

# A Picture of Babylon

LESSON 04

PEOPLE.  
PLACES.  
A GREATER STORY.

## 1 INTRODUCTION — MORE THAN A PLACE ON A MAP

For the past few weeks, we have spent some time in Babylon. We watched Daniel and his friends carried away from Jerusalem into exile. We listened as Jeremiah wrote to God's people and told them to build houses, plant gardens, raise families, and seek the good of the city. Last week, we stood with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as everyone around them bowed before Nebuchadnezzar's image.



**JERUSALEM**  
CARRIED AWAY  
INTO EXILE



**JEREMIAH**  
BUILD, PLANT,  
SEEK THE GOOD



**SHADRACH,  
MESHACH, ABEDNEGO**  
REFUSED TO BOW



**BABYLON**  
A REAL CITY.  
A BIGGER PICTURE.

Babylon was an ancient empire. It fell more than 2,500 years ago. You may be asking, why are we spending so much time in Babylon? That's a good question. I'm glad you asked.

As we follow the story of Scripture, we discover that Babylon becomes much more than a place on a map. Babylon was a real city and a real empire, but over time, Babylon also becomes a picture.

And to understand that picture, we have to go back much farther than Daniel. We have to go back to the garden.

### NOTES

## 2 EAST OF EDEN — A GOOD CREATION AND A DANGEROUS CHOICE



### GOD CREATES

Humanity in his image, placed in a garden, provided for, with purpose and responsibility.



### TWO TREES

Including "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9).



### THE SERPENT TEMPTS

"You will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5).



### HUMANITY CHOOSES

They take wisdom on their own terms (Genesis 3:6).



### EXILE BEGINS

"So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden..." (Genesis 3:23).

### NOTES

## A PATTERN THAT REPEATS



Sin is crouching at your door. You must rule over it. (Genesis 4:7)



Cain goes east and builds a city.  
(Genesis 4:16)



Let us build a city... make a name for ourselves. (Genesis 11:1-4)



Human wisdom. Human greatness.  
A world without God.

## ISRAEL JOINS THE STORY



Idolatry. Ignoring God's warnings.  
Exile.



Nebuchadnezzar comes against Jerusalem. Vessels are taken to the land of Shinar. (Daniel 1:1-2)



Humanity → Shinar → Babylon → Israel.  
Babylon is more than a place. It's a picture.

THE EMPIRE FALLS,  
THE IMAGE REMAINS



Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel. A real empire.



In 539 BC, the Persians conquer Babylon.



Used throughout Scripture,  
including 1 Peter and Revelation.



Human life, power, security, wisdom,  
and glory apart from God's reign.

OUR HOPE  
IN KING JESUS



A kingdom that will never be destroyed.  
(Daniel 7:13–14)



To trust the King. To live in hope. To be part  
of his kingdom that will never fall.

## LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

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