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Searching the Houses of Ancient Babylon.

First Photographs of the Most Magnificent City of the Past, Where King Nebuchadnezzar Ate Grass and Daniel Was Cast to Lions



The Living Present Looks upon the Long Dead Past. A Little Girl of the Squalid Village Which Nestles in a Corner of the Ruins Contemplating the Bones of a Babylonian Woman Who Died 4,000 Years Ago. The Fragments of the Skeleton Are Seen in the Edge of the Clay Coffin

THE German Oriental Society is pursuing a wonderful work in laying bare the remains of the magnificent city of Babylon. A few years ago Babylon was merely a name that called up a vague vision of something vast and splendid. To-day, through the labors of these archaeologists, we can see the city as it actually was in Biblical times.

Herewith are some photographs of the latest excavations by the Oriental Society. Here is the very city that was the capital of the empire from which Abraham came. It was countless centuries old when that patriarch set out to found the race of the chosen people. It already possessed a splendid civilization.

It was noted for the luxury of its palaces, temples and mansions, although they were built of brick on account of the lack of stone. The surrounding country was then rich and fertile as a result of the splendid system of irrigation, although to-day it lies a barren desert for the lack of irrigation.

Babylon's walls were so thick that they were impregnable against any military force employed in those days. It was finally captured by an army that crept in through an unguarded gate while the army and people were plunged in drunkenness and shameless debauchery. The walls were strengthened and ornamented by tremendous towers that dominated the country for miles around.

The palaces and mansions had beautiful gardens, the most attractive of which were those situated on the banks of the River Euphrates. The "Hanging Gardens" of Babylon connected with the royal palace formed one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

The temples and libraries possessed millions of books, clay tablets engraved with cuneiform inscriptions, in which the origin of the human race and other primitive legends of intense interest were related.

This is the city which was a byword for wicked splendor throughout the Biblical period and for centuries after its downfall. Its end came nearly two thousand years ago, when the degenerate Belshazzar was overwhelmed in the midst of his sinful luxury, as related in the book of the prophet Daniel.

One of the most curious objects unearthed by the present excavators is a huge lion standing over a man. It somewhat suggests the modern cubist style of art, but yet it is not without intelligence and artistic force. The sculptor's idea was to express the power of a lion.

This is the oldest and most primitive work of art yet discovered in Babylon. It dates from at least four thousand years back. No other sculpture in this style has yet been found. It was a tremendous task to bring blocks of stone this size to Babylon. The block of granite from which the lion was carved was obtained in a quarry two hundred miles away and brought down the Euphrates on a raft.

Another photograph shows a portion of the tremendous wall of ancient Babylon. This section of wall is part of the Triumphal Gateway of Ishtar, the principal female divinity of Babylon. Many of the sculptures decorating the wall at this gateway still remain beneath the surface, and it is doubtful if the entire wall will ever be uncovered.

The gateway is profusely decorated with many animals, conspicuous among which is the bull, the sacred animal of the god Nebo. The brickwork, formed of very large bricks, is in perfect condition. It has survived numerous earthquakes and the ravages of time and weather for over two thousand years. It bears eloquent testimony to the excellence of Babylonian methods of construction.

The most interesting photograph, however, is, probably, the one that shows a large group of the ruins of the temples and houses of Babylon. The thickness of the walls shown here again proves the magnificent construction of the ancient city and explains why the old historians speak of it with mingled awe and admiration.

The nearest group of ruins represents all that is left of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, the mightiest King of Babylon. Each brick of the foundation bears that monarch's name and his royal titles all stamped in cuneiform writing. The inscribed side is placed downward.

The great column of bricks shown in the foreground formed part of the entrance hall of the

palace. It was here, perhaps, that Belshazzar saw the writing on the wall: "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting."

The mass of ruins seen beyond the column encircles the site of the throne hall of Nebuchadnezzar. In the background may be seen what is known to the explorers as the south mound. This covers the site of the commercial and industrial city of Babylon and probably also the Tower of Babel.

To uncover the ruins shown here has been a tremendous task, for the Euphrates River had buried them under an alluvial deposit over sixty feet deep. The greater part of the city still lies under this deposit. Among the interesting ruins still largely hidden is the Tower of Babel, whose construction and abandonment form one of the most curious legends in the oldest part of the Bible.

Many of the objects found relate to commercial dealings. Babylon was the greatest commercial city of the ancient world prior to about 500 B. C. Its wealth was naturally the greatest source of its power. Its merchants employed a perfect system of bookkeeping and of making out "commercial paper" and other documents. The entries were first made on soft clay and then baked hard. They could never be altered, burned or defaced. Even to destroy them with great force was difficult. Those that are found to-day are as legible as when they were made.

Owing to their system of bookkeeping and giving indestructible receipts, the Babylonian merchants enjoyed a great reputation for honesty. They were considered very superior in that respect to their competitors in Egypt.

