

### 23.07 Jehoiakim's End; Second Deportation; Jehoiachin [Jeconiah, Coniah]<sup>19</sup> ☹; Third Deportation (2 Kings 24:1–16; 2 Chronicles 36:5–10; Jeremiah 24:1–7; 22:1–30)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud; they also show answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional materials needed. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- White flag of surrender
- Document 23.07a at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org) for a depiction of 1000 men
- If you have room, before teaching, plot out the 25-foot thickness of Babylon's wall.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to pardon*: forgiveness
- *to besiege*: to surround a city in order eventually to conquer it by keeping food and water from its inhabitants
- *to surrender*: to say, “I give up; I won't fight.”
- *craftsmen*: people who can make buildings, artistic works, etc.
- *smiths*: people who can make things with metals
- *deportation*: taking people out of their land to another land. In the new land the people are called *exiles*.
- *moat*: a canal of water around a city that keeps enemies from getting close. It's hard to build a ramp over a canal, and it's hard to climb a wall that has water next to it.

#### Scripture: (ESV)

Jeremiah 22:13 [Regarding Jehoiakim], “Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages, 14 who says, ‘I will build myself a great house with spacious upper rooms,’ who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar and painting it with vermilion. 15 Do you think you are a king because you compete in cedar? . . . 17 But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.”

2 Kings 24:1 In his days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him. 2 And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by his servants the prophets. 3 Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the Lord, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, 4 and also for the innocent blood that he had shed. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the Lord would not pardon.

2 Chronicles 36:6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon. 7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried part of the vessels of the house of the Lord to Babylon and put them in his palace in Babylon.

Jeremiah 22:18 Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: “They shall not lament for him, saying, ‘Ah, my brother!’ or ‘Ah, sister!’ They shall not lament for him, saying, ‘Ah, lord!’ or ‘Ah, his majesty!’ 19 With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried, dragged and dumped beyond the

gates of Jerusalem.”

2 Kings 24:6—So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

2 Chronicles 36:9 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. 10 In the spring of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with the precious vessels of the house of the Lord, and made his brother Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Kings 24:10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it, 12 and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself and his mother and his servants and his officials and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign 13 and carried off all the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the Lord, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the Lord had foretold. 14 He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land. 15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16 And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valor, 7,000, and the craftsmen and the metal workers, 1,000, all of them strong and fit for war.

Jeremiah 24:1 After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, together with the officials of Judah, the craftsmen, and the metal workers, and had brought them to Babylon, the Lord showed me this vision [of the two baskets of figs]. 4 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 5 “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. 6 I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up. 7 I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 22: 6 For thus says the Lord concerning the house of the king of Judah: “You are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon, yet surely I will make you a desert, an uninhabited city. 7 I will prepare destroyers against you, each with his weapons, and they shall cut down your choicest cedars and cast them into the fire. 8 “And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, Why has the Lord dealt thus with this great city? 9 And they will answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God and worshiped other gods and served them.”

24 “As I live, declares the Lord, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off 25 and give you into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans. 26 I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die. 27 But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return.”

28 Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot, a vessel no one cares for? Why are he and his children hurled and cast into a land that they do not know? 29 O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord! 30 Thus says the Lord: “Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah.”

### **Story Outline:**

Jehoiakim:

- Remodeled his palace
- Shed innocent blood
- Refused to submit to Nebuchadnezzar
- Chained by Nebuchadnezzar
- Buried like a donkey

Jehoiachin:

Reigned 3 months and 10 days

Like his father, “written childless”

Surrendered and taken with 10,000 captives and treasures from the Temple and king's house

Babylon:

14 miles square; brick wall 56 miles long, 300 feet high; 25 feet across

250 towers 450 feet high; 8 massive gates

Moat around and Euphrates throughout

Hanging gardens watered by pumps

Streets paved with 3-foot squared stone slabs

Great Tower (ziggurat) and 53 temples; Great Temple of Marduk; 180 altars to Ishtar

Golden image of Baal and Golden Table (50,000 lbs. of solid gold)

Today is mounds

### **Introduction/Review:**

Jehoiakim, the wicked, evil son of good King Josiah, ruled Jerusalem eleven years. That he was evil can be seen in at least three facts: He made the people pay taxes in order to pay his tribute to Pharaoh Necho of Egypt. When Uriah, the prophet of God, preached against the sins of Jerusalem, Jehoiakim chased him to Egypt, brought him back to Jerusalem, and executed him.

