

## **Nebuchadnezzar or Nebuchadrezzar**

Nebuchadnezzar occurs 57 times in Scripture (6 times in 2 Ki., 1 time in 1 Chr., 4 in 2 Chr., 5 in Ezra, 1 in Neh., 1 in Est., 29 times in Daniel, and 10 times in Jeremiah 27:6-29:3).

Nebuchadrezzar occurs 31 times (27 in Jeremiah and 4 in Ezekiel).

A comparison of these verses clearly and unmistakably shows that these are different spellings of the same man, the same king of Babylon.

Every writer of Scripture, except Jeremiah, is consistent (see above data). Ezekiel always spells the Babylonian monarch in question "Nebuchadrezzar" whereas Daniel etc. always gives the name as "Nebuchadnezzar". Only Jeremiah appears inconsistent.

Most reference material states that "Nebuchadrezzar" is the Akkadian (Babylonian, meaning "Nebo, do thou protect the crown) form and "Nebuchadnezzar" is the result of dissimilation. For the following reasons, Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg seems most reliable. He is Professor Emeritus of Semitic languages (including Hebrew) and Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary. A born again Jew, Dr. Feinberg studied Hebrew 14 years prior to his conversion while preparing to become a Rabbi. He says the "r" spelling is more in accord with the excavated inscriptions in Babylon than the "n" which he believes to be the Hebraized form (*Jeremiah: A Commentary*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982, p. 151).

My examination reveals that Jeremiah is not actually inconsistent. The solution, as indicated above, is author or writer preference. Jeremiah always uses "r" except in a small section from 27:6-29:3 wherein "n" is consistently used. This strongly suggests that an amanuensis (scribe) other than Baruch (36:4 etc.) wrote these passages – perhaps Jeremiah himself. That is, Baruch wrote from Jeremiah's mouth chapters 1:1 through 25:38, but Jeremiah, or a scribe other than Baruch, wrote the section from 27:1 down to some point after 29:3 but before 29:21 where the "r" is again taken up and uniformly used to the end of the book. All or part of Chapter 26 could go either way.

As to why the writer preferences, I find no common thread. Baruch is in Jerusalem and Ezekiel is in Babylon along the Chebar canal with the other captives (1:1) so common location does not answer why they choose the "r". Some of those that choose the "n" were in Jerusalem whereas others were in Babylon. Among these, Ezra and Nehemiah spent time at both. Being Jewish, most used the "n".

Moreover, had all the writers uniformly used the "Nebuchadnezzar" form, the critics would have called this a biblical error and declared "Nebuchadrezzar" as the true Babylonian spelling. Had they always written "Nebuchadrezzar", these same detractors would then claim a later scribe had "corrected" the Hebraized "Nebuchadnezzar" to make it better fit the inscriptions etc. By leading His human authors to use both forms of the name, God revealed He was well aware that the Babylonian and Hebrew spellings slightly differed, and His foreknowledge stripped these critics of being able to rightly lay such charges against His Holy Word.

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