

Daniel:

God's Divine Ambassador



New Hope
Baptist Church
Winter Bible Study 2010

Tigris & Euphrates



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Mesopotamia

- ❖ Greek: “Land between the rivers”
- ❖ Climate of Mesopotamia: hot and dry
- ❖ Almost no rain between May and October
- ❖ Winters are far cooler
- ❖ Most of the valley receives less than 12 inches of rain a year
- ❖ Northern mountainous areas receive an average of between 12 and 24 inches of rain annually
- ❖ Heavily reliant on flooding
- ❖ No natural boundaries

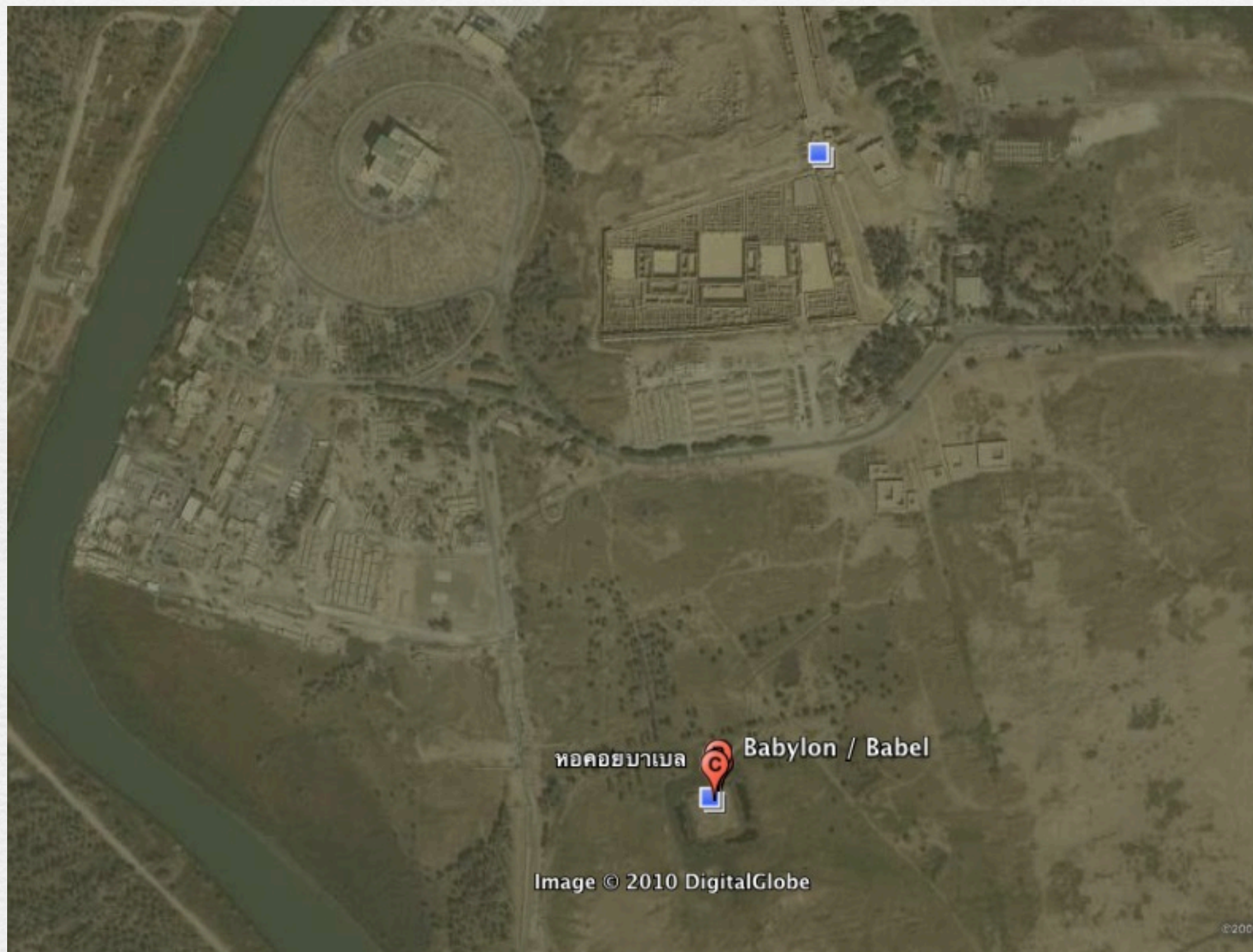
Babylon in Scripture

- ❖ First mention in Scripture: Genesis 10:10 as part of Nimrod's kingdom ("land of Shinar")
- ❖ Genesis 11, Tower of Babel
 - ❖ Hebrews saw the confusion of languages as a curse; Babylonians saw the profusion of languages as a sign of their cosmopolitanism
- ❖ Genesis 14: Chedorlaomer, king of Elam captured Lot, then routed by Abraham
 - ❖ Accompanied by "Amraphel king of Shinar"
 - ❖ Possibly Hammurabi
- ❖ 2 Kings 20:12: Babylonian emissaries visited Hezekiah
 - ❖ Hezekiah showed them everything; bad move