In my opinion, the worst thing he did was to cut and burn the word of God that Jeremiah had dictated to Baruch. God, too, considered this a sin great enough to cut off Jehoiakim's descendants forever from ruling on the throne of David.

### **Story:**

#### ***Jehoiakim's evil***

✓ King Jehoiakim must have thought he deserved great power and wealth. Jeremiah had a lot to say about him in Jeremiah 22, where he tells us Jehoiakim was covetous. What is covetous? [Wanting to have things others have.] ✓ I wonder if he had heard about Nebuchadnezzar's palace in Babylon, which some think was the most magnificent building ever erected on earth, for Jehoiakim remodeled and improved *his* palace in Jerusalem—at a time when the rest of the people there were poor. He had craftsmen build huge upper rooms, cut out nice windows, panel the rooms with cedar wood so that it smelled good, and paint them with bright red paint. All this work would provide lots of money for the workers, right? No! The Bible says, “He made his neighbor serve him for nothing and did not give him his wages” (Jeremiah 22:13).

As his great-grandfather Manasseh had done, Jehoiakim shed innocent blood. What does that mean? People and perhaps even babies were slain even though they had done nothing wrong—they were innocent. Jehoiakim, Jeremiah said, was violent—he used his authority to slay people or to force them to do what he wanted. He was oppressive—unreasonably severe in ruling the people—not like his father Josiah who had been kind to the poor and needy.

#### ***Jehoiakim's punishment***

He was arrogant and proud enough to think he could refuse to submit to Nebuchadnezzar and get by with it. Nebuchadnezzar had already come and taken away Daniel and others from Jerusalem. He had conquered all the surrounding territory and had control of Jerusalem.

Now, however, Jehoiakim was in real trouble, for, at Nebuchadnezzar's command, Judah's old enemies that lived around Jerusalem but were controlled by Nebuchadnezzar, came to fight against Jerusalem. These armies included Chaldeans (from far-away Babylon) [locate all of these], Syrians (from just north of Israel), Moabites (from the southeast of Israel), and Ammonites (from east of Israel).

The Bible states that the Lord sent these armies to destroy Judah (2 Kings 24:2). Why? In order to fulfill “according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servants the prophets . . . to remove them out of

his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; and also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon” (2 Kings 24:2–4).

I want to stop right here and say that the United States of America has shed much innocent blood, treating a baby inside a mommy not as a real person. Jeremiah 1:5 tells us that before God formed us in the womb, He knew us. I hope you always remember the truth of this verse. God hates the shedding of innocent blood. He would not pardon Israel for this terrible sin; neither will He pardon America for this terrible sin.

God not only brought the armies of nearby nations against Jerusalem but also brought Nebuchadnezzar himself. Nebuchadnezzar put Jehoiakim in chains in order to take him to Babylon. Nobody cared about Jehoiakim’s situation, just as Jeremiah had prophesied, saying, “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: ‘They shall not lament for him, saying, ‘Ah my brother!’ or . . . ‘Ah lord!’ or ‘Ah his majesty!’” (Jeremiah 22:18).

Jeremiah had also prophesied, “With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried, dragged and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem” (Jeremiah 22:19). In other words, Jehoiakim either would die in Jerusalem and be dragged outside the city gates to be left in the open, or he would die in open country.<sup>1</sup> Either way, Jehoiakim would not be buried, but the animals and vultures would feed upon his corpse, fulfilling God’s prophecy.” What a disgraceful death for a proud king! No one cared that Jehoiakim was gone forever.

