Babylonia

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| * About a thousand years after the ancient Sumerians settled in the land between two rivers, two new civilizations arose. * One was the warrior civilization of the [Assyrians](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/assyria.html) in northern Mesopotamia.  The other was the ancient civilization of Babylonia. * Babylonia was located in southern Mesopotamia, near the Persian Gulf.  Babylonia had a long history and the people achieved a high level of civilization.   Life In Babylonia: |  |

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| * Babylon was an impressive place. It was a massive walled city, with a network of canals and vivid green crops. Even from a distance, visitors could see the top of the 300-foot high [ziggurat](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/ziggurats.html) (temple) long before they reached the huge city gates. * Once inside the walls that protected the ancient city of Babylon, visitors and traders found many wondrous things to buy, like fresh fruits and vegetables, baked breads and cheese, warm coats, gold jewellery, and date wine. * Inside the wall, life teemed.  There was no suburban or country living in ancient Babylon. The people had [homes](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/homes.html) inside the walls of the city. Homes were comfortable. Even the very poor, who lived in tiny townhouses, typically had three levels of living space.   Law   * We also know about the great king [Hammurabi](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/hammurabi.html). Babylonian culture was based on his law. Everybody had to obey the law. Hammurabi wrote down and unified all the laws of ancient Babylonia so that everyone had to obey the law equally, rich and poor alike. * There were 282 laws organized under headings such as trade, family, labour, real estate, and personal property. The code distinguished between minor and major crimes. * The laws reinforced that it was the State’s responsibility to enforce laws to guarantee social justice for its citizens   Religion   * The ancient Sumerians worshiped Marduk, but to the ancient Babylonians, Marduk was the most important god of all. When [King Hammurabi](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/hammurabi.html) declared Babylon to be the capital of Babylonia, he built the city of Babylon in [Marduk](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/gods.html)'s honor. * Babylonia religious activities were centered on the temple, the [ziggurat](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/ziggurats.html). Like the Sumerians, the Babylonians held elaborate festivals and had many different kinds of priests. Their priests spent most of their time driving away evil spirits. |