

# STUDY PACK 16

## BABYLON

“They carried me to the palace and all prostrated themselves to my feet, they kissed my feet greeting me again and again as king. I was elevated to rule the county by the order of my Lord Marduk and I shall obtain whatever I desire — \_\_\_\_\_.”

~ A prayer of Nabonidus Daboonus ~

### I. THE FOUR EMPIRES

Daniel chapter two reports the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. This dream outlines the \_\_\_\_\_ . Babylon is represented by \_\_\_\_\_, the Persian Empire by \_\_\_\_\_, the Greek Empire by \_\_\_\_\_, and the Roman Empire by \_\_\_\_\_. In chapter 7, Babylon is represented by \_\_\_\_\_, Persia by \_\_\_\_\_, Greece by \_\_\_\_\_ and Rome by \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. HAMMURABI

Babylon was one of many small Babylonian city-states until about 1790 B.C. Hammurabi became the king and brought stability to the region with \_\_\_\_\_. Babylon then began to assert control throughout much of Mesopotamia.

Babylon was destroyed around 1600 B.C. by invaders from the north. The area came under Assyrian control.

### III. THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

Around 625 B.C., a local leader named Nabopolassar overthrew the Assyrian leaders in the area of Babylon. He formed an alliance with the Medes and the Scythians and sent an army against Assyria.

The army was placed under the command of his eighteen-year-old son, Nebuchadnezzar. His name means “\_\_\_\_\_.” He proved to be a brilliant military leader. He would eventually conduct 34 sieges and conquer all 34 cities. He never \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH

A. Nineveh had terrorized the world for centuries. Except for a brief period of peace following the revival under Jonah, Nineveh was famous for \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Nineveh was fifteen miles by sixty miles. Nebuchadnezzar besieged and conquered it. Every building was destroyed. As Ashurbanipal watched the destruction, he gathered his nobles, wives, children and concubines into the royal palace and had it \_\_\_\_\_. Nebuchadnezzar set the last building in Nineveh on fire himself. This destruction fulfills the prophecies of \_\_\_\_\_.

## V. THE FIRST CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT

- A. Egypt, formerly a vassal of Assyria, seized control of many formerly Assyrian territories.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar led an army against Egypt and defeated their army at Carchemish. He chased the Egyptians back toward Egypt, Jer. 46:2.
- C. Judah had allied itself with Egypt. Nebuchadnezzar stopped to besiege Jerusalem. He \_\_\_\_\_, received \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He took some of the \_\_\_\_\_. He took a number of youths, especially chosen for their education and appearance for government service in Babylon. This group included Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. This was the third year of Jehoiakim, Daniel 1:1-2.

## VI. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECOMES KING

- A. Nebuchadnezzar received word that his father had died. With select troops, he raced back to Babylon. His main army followed later with plunder and captives.
- B. He was received by adoring crowds in Babylon and recognized as king. This is the fourth year of Jehoiakim, Jer. 26:1.
- C. He devoted himself to rebuilding the city of Babylon. He was determined to make it bigger and more magnificent than \_\_\_\_\_. He was as talented at building cities as he was at destroying them. Hundreds of thousands of slaves worked at building the most fabulous city of the ancient world. Its walls were 60 miles long, 300 feet high and 80 feet thick, Isa. 13:19. He built three palaces, three huge pagan temples and the famed Hanging Gardens for his wife.

Nebuchadnezzar had his name stamped into all of the bricks of the wall. Some remain until this day.

When Nebuchadnezzar had inscriptions erected in his honor, he focused more on \_\_\_\_\_ than his military accomplishments.

## VII. DANIEL

Nebuchadnezzar appointed Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon after he interpreted a dream for him, Daniel 2.

## VIII. THE IMAGE OF GOLD

Nebuchadnezzar demanded the worship of his image. After Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego survived a fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the God of Heaven, Daniel 3.

## IX. THE SECOND SEIGE OF JERUSALEM

- A. Jehoiakim rebelled against Babylon after three years. Tribes loyal to Nebuchadnezzar (Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, Amorites) began to raid Judah, II Kings 24:1-7.
- B. Jehoiakim died and was succeeded by his son, Jehoiachin.

- C. Nebuchadnezzar led his army to besiege Jerusalem. He conquered Jerusalem, took Jehoiachin and 10,000 hostages to Babylon. He took the rest of the vessels of the temple.
- D. Zedekiah, the brother of Jehoiakim, was made king, II Kings 24:8-20.
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ was carried away captive during this siege.

#### **X. THE THIRD SIEGE OF JERUSALEM**

- A. Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar returned and besieged Jerusalem again. Jeremiah 27-29 addresses this time as does Ezekiel chapters 4 to 24. It is described in II Kings 24:18-25:1-21, and Jer. 52.
- C. Nebuchadnezzar, after a two-year siege, allowed his army to pillage Jerusalem. \_\_\_\_\_ was written during this terror.

#### **XI. CONQUEST OF THE MIDEAST**

During the same campaign that involved the third siege of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar conquered Tyre (see Ezekiel 26-28), Egypt (see Jer. 43 and 46), Arabia, Syria, and Phoenicia.

#### **XII. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD**

- A. After his return to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar is warned about his pride, Daniel 4.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar loses his sanity and lives as a wild animal for several years. The historian Boessus refers to his “strange malady”. This lasted for seven years, Daniel 4. The king humbled himself and his sanity returned.
- C. The next year Nebuchadnezzar died. This was his 43<sup>rd</sup> year as king.

#### **XIII. EVIL-MERODACH**

Evil-Merodach succeeded Nebuchadnezzar. He released Jeconiah from prison and honored him (see II Kings 25:27-30 and Jer. 52:31-34). He reigned for two years and was murdered by his brother-in-law.

#### **IX. NERGAL – SHAR-EZAR**

He ruled four years after killing Evil-Merodach. He died of natural causes.

#### **X. LEBASHI-MARDUK**

He succeeded to the throne when his father died. He was murdered after a few months.

## **XI. NABODINUS**

Nabonidus became the next ruler of Babylon. His mother was a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. He is also referred to in secular history as Naucamid. He was rarely in Babylon and lived the life of a solitary mystic. He made his son Belshazzar regent (second ruler) and left the administration of the kingdom to him.

Belshazzar and Nabonidus are conquered by the Medes and Persians. Belshazzar is executed.

This ends the Neo-Babylonian Kingdom.