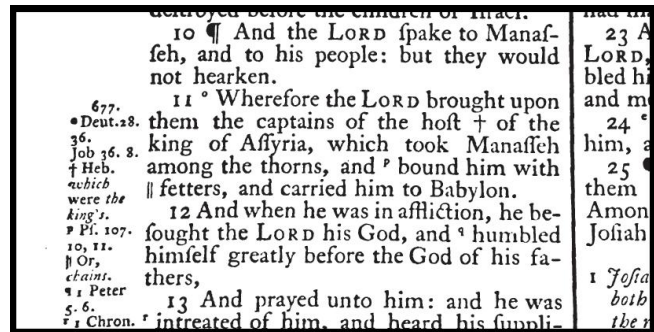


677 BC

Recent discussions over the correct dates and events in prophecy led me to do some research on the date of 677 BC.

This picture to the right, is of the text of
2 Chronicles 33:11 from the original
1769 King James Bible.

To the left of the text describing the
capture and captivity of Manasseh, the
date 677 is clearly stated in the margin.



The following are *some* of the historical quotes that I have studied (and their subsequent dates), showing that the year **677 B.C.** is when **Manasseh**, King of Judah, was taken into temporary captivity by the soldiers of **Eserhaddon** and taken to Babylon, which at that time was Eserhaddon's temporary capital. There are some other *critical* sources that disagree with this date and Assyrian ruler for the captivity of Manasseh, but they are conflicting and based in doubt and inconsistency – while many firm statements and the weight of evidence all point to the year 677 B.C. as the correct date for Manasseh's Babylonian captivity.

"677 BC ... At the same time as Israel was conquered, the same Assyrian army attacked Judah. They captured **Manasseh** the king, as he was hiding in a thicket. They bound him with chains of brass and **carried him captive into Babylon**. 2Ch 33:11 Some think this calamity was foretold by the prophet Isaiah, when he says: "within sixty five years Ephraim shall be so broken in pieces, that it shall be no more a people. And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, is the son of Remaliah: And if you will not believe, you shall not be established," Isa 7:8,9"

Annals of the World, Archbishop Ussher, **1658** p.87

"677 BC ...**Eserhaddon** then sent a detachment of his army against Judah, where his captains overcame King **Manasseh** in the field, who being forced after the defeat to flee away, the pursuers found him hid in a thicket of thorns, **and sent him bound in chains to Babylon**, 2 Chron. Xxxiii. 11. where their Lord Eserhaddon resided after the Campaign was over."

Royal Genealogies, James Anderson D.D., **1732** p.58

"677 ...Eserhaddon, after he had thus possessed himself of the land of Israel, sent some of his princes with part of his army into Judea, to reduce that country also under his subjection; who having **vanquished Manasseh** in battle, and taken him, hid in a thicket of thorns, **brought him prisoner to Eserhaddon, who bound him in fetters, and carried him to Babylon...**"

The Old & New Testament Connected in the History of the Jews, Prideaux, **1833** p.80

"Eserhaddon had three years before seized upon Babylon...in **B.C. 678** he had invaded Palestine, and planted a colony of foreigners in Samaria, and **in the following year** his armies came upon Jerusalem, and **took Manasseh**, king of Judah, among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and **carried him to Babylon.**"

Observations on the Unfulfilled Prophecies of Scripture, John Fry B.A., **1835** p.369

"This prince [**Esarhaddon**], having possessed himself of the land of Israel, sent some of his generals with part of his army into Judea, to reduce that country likewise under his subjection. These generals defeated **Manasseh**, and having taken him prisoner, brought him to **Esarhaddon**, who put him in chains, and **carried him with him to Babylon.**"

The Ancient History of the Egyptians, Carthaginians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes and Persians, Macedonians and Grecians, Charles Rollin, vol.2 **1839** p.64

"From a farther study of the Scriptures, I concluded that the seven times of Gentile supremacy must commence when the Jews ceased to be an independent nation at **the captivity of Manasseh, which the best chronologers assigned to B. C. 677**"

William Miller's Apology & Defense, **1845** p. 11

"677 – Manasseh taken captive to Babylon"

The Student's Handbook of Ancient History, Isaiah M'Burney B.A., **1856** p.29

"The seven times, or 2520 years of the Jewish subversion, **we have always dated from the captivity of Manasseh. This captivity is placed in B. C. 677**, or the year 4037 of the Julian Period, in the 22nd year of Manasseh's reign, by Dr. Prideaux, Archbishop Usher, Jackson, Playfair, Blair and others;..."

