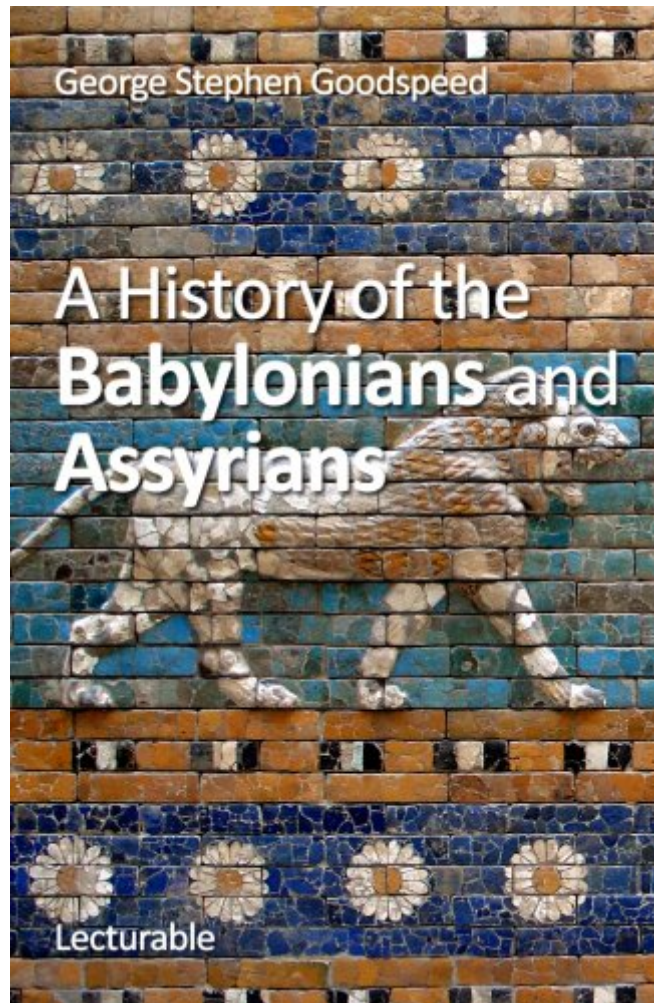


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A History Of The Babylonians And Assyrians



Synopsis

"Who were the people by whose energy this region was transformed into so fair and flourishing a land, at a time when elsewhere, with hardly an exception, the upward course of humanity did not yet reveal any trace of orderly and civilized conditions? What are their antecedents, and whence did they come to occupy the alluvial plain?" - George Stephen Goodspeed "In these regions of Mesopotamia and Babylonia, so diversified in physical characteristics, the one essential unifying element was the rivers. To them a large section of the land owed its existence; the fertility and the prosperity of the whole was dependent upon them; they were the chief means of communication, the main channels of trade, the distributors of civilization. It was in recognition of this that the ancient inhabitants called the Euphrates 'the life of the land,' and the Tigris 'the bestower of blessing.'" - G.S.G.

Introduction - The Lands of the Euphrates and Tigris. The Excavations in Babylonia and Assyria. The Language and Literature. Chronology and History. The City States of Babylonia and Their Unification under Babylon to 2000 B.C. - The Dawn of History. Movements toward Expansion and Unification. Civilization of Old Babylonia: Political and Social Life. Civilization of Old Babylonia: Literature, Science, Art, and Religion. The Times of Khammurabi of Babylon. 2300-2100 B.C. The Rise of Assyria and its Struggles with Kassite Babylonia - The Kassite Conquest of Babylonia and the Appearance of Assyria. 2000-1500 B.C. The Early Conflicts of Babylonia and Assyria. 1500-1150 B.C. Civilization and Culture in the Kassite Period. The Times of Tiglathpileser I. 1100 B.C. The Ascendancy of Assyria - The Ancient World at the Beginning of the First Millennium. 1000 B.C. Ashurnacirpal III and the Conquest of Mesopotamia. 885-860 B.C. The Advance into Syria and the Rise of Urartu: from Shalmaneser II to the Fall Of His House. 860-745 B.C. The Assyrian Revival. Tiglathpileser III and Shalmaneser IV. 745-722 B.C. The Assyrian Empire at Its Height. Sargon II. 722-705 B.C. The Struggle for Imperial Unity. Sennacherib. 705-681 B.C. Imperial Expansion and Division. Esarhaddon. 681-668 B.C. The Last Days of Splendor. Ashurbanipal 668-626 B.C. The Fall of Assyria. 626-606 B.C. The New Babylonian (or Kaldean) Empire - The Heirs of Assyria. Nebuchadrezzar and His Successors. Babylonia under the Kaldeans. The Fall of Babylon.

