

NEBUCHADNEZZAR II AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUBSTANTIATION OF NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

Felix Gosal

Universitas Klabat

felixgosal@unklab.ac.id

Abstract

The ancient Neo-Babylonian Empire has made significant contributions to the field of archaeology, particularly within the Mesopotamian region. The zenith of this kingdom's prosperity is notably chronicled in the Book of Daniel within the Old Testament. In Daniel 4:30, King Nebuchadnezzar arrogantly acknowledges himself as the architect behind the magnificent city. While certain assertions suggest that the initiation of this construction project may have commenced under his predecessor, King Nabopolassar, a comprehensive examination of the Aramaic term "bena" is indispensable for a nuanced comprehension of the biblical narrative.

Keyword: *Neo-Babylonian Empire, Nebuchadnezzar, Biblical Archaeology.*

Introduction

The city of Babylon is one of the greatest cities written in the Bible. The name of Nebuchadnezzar appears in the Book of Daniel as a King who administered the city during the exile of the Israelites. Anderson emphasizes that Babylon is a reputable world power under the domination of Nebuchadnezzar.¹ Undoubtedly, the city of Babylon was an important city in Mesopotamia and well-known as the geographic center of the world.

However, In Daniel 4:30, the pride of Nebuchadnezzar is stated noticeably which made some controversial arguments among scholars. John Gill's bible commentary, for example, states that "the king seems to have gone too far, in ascribing the building of it to himself; at least he was not the original builder of it; for it was built many hundreds of years before he was born, by Nimrod or Belus."² Another controversial word came from Herodotus so-called "Father of History." He mentioned that there were two Queens, Semiramis and Nitocris, who were responsible for certainly remarkable buildings in Babylon.³ Such arguments conclude that Nebuchadnezzar was not the one who built the city and lead us to cast doubt on the bible.

¹ Carl Dicmann Anderson. *The Ancient World*. (Michigan: Freeman Graphics, 1973), 189.

² John Gill, *Gill's Commentary*, vol. 4, *Jeremiah to Malachi* (Michigan: baker book house, [1980]), 513.

³ Herodotus, *The Histories*, tran. A.D. Godley, (London: Harvard University Press, 1990), 1:229-233.

Nevertheless, some archaeological findings depicted that Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for the numerous remarkable buildings of the Neo-Babylonian Empire during that time.

Accordingly, the problem of this paper is the question of the builder of the city; and another question is to discover how great the city of Babylon was. Hence, the main purpose of this paper is to investigate archaeologically the issue of the builder of Babylon and to prove the magnificent city of Babylon according to the archaeological excavator. The focus of the research paper is primarily concerning the issue of construction during the Neo-Babylonian Empire. In this connection, the study will follow the order by discussing the Historical Background, Biblical Perspective, and Archaeological Substantiation

Antiquated Babylon is located on the Euphrates River in southern Iraq and lies about 60 miles south of Baghdad. The city spread out on both sides of the Euphrates River under the administration of Nebuchadnezzar. This fact adds to the validity of the Bible which some texts refer Babylonia to the Euphrates River. Moreover, there are many architectural accomplishments of Nebuchadnezzar. Some of them are seen in the enormous walls, palaces, and temples. These constructions were “impressive not only by virtue of their size and cost but also because of their artistry.”⁴

Historical background

The Babylonian Empire has a long history. The name of Babylon came from the Semitic form as *bav-il* or *bav-ilim* which meant ‘Gate of God’ or ‘Gate of the Gods.’ The word *Babylonia* did not exist in the Akkadian language but came from the Greeks, βαβυλων.⁵ In terms of the Babylon name, Parrot explains, “They have been given this name in order to distinguish them from the Amorite kings of the First Dynasty, that of Hammurabi.”⁶ Initially, Babylon appears in the Book of Genesis associated with the story of the tower of Babel and the “Hebrews claimed the city was named for the confusion.”⁷

Babylon was founded by Sargon the Great who ruled from 2334-2270 BC. Furthermore, Babylon’s golden age began with its famous king, Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC). According to Larue, “Babylon enjoyed two periods of outstanding greatness: the first during the early part of the second millennium when King Hammurabi reigned, and the second in the sixth century under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar II.”⁸

⁴ James D. Newsome, Jr., *By The Waters of Babylon: An Introduction to the History and Theology of the Exile* (Atlanta: John Knox Press), 1979, 26.