Advent Review & Sabbath Herald, Uriah Smith, September 10, **1857**

"677 Manasseh taken captive to Babylon."

Chronological Tables from A.M.1 –A.D 1500, Coleridge, **1857** p.29

"Babylon first became connected with the people of God by **taking Manasseh, king of Judah, captive, B.C. 677**. 2 Chron. xxxii. The date of Babylon, therefore, as represented by the head of gold, is B.C. 677."

Key to the Prophetic Chart, Uriah Smith, **1864** p.7

"Esarhaddon became king of Babylon as well as of Nineveh, and appears to have held his court sometimes at the Assyrian and sometimes at the Babylonian capital. He left numerous splendid buildings, but is best known to the Biblical student as **the king who carried away Manasseh**, the son of Hezekiah, into temporary captivity."

A Connection of Sacred and Profane History, Michael Russell LL.D. **1865** p.xl

"This king was **Esarhaddon**, who...despatched his generals, the chief of whom was Tartan, with a portion of his army for the reduction of Judah also. In a successful attack upon Jerusalem, they...took **Manasseh** among the thorns...bound him with fetters, and **carried him to Babylon.**"

Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, **1871** p.284

"Manasseh, son and successor of Hezekiah, profaned the temple of the Lord by setting up altars to all the host of heaven, even in the courts of the Lord, 2Kin.21:4-7, for which God delivered him into the hands of the king of Babylon. **He was loaded with chains and carried beyond the Euphrates**, 2Chron.33:11, **B.C. 677**. But, humbling himself and repenting of his sins, he was sent back to his own dominions, and labored to repair the profanations he had committed upon the house of the Lord. Verses 14-16."

The Sanctuary and the Twenty-three Hundred Days, Uriah Smith, **1877** p.157

"677 – Manasseh carried captive to Babylon."

Handbook to the Bible by Walter Scott, **1879** p.359

"In prophecy it dates from **B.C. 677**, because then it became connected with the people of God, by **the capture of Manasseh**, king of Judah. 2Chron.33:11."

Synopsis of the Present Truth, Uriah Smith, **1884** p.6

"**Esarhaddon**...He appears by his monuments to have been one of the most powerful, if not the most powerful, of all the Assyrian monarchs. He is the only one of them whom we find to have actually reigned at Babylon, where he built himself a palace, bricks of which have been recently recovered bearing his name. His Babylonian reign lasted 13 years, from **B.C. 680 to B.C. 667**; and it was doubtless within this space of time that **Manasseh** king of Judah, having been seized by his captains at Jerusalem on a charge of rebellion, was brought before him at Babylon..."

A Dictionary of the Bible, William Smith LL.D., **1884** p.179

"Thus Babylon, which had been razed to the ground by Sennacherib in B.C. 691, and the adjoining river choked with its ruins, was rebuilt, and **Esar-haddon** endeavoured to win over the Babylonians by residing in it during half the year. This affords an explanation of a fact mentioned in the Second Book of Chronicles (xxxiii. 11), which has long been a stumbling-block in the way of critics. It is there said that the king of Assyria, after crushing the revolt of **Manasseh, carried him away captive to Babylon**. The cause of this is now clear. As **Esar-haddon** spent part of his time at Babylon it merely depended on the season of the year to which of his two capitals, Nineveh or Babylon, a political prisoner should be brought."

Fresh Light from the Ancient Monuments, Archibald Sayce, **1884** p.107

"**Manasseh was captured and taken to Babylon, B. C. 677** (2 Chron. 33 : II), and the text says that this capture was effected by the captains of the king of Assyria."

Bible Readings for the Home Circle, Review & Herald **1888** p.16

"**Manasseh, king of Judah; carried captive to Babylon--- 677BC**"

From Eden to Eden, J. H. Waggoner, **1890** p.10

"Ever since **677 B.C.** the Bible has said that "the captains of the host of the king of Assyria took **Manasseh** among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and **carried him to Babylon**."

Present Truth UK, A.T. Jones, August 25, **1898** p.537

"In the fourth and fifth years, **678-676 B.C.**, an expedition was made into Palestine, Phenicia, and Cilicia. Manasseh was king of Judah at this time, and had been king for twenty-one years...And the Lord spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took **Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon**."

