

## CHAPTER III

### THE TIGRIS-EUPHRATES VALLEY

#### I. CHRONICLE OF THE REIGN OF SARGON

The tablet translated below is in the British Museum. Although this chronicle was composed in the second Babylonian period (after 606 B.C.), it is known to be a faithful epitome of a far earlier narrative. King, *Chronicles*, ii. 3-9.

SARGON, King of Agade, through the royal gift of Ishtar was exalted, and he possessed no foe nor rival. His glory over the world he poured out. The Sea in the East he crossed, and in the eleventh year the Country of the West in its full extent his hand subdued. He united them under one control; he set up his images in the West; their booty he brought over at his word. The sons of his palace for five *kasbu* around he settled, and over the hosts of the world he reigned supreme. Against Kasalla he marched, and he turned Kasalla into mounds and heaps of ruins; he destroyed the land and left not enough for a bird to rest thereon. Afterward in his old age all the lands revolted against him, and they besieged him in Agade; and Sargon went forth to battle and defeated them; he accomplished their overthrow, and their widespreading host he destroyed. Afterward he attacked the land of Subartu in his might, and they submitted to his arms, and Sargon settled that revolt, and defeated them; he accomplished their overthrow, and their widespreading host he destroyed, and he brought their possessions into Agade. The soil from the trenches of Babylon he removed, and the boundaries

**His reign,**  
about 2500  
B.C.

*Ancient  
World, 24.*

The Sea in  
the East is the  
Persian Gulf.  
Kasbu, about  
seven miles.

A Babylonian  
city.

Probably he made the territory of Agade as large as that of Babylon.

of Agade he made like those of Babylon. But because of the evil which he had committed the great lord Marduk was angry, and he destroyed his people by famine. From the rising of the Sun unto the setting of the sun they opposed him and gave him no rest.

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAMMURABI

An inscription in the Babylonian language, a dialect of the Semitic, in the Museum of Paris. All the inscriptions of Oriental kings lay stress on their great piety and on the favor of the gods through which they rule and win victories in war. This document attests further: the paternal care of Hammurabi for his people. *Records of the Past*, i.<sup>2</sup> 7 f.

**Hammurabi, king of Babylon, 1958-1916.**

*Ancient World*, 25.

Marduk, chief god of Babylon. Bel (Baal) means "lord."

Sumer and Accad, countries of the Sumerians and the Accadians;

*Ancient World*, 23.

Such assemblies of the people are unusual in the Orient.

The divine right of kings is extremely ancient.

Hammurabi, the exalted King, the King of Babylon, the King renowned throughout the world, conqueror of the enemies of Marduk, the King beloved by his heart am I.

The favor of god and Bel gave the people of Sumer and Accad unto my government. Their celestial weapons unto my hand they gave. The canal Hammurabi, the joy of men, a stream of abundant waters, for the people of Sumer and Accad I excavated. Its banks, all of them, I restored to newness; new supporting walls I heaped up; perennial waters for the people of Sumer and Accad I provided.

The people of Sumer and Accad, all of them, in general assemblies I summoned. A review and inspection of them I ordained every year. In joy and abundance I watched over them, and in peaceful habitations I caused them to dwell.

By the divine favor I am Hammurabi, the exalted King, the worshipper of the supreme deity.

With the prosperous power which Marduk gave me, I built a lofty citadel on a high mound of earth, whose

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