

Watchtower Supports the list of Babylonian Kings

With the statements from the WTS, it is possible to reconstruct the list of Babylonian kings and the lengths of their reigns.

"Nabopolassar, a native of Chaldea, and his successors, Nebuchadnezzar II, Evil-merodach (Awil-Marduk), Neriglissar, Labashi-Marduk, Nabonidus, and Belshazzar, ruled the Third World Power, Babylon." [Insight on the Scriptures, 1988, WTBS, Vol 1, page 425, art: "Chaldea"]



Nebuchadnezzar
"Reigned for 43 years"
[Ref 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]



Awil-Marduk (Evil-merodach)
"Nebuchadnezzar's successor"
[Ref 7, 8, 9, 10]
"Reigned two years"
[Ref 11, 12]



Neriglissar
"Replaced Evil-Merodach"
[Ref 13]
"Reigned 4 years"
[Ref 14, 15]



Labashi-Marduk
"Succeeded Neriglissar"
[Ref 16, 17]
"Reigned 9 months"
[Ref 18, 19]



Nabonidus
"Followed Labashi-Marduk"
[Ref 20, 21]
"Believed to have ruled 17 years, 556 - 539 BCE"
[Ref 22, 23, and the following 2 pages]

References

- [1] dp chap. 4 p. 50 par. 9 *The Rise and Fall of an Immense Image*
- [2] w86 11/1 p. 5 *A Dream Reveals How Late It Is*
- [3] it-2 p. 480 *Nebuchadnezzar*
- [4] dp chap. 7 p. 99 par. 2 *Four Words That Changed the World*
- [5] w00 5/15 p. 12 *Pay Attention to God's Prophetic Word for Our Day*
- [6] it-1 pp. 238-239 *Babylon*

- [7] it-1 p. 147 *Archaeology*
- [8] it-1 pp. 238-239 *Babylon*
- [9] w65 1/1 p. 29 *The Rejoicing of the Wicked Is Short-lived*
- [10] *Babylon the Great Has Fallen*, 1963, WTBS, page 183
- [11] w65 1/1 p. 29 *The Rejoicing of the Wicked Is Short-lived*
- [12] *Babylon the Great Has Fallen*, 1963, WTBS, page 184

- [13] it-1 p. 773 *Evil-merodach*
- [14] w65 1/1 p. 29 *The Rejoicing of the Wicked Is Short-lived*
- [15] *Babylon the Great Has Fallen*, 1963, WTBS, page 184

- [16] w65 1/1 p. 29 *The Rejoicing of the Wicked Is Short-lived*
- [17] *Babylon the Great Has Fallen*, 1963, WTBS, page 184
- [18] *Babylon the Great Has Fallen*, 1963, WTBS, page 184
- [19] w65 1/1 p. 29 *The Rejoicing of the Wicked Is Short-lived*

- [20] it-2 p. 458 *Nabonidus*
- [21] *Babylon the Great Has Fallen*, 1963, WTBS, page 184
- [22] si p. 139 Bible Book Number 27—Daniel
- [23] it-2 p. 457 *Nabonidus*

See pages 4 to 6 for the actual quotations

WTS citation of Josephus saying Nabonidus reigned for 17 years

The Watchtower May 15 1971
page 316 *Testimony of the
Nabonidus Chronicle*

“It may also be noted that the Jewish historian Josephus [quoting Babylonian priest Berossus (of the third century B.C.E.)] reports that Cyrus took Babylon in the seventeenth year of Nabonidus’ reign.—Against Apion, Book I, par. 20.”

Not only does this passage in Josephus state that Nabonidus reigned for 17 years, it also confirms the accepted list of Babylonian kings and the lengths of their reigns.

The WTS hides the bits it does not want its people to know.

Josephus—Against Apion, Book I, par. 20

“**Nabuchodonosor**, after he had begun to build the forementioned wall, fell sick, and departed this life, when **he had reigned forty-three years**; whereupon his son **Evilmerodach** obtained the kingdom. He governed public affairs after an illegal and impure manner, and had a plot laid against him by Neriglissor, his sister’s husband, and was slain by him when he had reigned but **two years**. After he was slain, **Neriglissoor**, the person who plotted against him, succeeded him in the kingdom, and reigned **four years**; his son **Laborosoarchod** obtained the kingdom, though he was but a child, and kept it **nine months**; but by reason of the very ill-temper and ill practices he exhibited to the world, a plot was laid against him also by his friends, and he was tormented to death. After his death, the conspirators got together, and by common consent put the crown upon the head of **Nabonnedus** a man of Babylon, and one who belonged to that insurrection. In his reign it was that the walls of the city of Babylon were curiously built with burnt brick and bitumen; but when he was come to the **seventeenth year of his reign**, Cyrus came out of Persia with a great army; and having already conquered all the rest of Asia, he came hastily to Babylonia. When Nabonnedus perceived he was coming to attack him, he met him with his forces, and joining battle with him, was beaten; and tied away with a few of his troops with him, and was shut up within the city Borsippus. Hereupon Cyrus took Babylon,”

When he had completed the above quotation from Berossus, Josephus wrote: “**These accounts agree with true history in our books**; for in them it is written that Nebuchadnezzar, in the nineteenth year of his reign, laid our temple desolate, and so it lay in that state of obscurity for fifty years.” — Against Apion, Book 1, par. 21

WTS cites Authorities saying Nabonidus reigned for 17 years

The Watchtower August 15 1968 pages 491-492 The Book of Truthful Historical Dates

Confirming the date of 539, note what professor Jack Finegan says in *Light from the Ancient Past* (1959), pages 227-229:

“In the seventeenth year of King Nabunaid, Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian. The Nabunaid chronicle gives exact dates. In the month of Tashritu on the fourteenth day, October 10, 539 B.C., the Persian forces took Sippar; on the sixteenth day, October 12, ‘the army of Cyrus entered Babylon without battle’; and in the month of Arahsamnu, on the third day, October 29, Cyrus himself came into the city.”

