

NEBBI YUNUS

INSCRIPTION OF SENNACHERIB.

(FROM A MEMORIAL SLAB FOUND AT NINEVEH.)

TRANSLATED BY
ERNEST A. BUDGE.

THE slab from which this inscription is copied is now in the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, and was found during the excavations undertaken by the Turkish Government. It is generally known as the Nebbi Yunus Inscription of Sennacherib. The printed text is found in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. I., pl. 43, 44. Portions of the first six lines of the right hand corner are restored from other inscriptions, but parts of the lines in the lower right hand corner are defaced. The father of Sennacherib (Sargon) being a warlike king, and carrying

victory wherever he went, it is not surprising to find Sennacherib following so closely in his steps. Sargon built the city of Dur-Sargina (Khorsabad), and also temples, and ruled with great energy. Sennacherib renewed and carried on the wars which his father had begun, but he showed less power of management. The expeditions of Sennacherib were great, as also were his conquests, and his palaces were built after the grand style of his father. His inscriptions are, however, interesting in the extreme, for many of them mention Hezekiah, and the siege of his city Jerusalem. Nothing is recorded in the inscriptions of the defeat mentioned in the Bible, but it has been said¹ that about B.C. 690 the warlike expeditions cease, while the Elamites ravaged the southern border of Assyria without check, which they would hardly have dared to do when Sennacherib was powerful. He was haughty and proud, as may be seen by the taunt of 2 Kings xviii. 33-35. The accounts given by the inscriptions seem to afford a reason for his cruel death, in the temple of Nisroch.² The

¹ Smith's *Assyria*, p. 125.

² In Sennacherib's inscription on a slab, he says: "By the opened ears which the lord Nisroch has conferred upon me."

inscriptions show that he conquered among other places and nations, Babylon, the Kassi, Ellippi, the coast of Phœnicia, many parts of Palestine, he defeated the Egyptian army at Eltekeh,¹ he captured 46 of the cities of Hezekiah,² and "200,150 men, small and great,"³ some cities of Philistia,⁴ Elamite cities on the Persian Gulf, the regions around Lake Van, and very many cities which are mentioned in his annals. He had very great trouble with Suzub, son of Gaghul, but at last conquered him. It is noticeable that whenever the least opportunity occurred to the neighbouring and tributary tribes to conspire with one another against Sennacherib, or to openly rebel, they did so, and he

¹ The נֶלְטֶקֶח of Josh. xix. 44.

² *W. A. I. I.*, 39, 13.

³ *W. A. I. I.*, 39, 17.

⁴ Ashdod (אַשְׁדּוֹד) now village of *Esdūd*, "a castle;" one of the five cities of the Philistines; a fortress of Palestine on the borders of Palestine and Egypt; this city was the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, see Josh. xv. 47. Amgurrinna (Ekron, אֶקְרוֹן) now *Akir*; also of the five cities of the Philistines in the north, assigned to the tribe of Judah, Josh. xv. 45; and the Danites, Josh. xix. 43. Gaza (גָּזָא), situated at south of Palestine, Gen. x. 19, and a city of Philistia, Josh. xi. 22, still retains its name, *W. A. I. I.*, 39, 24-26; Ascelon (אַסְכְּלוֹן) is now represented by the little Arab village of *Askūlān*, standing amid the ruins of ancient city. *W. A. I. I.*, 38, 58.

appears to have carried on almost continual warfare with the Elamites and Babylonians, in which the petty tribes joined with great eagerness. The inscriptions of Sennacherib which have come down to us are very fine, valuable, and numerous, for they offer many variant passages of great philological importance.



NEBBI YUNUS

INSCRIPTION OF SENNACHERIB.

COLUMN I.

- 1 THE palace of SENNACHERIB, the great King, the
 strong King, King of nations, King of the land of
 Assyria, King of the four regions,
 2 servant of the great gods, Sovereign, the Judge, the
 King, the Overseer, the Shepherd of the people,
 3 Protector of men (nations) vast I am. ASSUR,¹ Father
 of the gods, among all Kings
 4 firmly has raised me, and over all that dwell in the
 countries he caused to increase my weapons, he gave
 5 the sceptre of uprightness, the extender of frontiers, a
 sword unyielding for the slaughter of the enemy,
 6 he hath caused to hold my feet in the battle of the

