

GRADE 9

BIBLE – Quarter 2

Describe the city of Babylon as fully as you can.

The Hanging Gardens graced one of the three magnificent castles in Babylon. Spanning the mighty river Euphrates was a bridge, built by Nebuchadnezzar, for the convenience of his subjects.

Babylon was a religious city with a religious king; Nebuchadnezzar had encouraged to be built no less than 53 temples, 955 sanctuaries, and 384 street alters! Yet all of this he managed to fit into an area of two square miles.

The walls of the city were glazed yellow, and the gates were painted a royal blue. The tiles of the palaces were rose-colored, while the temples were a blinding white.

What was the result of Nebuchadnezzar's pride in his accomplishment?

Nebuchadnezzar had haughty pride over how he had reconstructed Babylon into a better, greater, and more magnificent city. Thus God, in His infinite love and mercy, saw that the only way to save Nebuchadnezzar from his arrogance was to humble him. Nebuchadnezzar lost his reason for seven years and was driven to the fields to live like a wild animal.

What is God's desire for us when it comes to pride, leadership, and respect for authority?

When pride causes us to think ourselves higher than our fellow human beings, it separates us from God as well. Christ desires for us to enjoy wholesome satisfaction, not snooty self-esteem.

God also instructs us to respect those in authority. We may not agree with them, but we can pray for them. We might not accept their point of view on certain things, but we can treat them with sympathy—after all, they have probably never seen God's love in action. Even Jesus had respect for the vilest leaders in His day.

How do recently deciphered clay tablets support the validity of this chapter?

The following was written on a cuneiform tablet by Nebuchadnezzar:

I have made Babylon, the holy city, the glory of the great gods, more prominent than before, and have promoted to its rebuilding. I have caused the sanctuaries of gods and goddesses to lighten up like the day. No king among kings has ever created, no earlier king has ever built, what I have magnificently built for Marduk.

This is strikingly in harmony with Nebuchadnezzar's boasting in Daniel 4:30.

The inquisitive or skeptic may cast his eye upon further evidence in the badly damaged clay tablets now located in the British Museum; some of the lines on the slabs are unreadable, while other lines have only a few words missing. These lines convey such phrases as, “Nebuchadnezzar considered...” “his life appeared no value to...” “family and clan do not exist...” “he weeps bitterly to Marduk...” These lines are thought to refer to Nebuchadnezzar's madness.