

(See English Bible). Thus saith the Lord : "Go up, O Elam, besiege O Mede; Prepare the table; behold in the watch-tower them that eat and drink; arise ye princes, take up the shield. Thus saith the Lord to my anointed Cyrus, whose right hand I have taken hold of: I will break to pieces the gates of brass, and will burst the bars of iron. Come down, sit in the dust, O daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground, there is no throne for the daughter of the Chaldeans. Evil shall come upon thee, and thou shalt not know the rising thereof; there is none that can save thee. Is. XLVII." Does not such a perfect agreement between history and prophecy show forth strikingly the Divine inspiration of Holy Scripture?

Religion of the Babylonians and Assyrians. — The Babylonians and Assyrians adored a multitude of divinities. The chief god of the former was Bel or Baal, that of the latter was Assur. The Chaldean priests studied astronomy and made some important discoveries; to them may be attributed the division of the day into twenty-four hours and that of the solar year into three hundred sixty-five and one fourth days, or twelve months.

Customs and Civilization. — The Chaldeans, a peaceful nation, devoted themselves to agriculture, industry and commerce. The Assyrians were the most harsh, warlike and avaricious nation that ever ruled in Asia. Their inscriptions show that massacre and plunder was their sole end in war.

QUESTIONS. — 15. Where were Babylonia and Assyria situated? — 16. Give a brief account of the first Babylonian or Chaldean Empire. — 17. How was the Assyrian Empire formed? What are the two great divisions of the history of this Empire?

18. What do you know of the principal kings who ruled the Assyrian Empire until the taking of Nineveh by the Medes? — 19. Relate the history of the reign of Pul. — 20. What dynasty of the second part of the Assyrian Empire is particularly interesting? Relate the exploits of Sargon. — 21. What relation existed between Sennacherib and Esarhaddon and the kings of Palestine?

22. What are the principal events of the reign of Ashurbanipal and that of Nabuchodonosor I. — 23. Relate the fall of Nineveh.

24. What new empires grew out of the division of the Assyrian Empire? — 25. Relate the history of the reign of Nabuchodonosor II. — 26. How did the second Babylonian Empire end?