

# *ARTIFACTS THAT MATTER*

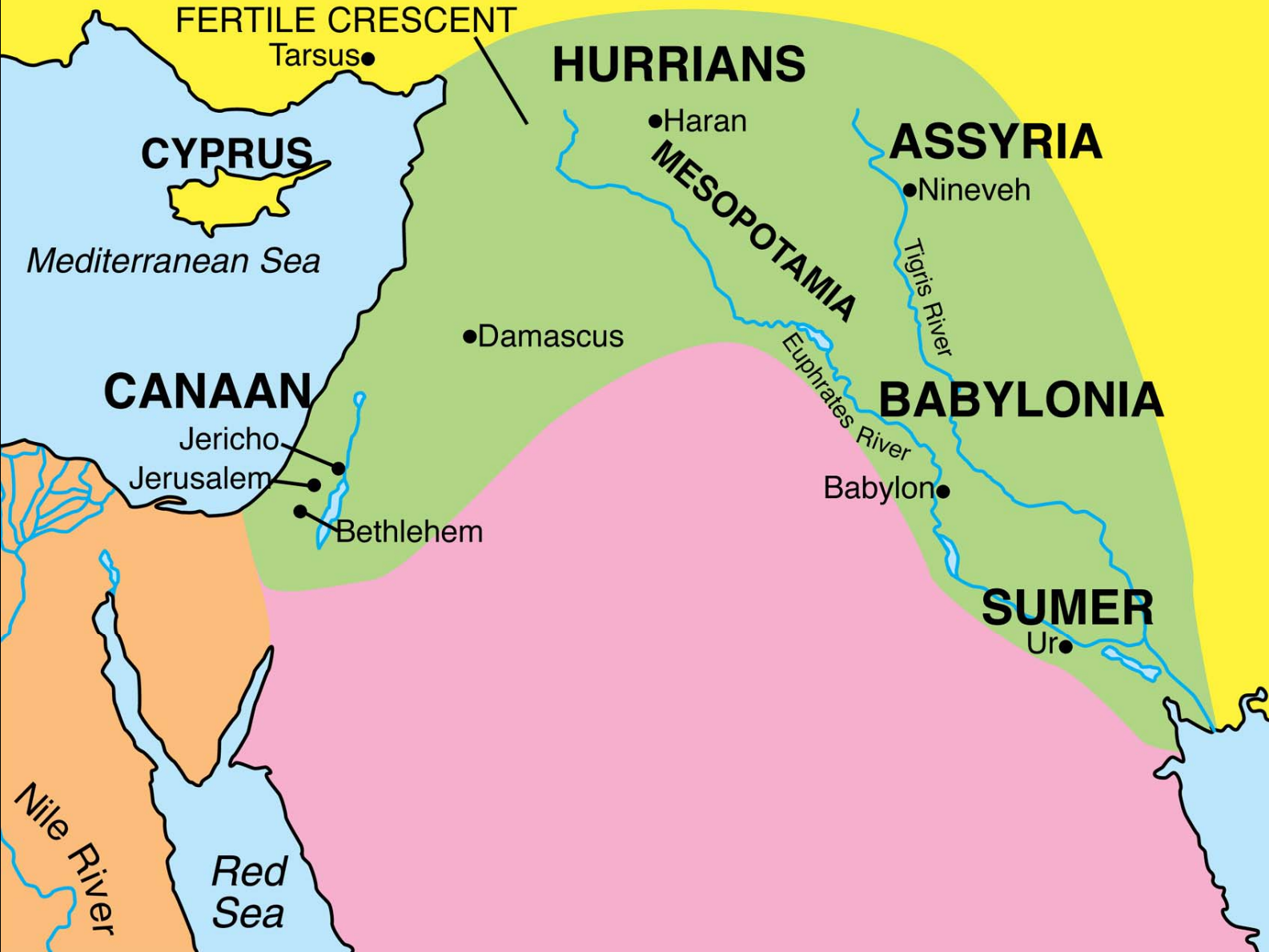
## *THE BIBLE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM*

### *Part 5 Babylon*

# *Purpose of this series*

- *Support the Bible*
  - *Real places*
  - *Real people*
  - *Real events*
  - *Accurate descriptions*
- *Better understand the Bible*
- *To understand that more knowledge of history enriches our understanding of the Bible.*





FERTILE CRESCENT

Tarsus

HURRIANS

CYPRUS

Mediterranean Sea

Haran

MESOPOTAMIA

ASSYRIA

Nineveh

Tigris River

Damascus

Euphrates River

CANAAN

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

BABYLONIA

Babylon

SUMER

Ur

Nile River

Red Sea





*Baal, the storm god*

*"It came about as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son became king in his place."*

