

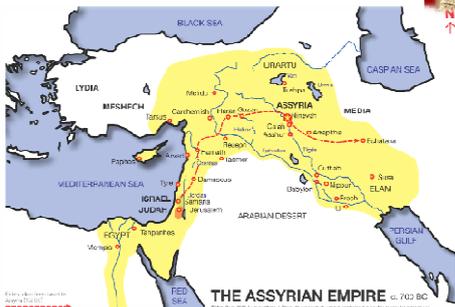


**ASSYRIA: Rod of God's Hand.**  
Helen Hindmarsh

**ASSYRIA (Iraq) today**



**Geographical Location**




**Biblical context**

**Mentioned more than 128 times**




**Assyria, the club I use to vent my anger: Isa. 10:5 (NET)**





**MILITARILY: 2 Kings 15:19**  
Pul, king of Assyria invaded the land.

**SOCIALLY: 2 Kings 17:4:**  
...I drove out 200,150 people, male & female...DEPORTED and RESETTLED



**RELIGIOUSLY:** 2 Kings 18:10 ...when Ahaz saw the altar...he removed the Sabbath awning...on account of the king of Assyria.



**ECONOMICALLY:** The tribute of Jehu, the son of Omri.

2 Kings 15:19 Menahem paid him a thousand talents of silver



**POLITICALLY:**



The king of Assyria seized Manasseh, put hooks in his nose... and carried him away to Babylon

**Do not be afraid of the Assyrians, who beat you with a rod**  
Isa 10:24



Lachish

Biblical context



**OMRI DYNASTY / SHALMANESER III**

**OMRI: 12 years reign 885BC**  
**AHAB: 22 years reign 874BC**  
**AHAZIAH: 2 years reign 853BC**  
**JORAM: 12 years reign 852BC**

Omri dynasty lasted approximately 50 years. 1 Kings 16  
 Destroyed by JEHU.

OMRI DYNASTY



- **Omri:** came to throne after tumultuous period – assassinations, massacres, suicide, civil war.
- After 6 years, moved capital from Tirzah to Samaria. 1 Kings 16
- As for the other events...and the things (Omri) achieved....

As for the other events...and the things (Omri) achieved....



- Established **new capital, SAMARIA** – lasted until it was destroyed by Assyria in 722BC (158 yrs)
- Made **political alliance** with Tyre by marrying his son, Ahab to Jezebel.
- Organised a **governmental structure** in Israel – provincial governmental areas (1 Kgs 20:14-15;)
- Established **law structure:** Mic. 6:16 denounced Omri statutes 140 yrs after Omri died.
- **Subdued Moab** and extracted substantial tribute 2 Kings 3:4 – economic benefits into Ahab's reign.

As for the other events...and the things (Omri) achieved....

- Subdued Moab and extracted substantial tribute 2 Kings 3:4



**MESHA STELE (MOABITE STONE)**

874BC Mesha included Omri's name on victory stele.

Celebrating successful revolt by Mesha against Israel during reign of Ahaziah.  
2Kgs 1:1; 3:4-27

Stone found in 1868



As for the other events...and the things (Omri) achieved....

- BLACK OBELISK of Shalmaneser III**



**SHALMANESER III**  
858-824BC



As for the other events...and the things (Omri) achieved....

- BLACK OBELISK of Shalmaneser III**

**Mentions Omri.**

**"The tribute of Jehu, the son of Omri"**



Only pictorial representation of Israelite king.




As for the other events...and the things (Omri) achieved....

- BLACK OBELISK of Shalmaneser III**

Mentions Omri.

**"The tribute of Jehu, the son of Omri"**

Ironically it identifies Jehu as 'son of Omri' when in fact he totally destroyed the house of Omri.



Only pictorial representation of Israelite king.




