

ARTIFACTS THAT MATTER

THE BIBLE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

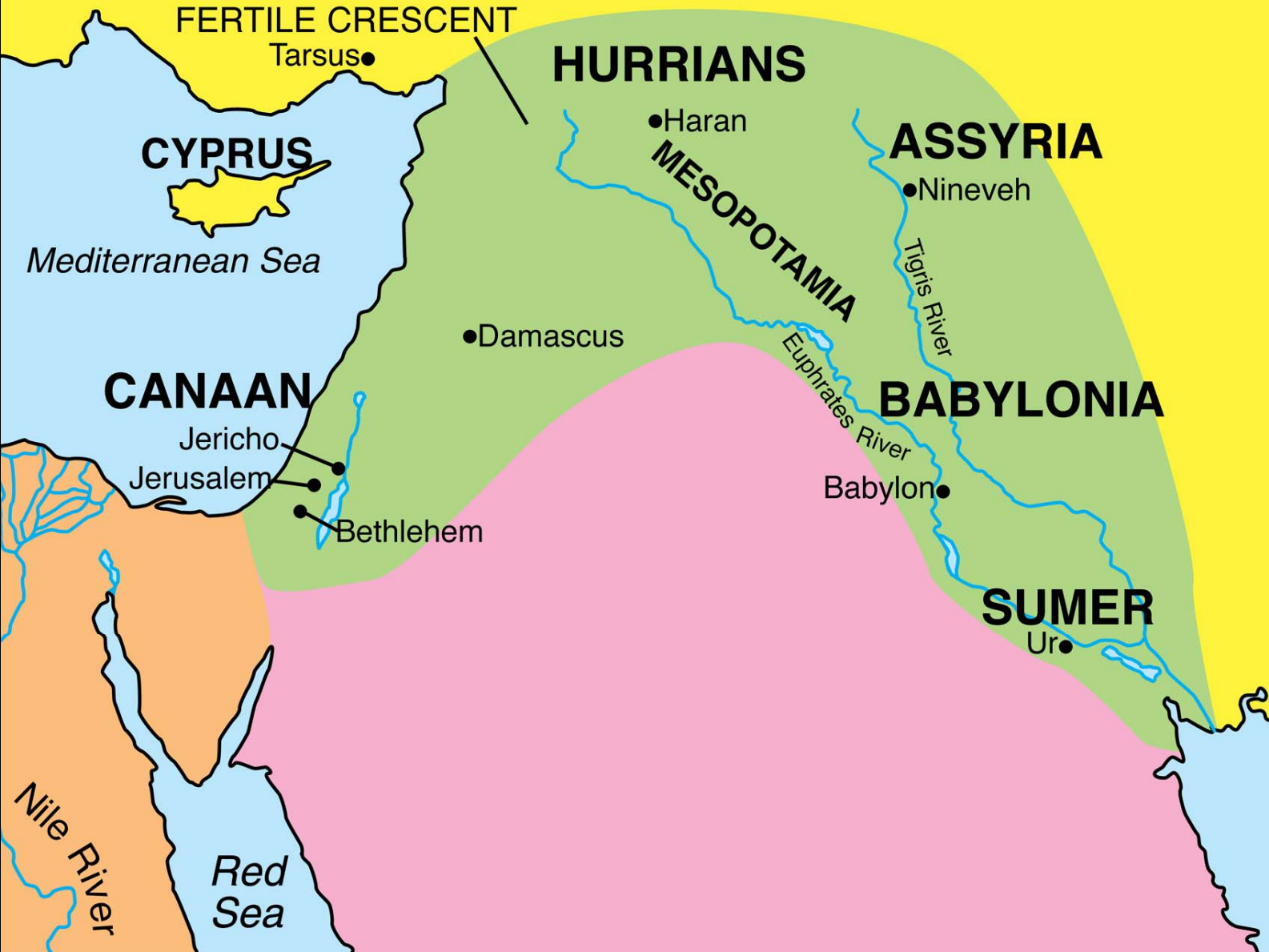
Part 2

Sennacherib and Lachish

Purpose of this series

- *Support the Bible*
 - *Real places*
 - *Real people*
 - *Real events*
 - *Accurate descriptions*
- *Better understand the Bible*
- *To understand that more knowledge of history enriches our understanding of the Bible.*