*II Kings 19:37*













Eventually the g  
flood to drown  
of wisdom, Enki  
warned his devo  
of what was to b  
enabling him to p  
which he, his his  
animals were sav  
1625 BC, Year 12  
King Assurnasirpal  
Probably from the  
of the



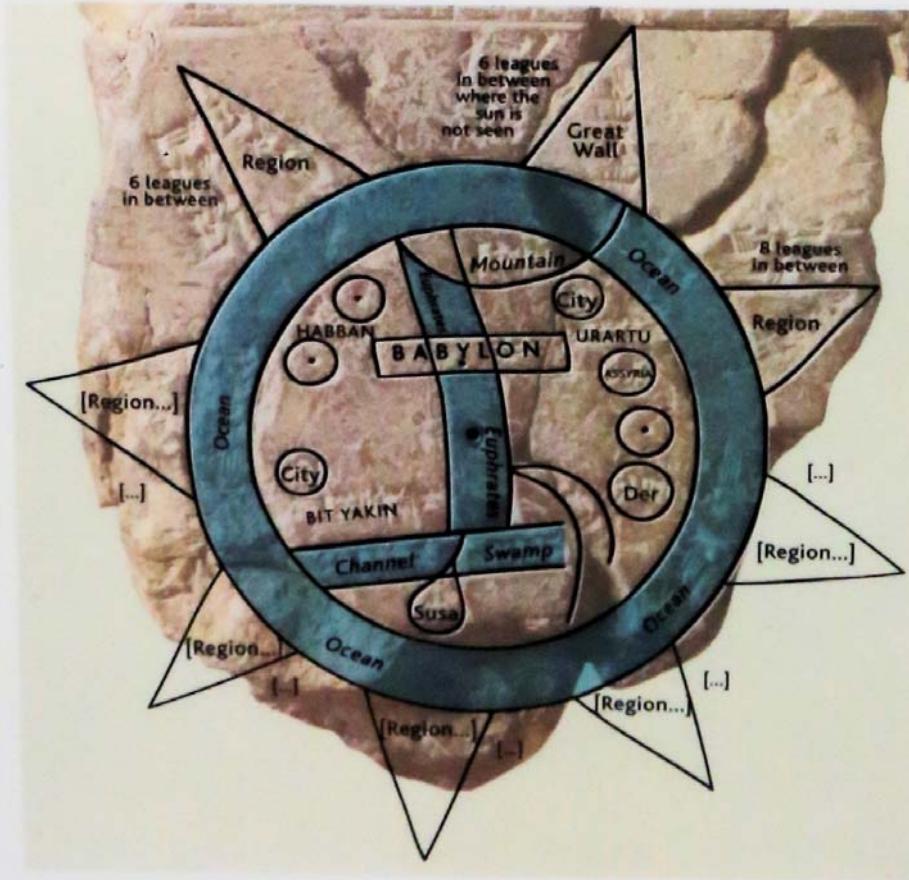


Diagram showing the features of the Babylonian map of the world



# *THE FLOOD MYTHS*

- *There are more than just these.*
- *Striking similarities to the Bible*
- *Some think the Bible copied these myths.*
- *BUT, if there really was a flood, wouldn't stories about it be in more than just the Bible?*



## The Tower of Babel

The monumental ziggurat (temple-tower), Etemenanki, was rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar II. His tower had seven levels and was used by the king to get as close as possible to Marduk, god of Babylon. The great building inspired the description of the Tower of Babel in the biblical Book of Genesis (11:1–9).

*'Then they said, "come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens..."*



*Mentions Nebuchadnezzar's officer, Nabu-sharussu-ukin.*



*Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sar-ezer of Samgar, Nebu-sar-sekim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, with all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon.*

*Jeremiah 39:3 (ESV)*

## Nebuchadnezzar's right hand man

The Chief Eunuch Nabu-sharussu-ukin, *rab sha-reshi*, donated gold to the Marduk Temple at Babylon. His name and title occur as Nebo-Sarsekim, *rab-saris*, in Hebrew in the Book of Jeremiah. He probably met the Prophet Jeremiah at Nebuchadnezzar's second capture of Jerusalem in 587 BC.

