

## **Week 37**

### **Nebuchadnezzar**

***Nebuchadnezzar.*** Who is he? What factors shape his life? How is he the instrument of discipline for Israel? How is he himself transformed into what God wants him to be? It starts in his family, that core structure that is the soil in which we all develop, for better or for worse. Nebuchadnezzar was the oldest son of Nabopolassar, who was a proud, rebellious and fierce warrior of the Assyrian Empire.

Many historians and Bible teachers see Nebuchadnezzar only as a prideful and wicked king. Among Jewish scholars he is a hated king, the destroyer of Jerusalem and the Temple. He is all of those things. But there is much more to it. The King that the Lord brings to power for His purposes, are far higher than we can grasp.

### **Outline: Nebuchadnezzar**

#### ***His Rise to Power***

The battle at Carchemish and the defeat of Assyria [2 Chr 35]

The 1st attack and deportation from Judah 606/5 BC [2 Chr 36:5, Dan 1]

#### ***His Reign as King***

His 1st disturbing dream only Daniel can interpret [Dan 2]

His dreams of grandeur Daniel's friends refuse to worship [Dan 3]

The 2nd attack and deportation from Judah 598/7 BC [2 Chr 36:9]

The 3rd attack, deportation and destruction of Jerusalem 586 BC [2 Chr 36:17]

#### ***His Removal as King***

His 2nd disturbing dream [Dan 4:10-15]

Daniel interprets the dream [Dan 4:24-26]

The mighty King of Babylon becomes a beast of the field [Dan 4:29-33]

#### ***His Restoration as King***

His sanity returns and his kingdom is restored [Dan 4:34-36]

His testimony of praise to Eliyon, the Most High God [Dan 4:37]

The legacy of his son: Kindness and mercy and hope for Israel [2 Kings 25:27]

The legacy of his grandson: Pride, arrogance and the end of Babylon [Dan 5]