

~NERGAL (52) (Ner'gal)

- A Babylonian deity especially worshiped at Cuthah, a city that history says was dedicated to **Nergal**. The people of Cuth, Cuthah, whom the king of Assyria settled in the territory of Samaria, continued worshiping this deity.
- Subsequently the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon and Cuthah and Avva and Hamath and Sepharvaim and had them dwell in the cities of Samaria instead of the sons of Israel, and they began to take possession of Samaria and to dwell in its cities. (**2 Kings 17:24**)
- And the men of Babylon, for their part, made Succoth-benoth, and the men of Cuth, for their part, made **Nergal**, and the men of Hamath, for their part, made Ashima. (**2 Kings 17:30**)
- It was of Yehowah that they became fearers, but it was of their own gods that they proved to be worshipers, according to the religion of the nations from among whom they had led them into exile. (**2 Kings 17:33**)
- Some scholars suggest that **Nergal** was originally associated with fire and the heat of the sun and that later he came to be regarded as a god of war and hunting as well as a bringer of pestilence.
- The appellatives applied to **Nergal** in religious texts indicate that he was basically **viewed as a destroyer**. He is called, **the raging king**, **the violent one**, and **the one who burns**.
- Nergal also came to be regarded as the god of the underworld and the consort of Eresh-Kigal. The human-headed and winged lion is thought to have been the emblem of **Nergal**.
- **Nergal-sharezer** the Rabmag, one of King Nebuchadnezzar's princes, was evidently named after this god.
- And all the princes of the king of Babylon proceeded to come in and sit down in the Middle Gate, namely, **Nergal-sharezer**, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rabsaris, **Nergal-sharezer** the Rabmag and all the rest of the princes of the king of Babylon. (**Jeremiah**

39:3)

- Accordingly Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard and Nebushazban the Rabsaris, and **Nergal-sharezer** the Rabmag and all the principal men of the king of Babylon sent. (**Jeremiah 39:13**)