

# Neo Babylonians Rule

## *“The Most Accomplished Empire”*

\*Clears throat\* Thank you. Thank you ever so much distinguished colleagues and professors for inviting me to speak to you today. As many of you know I'm professor Olivia Eichman of archeological studies at Stanford University. I have also worked at various dig sites in ancient sumers regions. All of these excavations lead me to countless degrees in antiquity. Enough about me already, I'm here to talk to you about about the great Mesopotamian Empires. But which empire was the greatest? Was it the Akkadians with the first empire? Or the Assyrians who reigned the longest? Neither of these empires strike me as the most accomplished. The Neo Babylonian's Empire was the most accomplished empire by far and when you leave this room today I guarantee you will think as highly of them as I do too.



Why do I think that the Neo Babylonians are the most accomplished? For starters, their ruler knew how to keep his empire safe. He had many safety precautions. One way Nebuchadrezzar II insured safety among his people was by surrounding their city in a wall so great in size two chariots could ride on it side by side. But that isn't all. No. Nebuchadnezzar II built another wall inside of the other wall for added protection. Both walls were named after Mesopotamian gods and goddesses. One of the gates that was built was called Ishtar gate, named after the goddess of war and love. To top it all off the walls were surrounded by a moat. During peacetime the drawbridge was lowered allowing people in and out of the city. At wartime, the bridge was closed to travelers and merchants.



Another reason the Neo-Babylonians accomplished the most was that they were skilled in architecture and astronomy. Along with building the Ishtar gate, the Babylonians built a humongous ziggurat. On top of the ziggurat was a garden Nebuchadrezzar created for his wife. She had grown up in a forest and Nebuchadrezzar moved her all the way to the desert. He decided to bring her a piece of her home to show his undying love for her. These were called the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. This



extraordinary feat was an ascending tower of tiered gardens filled with a variety of plants such as shrubs, vines and trees. This resembled a large green mountain made of mud bricks. This was not only an architectural feat but an artistic one as well. Along with this the Neo-Babylonians were skilled with astronomy. They created the first sundial. That accomplishment led to sixty minute hours and seven day weeks.

Yes, yes I see your disapproval. What about the other empires you ask? Let's examine each one. Were the Assyrians the longest reigning empire? Sure but let's not forget about their disgraceful war tactics that were barbaric! Their claim to fame was cruel and appalling. The Assyrians chopped off heads of opponents and forced the conquered army they had just fought to wear it like jewelry around their necks. Ok but what about the Babylonians?



Surely Hammurabi's code was a major accomplishment.

But was it? Just like today the rich could buy their way

out of punishment while the poor had to pay the price. Back then the

punishments were much worse. A slave had to have his or her hand or arm

amputated. Why is his code considered an accomplishment if it isn't fair? Ah,

last but not least, the Akkadians. Aside from being the first empire what did

they accomplish? Sure, there was a Victory Stele but it was of their king

killing armies while people begged for mercy. Why would an empire like that to be a standard of their society?



So, is that enough to convince you that the Neo-Babylonians were the most accomplished? Some of their accomplishments were Ishtar gate, talent with astronomy, and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Even today people have gated communities, gardens on rooftops and are skilled with astronomy. Gated communities insure safety for housing complexes while gardens on the roofs help filter the air. And today people still use sixty minute hours and seven day weeks created by the Neo-Babylonians. We find out more and more about astronomy each day because of how the Neo-Babylonians paved the way for us. Certainly their achievements advanced modern day studies and brought us to where we are today. All in all the Neo-Babylonian empire ruled!