

# Can the Old Testament Be Trusted Historically?

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**L**ORD, and serued their grauen images, both their children, and their childrens children: as did their fathers, so doe they vnto this day.

CHAP. XVIII.

1 Hezekiah his good reigne. 4 He destroyeth idolatrie, and prospereth. 9 Samaria is caried captiue for their sins. 13 Sennacherib inuading Iudah, is pacified by a tribute. 17 Rabshakeh sent by Sennacherib againe, reuileth Hezekiah, and by blasphemous perswasions, solliciteth the people to revolt.

**N**OW it came to passe in the third yere of hoshea sonne of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the sonne of Ahaz king of Iudah, began to reigne.

2 Twentie and siue yeeres old was he when hee began to reigne, and hee reigned twentie and nine yeeres in Ierusalem: his mothers name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.

3 And hee did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Dauid his father did.

4 He remooued the high places, and brake the images, and cut downe the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moles had made: for vnto those dayes the children of Israel did burne incense to it: and hee called it Nehushtan.

5 Hee trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Iudah, nor any that were before him.

6 For hee claue to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandements, which the LORD commanded Moles.

7 And the LORD was with him, and hee prospered whithersoener hee went forth: and hee rebelled against the king of Assyria, and serued him not.

8 He smote the Philistines euen vnto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the towne of the watchmen to the fenced cities.

9 And it came to passe in the fourth yeere of king Hezekiah, (which was the seuenth yeere of Hoshea, sonne of Elah king of Israel) that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came vpon Samaria, and besieged it.

10 And at the end of thre yeeres they tooke it: euen in the sixt yeere of Hezekiah (that is the ninth yeere of Hoshea

king of Israel) Samaria was taken.

11 And the king of Assyria did carie away Israel vnto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the riuer of Gozan, in the cities of the Medes:

12 Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his Couenant, and all that Moles the seruant of the LORD commanded, and would not heare them, nor doe them.

13 Now in the fourteenth yeere of king Hezekiah, did Sennacherib king of Assyria come vpon against all the fenced cities of Iudah, and tooke them.

14 And Hezekiah king of Iudah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I haue offended, returne from me: that which thou puttest on me, wil I beare. And the king of Assyria appointed vnto Hezekiah king of Iudah, thre hundred talents of siluer, and thirtie talents of gold.

15 And Hezekiah gaue him all the siluer that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the kings house.

16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doores of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Iudah had overlaid, and gaue it to the king of Assyria.

17 And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rablaris, and Rabshakeh, from Lachish to king Hezekiah, with a great hoste against Ierusalem: and they went vpon, and came to Ierusalem: and when they were come vpon, they came and stood by the conduit of the vpper poole, which is in the high way of the fullers field.

18 And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakin the sonne of Helkiah, which was ouer the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Ioah the sonne of Afaph the Recorder.

19 And Rabshakeh said vnto them, Speake ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, what confidence is this wherein thou trustest?

20 Thou sayest, (but they are but vaine words) I haue counsell and strength for the warre: now on whom doest thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?

21 Now behold, thou trustest vpon the staffe of this builed reed, euen vpon Egypt,

\* 1. Chron. 28. 27. and 29. 1. hee is called Ezeckias, Mat. 19.

† Heb. flammus.  
\* Numb. 21. 8.

† Heb. from after him.

† Heb. Accab.

\* Chaz. 17. 3

\* Chaz. 17. 6

\* 2. Chron. 32. 3. c. 34. 26. 1. c. c. 48. 18. † Heb. Sennacherib.

† Heb. them.

† Heb. heavy

Or, Secretarie.

Or, talke. † Heb. word of the sign. Or, but counsell and strength are for the war. † Heb. trustest thee.

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4 He remooued the high places, and brake the † images, and cut dowbne the groues, and brake in pieces the \* brazen serpent that Moses had made: for vnto those dayes the children of Israel did burne incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

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13 **C** NOW \* in the fourteenth yeere of king Hezekiah, did † Sennacherib king of Assyria come by against all the fenced cities of Iudah, and tooke them.

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\* 2. Chron. 32.1. efa. 36.1. ecclu. 48.18. † Heb. Sannacherib.

† Heb. them.

† Heb. beary

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\* 2. Chron. 32. 27. and 39. 1. hee is called Ezeckias, Mar. 19.

† Heb. stature. \* Numb. 21. 8.

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per poole, which is in the high way of  
the fullers field.

