

~NEBUCHADNEZZAR (787)

(Neb-u-chad-nez'zar) [Nebuchadrezzar, Neb-u-chad-rez'zar, from Akkadian, meaning, O Nebo, Protect the Heir!]

- .. Conquest Of Jerusalem
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- Second ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, son of Nabopolassar and father of Awil-Marduk or Evil-merodach, who succeeded him to the throne. **Nebuchadnezzar** ruled as king for 43 years, **624-582 B.C.E**, this period including the **seven times** during which he ate vegetation like a bull.

- While the word was yet in the kings mouth, there was a voice that fell from the heavens; To you it is being said; O **Nebuchadnezzar** the king, The kingdom itself has gone away from you. (**Daniel 4:31**)

- And from mankind they are driving even you away, and with the beasts of the field your dwelling will be. Vegetation they will give even to you to eat just like bulls, and seven times themselves will pass over you, until you know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind, and that to the one whom he wants to he gives it. (**Daniel 4:32**)

- At that moment the word itself was fulfilled upon **Nebuchadnezzar**, and from mankind he was being driven away, and vegetation he began to eat just like bulls, and with the dew of the heavens his own body got to be wet, until his very hair grew long just like eagles feathers and his nails like birds claws. (**Daniel 4:33**)

- To distinguish this monarch from the Babylonian ruler by the same name but of a much earlier period, the Isin dynasty, historians refer to him as **Nebuchadnezzar II**.

- Historical notices in cuneiform inscriptions presently available about **Nebuchadnezzar** somewhat supplement the Bible record. They state that it was in the 19th year of Nabopolassars reign that he

assembled his army, as did his son **Nebuchadnezzar**, then crown prince. Both armies evidently functioned independently, and after Nabopolassar went back to Babylon within a months time, **Nebuchadnezzar** successfully warred in mountainous territory, later returning to Babylon with much spoil.

- During the 21st year of Nabopolassars reign, Nebuchadnezzar marched with the Babylonian army to Carchemish, there to fight against the Egyptians. He led his forces to victory. This took place in the fourth year of Judean King Jehoiakim, **625 B.C.E.**
- For Egypt, concerning the military force of Pharaoh Necho the king of Egypt, who happened to be by the river Euphrates at Carchemish, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah: (**Jeremiah 46:2**)
- The inscriptions further show that news of his fathers death brought **Nebuchadnezzar** back to Babylon, and on the first of Elul, **August-September**, he ascended the throne. In this his accession year he returned to Hattu, and in the month **Shebat, January-February, 624 B.C.E.**, he took the vast booty of Hattu to Babylon.
- **Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles, by A. K. Grayson, 1975, p. 100]** In **624 B.C.E.**, in the first official year of his kingship, **Nebuchadnezzar** again led his forces through Hattu, he captured and sacked the Philistine city of Ashkelon.
- During his second, third, and fourth years as king he conducted additional campaigns in Hattu, and evidently in the fourth year he made Judean King Jehoiakim his vassal.
- In his days **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon came up, and so Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. However, he turned back and rebelled against him. (**2 Kings 24:1**)
- Also, in the fourth year **Nebuchadnezzar** led his forces to Egypt, and in the ensuing conflict both sides sustained heavy losses.

See Also ASHKELON

.. Conquest Of Jerusalem

- Later, the rebellion of Judean King Jehoiakim against **Nebuchadnezzar** evidently resulted in a siege being laid against Jerusalem by the Babylonians.
- It appears that during this siege Jehoiakim died and his son Jehoiachin ascended the throne of Judah. But a mere three months and ten days thereafter the reign of the new king ended when Jehoiachin surrendered to **Nebuchadnezzar** in the month of Adar, **February-March**, during **Nebuchadnezzar's** seventh regnal year ending in **Nisan 617 B.C.E**, according to the Babylonian Chronicles.
- A cuneiform inscription [**British Museum 21946**] states: **The seventh year; In the month Kislev the king of Akkad mustered his army and marched to Hattu.**
- He encamped against the city of Judah and on the second day of the month Adar he captured the city and seized its king Jehoiachin. A king of his own choice Zedekiah he appointed in the city and taking the vast tribute he brought it into Babylon. [**Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles**, by A. K. Grayson, 1975, p. 102]
- Along with Jehoiachin, **Nebuchadnezzar** took other members of the royal household, court officials, craftsmen, and warriors into Babylonian exile. It was Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah that **Nebuchadnezzar** made king of Judah, and he changed Mattaniah's name to Zedekiah.
- And **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon proceeded to come against the city, while his servants were laying siege against it. (**2 Kings 24:11**)
- At length Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he with his mother and his servants and his princes and his court officials, and the king of Babylon got to take him in the eighth year of his being king. (**2 Kings 24:12**)
- Then he brought out from there all the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king's house, and went on to cut to pieces all the gold utensils that Solomon the king of Israel had made in the temple of Yehowah, just as Yehowah had spoken. (**2 Kings 24:13**)
- And he took into exile all Jerusalem and all the princes and all the valiant, mighty men, ten thousand he was taking into exile, and also every craftsman and builder of bulwarks. No one had