*Reign of Nebuchadnezzar II, 605–562 BC*

*From Babylon, southern Iraq*

ME 114789







*Compare to II Kings 24:8-17*



*The king "encamped against the city of Judah and on the second day of the month of Adar, he seized the city and captured the king. He appointed there a king of his own choice, received its heavy tribute and sent [them] to Babylon."*

## Babylon and the Bible

Babylon features prominently in the Old Testament. Some cuneiform texts overlap with biblical narratives concerning Nebuchadnezzar II's campaigns in Judah. In both 597 BC and 587 BC the Judaeans were taken to Babylon as part of Nebuchadnezzar's efforts to control the area, beginning the 'Babylonian Captivity'.

*'By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept  
when we remembered Zion...'*

Psalms 137: 1-4

*Prayer of the imprisoned son of Nebuchadnezzar.*



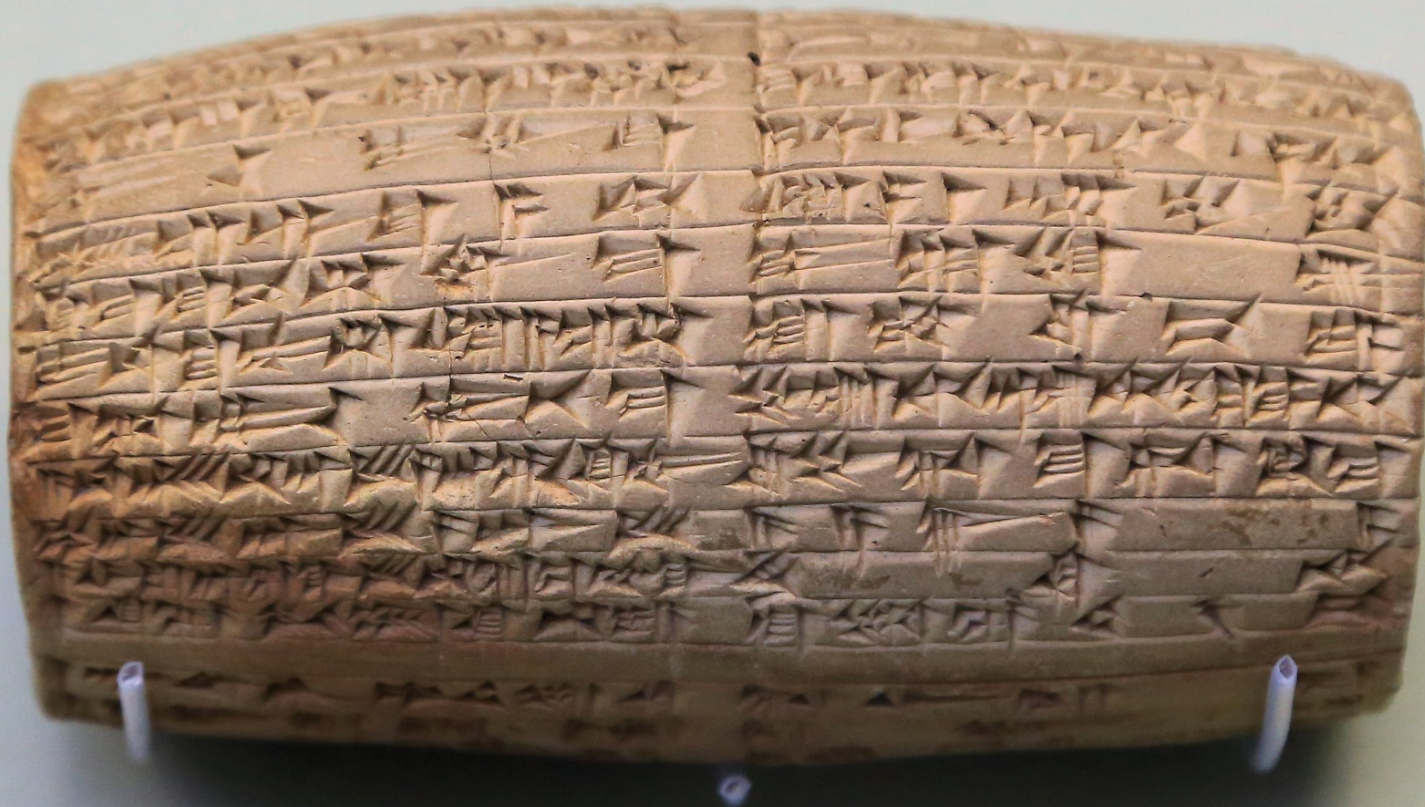
the ambitious  
nezzar  
a. In Babylon  
ace, and the  
d gates.