# Biblical claims

- There was a Judaeen King Hezekiah
- All the fortified cities of Judah were captured
- Except Jerusalem
- This was by Sennacherib, king of Assyria
- Sennacherib particularly fought against Lachish
- Hezekiah was fined 30 gold talents
- Hezekiah was fined 300 silver talents
- Hezekiah gave all the silver in the king's house and temple



Napoleon  
Bonaparte  
1769-1821



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# Tiglath-Pileser III

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(Redirected from **Tiglath Pileser III**)

**Tiglath-Pileser III** (from the **Hebraic** form<sup>[note 1]</sup> of **Akkadian**: *Tukultī-apil-Ešarra*, "my trust is in the son of **Esharra**") was a prominent king of **Assyria** in the eighth century BCE (ruled 745–727 BCE)<sup>[1][2]</sup> who introduced advanced civil, military, and political systems into the **Neo-Assyrian Empire**.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Tiglath-Pileser III seized the Assyrian throne during a civil war and killed the royal family. He made sweeping changes to the Assyrian government, considerably improving its efficiency and security. The Assyrian army, already the greatest fighting force in the world since the time of **Ashur-uballit I** (1366-1330 BCE), now became the world's first professional **standing army**.

Tiglath-Pileser III subjugated much of the known world at the time; to the south, his fellow **Mesopotamians** in **Babylonia** and **Chaldea**, and further south still, the **Arabs**, **Magan**, **Meluhha**, and **Dilmunites** of the **Arabian Peninsula**. In the south west, **Israel**, **Judah**, **Philistia**, **Samarra**, **Moab**, **Edom**, the **Suteans** and **Nabatea** fell. To the north, **Urartu**, **Armenia** and **Scythia** in the **Caucasus Mountains**, **Cimmeria** by the **Black Sea**, and **Nairi** were subjugated, and in the north west much of eastern and south western **Asia Minor**, including the **Hittites**, **Phrygia**, **Cilicia**, **Commagene**, **Tabal**, **Corduene** and **Caria**. In the west, the **Greeks** of **Cyprus** and **Aram** (modern **Syria**), and the **Mediterranean City States** of **Phoenicia**/**Caanan** were subjugated. To the east he subjugated **Persia**, **Media**, **Gutium**, **Mannea**, **Cissia** and **Elam**, and later in his reign, Tiglath-Pileser III was crowned king in **Babylonia**.

Tiglath-Pileser III discouraged revolts against Assyrian rule with the use of **forced deportations** of thousands of people all over the empire. He is one of the greatest military commanders in world history, conquering most of the world known to the Assyrians before his death.

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Tiglath-Pileser III: stela from the walls of his palace (**British Museum, London**).





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# Shalmaneser V

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**Shalmaneser V** (Akkadian: *Šulmanu-ašarid*; Hebrew: שַׁלְמַנְעֶשֶׁר, Modern *Shalman'esar*, Tiberian *Šalman'ēser*; Greek: Σαλαμανασσαρ *Salamanassar*; Latin: *Salmanasar*) was king of Assyria from 727 to 722 BC. He first appears as governor of **Zimirra** in **Phoenicia** in the reign of his father, **Tiglath-Pileser III**. Evidence pertaining to his reign is scarce.

On the death of Tiglath-Pileser, he succeeded to the throne of **Assyria** on the 25th day of **Tebet** 727 BC,<sup>[1]</sup> and changed his original name of **Ululayu** to the Akkadian name he is known by. While it has been suggested that he continued to use *Ululayu* for his throne name as king of **Babylonia**, this has not been found in any authentic official sources.<sup>[2]</sup>

The name *Shalmaneser* is used for him in the **Bible**, which attributes to him the final conquest of the kingdom of **Samaria** (**Israel**) and the deportation of Israelites. According to **2 Kings**, chapters **17**–**18**, Shalmaneser accused **Hoshea**, King of Israel, of conspiring against him by sending messages to Pharaoh **Osorkon IV** of **Egypt**, and captured him. Indeed, the Egyptians attempted to gain a foothold in **Palestine**, then held largely by Assyria's *vassal kings*, by stirring them to revolt against Assyria and lending them some military support.<sup>[3]</sup> After three years of siege he took the city of Samaria. The populations he deported to various lands of the empire, (together with ones deported about ten years earlier by Tiglath-Pileser III) are known as the "**Ten Lost Tribes**" of Israel. The populations he settled in Samaria instead form, according to the commentary in the Bible, the origin of **Samaritans**. Shalmaneser died in the same year, 722 BC, and it is possible that the population exchanges were done by his successor **Sargon II**.

