

Sargon II The Fall of Samaria – (Transcription)

Property of Sargon king of Assyria conqueror of Samaria and of the entire country of Israel (Bit-Hu-um-ri-a) who despoiled Ashdod and Shinuthi, who caught the Greeks who (live on islands) in the sea, like fish, who exterminated Kasku, all Tabali and Cilcilia, who chased away Midas king of Mushku, who defeated Musur in Rapihu, who declared Hanno, king of Gaza, as booty, who subdued the seven kings of the country Ia', a district on Cyprus (Ia-ad-na-na), who dwell (on an island) in the sea, at a distance of a seven-day journey.

Sargon Annals – Translated Inscriptions

*Annals and their parallels taken from the Display Inscriptions. The Annals are quoted here according to A.G. Lie, The inscriptions of Sargon II, King of Assyria, Part 1. The Annals (Paris 1929).

At the beginning of my royal rule, I...the town of the Samaritans I besieged, conquered (2 Lines destroyed) [for the god...] who let me achieve this my triumph... I led away as prisoners [27,290 inhabitants of it (and) equipped from among them (soldiers to man)] 50 chariots for my royal corps... The town I rebuilt better than it was before and settled therein people from countries which I had conquered. I placed an officer of mine as governor over them and imposed upon them tribute as is customary for Assyrian citizens.

*According to the Annals of Room XIV

Iamani from Ashdod, afraid of my armed force left his wife and children and fled to the frontier of Musru which belongs to Meluhha (Ethiopia) and hid there like a thief. I installed an officer of mine as governor over his entire large country and its prosperous inhabitants, (thus) aggrandizing (again) territory belonging to Ashur, the king of the gods. The terror inspiring glamor of the Ashur, my lord, overpowered the king of Meluhha and he threw him (i.e. Iamani) in fetters on hands and feet, and sent him to me, at Assyria. I conquered and sacked the towns Shihuhtu (and) Samaria, and all Israel (Omri-Land Bit Hu-um-ri-ia). I caught, like a fish, the Greek (Ionians) who live on islands amidst the Western Sea.

*According to the Display Inscriptions

Ia'ubidi from Hamath, a commoner without claim to the throne, a cursed Hittite, schemed to become king of Hamath, induced the cities Arvad, Simirra, Damascus and Samaria to desert me, made them collaborate and fitted out an army. I called up the masses of the soldiers of Ashur and besieged him and his warriors in Qarqar, his favorite city, I conquered it and burnt it. Himself I flayed; the rebels I killed in their cities and established again peace and harmony. A contingent of 200 chariots and 600 men on horseback I formed from among the inhabitants of Hamath and added them to my royal corps.

*Seventh Year

Upon a trust (inspiring oracle given by) my lord Asshur, I crushed the tribes of Tamud, Ibadidi, Marsimanu, and Haiapa, the Arabs who live, far away, in the desert and who know neither overseers nor officials and who had not yet brought their tribute to any king. I deported their survivors and settled them in Samaria.

From Pir'u, the king of Musru, Samsi the queen of Arabia, It'amra, the Sabean, these are the kings of the seashore and from the desert I received as their presents, gold in the form of dust, precious stones, ivory, ebony seeds, all kinds of aromatic substances, horses and camels.

*Eleventh Year. According to the Display Inscriptions

Azuri, king of Ashdod, had schemed not to deliver tribute any more and sent messages full of hostilities against Assyria, to the kings (living) in his neighborhood. On account of these acts which he committed, I abolished his rule over the people of his country and made Ahimiti, his younger brother, king over them. But these Hittites, always planning evil deeds, hated his reign and elevated to rule over them a Greek who, without any claim to the throne had no respect for authority just as they themselves. In a sudden rage, I did not wait to assemble the full might of the army or to prepare the camp, but started out towards Ashdod (only) with those of my warriors who, even in friendly areas, never leave my side.

But this Greek heard about the advance of my expedition, from afar, and he fled into the territory of Musru which belongs (now) to Ethiopia and his hiding place could not be detected. I besieged and conquered the cities of Ashdod, Gath, Asdu-dimmu; I declared his images, his wife, his children, all the possessions and treasures of his palace as well as the inhabitants of his country as booty. I reorganized the administration of these cities and settled therein people from the regions of the East which I had conquered personally.

I installed an officer of mine over them and declared them Assyrian citizens and they pulled as such the straps of my yoke. The king of Ethiopia who lives in a distant country, in an inapproachable region, the road [to which is...], whose fathers never --from remote days until now -- had sent messengers to inquire after the health of my royal forefathers, he did hear, even (that) far away, of the might of Ashur, Nebo and Marduk. The awe-inspiring glamor of my kingship blinded him and terror overcame him. He threw him (i.e. the Greek) in fetters, shackles and iron bands, and they brought him to Assyria, a long journey.

*According to the Broken Prism A

Aziru, king of Ashdod (lacuna) on account of [this crime...] from... Ahimit...his younger brother over [them...] I made him ruler...tribute...like those of the former kings, I imposed upon him. But these accursed Hittites conceived the idea of not delivering the tribute and started a rebellion against their ruler; they expelled him...(Ia-ma-ni) a Greek, commoner without claim to the throne to be king over them, they made sit down [on the very throne] of his former master and [they...] their city of (or:for) the attack....it's neighborhood, a moat they prepared of a depth of 20+X cubits...it even reached the underground water, in order to... The to the rulers of Palestine, Judah, Edom, Moab and those who live on islands and bring tribute and gifts to my lord Ashur. He spread countless evil lies to alienate them from me, and also sent bribes to Pir'u, king of Musru -- a potentate, incapable to save them -- and asked him to be an ally.

But I, Sargon, the rightful ruler, devoted to the pronouncements uttered by Nebo and Marduk, carefully observing the orders of Ashur, led my army over the Tigris and the Euphrates, at the peak of the (ir) flood, the spring flood, as (if it be) dry ground. This Greek, however, their king who had put his trust in his own power and therefore did not bow to my (divinely ordained) rulership, heard about the approach of my expedition while I was still far away, and the splendor of my lord Ashur overwhelmed him and...he fled...

*Nimrud Inscription

Property of Sargon, the subduer of the country Judah which is far away, the uprooter of Hamath, the ruler of which -- Iau'bibi' -- he captured personally.

Source: The Ancient Near East -- An Anthology of Texts and Pictures
by James Pritchard -- 1958 Princeton University Press