Ancient Babylon

- ❖ Inherited a culture dating back to c. 3500 B.C.
- ❖ First kings date back to c. 2500 B.C.
- ❖ History lost in myth; kings list includes kings who supposedly ruled for millennia before the Flood
- ❖ Fought with Assyria for centuries

Babylon



Political History

- ❖ Dominated by almost constant warfare between the cities of the area
- ❖ Sargon I of Akkad (ruled 2370-2316 B.C.) conquered the region and united it into the short-lived Akkadian Empire
 - ❖ Semite from northern Mesopotamia
 - ❖ First world empire
 - ❖ Akkadian became the lingua franca of the region for the next 1,500 years until the time of the Neo-Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar

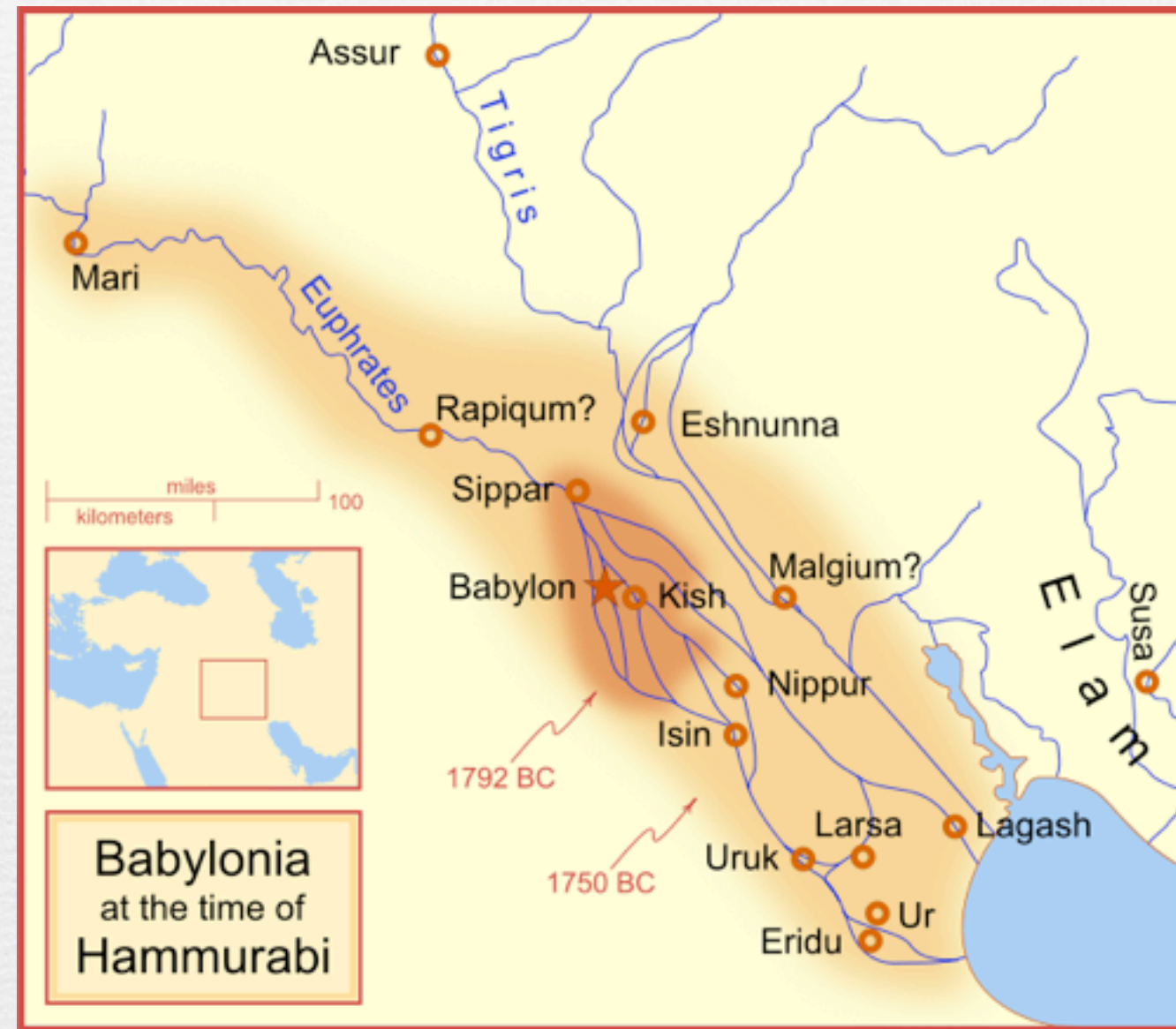
Akkadian Empire



Source: Wikipedia.org

Babylon: Hammurabi

- ❖ Sixth in line of Amorite (Semetic) kings ruling Babylon
- ❖ Conquered Mesopotamia in c. 1792 and ruled for nearly 60 years
- ❖ Babylon was a literate society
- ❖ Hammurabi's palace had indoor plumbing, hot and cold running water, 245 rooms, and sherbet on the menu
- ❖ Babylonians knew the world was round, they knew the basic orbits of the planets and moons



Babylon: Hammurabi

- ❖ Hammurabi's greatest contribution: Code of Hammurabi
 - ❖ "Received" from god Shamash
 - ❖ Code eliminated tribal justice (blood feuds, private retribution) and replaced it with state enforcement of violations
 - ❖ Many of Hammurabi's laws called for the death penalty



After Hammurabi

- ❖ The Babylonian Empire fell to the Hittites from the area of modern Turkey, c. 1530 B.C.
- ❖ Hittites introduced iron and wheeled chariots to the area
- ❖ Hittites preferred to rule through local rulers, establishing treaties with the rulers that resembled covenants
- ❖ The 10 Commandments in Exodus actually resemble a Hittite sovereignty treaty
 - ❖ Hittite Empire lasted from c. 1700 B.C until it crumbled in c. 1200 B.C.

Assyrian Rule

- ❖ Assyrians originated in northern Mesopotamia
- ❖ First conquered Babylon c. 1225 B.C.
 - ❖ Took idol of Marduk to their capital; Babylonians rose in revolt, burning the Assyrian king to death and freeing the Babylonian rulers
- ❖ 1115 B.C.: took Babylon again (respected the gods this time)
