

O. T. History 121

Now we have in our Hebrew a hyphen between Sambar and nebo. Evidently that hyphen was put in by a later scribe who didn't understand it. He thought that Nergal-sharezer was a name and that another name came right after it so he put a hyphen in it—Samgar-nebo. Actually the hyphen is a mistake. It should be Nergal-sharezer of Samgar . And then the next one—you don't need to delete your hyphen, just move it over. Nebo-Sarsechim, that would be a good Babylonian name. Nebo Sarsechim was Rabsaris, while Nergal Sharezer was Rab-mag. Ram-saris and Rab-mag are typical Assyrian titles of position. The chief of the bakers and the chief of the . They would be the sort of title that would be given to a general in the Assyrian army. So I would say we have here the names of two men, Nergal-Sharezer of Sim , Nebo-Sarsechim as Rab-saris, and when you have mentioned the title of him the writer tells us what the title of Nergal-sharezer was.

O. T. H. 122

effect in our preservation of the names here is the hyphen, which has been put in in the wrong place, which belongs—probably the hyphens were put in much later than the usual writing; any-way, it belongs between Nebo and Sarsechim instead of between Samgar and Nego, and otherwise you would have the name Nergal-sharezer exactly as the Babylonians spelled it and you have the name exactly as a Hebrew would hear it, and would write it, the only difference being that the would assimilate in the Hebrew pronunciation. Mr.---? (Student) Yes. Rab-mag literally would mean the chief of the bakers. Well, we know the general wasn't actually the chief of the bakers—that is, it seems unlikely he was. It is a probably a title that was given to the leader just like in modern English positions will often give an honorary title to a man that represent some . (Student) Which one? You mean Nergal-sharezer—oh, yes, Rab-mag. (Student) / Yes. It is a possible interpretation, yes. I think the other is more likely but that is certainly not impossible. Well, now, this is another interesting case of the remarkably accurate preservation