been left behind except the lowly class of the people of the land. (2 Kings 24:14)

- Thus he took Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon, and the king's mother and the king's wives and his court officials and the foremost men of the land he led away as exiled people from Jerusalem to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:15)
- As for all the valiant men, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the builders of bulwarks, a thousand, all the mighty men carrying on war, the king of Babylon proceeded to bring them as exiled people to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:16)
- Further, the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his uncle king in place of him. Then he changed his name to Zedekiah. (2 Kings 24:17)
- Twenty-five years old was Jehoiakim when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem, and he continued to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah his God. (2 Chronicles 36:5)
- Against him **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon came up that he might bind him with two fetters of copper to carry him off to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 36:6)
- And some of the utensils of the house of Yehowah **Nebuchadnezzar** brought to Babylon and then put them in his palace in Babylon. (2 Chronicles 36:7)
- For the rest of the affairs of Jehoiakim and his detestable things that he did and what was to be found against him, there they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah, and Jehoiachin his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Chronicles 36:8)
- Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months and ten days he reigned in Jerusalem, and he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (2 Chronicles 36:9)
- And at the return of the year King **Nebuchadnezzar** sent and proceeded to bring him to Babylon with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made Zedekiah his father's

brother king over Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 36:10)

See Also CHRONOLOGY

See Also JEHOIACHIN

See Also JEHOIAKIM

- Sometime later Zedekiah rebelled against **Nebuchadnezzar**, allying himself with Egypt for military protection.
- But he finally rebelled against him in sending his messengers to Egypt, for it to give him horses and a multitudinous people. Will he have success? Will he escape, he who is doing these things, and who has broken a covenant? And will he actually escape? (**Ezekiel 17:15**)
- And as for the nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and actually serve him, I will also let it rest upon its ground, is the utterance of Yehowah, and it will certainly cultivate it and dwell in it. (**Jeremiah 27:11**)
- Even to Zedekiah the king of Judah I spoke according to all these words, saying; Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him and his people and keep on living. (**Jeremiah 27:12**)
- Why should you yourself and your people die by the sword, by the famine and by the pestilence according to what Yehowah has spoken to the nation that does not serve the king of Babylon? (**Jeremiah 27:13**)
- And do not listen to the words of the prophets that are saying to you men, you will not serve the king of Babylon, because falsehood is what they are prophesying to you. (**Jeremiah 27:14**)
- This brought the Babylonians back to Jerusalem, and on **Tebeth 10th, December-January**, in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, **Nebuchadnezzar** besieged Jerusalem.
- For on account of the anger of Yehowah it took place in Jerusalem and in Judah, until he had cast them out of his sight. And Zedekiah began to rebel against the king of Babylon. (**2 Kings 24:20**)
- And it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth

- month on the tenth day of the month, that **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon came, yes, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem and began camping against it and building against it a siege wall all around. (**2 Kings 25:1**)
- And even against King **Nebuchadnezzar** he rebelled, who had made him swear by God, and he kept stiffening his neck and hardening his heart so as not to return to Yehowah the God of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 36:13**)
 - However, news that a military force of Pharaoh was coming out of Egypt caused the Babylonians to lift the siege temporarily.
 - And there was a military force of Pharaoh that came out of Egypt, and the Chaldeans that were laying siege to Jerusalem got to hear the report about them. So they withdrew from against Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 37:5**)
 - Subsequently Pharaoh's troops were forced to go back to Egypt, and the Babylonians resumed the siege against Jerusalem.
 - This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; This is what you men should say to the king of Judah, the one sending you to me to inquire of me; Look! The military force of Pharaoh that is coming forth to you people for the purpose of assistance will have to go back to their land, Egypt. (**Jeremiah 37:7**)
 - And the Chaldeans will certainly come back and fight against this city and capture it and burn it with fire. (**Jeremiah 37:8**)
 - This is what Yehowah has said; Do not deceive your souls, saying; The Chaldeans will without fail go away from against us, because they will not go away. (**Jeremiah 37:9**)
 - For if you men had struck down all the military force of the Chaldeans who are fighting you and there remained over among them men pierced through, they would each one in his tent rise up and actually burn this city with fire. (**Jeremiah 37:10**)
 - Finally, in **607 B.C.E**, on **Tammuz 9, June-July**, in the 11th year of Zedekiah's reign, **Nebuchadnezzar's** 19th year if counting from his accession year or his 18th regnal year, a breach was made in Jerusalem's wall.

