

## Testament.

The son of Nabopolassar who led the Babylonian forces in the defeat of Assyria, succeeded his father in 604 B.C., and became the famous Nebuchadrezzar II. His reign marked the beginning of the very important New Babylonian period, a period that lasted only about sixty years. It was a period of great glory when Babylon actually was mistress of the world politically as well as culturally. Nebuchadrezzar rebuilt much of the city, glorifying it at every possible point. As we have already noticed, millions of bricks were put into new buildings or restorations of old ones at Babylon, with his name stamped upon every one of these bricks. He gave a beauty and a splendor to Babylon, such as the city had never before experienced. His writings do not describe his conquests in detail, as do the writings of the Assyrian kings. He lumps these together in a few words. "Distant countries, remote mountains from the upper sea to the lower sea, steep paths, blocked roads where the step is impeded, where was no footing, difficult roads, desert paths I traversed and the disobedient I destroyed. I captured the enemies, established justice in the lands". With such general references Nebuchadrezzar contented himself, as far as his conquests were concerned. He seems to have been a very energetic and powerful military leader. But his interests lay along the line of his building, rather than of his conquests. His writings are devoted almost entirely to an account of the details of the many great buildings which he erected. Up until recently no known writing of his contained the name of any one of his officers or of anyone except himself. The details of his building works were explained with great care, but the political history and organization of his empire was almost unknown to us. Recently a tablet has come to light which contains his list of his officials. It is very interesting to find on this tablet, names which actually occur in the book of Jeremiah