

NEBUCANNEZAR, THE SERVANT OF YHWH

PART 2

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What Does Babylon Represent?



**Babylon represents man's efforts
to replace God with himself!**

Babylon represents all secular world dominant power from 587 BC to the apocalypse. Man's evil pride in world leaders, such as Nebuchadnezzar, is Satan ruling the world. Yahshua smashes secular world power at Armageddon and He takes over as ruler of Israel and the world. Satan, man's evil pride, is felled from heaven and imprisoned in hell.

This is why Babylon falls in our future at Armageddon in the Book of Revelations when Satan falls. The statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream is smashed and the tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (DAN 4) is felled, which we are going to learn about today.

YHWH is giving us prophecy about the restoration of Israel when Satan/Babylon falls from heaven/power and YAHSHUA takes His throne as King and Ruler over the whole world.

With Yahshua, a descendant of King David, ruling the world, Israel is restored and Zion is established. Zion, under Yahshua's Reign, is the 'great mountain and filled the whole earth' of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The strike from the stone in Daniel 4 is Yahshuas' strike at the future Battle of Armageddon. It is at Armageddon that prideful secular world power, started at king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC, is smashed to dust and Jesus Reign over the world begins.

ISAIAH – THE PROPHET OF YHWH

The Book of Isaiah (1,292 verses), the fourth longest book in the Bible after Psalms (2,461 verses), Genesis (1,533 verses), and Jeremiah (1,364 verses), deals with as broad a range of theology as any book in the Old Testament.

In this respect it is similar to Romans. However, there are four primary doctrines, all arising out of the prophet's personal experience with YHWH in his call (ch. 6), that receive the most emphasis. These are: YHWH, man and the world, sin, and redemption.



Isaiah lived in Jerusalem, and that capital city features prominently in his prophecies. Isaiah referred to Jerusalem by using more than 30 names. His easy access to the court and Judah's kings, revealed in his book, suggests that he ministered to the kings of Judah and may have had royal blood in his veins. Jewish tradition made him the cousin of King Uzziah.

His communication gifts and his political connections, whatever those may have been, gave him an opportunity to reach the whole nation of Judah. The prophet was married and had at least two sons, to whom he gave significant names that summarized major themes of his prophecies (8:18): Shearjashub (a remnant shall return, 7:3), and Maher-shalal-hash-baz (hastening to the spoil, 8:3).

Isaiah presented YHWH as great, transcendentally separate, authoritative, omnipotent, majestic, holy, and morally and ethically perfect. In contrast, he described sarcastically the stupidity of idolatry. YHWH creates history as well as the cosmos, and He has a special relationship with Israel among the nations.

The adjective "holy" (Heb. qadosh) describes YHWH 33 times in Isaiah, but only 26 times in the rest of the Old Testament. Holiness is the attribute of YHWH that this prophet stressed. Isaiah showed the tremendous value that YHWH places on humanity and the world, but also the folly of pride and unbelief. Assuming pretensions to significance leads to insignificance for the creation, but giving true significance to YHWH results in glory for humanity and the world. As all the other eighth-century prophets, Isaiah condemned injustice.

HOW DID ISAIAH DIE?

There is no historical record of Isaiah's death. Jewish tradition held that he suffered martyrdom under King Manasseh (697-642 B.C.) because of his prophesying. The early church father Justin Martyr (ca. A.D. 150) wrote that the Jews sawed him to death with a wooden saw (cf. Heb. 11:37).⁹

Another ancient source says he took refuge in a hollow tree, but his persecutors discovered and extracted him. This may account for the unusual method of his execution.



PRIDE IS A SIN

Sin is rebellion, for Isaiah, that springs from pride. The book begins and ends on this note (1:2; 66:24). All the evil in the world results from man's refusal to accept Yahweh's sovereignty.

The prophet repeatedly showed how foolish such rebellion is. It not only affects man himself but also his environment. YHWH's response to sin is judgment if people continue to rebel against Him, but He responds with redemption if they abandon self-trust and depend on Him. Sin calls for repentance, and forgiveness for the penitent is available.

WHY PRIDE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS EMOTION

- a) Pride is the worst of all sins (Proverbs 6:16,17).
- b) Leaders of men often suffer from pride (2 Chronicles 32:25,26; 1 Timothy 3:6).
- c) Pride leads to abuse of power (Isaiah 3:13-16).
- d) YHWH controls the destiny of man (Job 1:21).
- e) Those who oppress believers will be disciplined by YHWH (1 Kings 21:19).

- f) YHWH controls the individual and will not allow continual abuse of power (Amos 4:1-3)
- g) Great rulers can be brought down to the dust (Psalm 135:10).
- h) The choice is between pride (own will) and the Scriptures (YHWH's will) (Prov 8:13).
- i) YHWH will respond to the penitent soul (Psalm 51:17).
- j) YHWH will have no other gods before Him (Exodus 20:3) - the first commandment.