- Zelekiah and his men fled but were overtaken in the desert plains of Jericho. Since **Nebuchadnezzar** had retired to Riblah in the land of Hamath, Zelekiah was brought before him there.
- **Nebuchadnezzar** had all of Zelekiah's sons slaughtered, and then he blinded and bound Zelekiah in order to take him as a prisoner to Babylon.
- The postconquest details, including the burning of the temple and the houses of Jerusalem, the disposition of temple utensils, and the taking of captives, were handled by Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard.
- Over those not taken captive, Gedaliah, an appointee of **Nebuchadnezzar**, served as governor.
- And it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth month on the tenth day of the month, that **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon came, yes, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem and began camping against it and building against it a siege wall all around. (2 Kings 25:1)
- And the city came to be under siege until the eleventh year of King Zelekiah. (2 Kings 25:2)
- On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was severe in the city, and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (2 Kings 25:3)
- And the city got to be breached, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and the king began to go in the direction of the Arabah. (2 Kings 25:4)
- And a military force of Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake him in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (2 Kings 25:5)
- Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, that they might pronounce a judicial decision upon him. (2 Kings 25:6)

- **And Zedekiah's sons they slaughtered before his eyes, and Zedekiah's eyes he blinded, after which he bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:7)**
- **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 he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and the house of every great man he burned with fire. (2 Kings 25:9)**
- **And the walls of Jerusalem, all around, the entire military force of Chaldeans that were with the chief of the bodyguard pulled down. (2 Kings 25:10)**
- **And the rest of the people that were left behind in the city and the deserters that had gone over to the king of Babylon and the rest of the crowd Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard took into exile. (2 Kings 25:11)**
- **And some of the lowly people of the land the chief of the bodyguard let remain as vinedressers and compulsory laborers. (2 Kings 25:12)**
- **And the pillars of copper that were in the house of Yehowah, and the carriages and the copper sea that were in the house of Yehowah, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and went carrying the copper of them to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:13)**
- **And the pans and the shovels and the extinguishers and the cups and all the utensils of copper with which they used to minister they took. (2 Kings 25:14)**
- **And the chief of the bodyguard took the fire holders and the bowls that were of genuine gold and those that were of genuine silver. (2 Kings 25:15)**
- **As for the two pillars, the one sea and the carriages that Solomon had made for the house of Yehowah, there happened to be no way to tell the weight of the copper of all these utensils. (2 Kings 25:16)**

- Eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and the capital upon it was of copper, and the height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and the pomegranates all around upon the capital, the whole of it, was copper, and the second pillar had the same as these upon the network. (2 Kings 25:17)
- Furthermore, the chief of the bodyguard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest and three doorkeepers. (2 Kings 25:18)
- And from the city he took one court official that had a command over the men of war, and five men from those having access to the king that were found in the city, and the secretary of the chief of the army, the one mustering the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land that were to be found in the city. (2 Kings 25:19)
- And Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard then took them and conducted them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. (2 Kings 25:20)
- And the king of Babylon proceeded to strike them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah went into exile from off its soil. (2 Kings 25:21)
- As for the people left behind in the land of Judah, whom **Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon had left behind, he now appointed over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. (2 Kings 25:22)
- So he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who proceeded to kill their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, neither did he feel compassion for young man or virgin, old or decrepit. Everything He gave into his hand. (2 Chronicles 36:17)
- And all the utensils, great and small, of the house of the true God and the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king and of his princes, everything he brought to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 36:18)
- And he proceeded to burn the house of the true God and pull down the wall of Jerusalem, and all its dwelling towers they burned with fire and also all its desirable articles, so as to cause ruin. (2 Chronicles 36:19)

