

~BEL (71)

[from Akkadian, meaning Owner, Master]

- A Babylonian deity whose shameful fall was foretold to coincide with Babylon's destruction.
- **Bel** has bent down, Nebo is stooping over, their idols have come to be for the wild beasts and for the domestic animals, their loads, pieces of luggage, a burden for the tired animals. (**Isaiah 46:1**)
- Tell it among the nations and publish it. And lift up a signal, publish it. Hide nothing, O men. Say; Babylon has been captured. **Bel** has been put to shame. Merodach has become terrified. Her images have been put to shame. Her dungy idols have become terrified. (**Jeremiah 50:2**)
- And I will turn my attention upon **Bel** in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth what he has swallowed. And to him nations will stream no more. Also, the wall itself of Babylon must fall. (**Jeremiah 51:44**)
- The title **Bel** was first applied to the god Enlil. **Bel** was part of the original Sumerian triad of deities, along with Anu and Enki or Ea. When Marduk or Merodach, became the chief god of Babylon, he was also given the name **Bel**.

See Also GODS AND GODDESSES [Babylonian Deities]

- When one considers the high esteem in which Bel was held, it becomes evident why Yehowah's prophets, under inspiration, made reference to him as one of the deities to be humiliated at Babylon's fall. Almost 200 years before Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians, Isaiah foretold that Bel would have to bend down and Nebo would have to stoop over in shameful defeat.
- Their idol images were for the wild beasts to carry off, unable to help themselves, they would be hauled away as luggage on beasts of burden. Bel and Nebo would not escape. Their own soul, that is, they themselves, would go into captivity.
- **Bel** has bent down, Nebo is stooping over, their idols have come

to be for the wild beasts and for the domestic animals, their loads, pieces of luggage, a burden for the tired animals. (**Isaiah 46:1**)

- They must stoop over, they must each alike bend down, they are simply unable to furnish escape for the burden, but into captivity their own soul must go. (**Isaiah 46:2**)
- Tell it among the nations and publish it. And lift up a signal, publish it. Hide nothing, O men. Say; Babylon has been captured. **Bel** has been put to shame. Merodach has become terrified. Her images have been put to shame. Her dungy idols have become terrified. (**Jeremiah 50:2**)
- Yehowah would force **Bel** to give up what he had swallowed by means of his worshipers, who attributed their victories to him. Especially would **Bel** have to give up Yehowah's exiled people and the sacred utensils of His temple. No more would the people of the nations whom Babylon had conquered stream to the worship of **Bel** or surrender to his worshipers as if to the chief god of the world.
- And I will turn my attention upon **Bel** in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth what he has swallowed. And to him nations will stream no more. Also, the wall itself of Babylon must fall. (**Jeremiah 51:44**)

See Also MERODACH