

It was a very clever idea to mix up the people so that there would no longer be many unified groups that would be apt to revolt against the Assyrians, but rather many small groups of alien cultured people in the midst of larger groups of less cultured people who would regard them as the representatives of the hated conquerors, and thus be very unlikely to make common cause with them against the Assyrians.

The Neo-Babylonian empire, which replaced the Assyrian empire after its downfall, continued the same policy of carrying out movements of population, and it was for this reason that Nebuchadnezzar, when he conquered Jerusalem, carried away the people of Judah into captivity (2 Kings 24.15-16; 25.11). At one time many scholars questioned the accuracy of the Biblical account of the exile, saying that actually only a comparatively few people had been taken away. Examination of the remains of ancient cities in Palestine have shown a terrible destruction at this time with the burning of the city and only remains of a small settlement on top of it, built a long time after the destruction. The accuracy of the Biblical story of the exile is abundantly verified by archeological remains.

The Neo-Babylonian empire was a period of great glory but one which lasted little more than half a century. The book of Daniel describes the character of Nebuchadnezzar, who looked out upon his city and cried, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built?" (Dan.4.30). German excavators have unearthed more than a million bricks in the city of Babylon, every one of them bearing the name and titles of Nebuchadnezzar stamped upon it. What other ruler ever thought it necessary to put his name on a million bricks? Surely the pride of Nebuchadnezzar in his great building work, as depicted in Daniel,