### ***Jehoiachin’s short reign***

Now who would be king? God had said Jehoiakim’s sons would not rule in Judah. However, one more son did rule in Judah, but you could hardly count three months and ten days for much of a reign, could you? Jehoiachin, also called Jechoniah and Coniah, became king. Was he good or bad? Just like all the final kings of Judah, he was bad. God says he did evil just as his father had done.

Listen to the prophecies of Jeremiah about Jehoiachin. God said, “I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, and there you shall die. They shall not return to the land. Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot, a vessel no one cares for? Hear the word of the LORD! “Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days; for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David, and ruling again in Judah” (Jeremiah 22:24–30 condensed).

In this last sentence we hear again the curse of Jehoiakim repeated and handed down to Jehoiachin. None of his offspring would be a king in Judah. This is an important prophecy when we come to the birth of Jesus.

Just as God had said, in the spring of the year, Nebuchadnezzar came back to Jerusalem and besieged it. ✓By now, the people were weak and the soldiers few. They had served other gods so long that they no longer trusted the Lord God of Israel. More importantly, God’s mercy, grace, and patience were gone: He was just about to complete the destruction He had promised since the days of Moses.

### ***Jehoiachin’s deportation***

So when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, Jehoiachin just surrendered. He, his mother, his wives, his servants, his princes, and his officers all went out of the city to meet King Nebuchadnezzar and to say, “We surrender; we give up. ✓Take us to Babylon if you wish.” Ten thousand captives [see document 23.07a for a depiction of 1000 men] were taken by Nebuchadnezzar, including all the soldiers, all the craftsmen, all the smiths, the people we already mentioned, and the prophet Ezekiel as well as a man named Mordecai that we’ll learn about later. Only the poorest of Judah and Jerusalem were left in the land.

Isaiah had prophesied one hundred years before today’s story when Hezekiah had shown all Judah’s treasures to the king’s messengers from Babylon that Babylon would take all these treasures away from Judah. Nebuchadnezzar now fulfilled this prophecy by taking all of the vessels from the Temple and the king’s house. He cut up all the gold vessels Solomon had made and took them with him back to his country. God’s Word was again being fulfilled in exactly the way God had said it would happen.

## ***Babylon's impressiveness***

Now, to close this lesson I'm going to tell you about Babylon, the city of Nebuchadnezzar and the city where Jehoiachin, Daniel, Mordecai, and Ezekiel came to live. It was one of the most magnificent cities ever known to mankind. Here are some facts:<sup>2</sup> [Show the pictures found below at appropriate places.]

- In the form of a square, it was 14 miles on each side [Teacher, compare distances in your area], similar in size from Wiley to Lamar to Granada, north from Granada 14 miles, and back to Wiley again.
- The brick wall was 56 miles long, 300 feet high [as tall as a 30-story building, fifteen times taller than our court house], 25 feet thick [wide enough for two 4-horse chariots to pass each other and to turn around] with another wall 75 feet behind the first wall. The wall extended 35 feet below the ground.
- 250 towers that were 450 feet high
- A wide and deep moat that encircled the city
- The Euphrates River also flowed through the middle of the city. A ½-mile long bridge with drawbridges that closed at night
- “Hanging Gardens” (one of the wonders of the ancient world). Water for the garden plants was raised from the river by hydraulic pumps in a hot, arid land.
- Eight massive gates that led to the inner city and 100 brass gates
- Streets paved with stone slabs 3 feet square
- A great Tower (Ziggurat) and 53 temples, including the “Great Temple of Marduk”; 180 altars to Ishtar
- Golden image of Baal and the Golden Table (of solid gold, both weighing over 50,000 lbs.)
- Nebuchadnezzar's palace, considered to be the most magnificent building ever erected on earth

All that remains of Babylon today is a variety of mounds, for, as God had prophesied, it was later completely destroyed.

