

Empires of Memphis and of Thebes. The civilization remained essentially the same, since the one river valley was open to the same influences. It is true that the Chaldeans and Assyrians were not originally of one blood, but this made no more difference in the unity of civilization than the mixture of different nations in America to-day.

Assyrian Empire.—The most essential difference between the Chaldean and the Assyrian Empire lies in the larger extent of the latter. The Chaldean Empire took in the whole Tigris-Euphrates valley, and reached over Syria at times. The Assyrian Empire was much more firmly fixed in its control of Syria. It also extended over Armenia and Eastern Asia Minor to the river Halys (hālîz). On the East of the Zagros Mountains, which lie on the east bank of the Tigris, the Assyrian Empire comprehended two important provinces between the Caspian and the Persian Gulf—viz., Media (North) and Persia (South). It extended beyond these provinces at times, but with indefinite boundaries, toward the Indus.

Media and Babylonia.—The Assyrian Empire, supplanting the Chaldean about 1250 B. C., lasted till about 625 B. C. But the change which took place then was only one of external government, and the conditions of civilization were unaltered. The Assyrian Empire was simply divided into two parts, known as the Median and Babylonian Empires. The province of Media revolted, and founded an empire which ruled the provinces of Persia, Media, and Asia Minor to the Halys. The province of Chaldæa revolted, and ruled an empire including the Tigris-Euphrates valley and Syria. This empire is called Babylonian, after the capital of Chaldæa, only to distinguish it from the earlier Chaldean state of about the same extent. Its second king, Nebuchadnezzar, lived about B. C. 600. This division of the Assyrian states into the Median and Babylonian Empires lasted only about seventy years, till about 555 B. C.

Persian Empire.—The province of Persia then revolted, under Cyrus, against Media; conquering rapidly this state and Babylonian. It also conquered the Lydian Empire, in Asia Minor, beyond the

Hal
in 5
Phœ
T
remo
revol
Asia
333
Egyp
Persi
T
toms
will
make
count
pire,
shall
ing th
increa
the en

Chalde
Assyria

Division of
Assyrian
States.
Persian