

Session 5:

The Fall of Samaria and Its Aftermath

Emergence Winter Sessions, 2022–23



“There is not much doubt that the archaeological record of the 8th–6th centuries comports in almost every particular with the general political picture that we derive from epigraphs and the biblical record, critically regarded.”

Baruch Halpern, “The State of Israelite History,” in *Reconsidering Israel and Judah: Recent Studies on the Deuteronomistic History* (ed. Gary N Knoppers and J. Gordon McConville; SBTS 8; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2000), 556.

Meanwhile, in Assyria . . .

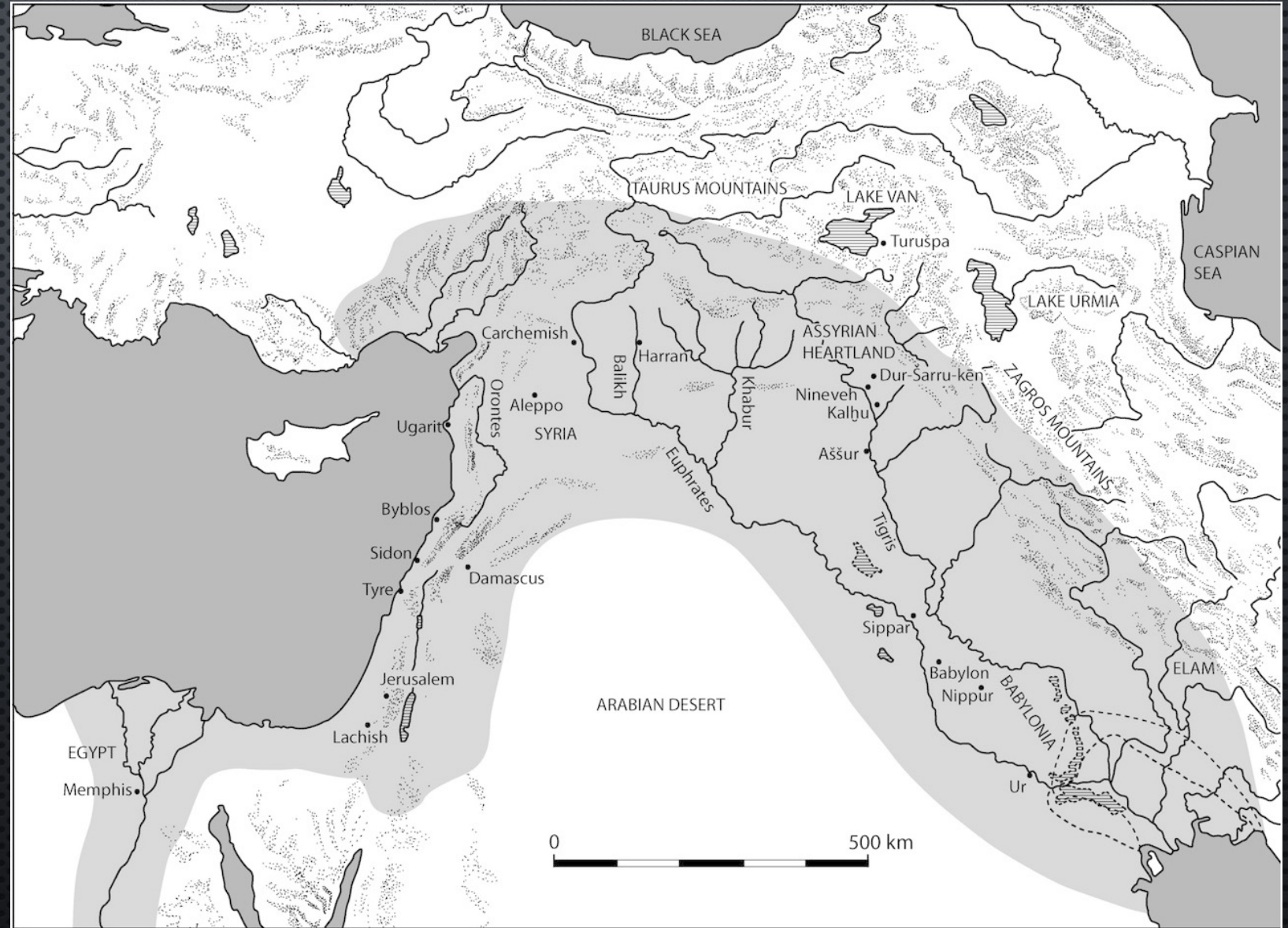
Neo-Assyrian Kings:

Adad-nirari II	911–891	Tiglath-pileser III	744–727
Tukulti-Ninurta II	890–884	Shalmaneser V	726–722
Ashur-nasir-pal II	883–859	Sargon II	721–705
Shalmaneser III	859–824	Sennacherib	704–681
Shamshi-Adad V	824–811	Esarhaddon	681–669
Adad-nirari III	810–783	Ashurbanipal	669–ca. 631
Shalmaneser IV	782–773	Ashur-etil-ilani	ca. 631–627
Ashur-dan III	772–755	Sin-shar-ishkun	ca. 627–612
Ashur-nirari V	754–745	Ashur-uballit II	612–ca. 608

The Neo-Assyrian Empire



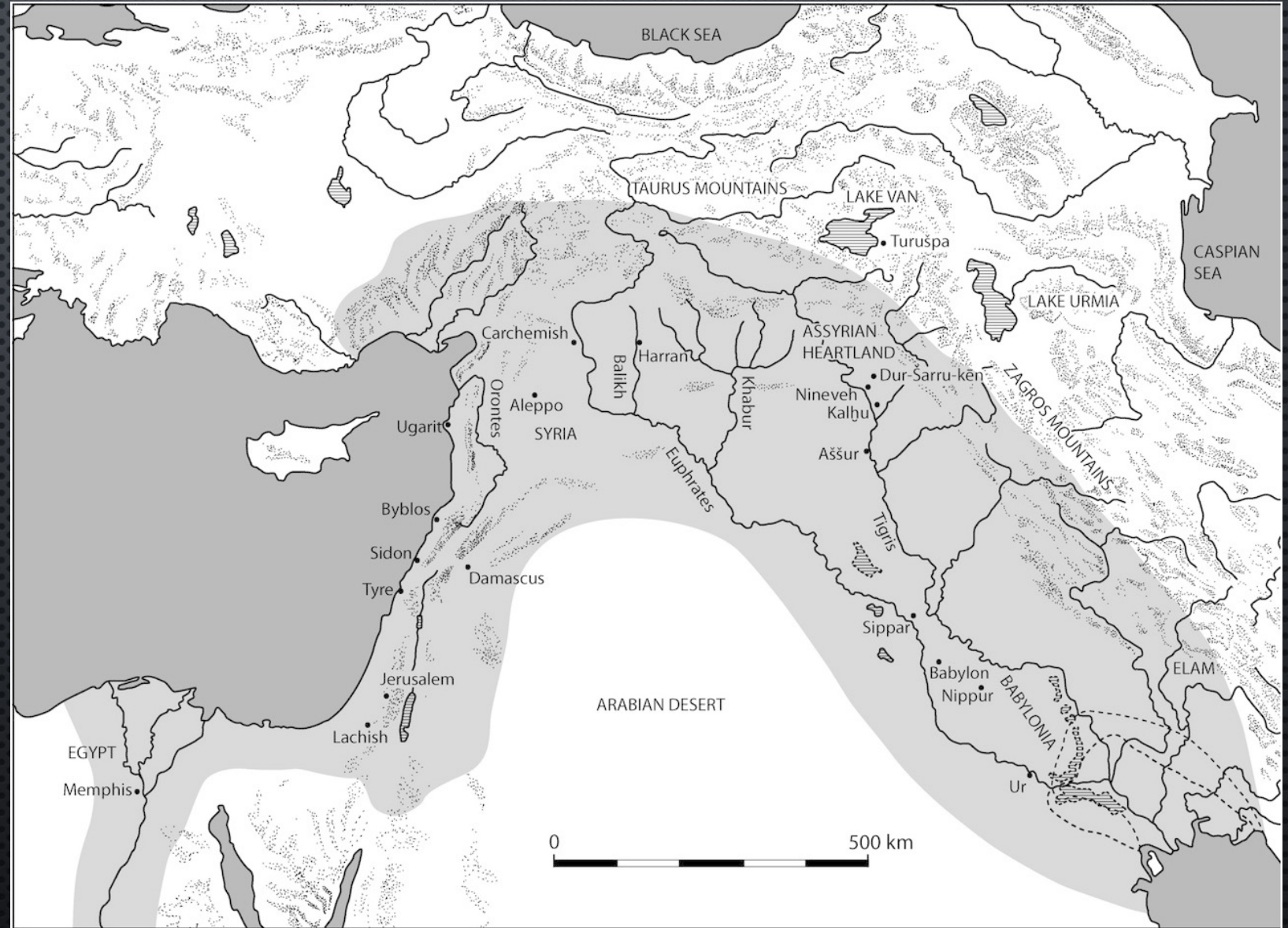
Adad-nirari II



The Neo-Assyrian Empire



Aššur-nasirpal II



Ninurta Temple in Calah



“At that time my sovereignty, my dominion, (and) my power came forth at the command of the great gods; I am king, I am lord, I am praiseworthy, I am exalted, I am important, I am magnificent, I am foremost, I am a hero, I am a warrior, I am a lion, and I am virile; Ashurnasirpal, strong king, king of Assyria, designate of the god Sîn, favourite of the god Anu, loved one of the god Adad (who is) almighty among the gods, I, the merciless weapon which lays low lands hostile to him, I, the king, capable in battle, vanquisher of cities and highlands, foremost in battle, king of the four quarters, the one who defeats his enemies, the king who disintegrates all his enemies, king of the totality of the (four) quarters including all their princes, the king who forces to bow down those insubmissive to him, the one who rules all peoples; these destinies came forth at the command of the great gods and they properly fixed (them) as my destinies.”