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<sup>1</sup>John Gill states Jehoiakim would “[h]ave no burial at all, or no other than what any brute creature has; which, when it dies, is cast into a ditch, and becomes the food of dogs, and the fowls of the air. The “ass” is mentioned, as being a sordid stupid creature; and such an one was this king . . . as the carcass of a beast is dragged about by dogs; or as a malefactor, when executed, is dragged and cast into a ditch: this perhaps was done by the Chaldeans, who, when he was slain, dragged him along, and cast him beyond the gates of Jerusalem. So Josephus says, that when Nebuchadnezzar entered Jerusalem, he slew the most robust and beautiful with Jehoiakim their king, and ordered him to be cast without the walls unburied; and so, though he is said to “sleep with his fathers”, yet not to be buried with them, (2 Kings 24:6) ([Jeremiah 22:19 - Bible Verse Meaning and Commentary \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)). [Gill has more suggestions at this site.]

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.bible-history.com/babylonia/BabyloniaNebuchadnezzars\\_Babylon.htm](http://www.bible-history.com/babylonia/BabyloniaNebuchadnezzars_Babylon.htm).

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
Although Nebuchadnezzar was possibly the most prominent of this world's kings, Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords.
- God will punish the wicked. It may take a long time, but He will do it.
- Even great and magnificent cities do not last if they do not follow the will of God. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

- Babylon represents the world and all the evil it has.
- The New Jerusalem will far outshine Babylon. The streets will be paved with gold. Jesus will be its Light.

### Activities:

- Play dough: plants for the “hanging gardens”; terraces for the “hanging gardens”; horses; chariots
- Snack: With radish slices, fresh spinach leaves, cucumber rounds, cherry tomatoes, celery sticks, baby carrots—only what each kid will eat—students can decorate small paper plates, producing flowers, veggies, etc. They can then dip these veggies in ranch dip before eating. (This idea is from [15 Delicious Snacks Tied to Bible Stories \(childrensministry.com\)](#), where more ideas are given.)
- Measure 25 feet to show the width of Babylon’s walls.
- Sing “Before I Formed You in the Womb,” a song found with the Psalm 139 song visual found at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](#).
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare a gold bowl as directed in the “Handwork” section. Back it with flannel or paper towel. Cut it up into eight jigsaw-puzzle pieces. Students who answer questions correctly get to place a piece on the board. When all the pieces are placed, choose a student or have a team work together to solve the puzzle.)
  1. Give the name of one of the two kings whom God said would have no descendant reign over \*Judah. [Jehoiakim and/or Jehoiachin.]
  2. What does it mean “to shed innocent blood”? [To kill people, including babies, who have done nothing wrong.]
  3. What is the name of the great, conquering king who came to take Jerusalem? [Nebuchadnezzar.]
  4. Did Jehoiakim have a dignified burial? Explain. [No. He was dragged out of the city and not buried.]
  5. How long did Jehoiachin reign as king? [Three months and ten days.]
  6. To what city was Jehoiachin deported after he surrendered? [Babylon.]
  7. What things from the Temple did Nebuchadnezzar cut up? [Golden vessels.]
  8. Tell one feature of the city of Babylon. [Teacher, see the list at the end of the story.]

### Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

- Psalm 1 (The KJV has visuals at [psalm 1 - Bing images](#) words only, and [Tree & Psalm 1 - Openclipart](#) with a tree in the picture. The ESV has one at [\(840\) Pinterest](#) with a lamp and a Bible in the picture.)
 

**1** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
**2** but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

**3** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
**4** The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

**5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
**6** for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

### Handwork:

- Paint gold with tempera or water color the bowl at the end of this lesson. Cut it up as Nebuchadnezzar did, if you wish.



"I will bring a nation upon you from far."—*Jer.* v. 15.



“ He shall be buried with the burial of an ass.”—*Jer.* xxii. 19.