FERTILE CRESCENT

Tarsus

HURRIANS

CYPRUS

Mediterranean Sea

Haran

MESOPOTAMIA

ASSYRIA

Nineveh

Tigris River

Damascus

Euphrates River

CANAAN

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

BABYLONIA

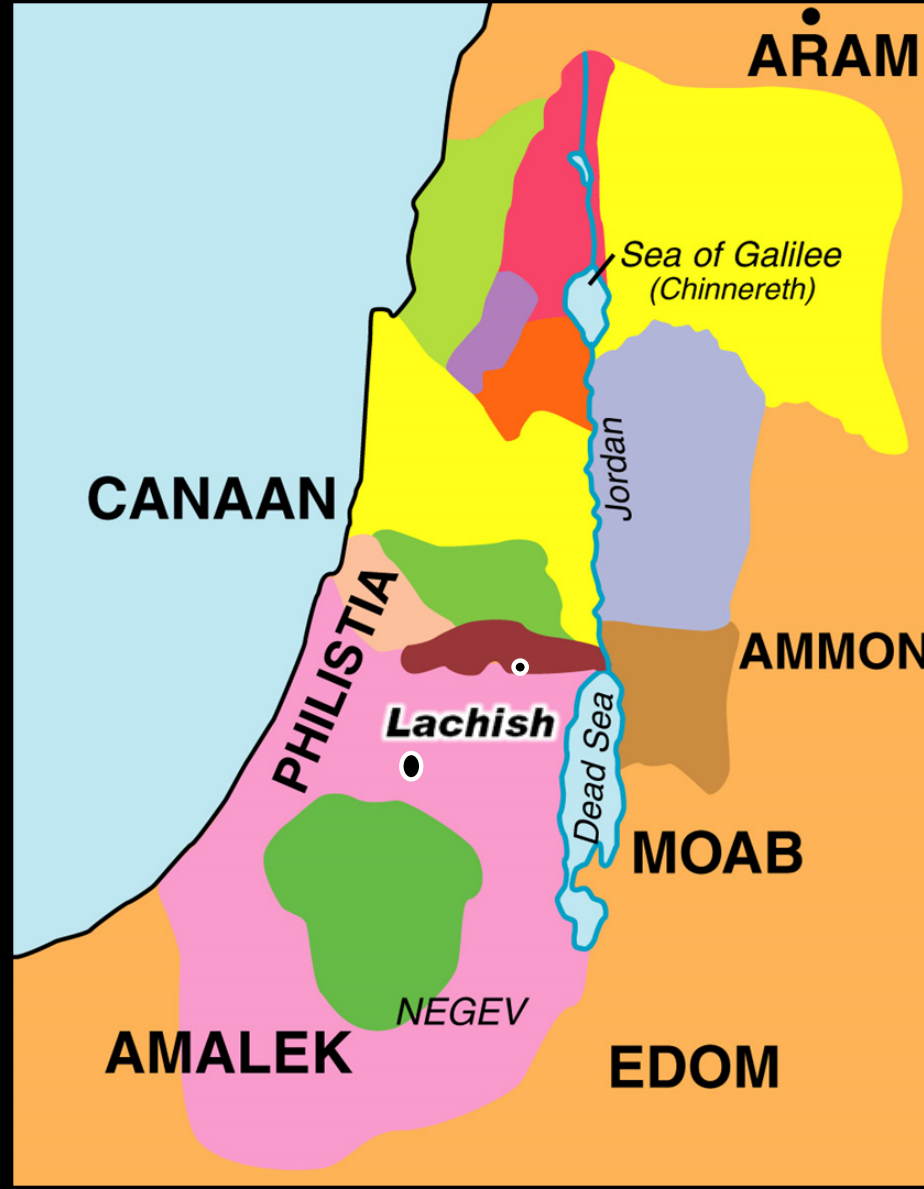
Babylon

SUMER

Ur

Nile River

Red Sea



Micah 1:13,16

*Harness the chariot to the team of horses,
O inhabitant of Lachish—
She was the beginning of sin
To the daughter of Zion—
Because in you were found
The rebellious acts of Israel.*

...