- TIGLATH-PILESER III 745-727 BC**
- SHALMANESER V 727-722BC**
- SARGON II 721-705 BC**
- SENNACHERIB 704-681 BC**
- ESARHADDON 680-669 BC**
- ASHURBANIPAL 668-626 BC**
- ASHUR-ETIL-ILANI 631-637BC**
- SIN-SHUMU-LISHIR 626BC**
- SIN-SHAR-ISHKUN 627-612 BC Fall of Nineveh**
- ASHUR-UBALLIT II 612-605BC**  
**Assyria destroyed.**

**NEO - ASSYRIAN EMPIRE**





**TIGLATH-PILESER III**  
**(Pul): 745-727BC**

- Revitalized empire.
- Reorganized the military
- Restructured the bureaucracy of the government.
- Reasserted central control over the empire,
- Re-conquered the Mediterranean seaboard
- Even subjugated Babylon.
- Imposed a manpower levy on each province
- Demanded contingents from vassal states



**TIGLATH-PILESER III**  
**(Pul): 745-727BC**

**...the Assyrian army became the most effective military force in history up until that time, and would provide a model for future armies in organization, tactics, training, and efficiency.** J.J.Mark

**TIGLATH-PILISER III**  
**(Pul): 745-727BC**



**2 Kings 15:19**  
**Pul, king of Assyria invaded the land...Menahem gave him 1000 talents to gain his support and strengthen his own hold on the kingdom.**



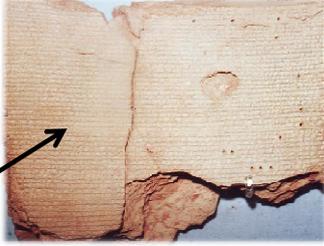
**TIGLATH-PILISER III**  
**(Pul): 745-727BC**

**2 Kings 15:29** In the time of Pekah king of Israel, **Tiglath-Pileser** king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maakah, Janoah, Kedesh and Hazor. He took Gilead and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and **deported the people to Assyria.**



**TIGLATH-PILESER III**  
**(Pul): 745-727BC**

A building inscription in Nimrud, referring to Tiglath-Pileser's deportees...



**The land of Bit-Humria (Omri)... I carried off to Assyria**



**TIGLATH-PILESER III**  
**(Pul): 745-727BC**

**Meanwhile in Judah....**

**2 Kings 16:7** Ahaz sent messengers to say to **Tiglath-Pileser** king of Assyria, "I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me."



**TIGLATH-PILESER III (Pul): 745-727BC**

**Meanwhile in Judah....**

**2 Kings 16:10** King Ahaz then went to Damascus to meet with King **Tiglath-pileser** of Assyria. While he was there, he took special note of the altar. Then he sent a model of the altar to Uriah the priest, along with its design in full detail.



**TIGLATH-PILESER III (Pul): 745-727BC**

**Meanwhile in Judah....AHAZ**

**2 Kings 16:12-18** ....made offerings on it. ...On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering. ...He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls. ...**in deference to the king of Assyria.**



**TIGLATH-PILESER III (Pul): 745-727BC**

**(Tiglath Pileser III) ...had succeeded in raising Assyria from a condition of degenerative impotence to be the first power of the ancient world, with an extent of territory, and an efficiency of administration, never before attained.**

*Godspeed*



**SHALMANESER V 727-722BC**

**2 Kings 17:3** **Shalmaneser** king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been **Shalmaneser's** vassal and had paid him tribute.



**SHALMANESER V: 727-722BC**

**2 Kings 17:4** But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore **Shalmaneser** seized him and put him in prison.



**SHALMANESER V: 727-722BC**

**2 Kings 17:5** The king of Assyria (**Shalmaneser**) invaded the entire land, **marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years.**  
**2 Kings 18:9** In King Hezekiah's fourth year, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, **Shalmaneser** king of Assyria marched against Samaria and laid siege to it.



**2 Kings 18:10**  
 At the end of three years the Assyrians took it. **So Samaria was captured** in Hezekiah's sixth year, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.



**2 Kings 17:6** In the ninth year of Hoshea, the **king of Assyria [SARGON] captured** Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.

**SARGON II: 721-705BC**

**2 Kings 17:6**  
**SARGON II...**captured Samaria ...deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan, on the Harbor River and in the towns of the Medes.



**SARGON II: 721-705BC**



**Isa.20:1** Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod, and attacked and captured it



**SARGON II: 721-705BC**



**2 Kings 17:6**  
**SARGON II annals...***With the strength given me by divine assembly, I conquered Samaria...and took (27,290) prisoner of war...as spoil. I conscripted enough prisoners to outfit 50 chariots, I rebuilt [Samaria], bigger and better than before. I repopulated it with people from other states that I had conquered.....*

**SARGON II: 721-705BC**



**2 Kings 17:24** The kings of Assyria brought foreigners from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the cities of Samaria.