Ninurta Temple in Calah



“I crossed over to Mount Kašiiari (and) approached the city Kinabu, the fortified city of Hulāiia. With the mass of my troops (and) my fierce battle I besieged (and) conquered the city. I felled with the sword 800 of their combat troops, I burnt 3,000 captives from them. I did not leave one of them alive as a hostage. I captured alive Hulāiia their city ruler. I made a pile of their corpses. I burnt their adolescent boys (and) girls. I flayed Hulāiia their city ruler (and) draped his skin over the wall of the city Damdammusa. I razed, destroyed, (and) burnt the city.”

Ninurta Temple in Calah



“Moving on from the city of Kinabu I approached the city Tēla. The city was well fortified; it was surrounded by three walls. The people put their trust in their strong walls and their large number of troops and did not come down to me. They did not submit to me. In strife and conflict I besieged (and) conquered the city. I felled 3,000 of their fighting men with the sword. I carried off prisoners, possessions, oxen, (and) cattle from them. I burnt many captives from them.”

Ninurta Temple in Calah



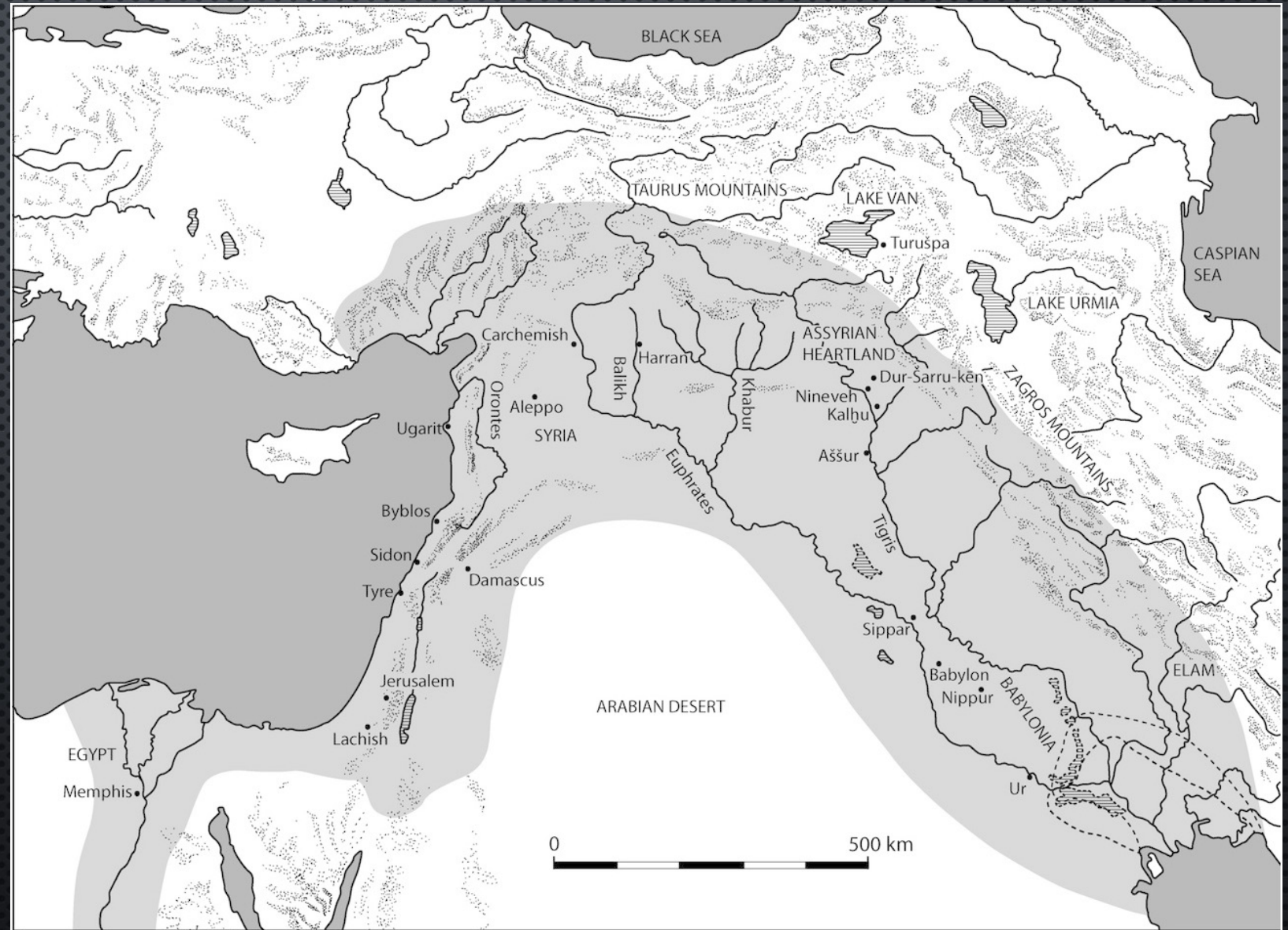
“I captured many troops alive: from some I cut off their arms (and) hands; from others I cut off their noses, ears, (and) *extremities*. I gouged out the eyes of many troops. I made one pile of the living (and) one of heads. I hung their heads on trees around the city. I burnt their adolescent boys (and) girls. I razed, destroyed, burnt, (and) consumed the city. At that time I razed, destroyed, (and) burnt the cities of the land Nirbu (and) their strong walls.”

