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The History of Babylonia

The Assyriologist George Smith (1840–76) was trained originally as an engraver, but was enthralled by the discoveries of Layard and Rawlinson. He taught himself cuneiform script, and joined the British Museum as a ‘repairer’ or matcher of broken cuneiform tablets. Promotion followed, and after one of Smith’s most significant discoveries among the material sent to the Museum – a Babylonian story of a great flood – he was sent to the Middle East, where he found more inscriptions which contained other parts of the epic tale of Gilgamesh. Before his early death in 1876, he was writing a history of Babylonia for the ‘Ancient History from the Monuments’ series. Prepared for press by A.H. Sayce, it was published in 1877. Smith traces the story of the Babylonian empire from mythical times (‘before the deluge’) to its conquest by Persia in the sixth century BCE. Several other books by Smith are also reissued in this series.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07904-4 - The History of Babylonia
George Smith Edited by Archibald H. Sayce
Frontmatter
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BLACK STONE CONTRACT TABLET OF MARUDUK-NADIN-AHI,
page 96.

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ANCIENT HISTORY FROM THE
MONUMENTS,

THE
HISTORY OF BABYLONIA.

BY THE LATE
GEORGE SMITH, Esq.,
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL ANTIQUITIES, BRITISH MUSEUM.

EDITED BY
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PREFACE.



MR. GEORGE SMITH left his "History of Babylonia" in so nearly complete a state, that an editor had little more to do than to see it through the press, correct one or two errors, and make a few additions.

In the performance of this work, which has been one of mingled pain and pleasure, I have changed the author's words and spelling only where there was an obvious oversight, throwing other corrections into footnotes. My own responsibility for these, as well as for other footnotes containing additions to the text, is indicated by a capital S. I have also to take upon myself the responsibility of the Appendix upon the meaning of the proper names, as well as of the table of Babylonian kings and the larger part of the first introductory chapter, of which only the first page or two were written by Mr. Smith. Brackets mark the inserted portion. The Index is due to the kindness of Mr. Greenwood Hird.

Two expressions which will be met with in the book need a short explanation. The abbreviation W. A. I. denotes the series of volumes containing the cruciform "Inscriptions of Western Asia," published

by the Trustees of the British Museum, and forming a collection of texts for the use of Assyrian students. The "eponyms" mentioned in the course of the work refer to the Assyrian mode of reckoning time. Each year was called after a particular officer or "eponym," who gave his name to it, like the Eponymous Archons at Athens. A new year was marked by a new "eponym," and hence "the eponymy of-such-and-such a person" became equivalent to "the year so-and-so." Those who wish to investigate the subject further cannot do better than consult Mr. George Smith's "Assyrian Canon," one of the last productions of a scholar whose loss to Assyrian research cannot be over-estimated.

A. H. SAYCE.

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LIST OF BABYLONIAN KINGS, WITH THEIR APPROXIMATE DATES.

(From *Berosus and Abydenus.*)

THE MYTHICAL PERIOD—BEFORE THE DELUGE.

- Alorus of Babylon, "the Shepherd of the People," for 10 sari, or 36,000 years.
 Alaparus, or Alasparus (? of Pantibibla), for 3 sari, or 10,800 years.
 Amelon, or Amillarus of Pantibibla, for 13 sari, or 46,800 years.
 Ammenon of Chaldea (in whose time the Musarus Oannes, or Annedotus, half man and half fish, ascended from the Persian Gulf), for 12 sari, or 43,200 years.
 Amegalarus, or Megalarus, or Metalarus, of Pantibibla, for 18 sari, or 64,800 years.
 Daonus, or Daos, the shepherd, of Pantibibla (in whose time four double-shaped beings, named Euedokus, Eneugannus, Eneubulus, and Anementus, ascended from the sea), for 10 sari, or 36,000 years.
 Euedoreskhus, or Euedorakhus, of Pantibibla (in whose time another Annedotus, called Odakon, or Ano-daphos, ascended from the sea), for 18 sari, or 64,800 years.
 Amempsimus, a Chaldean of Larankha, for 10 sari, or 36,000 years.
 Otiartes (Opartes), or Ardates, a Chaldean of Larankha (called Ubara -Tutu "the Glow of Sunset," of Surippak, or Suripkhu in the inscriptions), for 8 sari, or 28,800 years.
 Sisithrus, or Xisuthrus, his son, for 18 sari, or 64,800 years. Kronos (Hea) ordered him to build an ark, after burying a history of Babylonia in Sippara; and the Deluge began on the 15th of the month Dæsius (May and June). Sisithrus was translated after the Deluge, but his companions returned to Chaldea and exhumed the buried records at Sippara. From the reign of Alorus to the Deluge were 120 sari, or 432,000 years.