**SARGON II: 721-705BC**



**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

Built a new capital city  
– invited gods to dwell  
in it!

Died in battle.

Abandoned by the  
gods!

**SARGON II: 721-705BC**

**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**Isa.8:7,8**  
...therefore the Lord is about to bring  
against them the mighty floodwaters  
of the Euphrates-- the **king of Assyria**  
with all his pomp. It will overflow all its  
channels, run over all its banks and  
sweep on into Judah, swirling over it,  
passing through it and reaching up to  
the neck.

**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**NINEVEH, the Palace without Rival.  
Lamassu**




**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**NINEVEH, the Palace without Rival**



**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**NINEVEH, the Palace without Rival  
and "the wall that terrifies the enemy"**

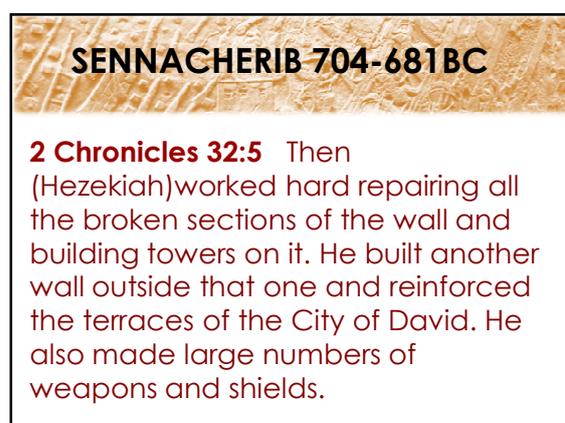
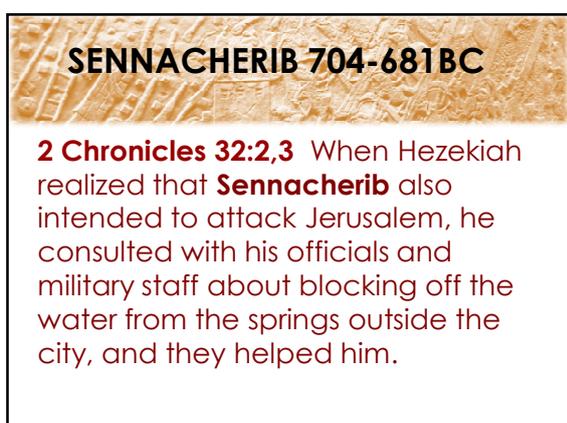
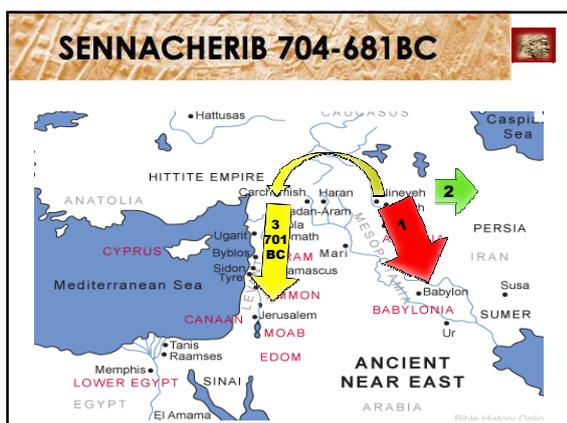
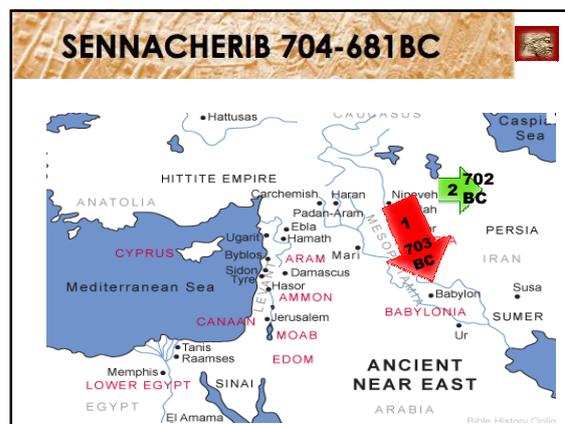
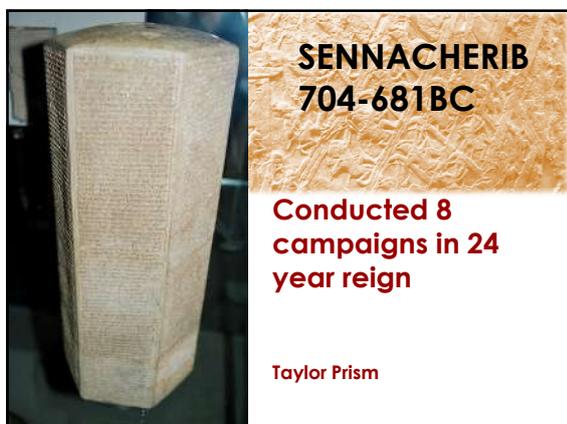


