Fourth Century; see Wright, *Catalogue*, 3:1134–35, #960.67; Hoffmann, 28–33; *BHO*, #783; and Ortiz de Urbina, 198. Fiey, *Nisibis*, 15 & 50. Talbert, map 89.

**Thannuris?** (probably modern Tell Tineinir, West of Singara.) Excavations at Tell Tineinir have revealed evidence of an early Christian presence, perhaps dating as early as the Fourth Century; see Fuller & Fuller, 70. Talbert, map 89.

**Assyria and Babylonia**

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**General**

**Assyria and Babylon.** During our period, this lower part of Mesopotamia belonged usually to the Parthian and Sassanian Empires of Persia. The region down to the Persian Gulf, known as the province of Assyria, was held briefly by the Romans during the reign of Trajan but was given back to the Parthian Empire upon his death. For relations between the Parthian Emperors and their Jewish subjects generally, see Neusner, 44–121. For the deportations by the Sassanian Persian Emperor Shapor I in the Third Century, see under Parthia below.

**Specific Sites**

**Arbela.** (modern Irbil. In the country of Adiabene [Syriac name “Hadyab,”].) The highly suspect *Chronicle of Arbela* claims that Christianity reached the area by 104 C.E.; see text 2–3, trans. 19–20. Yet until the Fourth Century, Christianity in Arbela is not documented by any other texts, including the *Nestorian Diptychs* published by Brightman and Fiey; see Brightman, 277, and Fiey, "Diptyques,” 385. Fiey,