- ❖ 722 B.C.: Sargon II conquered northern Israel
- ❖ Sennacherib: ruled 705-681 B.C.
 - ❖ 701 B.C.: Invaded Judah, besieged Jerusalem (2 Kings 18-19)
 - ❖ 689 B.C.: Destroyed Babylon after a revolt
 - ❖ Assassinated by 2 of his sons: subjects believed his death was the result of the gods' anger over Babylon

Assyrian Rule



Source: Wikipedia.org, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Map_of_Assyria.png

Neo-Babylonians

- ❖ Nabopolassar (father of the biblical Nebuchadnezzar) 626 B.C.-605 B.C.
 - ❖ Allied with Medes and destroyed Nineveh in 612 B.C.
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar: 605 B.C.-562 B.C.
 - ❖ 605 B.C.: Destroyed last Assyrian army at Carchemish
 - ❖ Married Median princess to cement peace with Medo-Persian Empire

Nebuchadnezzar

- ❖ Built Babylon into a world capital
 - ❖ Ishtar Gate
 - ❖ Hanging Gardens: built for Median wife
 - ❖ Processional Way: imported limestone, cut into 3 1/2 foot squares, used it to build a road with his name inscribed on each block (65 feet wide in some places)
- ❖ Palace: walls 136 feet thick in places; each brick in the outer wall contained his name
 - ❖ used cedar imported from Lebanon
 - ❖ largest courtyard: 190 feet by 185 feet

Nebuchadnezzar

- ❖ Ziggurat: “The House of the Foundation of Heaven and Earth”
- ❖ 380 feet square, 300 feet high, 7 stages:
 - ❖ The first stage was white
 - ❖ The second stage (260 feet square) was black
 - ❖ The third stage (200 feet) was blue
 - ❖ The fourth stage (170 feet) was yellow
 - ❖ The fifth stage (140 feet) was silver
 - ❖ The sixth stage was (unknown)
 - ❖ The seventh stage (90 feet by 70 feet) was gold

Neo-Babylonia



Neo-Babylonians

- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar succeeded by internal unrest
 - ❖ His son was murdered by his brother-in-law
- ❖ Last emperor: Nabonidus, 556-539:
 - ❖ No desire to rule an empire, preferring to stay at an oasis worshiping the moon god instead
 - ❖ Left Babylon in the charge of his son, Belshazzar
- ❖ 539 B.C.: Persians took Babylon
 - ❖ This conquest came in spite of Babylon's immense walls: they were 11 miles long, 65 feet wide, and 85 feet high

Neo-Babylonians



Neo-Babylonians