Nineveh

**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**NINEVEH, the Palace without Rival  
and "the wall that terrifies the enemy"**





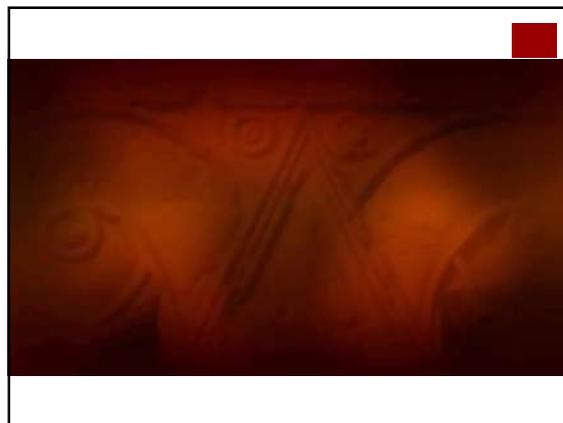


**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**HEZEKIAH'S PREPARATIONS**

It was **Hezekiah** who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the City of David.  
**2 Chr. 32:30**





**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**



TAYLOR PRISM:  
8 MILITARY  
CAMPAIGNS

As for **Hezekiah**, the Judean, who did not submit to my yoke, I besieged and took 46 of his strong walled cities as well as countless small villages....I shut up Hezekiah himself up in Jerusalem, his royal city as if he were a bird in a cage. I removed the cities of his, which I had plundered....**thus I diminished his land**

**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

Austen Henry Layard and the Lachish reliefs

**2 Chronicles 32:5**  
 At this time Hezekiah king of Judah **stripped off the gold** with which he had covered the doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and **gave it to the king of Assyria.**

**Sennacherib's annals...***Thus I diminished his land. I also **added to the previous tribute**, and laid a yearly tax in the form of presents for me as overlord upon them....30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver...*

**2 Kings 19:10,12**  
 Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the **god** you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hands of the king of Assyria.  
 Did the **gods** of the nations that were destroyed by my predecessors deliver them--the **gods** of Gozan, Harran, Rezepth and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar?

*A religious war*



**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**Destruction of Sennacherib 2 Kgs 19**  
 So **Sennacherib** king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.  
 One day, while he was worshipping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And **Esarhaddon** his son succeeded him as king.

**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**The Destruction of Sennacherib**  
*George Gordon, Lord Byron*  
 The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,  
 And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;  
 And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,  
 When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.  
  
 Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,  
 That host with their banners at sunset were seen:  
 Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,  
 That host on the morrow lay withered and strown....

**SENNACHERIB 704-681BC**

**Destruction of Sennacherib 2 Kgs 19**  
 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.  
 One day, while he was worshipping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And **Esarhaddon** his son succeeded him as king.

*22 years*  
*5 campaigns*

**ESARHADDON 680-669BC**



*And **Esarhaddon** his son succeeded him as king.*

**Civil war**

**Extended empire to Egypt**

**Judah still a province**

**Rebuilt Babylon**



**ESARHADDON  
680-669BC**

**440BC.....Ezra 4:2**  
we have been sacrificing to him from the time of **King Esarhaddon** of Assyria, who bought us here.



**ESARHADDON  
680-669BC**

**Ezekiel 8:7-17** Then he brought me to the entrance to the court. I looked, and I saw a hole in the wall. And he said to me, "Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here."