⁵ Wiseman D.J., *Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon* (London: Oxford University Press, 1985), 44.

⁶ Andre Parrot, *Discovering Buried Worlds* (Chicago: Northumberland Press Limited, 1995), 84.

⁷ Ancient History Encyclopaedia, s.v. “Babylon,” accessed April 9, 2017, <http://www.ancient.eu/babylon/>

⁸ Gerald A. Larue. *Baker Studies in Biblical Archaeology: Babylon and the Bible*. (Michigan: Baker Book House Company, 1969), 11.

The greatness of this empire did not expand in the absence of the obstructions. Babylon Empire faced a series of contrariness from other kingdoms such as Assyrian, Egyptians, even from Judah.⁹ However, “under Nabopolassar’s son, Nebuchadnezzar II, Babylonia invaded and took over the provinces of the Assyrian Empire from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf.”¹⁰ As a result, Babylonian Empire reached its peak of greatness at Neo-Babylon period and later on declined its power after the death of Nebuchadnezzar.

The Devastation by Sennacherib

Decades before the rise of Neo-Babylonian Empire, Assyria had its power of the monarchy and controlled the Babylon. The son and the successor of Sargon, Sennacherib (704-681), he inaugurated his son as the crown prince on the throne of Babylon. However, he lost his son which perhaps murdered in Elam. Accordingly, Sennacherib was resentful and destroyed the Babylon. Arnold states, “After a decade and a half of trouble in the south and the loss of his son, Sennacherib ruthlessly devastated Babylon.”¹¹ In addition, Olmstead in History of Assyria emphasizes, “Sennacherib was only human, and it was asking too much that he should forgive the subjects who had betrayed his first-born to Elam. He determined to destroy Babylon completely.”¹² For this reason, there is no official king of Babylon for the next eight years until Esarhaddon (680-669 BCE) resumed controlling the Babylon under the dual monarchy, continuing the previous monarchs.

Moreover, after the death of Esarhaddon, “the empire was divided according to his instruction between his sons: Ashurbanipal (668-627 BCE) was king in Assyria, and Shamash-shum-ukin (667-648 BCE) ruled in Babylonia.”¹³ However, the sibling empires fell into a bloody civil war. After the death of Ashurbanipal, Nabopolassar (623-605 BCE) established a new dynasty known as Neo-Babylonian Empire.¹⁴ Furthermore, the son and the successor of Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar, was transforming the city into the greatest city in the ancient world. He made the city become “one of the most important cities of Mesopotamia.”¹⁵ In terms of this, Laure emphasizes that “During the Neo-Babylonian period, Babylon became one of the

⁹ Larue, *The Neo-Babylonian Empire*, 47.

¹⁰ A. Leo Oppenheim, *Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization*, ed. Erica Reiner (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press 1977), 163.

¹¹ Bill T. Arnold, *Who were in the Babylonians?* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2004), 90.

¹² Olmstead A. T. *History of Assyria* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1951), 295.

¹³ Arnold, *Sennacherib*, 91.

¹⁴ Arnold, *Sennacherib*, 91.

¹⁵ Avraham Negev and Shimon Gibson, “Babylon,” *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land (AEHL)*, rev. ed. (New York: The Continuum Publishing Group Inc, 1972-2001), 67.

most beautiful cities in the world.”¹⁶ Thus, according to this, there is evidence that Nebuchadnezzar contributed to build the Babylon construction in the Neo-Babylonian period.