AFTER THE DELUGE.

First Dynasty of 86 Kings for 34,080 or 33,091 years, headed by Evekhous, or Evexius, or Eutykhuis (identified with Nimrod by Syncellus) for 4 neri, or 2,400 years, and his son Comosbelus, or Khomasbelus, for 4 neri and 5 sossi, or 2,700 years.

Their five next successors were :—

- Porus for 35 years.
- Nekhubes for 43 years.
- Nabius for 48 years.
- Oniballus for 40 years.
- Zinzerus for 46 years.

War of Titan (? Etanna), Bel, Prometheus, and Ogygus, against Kronus
 Building of the Tower of Babel, and dispersion of mankind.

10 LIST OF BABYLONIAN KINGS,
 HISTORICAL PERIOD.

Second dynasty of 8 Median kings, for 224 years, headed by Zoroaster (?).	Arkeanus (Sargon), 5 years 709
Third dynasty of 11 kings.	Hagisa, or Akises, 30 days 704
Fourth dynasty of 49 Chaldean kings for 458 years.	Merodach-Baladan (restored) 6 months 704
Fifth dynasty of 9 Arabian kings for 245 years. ¹	Belibus (Bel-ibni), 3 years 703
1. Mardokentes, 45 years.	Apronadius (Assur-nadin-sum), 6 years 700
2. (Wanting.)	Rigebelus, 1 year 694
3. Sisimardakos, 28 years.	Mesesi-mordakus, 4 years 693
4. Nabius, 37 years.	[Babylon destroyed B. C. 689].
5. Parannus, 40 years.	Interregnum, 8 years 689
6. Nabonnabus, 25 years.	Assaradinus (Essar-haddon), 13 years 681
Sixth dynasty consisting of Semiramis.	Saoduchinus, or Sammughes (Saul-mucin, or Saul-mugina), 20 years 668
Seventh dynasty of 45 Assyrian kings for 526 years.	Kiniladanus (Assur-bani-pal), 22 years 648
Phulus and Nabonassar.	Nabo-polassarus, 21 years 626
(From the Canon of Ptolemy.)	Nabokolasar (Nebuchadnezzar), 43 years 605
B. C.	Ilouarodam (Evil-Merodach), 2 years 562
Nabonasar (Nabu-natsir), 14 years, 747	Nerikassolasar, or Neriglissor 560
Nabius (Nebo-yusapsi), 2 years . 733	(Nergal-sarra-yutsur), 4 years . 560
Chinzirus and Porus (Ucin-zir and Pul), 5 years 731	Laborosoarchodus, 3 months 556
Ilulæus, or Yugæus (Yagina), 5 years 726	Nabonidus, or Labynetus (Nabunahid), 17 years 556
Mardokempadus (Merodach-Baladan), 12 years 721	Cyrus takes Babylon 539-8

(From the Inscriptions.)

AFTER THE DELUGE.

<i>Mythical Period.</i>	<i>Historical Period.</i>
Etanna.	
Ner.	
Tammuz } the husbands of Istar.	
Isullanu }	B. C. 3000—2000
Banini, with his wife Millili, and seven sons, the eldest of whom was Mî-mangab, 'the thunderbolt.'	Lig-Bagas, king of all Babylonia.
Izdhubar, the son of Dannat, 'the strong woman.'	[Khassimir was one of his viceroys.]
. nini.	Dungi, his son.
Dimir-illat, his son.	Su-Agu.
Mul-ega-nunna.	Amar-Agu.
Ane-kis.	Ibil-Agu.

¹ This dynasty is probably to be identified with the second Cassite or Kossæan dynasty of the inscriptions. In this case the number of kings, as well as the duration of their reigns given by the copyists of Berosus, will have to be largely increased.

WITH THEIR APPROXIMATE DATES.

