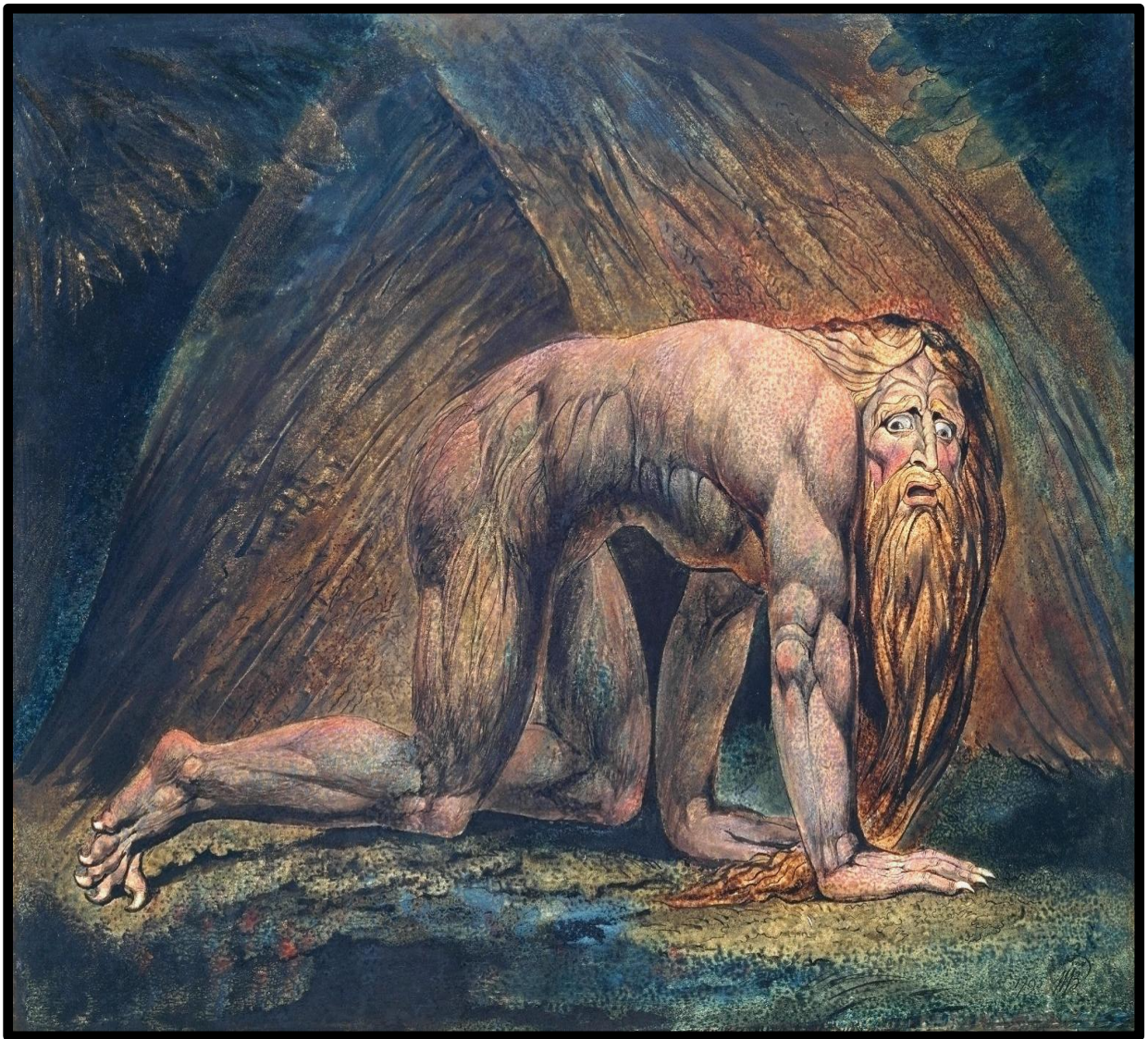


**LIVING GODS WILL**

**Vessel of God**

**NEBUCHADNEZZAR**



**Nebuchadnezzar by William Blake**

**Born:** 630 BC - Babylon

**Died:** 561 BC – Babylon (69)

**Nebuchadnezzar** was **King of Babylon (605-562 BC)**.

**Nebuchadnezzar** was the **longest reigning & most powerful Babylonian King**.

**Nebuchadnezzar** was **used by God to inflict judgment on Judah**.

**Nebuchadnezzar** had **2 dreams interpreted by Daniel God's prophet**.

**Nebuchadnezzar II**, sometimes alternately spelled **Nebuchadrezzar**, was king of **Babylonia** from approximately **605 BC** until approximately **562 BC**.

