

**King Nebuchadnezzar Learns Humility**  
**VBS: Wednesday 6.4.2025**

**Nebuchadnezzar & Babylon [In Biblical History]**

**#1) God's Prophecy – Ordained/Predetermined Plan**

**#2) Fulfillment of the Prophecy – Babylon Nebudchadnezzar**

**#3) Nebuchadnezzar's Arrogancy & Forced Humility**

- **The Bible/Word of God** provides a Historical Record of God's relationship with mankind. Its **primary emphasis is Salvation/Eternal Life pertinent to the covenant relationship between God and mankind.**
- The study of **Nebudchadnezzar** and the **Babylonian Empire** in God's Word
  - Is primarily about **this King and His Kingdom's role in God's Eternal Plan to save all nations** through the promise seed of Abraham/the nation of Israel.
  - God ordained the Empirical dominance of Babylon in the context of His Plan of Salvation and Scheme of Redemption
    - Babylon is one of the Dominant Empires that God ordained to send His people Israel into captivity into because they rebelled against God and violated the 1) Covenant of Promise initially given to Abraham and 2) The Law given at Mount Sinai/Horeb.
  - Nebudchadnezzar 1) **was/became the powerful King of Babylon** because of God's determinate counsel and 2) **had to be humbled by God** because he became arrogant.
- Captivity and Fall of the Northern Kingdom Of Israel by Assyria
  - Phase 1: Outlying areas Galilee, Gilead, Kedesh, Hazor, Naphtali 2
    - 2 Kings 15:29
    - ~732 B.C.
    - Pekah – King; Tiglathpileser King of Assyria
  - **Phase 2 Final Fall of Samaria (Country & Capital City) 722 B.C.**
    - 2 Kings 17:6; 2 Kings 18:912
      - 4<sup>th</sup> year of Hezekiah King of Judah
      - 9<sup>th</sup> year of Hoshea: last/final King of Northern Kingdom of Israel

- 722 B.C. the Northern Kingdom of Israel went into Assyrian captivity because of their apostasy, rebellion and violation of the Word/Will and Covenant of God

- #1 Prophecy of God through Isaiah re: Babylon besieging and leading the Southern King Judah into captivity:

- 2 Kings 20:12-19 <sup>12</sup> At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. <sup>13</sup> And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armor, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not. <sup>14</sup> Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon. <sup>15</sup> And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them. <sup>16</sup> And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. <sup>18</sup> And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. <sup>19</sup> Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days? <sup>20</sup> And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [\*Ordained by God]

- Isaiah 39:1-8 At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered. <sup>2</sup> And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armor, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.
- <sup>3</sup> Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon. <sup>4</sup> Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them. <sup>5</sup> Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: <sup>6</sup> Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. <sup>7</sup> And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. <sup>8</sup> Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.
- #2) Fulfillment of the Prophecy – Babylon Nebuchadnezzar
  - 2 Kings 24:1-5 In his [Jehoiakim/Eliakim] days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servants the prophets. <sup>3</sup> Surely at the commandment of the Lord came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; <sup>4</sup> And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the Lord would not pardon. <sup>5</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

- Daniel 1:1-2 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.
- #2.1) Prophecy of God Humbling Nebuchadnezzar for his arrogancy and not recognizing the power of God
  - Jeremiah 25:8-14 <sup>8</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. <sup>10</sup> Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. <sup>11</sup> And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations. <sup>14</sup> For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.
- #3) Nebuchadnezzar's Arrogancy & Forced Humility
  - Daniel 4:29-37 <sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. <sup>30</sup> The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? <sup>31</sup> While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from

thee. <sup>32</sup> And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

- <sup>33</sup> The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. <sup>34</sup> And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: <sup>35</sup> And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? <sup>36</sup> At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. <sup>37</sup> Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.

- Daniel 4:1-18 Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a 2<sup>nd</sup> dream
- Daniel 4:19-28 Daniel recounts/tells and interprets the dream
- Daniel 4:29-33 God humbles Nebuchadnezzar
- Daniel 4:34-37 Nebuchadnezzar humbles himself and acknowledges God

- \*Submission of Christians in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to the Authority of Rome

- Romans 13:1-7 <sup>1</sup> Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

<sup>2</sup> Whosoever therefore resists the power, resists the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: <sup>4</sup> For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do

that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. <sup>5</sup> Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. <sup>6</sup> For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

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