

## ~NEBO 4 (75) (Ne'bo)

- A deity whose humiliation at the fall of Babylon was foretold by the prophet Isaiah.
- 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**)
- **Nebo** was worshiped both in Babylonia and Assyria. He was identified with the planet Mercury and was regarded as the son of Marduk and Sarpanitu and the consort of Tashmitum.
- To his worshipers **Nebo** was a god of wisdom and learning, **the god who possesses intelligence, he who hears from afar, he who teaches, and lord of the tablet stylus.**[The Seven Great Monarchies of the Ancient Eastern World, by G. Rawlinson, 1885, Vol. I, p. 91][Ancient Near Eastern Texts, edited by J. Pritchard, 1974, p. 450]
- The prominence of this deity is illustrated by the Babylonian king Nabonidus referring to **Nebo** as, the administrator of all the upper and nether world, who lengthens the span of my life, and also as the one who extends, the length of my rule.
- Nabonidus credited **Nebo** with placing into his hands **the correct scepter, the lawful staff, which alone ensures the aggrandizement of the country.** [Ancient Near Eastern Texts, p. 310]
- Another indication of the importance of **Nebo** in Babylonian religion is the fact that a form of the name appears in the names of the Babylonian kings. [Nebuchadnezzar, Nabopolassar, and Nabonidus, also in Nebuzaradan]
- And in the fifth month on the seventh day of the month, that is to say; the nineteenth year of King **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon, **Nebuzaradan** the chief of the bodyguard, the servant of

the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:8)

- And perhaps **Abednego**.
- And to them the principal court official went assigning names. So he assigned to Daniel the name of Belteshazzar, and to Hananiah, Shadrach, and to Mishael, Meshach, and to Azariah, **Abednego**. (Daniel 1:7)
- **Nebo** is prominently associated with the ancient city of Borsippa, modern Birs or **Birs-Nimrud** near Babylon. In the spring, every New Years Day, the image of **Nebo** was taken in sacred procession from Borsippa to Babylon.
- Thereafter, when the image was returned to its sanctuary at Borsippa, the image of Marduk, also called by his title Bel or Lord, was carried partway along with that of **Nebo**.
- It was most appropriate, therefore, that the prophecy of Isaiah specifically mentioned the coming disgrace of Bel and Nebo at Babylon's fall.
- 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)