

THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 9: THE FALL OF BABYLON AND THE RISE OF
PERSIA . . . *HISTORY*

MEMORY. Memorize in order the world empires that interact with the Jews: Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. (For an additional challenge, know when—in general—these empires ruled: Assyria [900–600 BC], Babylon [600–550 BC], Medo-Persia [550–330 BC], Greece [330–150 BC], and Rome [150 BC–450 AD].)

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READING. Read Dan 5. After doing your reading, in the space below write down something that you found to be interesting or important. It can be something that you have never noticed before or something that you want to remember and apply.

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DISCUSSION.

1. *Babylon*. Before the rise of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, what are some biblical references to Babylon (i.e., Shinar, Chaldea)?

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DISCUSSION.

1. *Babylon.* The kings of the Neo-Babylonian Empire were Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC), Amel-Marduk (561-560 BC), Neriglissar (559-556 BC), Nabonidus (556-539 BC), and Belshazzar (549-539 BC). Which of these kings does Scripture mention? (Optional: Where does Scripture mention Babylon after the fall of Neo-Babylon?)

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DISCUSSION.

2. *Fall.* What had Isaiah prophesied concerning the fall of Babylon? (Isa 13:17-22) What had Jeremiah prophesied? (Jer 51:11-14) According to Daniel, why did God give the Babylonians into the hand of the Medes and the Persians? (Dan 5:18-28) (Optional: Investigate how the Medes and Persians may have gained access to Babylon to kill Belshazzar.)

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DISCUSSION.

3. *Persia*. God had promised to raise up a shepherd and anointed one named what? (Isa 44:28; 45:1; cf. vv. 2-7) What did Cyrus do for the Jews (and for other subdued peoples) under his rule? (2 Chron 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-11) Who became the king of Babylon after the fall of the Chaldeans? (Dan 5:31)

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CONNECTION. Though he was a pagan, how does Cyrus foreshadow Jesus?

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APPLICATION. Belshazzar did not learn from the mistakes of Nebuchadnezzar. He became prideful and irreverent. What are some ways that you struggle with pride? Ask God to help you overcome pride, give others permission to point out when you are acting prideful, and serve someone other than yourself this week.