C. JOSEPH LARRE

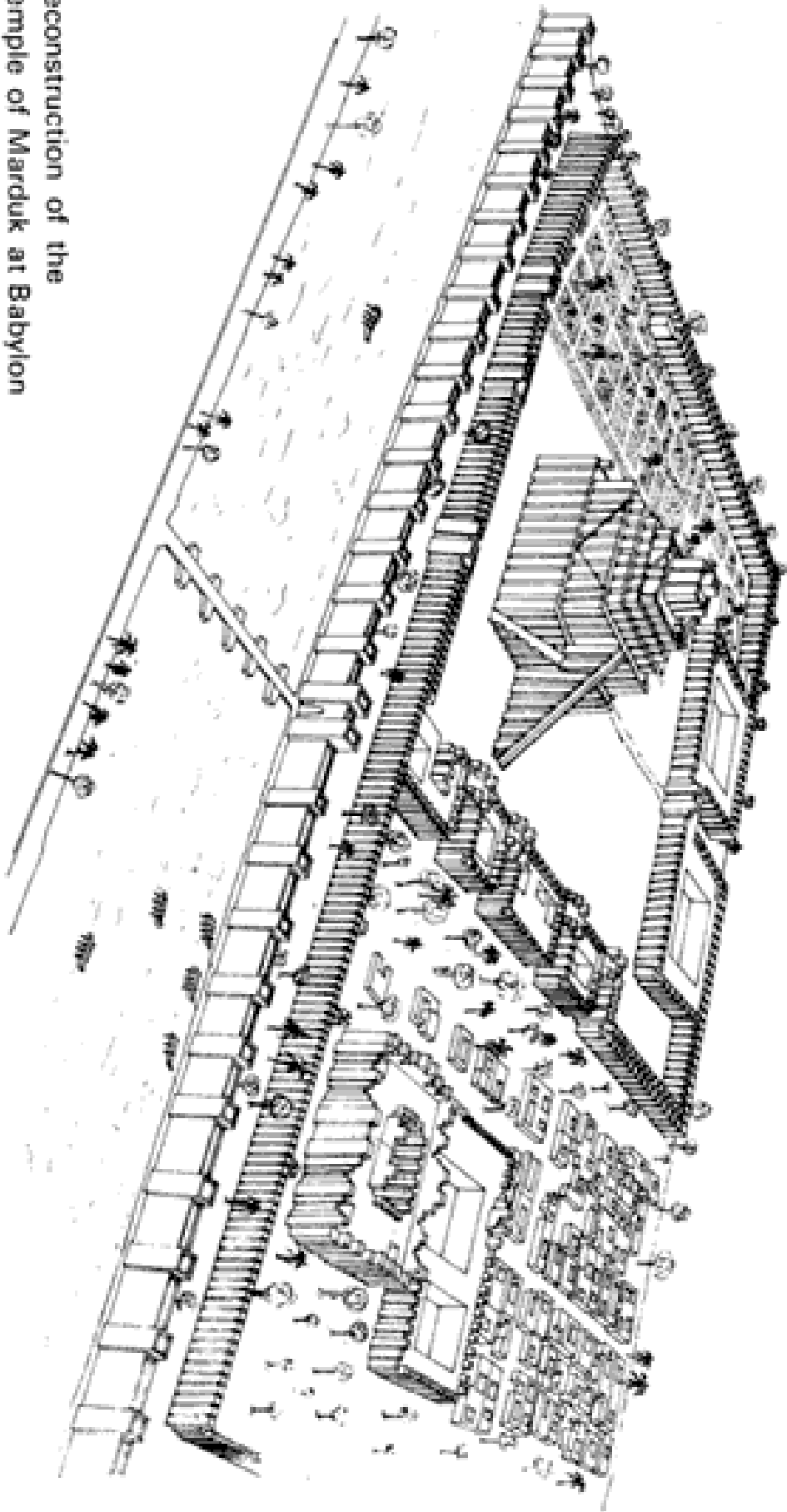




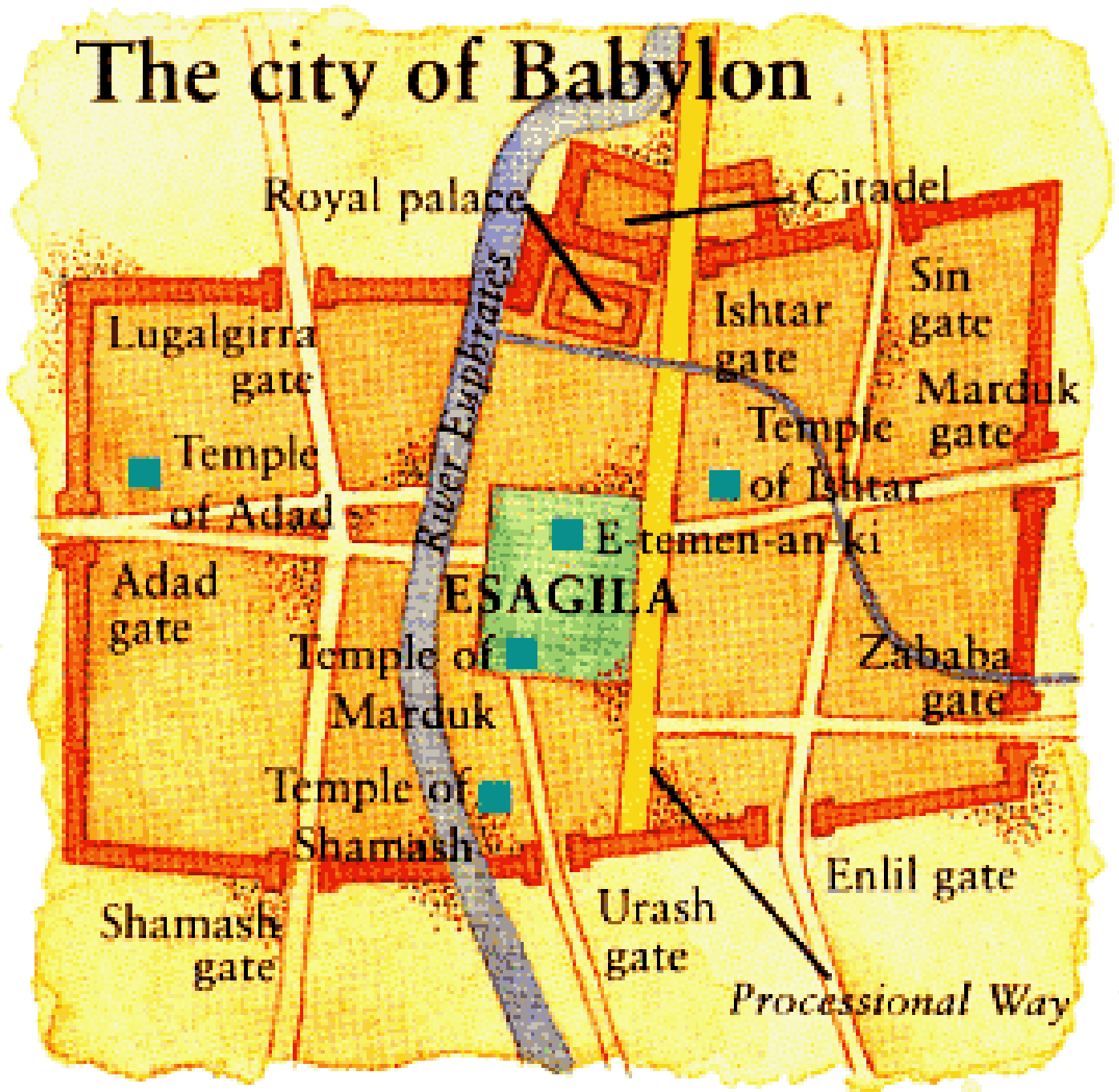
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Reconstruction of the  
Temple of Marduk at Babylon