¹ In *W. A. I.* III., 66, 23, it is said, "Assur god of judges." The title Assur extended itself from the city to the surrounding country, and became abstracted into a deity, the patron and eponyme of Assyria. The power of the later Assyrian Empire was expressed by making this god the head of the Pantheon and the father of the three originally supreme gods, Anu, Bel, and Hea. *Trans. Soc. Bib. Arch.*, Vol. II., p. 245.

field. MARDUK-PAL-IDINNA,¹ King of the land of Ganduniyas.²

7 The Chaldæans and Aramæans with the army of Elam his help like corn I swept. He,
 8 to the land of the sea alone fled, and the gods and his spoil with the attendants of his fathers
 9 preceding, from within the great land he brought out, and the men within the ships
 10 he caused to ascend and to the city Nagiti,³ which is beyond the sea, he crossed and in that place
 11 he took up his abode. The whole of his land I had taken, and like spoil his cities I threw down, dug up,
 12 with fire I burnt; I had taken the city Khigilimu, and the land of the Yasubigallai⁴ of the land of Ellippi⁵

¹ Merodach-Baladan (מֶרֹדַח בַּלְאָדָן), *i.e.*, "Merodach gave a son." He is called the "son of Yacin," also "King of Chaldæa," in Botta, 151; and *sar tamti*, "King of the sea," *W. A. I. II.*, 67, 26. A Chaldæan. He held a powerful castle near the Euphrates, called Dur-Yacin (the "fortress of Yacin"), he marched to Babylon B.C. 722, and proclaimed himself king of Babylon B.C. 712. He sent an embassy to Hezekiah king of Judah, this was unsuccessful. Afterwards he retreated to Ikbi-Bel. He was an enemy of Sargon, who says of him in the Khorsabad Inscription, l. 38, "he did not revere the memory of the gods, he refused to send tribute, he made alliance with Khumbanigas king of Elam, he caused the countries of Sumer and Accad to rebel," and then he tells how utterly he (Sargon) defeated him. Sargon marched against Merodach-Baladan B.C. 709; Sennacherib B.C. 700. See his defeat described in *W. A. I. III.*, 12, 4.

² Also written Car-dunias (*W. A. I. II.*, 65, 1), "the fortress of Dunias," seems to have been Lower Chaldæa. It was also called Gun-duni (Smith's *Assurbanipal*, p. 183), "the enclosure of Duni," which has been compared with the Biblical *Gan Aiden* (גַּן אֵדֶן, Gen. iii. 24), or Garden of Eden, by Sir H. C. Rawlinson (see Prof. Sayce, *Synchronous History*, p. 4).

³ An Elamite city on the Persian Gulf.

⁴ A race of people inhabiting the mountainous region between Assyria and Persia.

⁵ This district contained the cities of Zizirtu, Kummahu and Beth-Barra.

- 13 I overran and destroyed its men. Of LULIE,¹ King of the city of Zidon,² I took away his kingdom.
- 14 TUBAHLI upon his throne I caused to sit, and tribute and my lordship upon him (I placed).
- 15 I overran the wide district of the land of Judea, HEZEKIAH³ its King did wickedness,
- 16 the men of the city of the Tukharrai inhabiting the mountains difficult, with my weapons I caused to slay. The city Uccu⁴
- 17 with the whole of its men like a heap of corn I destroyed, the men of the land of Cilicia⁵ inhabiting
- 18 the forests I overthrew with my weapons, their cities I threw down, dug up, with fire I burnt.
- 19 The city Tel-garimmu which is on the border of the land of Tabali I conquered, and I turned to ruins, the city Nagitu,
- 20 the city of Nagitu-dihbina, the land of Khilmu, the land of Nelatu, the land of Khupapanu, the districts
- 21 of the King of Elam, which beyond the sea are situated their site of which the men
- 22 of the land of Beth-Yacin⁶ before my strong weapons, the gods of their land in their shrines
- 23 assembled, the sea they crossed and they dwelt in the midst of them, in the ships of the land of Syria,

¹ See *W. A. I. I.*, 38, 35. The Elulæus of classical authors (Fox Talbot).

² צִידוֹן, more fully צִידוֹן הַגָּדוֹל, "Tsidon the great," Josh. xi. 8, an ancient city of the Phœnicians.

³ See *W. A. I. I.*, 38, 72; 39, 11, 12; 12, 27.

⁴ Modern Accho, a maritime city in the tribe of Asher, Judges i. 31 (Heb. אַכּוֹ), now called *St. Jean d'Acre*.

⁵ A maritime province in the South-east of Asia Minor.

⁶ A fortified city near the Persian Gulf.

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