*Once released from prison, he changes his name. He becomes king and is mentioned in II Kings 25:27 where he releases Jehoichin from prison.*

During the reign  
Babylon fell to  
Nabonidus' reign  
His unpopularity  
Nabonidus and



*THE NABONIDUS CYLINDER*



# *THE NABONIDUS CYLINDER*

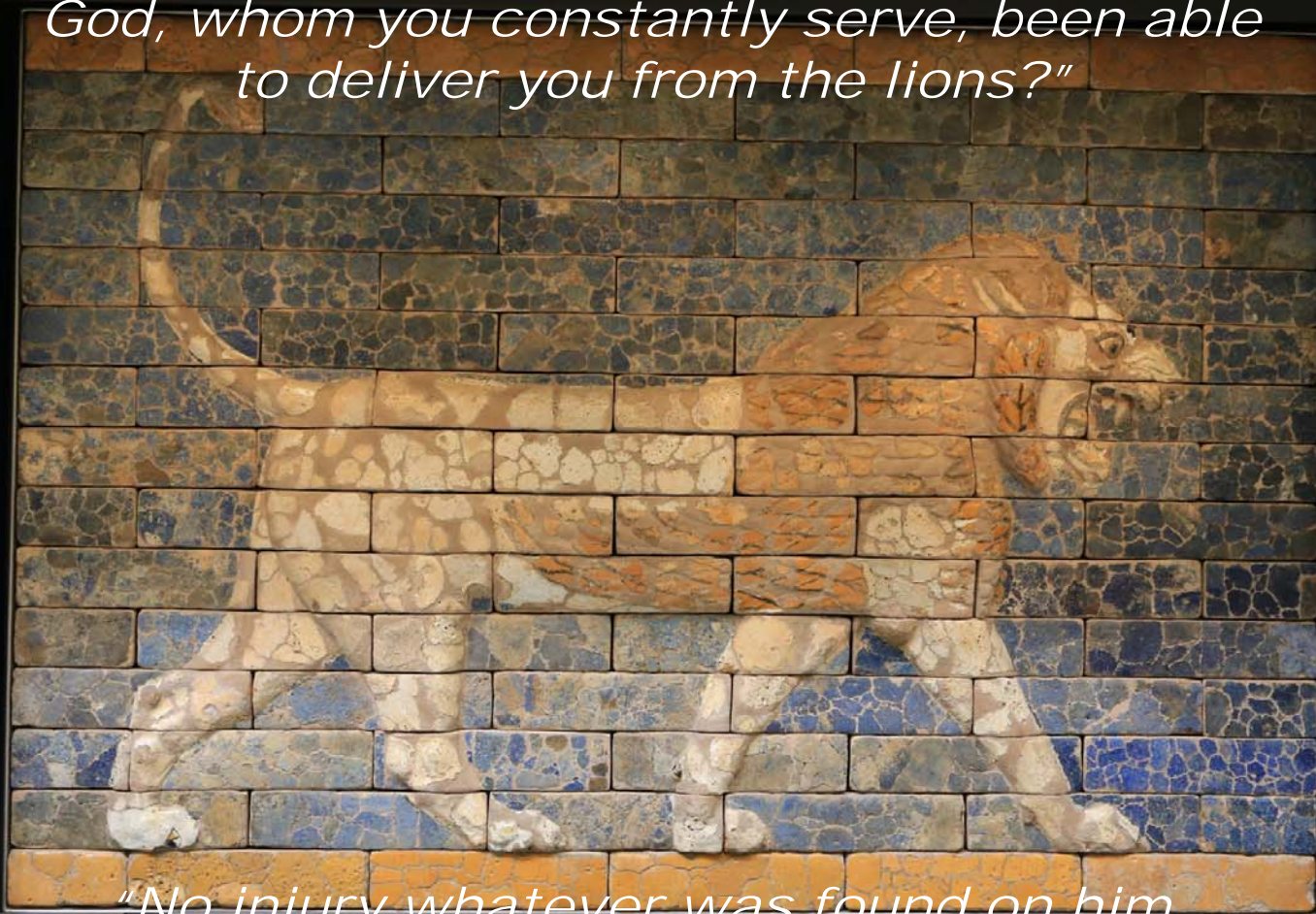
- *Discovered in 1854.*
- *First extra-biblical reference to Belshazzar.*
- *He was son of Nabonidus and served as co-king because Nabonidus was frequently in Arabia.*

# *THE NABONIDUS CYLINDER*

- 1. Confirms Daniel's account which was widely thought to be of an imagined person (Dan. 5:1)*
- 2. Explains why Daniel was made third in command (Dan. 5:16)*
- 3. Resolves an apparent contradiction. Other records state that Cyrus captured the king of Babylon and Daniel states the king was killed (Dan. 5:30). Turns out, both happened.*



*"Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?"*



*"No injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God."*