**ESARHADDON  
680-669BC**

**Ezekiel 8:7** .....I saw women sitting there, mourning the god Tammuz..... elders of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? .... they were bowing down to the sun in the east.



**ESARHADDON  
680-669BC**

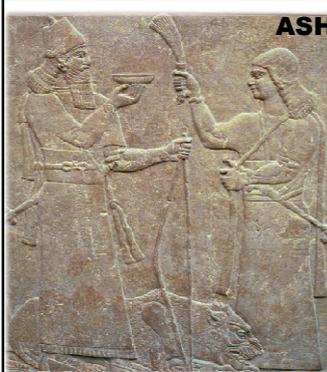
**:17** *Is it a trivial matter for the people of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually arouse my anger? **Look at them putting the branch to their nose!***



**ESARHADDON  
680-669BC**

**:17** *Look at them putting the branch to their nose!*

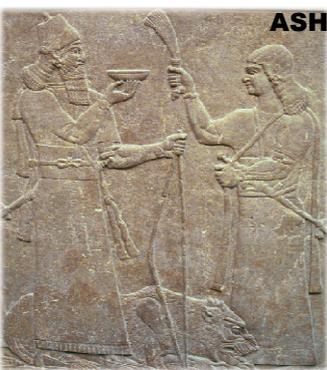
*Esarhaddon and his mother, Naqia, raising a short rod to their noses, to demonstrate their humility.*



**ASHURBANIPAL  
668-626BC**

**Furthermost extension of empire.**

**Ezra 4:10** ...and the rest of the nations who the great and noble **Ashurbanipal** deported and settled ...



**ASHURBANIPAL**  
**668-626BC**

Last great ruler.

After his death, Assyrian influence and power rapidly declined until 612BC



Assyria will be humbled  
**Zech 10:11**



**Isa.10**

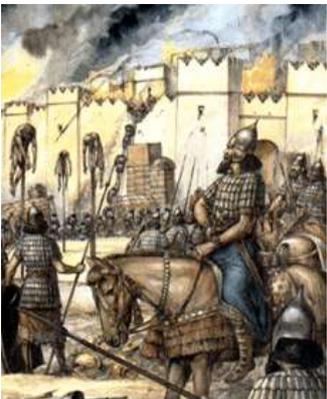
**:12** I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes...

...me...me...me...me...  
...my....

King's Annals

**Jer. 2:18**

What good will it do to you to go over to Assyria to seek help from the Assyrians?



**612BC**

**Destruction of Nineveh**

: siege by Nabopolassar for 3 months

**Nahum 2,3**

**Ezekiel 32:22**

Assyria is there with her whole army; she is surrounded by the graves of all her slain...All who spread terror in the land of the living are slain; fallen by the sword.

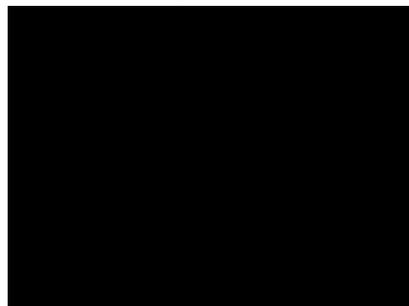


**605BC**

**Final destruction of Assyria by  
Nebuchadnezzar**



**2015: Present-day destruction of  
Assyria**



**2015: Present-day destruction of  
Assyria**



**Jer 50:2** Announce and  
proclaim among the  
nations, lift up a banner and  
proclaim it; keep nothing  
back, but say, 'Babylon will  
be captured; Bel will be put  
to shame, Marduk filled with  
terror. Her images will be  
put to shame and her idols  
filled with terror.

**Isa 14:25**

I will crush the Assyrian in my  
land; on my mountains I will  
trample him down.  
His yoke will be taken from my  
people,  
And his burden removed from my  
people.

**Isa 30:31**

The voice of the LORD will shatter  
Assyria;  
With his scepter he will strike them  
down



**Isa.27:13** Those who were perishing in  
Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt  
will come and worship the LORD on the holy  
mountain in Jerusalem.



**Isa. 19:23** In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. **The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together.**



**Isa. 14:26** This is the plan determined for the whole world....for the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him...