In addition, Wiseman explains that Nebuchadnezzar built a magnificent royal palace for himself, restored the Esagila or the temple of Marduk, and built a series of massive fortification walls and other restorations. He significantly developed the capital with spectacular architecture; constructed the famous hanging gardens; and upgraded the city differently from what it was.¹⁷

Biblical Perspective

This word of Babylon appears prominently in the four biblical books such as Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Revelation. However, even though mostly the city is related to Devil's City, the word of Babylon is mentioned 276 times in the Bible¹⁸ and making it an important city after Jerusalem. In addition, some of them express the city as the great city, beauty, and excellent. In the light of the Bible, Luckenbill summarizes the expression from Isaiah 13:19 that Babylon is the center of the Western Asia and the pride of its people because of its beauty.¹⁹ Moreover, regarding the statement of Nebuchadnezzar, “The Aramaic *Bena*, as its counterpart Hebrew *bana*, is used of both building and rebuilding.”²⁰ Thus, this translation reveals that Nebuchadnezzar's activity of build and rebuilds the city is undeniable.

Arnold states, “Nebuchadnezzar's legendary pride (Dan 4:30) was not without justification. He was clearly responsible for transforming Babylon into the greatest city of the ancient world.”²¹ According to SDA Bible commentary, “Nebuchadnezzar's claim to have ‘build’ Babylon must not be interpreted as referring to the founding of the city. The excavations from Robert Koldewey have shown that Nebuchadnezzar had valid reasons to be proud of his marvelous creation.”²²

¹⁶ Larue, *The Neo-Babylon Empire*, 51.

¹⁷ Wiseman, *Babylon*, 51.

¹⁸ Anderson, *Babylonia*, 191.

¹⁹ D.D. Luckenbill, “The Excavation of Babylon,” *The American Journal of Theology* 18 (1914): 420 accessed April 5, 2017, https://www.jstor.org/stable/3154531?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

²⁰ Wiseman, *Babylon*, 42.

²¹ Arnold. *Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar*, 96.

²² “That I have built” [Dan 4:30], *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary (SDABC)*, rev. ed., ed. Francis D. Nichol (Washington, DC: Review & Herald, 1976-1980), 4:793.

The Excavation

Before the German excavation in the nineteenth century, the primary guide for understanding the Babylon came from historians such as Herodotus and Ctesias who visited the city in the fifth century B.C. However, “when the German Oriental Society began to excavate Babylon, Herodotus (Book One) became an invaluable guide.”²³ There are some unreliable investigations of Babylon from the more recent visitor. The pilgrims, for example, give descriptions which considerable doubt about the ruins of Babylon. Further investigation came from a Spanish Merchant, Benjamin ba Jona of Tuleda. Perhaps explored with his contemporary Rabbi, Petachya of Ratisbon, they came to explore the site but just to focus on the evidence of Jews rather than archaeological matters.

In the sixteenth century, John Eldred indicates that he had found the brick of Ziggurat which is believed as the tower of Babel. Together with this, some discoveries by Venetian Balbi and L. Rauwolf showed a lack of details but left suggestions about the site of ancient Babylon. This is because of the different purposes of the investigator. In connection with this, Larue states, “It must be remembered that visitors tended to record their travels from a homiletic rather than from a scientific point of view, and their approach to ancient sites was religious rather than historical or archaeological.”²⁴ One of them is Anthony Sherley, who stated that the aim of his investigation was not to record the pieces of evidence of the city but to reveal God’s word.

In the seventeenth century, the first scientific investigation took place at the site.²⁵ The discoveries were revealed by Claudius James Rich (1811), Robert Mignam (1828), Jules Oppert, Fulgence Fresnel and Felix Thomas (1852), Austin Henry Layard (1850), until the German Oriental Society led by Robert Koldewey in 1898.²⁶

In the nineteenth century, the ruins of Babylon attracted some scholars soon followed by the proceeding of excavations. “The friendly relations between The German and Turkish governments have likewise greatly eased the path of the explorer.”²⁷ On March 26, 1899, before World War I, Dr. Koldewey as the director of the excavation began to excavate the site of ancient Babylon. Throughout the excavation, Archaeologists have shown the remains of construction projects undertaken during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.

