



Nimrod: A Mighty Hunter in Opposition to Jehovah

Nimrod was the founder and king of the first empire to come into existence after the Flood. He distinguished himself as a mighty hunter “before” (in an unfavorable sense; Heb., *liph-neh'*; “against” or “in opposition to”; compare Nu 16:2; 1Ch 14:8; 2Ch 14:10) or “in front of” Jehovah. (Ge 10:9, *ftn*)

Although in this case some scholars attach a favorable sense to the Hebrew preposition meaning “in front of,” the Jewish Targums, the writings of the historian Josephus, and also the context of Genesis chapter 10 suggest that Nimrod was a mighty hunter in defiance of Jehovah.

The beginning of Nimrod’s kingdom included the cities of Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, all in the land of Shinar. (Ge 10:10) Therefore it was likely under his direction that the building of Babel and its tower began.

This conclusion is also in agreement with the traditional Jewish view. Wrote Josephus: “[Nimrod] little by little transformed the state of affairs into a tyranny, holding that the only way to detach men from the fear of God was by making them continuously dependent upon his own power.

He threatened to have his revenge on God if He wished to inundate the earth again; for he would build a tower higher than the water could reach and avenge the destruction of their forefathers. The people were eager to follow this advice of [Nimrod], deeming it slavery to submit to God; so they set out to build the tower . . . and it rose with a speed beyond all expectation.”—*Jewish Antiquities*, I, 114, 115 (iv, 2, 3).

It appears that after the building of the Tower of Babel, Nimrod extended his domain to the territory of Assyria and there built “Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah and Resen between Nineveh and Calah: this is the great city.” (Ge 10:11, 12; compare Mic 5:6.) Since Assyria evidently derived its name from Shem’s son Asshur, Nimrod, as a grandson of Ham, must have invaded Shemite territory. So it would seem that Nimrod made the start in becoming a mighty one or hero, not only as a hunter of animals but also as a warrior, a man of aggression. (Ge 10:8)

"Cush became father to Nim'rod. He was the first to become a mighty one on the earth. 9 "He became a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah. That is why there is a saying: "Just like Nim'rod, a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah." (Gen 10:8)

Observes the Cyclopædia by M'Clintock and Strong: "That the mighty hunting was not confined to the chase is apparent from its close connection with the building of eight cities. . . . What Nimrod did in the chase as a hunter was the earlier token of what he achieved as a conqueror. For hunting and heroism were of old specially and naturally associated . . . The Assyrian monuments also picture many feats in hunting, and the word is often employed to denote campaigning. . . . The chase and the battle, which in the same country were connected so closely in aftertimes, may therefore be virtually associated or identified here. The meaning then will be, that Nimrod was the first after the flood to found a kingdom, to unite the fragments of scattered patriarchal rule, and consolidate them under himself as sole head and master; and all this in defiance of Jehovah, for it was the violent intrusion of Hamitic power into a Shemitic territory."—1894, Vol. VII, p. 109.

Religion. Babylon was a most religious place. Evidence from excavations and from ancient texts points to the existence of more than 50 temples. The principal god of the imperial city was Marduk, called Merodach in the Bible. It has been suggested that Nimrod was deified as Marduk, but the opinions of scholars as to identifications of gods with specific humans vary. Triads of deities were also prominent in the Babylonian religion.

One of these, made up of two gods and a goddess, was Sin (the moon-god), Shamash (the sun-god), and Ishtar; these were said to be the rulers of the zodiac. And still another triad was composed of the devils Labartu, Labasu, and Akkhazu. Idolatry was everywhere in evidence. Babylon was indeed "a land of graven images," filthy "dungy idols."—Jer 50:1, 2, 38.

The Babylonians developed astrology in an effort to discover man's future in the stars. (See ASTROLOGERS.) Magic, sorcery, and astrology played a prominent part in their religion. (Isa 47:12, 13; Da 2:27; 4:7) Many heavenly bodies, for example, planets, were named after Babylonian gods. Divination continued to be a basic component of Babylonian religion in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, who used it to reach decisions.—Eze 21:20-22.

Nimrod Opposed Jehovah God

It wasn't very long after the Great Flood of Noah's Day, that mankind began a great Apostasy away from Jehovah God. Nimrod was the ring-leader in this opposition. The Bible reveals that Jehovah God was not pleased with Nimrod or his evil ways.

“...Nim'rod....He displayed himself a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah....”

(Genesis 10:8,9)(NWT)

“Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God.”

-Josephus (c. 37 – c. 100).

“His name is Nimrod, It means ‘the rebel,’ and is evidently meant to designate the nature of the man. He was the first specimen of giant tyranny after the flood. His Defiance of Jehovah was perpetrated in wickedness and ambition under the very eye of Jehovah. Nimrod's assumptions were religious as well as political. Nimrod presented himself not only for obedience but also for worship. His awful greatness was of ambitious rebellion, apostasy and defiance of Jehovah. And as it was Babel that was the beginning of his empire, so is ‘Babylon the great’ its consummation and close.”