- Furthermore, he carried off those remaining from the sword captive to Babylon, and they came to be servants to him and his sons until the royalty of Persia began to reign. (**2 Chronicles 36:20**)
- Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And the name of his mother was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. (**Jeremiah 52:1**)
- And he continued to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. (**Jeremiah 52:2**)
- For on account of the anger of Yehowah it occurred in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from before his face. And Zedekiah proceeded to rebel against the king of Babylon. (**Jeremiah 52:3**)
- Finally it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon came, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem, and they began to camp against her and to build against her a siege wall all around. (**Jeremiah 52:4**)
- So the city came under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. (**Jeremiah 52:5**)
- In the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the famine also got to be severe in the city and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (**Jeremiah 52:6**)
- Finally the city was broken through, and as regards all the men of war, they began to run away and go forth from the city by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the kings garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and they kept going by the way of the Arabah. (**Jeremiah 52:7**)
- And a military force of the Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake Zedekiah in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (**Jeremiah 52:8**)

- Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might pronounce upon him judicial decisions. (**Jeremiah 52:9**)
- And the king of Babylon proceeded to slaughter the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also all the princes of Judah he slaughtered in Riblah. (**Jeremiah 52:10**)
- And the eyes of Zedekiah he blinded, after which the king of Babylon bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon and put him in the house of custody until the day of his death. (**Jeremiah 52:11**)
- And in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that is, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadrezzar, the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, who was standing before the king of Babylon, came into Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 52:12**)
- And he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the house of the king and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great house he burned with fire. (**Jeremiah 52:13**)
- And all the walls of Jerusalem, round about, all the military forces of the Chaldeans that were with the chief of the bodyguard pulled down. (**Jeremiah 52:14**)
- And some of the lowly ones of the people and the rest of the people that were left remaining in the city and the deserters that had fallen away to the king of Babylon and the rest of the master workmen Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard took into exile. (**Jeremiah 52:15**)
- And some of the lowly ones of the land Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard let remain as vinedressers and as compulsory laborers. (**Jeremiah 52:16**)
- And the copper pillars that belonged to the house of Yehowah and the carriages and the copper sea that was in the house of Yehowah the Chaldeans broke to pieces and went carrying all the copper of them to Babylon. (**Jeremiah 52:17**)
- And the cans and the shovels and the extinguishers and the bowls and the cups and all the copper utensils with which they

used to minister they took. (**Jeremiah 52:18**)

- And the basins and the fire holders and the bowls and the cans and the lampstands and the cups and the bowls that were of genuine gold, and those that were of genuine silver, the chief of the bodyguard took. (**Jeremiah 52:19**)
- And the two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve copper bulls that were under the sea, the carriages, that King Solomon had made for the house of Yehowah. There happened to be no weight taken of the copper of them, all these articles. (**Jeremiah 52:20**)
- And as regards the pillars, eighteen cubits in height was each pillar, and a thread of twelve cubits itself would go around it, and its thickness was four fingerbreadths, it being hollow. (**Jeremiah 52:21**)
- And the capital upon it was of copper, and the height of the one capital was five cubits, and as regards the network and the pomegranates upon the capital, all around, the whole was of copper, and the second pillar had just the same as these, also the pomegranates. (**Jeremiah 52:22**)
- And the pomegranates came to be ninety-six, on the sides, all the pomegranates being one hundred upon the network round about. (**Jeremiah 52:23**)
- Furthermore, the chief of the bodyguard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three doorkeepers. (**Jeremiah 52:24**)
- And from the city he took one court official that happened to be commissioner over the men of war, and seven men of those having access to the king, who were found in the city, and the secretary of the chief of the army, the one mustering the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land, who were found in the midst of the city. (**Jeremiah 52:25**)
- So these Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard took and conducted them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. (**Jeremiah 52:26**)
- And these the king of Babylon proceeded to strike down and to put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah

went into exile from off its soil. ([Jeremiah 52:27](#))

- These are the people whom Nebuchadrezzar took into exile: in the seventh year, three thousand and twenty-three Jews. ([Jeremiah 52:28](#))
- In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar, from Jerusalem there were eight hundred and thirty-two souls. ([Jeremiah 52:29](#))