In connection with discoveries from the excavation, Lyon states, “Impressed on clay cylinders and tablets from many of the ruins of Babylonia, and carved on stone slabs at Lebanon, these records give us much information about the city at the time of its greatest power and

²³ Larue, *The Rediscovery of Babylon*, 11.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 12.

²⁵ Larue, *The Rediscovery of Babylon*, 12.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 12-14.

²⁷ David Gordon Lyon, "Recent excavations at Babylon," *Harvard Theological Review* 11, no. 3, (July 1918): 307, Accessed April 5, 2017, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1507490.pdf>.

magnificence.”²⁸ According to Larue, these findings are strongly associated with the constructor of the city, Nebuchadnezzar. In his book, he points out that “Numerous inscriptions attest the zeal with which Nabonidus and Nebuchadnezzar worked to erect buildings, to construct roads and to fortify and enhance the city.”²⁹ Accordingly, some scholars believe that Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for building and rebuilding the magnificent city of Babylon.

The primary project of Nebuchadnezzar

Some scholars believe that the main purpose of Nebuchadnezzar’s reconstruction activity was to make his capital one of the world's admirations. Because of the destruction of Sennacherib, Nebuchadnezzar reconstructed lots of buildings, and along with this; he also built some of his buildings. Besides the destruction of Sennacherib, the dilapidation had resulted in flood damage to the city walls, streets, and the sacred temple precincts. The early concern of Nebuchadnezzar was “the repair of the main river wall and quay to receive this.”³⁰ The first restoration was the wing of the Nabopolassar’s Palace, followed by numerous restorations of the Temples, canal system, street, and some buildings.

On the other hand, Nebuchadnezzar also built his own building. His major building changed the shape of the city. Wiseman mentions that Nebuchadnezzar placed his palace to the west of his Father’s palace.³¹ In addition, Newsome states, “He built a palace for himself, restored the esagila (temple of Marduk), and built a series of massive fortification walls, among many other projects.”³²

The Walls

The city of Babylon was fortified by formidable fortifications. Sack explains that the excavation has “revealed remains of no less than five walls, with three comprising an outer ring and two an inner rampart.”³³ He continues, “They were built of both sun-dried and baked bricks and were of varying degrees of thickness.”³⁴ The city was protected by a massive wall and towers. Historians claimed that there was a roadway for chariots on the top of the wall. Moreover, the city was protected by a moat which gave a barrier before the wall. Sack states,

²⁸ Lyon, *Recent Excavations at Babylon*, 308.

²⁹ Laure. *The Neo-Babylonian Empire*, 51.

³⁰ Wiseman, *Babylon*, 51.

³¹ Wiseman, *Babylon*, 55.

³² Carol A. Newsom, *Daniel*, The Old Testament Library. (Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014),146.

³³ Ronald H. Sack, *Images of Nebuchadnezzar: The Emergence of a Legend* (London: Associated University Presses, Inc., 1991), 73.

³⁴ Ibid.

“The result of all this construction was a city completely surrounded by water and characterized by walls with towers and gates that transformed the largest part of Babylon into a triangular fortified island.”³⁵

The Ishtar Gate

The city had eight gates. Each name of the gates was followed by the name of their goddess. “Koldewey excavated the gates of Ishtar, Marduk, Ninurta and Urash located with reasonable certainty the other four. Presumably, each gate opened on a processional way which led to a shrine dedicated to the deity after which the gate was named.”³⁶ Ishtar Gate was the most important gateway. It was the main entrance of the city. The excavation displayed admirable ruins standing as high as forty feet.

The ruins displayed evidence of reconstruction which was done in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. The gate had two towers for each wall both outer and inner wall. The gate was decorated with lions and bulls on a blue ceramic background.³⁷ These animals depicted the conviction of the Babylonians. Regarding the animals, Parrot states, “dragons, bulls, and lions, recalling the three great divinities, Marduk, Adad, and Ishtar.”³⁸ The excavation has shown that the decoration, even in its ruins, the wall delivered its magnificent original idea and condition.