-Nimrod

by Horatius Bonar
1808-1889

“As the people increased in number, the Way of Jehovah was corrupted and a principal figure in those days was Nimrod, the grandson of Ham described as a mighty hunter before Jehovah. The word ‘before’ used in this sense means, ‘totally antagonistic to Jehovah.’ We celebrate Christmas on a date which coincides with the birthday of Nimrod – the villainous king of ancient Babylon.”

‘NARROW IS THE WAY’

By Harry Lancaster (1872)

“Nimrod’s rebellion was to head a great confederacy in open revolt against God. This confederacy is described in Genesis eleven and that it was **an organized revolt against Jehovah God** is very clear. From this point onward – Babylon in Scripture always stands for that which is in opposition to God “

Nimrod And The Tower Of Babel

By W.Pink



"Nimrod shed innocent blood and Rebelled against Jehovah God."

Source --The Companion Bible
E.W. Bullinger

The Influence of Nimrod Continues

“The wine of old Babylon’s fornication was a debauching system of idol worship and carnal self-exaltation, over and against the revelations and institutes of Jehovah. We find it (the teachings of Ancient Babylon) to this day among all the nations of the earth, affecting and controlling their thinking, their policies, their faith, and their worship. Two-thirds of the population of the earth – at this hour – are Pagan idolaters, drivelling under the same old intoxication which came forth from Nimrod and Babylon.”

– THE WINE OF OLD BABYLON

By **J. A. Seiss**

“Virtually all pagan practices had their beginnings in the city of Babylon during the time of Nimrod. Ancient traditions show that he rebelled against God, and in so doing, created a worldwide apostasy.”

The Bible as History (p.331)

by Werner Keller

The Babylonian spirit is invading the world. Its influence is breathtaking...and spreading its idea to the entire world. There is no other proper description of Babel and the evil intent of this first expression of false religion.”

Babylon: The Axis of Evil

by Joseph Chambers

“Later, the Roman Empire assimilated into its system the gods and religions of the countries over which it ruled. Since Babylon was the source of this paganism, we can easily see how Rome’s early religion was a form of Babylonish worship that had developed under different forms and different names in the countries to which it had gone.”

Satan’s Counterfeit Christianity

By Roderick C. Meredith

“Not only has the original Babylonian religious system served as the source of all the world’s non-Christian religions, but it has also infiltrated and corrupted Christendom to an alarming degree.”

–Babylon – Source of False Religion

by Ralph Woodrow

“After their deaths, Nimrod and his wife Semiramis (the ancient “queen of heaven”) were confirmed by their priests as gods and given homage as Marduk and Astarte. Numerous other gods were patterned and fashioned after Nimrod and his mother.

BEL/BAAL – was the primary name by which other nations were introduced to the worship of Marduk. Baal means “lord” or “master”.

Under this name he was worshiped by the Canaanites, Phoenicians, Syrians and to some extent by the Egyptians. BAAL worship is sometimes associated with “Baal-zebub”, and is still known today as one of the name or “epithets” of Satan.”

Nimrod, Mars, and Marduk

by Bryce Self

The Outcome of Nimrod's Rebellion against Jehovah God

Nimrod and Baal worship is alive and well today,
not only in paganism, but also in Apostate Christianity.
Jehovah's Name was removed from the Bible and replaced
as a "Nameless" LORD.

"The great prophet Jeremiah explained that
the objective of the false prophets was to
cause people to forget the Name of Jehovah
(Jr 23:27), an attempt nevertheless dedicated
to be defeated (Ps 44:21); because God reserves
his Name for his servants (Is 52:6) and naturally
for those who appreciate it (Mal 3:16). "

Paradox of the Anonymous Name : The Divine Name of God

by J L Gertoux

"They think they....will make my people forget
my name, just as their fathers forgot my name
through Baal worship."

(Jeremiah 23:27)(NIV)

" "Babylon" is a symbol of confusion. The formation of
the Roman Catholic church and then the later appearance
of dozens of protestant "Daughter" churches has certainly
brought about a spiritual malaise of conflicting
denominations, doctrines, creeds and practices—all
supposedly "Christian." Yet none of them corresponds
remotely to the Christianity that the original Apostles
and the early Church of God followed for decades after
the death of Jesus of Nazareth. They all have retained dozens
of pagans ideas, and practices, that would have
been utterly foreign to the early Church! Satan has
indeed done a masterful job of creating a counterfeit
Christianity."

Satan's Counterfeit Christianity

By Roderick C. Meredith

% is impossible to have a deep relationship
with a nameless God.+

Maimonides;

Jewish scholar

(See also: “Insight on the Scriptures” Vol 2 p503, w98 3/15 p24, w72 7/15 p428)