# The city of Babylon

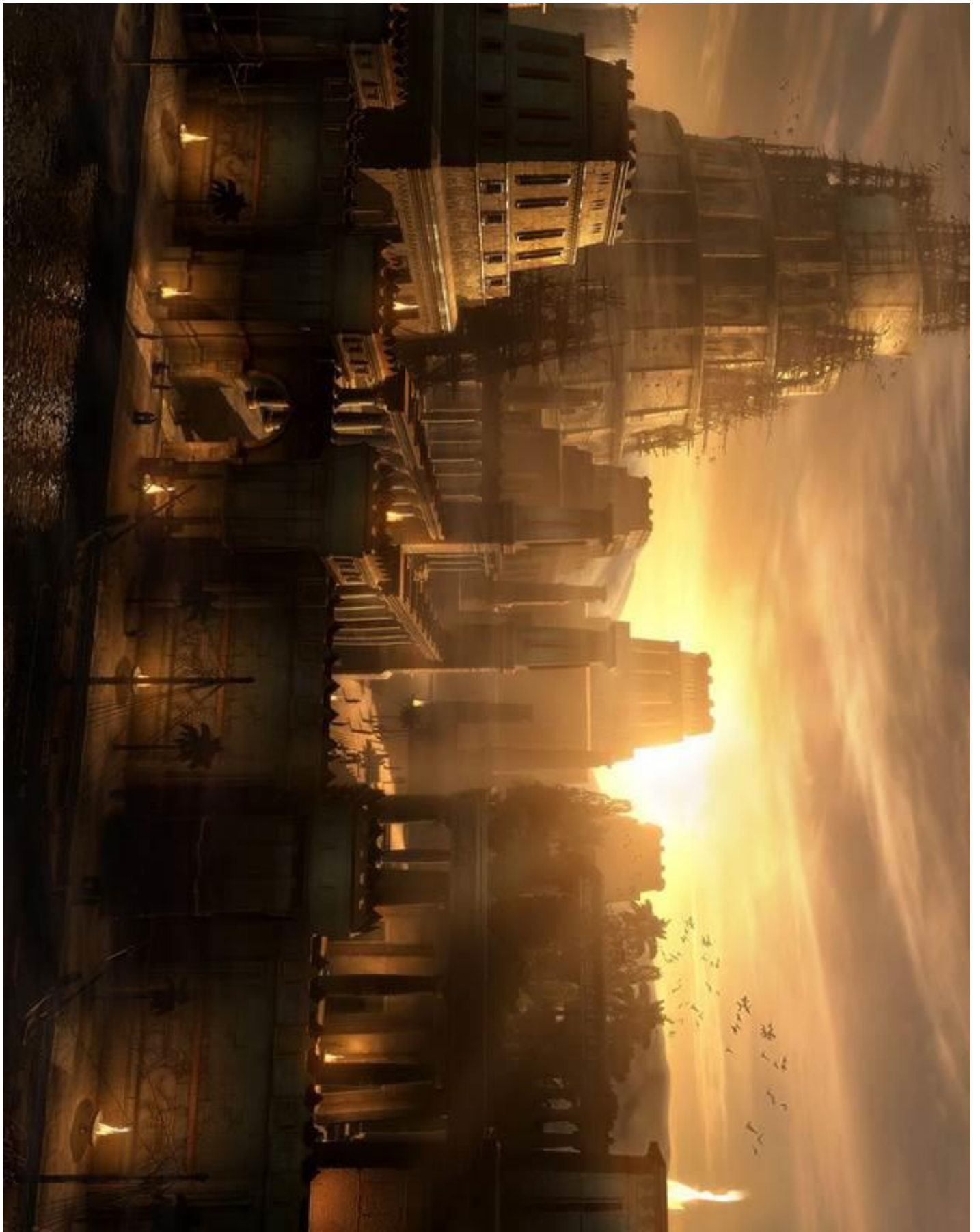




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Detail of the Ishtar Gate (from Wikipedia)