Some earlier excavations at this site revealed that the gate of Ishtar was decorated with richly colored flowers and plants. In terms of its magnificent decoration, Parrot indicates that the ornaments at the gates and the processionway were related to Solomon’s temple when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem (II Kings 25).³⁹

The city had twenty-four streets as mentioned in the inscription. One of them is well known as the Processional Way. The archeologist claimed that the Ishtar gate was excavated. A similar technique to Ishtar Gate was applied to the wall of Processional Way decoration.⁴⁰ The street ran from Ishtar Gate to the Euphrates River where the bridge connected the new and old city. The archaeologist explained that piers that supported the bridge that had linked the two halves of Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon when the Euphrates had divided the city were excavated.

The Royal Palace and the Palace Gardens.

The king of Nebuchadnezzar ruled the empire through cultic practice; especially construction projects and those names refer to please the gods. The city has seen service from the gods through the builders rather than their royal ideology. The construction of the city showed

³⁵ Sack, *Nebuchadnezzar the Builder*, 74.

³⁶ Larue, *The Neo-Babylon Period*, 54.

³⁷ Arnold, *Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar*, 97.

³⁸ Parrot, *Five Thousand Years of Civilization*, 84.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ H. W. F. Saggs, *Everyday Life in Babylonia and Assyria*, (London: Jarrold and Sons Ltd., 1965), 163.

the authority of the King and royal Babylonian ideology. The archaeologists have found an inscription of Nebuchadnezzar around the Ishtar Gate which depicted the ideology of the Empire.⁴¹ The palace aimed to unify the folk of Babylon administratively and for the admiration of Babylonians. The royal ideology of the Neo-Babylonian rulers was displayed not only in their architectural side but also in their artistic. Originally, Nebuchadnezzar stayed in his father's palace. Subsequently, after the political situation was steady, Nebuchadnezzar built his palace. Inside the palace, Nebuchadnezzar created his private residence. Around the palace, there was a massive courtyard and the big one was in the center of the palace. In connection with the Nebuchadnezzar's Palace, Wiseman describes:

The construction was magnificent, the upper walls were decorated all round with a band of blue enameled bricks and the doors made of cedar, Magan, sisso or ebony-wood encased in bronze or inlaid with silver, gold, and ivory. The rooms themselves were roofed with huge cedar beams from Lebanon, or with selected pine and cypress logs, some cover by gold.⁴²

Close to the royal palace, Nebuchadnezzar built the palace garden. According to a cylinder inscription, Nebuchadnezzar built it using baked bricks and formed it like a mountain high. In connection with this structure, some archaeologists and historians have interpreted it as a hanging garden. "This hanging garden was remembered as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world."⁴³ The city of Babylon was highly correlated to the discussion of the Hanging Garden. Saggs, for example, states, "It is hardly possible to discuss the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar without mentioning the famous Hanging Gardens."⁴⁴ Under its location, there is a water system that is believed for the canalization. In connection with the canalization, Wiseman emphasizes that "Babylon was surrounded by water." Concerning this evidence, some archaeologists come to conclude the existence of the Hanging Garden.

The German archaeologist Robert Koldewey, who excavated the site from 1899 to 1917, claimed that he had discovered the foundations of the legendary Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. "Traditionally, the gardens were attributed to Queen Semiramis but many scholars now argue that Nebuchadnezzar must be given credit for building them."⁴⁵ Despite the position of Koldewey, Larue continues that many scholars cast doubts on his identification.⁴⁶ Although the existence of the hanging garden is still questionable,

⁴¹ Wiseman. *Babylon*, 55.

⁴² Wiseman. *Babylon*, 55.

⁴³ Sack, *Nebuchadnezzar the Builder*, 83.

⁴⁴ Saggs, *Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon*, 158.