The Empires of the Bible, A.T. Jones, **1898** p.345-346

"Faithfully the prophets continued their warnings and their exhortations; fearlessly they spoke to **Manasseh** and to his people; but the messages were scorned; backsliding Judah would not heed. As an **earnest** of what would befall the people should they continue impenitent, the Lord permitted **their king to be captured by a band of Assyrian soldiers, who "bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon," their temporary capital**. This affliction brought the king to his senses. "He besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself...But this repentance, remarkable though it was, came **too late to save the kingdom** from the corrupting influence of years of idolatrous practices. Many had stumbled and fallen, never again to rise."

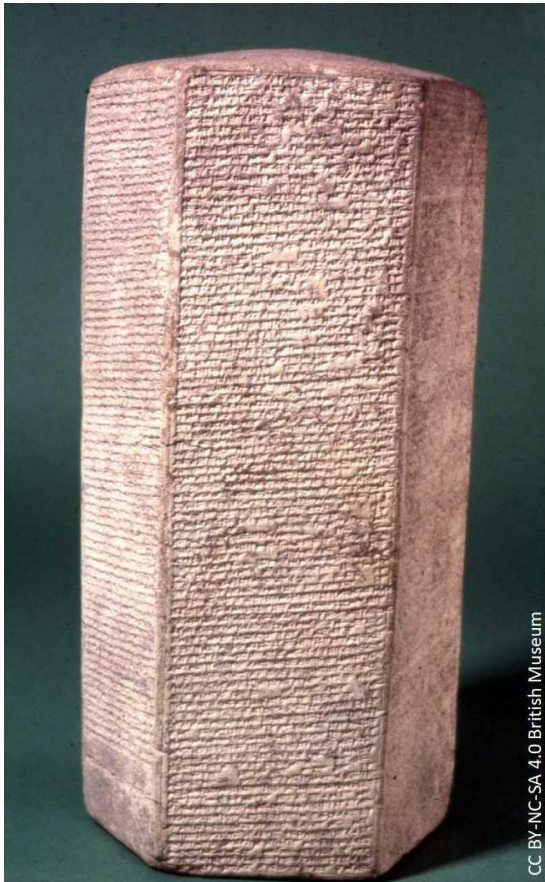
Prophets and Kings, Ellen White, **1917** p.382

Interestingly, Esarhaddon had made Babylon his temporary capital while he worked to rebuild the city. According to archaeological records, it was only during the reign of Esarhaddon that Babylon was made a “temporary capital”. The next ruler (Esarhaddon’s son Ashurbanipal) reigned only from the Nineveh capital.

Esarhaddon was also the only Assyrian king to rule from Babylon and to be called the “king of Babylon” along with his title “king of Assyria”.

Stone cylinders of records from various rulers of Assyria and Babylon have been found throughout the years, which give us a good look into the history of that period of earth’s history. One of these Assyrian kings was Esarhaddon, who ruled Assyria and Babylonia from 681 – 669 BC.

Here are pictures of some of the stone cylinders discovered from Esarhaddon’s reign.



Sir Henry Rawlinson has documented the references on these cylinders and you can find some of his work published under the name, “Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia.”

Major-General Sir Henry Rawlinson served in the British army, and was one of the two individuals (the other being Edward Hincks) who successfully provided a working decipherment of Mesopotamian cuneiform.

Rawlinson is known the world over as the “Father of Assyriology” and “The Discoverer of the key to the Ancient Persian, Babylonian, and Assyrian Inscriptions in the Cuneiform character.” He is one of the top foremost experts in the history of Assyria and Babylonia.

Fragments of the Annals of Esarhaddon reveal some interesting information about Esarhaddon’s dominions, conquests, and building projects.

The clay hexagonal "prism" pictured above on the left is known as the Esarhaddon Prism and it is housed in the British Museum (museum item #121005).

It was produced around 673 BC - 672 BC and it contains 6 columns of historical records (the first column is facing the camera in that picture above).

Esarhaddon tells about how he used the kings that he had brought into submission (which included king Manasseh) to furnish his materials and labor to build palaces and other projects in Ninevah and Babylon. About midway down column 5 (as seen in this picture) is this reference:



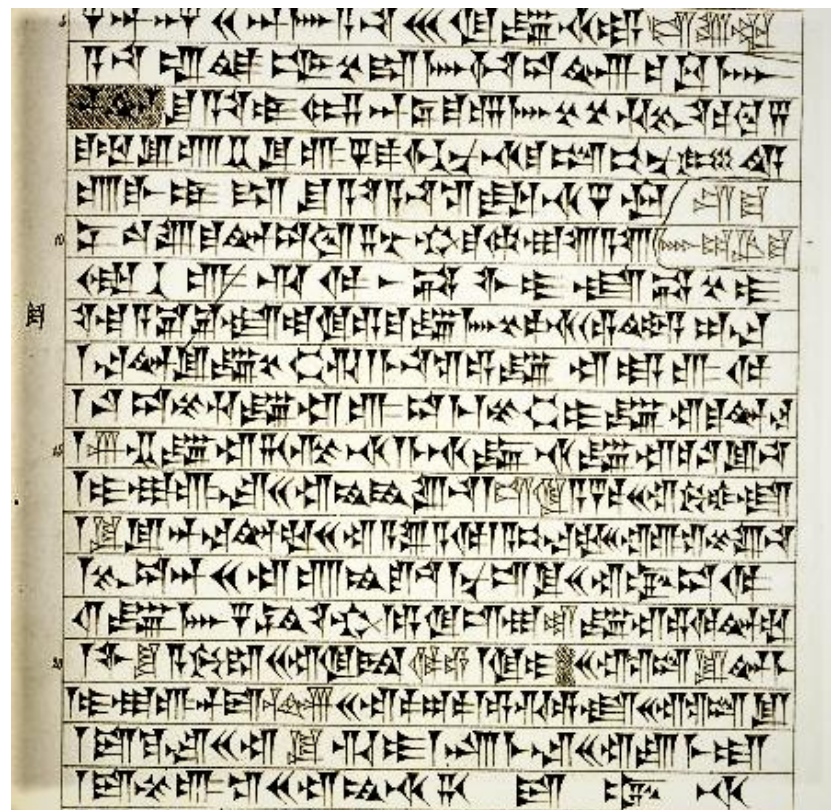
"(54) ad-ki-e-ma šarrâni{pl} {mātu}Ḫat-ti u e-bir nâri
(55) {m}Ba-'-lu šar {âlu}Šur-ri {m}Me-na-si-i šar {âlu}la-u-di,...."

A rough English translation would be:

"(54) I overthrew the kings of the Hittites and across the river.
(55) Ba'lu, king of Tyre, Menasi, king of Judah,...."

The following picture is a picture of the cuneiform text from "Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia" (Vol. III, p. 16, col. v.), where Esarhaddon himself specifies that Manasseh, King of Judah, was one of the kings that he himself overthrew and brought into submission.

In other words, Esarhaddon himself reveals that it was sometime during his own reign (681-669 BC) when Manasseh was "overthrown" by him (captured and taken to Babylon). But since that "prism" was produced in 673 BC - 672 BC, that means that time frame is narrowed down even more. Manasseh's captivity had to have happened sometime between the beginning of Esarhaddon's reign 681 BC and 673 BC.



This reference is also mentioned in Professor George Barton's book, "Archaeology and the Bible" (p.438). George Barton was Professor of Semitic Languages at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the American School of Oriental Research in Baghdad.

Quoting from Esarhaddon's own record, Barton writes:

"I overthrew the kings of the Hittite country and those beyond the sea; Baal, King of Tyre, Manassah, King of Judah, Kaushgabri, King of Edom, Musuri, King of Moab, Silbaal, King of Gaza, Mitinti, King of Askelon, Ikausu, King of Ekron, Milkiashapa, King of Gebal, Matanbaal, King of Arvad, Abibaal, King of Shamsimuruna, Puduel, King of Beth-Ammon, Ahi-milku, King of Ashdod, 12 kings of the sea-coast..." *Archaeology and the Bible*, George A. Barton Ph.D, LL.D, D.D. 1925, p.438

Some of the well-known scholars and historians who taught 677 B.C. and/or the reign of Esarhaddon, for the captivity of Manasseh, either directly or indirectly.

Walter Scott	Samuel Coleridge	Robert Jamieson D.D.
Humphrey Prideaux D.D.	Archibald Henry Sayce M.A.	A. R. Fausset A.M.
Archbishop James Ussher	George Barton D.D.	David Brown D.D.
Ptolemy of Alexandria	Rev. John Fry B.A.	
James Anderson D.D.	William Smith LL.D.	

Some Millerite/Adventist Pioneers who studied, believed, and taught 677 B.C. for the captivity of Manasseh.

William Miller	J.H. Waggoner	Hiram Edson
Apollos Hale	James White	Isaac Wellcome
AT Jones	Joshua Himes	Joseph Bates
Josiah Litch	S. S. Snow	
Uriah Smith	Elon Galusha	