

expedition. The book of Isaiah refers to situations before and after the expedition also in ch. 18 and 1; ^{cv.} ~~cc.~~ general summary in H. Donner, Herrschergestalten in Israel (Berlin-Heidelberg 1970), p.79ff.

Much later is the report by Herodotus (Book II 141) about Sennacherib's unsuccessful attack against Egypt, in which there is no mention of Judah, Jerusalem or Hezekiah. W. Baumgartner discusses this report in detail in Archiv Orientalni XVIII 1/2 (1950), p. 89ff. (later reproduced with additions in his collection of essays, "Zum Alten Testament und seiner Umwelt" (Leiden, 1959) p.305ff.). It is obvious that Herodotus is basing his account on an Egyptian tradition that changes Sennacherib's victory over an Egyptian force near Elteke in Palestine into a defeat and Assyrian attack against Egypt. This is recognized by Baumgartner as well as most OT scholars that this account therefore has not value as a source for the reconstruction of the events of 701 B.C.

There is no need of making a new discussion of the first part of Sennacherib's expedition up to the battle at Elteke (ass. Altaqu). Sennacherib's account of his overcoming of King Luli of Sidon and the measures taken by him in Ashdod, Ekron, and Gaza and the progress of events in these connections can be considered to be in general a correct picture, aside from the customary exaggerations. After the retreat of the Egyptians, Hezekiah thought it desirable to release the king whom he had held as prisoner, King Tadi of Amqarruna/Ekron. Sennacherib again established this man as king and enlarged the territory of Ekron after down a proportional tribute by a portion of the 46 walled towns of Judah which he had conquered, according to the prism through the use of siege machines. Thereafter he proceeded to lay siege to Jerusalem: "I shut uup Hezekiah like a caged bird; I erected fortresses against him that made it impossible for him to go out through the city gate." Every hearer and reader of this report naturally expects that there will immediately