<http://www.biblestudyplanet.com/bio19.htm>

FALL OF THE KING OF BABYLON

Isaiah 13 ended with the desolation and gloom that would come upon Babylon. Since Babylon was Judah's great enemy, any judgment on Babylon was an expression of mercy on Israel.

So, Isaiah follows the pronouncement of judgment on Babylon with YHWH will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel.

Mercy on Jacob

Isaiah 14:1 For YHWH will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob. 2 Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of YHWH; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors.



YHWH will still choose Israel: Sometimes we feel that YHWH chose us, but if He had to choose again, He would change His choice! We almost feel that YHWH is “stuck” with us now, and would choose differently if He could. Here, YHWH reminds His children that He does still choose us, and would choose us all over again!



1. The promise of restoration to their own land was also important (and settle them in their own land). The Babylonians had forcibly exiled most of the population of Judah, so the promise of return was precious.

2. “This promise had a measure of fulfilment when Israel was brought back from Babylon; and still is it true that, when YHWH’s people come to their worst, there is always something better before them. On the other hand, it is equally sure that, when sinners come to their best, there is always something terrible awaiting them.”
(Spurgeon)

3. The invitation to Gentiles was precious (The strangers will be joined with them).

4. They will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors: In inviting the strangers to come and be joined with them, Israel eliminates their enemies. The ultimate way to conquer an enemy is to make them your friend!



Fall of the King of Babylon

Isaiah 14:3 It shall come to pass in the day YHWH gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, 4 that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: “How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased!



How the oppressor has ceased: YHWH want us to know now that the king of spiritual Babylon - Satan - that his days are numbered. There will come a day when his oppression has ceased, and when YHWH will break the staff of the wicked, and the scepter of the rulers.

a. Sometimes we get so weary and discouraged from Satan's attack, it is almost as if we think his day will last forever. If we remember that one reason he works so hard is because even he knows his time is short, it is an encouragement to us. We can hang in there! We can out-last him!

b. He who struck the people in wrath . . . who ruled the nations in anger: Both the king of literal Babylon and the king of spiritual Babylon were mighty, oppressive rulers over the people and the nations. But now, the one who once persecuted is himself persecuted and no one hinders, and as a result, the whole earth is at rest and quiet, and they even break forth into singing!

Isaiah 14:5 YHWH has broken the staff of the wicked,
The scepter of the rulers;

6 He who struck the people in wrath with a continual
stroke,

He who ruled the nations in anger, Is persecuted and
no one hinders.

7 The whole earth is at rest and quiet;
They break forth into singing.

8 Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you,
And the cedars of Lebanon,
Saying, 'Since you were cut down,
No woodsman has come up against us.'

1. “The whole Near East rejoiced over Babylon’s fall because her rule was harsh and oppressive.” (Wolf)

a. Even the trees rejoice over the fall of the king of Babylon.

This is true of the king of literal Babylon, because the attacking kings cut down thousands of trees for both fuel and lumber, leaving Israel and Lebanon deforested. “Since the twelfth century B.C. the kings of Mesopotamia had imported lumber from Lebanon. Nebudchadnezzar used large supplies of such choice timbers in his extensive building efforts in Babylon after 605 B.C.” (Wolf)

b. The trees also rejoice at the fall of the king of spiritual Babylon, because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of YWHW. (Romans 8:21) <http://www.enduringword.com>

Isaiah 14:9 "Hell from beneath is excited about you,
To meet you at your coming; It stirs up the dead for you,
All the chief ones of the earth;
It has raised up from their thrones
All the kings of the nations.

Clarke's Commentary on Isaiah 14:9

Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee - That is, Nebuchadnezzar. "It (hell) hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the earth; - the ghosts (rephaim) of all the mighty ones, or goats, (עַתְּדֵי attudey), of the earth - all the oppressors of mankind." What a most terrible idea! Tyrannical kings who have oppressed and spoiled mankind, are here represented as enthroned in hell; and as taking a Satanic pleasure in seeing others of the same description enter those abodes of misery!

IS ISAIAH REFERRING TO NEBUCHANEZZAR, SATAN OR BOTH?

Although Isaiah 14:9-18 most definitely refers to the king of Babylon, we must not reason that because a prophecy had an immediate fulfilment in the lives of those to whom it was directed, that it denies any other possible referents. Many prophecies in the OT had dual referents. In hermeneutics this phenomenon is termed the "double-reference principle."

Some of the most famous prophecies of the coming MessiYah had both a literal, near fulfilment in mind, and also a more distant, future fulfilment. YHWH's words to the serpent in the Garden, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; it will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel," had a literal fulfilment.

Isaiah 14:10 They all shall speak and say to you:
'Have you also become as weak as we?
Have you become like us?

