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a) CHRONICLE 1

The text of Chronicle 1 covers the period from the reign of Nabu-nasir (747-734 B.C.) to the reign of Shamash-shuma-ukin (668-648 B.C.). It is preserved in three copies. There are some serious lacunae in the best preserved copy, and although the other two tablets which are smaller fragments assist in the restoration, not all of the text can be reconstructed. The text is divided into two columns on each side as is Chronicle 7. The fact that this differs from Chronicles 2-6, which have no division into columns, is to be noted and attributed to the fact that both tablets were probably copied by the same scribe.^{49†}

The narrative begins with a broken passage⁵⁰ that may be a statement concerning

⁴⁷ That the chronicles were résumés or extracts from another source provides an explanation for the slightly different format of Chronicles 1 and 7.

⁴⁸ There are, of course, minor scribal errors: Chronicle 1 i 23, 25, 28; iii 7, 13, 31; iv 10, 12, 19-22, 25 f.; Chronicle 2: 21; Chronicle 7 ii 3, 9, 10, 12. See the commentary to these passages.

⁴⁹ Wiseman, Chron. p. 3.

⁵⁰ i 1*.

the interruption of the Akitu festival. The first fully preserved section⁵¹ describes the accession of Tiglath-pileser III to the Assyrian throne and a raid which he made in Babylonia in the same year. Although the introductory formula is broken away, it is reasonably certain that this is the third regnal year of the Babylonian king, Nabu-nasir.

The following three segments⁵² concern the events of three regnal years of Nabu-nasir. The first of these⁵³ is undated and the explanation for this singular omission is provided by the chronicler who states that the event he mentions "is not written."⁵⁴ The event itself concerns a rebellion in Borsippa. The entry for the fifth year of Nabu-nasir⁵⁵ contains merely a statement regarding a change of monarch in Elam. The final section⁵⁶ for Nabu-nasir, his fourteenth year, records this king's death from natural causes, a statement concerning the total number of years he had ruled, and the name, in an abbreviated form, of his successor, Nabu-nadin-zeri.

Nabu-nadin-zeri was doomed to reign for only two years and his murder during a revolution in his second regnal year is recorded in the next section.⁵⁷ The usurper, Nahushuma-ukin II (whose name is also abbreviated), fared even worse for after only one month and two days on the throne he was deposed by an Amukkanite called Nabumukin-zeri (the name is again abbreviated).

According to the narrative in the subsequent segment,⁵⁸ Nahu-mukin-zeri was able to hold the throne for three years. Then the Assyrian king, Tiglath-pileser III, attacked Babylonia, captured the usurper and himself took the Babylonian throne. But this powerful Assyrian monarch must have been getting on in years when he took the Baby-

lonian throne and it is not surprising that the next section⁵⁹ records his death in the second year of his rule in Babylonia which is his eighteenth year of rule over Assyria. The successor, Shalmanaser V, is named and there follows a terse statement at the end of the section: "He ravaged *Samaria*".

This is the only information provided by the chronicle for the reign of Shalmanaser V for the following entry⁶⁰ records his death in his fifth year and the usual summary formula stating that he had ruled for five years. With his death, as can be seen from the chronicle, the thrones of Assyria and Babylonia were again separated with Sargon II becoming the Assyrian monarch and Merodach-baladan II the Babylonian.

The next four sections⁶¹ concern the twelve-year rule of Merodach-baladan II, viz. his second, fifth, tenth, and twelfth regnal years. The account of the second year⁶² narrates the battle of Der (720 B.C.). The section on the fifth year⁶³ has to do with a change of monarch in Elam and for the tenth year it is said that Merodach-baladan went on a plundering raid in an unknown district (the narrative is fragmentary).⁶⁴

The battle between Sargon and Merodach-baladan which caused the latter to abandon Babylonia and flee to Elam is narrated in the section for the twelfth year.⁶⁵ The narrative of this portion of the text concludes with a statement of the number of years, twelve, that Merodach-baladan had ruled in Babylonia and the information that the Assyrian, Sargon II, now ascended the Babylonian throne.

The next few sections⁶⁶ of the text deal with the period during which Sargon was in control of Babylonia. The entries are brief, mentioning the participation of Sargon in the

⁵¹ ii 1-5.

⁵² i 6-13.

⁵³ i 6-8.

⁵⁴ *ul sapir*.

⁵⁵ i 9f.

⁵⁶ i 11-13.

⁵⁷ i 14-18.

⁵⁸ i 19-23.

⁵⁹ i 24-28.

⁶⁰ i 29-32.

⁶¹ i 33-ii 5.

⁶² i 33-37.

⁶³ i 38-42.

⁶⁴ i 43f.

⁶⁵ ii 1-5.

⁶⁶ ii 1'-18.

Akitu festival and his capture of the southern Babylonian stronghold Dur-Yakin in his thirteenth year;⁶⁷ his inactivity in the fourteenth year;⁶⁸ the return of the Sealand pantheon to its home and a plague in Assyria in the fifteenth year;⁶⁹ and the campaign against Tabal in his seventeenth year.⁷⁰ At this point the text is very fragmentary and it is only after a gap of several lines⁷¹ that a coherent account is possible. In this gap there was a change of monarch for when the text is again readable, one finds the successor of Sargon II, his son Sennacherib, on the throne.

A large portion of the text⁷² is devoted to the period during which Sennacherib exercised control over Babylonia through a series of puppet rulers. The first, fragmentary section⁷³ concerns a Babylonian campaign by Sennacherib, his dealings with Merodach-baladan II who has reappeared, and Bel-ibni's appointment by Sennacherib to the Babylonian throne. The next two segments concern, respectively, the first⁷⁴ and third⁷⁵ regnal years of Bel-ibni. Sennacherib campaigned in the East Tigris region in the first year and then into Babylonia in his third year. Bel-ibni and his officers, apparently guilty of treason, were led away to Assyria and Sennacherib's son, Ashur-nadin-shumi, was placed on the Babylonian throne.

