sundayseptembertwentysecondthousandtwentyfourad

Handwriting On The Wall

Daniel

_____ Countdown

2 Kings 24:1 During Jehoiakim's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded the land of Judah. Jehoiakim surrendered and paid him tribute for three years but then rebelled. *(NLT)*

_____

The city of Babylon is located in modern day Iraq and its history stretches back to the 3rd millennium BC, when it was a small port town on the Euphrates River. The construction of the tower of Babel (Genesis 11) was attempted in the city. Over time, the town would grow and develop into one of the most important cities in ancient Mesopotamia. It was during the 18th century BC that Babylon became a major power in the region under the rule of the Amorite king, Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC).

607 BC - Nebuchadnezzar II conquers Judah (King Jehoiakim)
2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 1; 22-37
597 BC - Nebuchadnezzar II conquers Jerusalem
2 Kings 23-25
587 BC - (July) Destroys the Temple, levels the city
Jeremiah 27; 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles
575 BC - Creates Ishtar Gate and the possibly the Hanging Gardens (7 Wonders of Ancient World)
556 BC - Nabonidus becomes king.
~ Nabonidus is an absent king.
~ Always on religious expeditions or fighting wars.
~ Nabonidus is known as the world's first archaeologist.
~ Believed to have married Nebuchadnezzar's daughter
~ Nabonidus's son Belshazzar is "regent" or "crown prince" over Babylon while he is away.
549 BC - Medes are defeated by the Persians / Cyrus the Great
2 Chronicles 36 / Ezra / Isaiah 44-48
539 BC - Babylon falls without a fight; Cyrus allows the Jews to return to Jerusalem
Ezra 4:1-4 / Daniel 5
538 BC - Darius the Mede becomes viceroy / governor over Babylon by nephew Cyrus
522 BC - Darius the Great rules Persia
Haggai / Zechariah
~ Persian army becomes the largest in the entire world
485 BC - Xerxes becomes king of Persia marries Esther
Esther
480 BC - (Aug or Sept) Xerxes fights Sparta in the Battle of Thermopylae (300)
465 BC - Xerxes' son Artaxerxes Longimanus becomes king
Ezra / Nehemiah
445 BC - (March 14) Decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus to rebuild the temple
Ezra 7

_____ Countdown

2 Kings 20:17 'Behold, the days are coming when everything that is in your house, and what your fathers have stored up to this day, will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the Lord. 18 'And some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'" *(NASB)*

_____

Ezekiel 16:48 As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, Sodom and her daughters were never as wicked as you and your daughters. **49** Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. **50** She was proud and committed detestable sins, so I wiped her out, as you have seen. **51** "Even Samaria did not commit half your sins. You have done far more detestable things than your sisters ever did. They seem righteous compared to you. **52** Shame on you! Your sins are so terrible that you make your sisters seem righteous, even virtuous. (NLT)

Jeremiah 25:11 This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. **12** "Then, after the seventy years of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins," says the Lord. "I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever. *(NLT)*

_____

Isaiah 45:1 This is what the Lord says to Cyrus, his anointed one, whose right hand he will empower. Before him, mighty kings will be paralyzed with fear. Their fortress gates will be opened, never to shut again. **2** This is what the Lord says: "I will go before you, Cyrus, and level the mountains. I will smash down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. *(NLT)*

Isaiah 45:13 I will raise up Cyrus to fulfill my righteous purpose, and I will guide his actions. He will restore my city and free my captive people—without seeking a reward! I, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!" *(NLT)*

Isaiah 48:12 "Listen to me, O family of Jacob, Israel my chosen one! I alone am God, the First and the Last. **13** It was my hand that laid the foundations of the earth, my right hand that spread out the heavens above. When I call out the stars, they all appear in order." **14** Have any of your idols ever told you this? Come, all of you, and listen: The Lord has chosen Cyrus as his ally. He will use him to put an end to the empire of Babylon and to destroy the Babylonian armies. **15** "I have said it: I am calling Cyrus! I will send him on this errand and will help him succeed. *(NLT)*

_____ Countdown

Daniel 5:1 Many years later King Belshazzar gave a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles, and he drank wine with them. **2** While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines. **3** So they brought these gold cups taken from the Temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. **4** While they drank from them they praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. **5** Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand. The king himself saw the hand as it wrote, **6** and his face turned pale with fright. His knees knocked together in fear and his legs gave way beneath him. *(NLT)*

_____

Daniel 5:18 Your Majesty, the Most High God gave sovereignty, majesty, glory, and honor to your predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar. **19** He made him so great that people of all races and nations and languages trembled before him in fear. He killed those he wanted to kill and spared those he wanted to spare. He honored those he wanted to honor and disgraced those he wanted to disgrace. **20** But when his heart and mind were puffed up with arrogance, he was brought down from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. **21** He was driven from human society. He was given the mind of a wild animal, and he lived among the wild donkeys. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world and appoints anyone he desires to rule over them. **22** "You are his successor, O Belshazzar, and you knew all this, yet you have not humbled yourself. **23** For you have proudly defied the Lord of heaven and have had these cups from his Temple brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone —gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not honored the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny! **24** So God has sent this hand to write this message. *(NLT)*

Daniel 5:25 "This is the message that was written: Mene, mene, tekel, and Parsin. **26** This is what these words mean: Mene means 'numbered'—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end. **27** Tekel means 'weighed'—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up. **28** Parsin means 'divided'—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians." **29** Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. **30** That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed. **31** And Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of sixty-two. *(NLT)*

Jeremiah 51:47 For the time is surely coming when I will punish this great city and all her idols. Her whole land will be disgraced, and her dead will lie in the streets. **48** Then the heavens and earth will rejoice, for out of the north will come destroying armies against Babylon," says the Lord. *(NLT)*

Jeremiah 51:25 "Look, O mighty mountain, destroyer of the earth! I am your enemy," says the Lord. "I will raise my fist against you, to knock you down from the heights. When I am finished, you will be nothing but a heap of burnt rubble. **26** You will be desolate forever. Even your stones will never again be used for building. You will be completely wiped out," says the Lord. *(NLT)*