In the **book of Tobit**, chapter 1, the exiled Tobit is shown finding favor in Shalmaneser's court, only to lose influence under **Sennacherib**.



Shalmaneser V from *Promptuarii Iconum Insigniorum* (Guillaume Rouillé, 1553)

## Notes [edit]

- ↑   Sayce, Archibald Henry (1911). "Shalmaneser" . In Chisholm, Hugh. *Encyclopædia Britannica* **24** (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 798.
- ↑   G. Frame, *Babylonia 689-627 B.C.*, p. 303-304.
- ↑   Roux, Georges (1992). *Ancient Iraq* (Third ed.). Penguin. pp. 310–312. ISBN 9780140125238.



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# Sargon II

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*This article is about the king. For the game, see [Sargon \(chess\)](#).*

**Sargon II** (Akkadian **Šarru-ukin** "he [= the god] made firm the king"; reigned 722 – 705 BC) was an **Assyrian** king. Sargon II became the ruler of the Assyrian Empire in 722 BC after the death of Shalmaneser V. In his inscriptions, he styles himself as a new man, rarely referring to his predecessors; however he took the name *Sharru-kinu* ("true king"), after **Sargon of Akkad** — who had founded the first **Semitic Empire** in the region some 16 centuries earlier. *Sargon* is the Biblical form of the name.

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## Early reign [edit]

Sargon II was a son of Tiglath-Pileser III and appears to have seized the throne from his brother, Shalmaneser V in a violent coup.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Sargon II**  
*King of Assyria*



Sargon II and dignitary

<b>Reign</b>	722 – 705 BC
<b>Predecessor</b>	Shalmaneser V



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# Sennacherib

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**Sennacherib** (/səˈnækərib/; Akkadian: **Sin-ahhī-eriba**, "Sīn has increased the brothers"), king of Assyria 705 BCE–681 BCE, is remembered for his military campaigns against Babylon and Judah and for his building programs, notably at his capital Nineveh.<sup>[1]</sup>


The primary preoccupation of Sennacherib's reign was the so-called "Babylonian problem"—the refusal of the Babylonians to accept Assyrian rule—culminating in his destruction of the city in 689 BCE.<sup>[2]</sup> Further campaigns were carried out in Syria-Palestine (notable for being recorded in the Bible's *Books of Kings*,<sup>[3]</sup> in the mountains east of Assyria, against the kingdoms of Anatolia, and against the Arabs in the northern Arabian deserts.<sup>[4]</sup> Sennacherib was also a notable builder—it was under him that Assyrian art reached its peak.<sup>[5]</sup> His building projects included the beautification of Nineveh, a canal 50 kilometers long to bring water to the city,<sup>[6]</sup> and the "Palace Without Rival", which included what may have been the prototype of the legendary *Hanging Gardens of Babylon*.<sup>[7]</sup>

Sennacherib was assassinated in obscure circumstances in 681 BCE,<sup>[8]</sup> apparently by his eldest son (his designated successor, Esarhaddon, was the youngest).<sup>[9]</sup> In Babylon his death was seen as divine punishment for the destruction of that city.<sup>[10]</sup>

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**Sennacherib**  
*King of Assyria*



Sennacherib during his Babylonian war, relief from his palace in Nineveh

<b>Reign</b>	705–681 BCE
<b>Predecessor</b>	Sargon II
<b>Successor</b>	Esarhaddon
<b>Akkadian</b>	Sin-ahhī-eriba
<b>Greek</b>	Σενναχηριμ (Sennacherim)
<b>Hebrew</b>	Sanherib
<b>Father</b>	Sargon II
<b>Died</b>	681 BCE



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# Esarhaddon

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**Esarhaddon** (Akkadian: *Aššur-ahu-iddin* "Ashur has given a brother"; Aramaic: אַסַּרְחַדּוֹן, Hebrew: אֲסַרְחַדּוֹן,<sup>[1]</sup> Ancient Greek: Ἀσαρδδων,<sup>[2]</sup> Latin: *Asor Haddan*<sup>[2]</sup>), was a king of Assyria who reigned 681 – 669 BC. He was the youngest son of Sennacherib and the West Semitic queen Naq'ia (Zakitu), Sennacherib's second wife.

