

~EVIL-MERODACH (65)

(E'vil-mer'o-dach) [from Babylonian, meaning Worshiper of Marduk]

- The Babylonian king who succeeded Nebuchadnezzar to the throne in **581 B.C.E.** In the year of his becoming king, **Evil-merodach** extended kindness to Jehoiachin the king of Judah by releasing him from the house of detention.
- That was in the 37th year of Jehoiachin's exile in Babylon. **Evil-merodach** granted him a position of favor above all the other kings who were in captivity in Babylon.
- And it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin the king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that **Evil-merodach** the king of Babylon, in the year of his becoming king, raised up the head of Jehoiachin the king of Judah out of the house of detention. (**2 Kings 25:27**)
- And he began to speak good things with him, and then put his throne higher than the thrones of the kings that were with him in Babylon. (**2 Kings 25:28**)
- And he took off his prison garments, and he ate bread constantly before him all the days of his life. (**2 Kings 25:29**)
- As for his allowance, an allowance was constantly given him from the king, daily as due, all the days of his life. (**2 Kings 25:30**)
- At length it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin the king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, that **Evil-merodach** the king of Babylon, in the year of his becoming king, raised up the head of Jehoiachin the king of Judah and proceeded to bring him forth from the prison house. (**Jeremiah 52:31**)
- And he began to speak with him good things and to put his throne higher than the thrones of the other kings that were with him in Babylon. (**Jeremiah 52:32**)
- And he took off his prison garments, and he ate bread before him constantly all the days of his life. (**Jeremiah 52:33**)

- And as for his allowance, there was a constant allowance given him from the king of Babylon, daily as due, until the day of his death, all the days of his life. (**Jeremiah 52:34**)
- Josephus claims that **Evil-merodach** viewed Jehoiachin as one of his most intimate friends.
- There is also archaeological testimony concerning **Evil-merodach** Awil-Marduk, or Amil-Marduk. For example, an inscription on a vase found near Susa reads: **Palace of Amil-Marduk, King of Babylon, son of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.** [*Mémoires Deuteronomy Lamentations mission archéologique Deuteronomy Susiane*, by V. Scheil, Paris, 1913, Vol. XIV]
- Berossus, quoted by Josephus, attributes to him a reign of two years. Josephus himself assigns him 18 years. Supposedly slain as the result of a plot, Evil-merodach was replaced by Neriglissar or Nergal-sharezer. Reliable confirmation of these details is lacking.