

THE ANCIENT VINEYARD

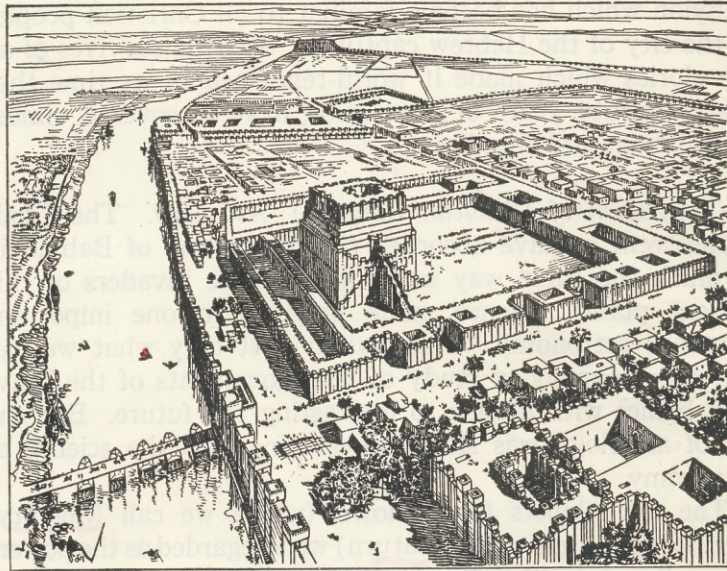


FIG. 28. The Restoration of the City of Babylon in the Age of Nebuchadnezzar

The tower (cf. page 78) in the foreground shows the position of the great temple of Marduk, surrounded by other buildings and temples of the sacred quarter in the southern section of the city. The group of buildings in the background, by the first bend in the river, is the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, with its Hanging Gardens. On the east (right) side of the temple quarter the Procession Street runs northward to connect with the palace and the Ishtar Gate on the east (right) side of the palace (see *Ancient Times*, Plate II). The Euphrates, flowing along the west (left) side of the city, is crossed by a bridge, the oldest passenger bridge known to us, dating from the sixth century B.C. Its ruinous piers still stand in the now dry bed of the Euphrates. A campaign of over eighteen years' excavation by the Germans under Koldewey has made this restoration possible. (Drawing after Koldewey)

and forming lofty roof gardens, crowned the roof of the emperor's gorgeous palace. Here, in the cool shade of palms and ferns, the great king might enjoy his idle hours, looking down upon the splendors of his city. These roof gardens were the mysterious "Hanging Gardens of Babylon," whose fame spread far into the West until they were numbered by the Greeks among the Seven Wonders of the World. The city was immensely extended by Nebuchadnezzar, and enormous fortified walls were built to protect it. It was this Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar whose marvels more than a century later so impressed the Greek historian Herodotus. This too is the

Babylon which has become familiar to all Christian peoples as the city of the Hebrew captivity. So little survives of all the glories which made it world-renowned in its time that nearly twenty years of excavation have discovered almost no buildings still standing.

Civilization of Chaldean Babylon: Astrology. The Chaldeans seem to have absorbed the civilization of Babylonia in much the same way as earlier Semitic invaders of this ancient plain. Science made progress in one important branch — astronomy. This was at first only what we call astrology, namely, a study of the movements of the heavenly bodies with a view to forecasting the future. But the art of astrology was slowly developing into the science of astronomy.

The five planets then known (which we call Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn) were regarded as the powers especially controlling the fortunes of men, and as such the five leading Babylonian divinities were identified with these five heavenly bodies. The names of these Babylonian divinities have come down to us as the names of the planets. But on their way to us through Europe the ancient Babylonian names were translated into Roman forms. So the planet of Ishtar, the goddess of love, became Venus, while that of Marduk, the great god of Babylon, became Jupiter, and so on.

Chaldean astrology has also left an indelible mark on our calendar in the names which we apply to the days of the week. The five planets just mentioned, together with the sun and the moon, make up a group of seven celestial bodies, each of which was an important divinity. As Chaldean temple worship spread into Syria it became customary finally to recite the ritual and sing the praise of each god on a certain particular day. Thus the worship of each one of these seven divinities came around every seventh day. The name of the god worshiped on that day was finally transferred to the day itself. In this way the day which was devoted to the Sun-god became Sun-day, the day sacred to the Moon became Mon-day, and so on through the week, until the last day, sacred to Saturn, was called Satur-day. As our language

SUNDAY AFTER BIRTHDAY 25 DEC.
BAAL BABYLONIAN RELIGION THEIR GODS
CALL EASTER IN SPRING OF YEAR

The King of Babylon the system All nations DRUNK.

GOING TO BE DESTROYED