The six-year reign of Ashur-nadin-shumi is covered by two sections.⁷⁶ The first⁷⁷ concerns a change of monarch in Elam which took place in the first year of Ashur-nadin-shumi. The second⁷⁸ concerns a campaign of Sennacherib into Elam in his son's sixth regnal year and the cunning simultaneous attack of the Elamite king on North Baby-

lonia which resulted in the capture of Ashur-nadin-shumi. The Elamites placed their own appointee, Nergal-ushezib, on the Babylonian throne.

There follows a lengthy segment⁷⁹ in which the events of the first (and only) regnal year of Nergal-ushezib are narrated. In a battle between the Assyrian army and the army of Nergal-ushezib, the latter individual is defeated and captured. A rebellion takes place in Elam of which Sennacherib takes advantage by again campaigning into that country. The section concludes with a statement that Mushezib-Marduk ascended the throne.

Two segments⁸⁰ are now devoted to the four-year reign of Mushezib-Marduk. In the entry for the first year⁸¹ is found an account of another change of monarch, through revolution, in Elam and the battle of Halule. The section on the fourth year of Mushezib-Marduk⁸² mentions that the Elamite king was struck with paralysis and Mushezib-Marduk was deposed. The section concludes with a narration of a change of monarch in Elam. Nothing is said as to who took the throne in Babylon after the deposition of Mushezib-Marduk and the subsequent section,⁸³ which covers the remainder of the period during which the Assyrian, Sennacherib, exercised control over Babylonia begins: "The eighth year of there not being a king in Babylon." In this segment mention is made of the return of the Uruk pantheon from Elam to Uruk and a change of monarch in Elam. Sennacherib is murdered by his son and after a period of political turmoil in Assyria, Esarhaddon, the son of Sennacherib, ascends the Assyrian throne.

The remainder of the chronicle,⁸⁴ with the exception of the last section, is concerned with the reign of Esarhaddon.⁸⁵ All of his

⁶⁷ ii 1'-2'.

⁶⁸ ii 3'.

⁶⁹ ii 4'-5'.

⁷⁰ ii 8'.

⁷¹ ii 7'-18.

⁷² ii 19-iii 42.

⁷³ ii 19-23.

⁷⁴ ii 24f.

⁷⁵ ii 26-31.

⁷⁶ ii 32-45.

⁷⁷ ii 32-35.

⁷⁸ ii 36-45.

⁷⁹ ii 46-iii 12.

⁸⁰ iii 13-27. The scribe mistakenly omitted the dividing line between these two portions.

⁸¹ iii 13-18.

⁸² iii 19-27.

⁸³ iii 28-38.

⁸⁴ iii 39-iv 33.

⁸⁵ For a comparison of the content with the Esarhaddon Chronicle, see the study of that text.

twelve regnal years are mentioned, apart from the ninth,⁸⁶ in these eleven sections. The first segment⁸⁷ records the abortive attempt of a Sealand governor to capture Ur and his subsequent flight to and execution in Elam. The remainder of the passage, which is fragmentary, concerns the gods of Der.

The entry for the second year⁸⁸ is almost entirely missing. In the third year⁸⁹ two high Babylonian officials were executed in Assyria. In the fourth,⁹⁰ Sidon was captured and troops were conscripted in Akkad. The entry for the fifth year⁹¹ concerns the capture of Bazza and the decapitation of the kings of Sidon, Kundu, and Sisu. An Elamite attack on Sippar in North Babylonia took place in the sixth year⁹² and the Assyrian army campaigned to Milidu. There follows a notation of a change of monarch in Elam. At the end of the section is recorded the transportation of two important Babylonians to Assyria. The Assyrian army suffered a setback in Egypt in the seventh year.⁹³ In that same year the pantheon of Agade was returned to its home from Elam. The capture of Shubria is recorded for the eighth year⁹⁴ and the entry of its booty into Uruk. At the end of the entry the death of the king's wife is mentioned. The entry for the tenth year⁹⁵ records in some detail an Assyrian campaign into Egypt which resulted in the capture and sacking of Memphis. In the eleventh year⁹⁶ the king executed many of his officers in Assyria. Finally, in the twelfth year⁹⁷ the king died in the course of a march to Egypt. He was succeeded by his sons, Shamash-shuma-

ukin and Ashurbanipal who took the thrones of Babylonia and Assyria respectively.

The remaining section⁹⁸ of the chronicle concerns the accession year of Shamash-shuma-ukin in which the Babylonian pantheon was returned from Ashur to Babylon. Kirbitu was captured in that year and a Babylonian judge was executed. A colophon is found at the end of the text in which it is stated that this text is "the first section (of a series)." According to the colophon it was written in the twenty-second year of Darius I.

⁸⁶ The Esarhaddon Chronicle also omits this year. It is therefore not to be regarded as a scribal error. See the commentary to Chronicle I iv 23-28.

⁸⁷ iii 39-47.

⁸⁸ iii 48-50.

⁸⁹ iv 1 f.

⁹⁰ iv 3 f.

⁹¹ iv 5-8.

⁹² iv 9-15.

⁹³ iv 16-18.

⁹⁴ iv 19-22.

⁹⁵ iv 23-28.

⁹⁶ iv 29.

⁹⁷ iv 30-33

⁹⁸ iv 34-38.

⁹⁹ 1-17.