All they shall speak ... - Language of astonishment that one so proud, and who apparently never expected to die, should be brought down to that humiliating condition. It is a severe taunt at the great change which had taken place in a haughty monarch.

11 Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
And the sound of your stringed instruments;

Barnes' Notes on Isaiah 14:11

Thy pomp - Thy magnificence (see the note at Isaiah 5:14).

The noise of thy viols - Instruments of music were often used in their feasts; and the meaning here is, that instead of being surrounded with splendor, and the instruments of music, the monarch was now brought down to the corruption and stillness of the grave. The instrument referred to by the word 'viol' (נבל nēbel, plur. נבלים nebalîym, Greekνάβλα nabra, Latin nablum), was a stringed instrument usually with twelve strings, and played by the pecten or by the hand (see the notes and illustrations on Isaiah 5:12).

Additional force is given by all these expressions if they are read, as Lowth reads them, as questions asked in surprise, and in a taunting manner, over the haughty king of Babylon - 'Is thy pride then brought down to the grave?' etc.



Isaiah 14:11 The maggot is spread under you, And worms cover you.'

The worm - This word, in Hebrew (רִמְמָה rimmâh), denotes a worm that is found in putrid substances Exodus 16:25; Job 7:5; Job 21:26.

Is spread under thee - Is become thy couch - instead of the gorgeous couch on which thou wert accustomed to repose.

And the worm - (תּוֹלַעַה tōlē'âh) - the same word which occurs in Isaiah 1:18, and rendered there as "crimson" (see the note on that verse). This word is usually applied to the insect from which the crimson dye was obtained; but it is also applied to the worm which preys upon the dead Exodus 16:20; Isaiah 66:24.

Isaiah 14:12

“How you are
fallen from
heaven,

O Lucifer, son of
the dawning!



WHO IS HELEL/LUCIFER – THE DAY STAR?

The ancient Babylonians had a large pantheon of gods. One of chief Gods was "El", and his wife was "Asherah". According to the religion, El and Asherah had many children (about 70) who were gods themselves. One of these gods was "Baal", whom Asherah spent most of her time with. Scripture mentions Baal and Asherah several times. The most well-known example is perhaps in 1 Kings 18, where the prophet Elijah challenges 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. (Note the KJV translates the Hebrew "Asherah" as "groves").

Two more of El and Asherah's children were twins: Shahr and Shalim, brothers of Baal. In the Babylonian pantheon, Shahr was deemed god of the dawn, and his twin brother Shalim was god of the dusk.

Shahar himself also had a son, Helel. The Babylonians believed that the planet Venus, when it appeared as a star in the morning, literally was Helel, the son of Shahar, and grandson of El. They worshipped Helel the morning star and considered him one of the more important gods. They also worshipped Shamash, the god of the sun.

El, the supreme god in the Canaanite pantheon, had a palace on Mt. Zaphon (or Zephon). Mt. Zaphon is situated about 9 miles north of the Babylonian city of Ugarit, the source for our knowledge of most Babylonian/Ugaritic mythology. El's palace on Mt. Zaphon is roughly equivalent to Mt. Olympus in Greek mythology, as it was the congregating and feasting place of the gods.

The Fall of Lucifer

Isaiah 14:12 “How you are fallen from heaven,

O Lucifer, son of the dawning!

How you are cut down to the ground,

You who weakened the nations!

13 For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.’

15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.

The passage, a taunt and prophecy to the king of Babylon about his demise, is practically dripping with mocking references to his Babylonian religion:

The passage is to the king of Babylon, who considered himself god-like.

He is compared to one of his gods, Heylel, the day star. Remember, Heylel is the son of Shahar (god of the dawn): Thus, "Heylel ben Shahar" = "morning star (lucifer) son of the dawn".

The king said in his heart he will ascend into "heaven", and exalt his throne above the stars of "YHWH". The Hebrew word translated "heaven" is "shamayim", very close to "Shamash" who was the Babylonian god of the sun.

