



MACQUARIE
University

Ancient History school resources

Presented by Roth schools outreach program

1 April 2017

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Ancient Israel Program

<http://mq.edu.au/ancient-history-for-schools>

Ancient History Resources for Schools

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Macquarie University events for school students and teachers +

Resources for Ancient Israel and the Near East +





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Resources for Ancient Israel and the Near East -

- [News: Archaeological discoveries and latest research about Ancient Israel and its neighbours](#)
- [General: Information, societies and useful links for the study of Ancient Israel](#)
- [Timelines and Chronology](#)
- [Maps and Geography](#)
- [Museums around the world with Ancient Israel collections](#)
- [Archaeological Digs currently underway in Israel](#)
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Resources for Schools - News

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News

Archaeology news and relevant current research about Ancient Israel and its neighbours.

Latest News

March

Crusader shipwreck off Israel

<http://www.haaretz.com/archaeology/.premium-1.776208>

Ancient road discovered at Bet Shemesh

<http://www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/2000-year-old-road-excavated-near-bet-shemesh/2017/03/07/>

Ancient Rock Art in Galilee

<http://www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/4000-years-old-mysterious-tomb-with-rock-art-exposed-in-upper-galilee/2017/03/05/>

February

Youtube movies about Biblical-Judaean coins...six in all

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUVogrnnCkQ&t=2s>



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Australia

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Israel

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USA

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Canada

+

Europe

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Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford, UK

+

British Museum, London, UK

+

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK

+

Oriental Museum, Durham University, UK

+

Le Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

+

Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden, Holland

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Musée Bible+Orient, Freiburg, Switzerland

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University of Aberdeen, Museums and Museum Studies, Scotland, UK

+

World Museum, National Museums Liverpool, UK

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Resources for teachers

For teachers only.

Fill out the form below to send your details to the department convenors. At their discretion, they will send back the username and password necessary to use to gain access to the *Resources for Teachers* page.

This page is being updated regularly.

Already gained access to the *Resources for Teachers* page? [Login here.](#)

Current students >

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Last Name
Email*	
<input type="text"/>	
Address*	
<input type="text"/>	
Phone*	
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NEW Resources being produced constantly. Please visit often!

Let us know what you were looking for?

Year 11 Preliminary Ancient History	+
Year 12 HSC Ancient History	+
HSC Ancient Societies	+
HSC Personalities in Their Times	+
HSC Historical Period	+
HSC Extension History	+
What is Archaeology?	+
Archaeography: Who are the Archaeologists?	+
Historiography: Who are the Historians?	+



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HSC Historical Period

Option C: The Ancient Levant - First Temple Period c. 970-586 BCE

Scope and Sequence

Survey

Chronology

Geographical context

Key powers and contact

Focus of Study

Israel and Judah

GEOPOLITICS OF THE ANCIENT LEVANT

POPULATION TRADE AND SETTLEMENT

REIGN OF SOLOMON

ASSYRIAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST JUDAH 701 BCE



[Sennacherib in Judah](#)



[Sennacherib in Judah](#)

JUDAH AS A CLIENT-STATE OF ASSYRIA

RELATIONS WITH THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

<http://mq.edu.au/ancient-history-for-schools>

Stage 6 Ancient History: Historical Period

Option C: The Ancient Levant – First Temple Period c. 970–586 BC

Foreign relations with Assyria and Babylon, including:

- *The contributing factors and outcomes of the campaign of Assyrian King Sennacherib against Judah in 701 BC*

Sennacherib's campaign against Judah

In the year 701 BCE, the Assyrian King Sennacherib led a campaign against Judah and its king Hezekiah.

What are the sources for this campaign and how can they help us to construct an accurate account of this event?





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The Annals of Sennacherib



Three copies of the annals are known. They are each recorded on a hexagonal clay prism with 500 lines of cuneiform text.



Oriental institute Prism
Oriental Institute of Chicago



Taylor Prism
British Museum, London



Jerusalem Prism
Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Source C.

"As for Hezekiah the Judean, who did not submit to my yoke, I besieged and took 46 of his strong walled cities as well as the countless small villages in their vicinities... I shut Hezekiah up himself in Jerusalem, his royal city, as if he were a bird in a cage... He had brought after me to Nineveh 30 talents of gold and 800 talents of silver as well as gems, antimony, jewels, large sandu-stones, couches and house chairs of ivory, elephant's hide, ivory, maple, boxwood and all kinds of valuable treasures, and his daughters, his harem and his male and female musicians to me to Nineveh, my royal city...."

*sandu-stones = possibly a (semi) precious gem-stone

Column 3. 18-49, The Annals of Sennacherib

C. Forbes, *Documents of the Assyrian Empire* (Melbourne, 1986), p.72

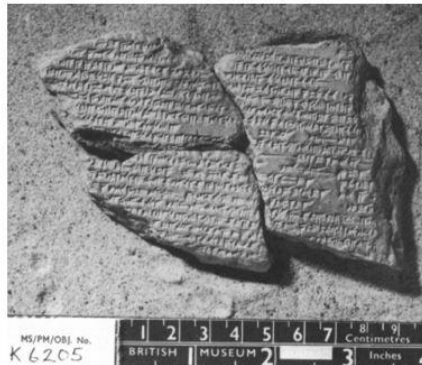


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Sennacherib destroyed many Judean cities on his approach to Jerusalem. In a "letter" written to his god *Ashur* he described the Assyrian destruction of Azekah, one of the fortified Judean towns.

Source D.