*Make yourself bald and cut off your hair,
Because of the children of your delight;
Extend your baldness like the eagle,
For they will go from you into exile.*

Isaiah 36:1-2

1 Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them.

2 And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem to King Hezekiah with a large army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway of the fuller's field.







The Assyrians in Babylon

Assyrian kings in exile in Babylonian custody in Assyria
The Assyrians were the dominant power in the region of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the 7th century BC. In 605 BC, the Assyrian king Sennacherib died and his son, Ashurbanipal, was killed in battle. The Assyrian king Sennacherib died in 689 BC, and his son, Ashurbanipal, was killed in battle in 605 BC. The Assyrian king Sennacherib died in 689 BC, and his son, Ashurbanipal, was killed in battle in 605 BC.

Relief showing Babylonian prisoners

This relief shows a group of Babylonian prisoners being led away from the city of Babylon. The prisoners are shown in various states of distress, some carrying bundles of their possessions. The relief is made of stone and is a fine example of Assyrian art.



Four cylindrical objects, likely cuneiform tablets or vessels, displayed on a shelf.



The Tablet Fragment
This fragment is one of the many tablets
found at the site of the ancient city of Babylon.

King Sargon's inscription of Babylon
This tablet is a fragment of the
original inscription.

A large, rectangular papyrus scroll, likely an ancient manuscript, displayed on a green base. The scroll is covered in dense, handwritten text in a cursive script, possibly Greek or Latin. The text is arranged in multiple columns across the length of the scroll. The scroll is bound at the top and bottom, and the edges are slightly frayed, indicating its age. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

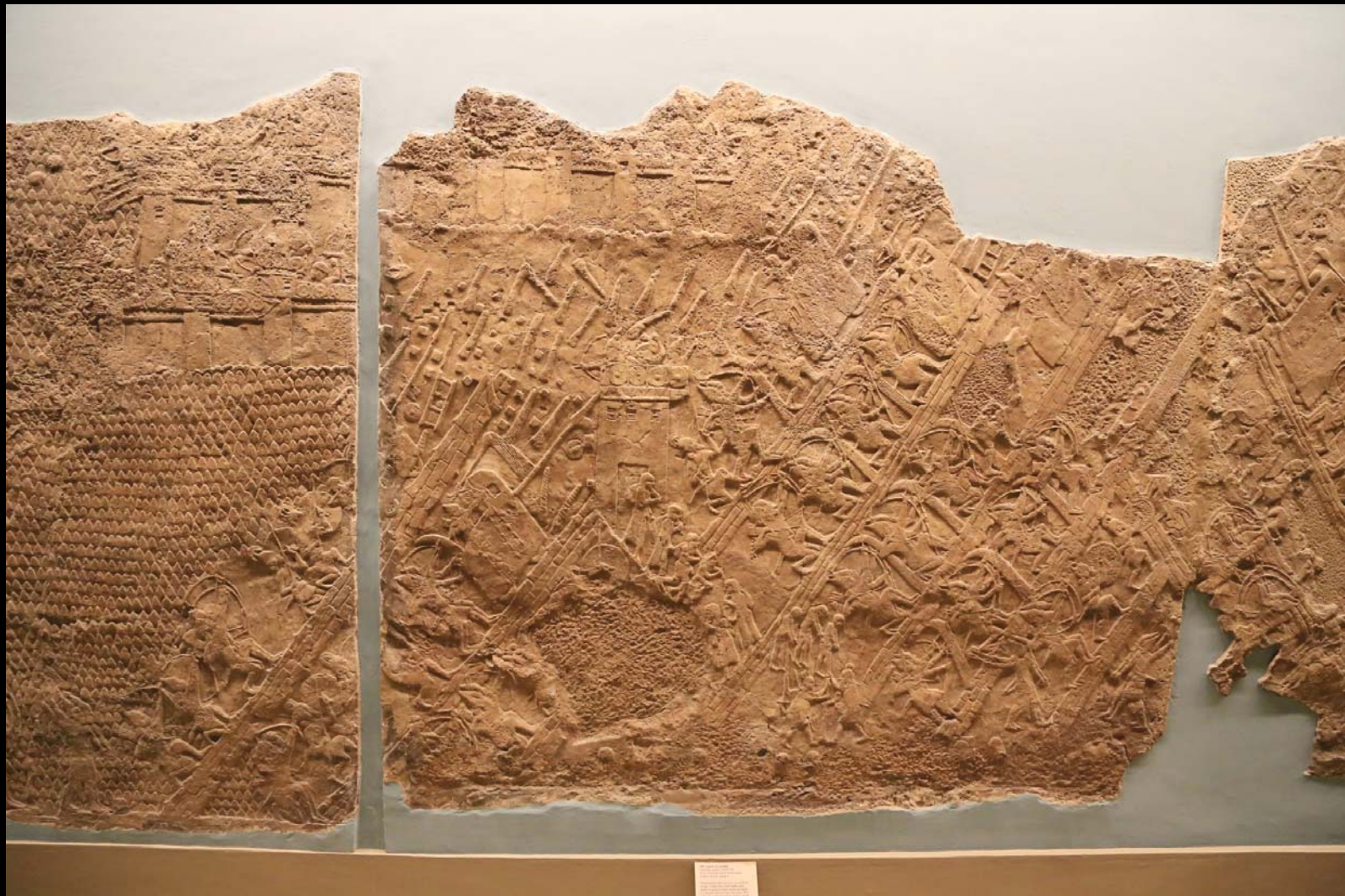
A smaller, rectangular papyrus scroll, also covered in dense, handwritten text in a cursive script. It is positioned to the right of the larger scroll and is also displayed on a green base. The scroll is bound at the top and bottom, and the edges are slightly frayed, indicating its age. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