The excavators have found an enormous collection of tablets inscribed with the laws. The Babylonians enjoyed an elaborate system of law as long as thirty-five hundred years ago. It dealt with the most complex and intimate relations of life, with matrimonial relations and commercial disputes. Although the legal code appears harsh to us in many respects, it is in the main intelligent and just, and there is every reason to believe that it was rigorously enforced.

The darkest side of Babylonian life is seen in the existence of an enormous body of women known as "public votaries." It is said that there were 50,000 of them in the city. Many of them were kept in the temples of Ishtar and other divinities. The money paid by the citizens visiting the "votaries" went to the priests of these heathen temples, and the "votaries" themselves were slaves of the most wretched description.

It is the existence of this institution that has caused Babylon to be condemned as the city of sin, the most shameful type of corruption among the communities of the ancient world. In nearly every place where Babylon is mentioned in the Bible it is accompanied by words of severe reprobation.

The excavators have found many inscriptions relating to the female votaries of Babylon. Those who were attached to certain temples were never allowed to go away, and an attempt to escape, if discovered, was invariably punished with death.



Colossal Figure of a Lion Overcoming a Man. The Oldest Sculpture Found in Babylon. Note its Resemblance to the Modern "Cubist" Sculpture.



An Ancient Seal Found in Babylon, Showing Hunter Gathering Ostrich Feathers for King Nebuchadnezzar

Others were allowed to go at large, but they had no rights under the law. They were branded on the forehead in order that every one might know who they were. If one of them importuned a citizen for money or troubled him in any way her offence was punishable with death.

The whole civilized world was ransacked to find these women. They were bought or stolen from their distant homes. The choicest specimens were placed in the Temple of Ishtar.

These facts make it certain that Babylon was plunged in conscienceless self-indulgence and luxury to a degree unknown in the modern world. The wine shops were usually kept by women in Babylon and there are many provisions in the laws concerning them. The measure for drink was to be the same as for corn. In case she overcharged her customers they could throw her into the water.

For surgery and the practice of medicine, there was elaborate legislation. In order to discourage the surgeon from making rash experiments, severe penalties were fixed in case of unsuccessful operations. For an operation on the upper class, the surgeon received ten shekels, on the lower class five, and on the slave two. If the patient died the surgeon's hands were cut off. In the case of a slave he had to replace him with one of equal value. If the eye of a slave was lost the owner received half the price of the slave.

Similar legislation was enacted for builders. If the house fell down and killed the owner as the result of bad workmanship, the builder was subject to the death penalty.

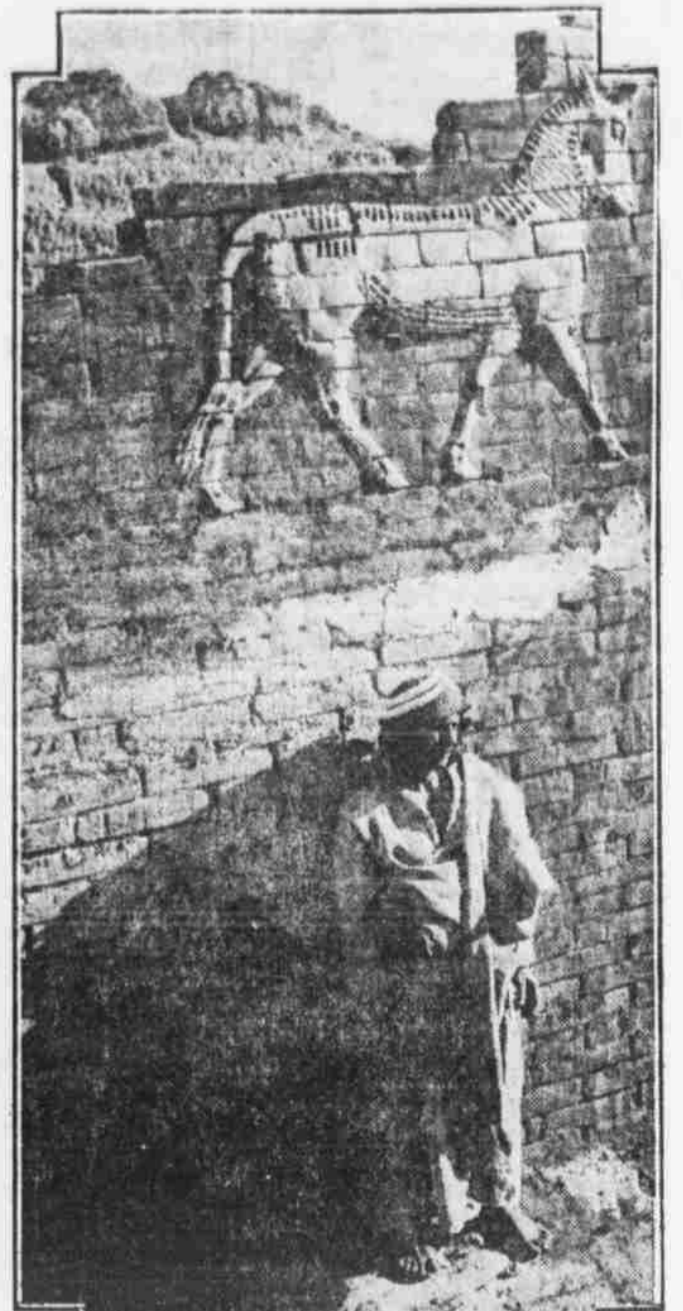
A man could give his wife, son or daughter to work off a debt, but in the fourth year he or she could regain freedom.

