

Babylon

Lots of Gold

- Isaiah 14:4 KJV - the golden city)
- Golden image of Baal and the Golden Table (both weighing over 50,000 lbs of solid gold.)
- 2 golden lions, a solid gold human figure (18 feet high)

Fortified

- The brick wall was 56 miles long, 300 feet high, 25 feet thick with another wall 75 feet behind the first wall, and the wall extended 35 feet below the ground
- 250 towers that were 450 feet high
- A wide and deep moat that encircled the city

Advanced

- The Euphrates River also flowed through the middle of the city. Ferry boats and a 1/2 mi. long bridge with drawbridges closed at night.
- If the Euphrates flooded, the gates would block off excess water, diverting water around the walls creating a moat of protection.
- 20 year food supply, not able to beat them with a siege (the method of battle at that time).
- "Hanging Gardens"(one of the wonders of the ancient world) and water was raised from the river by hydraulic pumps
- Eight massive gates that led to the inner city and 100 brass gates
- Streets were paved with stone slabs 3 feet square
- The great Tower (Ziggurat) and 53 temples including the "Great Temple of Marduk." 180 altars to Ishtar

Was Belsazar Nebuchadnezzar's son?

Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon from 605BC to 562BC. We know of two of his children: a son, Amel Marduk (known as Evil-Merodach in 2 Kings 25:27), and a daughter Nitocris.

Amel-Marduk succeeded Nebuchadnezzar as king. According to Berossus (Jos Ap 1.20), Amel-Marduk was killed in a coup. His brother-in-law, Neriglissar (probably the same as Nergal-Sharezer mentioned in Jeremiah 39:3,13 succeeded him. When Neriglissar died, his son Labashi-Marduk became king although still a child, but was assassinated after only 9 months.

Finally, Nabonidus, the son of a priestess, became king in 556 B.C. and married Nitocris (probably the queen in Daniel 5:10. Their eldest son Belshazzar was made regent and co-ruler with him. In about 550 B.C., Nabonidus moved to Arabia leaving Babylon in the hands of Belshazzar.

Another amazing prophecy of Jeremiah's fulfilled: Jer 27:7 that "all nations would serve him [Nebuchadnezzar], his son [Evil-Merodach] and his grandson [Belshazzar] until the time for his land comes." In the process, two sons-in-law (Neriglissar and Nabonidus) and another grandson (Labashi-Marduk) also reigned.

Belshazzar also offered and gave Daniel the position of third highest ruler in Babylon in 539 B.C. (Daniel 5:16, 29)

Kings of Babylon

Nabopolassar	626–605
Nebuchadnezzar	605–561
Evil-Merodach	561–560
Neriglissar	560–556
Labashi-Marduk	556
Nabonidus	556–539
Belshazzar	553–539

Cyrus and the Fall of Babylon

Isaiah 13-14 - prophecies about Babylon's fall.

v17 - God is stirring up the Medes against them

v19-21 - Babylon will be destroyed and never inhabited again

Approximately 150 years before Cyrus is born:

Isaiah 45:1 - Cyrus called by name and will subdue nations, 'the gates will not be shut'.

The gates were open that night when they marched through. The Babylonians were drunk and left them open by mistake.

Isaiah 44:27-28 - Cyrus will dry up the rivers.

Cyrus was ~1 mile up the river. They diverted the water so the water would go into the riverbed vs. around the walls.

Silver is inferior to Gold, so is Medo-Persia to Babylon.

References

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