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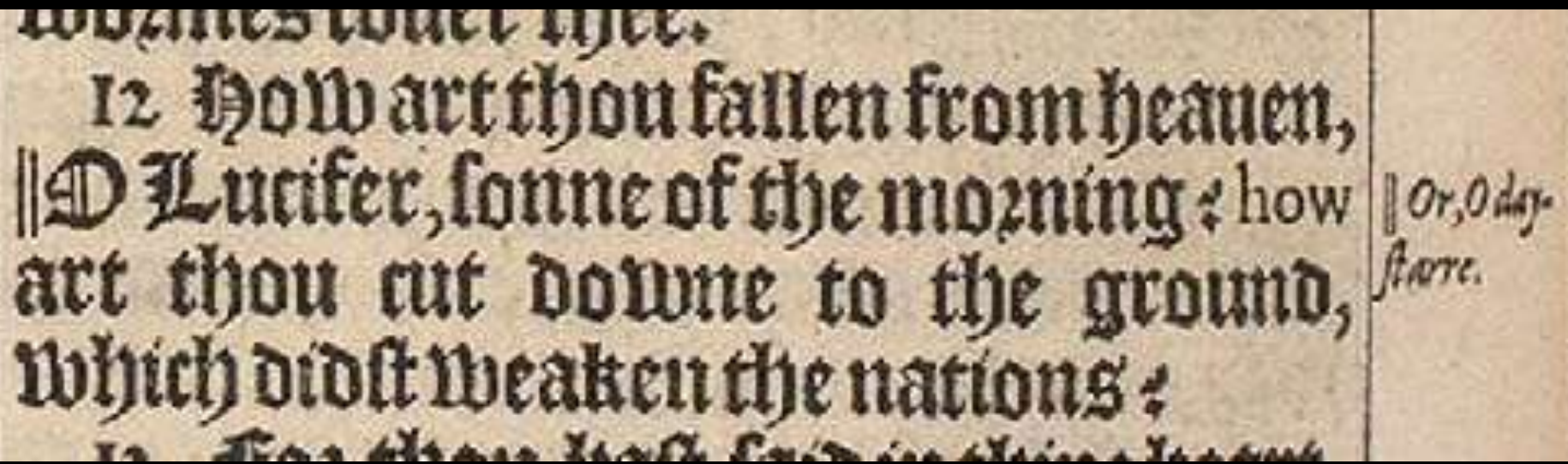
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Here's how the verse looks in the 1611 edition of the KJV:



Notice in the original 1611 edition of the KJV, there is a marginal note for the words "O Lucifer". The marginal note reads "Or, O daystarre".

Clearly the KJV translators themselves understood the meaning of the Hebrew and provided "daystarre" as additional translational meaning. Similarly, the marginal note in the 1672 edition of the KJV says "for the morning star that goeth before the sun is called Lucifer".

COULD ISAIAH REALLY ONLY BE TALKING ABOUT NEBUCHANEZZAR?

How did the king propose to 'ascend into heaven'?

Did the king really think he could usurp YHWH's throne?

Did he think he could sit on the sacred mountain? This indeed seems a most unlikely human ambition, even for a very evil king.

The reference to 'the stars of YHWH' is usually interpreted as referring to angelic beings (Job 38:7). Did the king really think he could rule over them?

Did the king really think he could be like the Creator YHWH-the Most High?

The prophetic habit of speaking to both a near and a distant fulfilment, the prophet will sometimes speak more to the near or more to the distant. Here is a good example of Isaiah speaking more to the distant, ultimate fulfilment.

It is true that the king of literal Babylon shined brightly among the men of his day, and fell as hard and as completely as if a man were to fall from heaven. But there was a far more brightly shining being who inhabited heaven, and fell even more dramatically - the king of spiritual Babylon, Satan.

- The first phrase in verse 12 is the key to this passage. Isaiah seems to switch gears and speak of someone more than the king of Babylon. Unless you also take the passage in Isaiah figuratively you are forced to consider the application of the principle of double reference.
- It seems hard to envision the king of Babylon 'falling out of heaven.' The verse implies that the one who has fallen originally started out in heaven-that heaven was his original home. The fact that the fall from heaven is literal is enforced with the phrase 'You have been cast down to the earth.' This certainly could not apply to an earthly ruler.
- The sin that the 'king' proposes in his five "I will's" seems to go far beyond any human's most outlandish and egotistical aspirations. On the other hand it is completely consistent with what one would expect of Satan.

THE 5 “I WILL’S” OF SATAN

Here is what Dr. Fruchtenbaum has to say about this passage:

1. I will ascend into heaven.

Satan was not satisfied with the high position YHWH had already given him as the guardian of HIS throne. He wanted a higher position than he already had, and the only higher position was YHWH's throne, a right that belongs only to the MessiYah (Eph. 1:20–21).

With the first I will, he desired to usurp YHWH's throne and sit on it himself in place of the MessiYah Yahshua.

Secondly: I will exalt my throne above the stars of YHWH

Whenever the word star is used symbolically, it is always a symbol of angels, whether fallen or unfallen (Job 38:7; Jude 13; Rev. 1:20; 9:1; 12:4).

It was used of Satan in verse 12. With this I will, he expressed his desire to become the sole authority over each individual angel.

This reveals HaSatan's desire to be equal to YHWH

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 KJV Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called YHWH, or that is worshipped; so that he as YHWH sits in the temple of YHWH, showing himself that he is YHWH.

HaSatan's desire is to exalt himself above all that is called YHWH or that is worshipped. When the Antichrist sits in the temple, it is to show himself as YHWH.

This is HaSatan's final objective: to be as YHWH and have people worship him as such.

3. THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION

The mount of the congregation "The mount of the Divine Presence" - It appears plainly from Exodus 25:22, and Exodus 29:42, Exodus 29:43, where YHWH appoints the place of meeting with Moshe, and promises to meet with him before the are to commune with him.

Therefore הר מועד har moed, the "mountain of the assembly," or אהל מועד ohel moed, the "tabernacle of the assembly," means the place appointed by YHWH, where he would present himself.

WHERE IS THE SIDES OF THE NORTH

The north is often mentioned as the seat of the whirlwind, the storm, and especially as the residence of the cherubim. Thus in Ezekiel's vision of the cherubim, the whole magnificent scene is represented as coming from the north - as if the appropriate abode of the cherubim: 'I looked, and lo! a whirlwind from the north

(Psalms 82:1 KJV) A Psalm of Asaph. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

Judge among the gods (angels), on the mount of the congregation. Satan wants the angels to bend their knee to accountability to him.

COULD NEBUCHANEZZAR BE REFERRING TO MT ZAPHON?

The king also said in his heart he will sit also upon "the mount of the congregation" - did the Babylonian El and the other gods have a mountain where they congregated? Yes, Mt. Zaphon.

Where does Isaiah say this "mount of the congregation" is located? "in the sides of the north". Where is Mt. Zaphon in relation to Ugarit, the source for our knowledge of Babylonian/Ugaritic mythology? Directly north. And what is the Hebrew word Isaiah uses in this verse, translated "north"? "Zaphon"! (Strong's #6828) In other words, the verse reads "I will sit also upon the mount of assembly (of the gods), in the sides of Zaphon"! <http://www.kjv-only.com>

Fourthly: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.

Whenever the word cloud is used symbolically, it is always a symbol of the Shekinah Glory (Ex. 16:10; 40:34-38; I Kg. 8:10-11; Mat. 26:64).

This unique glory, a glory that belongs only to YHWH, is something Satan desired for himself.

Ascend Above the Heights of the Clouds

Isaiah 6:1-4 6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw YHWH sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is YHWH of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

This passage is describing the throne of worship.

Heights, is the high places in the heavenly places. Satan wants more than the angels service and accountability but also their worship.

Fifth: I will be like the Most High

Whenever YHWH is referred to as the Most High, it emphasizes HIM as the possessor of the heavens and the earth (Gen. 14:18-19).

With this I will, Satan expressed his desire to become the sole possessor of everything that YHWH created in Genesis 1:1, he wished to be like YHWH in authority, power, and control.

5. I will be like the Most High

Barnes' Notes on Isaiah 14:14

There is a remarkable resemblance between this language and that used in 2 Thessalonians 2:4, in regard to antichrist: 'He, as YHWH sits in the temple of YHWH, showing himself that he is YHWH.'

And this similarity is the more remarkable, because antichrist is represented, in Revelation 17:4-5, as seated in Babylon - the spiritual seat of arrogance, oppression, and pride. Probably Paul had the passage in Isaiah in his eye when he penned the description of antichrist.

Isaiah 14:15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit

Despite Satan's desire to exalt himself, he will not be exalted at all. Certainly, there is a sense in which he is exalted right now, but this is but an eye-blink in the scope of eternity. Satan, like all those who desire to exalt themselves, shall be brought down.

1 Peter 5:6 expresses the true path to being exalted: Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of YHWH, that He may exalt you in due time.

In Mark 9:35, Yahshua said If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.

THE 4 FALLS OF SATAN

Fallen from heaven: In fact there are four falls of Satan, and this refers to his final, fourth fall.

i. Satan fell from glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16). This is what Yahshua spoke of in Luke 10:18 when He says He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. This is the only fall of Satan that has already happened.

ii. Satan will fall from having access to heaven (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to restriction on the earth (Revelation 12:9).

iii. Satan will fall from his place on the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

iv. Finally, as mentioned here in Isaiah 14:12, Satan will fall from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire, which we commonly know as hell (Revelation 20:10).



Isaiah 14: 16 “Those who see you will gaze at you,
And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the
earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

17 Who made the world as a wilderness
And destroyed its cities,
Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

18 “All the kings of the nations, All of them, sleep in glory,
Everyone in his own house;

19 But you are cast out of your grave
Like an abominable branch,

Like the garment of those who are slain,
Thrust through with a sword,
Who go down to the stones of the pit,
Like a corpse trodden underfoot.

20 You will not be joined with them in burial,
Because you have destroyed your land
And slain your people.
The brood of evildoers shall never be named.

21 Prepare slaughter for his children
Because of the iniquity of their fathers,
Lest they rise up and possess the land,
And fill the face of the world with cities.”

Babylon Destroyed

22 “For I will rise up against them,” says YHWH of hosts,
“And cut off from Babylon the name and remnant,
And offspring and posterity,” says YHWH.

23 “I will also make it a possession for the porcupine,
And marshes of muddy water;

I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” says YHWH
of hosts.