A. Kirk Grayson, *Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC I (1114–859 BC)* (RIMAP 2; Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991), A.0.101, 195–96, 201.

The Neo-Assyrian Empire



Shalmaneser III



Tell Al Rimah Stele (Adad-nirari III)



“Adad-nirari, mighty king, king of the universe, king of Assyria; son of Samši-Adad, the king of the universe, king of Assyria; son of Shalmaneser, the king of the four quarters. . . .

“I received 2,000 talents of silver, 1,000 talents of copper, 2,000 talents of iron, 3,000 linen garments with multi-colored trim—the tribute of Mari’ of the land of Damascus. I received the tribute of Joash (*Iu’asu*) the Samarian, of the Tyrian, and of the Sidonian.”

K. Lawson Younger, Jr, “Tell Al Rimah Stela,” *COS* 2.114F.

“And the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Israel, and he gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael. Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of Yahweh, and Yahweh listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them. Therefore Yahweh gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians, and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly.”

2 Kings 13:2–5

Tiglath-pileser III

(744–727 BC)



“Pul the king of Assyria came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that he might help him to confirm his hold on the royal power. Menahem exacted the money from Israel, that is, from all the wealthy men, fifty shekels of silver from every man, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back and did not stay there in the land.”

2 Kings 15:19–20

The Iran Stele (Tiglath-pileser III)



“The kings of the land of Hatti, (and of) Aram of the western seashore, the land of Qedar (and) the land of Arabia: Kuštašpi, the Kummuhite, Rezin, the Damascene, Menahem, the Samarian, Tuba’il, the Tyrian, Sibitba’il, the Byblian, Urik(ki), the Quean, Sulumal, the Melidite, Uassurme, the Tabalian, Ušḫiti, the Atunean, Urballâ, the Tuḥanean, Tuḥamme, the Ištundian, Uirime, the Ḥubišnean, Dadi-ilu, the Kaskean, Pisiris, the Carchemishite, Panammuwa, the [Sa]m’alite, Tarḥularu, the [Gur]gummite, Zabibe, the queen of the land of Arabia—I imposed on them tribute of silver, gold, tin, iron, elephant hides, elephant tusks (ivory), blue-purple and red-purple garments, multi-colored garments, linen garments, camels, (and) she-camels.”

“The Iran Stela,” translated by K. Lawson Younger, Jr. (COS 2.117B).

“And Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty men of the people of Gilead, and struck him down in Samaria, in the citadel of the king’s house with Argob and Arieah; he put him to death and reigned in his place.”

2 Kings 15:25

The Syro-Ephraimite War (ca. 735 BC)

“In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. When the house of David was told, ‘Syria is in league with Ephraim,’ the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.”

Isaiah 7:1–2

“Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers. . . . The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took much spoil from them and brought the spoil to Samaria.”

2 Chronicles 28:6, 8

The Syro-Ephraimite War (ca. 735 BC)

“Thus says Lord Yahweh:

‘It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.

For the head of Syria is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

And within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.’”

Isaiah 7:7–9

The Syro-Ephraimite War (ca. 735 BC)

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. Yahweh will bring upon you and upon your people and your father’s house such as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