TAYLOR PRISM

- *Mentions Merodach-Baladan, king of Babylon (Is. 39:1) who is conquered by Sennacherib*
- *Mentions the tribute that Hezekiah sent to Sennacherib (II Kings 18:14-16)*
- *Says he shut up Hezekiah in Jerusalem "like a caged bird"*











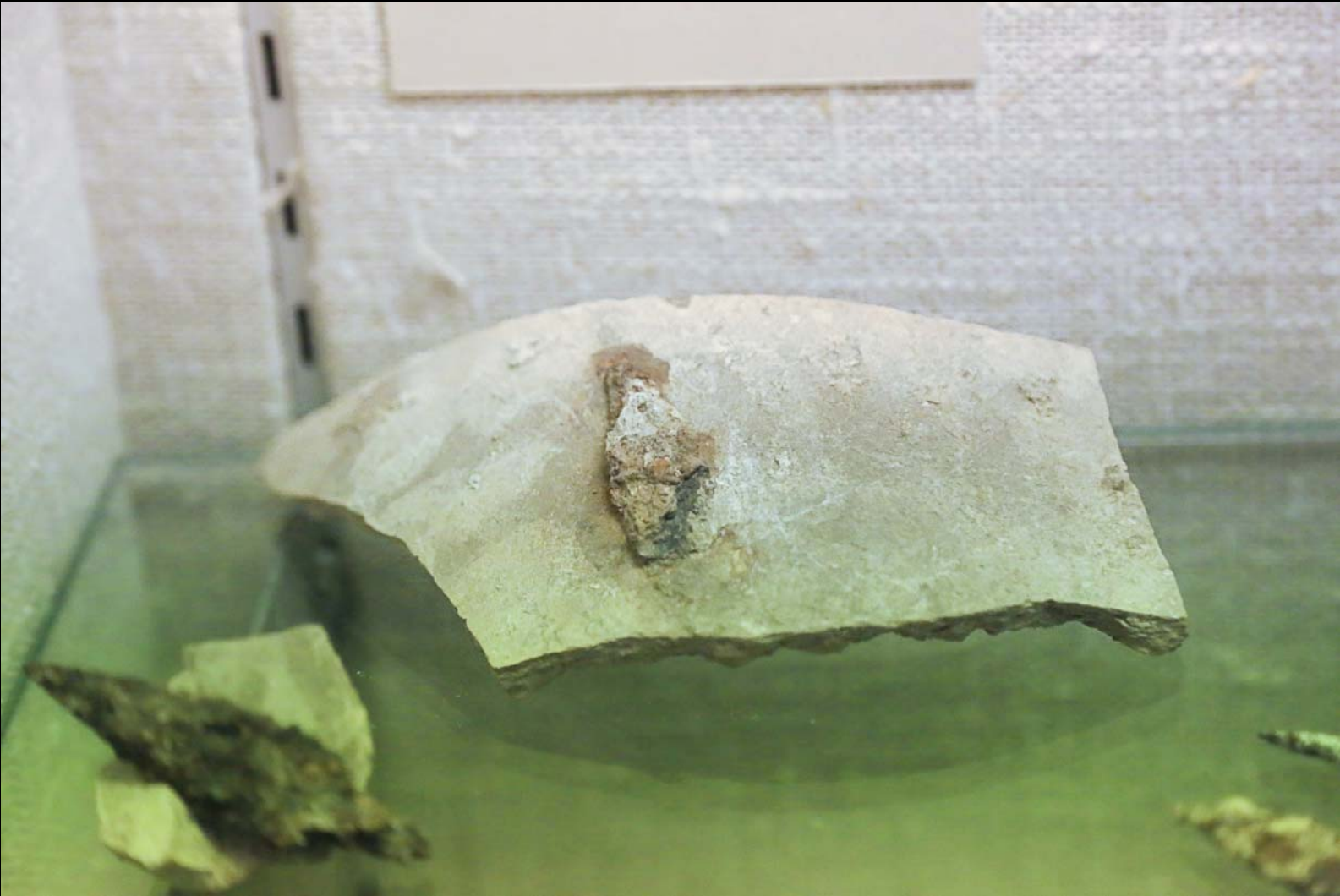
Harzi arrived archers in a chariot
Assyrian, about 700-682 BC