Ashur, my lord, encouraged me and against the land of Judah I marched... with the might of Ashur, my lord, the province of Hezekiah of Judah ... the city of Azekah, his stronghold... like the nest of the eagle located on a mountain ridge, like pointed iron swords without number reaching high to heaven... Its walls were strong and rivalled the highest mountains...(Azekah was taken) By means of beaten earth ramps, mighty battering rams brought near, (and) the attack by foot soldiers... They had seen the approach of my cavalry and they had heard the roar of the mighty troops of the god Ashur and their hearts became afraid...

Sennacherib's 'Letter to God'.
N. Na'aman "Sennacherib's 'Letter to God' on His Campaign to Judah." *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 214 (1974), p.27.



The siege of Lachish

Lachish was another fortified Judean town destroyed by Sennacherib's army on the approach to Jerusalem. The siege of Lachish was commemorated in a large bas-relief in Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh.



The "Lachish Relief", British Museum, London. Inv. No. 124906.

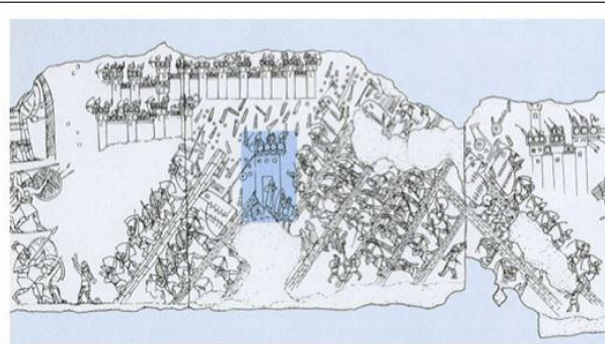
Source E.



The Lachish Relief – main scene detail. British Museum, London. No. 124906



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Details of the Lachish reliefs from Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh



Source F.

"The main scene shows the attack on the gate and walls of Lachish. The protruding city gate is presented in minute detail, with its crenellations and its special reinforcement by a superstructure of warriors' shields. The battering rams were moved over specially constructed ramps covered with wooden logs. They were "prefabricated" four-wheeled, turreted machines. The scene vividly shows the frenzied fighting of both attacker and defender in the final stage of the battle. In a desperate effort to stop the operation of the battering rams, the defenders fling down lighted torches... The grim outcome of the attack is illustrated by the captured women and children passing by the impaled bodies of prisoners."

Interpretation: E. Stern, *Archaeology and the land of the Bible: The Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian Periods (732-332BCE)* Vol. II (New York, 2001), p.5-6.

Source G.



Oblique Aerial photograph of Tel Lachish

Source H.



Remains of the Assyrian siege ramp, Tel Lachish

Source I.



Assyrian slingers from the Lachish relief

Source J.



Assyrian flint sling stones from Lachish. British Museum, London. No. 132140.



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Source W.



Seal impression (bula) of King Hezekiah unearthed in the Ophel excavations in Jerusalem.
[Copyright: Dr Eilat Mazar; photo by Ouria Tadmor]



The Ophel site in Jerusalem outlined in red.



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News release:

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology.
Archaeology News Network, *Seal bearing the name of Judean king found in Jerusalem*, December 02, 2015,
<<http://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com.au/2015/12/seal-bearing-name-of-judean-king-found.html>>

Watch the video detailing its discovery and importance:

<<https://youtu.be/SW8HM9RQYII>>

Jar handles with seal impressions that read "for the king" (*lmik*) have been discovered at many sites, including Lachish, Ramat Rahel, Ophel and Azekah, suggesting the stockpiling of food and supplies for the impending siege of Jerusalem.

These seals date to the time of Hezekiah.

Source X.



Lmik jar seal from Tel Azekah.
Tel Aviv University excavation in collaboration with Macquarie University, 2015.

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Source Y.

"*Lmlk* seal impressions designate that the contents of the jar (probably wine or oil) were part of a tribute exacted by Hezekiah to stockpile food and supplies for Jerusalem."

A. Ben-Tor, *Ancient Israel*, (New Haven, 1992), p.346-349.

Sennacherib laid siege to Jerusalem and then accepted surrender and tribute from Hezekiah.

Source Z.

"That night the angel of the Lord went forth and struck down 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp. Early the next morning, there they were, all the corpses of the dead. So Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, broke camp and returned to Nineveh..."

2 Kings 19:35, Hebrew Bible

Source AA.

"Then King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz prayed about this and called out to God for help. The Lord sent an angel, who destroyed every valiant soldier, commander and officer in the camp of the Assyrian king, so that he had to return shamefaced to his own country..."

2 Chronicles 32:20-21, Hebrew Bible

Source BB.



Isaiah in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Dated 300-100 BCE.

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. *The Digital Dead Sea Scrolls: The Great Isaiah Scroll*, accessed 2.10.15
<<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah>>

"An Angel of the Lord went to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 soldiers. At dawn the next day there they lay, all dead. Then the Assyrian Emperor Sennacherib withdrew and returned to Nineveh."

Isaiah 37:36, Hebrew Bible

In his attempt to throw off Assyrian control, Hezekiah had made an alliance with neighbouring leaders including the Egyptian Pharaoh Taharqa (Dynasty 25). It is thought this may be the same incident Herodotus refers to when telling the story about Sennacherib's campaign more than 200 years later (5th century BCE).

Source CC.

"As he [Egyptian king] lay there facing the Assyrians, thousands of field-mice swarmed over them [the Assyrian troops] during the night and ate their quivers, their bowstrings and the leather handles of their shields, so that on the following day, having no arms to fight with, they abandoned their positions and suffered severe losses during their retreat."

Herodotus, *Histories*, Book II, 141