He is considered the greatest king of the Babylonian Empire and is credited with the construction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

**Nebuchadnezzar** is mentioned by name around **90** times in the **Bible**, in both the historical and prophetic literature of the Hebrew Scriptures.

**Nebuchadnezzar** receives the most attention in the **Book of Daniel**, appearing as the main character, beside Daniel, in **chapters 1–4**.

In biblical history, **Nebuchadnezzar** is most famous for the conquering of **Judah** and the destruction of **Judah** and **Jerusalem** in **586 BC**.

Judah had become a tribute state to Babylon in **605 BC** but rebelled in **597 BC** during the reign of **Jehoiachin** and then again in **588 BC** during the reign of **Zedekiah**.

Tired of the rebellions, and seeing that Judah had not learned its lesson when he invaded, conquered, and deported Judah in **597**, **Nebuchadnezzar** and his general, **Nebuzaradan**, proceeded to completely destroy the temple and most of Jerusalem, deporting most of the remaining residents to Babylon.

In this, **Nebuchadnezzar** served as **God's instrument of judgment on Judah** for its idolatry, unfaithfulness, and disobedience (**Jeremiah 25:9**).

Secular history records **Nebuchadnezzar** as a brutal, powerful, and ambitious king, and the Bible, for the most part, agrees. However, the book of Daniel gives additional insight into his character.

**Daniel chapter 2** records **God** giving **Nebuchadnezzar** a dream about what kingdoms would arise after his own. In the dream, **Nebuchadnezzar** was a "**head of gold**" on a statue, with the descending parts of the body, comprised of silver, bronze, iron, and iron mixed with clay, representing the less powerful kingdoms that

would come after him. **Nebuchadnezzar** demanded the astrologers and wise men to interpret his dream without him telling it to them and, when they were unable to, **Nebuchadnezzar** ordered all of the astrologers and wise men to be killed.

Daniel spoke up and, through a miracle from **God**, interpreted **Nebuchadnezzar's** dream. The king then promoted Daniel to be one of his most influential advisers. Interestingly, when Daniel interpreted his dream, **Nebuchadnezzar** declared,

**"Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery"** (**Daniel 2:47**).

In **Daniel 3**, **Nebuchadnezzar** created a gold statue of himself and required all the people to bow down to it whenever the music played.

Daniel's three friends, **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, refused, and the king had them thrown into a blazing furnace. Miraculously, **God** protected them, and when they came out of the furnace, **Nebuchadnezzar** proclaimed,

**"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way"** (**Daniel 3:28–29**).

In **Daniel chapter 4**, **Nebuchadnezzar** is given another dream by **God**. Daniel interpreted the dream for **Nebuchadnezzar** and informed him that the dream was a warning to the king to humble himself and recognize that his power, wealth, and influence were from **God**, not of his own making.

**Nebuchadnezzar** did not heed the warning of the dream, so **God** judged him as the dream had declared. **Nebuchadnezzar** was driven insane for seven years. When the king's sanity was restored, he finally humbled himself before **God**. In **Daniel 4:3**, **Nebuchadnezzar** declares,

**"How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation."** **Nebuchadnezzar** continued in **Daniel 4:34–37**,

**"For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?' ... "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble."**

The exclamations of **Nebuchadnezzar** recorded in the **Book of Daniel** have led some to consider the possibility that **Nebuchadnezzar** became a believer in the one true **God**.

History records **Nebuchadnezzar** being a follower of the Babylonian gods **Nabu** and **Marduk**. Is it possible that **Nebuchadnezzar** renounced these false gods and instead only worshiped the one true **God**? Yes, it is possible.

If nothing else, **Nebuchadnezzar** became a henotheist, believing in many gods but worshiping only one **God** as supreme. Based on his words recorded in **Daniel**, it definitely seems like **Nebuchadnezzar** submitted himself to the one true **God**.

Further evidence is the fact that **God** refers to **Nebuchadnezzar** as "my servant" three times in the **Book of Jeremiah** (**Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; 43:10**). Was **Nebuchadnezzar** saved?

Ultimately, this is not a question that can be answered dogmatically. Whatever the case, the story of **Nebuchadnezzar** is an example of **God's** sovereignty over all men and the truth that "**The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will**" (**Proverbs 21:1**).

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**Jeremiah 25:8** "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, **9** behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

**Jeremiah 27:6** And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. **7** So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them. **8** And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,' says the Lord, 'with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

**Jeremiah 43:10** and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will send and bring Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne above these stones that I have hidden. And he will spread his royal pavilion over them.



**Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream  
by Mattia Preti**