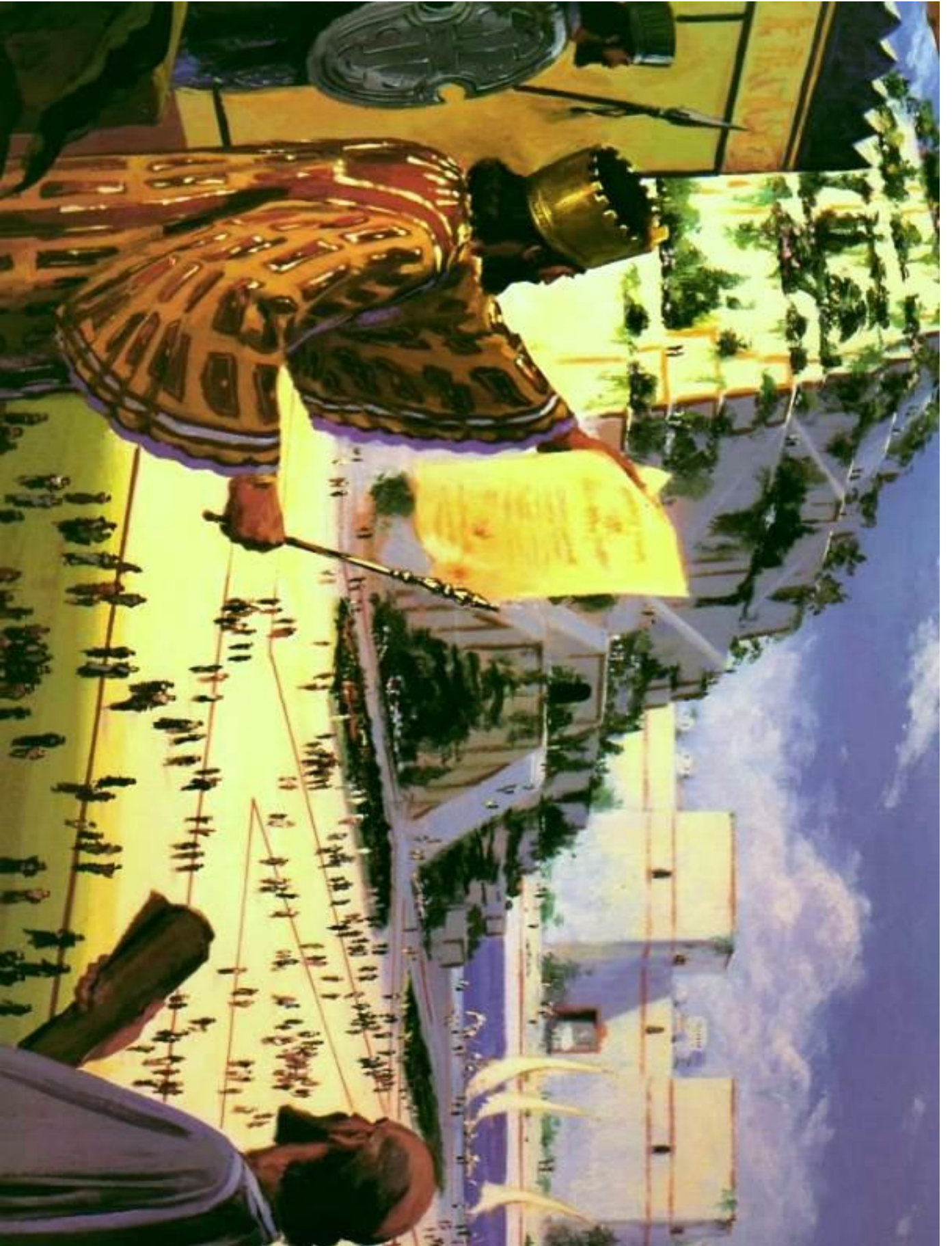


from [ancientbabylon.posterous.com/](http://ancientbabylon.posterous.com/)



The “hanging gardens” across the Euphrates River from the temple to Marduk, but some call this the Tower of Babel.





unknown source



The “hanging gardens” of Babylon, built by Nebuchadnezzar for his wife, who was lonesome for the verdant gardens of her home town. They are not “hanging” [that term might have come from a mistranslation of a word] but are built on terraces to a great height.

**Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left," says the LORD.**

**Isaiah 39:5, 6**

