

~MERODACH (67) (Mer'o-dach)

- The Hebrew form for **Marduk**, the most important Babylonian god, whose downfall was foretold to coincide with Babylon's overthrow.
- 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**)
- The Babylonian Kings **Merodach-baladan**
- At that time **Merodach-baladan** the son of Baladan the king of Babylon sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, after he heard that he had been sick but was strong again. (**Isaiah 39:1**)
- **Evil-merodach**
- 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**)
- Were undoubtedly named after this god. With the rise of Babylon to prominence, because of King Hammurabi's making it the capital of Babylonia, **Merodach** likewise increased in importance.
- The attributes of earlier gods came to be assigned to him, and it is thought that the Babylonian priests altered the mythological accounts to make Merodach the slayer of Tiamat and the creator of the world and of man. Babylonian texts identify **Marduk**, **Merodach**, as the son of Ea, the god presiding over the watery element, the consort of Sarpanitu, and the father of Nebo.
- The kingship over Babylon was closely associated with the image of **Merodach** at his temple, Esagila, for the rulers of Babylon were not installed by coronation but became kings by taking hold of the hand of Merodach.

- The ceremony was repeated each year at the New Years festival. Even during the time that Assyria controlled Babylonia, the kings of Assyria were required to come to the city of Babylon each year for the New Years festival and legalize their claim to the throne by taking hold of **Merodach's** hand.
- Jeremiah the prophet, with respect to Babylon's fall, foretold that **Merodach** would become terrified. This came true in the sense that Merodach proved to be unable to preserve the dignity of the Babylonian World Power, and since the conquerors of Babylon were worshipers of other deities, his future became very uncertain, filled with foreboding.
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See Also BEL

See Also GODS AND GODDESSES (Babylonian Deities)