YHWH FULFILLED THIS PROMISE OF DESTRUCTION

The ruins of the ancient city Babylon in the foreground with one of Saddam's many palaces in the background.



PART 2

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TREES IN THE BIBLE + NEBUCHADNEZZAR AS THE TREE WHO WAS CUT DOWN

REFERENCES TO TREES IN THE BIBLE

More than thirty different kinds of trees are named in the Bible: In addition to the majestic Cedars of Lebanon extolled in the Old Testament as building material for Solomon's Temple, there are also the Olive Tree and Fig Tree emphasized in the New Testament.

We don't really know what kind of tree Yahshua hung on: some think it was a dogwood. The Greek word for 'cross' is "stauros" and reportedly didn't apply to two pieces of wood joined together, as is usually pictured, but was just a single stake or pole.

"The YHWH of our fathers raised up Yahshua, whom you slew and hanged on a tree". Acts 5:30.

<http://www.cswnet.com/~duxrow/Trees.htm>

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TREES IN THE BIBLE

The cedar became a temple, the fig, a covering, and the gopher an ark. A tree was connected with man's sin. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:1-7). Another tree played a key role in the price of man's sin. At Calvary, Yahshua HaMashiach the MessiYah died by crucifixion upon a tree.

Read more: <http://reljournal.com/christianity/symbolisms-of-significant-trees-in-the-bible/#ixzz2MufCXyWY>

The Nebuchadnezzar Tree: This King of Babylon is called a tree in the 4th chapter of Daniel; a "tree" that would have an axe taken to it and be cut down to a stump. Jesus said: "Every tree which does not bear good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire". Mt3:10

The Jesse Tree: Jesse was the Father of David, and his 'family tree' leads all the way to Yahshua. The Book of Isaiah, 11:1-10, uses this tree terminology when it says: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots".



The cedar tree was chosen for the temple of YHWH in Jerusalem (I Kings 6:9-20). There are several possible reasons for this tree's having been chosen. "The wood is not attacked by insect pests; it is free from knots. It has remarkable lasting qualities."

The cedar forests in Lebanon were famous, and the people traveled great distances just to see them. These trees grew to heights of 120 feet and girths of 40 feet. Their life span was often over two thousand years. The cedars of Lebanon are now very rare; their glory has passed.



Joshua Tree Because the name 'Yehoshua' in Hebrew translates to 'Yahshua' so this can be interpreted as the 'Yahshua Tree' and its sometime suggestive shape reminds some of the outstretched arms of Yahshua on the cross.

In the Old Testament Yehoshua was leading the Hebrews in their follow-up victory at Ai, Judges 8:29, and he hanged their king on a tree until sunset.

Another tree known for its longevity is the oak. The sturdy oak stood as a witness to certain events. In the time of the patriarchs, Jacob took the false idols from the members of the household and buried them under an oak at Shechem (Gen. 35:4). It was by an oak tree that, years later, Yehoshua took idols from the nation of Israel, who promised to serve only the true ELOHIM (Josh. 24:14-26). Was it the same tree? The scriptures do not tell us, but some scholars infer that this may be true.



When the land of Israel was oppressed by Midian, the Angel of YHWH appeared unto Gideon under an oak tree. There the angel made a covenant with Gideon to deliver Israel from their oppression (Judg. 6:11-19).

Some oak trees also witnessed evil. The heathen worshipped idols in oak groves (Ezek. 6:13); Absalom, David's son, died in an oak tree (II Sam. 18:6-17); and King Saul was buried under an oak tree. (I Chron. 10:12).

The Fig Tree. The one with leaves in Mark 11 was cursed by Yahshua when it had no fruit on it--kind of like the way some people appear to be Christians, from the outside, or from a distance, but aren't bearing spiritual "fruit".

Gourd Tree. Not called 'tree' in Jonah 4, but providing him shade on a hot day, like what many of us think of when we get around to planting trees. "YHWH is thy keeper: YHWH is thy shade upon thy right hand. Ps121:5