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Esarhaddon	
	<i>King of Assyria</i>
<b>Reign</b>	681 – 669 BC
<b>Predecessor</b>	Sennacherib
<b>Successor</b>	Ashurbanipal
<b>Akkadian</b>	Aššur-ahu-iddin
<b>Greek</b>	Ἀσαρδδων (Asaraddon)
<b>Father</b>	Sennacherib
<b>Mother</b>	Naq'ia
<b>Died</b>	669 BC

## Rise to power [edit]

When, despite being the youngest son, Esarhaddon was named successor by his father, his elder brothers tried to discredit him. Oracles had named him as the person to free the exiles and rebuild [Babylon](#), the destruction of which by Sennacherib was felt to have been sacrilegious. Esarhaddon remained [crown prince](#), but was forced into exile at an unknown place beyond Hanilgalbat ([Mitanni](#)), that is, beyond the [Euphrates](#), most likely somewhere in what is now southeastern [Turkey](#).

Sennacherib was murdered in 681 BC, some<sup>[*who?*]</sup> claim at the instigation of Esarhaddon, though this seems hardly likely, as he was not in a



King	Mentioned by
Ahab (Israel)	Shalmaneser III (Assyrian)
Jehu (Israel)	Shalmaneser III
Joash (Israel)	Adad-Nirari (Assyrian)
Menahem (Israel)	Tiglath-Pileser (Assyrian)
Pekah (Israel)	Tiglath-Pileser
Joahaz (Judah)	Tiglath-Pileser
Hosea (Judah)	Tiglath-Pileser
Hezekiah (Judah)	Sennacherib (Assyrian)
Manasseh (Judah)	Esarhaddon, Asshurbanipal (Assyrian)
Jehoiachin (Judah)	Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonian)
Omri (Israel)	Shalmaneser III, Tiglath-Pileser
Zedekiah (Judah)	Nebuchadnezzar











# Sennacherib's account

- As for Hezekiah, the Judaeen, I besieged 46 of his fortified walled cities. ... I conquered them and took out 200,150 people ... He himself, I locked up within Jerusalem, his royal city, like a bird in a cage .... Hezekiah was overwhelmed by the splendour of my lordliness and he sent me ... 30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver ...

17 ¶ And the king of Assyria sent  
Tartan and Rablaris, and Rabsha-  
keh, from Lachish to king Hezekiah,  
with a great hoste against Jerusalem:  
and they went by, and came to Jerusa-  
lem: and when they were come by, they  
came and stood by the conduit of the up-  
per poole, which is in the high way of  
the fullers field.

# Concise Dictionary of Akkadian, based on the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary

tartānu

401

**tartānu**, *turtānu*, *talurtannu*, once *turtennu* ~ “deputy, second in command” M/NA, Nuzi; Nuzi = *tardennu*, also an official; NA “field marshal, principal military officer”; 7th century *t.* of left, right (i.e. of north, south); also of Egypt, Elam, Urartu; < Hurr.

*tartaraḥ* → *dardaraḥ*

*tartennītu* → *tardennītu*

**ra’āzu**, *rēzu* ~ “to inlay”? jB lex. G with carnelian; > *rā’izu*?

**rab**, *rabi* “chief, overseer of” Bogh., j/NB, NA; < *rabû* I; → *rabû* I 6 and under second words; note abstr. forms *rab-banûtu*, *rab-bitûtu*, *rab-kiširûtu*, *rab-puḥrûtu*, *rab-sikkatûtu*, *rab-šerkûtu*, etc.

**rabābu(m)** “to be weak, submissive” Bab., NA G (*u/u*, *i/i*) of person, foundation; of hand “be



# 2 Kings 20:20

- The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah and all his might and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? (ESV)



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# Siloam tunnel

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Coordinates: 31.772358°N 35.235673°E﻿ / ﻿31.772358°N 35.235673°E﻿ / 31.772358; 35.235673﻿ / 31.772358; 35.235673

The **Siloam Tunnel** (Hebrew: נִקְבַּת הַשִּׁלּוֹחַ, *Nikbat HaShiloah*), also known as **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, is a tunnel that was dug underneath the **City of David** in **Jerusalem** in ancient times. Its popular name is due to the most common hypothesis of its origin, namely that it dates from the reign of **Hezekiah** of Judah (late 8th and early 7th century BCE) and corresponds to the waterworks mentioned in **2 Kings 20:20** in the Bible.<sup>[1]</sup> According to the Bible, King Hezekiah prepared Jerusalem for an impending siege by the **Assyrians**, by "blocking the source of the waters of the **upper Gihon**, and leading them straight down on the west to the City of David" (**2 Chronicles 32**).