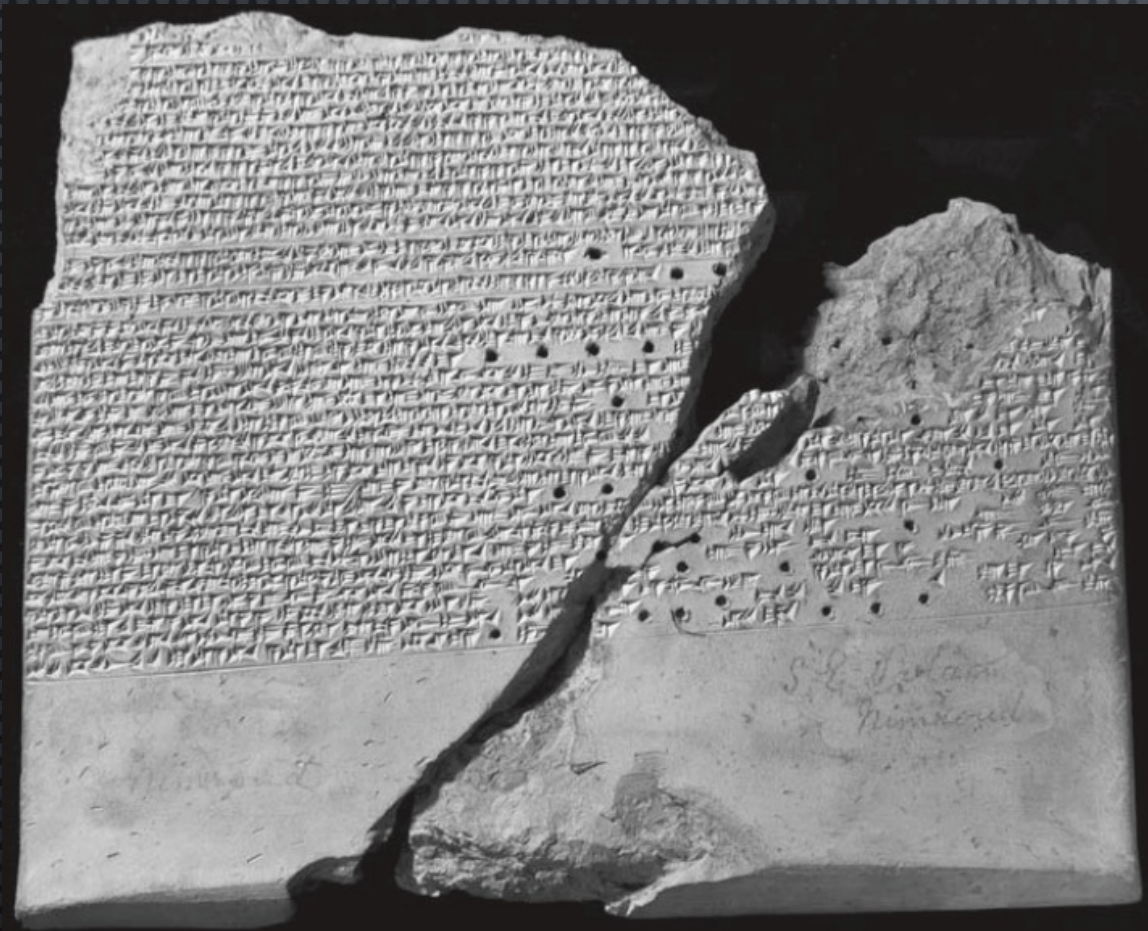
Isaiah 7:14b–17

The Syro-Ephraimite War (ca. 735 BC)

“Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.”

Isaiah 8:5–8

Tiglath-pileser III's Summary Inscription 7



“Ma]ttan-bi’il of the city of Arvad, Sanīpu of the land of Bīt-Ammon, Salāmānu of the land Moab, ...[... of ..., ... of ..., Mi]tini of the land Ashkelon, Jehoahaz of the land Judah, Qauš-malaka of the land Edom, Muš...[... of ..., ... of ..., (and) Ḥa]nūnu of the city Gaza: gold, silver, tin, iron, lead, multi-colored garments, linen garments, the garments of their lands, red-purple wool, [..., all kinds of] costly articles, produce of the sea (and) dry land, commodities of their lands, royal treasures, horses (and) mules broken to the yo[ke, ...].”

Hayim Tadmor and Shigeo Yamada, *The Royal Inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser III (744–727 BC) and Shalmaneser V (726–722 BC), Kings of Assyria* (RINAP 1; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011), 47.122–23.

“In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria. Then Hosea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and put him to death and reigned in his place.”

2 Kings 15:29–30

Tiglath-pileser III's Summary Inscription 4

“[... the city of ...]nite, the city of Gil[ead?, and] [the city of] Abel-..., which are the border of Bit Humri[a]—I annexed to Assyria the en[tire] wide land of [Bit-Haza'i]li. [I plac]ed [x eunuchs over them] as governors.”

“Summary Inscription 4,” translated by K. Lawson Younger, Jr., *COS* 2.117C.

Tiglath-pileser III's Summary Inscription 13

“[The land of Bīt-Ḥumria (Israel)], all [of whose] cities I leveled [to the ground] in my former campaigns, [...] I plundered its livestock, and I spared only (isolated) Samaria. [I/They overthrew Pek]ah, their king.”

“Summary Inscription 13,” translated by K. Lawson Younger, Jr., *COS* 2.117G.

