

Rivers of Babylon

Babylon (2000 - 323 BC), an ancient city of Mesopotamia located on the Euphrates river about 55mi south of present day Baghdad. Settled since prehistoric times. it was made the capital of Babylonia by Hammurabi (1792 - 1750 BC) in the 18th century BC.

The history of ancient Baghdad also contains the long and distinguished history of the Iraqi Jewish community, from its ancient roots following the exile to Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar 2,500 years ago. For almost a thousand years, Babylonia was the religious, cultural and scholarly centre of the Jewish world, the birthplace of the Babylonian Talmud, cuisine and significant contribution to the development of modern Iraq. It includes a "golden age" of Iraqi Jews in the early 20th century and the tragic final chapter that brought to an end one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world. Today in communities all over the world you find family names such as the Sassoons and Saatchis whose ancestors originally dwelt "By the Rivers of Babylon"



F
By the rivers of Babylon / where he sat down
C **F**
And there he wept / when he remembered Zion

'cuz the wicked
F **Bb** **F**
carry us away captivity / require from us a song

How can we sing King Alfar's song
C **F**
In a strange land

So let the
F **C**
Words of our mouths
F **C**
And the meditations of our hearts

F **C**
Be acceptable in thy sight
F
Over I...

