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978-1-108-07906-8 - Assyria: From the Earliest Times to the Fall of Nineveh

George Smith

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### Assyria

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’ 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. In 1875, he published a history of Assyria for the ‘Ancient History from the Monuments’ series. Using biblical accounts as well as the Akkadian documents in clay and stone then being excavated in the area, Smith traces the history of the Assyrian empire from its origins until the fall of Nineveh in 612 BCE. Several other books by Smith are also reissued in this series.

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# Assyria

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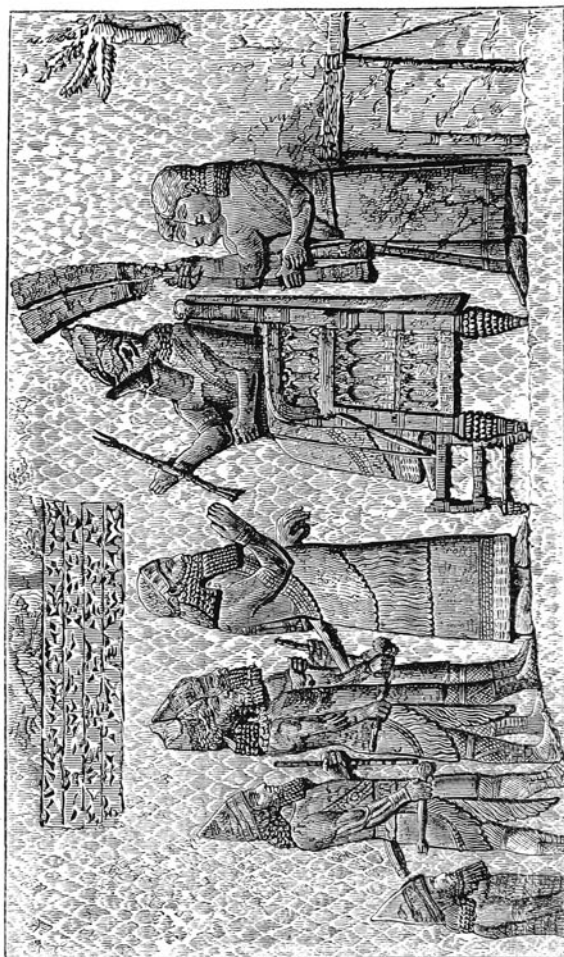
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# ANCIENT HISTORY

FROM THE MONUMENTS.

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# ASSYRIA

FROM THE

*EARLIEST TIMES TO THE FALL OF NINEVEH*

BY

GEORGE SMITH

*Of the Department of Oriental Antiquities, British Museum.*

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## P R E F A C E.

THE following history of Assyria is designed to give some of the results attained from the translations of the Cuneiform inscriptions, which contain the records of the Assyrian empire. Prominence has been given to the incidents of the period when Assyria came in contact with Palestine, and the bearing of some of these is pointed out; but it is rather intended that the reader should compare for himself the history here given from the Assyrian with the parallel account of the Books of Kings. Beside the direct account of persons and events given in the Bible, there is a mass of evidence and illustration on manners and customs, language and literature, tending to throw light on the earlier books of the Bible, which renders the study of Assyrian so important and desirable.

An examination of the dates in this history, will show that many of them do not agree with the authorized system of chronology in the margins of the Bible. Here I must note that, although there is a striking agreement in the order and substance of the events mentioned in both histories, there sometimes appears to be considerable difference as to the dates. As this is an Assyrian history I have taken the dates as they appear to stand in the Assyrian records; but it must be remembered that many of the Assyrian chronological documents are mutilated and incomplete, and that the Assyrians are not always correct in the statements of their histories.

It will be seen by this work that there are great and important periods of Assyrian history of which we know nothing or next to nothing; the reason of which is, that sufficient excavations and researches have not been made on the sites of the Assyrian cities. When Assyria is properly explored, there will no longer be the inequality and uncertainty which even now hangs over so much of her history.

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LIST OF THE ASSYRIAN KINGS WITH  
THEIR APPROXIMATE DATES.

Ismi-dagan	B.C. 1850-1820.	Assur-dan II	B.C. 930-913.
Samsi-vul I	" 1820-1800.	Vul-nirari II	" 913-891.
Igur-kap-kapu	} about B.C. 1800.	Tugulti-ninip II	" 891-885.
Samsi-vul II		Assur-nazir-pal	" 885-860.
Ilu-ba	} about B.C. 1750.	Shalmaneser II	" 860-825.
Iritak		Assur-dain-pal (rebel king)	B.C. 827.
Bel-kapkapu	about B.C. 1700.	Samsi-vul IV	B.C. 825-812.
Adasi	} about B.C. 1650.	Vul-nirari III	" 812-783.
Bel-bani		Shalmaneser III	" 783-773.
Assur-zakir-esir	} about B.C. 1600.	Assur-dan III	" 773-755.
Ninip-tugul-assuri		Assur-nirari II	" 755-745.
Iriba-vul	} about B.C. 1550.	Tiglath-Pileser II	" 745-727.
Assur-Nadin-ahi		Shalmaneser IV	" 727-722.
Assur-nirari I	} about B.C. 1500.	Sargon	" 722-705.
Nabu-dan		Sennacherib	" 705-681.
Assur-bel-nisusu	B.C. 1450-1420.	Esarhaddon	" 681-668.
Buzur-assur	" 1420-1400.	Assur-bani-pal	" 668-626.
Assur-ubalid	" 1400-1370.	Bel-zakir-iskum	" 626-620.
Bel-nirari	" 1370-1350.	Assur-ebil-ili	" 620-607.
Budil	" 1350-1330.		
Vul-nirari I	" 1330-1300.		
Shalmaneser I	" 1300-1271.		
Tugulti-ninip I	" 1271-1240.		
Bel-kudur-uzur	" 1240-1220.		
Ninip-pal-esar	" 1220-1200.		
Assur-dan I	" 1200-1170.		
Mutaggil-nusku	" 1170-1150.		
Assur-risilim	" 1150-1120.		
Tiglath-Pileser I	" 1120-1100.		
Asser-bel-kala	" 1100-1080.		
Samsi-vul III	" 1080-1060.		
Assur-rab-amar	} about B.C. 1050.		
or			
Assur-rabbur			
Assur-nimati.	about B.C. 1000.		

<i>List of the Kings of Israel mentioned in the Cuneiform Inscriptions.</i>	
Humri	Omri.
Ahabbu	Ahab.
Yahua	Jehu.
Minihimmu	Menahem.
Paqaha	Pekah.
Husia	Hosiah.

<i>List of Kings of Judah mentioned in the Cuneiform Inscriptions.</i>	
Azriyahu	Azariah.
Yahuhazi	Ahaz.
Hazaqiyahu	Hezekiah.
Minase	Manasseh.