⁴⁵ Larue, *The Neo-Babylonian Empire*, 59.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 60.

however, the ruins have shown clearly that there was a magnificent garden in the Neo-Babylonian period.

The Temples

Undoubtedly, the most impressive construction in antiquated Babylon was the house of the foundation of Heaven and Earth co-called Ziggurat. Originally, this building existed in the third millennium B.C. As a result, it had a long history of reconstruction. Nebuchadnezzar had repaired the devastation by Sennacherib. The Assyriologist, George Smith describes that the tower was three hundred feet high and had seven stages.⁴⁷ Each stage represented the dimensions and the characteristics. In connection with that, Smith explains the seven stages:

The first stage was colored white; the second stage was two hundred and sixty feet square and sixty feet high and was black; the third stage was two hundred feet square, twenty feet high and was blue; the fourth stage was one hundred and seventy feet square, twenty feet high and was yellow; the fifth stage was one hundred and forty feet square, twenty feet high and was colored silver; there was no information about the sixth stage; but the seventh stage was ninety by seventy feet and was fifty feet high and may have been of a golden hue.⁴⁸

The temple had twelve gates. Moreover, the two main gates were connected to the processional way to the Ishtar gate. Nevertheless, the archaeologists had difficulty in determining the construction because of the destruction by Xerxes.

Another important temple in ancient Babylon was the temple of Marduk co-called Esagila. The location was close to the Ziggurat. In 1990, Koldewey discovered this temple “at a depth of sixty-five feet below the surface of the Amran mound.”⁴⁹ Besides the Ziggurat and the Esagila, Nebuchadnezzar also worked on sixteen temples in Babylon. Among the inscriptions that the archaeologists found in the site of Ishtar gate, there is evidence that Nebuchadnezzar built the temple of Zarpanit. In connection with the inscription, O’Conor wrote the statement of Nebuchadnezzar: “I founded, I built the august temple, the temple of Zarpanit amid Babylon, in honor of Zarpanit, the august sovereign, within the limits of Babylon. I had built of brick and bitumen a square sanctuary. I dug the arches of its niches in the depth of the earth.”⁵⁰ In fact, there were many temples in ancient Babylon. Some of them represented the great of Babylon and

⁴⁷ Ibid., 62.

⁴⁸ Larue, *The Neo-Babylonian Empire*, 62.

⁴⁹ Ibid, 63.

⁵⁰ J. F. X O’Conor, "Inscription of Nebuchadnezzar, Variants of an Unpublished Duplicate of the New York Cylinder." *Hebraica* 3 (1887): 169, accessed April 11, 2017, <http://libproxy.aiias.edu:2065/stable/pdf/527085.pdf>.

its magnificence. In terms of this, Harper emphasizes that “they were restored and redecorated by Nebuchadnezzar and shines within and without their enclosures were added.”⁵¹

Summary And Conclusion

Historically, the magnificence of Babylon was greeted. Some historians have shown evidence regarding the magnificence of the Neo-Babylon Empire. After the end of the Assyrian monarchy, Babylon developed its city and established a new dynasty so-called Neo-Babylonian Empire. During this period, Nebuchadnezzar transformed the city into a great city and became the most important in Mesopotamia. Nebuchadnezzar contributed to building and rebuilding the city after the devastated by Sennacherib.

Moreover, the Bible enunciates clearly that Babylon is one of the important cities in the Bible even frequently related to the Devil's side. Bible text through the Aramaic “*bena*” has explained clearly the Nebuchadnezzar’s activities of building and rebuilding the great construction in the city. In addition, some other books in the Bible have shown that the city of Babylon was beautiful and excellent.

Ultimately, archaeologically, Robert Koldewey during his expedition had revealed that the city of Neo-Babylon was majestic. Through its ruins, the archaeologists have concluded that the city of Babylon was great. The ruins had shown the high-quality standard of the Nebuchadnezzar’s construction at the time. Undoubtedly, the evidence of the archaeology has proved legally magnificent of the city. Nebuchadnezzar repaired some areas such as the system of the canal, fortification or walls, the bridge, and the temples. On the other hand, he also built himself a royal palace, a garden, a temple, and a gate.

