

Translated from German article?

*Bible
Sennacherib*

Sennacherib before Jerusalem in 701 B.C.

Wolfram von Soden

Our information about political conflicts and progress and conclusion of wars in the ancient orient is largely based on one-sided sources, since we usually possess only a report from one side and as a rule that of the victor. This makes it all the more necessary that we be very careful in the cases where ~~we~~ reports have been preserved from both parties, and this is true not only when all these sources from the time of the events exactly agree. Even mythical traditions from a later time can sometimes be useful for the correction of the Assyrian royal inscriptions, practically all of which were strongly colored for propaganda purposes. This is true provided we are very careful not to insist on the accuracy of too many of the details of such traditions. Absolutely certain results cannot usually be ~~obtained~~ obtained in such cases.

For the expedition of the Assyrian kings Sennacherib against Hezekiah of Judah and other leaders of Syria and Palestine in the year 701, there are at our disposal in addition to the Assyrian inscriptions two later sources with greatly varying expressions. As a result this expedition has been discussed particularly often; however there has not yet been a ~~satisfying~~ satisfying explanation of all the questions involved in it, because the dependability of the later sources is contested. As a rule this the reliability of these sources is regarded as very low. In 1955 there was published an Assyrian letter that previously had almost been unnoticed, an Assyrian letter from the year 731. This letter shows that the account in the OT despite its the fact that part the character of part of it seems almost to be legendary, ~~it~~ nevertheless deserves much more attention than most have given to it in the past. It is therefore worthwhile to look take a fresh look at the various questions connection with this expedition