

“The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD [Yahweh] after Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had released him at Ramah. He had found Jeremiah among all the captives from Jerusalem and Judah who were being carried into exile to Babylon”—Jeremiah 40:1 NIV



A clay prism naming Nebuzaradan was discovered, confirms the Bible’s authenticity.

After Zedekiah, king of Judah, rebelled against Babylonian control in 588 BCE, Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar swiftly responded, capturing Jerusalem the next year.

“In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month — it was in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon — Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, a member of the king of Babylon’s staff, entered Jerusalem. He burned down the Temple of Yahweh, the royal palace and all the houses in Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan commander of the guard deported the remainder of the people left in the city, the deserters who had gone over to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the common people. But the commander of the guard left some of the poor country people behind as vineyard workers and ploughmen”—2 Kings 25:8-12 NJB

He placed a high-ranking officer in the Babylonian army named Nebuzaradan in charge of supervising the burning of the city, tearing down its walls, taking 832 captives to Babylon, looting God’s temple, and rounding up Judean officials to appear before King Nebuchadnezzar, and taking most of the Jewish people into exile (2 Kings 25:8-21; Jeremiah 39:8-13; 52:15-27). He was also in charge of the Babylonian occupation forces.

“Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard carried into exile to Babylon the people who remained in the city, along with those who had gone over to him, and the rest of the people. But Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard left behind some of the poor people who owned nothing; and at that time he gave them vineyards and fields”—Jeremiah 39:9;10 NIV

Nebuchadnezzar left Nebuzaradan with specific instructions to treat Jeremiah kindly, who, in all the confusion, had mistakenly got mixed in with the prisoners who were being gathered to be taken to Babylon (Jeremiah 39:11-40:1). Nebuzaradan released Jeremiah and gave him the option to go to Babylon, or remain in Judah (Jeremiah 40:2-4). Jeremiah chose to stay in Judah, and joined the newly appointed Jewish caretaker governor Gedaliah at Mizpah (Jeremiah 39:14; 40:5,6). Five years later, the Bible reports, Nebuzaradan returned to Jerusalem and this time he deported another 745 persons to Babylon (Jeremiah 52:30).

During excavations in Nebuchadnezzar’s palace in Babylon a clay prism was found. Among the names on the prism was that of Nebuzaradan, who had the title of “Chancellor”. This prism is thought to date to approximately 570 BCE, and thus indicates the fact that Nebuzaradan had been given a political appointment following his military career.

This is just one more example of the many thousands of examples of how people, places, things, and events named in the Bible, are found in various artifacts discovered during the last 200 years. Contrast this with the Book of Mormon, which has no such supporting evidence for the cultures, tribes, peoples, etc., that are claimed to have inhabited the Americas.

“Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God”—2 Peter 1:20,21 NAB

