

SERMON NOTES

The City of Babylon

The city of Babylon reached its zenith under Nebuchadnezzar II (Nebuchadnezzar of Scripture, who reigned 605–562 B.C.). He restored and enlarged it, making it the largest city seen in the world up to that time. The Euphrates River flowed through it, with the oldest quarter of the city lying on the east bank of the river. The city was surrounded by a city wall with fortified gates that were named after the various Babylonian deities. The Esagila Complex on the east bank of the Euphrates contained the Temple of Marduk with its associated seven-story ziggurat Etemenanki.

From Esagila, the Processional Way (its walls lined with glazed bricks with representations of lions) led to the Ishtar Gate (which was decorated with glazed brick reliefs of dragons and young bulls). Beside the Ishtar Gate stood two immense fortified palaces. A bridge led over the Euphrates to the western part of the city. No evidence of the famed Hanging Gardens of Babylon has been found, but if anything like this was ever constructed here, it would have been during this time, at the height of the city's splendor. The city was captured by Cyrus the Persian in 539 B.C.

Explicit References to Dates in Daniel

Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar's 1st year	605 B.C.	ch. 1
	Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd year	604	ch. 2
	Nebuchadnezzar's reign	605–562	chs. 3–4
	Belshazzar's 1st year	550	ch. 7
	Belshazzar's 3rd year	548	ch. 8
	Belshazzar's last year	539	ch. 5
Persia	Cyrus's 3rd year	536	chs. 10–12
	Darius's 1st year	522	ch. 9
	Darius's reign	522–486	ch. 6



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

GOD

This is God's world. He made it and is in charge of it. God has declared his Son, Jesus, to be in charge of his world. We know this because God brought Jesus back to life again after he was dead. Jesus has the right to run our lives. He is our rightful ruler.

US

Everyone is rebellious to the fact that Jesus should run their lives. They may express this in open hostility, or by passive indifference. In either case, the rebellion is real.

GOD

God calls on us to stop rebelling and to turn back and submit to Jesus as our rightful Ruler.

WHAT IF I DON'T?

If a person will not submit to Jesus, but continues to rebel, in the end they will be overthrown because Jesus really is Ruler in God's world, and the rightful Ruler in each person's life.

WHAT IF I DO?

If a person does stop rebelling and turns back to submit to Jesus as their Ruler, they are treated as if they had never rebelled. They are forgiven because of the death of Jesus on their behalf.



***“The Beast
and Beauty”***

Daniel 7

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