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Customer Reviews

Well, that's what it is: a history book, written by a historian for historians and their students. More and more history books are being written by historians for lay readers; a wonderful turn I think. But this book isn't one of them. Even so, it is a well done work on a somewhat arcane subject with a substantial level of depth. It is an older book, and along with its depth comes an older scholarly assumption on the writer's part. There's a lot of "we" implied and supplied -- meaning the author and the reader -- and the reader is presumed to be scholarly, as of course is the writer. Can an ordinary reader -- someone, say, who devours mystery and suspense -- enjoy this book? Emphatically, yes!: if you are really interested in the Babylonians and Assyrians (a.k.a. Iraq and Iran) and wonder occasionally why Iraq and Iran are so self congratulatory about their land, their people, and their history. But it's a slow read and requires both interest and stamina from its readers.

I bought this book in hope of getting complete big picture about the history of Babylonians and link our heritage since the dawn of civilization. The book contains valuable information and good amount of knowledge but, unfortunately - at least for me- it is confusing as it does not have logical organization for the beginner readers. Talking about cities and kings without proper introduction makes the reader lost sometimes. I think this book suits the people who already have background knowledge about the subject.

This is an interesting coverage of the first Middle Eastern/Asian civilization in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, from Ur and Uruk of the Sumerians to the final downfall of the last Babylonian empire, but reading it was quite dry. The book dates from 1902 and was written in a dry academic style that showed no deference to a lay audience. The names of specific historical have evolved over the last century, making identification challenging. As an example, the well-known people the Hittites never appear by that name, leaving confusion as to which people were engaged in strife with Assyria. For those with the will to read a challenging book, I can recommend this book, but I fear many will only read a portion before laying it down, never to be picked back up.

This is a reprint of a 1902 book, and as other reviewers commented, it is a scholarly work and, as far as I can tell, well written and researched. The reason I'm not sure is that the PRINTING IS SO SMALL I CAN'T READ IT WITHOUT A MAGNIFYING GLASS! I'm 60, but my eyesight is pretty good, and I've never been unable to read a book's print before. After just a few pages my eyes were feeling the strain. I give it 2 stars as a compromise between the 4 stars the work itself probably deserves, and the 0 stars the company that re-printed it deserve.

The essay was written just after the turn of the last century (circa 1900's) and speaks to the archeological findings and their interpretations during the 18th and 19th centuries. While it is very precise and detailed in its presentation it sadly does not speak to the discoveries and findings of the 20th (and now 21st) centuries which have greatly expanded and, at times, corrected the findings noted in this essay. A nice classic work, but not viable as a contemporary text.

I have yet to finish the book. I find it somewhat difficult to connect due to the many names and amount of facts. It is well written and filled with facts and information of that period of history. It is presented in a logical manner and probably would make a good text book for a class studying this period in ancient history.

Written around 1900, I found that it tells the basic outline of the history of these two nations. You won't find the same flare of a modern telling but it is a by the numbers of what happened and when. The book details the region the culture and sense of identity that each city held and chronologically goes from the rise of Babylon thru its fall to Assyria, Assyria's fall to Babylon and Babylons fall to the Persians. Written over 100 years ago I found it easy to read.

This is an excellent history in outline from a very complex period in the development of civilization in the Fertile Crescent. Even in its abbreviated form, it shows the numerous powers extant in this period which shaped the civilizations which were constantly in the process of rising and falling.

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