The great early ruler of Babylon was King Khammurabi, whose famous code was the basis of all the laws that governed the empire.

Nebuchadnezzar was King when Babylon reached the zenith of its glory. The Bible tells us how this man's mind was unbalanced by the tremendous power he possessed. As a consequence he became insane for a time and "did eat grass as the oxen."

He built the two great walls of the city. He built immense quays on the banks of the Euphrates, besides developing otherwise the facilities for handling commerce. He dug wide moats about the walls so that it was as if the sea surrounded the city.

He built the causeway by which the God Mar-duk was taken on New Year's Day from Babylon on a visit to his son, Nebo, the patron deity of Borsippa. All these interesting things will be laid bare by the excavators, so that the tourists may look at them.



The Triumphal Gate of the Goddess Ishtar.



The Houses of Ancient Babylon, the First Photograph Showing the Enormous Excavations of the German Expedition in the Palace of Nebuchadnezzar and the Heart of the Ancient City.

Good Two-Cent Dinners for School Children--- By Dr. CHALMERS WATSON, Of the Edinburgh Royal University

FROM an analysis of the meals eaten by eight healthy children of the middle classes, it is found that what children need is food that contains seventy-two grammes of protein and sixty-nine grammes of fat, and for poor children those proportions have to be obtained at the lowest possible cost.

For example, a bowl of thick lentil soup containing 1/4-pound of tils, with a slice of bread, costing about 2 cents, contains much more nourishment than 1/2-pound of meat and a slice of bread costing 10 cents.

The question of a good one-course dinner is important. In many of the houses of the poor

the cooking facilities—one small open grate—are not well adapted to providing a two-course meal if such were otherwise available, and in connection with the feeding of large numbers of school children there is certainly economy of time and labor, and possibly of expense, in a one-course as compared with a two-course meal. Experience has shown that a one-course meal at low cost can be made as nourishing and attractive to children as a two-course meal at similar outlay.

It is of interest in this connection to refer to the nutritive value and cost of a series of five one-course dinners recently supplied, on my recommendation, by the Ed-

inburgh School Board to 2,000 children:

	Protein	Carbo-	Fat	Cost
	grams	hydrate	grams	
Lentil soup	20.5	112.6	8.7	\$30.75
Meat, soup and	18.5	87.3	9.4	58.50
potatoes	34.4	181.4	20.3	63.25
Vegetable soup	28.3	71.0	6.1	41.75
Porridge and hard	24.5	105.3	4.1	28.50
bread	27.1	102.0	9.0	41.75
Average	27.1	102.0	9.0	41.75

A study of the figures in the different columns, he says, is very instructive. The average amount of protein 27.1 grammes, fat 9.0 grammes, and carbohydrates 102 grammes, may be taken as a reliable standard for a highly nutritious meal, erring, if anything, in a deficiency in fat. If we compare the individual menus we find that: No. 1 is a very nourishing dinner at small cost.

No. 2 is of considerably lower nutritive value, and is out of proportion expensive.

No. 3 is a rich highly nourishing meal and is proportionately dear; it is only advisable as an occasional meal.

No. 4 is a good dinner obtained at moderate cost.

No. 5 is also a good meal, a little below the average in nutritive value; this can be rectified by slightly increasing the amount of milk.

The experience of the head masters in the different schools under the Edinburgh School Board has shown that meals planned on these lines have been followed by satisfactory rate of growth, increased physical vigor and more efficient education of the children, these being the criteria for judging the correctness of any system of feeding.

It is probably no exaggeration to say that the medical profession, no less than the public has a very inadequate idea as to the extent of minor or major adulteration of common foodstuffs.

Bread is an important illustration. A large proportion of bread in daily use is now made from flour which has been artificially bleached by the passage of nitrous oxide fumes. These are produced by an electrical discharge, the process being described by the parties interested as "electrified air," and is ignorance accepted by millers and bakers as a process "from chemicals."

The researches of Professor Ladd, U. S. A., Professor Halliburton and the author, among others, have shown that the digestibility of flour so treated is appreciably reduced, and as there are, unquestionably, no compensating advantages in the process from the physiological and dietic point of view, it is advisable that all bread should be made from the natural product of the wheat.

It is conceivable that a child would thrive better on a diet containing a smaller amount of food in a pure form than on a diet which is richer from the point of view of chemical composition, but with its nutritive value impaired by the addition of various preservatives. A further point of importance is the use of hard food adapted for promoting mastication, giving meat in a form which necessitates chewing, bread in baked form for similar reasons, and at the same time restricting indulgence in sugar and sweets, which promote fermentation in relation to the teeth, with resulting caries.