Tiglath-pileser III's Summary Inscription 9

“[I conquered the land of Bīt-Ḥumri]a (Israel) in [its] entire[ty (and) I brought] t[o Assyria ..., together with] their [belon]gings. [...] (and) I placed Hoshea as] king over them.”

Hayim Tadmor and Shigeo Yamada, *The Royal Inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser III (744–727 BC) and Shalmaneser V (726–722 BC), Kings of Assyria* (RINAP 1; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011), 49.131–32.

“Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became vassal and paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So (Osorkon IV, 730–716 BC), king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it.”

2 Kings 17:3–5



Shalmaneser V

“In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.”

2 Kings 17:6

“In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it, and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.”

2 Kings 18:9–10



Sargon II

The Nimrud Prism (Sargon II)

“[The inhabitants of Sa]merina, who agreed [and plotted] with a king [hostile to] me, not to do service and not to bring tribute [to Aššur] and who did battle, I fought against them with the power of the great gods, my lords. I counted as spoil 27,280 people, together with their chariots, and gods, in which they trusted. I formed a unit with 200 of [their] chariots for my royal force. I settled the rest of them in the midst of Assyria. I repopulated Samerina more than before. I brought into it people from countries conquered by my hands. I appointed my eunuch as governor over them. And I counted them as Assyrians.”



K. Lawson Younger, Jr., “Nimrud Prisms D & E,” *COS* 2.118D.

The Great Summary Inscription of Sargon II

The Great Summary Inscription of Sargon II (palace at Dūr Šarrukin):
“I besieged and conquered Samarina. I took as booty 27,290 people who lived there. I gathered 50 chariots from them. I taught the rest (of the deportees) their skills. I set my eunuch over them, and I imposed upon them the (same) tribute as the previous king (i.e. Shalmaneser V).”

K. Lawson Younger, Jr., “The Great ‘Summary’ Inscription,” *COS* 2.118E.

“While the northern parts of the original state, the provinces of Megiddo and Karnaim, were left almost unpopulated, Samaria was developed economically through the creation of small villages and agricultural estates. The administration was restricted to fit Assyria’s needs. The capital was rebuilt and, along with a few other cities, it came to be the seat of governors, who lived in residences built in the Assyrian style. Fortresses were constructed along the border to protect the province against incursions from the south and east. Legal transactions were now recorded in the Assyrian language and cuneiform script.”

Marc Van De Mieroop, *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000–232 BC*
(Oxford: Blackwell, 2004), 236.

Sennacherib



“And Yahweh was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.”

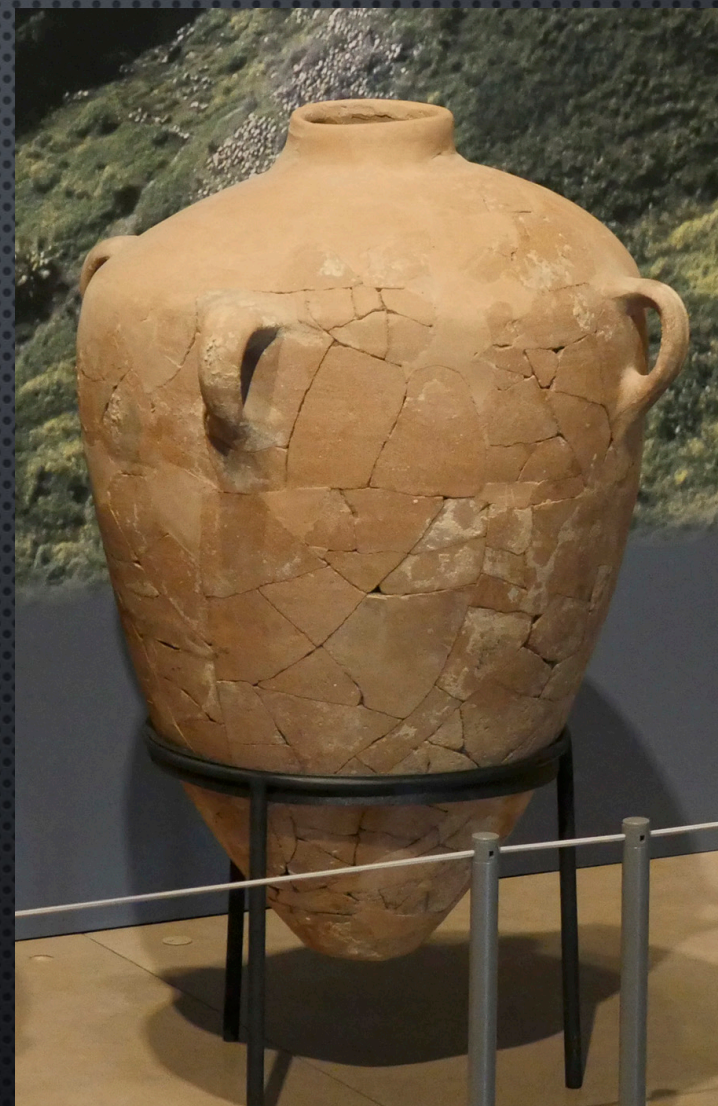
2 Kings 18:7

Hezekiah Bulla



“(Belonging to)
Hezekiah, (son
of) Ahaz, king of
Judah”

Imlk Jar Handles



Imlk Jar Handles



“The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah and all his might and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?”