.. His Dream Of An Immense Image

- The book of Daniel states that it was **in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's** kingship, probably counting from the destruction of Jerusalem in **607 B.C.E.** and therefore actually referring to his 20th regnal year that **Nebuchadnezzar** had the dream about the golden-headed image.
- And in the second year of the kingship of **Nebuchadnezzar**, **Nebuchadnezzar** dreamed dreams, and his spirit began to feel agitated, and his very sleep was made to be something beyond him. ([Daniel 2:1](#))
- Although the magic-practicing priests, conjurers, and Chaldeans were unable to interpret this dream, the Jewish prophet Daniel did so. This moved **Nebuchadnezzar** to acknowledge Daniel's God as a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a Revealer of secrets.
- He then constituted Daniel ruler over all the jurisdictional district of Babylon and the chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. **Nebuchadnezzar** also appointed Daniel's three companions, Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego, to administrative posts. ([Daniel Chapter 2](#))

.. Later Exiles Of Jews

- About three years later, in the 23rd year of **Nebuchadnezzar's** reign, more Jews were taken into exile.
- In the twenty-third year of **Nebuchadnezzar**, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard took Jews into exile, seven hundred and forty-five souls. All the souls were four thousand and six hundred. ([Jeremiah 52:30](#))

- This exile probably involved Jews who had fled to lands that were later conquered by the Babylonians. Lending support to this conclusion is the statement of the historian Josephus.
- In the fifth year after the sacking of Jerusalem, which was the twenty-third year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar marched against Coele-Syria and, after occupying it, made war both on the Moabites and the Ammanites. Then, after making these nations subject to him, he invaded Egypt in order to subdue it.[Jewish Antiquities, X, 181,182, ix, 7]

.. Takes Tyre

- It was also sometime after the fall of Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E. that **Nebuchadnezzar** began the siege against Tyre. During this siege the heads of his soldiers were made bald from the chafing of the helmets and their shoulders were rubbed bare from carrying materials used in the construction of siegeworks.
- As Nebuchadnezzar received no wages for serving as Yehowah's instrument in executing judgment upon Tyre, He promised to give him the wealth of Egypt.
- For this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am bringing against Tyre Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon from the north, a king of kings, with horses and war chariots and cavalymen and a congregation, even a multitudinous people. (Ezekiel 26:7)
- Your dependent towns in the field he will kill even with the sword, and he must make against you a siege wall and throw up against you a siege rampart and raise up against you a large shield. (Ezekiel 26:8)
- And the strike of his attack engine he will direct against your walls, and your towers he will pull down, with his swords. (Ezekiel 26:9)
- Owing to the heaving mass of his horses their dust will cover you. Owing to the sound of cavalryman and wheel and war chariot your walls will rock, when he comes in through your gates, as in the cases of entering into a city opened by breaches. (Ezekiel 26:10)

- With the hoofs of his horses he will trample down all your streets. Your people he will kill even with the sword, and to the earth your own pillars of strength will go down. ([Ezekiel 26:11](#))
- Now it came about in the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, that the word of Yehowah occurred to me, saying; ([Ezekiel 29:17](#))
- Son of man, **Nebuchadrezzar** himself, the king of Babylon, made his military force perform a great service against Tyre. Every head was one made bald, and every shoulder was one rubbed bare. But as for wages, there proved to be none for him and his military force from Tyre for the service that he had performed against her. ([Ezekiel 29:18](#))
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am giving to Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon the land of Egypt, and he must carry off its wealth and make a big spoil of it and do a great deal of plundering of it, and it must become wages for his military force. ([Ezekiel 29:19](#))
- As his compensation for service that he did against her I have given him the land of Egypt, because they acted for me, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 29:20](#))
- One fragmentary Babylonian text, dated to **Nebuchadnezzar's** 37th year, **588 B.C.E.**, does, in fact, mention a campaign against Egypt. [[Ancient Near Eastern Texts, edited by J. Pritchard, 1974, p. 308](#)]
- But it cannot be established whether it relates to the original conquest or a later military action.

See Also TYRE

.. Building Projects

- Besides attaining numerous military victories and expanding the Babylonian Empire in fulfillment of prophecy ([Jeremiah Chapter 47-49](#)), **Nebuchadnezzar** engaged in considerable building activity.
- To satisfy the homesick longings of his Median queen, **Nebuchadnezzar** reportedly built the Hanging Gardens, rated as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

- Many of the extant cuneiform inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar tell of his building projects, including his erection of temples, palaces, and walls. An excerpt from one of these inscriptions reads;

- **Nebuchadnezzar**, King of Babylon, the restorer of Esagila and Ezida, son of Nabopolassar. As a protection to Esagila, that no powerful enemy and destroyer might take Babylon, that the line of battle might not approach Imgur-Bel, the wall of Babylon, that which no former king had done I did, at the enclosure of Babylon I made an enclosure of a strong wall on the east side.

