

## **The Akitu Chronicle Bel and Nebo Translation – (Transcription)**

\*The Akitu Chronicle (ABC 16) is one of the historiographical texts from ancient Babylon. It deals with the war between the Babylonian king Samas-suma-ukin and his brother Assurbanipal, king of Assyria. Its name is derived from the fact that the author shows a special interest in the celebration of the Akitu festival. The text of the Akitu Chronicle is preserved on a tablet, BM 86379 which measures 45 mm wide and 62 mm long.

For eight years under Sennacherib, for twelve years under Esarhaddon, twenty years altogether, Bel stayed in Baltil (Assur) and the Akitu festival did not take place. The accession year of Samas-suma-ukin. In the month Ajaru. Bel and the gods of Akkad went out from Baltil (Assur) and on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month Ajaru, they entered Babylon. Nabu and the gods of Borsippa went to Babylon.

The sixteenth year of Samas-suma-ukin. From the month Ajaru until the month Tebetu the major-domo conscripted troops in Akkad. On the nineteenth day of the month Tebetu hostilities began between Assyria and Akkad. The king withdrew before the enemy into Babylon. On the twenty-seventh day of Addaru the armies of Assyria and Akkad did battle in Hiritu. The army of Akkad retreated from the battlefield and a major defeat was inflicted upon it. However, there were still hostilities and warfare continued.

The seventeenth year there were insurrections in Assyria and Akkad. Nabu did not come from Borsippa for the procession of Bel and Bel did not come out. The eighteenth year Nabu did not come from Borsippa for the procession of Bel and Bel did not come out. The nineteenth year Nabu did not come and Bel did not come out. The twentieth year Nabu did not come and Bel did not come out. After Kandalanu, in the accession year of Nabopolassar there were insurrections in Assyria and Akkad. There were hostilities and warfare continued. Nabu did not come and Bel did not come out. Nabu did not come and Bel did not come out.

Source: A.K. Grayson, *Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles* (1975) and Jean-Jacques Glassner, *Mesopotamian Chronicles* (Atlanta, 2004).