2 Kings 20:20

“This same Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the city of David.”

2 Chronicles 32:30

“In that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, and you saw that the breaches of the city of David were many. You collected the waters of the lower pool, and you counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall. You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or see him who planned it long ago.”

Isaiah 22:8–11

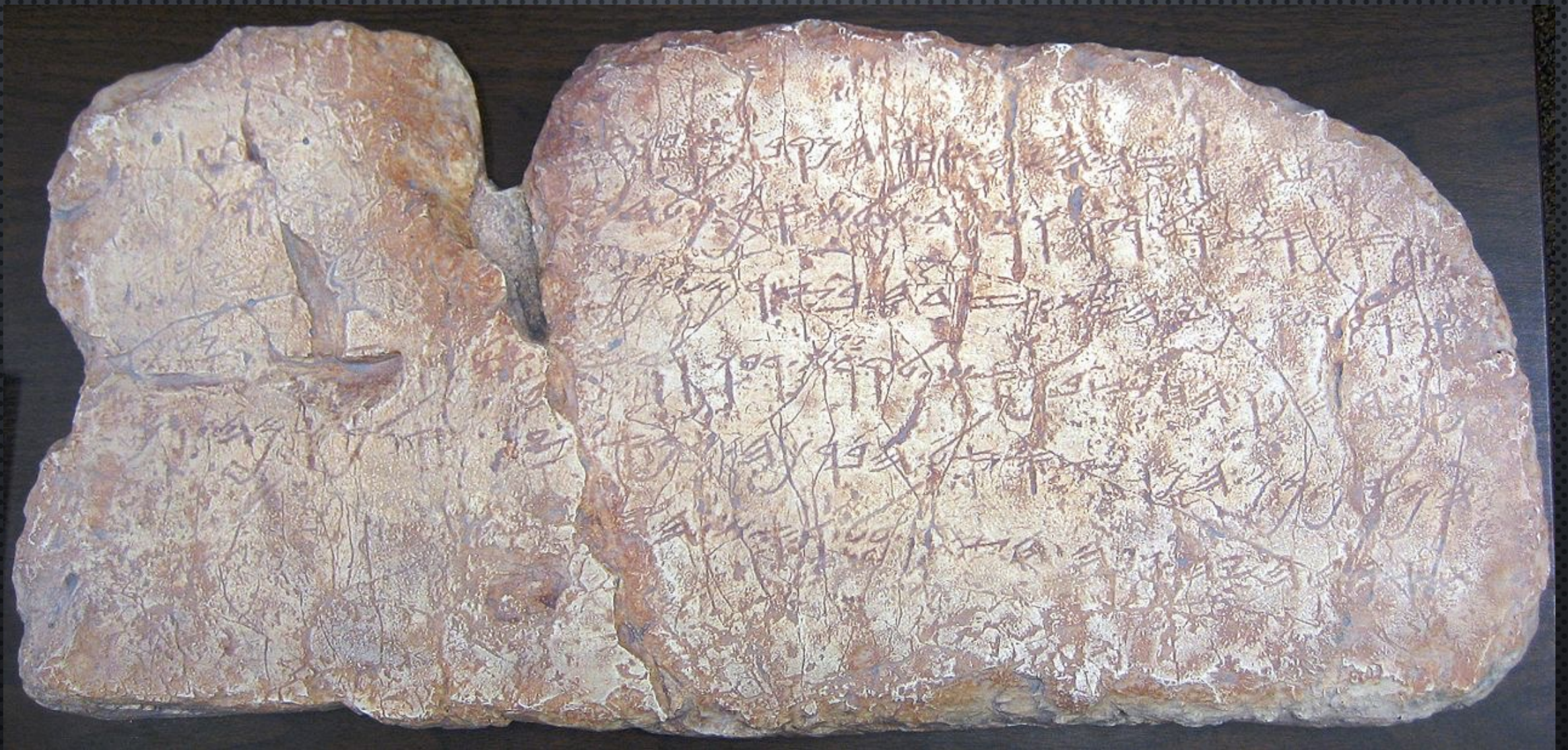
“A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, ‘Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?’”

2 Chronicles 32:4

Hezekiah's Tunnel



The Siloam Tunnel Inscription



The Siloam Tunnel Inscription

“[The day of] the tunnelling.

Now this is the report of the tunnelling:

While [the cutters were still wielding] pickaxe, each towards his companion,
and while there were three cubits to tunnel,

a voice [was heard] of each man calling to his companion,

for there was a fissure in the stone from the right [and from the south].