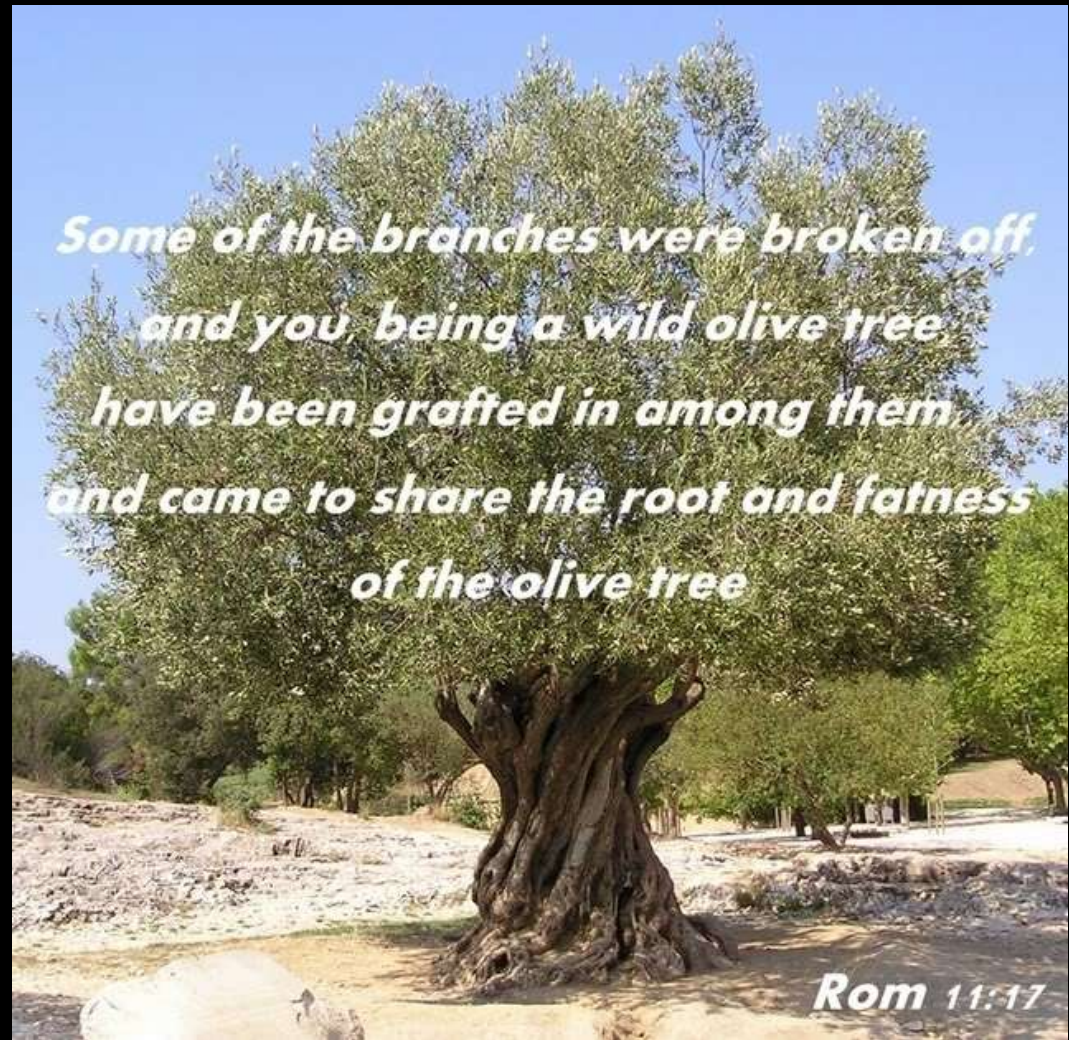
The Dozen-Fruit Tree From the final chapter of Revelation, 22:2, this tree produces twelve kind of fruit every month "and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations". Like that other tree in the Garden of Eden, Gen3:24, it's also called 'the Tree of Life', and is found on both sides of the River of Life, so we know this is a symbolic tree instead of one that's tangible.

Another tree of importance, especially in the land of Israel, was the olive. The tree became the Biblical symbol for the nation of Israel (Rom. 11:15-25). Its berries continue to be leading articles of Israeli commerce. This tree has been called an emblem of peace, prosperity, and wealth (Ps. 128). When the olive crop fails, it is considered to be a sign of divine wrath (Jer. 11:16-23).



Wild Olive Tree. Rom 11:17 speaks of "grafting in branches", as befits the Husbandman of the Bible who gives us parables, mysteries, and allegories -- often presented in farming terminology calling for us to do some 'plowing'. Matthew, Mark, or Luke never mention it, but in John's Gospel, Yahshua stated that He was the Vine, and we are the branches!

Calling himself a tree!



Too bad all the false religions are simply barking
up the wrong tree!

"They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands."
Isaiah 65:22

"And all the trees of the field shall know that I, YHWH, have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I YHWH, have spoken and have done it". Ezek17:24

The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycomores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars. Isa 9:10 [Sycomores being a common inexpensive lumber, and cedar much stronger.]

"I see men as trees walking".
Mark 8:24. That's what the
blind man said after Yahshua
had spit on the man's eyes
and put his hands on
him. Perhaps it as the first
step in opening our "eyes of
understanding", Eph1:18,
because after Yahshua laid
hands on him the second
time, he saw clearly!

We all want to see clearly, of
course; so maybe we should
begin by seeing how we can
be Trees of Righteousness,
and Yahshua is the Tree of
Life!



Daniel 4 - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree

4 King Nebuchadnezzar, To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you!

2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High G-d has performed for me.

3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; dominion endures from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. 6 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me.

