

12 --Sennacherib

there are no known political causes for it. ~~It is no argument against~~ this that Sennacherib himself says nothing about a pestilence. The inscriptions are nearly always silent regarding any failure. In addition a pestilence could be considered in Assyria as punishment by the gods for major sins of the king. Sennacherib -- It is well known that Sennacherib himself was told by his priests that the violent death of his father, Sargon II, a retreat that he was conducting and expedition in Iran was the result of his sins against the gods. He had therefore every reason to be silent about the pestilence. It can ~~not~~ also not be given as an argument against this to point out that the books of Kings say nothing about death among the Jews as a result of the pestilence, which surely would have occurred. It would not fit in with the miraculously styled account. The Jews were quite justified in considering the unexpected deliverance as a miracle. Hezekiah was nevertheless enough of a realist not to build too much on the deliverance. He therefore considered it wise to send a large tribute to Ninevah in order to make sure that Sennacherib would not find a reason to make another expedition into Palestine. In contrast to many recent descriptions,

Sennacherib says specifically (Luckenbill, p.34,48) that Hezekiah sent the tribute "after me (arki-ja)". It is therefore not necessary to consider that the sending of the tribute was the ~~cause~~ cause for the removal of the siege. It is obvious that Hezekiah considered himself satisfied with the status of a vassal. It is nowhere said that either he or his successor Manasseh had to give the imperial worship of the Assyrians a place in the temple, as one can often read. Against the idea that there was too great a loss as a result of the pestilence in the Assyrian army one should consider the fact that in the year 700 Sennacherib again could march with a great army to Babylonia.

In summary we may consider this definite, that a critical evaluation of the stories in the OT even though they may be in the form given at a later time and colored --- and with legendary coloring and also the account ~~XXXXXXXX~~