And on the day of the tunnelling, the cutters struck, each man meeting his
brother, pickaxe against pickaxe.

And the waters flowed from the spring to the pool, 1,200 cubits. One hundred
cubits was the height of the rock, over the head(s) of the cutters.”

The Seige of Lachish



The Seige of Lachish



The Seige of Lachish



The Siege of Lachish





The Chicago Prism (Sennacherib)

“As for Sidqa, king of Ashkelon, who did not submit to my yoke, I deported the gods of the house of his father, himself, his wife, his sons, his daughters, and the seed of the house of his father, and conducted him to the land of Assyria. Šarru-lu-dari, son of Rukibti, their former king, I placed over the people of Ashkelon, and I imposed on him the giving of tribute, gifts of my lordship; and he pulled my yoke.”



The Chicago Prism (Sennacherib)

“The governors, the princes, and the people of Ekron who had placed Padi, their king, vassal and pledge of the land of Assyria, in fetters of iron and had given him as an enemy to Hezekiah the Judean, because of the offense they had committed, were afraid. They sought help, and the kings of Egypt, archery units, chariots, and horses of the king of Kush, forces without number, came to their aid. In the plain of Altekeh, the battle line arrayed before me, and they sharpened their weapons, But with the fear of Aššur, my lord who was with me, I fought with them, and I shed their blood. In the midst of the battle, my hand captured alive the charioteers and the sons of the king of the Egyptians, along with the charioteers which belonged to the king of Kush.”



The Chicago Prism (Sennacherib)

“I laid siege to Eltekeh and Timnah, and I carried away their spoil. I drew near to Ekron. I executed the governors and princes who had committed the transgression, and I hung their corpses on the towers around the city. The citizens who did these things and offenses I counted as spoil. I commanded the release of their remnant, which bore neither guilt nor offense, those who had not transgressed. I brought out Padi, their king, from the midst of Jerusalem, and I seated him on the throne of lordship over them. And I placed the tribute of my lordship on his back.”



The Chicago Prism (Sennacherib)

“As for Hezekiah, the Judean, who did not submit to my yoke, I laid siege to and conquered forty-six of his strong, fortified cities, as well as small towns in their vicinity without number, using causeway ramps and close combat, battering rams, fighting infantrymen, tunnels, breaches, and siege machines. I brought out from their midst 200,150 people, small and great, male and female, horses, mules, donkeys, camels, oxen, and sheep without number, and listen them as plunder.”



The Chicago Prism (Sennacherib)

“As for him, in the midst of Jerusalem, his royal residence, I confined him as a bird in a cage. I erected siege forts over him, and those coming out of the gate of his city I sent back as his misfortune. His cities, which I took as plunder from the midst of his land, I divided and gave to Mitinti, king of Ashdod, Padi, king of Ekron, and Silli-bel, king of Gaza. And I reduced his land. I added and imposed on his back gifts of my lordship on top of the earlier tribute, their annual giving of payment.”



The Chicago Prism (Sennacherib)

“As for Hezekiah himself, the fear of the radiance of my lordship overwhelmed him. He sent behind me, to the midst of Nineveh, the city of my lordship, *urbi*-soldiers and his best troops, which he had brought in for the reinforcement of Jerusalem, the city of his dominion when he obtained reinforcements, along with thirty talents of gold, 800 talents of silver, choice kohl, large AN.ZA.GUL.ME stones, couches of (inlaid) ivory, chairs with backs, ivory, elephant hide, elephant ivory, ebony, boxwood—every valuable treasure, along with his daughters, the females of his palace, male musicians, and female musicians. For the giving of payment and the doing of service, he sent me his mounted messenger.”

Ketef Hinnom Silver Strip 1



-- הברו (כ)
 -אניהו-
 -ר יה (ו)
 -- געה-
 -שיברכ
 יהוה ו
 (י) שמרכ
 יאר יה
 (וה) פניו
 (אל) יכ וי
 שמ לך ש
 לו (מ) --

 -- --
 -- כמ --

 -ור-נ-

“...] YHW ...

[...]

the grea[t ... who keeps]

the covenant and

[G]raciousness towards those who love [him] and
those who keep [his commandments ...]

[...]

the Eternal? [...]

blessing more than any

[sna]re and more than evil.

For redemption is in him.

For YHWH

is our restorer [and]

rock. May YHWH bless you and

[may] he keep you

[May] YHWH shine [his] fac[e upon you]

[...]

Ketef Hinnom Silver Strip 2



“May he/she be blessed by YHW[H],
the warrior and the rebuke of
evil; May YHWH bless you
and may he keep you.
May YHWH make his face shine upon you
and may he give you pea[ce].
[...]

“May Yahweh bless you and keep you
May Yahweh make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24–26