Prisoners playing lyres
Assyrian, about 700-682 BC











Assyrian slingers in action













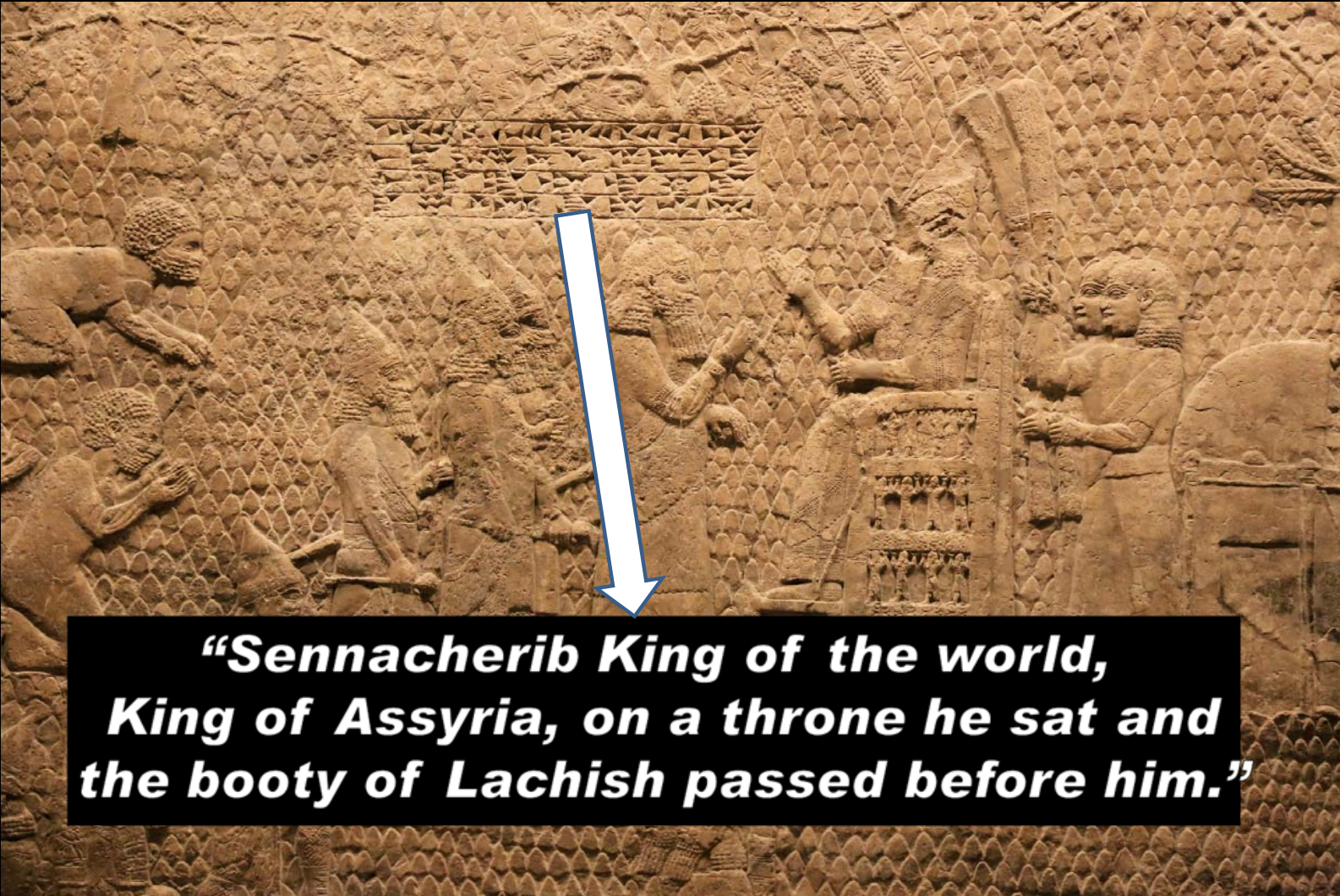












***“Sennacherib King of the world,
King of Assyria, on a throne he sat and
the booty of Lachish passed before him.”***



***“Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to
the king of Assyria at Lachish”
II Kings 18:14a***





Prisoners playing lyres

Assyrian, about 700-692 BC

From Nineveh, South-West Palace

Three musicians are marched under escort through mountainous country. Their dress indicates that they come from somewhere to the west of Assyria, possibly Phoenicia. The scene recalls the Biblical lament (Psalm 137) referring to a later period: 'they that carried us away captive required of us a song'.

WA 124947

PSALM 137:1-3

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down and wept,
When we remembered Zion.*
- 2 Upon the willows in the midst of
it
We hung our harps.*
- 3 For there our captors demanded
of us songs,
And our tormentors mirth,
saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of
Zion."*







*Tiglath-Pileser III
Or
Pul (II Kings 15:19)*



A Similar Biblical Act As A Sign Of Conquest

Joshua 10:24-25

24 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came near and put their feet on their necks.

25 Joshua then said to them, "Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight."



Relief from the Temple of Isis at Philae, showing a ritual scene with figures wearing large feathered headdresses.





Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

...

So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand.

1 Sam. 17:51,57

Instead he devastated the very strong and important city of Lachish.

The capture of Lachish was used as a decorative theme for panelling in one of the most prominent rooms in Sennacherib's palace at Nineveh, and the surviving panels are displayed opposite. Sennacherib's annals do not mention Lachish, but the name is given in one of the captions written on the panels. The Bible (2 Kings 18) records that Sennacherib was based at Lachish while negotiating Hezekiah's submission.

The site of Lachish is modern Tell ed-Duweir. The excavations

- *As powerful as Sennacherib was, he celebrated the destruction of Lachish, not the destruction of Jerusalem.*
- *What could possibly explain his conquest of every foe except for Jerusalem?*
- *II Kings 18:13-19:36*



CONCLUSION

- *The Bible is once again confirmed*
 - *Real people*
 - *Real places*
 - *Real events*
- *Our understanding of the Scriptures should be deepened.*
 - *Perhaps we can better understand Hezekiah's willingness to plunder the temple.*
 - *We become even more impressed with God's victory over Sennacherib*