II

<i>Viceroy.</i>		<i>Kings of Aganē.</i>	
Me-sa-Nana-calama, son of Be . . khuk, of Eridhu.	.	Ai	
Idadu, of Eridhu.	.	Amat-nim	
Adi-Anu, of Zerg hul.	.	Sargon, for 45 years.	
Gudea, of Zerg hul.	.	Naram-Sin, his son.	
Enu-Anu, of Zerg hul.	.	Ellat-Gula, a queen.	
Ilu-mutabil, of Diru (of a later date).	.	(Conquered by Khammuragas.)	
<i>Elamite Kings in Babylonia.</i>		<i>Kings of Babylon.</i>	
Cudur-nankhundi.	B.C. 2280	'Sumu	
Chedorlaomer (Gen. xiv.).	.	Zabū (built the temples of Istar and the Sun at Sippara).	
Amar-pel, of Sumir (Shinar).	.	Abil-'Sin.	
Arioch, of Ellasar.	.	'Sin-	
Turgal, of Gutium.	.	<i>First Cassite Dynasty.</i>	
Simti-silkhak.	.	Ummikh-zirritu.	
Cudur-mabug, his son.	.	Agu-ragas, his son.	
<i>Kings of Larsa.</i>		Abi . . . his son.	
Nur-Rimmon.	.	Tassi-gurumas, his son.	
Gasin	Agu-kak-rimi, his son.	
Sin-idina.	.	<i>Kings of Babylon.</i>	
.	.	<i>Second Cassite Dynasty (probably the Arabians of Berosus) B.C. 1700—1300.</i>	
Rim-Agu, or Eri-Acu (Arioch), son of Cudur-Mabug.	.	Khammuragas, cotemporary with Samsu-iluna.	
<i>Kings of Karrah.</i>		Ammi-dicaga.	
Gamil-Adar (also king of Ur).	B.C. 2000—1700	Curi-galzu I.	
Libit-Nana (also king of Ur).	.	Simmas-sipak I.	
Ismi-Dagon (also of Ur).	.	Ulam-buryas.	
Gungunnuv, his son.	.	Nazi-murudas I.	
Ili . . . zat.	.	Meli-sipak I.	
<i>Kings of Erech.</i>		Burna-buryas I.	
Belat-sunat (a queen).	.	Cara-Cit.	
Sin-gasit.	.	Saga-raktiyas.	.
(Perhaps they preceded the kings of Karrah).	.	Murudas-sipak.	.
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Cara-indas	about 1450
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Burna-buryas II. . . .	1430
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Cara-murudas	1410
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Nazi-bugas	1400
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Curi-galzu II. . . .	1380
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Meli-sipak II. . . .	1350
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Merodach-Baladan I. . . .	1325
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Nazi-murudas II. . . .	1300
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>	
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Tiglath-Adar	B.C. 1270
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Rimmon- . . . bi	1230
<i>Assyrian Dynasty.</i>		Zamama-zacir-idin	1200

I 2 LIST OF BABYLONIAN KINGS, ETC.

<i>Chaldean Kings.</i>	
Nabu-cudura-yutsur (Nebuchad-rezzar)	1150
Cara-buryas	1120
Merodach-nadin-akhi	1100
Merodach-sapik-zirrat	1097
. . . Sadua	1080
'Simmas-sipak, the son of Irba-Sin, reigned 17 years.	
Hea-mucin-ziri, the son of Cutmar (an usurper), for 3 months.	
Cassu-nadin-akhi, son of Sappai, for 6 years.	
<i>Dynasty from the Persian Gulf.</i>	
Ulbar-surci-idina, son of Bazi, for 15 years.	
Nebuchadrezzar II., son of Bazi, for 2 years.	
. . . Sukamuna, son of Bazi, for 3 months.	
After these an Elamite for 6 years.	
Rimmon-pal-idina	
Nebo-zacira-iscun	
Irba-Merodach	
Merodach-Baladan II., his son.	
Rimmon-zacira-yutsur	
Sibir (invaded South Assyria).	
Nebo-baladan	B. C. 880
Merodach-zacira-izcur	853
Merodach-balasu-ikbu	820
Nabu-natsir	747
Nabu-yusapsi	733
Ucin-ziru	731
Tiglath-Pileser (Porus) of Assyria	729
Yagina, chief of the Caldai	726
Merodach-Baladan III., his son	721
Sargon of Assyria	709
Merodach-Baladan restored	704
Bel-ibni	703
Assur-nadin-sumi	700
Suzub	693
Essarhaddon of Assyria	681
Saul-mucinu	668
Assur-bani-pal	648
Bel-zacira-iscun	626
Nabopalassar	626
Nebuchadrezzar III.	605
Amil-Merodach	562
Nergal-'sarra-yutsur	560
Nabu-nahid	556
Merodach-'sarra-yutsur	541
Cyrus	538