

INTRODUCTION

It was said that Saddam Hussein “pronounced himself as the reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar, and dreamed of restoring the Babylonian empire to its former size and glory, North of the ancient city of Ur, on the Euphrates River, lies the biblical city of Babylon. Years ago, Saddam commissioned archaeologists to restore the city and its Hanging Gardens. Like Nebuchadnezzar 2,500 years earlier, each new brick was inscribed -- this time with Saddam's name.”

Hussein’s inability to recreate himself into the image of Nebuchadnezzar reveals just how much God is in control of the affairs of men. Even Nebuchadnezzar could not have, on his own, reduplicated the splendor and majesty given him. We will see today that God, alone, cause this man to obtain the kingdom he enjoyed to the extent that he enjoyed it. And, as in each case of men, God allows such men to prevail consistent with His plan and purposes.

- I. THE BOOK OF DANIEL REVEALS THAT GOD USES RULERS LIKE NEBUCHADNEZZAR TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL UPON THE EARTH.
 - A. All government rulers are ordained of God. Rom. 13:1
 1. “Ordained” is the word tetagmenai -- “**to put in order, to station, arrange, appoint.**”
 2. The word “authority” is exousia -- the right to rule.
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar is called the “my servant” several times in Scripture.
 1. “Ebed” is Hebrew for **a slave, servant of a household.** -- Brown, Driver & Briggs cf. Gen. 21:25 (of Abram’s servant); Deut. 5:15 (of Israel in Egypt)
 - a. The term is used for men of God in Scripture.
 - i. It is used of Judah Gen. 44:16
 - ii. It is used of Moses. Num. 12:7-8; Jos. 1:2,7; 2 Kings 21:8; Mal. 4:4
 - iii. It is used of Caleb. Num. 14:24
 - iv. It is used of David. 2 Sa. 7:5,8; 1st Ki. 11:32,34,36,38; 1st Kings 14:8; 2nd Kings 19:34;

20:6; 2 Chron. 17:4,7; 89:3,20; 37:35; Jer. 33:21, 22; Ez. 34:23,24; 37:24,25

- v. It is used of Job. 1:8; 2:3; 42:7,8
- vi. It is used of Isaiah. Is. 20:3
- vii. It is use of Israel. Is. 41:8-9

- 2. Nebuchadnezzar is seen as servant three times, all in the book of Jeremiah. Jer. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10

II. GOD CAUSED THE BABYLONIAN KINGDOM TO GROW TO ITS EXTENT.

A. Nebuchadnezzar himself was seen as the "head of gold". Dan. 2:38

- 1. The use of the Hebrew personal pronoun "antah" -- you --- specifically notes that it was Nebuchadnezzar who was
- 2. "The head of gold"

B. That Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold is seen in the fact that he was made "king of kings" as seen is ability." Dan. 2:37

- 1. God gave him a "kingdom" is the Aramaic word malku -- "a world kingdom" -- Strong's lexicon cf. Dan. 2:38
- 2. God gave him "power" -- chesen -- "might" --Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies
- 3. God gave him "strength" -- toqeph -- authority-- **the right to rule**. Cf. Est. 10:2
- 4. God gave him "glory" -- yeqar -- "costly things that manifest splendor and position. Cf. Dan. 5:19 (the projection of it caused men to fear); 5:20-21 (the opposite reflected in Nebuchadnezzar's insane position)

C. Nebuchadnezzar was made "king of kings" as seen is his rule over men and the animal kingdom. Vs. 38

- 1. Nebuchadnezzar was made king of kings "Wheresoever the children of men dwell".
- 2. Nebuchadnezzar was made king over the beast of the field.
- 3. Nebuchadnezzar was king of kings over the fowls of the heaven.
- 4. Both men and beast were;
 - a) Given into his hand -- yad -- his power to act upon. Cf. Gen. 14:20 (of Abram over his enemies); 1st Kings 20:13 (of Ahab those given to his hand)
 - b) He was made "ruler" over them all.

D. God gave Nebuchadnezzar the authority to dominate the world scene. Jer. 27:5-7; Dan. 2:37

E. God "gave" Nebuchadnezzar a "dominion". Vs. Dan. 2: 37 Cf. Dan. 5:18,19

1. His “dominion” (shaoltan -- the expanded authority of a kingdom) to the ends of the earth.
 2. The word “gave” is the Aramaic term yehab
 - a) Yehab is used in other places of the delivering over of authority from one to another. Cf. Ez. 5:12 (used of Israel being delivered into the hands of the Babylonians)
 - b) Daniel reminds Belshazzar that God was the one Who gave Nebuchadnezzar the kingdom. Dan. 5:18
- F. Daniel reminds Belshazzar of the extent of the majesty that accompanied the dominion God gave to Nebuchadnezzar. Dan. 5:19
1. The Aramaic term for majesty is rebu -- **grandeur, greatness**. -- Strong’s lexicon (used only in the book of Daniel -- 4:22,33, 36; 5:18, 7:27)
 - a) His majesty grew - rebat -- “to make great.” . Dan. 4:22
 - b) His majesty reached (meta -- to extent towards) (a quality of) heaven. 4:22
 2. The majesty given Nebuchadnezzar resulted in all others “fearing” him. Vs. 19
 - a) “For” is the Hebrew preposition “min” used here to denote **the reason or the basis for why something occurred**-- his majesty.
 - (1) All people, nations and languages “trembled”-- zua -- “**to shake**” before him. Vs. 19; Cf. Dan. 6:26
 - (2) All people, nations and languages “feared” -- dechal -- dreaded -- **a disposition of mind that causes one to loath facing and to shrink back from possible harm or danger** --before him.” Dan. 2:31 (of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the image.
 - b) His majesty gave him fiat authority over men upon the earth. Vs. 19
 - (1) “Whomsoever” he would (tseba -- **desired; be inclined, be willing** -- Brown, Driver & Briggs) he slew.
 - (2) “Whomsoever’ he would he kept alive.
 - (3) “Whom he would, he set up -- rum -- **elevated**.” cf. Dan. 2:48-49 (aniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego); 3:30 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
 - (4) “Whom he would, **he put down** (shephel -- to humble; subdue).” cf. Dan. 4:37 (of God humbling men)
- G. God aided Nebuchadnezzar in enforcement of his dominion. Jer. 27:7-:8
1. All nations were made to serve him.
 2. All nations were made to serve his son
 3. All nations were made to serve his grandson.

CONCLUSION