

# THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

For centuries, Babylonia was ruled by a series of shortlived dynasties. Even though some of the rulers were foreign princes, life continued much as usual for the Babylonian people. But then disaster struck.

## ASSYRIA STRIKES

After around 730BC, Babylonia became part of the Assyrian empire. Assyria's powerful kings were determined to control the fertile farming land of Babylonia, but the Babylonians kept rebelling. This enraged the Assyrians,

and finally they attacked the city of Babylon, leaving it in ruins. The Babylonians never forgave them, and, led by the Chaldean settlers (see page 33), they continued to struggle for independence.

## ASSYRIA FALLS

In 625BC, a Chaldean leader called Nabopolassar made himself King of Babylon. Joining with the people of nearby Media, he destroyed the Assyrian empire.

*This is a picture of the city of Babylon during the New Year Festival.*

*This stepped tower is called a ziggurat. It was built by King Nebuchadnezzar for the god Marduk.*

*Priests lived here.*

*The Processional Way led into the city.*

*The gate was covered with bright blue tiles.*

*The king's palace*

*The king's throne room*

*The Hanging Gardens may have been located here.*

*This gateway was called the Ishtar Gate.*

*People watched the procession from the battlements.*