7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.
8 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)



9 I said, “Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me.

10 These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous.

11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

Daniel 4:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

Nebuchadnezzar introduces himself in this narrative. It is obvious he intended for Daniel to write this and publish it throughout the Empire as an official decree. It is addressed to all the people that dwell on the earth. It is intended even for those who were not a part of the Babylonian Empire. Nebuchadnezzar has something he wants to say and he wants it said to everybody. Daniel wrote this in the Aramaic language which was the most prevalent language at the time.

THE SPIRIT IN DANIEL HAD A PACIFYING EFFECT ON THE KING

Notice here the immediate change in this man's demeanour which is evident from the beginning. He desired peace to be multiplied to all people. This isn't the same person as the Nebuchadnezzar who handed the king of Egypt a defeat so overwhelming that he returned home never to leave his country again. This isn't the same man as the one who sacked the city of Jerusalem, carried off some of her temple treasures, castrated and hauled off several of her princes and children of noble blood.

Nor is this the same man who tried to burn three men to death for refusing to worship his statue. The Nebuchadnezzar of old was not a peaceful man.

So it is a remarkable thing in and of itself to see this man declaring peace to all nations and all people on earth. When studying this extraordinary chapter of Daniel it is important to keep in mind that it was written as an official narrative and decree of the king of the Babylonian empire to all who lived under his authority.

Daniel Interprets the Dream

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.”

Belteshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! 20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, 21 with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— 22 Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

The text reads that Daniel "astonished for one hour", overwhelmed with awe at the terrible importance of the dream. At this point, Daniel knew the interpretation of the dream and he was so concerned that he could not tell the king what it was. It is hard to know what was going through Daniel's mind at this time. Many commentators have stated that in the forty years of Daniel's service to Nebuchadnezzar, they had grown to have a relationship and Daniel was overwhelmed at the prospect of delivering such bad news to the king. This is certainly a possibility and without a doubt Daniel was dealing with a whole flood of mixed emotions at this point.

Of significance here in unravelling Daniel's thoughts on the matter are his words to Nebuchadnezzar pertaining to his enemies. The rivals of Nebuchadnezzar were obviously on Daniel's mind. What would Daniel and his countrymen have to look forward to if Nebuchadnezzar were to fall? What fate would await Daniel and his Israelite countrymen under the rule of another king?

13 “In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven.

14 He called in a loud voice: ‘Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

15 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field.

“Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.



17 “The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.’

18 “This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

23 “Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground.

Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’



24 “This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: 25 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.



YHWH reveals that He would cause this great haughty rebellious king to be humbled before Him and that Nebuchadnezzar would be driven from men and would dwell seven years as a beast of the field eating grass like an ox being openly exposed to the elements and the dew of heaven.

YHWH states the purpose of this humbling of the king was to teach him first hand who was truly the G-d of heaven who ruled the world and who sets up kings as it pleases Him. The stated time would be seven years until Nebuchadnezzar submitted and humbled himself and acknowledged that YHWH WAS G-D OF ALL.

Daniel continues and explains that the stump that was not destroyed meant that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would remain in tack and that he would once again rule, but from then on accepting fully that YAHUWAH rules, [and Nebuchadnezzar was His servant.](#)

26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

So Daniel said, “Renounce your sins....” Here we learn from Daniel that he was truly a messenger of YHWH. He clearly delivered the gospel message, “Repent and acknowledge the one true G-D YHWH ELOHIM.”

So Daniel, risking his life, delivered the gospel message to King Nebuchadnezzar. Repentance is the only way for the sinner to restore their relationship with God. No matter how much we may become unpopular, shepherds must deliver the message of repentance to their sheep.

The king had 1 entire year to repent of his wicked ways and bow his knee, but like satan, his pride caused him to be rebellious and he did not repent.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

The Dream Is Fulfilled

28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. 32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.



34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honoured and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: “What have you done?”

36 At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honour and splendour were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything HE does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

DID KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR GIVE HIS LIFE TO YHWH?

Abandoned was his acknowledgment of the nonexistent gods of polytheistic paganism. Two statements made by Daniel seem to positively refer to Nebuchadnezzar's redemption. Some has questioned whether Nebuchadnezzar was truly saved or not. The evidence is that in the closing verses of this chapter the king proclaimed YHWH's greatness and sovereignty without any reservation. Further when Daniel rebuked Belshazzar in Daniel 5:22-23 he reminded him that he had not humbled himself nor accepted YHWH as Nebuchadnezzar had.

Lastly, in Daniel's vision of Chapter 7 in referring to the Babylonian kingdom, YHWH's description of Nebuchadnezzar is "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." (Dan. 7:4)

This acknowledges the change which occurred in the king's life. These evidences strongly suggest that Nebuchadnezzar believed YHWH and was saved by faith, the same as are all men who put their trust in the YHWH.