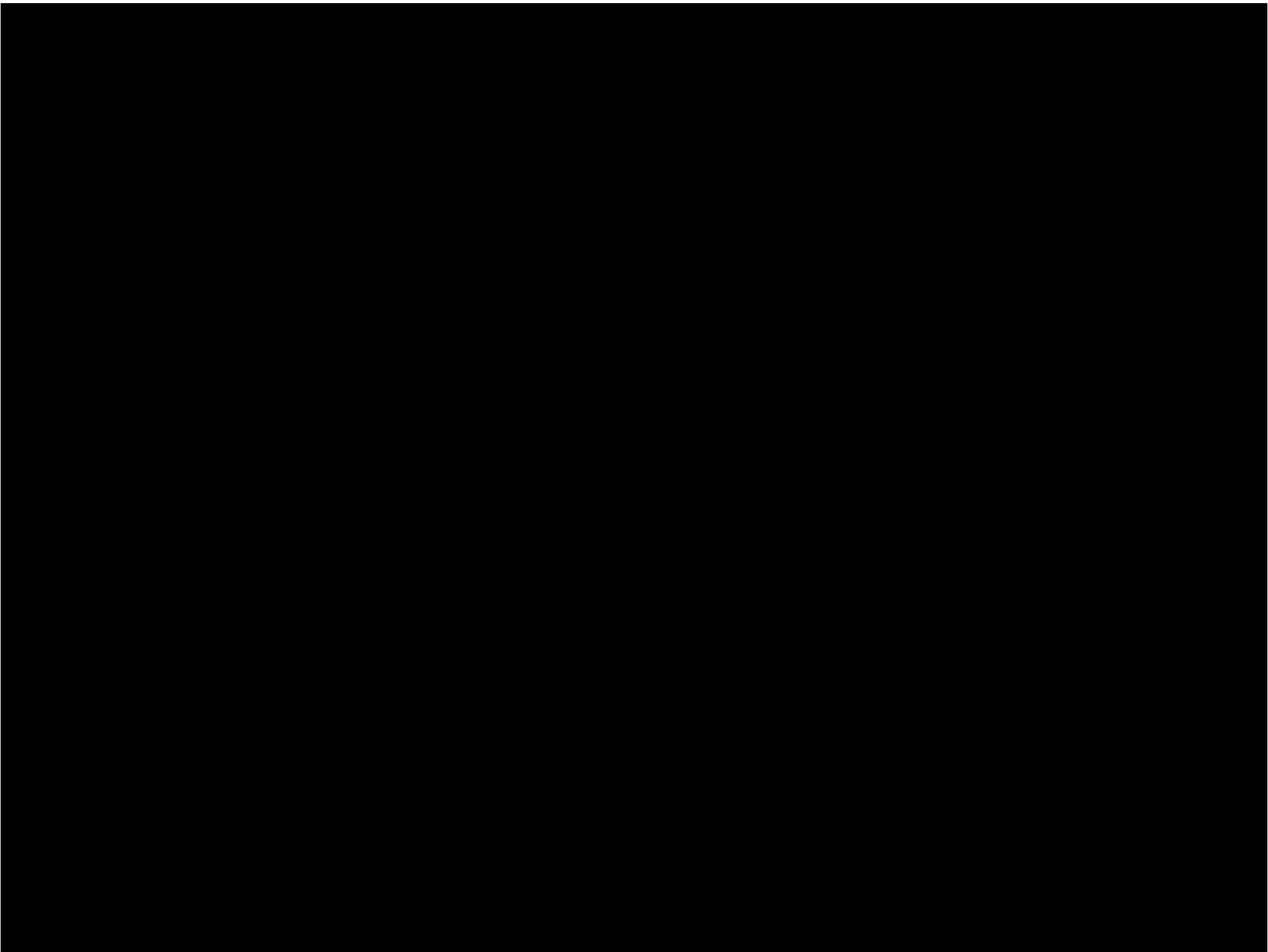
by

Ong Sim Chuan

Rick Toh

Michael Yeong

29 September 2001



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