- I dug a moat, I reached the level of the water. I then saw that the wall which my father had prepared was too small in its construction. I built with bitumen and brick a mighty wall which, like a mountain, could not be moved and connected it with the wall of my father, I laid its foundations on the breast of the under-world, its top I raised up like a mountain.

- Along this wall to strengthen it I constructed a third and as the base of a protecting wall I laid a foundation of bricks and built it on the breast of the under-world and laid its foundation. The fortifications of Esagila and Babylon I strengthened and established the name of my reign forever. [Archaeology and the Bible, by G. Barton, 1949, pp. 478, 479]

- The foregoing harmonizes with **Nebuchadnezzar's** boast made just before he lost his sanity; Is not this Babylon the Great, that I myself have built for the royal house with the strength of my might and for the dignity of my majesty?

- How grand his signs are, and how mighty his wonders are! His kingdom is a kingdom to time indefinite, and his rulership is for generation after generation. (**Daniel 4:3**)

- But when, in fulfillment of his divinely sent dream about the chopped-down tree, his reasoning powers were restored, Nebuchadnezzar had to acknowledge that Yehowah is able to humiliate those walking in pride.

- Now I, **Nebuchadnezzar**, am praising and exalting and glorifying the King of the heavens, because all his works are truth and his ways are justice, and because those who are walking in pride he is able to humiliate. (**Daniel 4:37**)

See Also MADNESS

·· Very Religious

- The indications are that **Nebuchadnezzar** was extremely religious, building and beautifying the temples of numerous Babylonian deities. Particularly was he devoted to the worship of Marduk, the chief god of Babylon.
- To him **Nebuchadnezzar** gave credit for his military victories. Trophies of war, including the sacred vessels of Yehowah's temple, appear to have been deposited in the temple of Marduk, or Merodach.
- Also, King Cyrus himself brought forth the utensils of the house of Yehowah, which **Nebuchadnezzar** had brought out from Jerusalem and then put in the house of his god. (**Ezra 1:7**)
- And also the gold and silver vessels of the house of God that **Nebuchadnezzar** had taken out of the temple, which was in Jerusalem, and brought to the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were given to Sheshbazzar, the name of the one whom he made governor. (**Ezra 5:14**)
- Says an inscription of **Nebuchadnezzar**; **For thy glory, O exalted Merodach a house have I made. May it receive within itself the abundant tribute of the Kings of nations and of all peoples!** [*Records of the Past: Assyrian and Egyptian Monuments, London, 1875, Vol. V, p. 135*]
- The image of gold set up by **Nebuchadnezzar** in the Plain of Dura was perhaps dedicated to Marduk and designed to promote religious unity in the empire.
- Enraged over the refusal of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to worship this image even after being given a second opportunity, **Nebuchadnezzar** commanded that they be thrown into a fiery furnace heated seven times hotter than usual.
- However, when these three Hebrews were delivered by Yehowah's angel, **Nebuchadnezzar** was forced to say that there does not exist another god that is able to deliver like this one. (**Daniel Chapter 3**)
- **Nebuchadnezzar** also appears to have relied heavily on divination in planning his military moves. Ezekiel's prophecy, for example,

depicts the king of Babylon as employing divination in deciding whether to go against Rabbah of Ammon or against Jerusalem.

- **And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me, saying; (Ezekiel 21:18)**
- **And as for you, O son of man, set for yourself two ways for the sword of the king of Babylon to enter. From the one land both of them should go forth, and an index hand should be cut out, at the head of the way to the city it should be cut out. (Ezekiel 21:19)**
- **A way you should set for the sword to enter against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and one against Judah, against Jerusalem fortified. (Ezekiel 21:20)**
- **For the king of Babylon stood still at the crossways, at the head of the two ways, in order to resort to divination. He has shaken the arrows. He has asked by means of the teraphim, he has looked into the liver. (Ezekiel 21:21)**
- **In his right hand the divination proved to be for Jerusalem, to set battering rams, to open ones mouth for a slaying, to raise the sound in an alarm signal, to set battering rams against gates, to throw up a siege rampart, to build a siege wall. (Ezekiel 21:22)**
- **And it has become to them like an untrue divination in their eyes, those who are sworn with oaths to them, and he is calling error to remembrance, in order for them to be caught. (Ezekiel 21:23)**