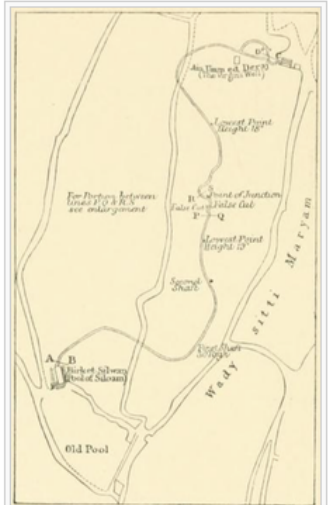
Support for the dating to Hezekiah's period is derived from the Biblical text that describes construction of a tunnel<sup>[1]</sup> and to radiocarbon dates of organic matter contained in the original plastering.<sup>[2]</sup> However, the dates were challenged in 2011 by new excavations that suggested an origin in the late 9th or early 8th century BCE.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

The tunnel, leading from the **Gihon Spring** to the **Pool of Siloam**,<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> was designed as an **aqueduct** to provide Jerusalem with water during an impending siege by the **Assyrians**, led by **Sennacherib**. The curving tunnel is 533 m long, and by using a 30 cm (0.6%) gradient **altitude** difference between each end, conveyed water along its length from the spring to the pool.

According to the **Siloam inscription**, the tunnel was excavated by two teams, one starting at each end of the tunnel and then meeting in the middle. The inscription is partly unreadable at present, and may originally have conveyed more information than this. It is clear from the tunnel itself that several directional errors were made during its construction.<sup>[8]</sup> Recent scholarship has discredited the idea that the tunnel may have been formed by substantially widening a pre-existing natural **karst**.<sup>[2]</sup>

The difficult feat of making two teams digging from opposite ends meet far underground is now understood to have been accomplished by directing the two teams from above using sounds generated by hammering on the solid **karst** through which the tunnelers were digging.<sup>[2]</sup>

- Contents** [hide]
- 1 Discovery and interpretation



1884 sketch of the tunnel, by Charles Warren and Claude Reignier Conder, showing the tunnel as well as Warren's Shaft, the Pool of Siloam and the Fountain of the Virgin.

# Fall of Samaria in a 1785 Bible

II. K I

the LORD was <sup>Before Christ</sup>  
ere was none <sup>721.</sup>  
e command-

18 the fight of the LORD, to provoke  
very angry with Israel, and remove  
19 left <sup>d</sup> but the tribe of Judah only.  
ments of the LORD their God, but  
20 they made. And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them,  
and <sup>f</sup> delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out  
21 of his fight. For <sup>g</sup> he rent Israel from the house of David; and <sup>h</sup> they  
made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from  
22 following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. For the children of  
Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not  
23 from them; Until the LORD removed Israel out of his fight, <sup>i</sup> as he had  
said by all his servants the prophets. <sup>k</sup> So was Israel carried away out of  
their own land to Assyria unto this day.

24 <sup>l</sup> And the king of Assyria brought *men* <sup>m</sup> from Babylon, and from Cuthah

eldom reaching the height of over 800 metres. Samaria's climate is more hospitable than the climate further south.

The mountain ranges in the south of the region continue into Judaea without a clear division.<sup>[2]</sup>

## History <sup>[edit]</sup>

### Ancient <sup>[edit]</sup>

According to the Hebrew Bible, the region known as Samaria was captured by the [Israelites](#) from the [Canaanites](#) and was assigned to the [Tribe of Joseph](#). After the death of King Solomon (c. 931 BCE), the northern tribes, including those of Samaria, separated from the southern tribes and established the separate [Kingdom of Israel](#). Initially its capital was [Tirzah](#) until the time of king [Omri](#) (c.884 BCE), who built the city of Shomron and made it his capital.



In 726–722 BCE, the new king of Assyria, [Shalmaneser V](#), invaded Canaan and be years, the city fell and much of its population was taken into captivity and deported the fall of Samaria and the end of the Assyrian Empire.<sup>[13]</sup>

Over time, the region has been controlled by numerous different civilizations, including [Israelites](#), [Babylonians](#), the classical [Persian Empire](#), [Ancient Greeks](#), [Romans](#), [Byzantines](#), [Arabs](#), [Crusaders](#), and [Ottoman Turks](#).<sup>[15]</sup>



### Post-World War II <sup>[edit]</sup>



# What's so surprising?

- KJV OT based on Second Bomberg Bible AD 1525.
- Second Bomberg Bible based on unidentifiable manuscripts, presumably dating between AD 1100 and 1500.
- Ancient names known and dates known:
  - before archaeology
  - before decipherment
  - Tiglath-Pileser III current dates: 745-727 BC
  - Shalmanezar V current dates: 727-722 BC

# Which is the most advanced?



# Which lasts the longest?



# Which contains the oldest text?



Questions?