

**The Earliest Evidence for Nebuchadnezzar IV's Reign** – As it is known, the Babylonians revolted twice against Darius I. The first rebellion led by Nebuchadnezzar III was suppressed by Darius himself soon after December 18, 522 B.C. The exact date of the beginning of the second revolt is unknown. According to the Behistun inscription (par. 49f.), this revolt was led by Arakha, the son of a certain Haldita. He claimed to be Nebuchadnezzar (IV) son of Nabonidus. Documents dated in his reign come from Babylon, Borsippa, Sippar, Uruk, Ur and some other cities. On November 27, 521 the Babylonians were defeated, their leader captured and executed.

As seen from the Behistun inscription (par. 21 and 31), after his victory over the Babylonians in December 522, Darius stayed in Babylon directing military operations of his generals in Persia, Media and other countries of the empire and then went to Media. On January 21, 521, when his army won a battle against the rebellious Medes, Darius was still in Babylon. But on May 7, 521 he won a victory in Media himself. Thus, he arrived in Media some time between January 21 and May 7, 521.

While Darius was in Media, the Babylonians made a new attempt to gain independence. According to Parker and Dubberstein, the earliest known document dated in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar IV is YBC 4049 (see now YOS 17, no. 286) drafted on V/16/1 (August 25, 521). The same authors have rejected Cameron's assumption (AJSL 58, 1941, p. 318) that, to judge from Nbk.12, Nebuchadnezzar IV had already revolted in month IV (before August 10, 521), since the month sign and the year sign in the tablet are damaged. They suppose that until the beginning of September, 521 Darius was recognized as ruler of Babylonia and then Nebuchadnezzar IV revolted toward late August (Babylonian Chronology, p. 16). It can be added to this that by now the earliest known document dated in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar IV is OECT 10, no. 406 drafted on V/14/1 (August 23, 521).

It seems to me that the date of Nebuchadnezzar IV's revolt can be reconsidered now using new prosopographical evidence. CT 57, no. 118 was composed on III/8 of the 1st regnal year of Nebuchadnezzar (without any titlature). It records that 1 mina and 30 shekels of silver were paid to a certain

Šamaš-iqīša as « the purchase price for sheep ». The document comes from the archives of the Ebabbara temple in Sippar. As far as I know, Šamaš-iqīša is not referred to in documents from Sippar dated in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II but he is frequently mentioned in texts from Sippar composed during Nabonidus' and Darius I' reigns. For instance, according to Dar.186 drafted in the 5th year of Darius, 35 shekels of silver were paid to Šamaš-iqīša as « the purchase price for oxen ». In the 1st year of Nabonidus the Ebabbara administration paid Šamaš-iqīša 15 shekels of silver for two « fattened oxen » (CT 55, no. 692). During the same year, he (this time he is called the son of Šamaš-aha-iddina ; the same patronymic occurs also in several other texts) sold some livestock to the temple, including « two fattened oxen » for the regular offerings (CT 55, no. 699 ; see also *ibid.*, nos. 96,173 ; CT 57, no. 68 ; Nbn.205, 249 ; cf. CT 57, no. 69, 5 where he bears the title *rab būli*, « overseer of the herds »). He is referred to in documents drafted from the 1st year of Nabonidus to the 5th year of Darius I (555-517) as a person who was supplying the Ebabbara temple with sheep and oxen. CT 57, no. 118 cannot be assigned to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II, since in this case the gap between this document and Dar.186 would be 87 years. Neither can it be attributed to Nebuchadnezzar III, since it was drafted in the third month of the Babylonian calendar, while he ruled Babylonia from the 7th until the beginning of the 10th month. Consequently, the document should be assigned to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar IV. If this is the case, it was composed on June 19, 521. Now we can safely accept Cameron's assumption that Nbk.12 belongs to the reign of the same king. It mentions Marduk-nāšir--apli of the Egibi business house, who is known from many documents dated in the reign of Darius I.

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