Other investigators say this: “The Nabunaid Chronicle . . . states that Sippar fell to Persian forces VII/14/17 (Oct. 10, 539), that Babylon fell VII/16/17 [WT footnote: “VII/14/17”: *The 7th Hebrew month Tishri, 14th day, 17th year of Nabonidus’ reign.*] (Oct. 12), and that Cyrus entered Babylon VIII/3/17 [WT footnote: “*The 8th Hebrew month Heshvan*”] (Oct. 29). This fixes the end of Nabunaid’s reign and the beginning of the reign of Cyrus. Interestingly enough, the last tablet dated to Nabunaid from Uruk is dated the day after Babylon fell to Cyrus. News of its capture had not yet reached the southern city some 125 miles distant.’—Brown University Studies, Vol. XIX, *Babylonian Chronology 626 B.C.—A.D. 75*, Parker and Dubberstein, 1956, p. 13.” ...

“In the seventeenth year of Nabonidus (B. C. 539), Cyrus captured Babylon.”—*The Popular and Critical Bible Encyclopædia and Scriptural Dictionary*, Fallows, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 207.

Once more the WTS’s duplicity is displayed. All of the authorities that the WTS recognizes and calls on, all unanimously agree that Jerusalem was destroyed in 587/586 BCE. All of the WTS’s cited authorities are in agreement with one another, and just as unanimously disagree with those dates that are critical for the WTS.

Watchtower reference statements

Ref #	Source	Quotation
1	dp chap. 4 p. 50 par. 9 <i>The Rise and Fall of an Immense Image</i>	Nebuchadnezzar, who reigned for 43 years, headed a dynasty that ruled over the Babylonian Empire
2	w86 11/1 p. 5 <i>A Dream Reveals How Late It Is</i>	Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years.
3	it-2 p. 480 <i>Nebuchadnezzar</i>	Nebuchadnezzar ruled as king for 43 years.
4	dp chap. 7 p. 99 par. 2 <i>Four Words That Changed the World</i>	Proud King Nebuchadnezzar's 43-year reign.
5	w00 5/15 p. 12 <i>Pay Attention to God's Prophetic Word for Our Day</i>	Nebuchadnezzar ... during his 43-year reign...
6, 8	it-1 pp. 238-239 <i>Babylon</i>	After a 43-year reign, ... Nebuchadnezzar II died ... and was succeeded by Awil-Marduk (Evil-merodach). ... Neriglissar, evidently the successor of Evil-merodach, and of Labashi-Marduk.
7	it-1 p. 147 <i>Archaeology</i>	Awil-Marduk (Evil-merodach), Nebuchadnezzar's successor.

These are the references on the first page

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Ref #	Source	Quotation
9, 11, 14, 16, 19	w65 1/1 p. 29 <i>The Rejoicing of the Wicked Is Short-lived</i>	Amel-Marduk (Evil-merodach) as the oldest son succeeded Nebuchadnezzar ... Evil-merodach reigned two years and was murdered by his brother-in-law Neriglissar, who reigned for four years, which time he spent mainly in building operations. His underage son Labashi-Marduk, a vicious boy, succeeded him, and was assassinated within nine months. Nabonidus, who had served as governor of Babylon and who had been Nebuchadnezzar's favorite son-in-law, took the throne and had a fairly glorious reign until Babylon fell in 539 B.C.E.
10	Babylon the Great Has Fallen, 1963, WTBT, page 183	Amel-Marduk (Evil-merodach) as the oldest son succeeded Nebuchadnezzar.
12, 15, 17, 18, 21	Babylon the Great Has Fallen, 1963, WTBT, page 184	After reigning but two years King Evil Merodach was murdered by his brother-in-law Neriglissar. ... This usurper to the throne ... reigned four years. ... Labashi-Marduk succeeded him. ... Within nine months he had his throat cut by an assassin. Nabonidus now took the throne and he had a fairly glorious reign till Babylon fell in 539 B.C.

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Ref #	Source	Quotation
13	it-1 p. 773 Evil-merodach	Evil-merodach was replaced by Neriglissar (Nergal-sharezer).
20	it-2 p. 458 Nabonidus	Nabonidus' ascension to the throne followed the assassination of Labashi-Marduk.
22	si p. 139 Bible Book Number 27 —Daniel	(1963, 1983 editions): According to <i>The Westminster Dictionary of the Bible</i> , 1944, page 64, and <i>Babylonian Chronology</i> , 1956, Parker and Dubberstein, pages 13, 29, Belshazzar began to reign as coregent in the third regnal year of Nabonidus (Nabunaid), which was 553 BCE. (1990 ed.): Belshazzar evidently began to reign as coregent from Nabonidus' third year on. Since Nabonidus is believed to have begun his rule in 556 BCE, the third year of his rule and "the first year of Belshazzar" was evidently 553 BCE. -- Daniel 7:1; see <i>Insight on the Scriptures</i> Vol. 1, page 283; Vol. 2, page 457
23	it-2 p. 457 Nabonidus	On the basis of cuneiform texts he is believed to have ruled some 17 years (556-539 B.C.E.).

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