After exploring the actuality of the archaeological findings, we could draw some conclusions from this research paper. First, this research paper confirms that the skepticism of some scholars regarding the text from Daniel 4:30 has been convinced by the archaeological findings. Second, the investigations by archaeologists have shown that Nebuchadnezzar worked in both building and rebuilding the Empire of Neo-Babylonia. Together with this, archaeological findings have depicted that Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for the numerous remarkable buildings of the Neo-Babylonian Empire during that time. Through its ruins, the archaeologists have confirmed the magnificence of the city during the Neo-Babylon Empire. Therefore, there is no doubt about the validity of the Bible.

⁵¹ Robert Francis Harper, “Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon (605-561 B.C.)” *The Biblical World* 14 (1899): 7, accessed April 11, 2017, <http://libproxy.aiias.edu:2065/tc/verify?origin=%2Fstable%2Fpdf%2F3137255.pdf>.

Bibliography

- Saggs H. W. F. *Everyday Life in Babylonia and Assyria*. London: Jarrold and Sons Ltd., 1965.
- Parrot Andre. *Discovering Buried Worlds*. Chicago: Northumberland Press Limited, 1995.
- Arnold T. Bill. *Who Were the Babylonians?* Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature. 2004.
- Larue A. Gerald. *Baker Studies in Biblical Archaeology: Babylon and the Bible*. Michigan: Baker Book House Company, 1969.
- Sack H. Ronald. *Images of Nebuchadnezzar: The Emergence of a Legend*. London: Associated University Presses, Inc., 1991.
- D. J. Wiseman. *Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Olmstead A. T. *History of Assyria*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1951.
- Negev Avraham and Shimon Gibson. "Babylon." *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land*. Completely rev. and reset ed. New York: The Continuum Publishing Group Inc., 1997-2001. 67.
- Gill John. *Gill's Commentary*. Vol. 4, Jeremiah to Malachi. Michigan: Baker Book House, 1980.
- "That I have built" [Dan 4:30]. *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. Rev. ed. Edited by Francis D. Nichol. Washington, DC: Review & Herald, 1976-1980. 4:792-793.
- Newsom A. Carol. *Daniel*. The Old Testament Library. Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.
- Herodotus. *The Histories*. tran. A.D. Godley, (London: Harvard University Press, 1990), 1:229-233.
- Lyon, David Gordon. "Recent excavations at Babylon." *Harvard Theological Review* 11, no. 3 (July 1918): 307-321. Accessed April 5, 2017. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1507490.pdf>
- Ancient History Encyclopaedia, s.v. "Babylon," accessed April 9, 2017, <http://www.ancient.eu/babylon/>
- Anderson Carl Dicmann. *The Ancient World*. Michigan: Freeman Graphics, 1973
- Luckenbill D.D. "The Excavation of Babylon." *The American Journal of Theology* 18 (1914): 420-425. Accessed April 5, 2017. https://www.jstor.org/stable/3154531?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
- Newsome, James D. Jr. *By The Waters of Babylon: An Introduction to the History and Theology of the Exile*. Atlanta: John Knox Press.1979.
- Oppenheim A. Leo. *Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization*. ed. Erica Reiner. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1977.

Harper Robert Francis. "Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon (605-561 B.C.)." *The Biblical World* 14 (1899): 7-12. Accessed April 11, 2017, <http://libproxy.aiias.edu:2065/tc/verify?origin=%2Fstable%2Fpdf%2F3137255.pdf>

J. F. X O'Connor, "Inscription of Nebuchadnezzar, Variants of an Unpublished Duplicate of the New York Cylinder." *Hebraica* 3 (1887): 169-170. Accessed April 11, 2017. <http://libproxy.aiias.edu:2065/stable/pdf/527085.pdf>.