

In Egypt, the pyramids of kings Mer-ne-Re and Nefer-ka-Re were inscribed with a dedication dating to ca. 2400 BC, centuries before Abraham, and many centuries before Moses.

The text speaks of a first creation on a primeval hill arising "out of the waters of chaos." The one who was created was called "Atum"

Among those "whom Atum begot," according to the inscription, was one named "Seth."



Locating the Garden of Eden

“... for the LORD God **had not caused** it to rain upon the **earth** (*erets*), and there was not a man (*‘adam*) to till the ground. But there went up a **mist** from the **earth**, and watered the whole face of the ground.”

- Genesis 2:5-6

“... for the LORD God **did not cause** it to rain upon the **land** (*erets*), and there was not a man (*‘adam*) to till the ground. But there went up a **fountain** (Septuagint) from the **land**, and watered the whole face of the ground.”

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Genesis 2:5-6

The Four Rivers of Genesis

Genesis 2:10-14: The name of the first is **Pishon**: that is it which compasseth the whole land of **Havilah**, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is **Gihon**: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of **Ethiopia (Cush)**. And the name of the third river is **Hiddekel (Tigris)**: that is it which goeth toward the **east of Assyria**. And the fourth river is **Euphrates**.

Genesis 15:18: In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river **Euphrates**.

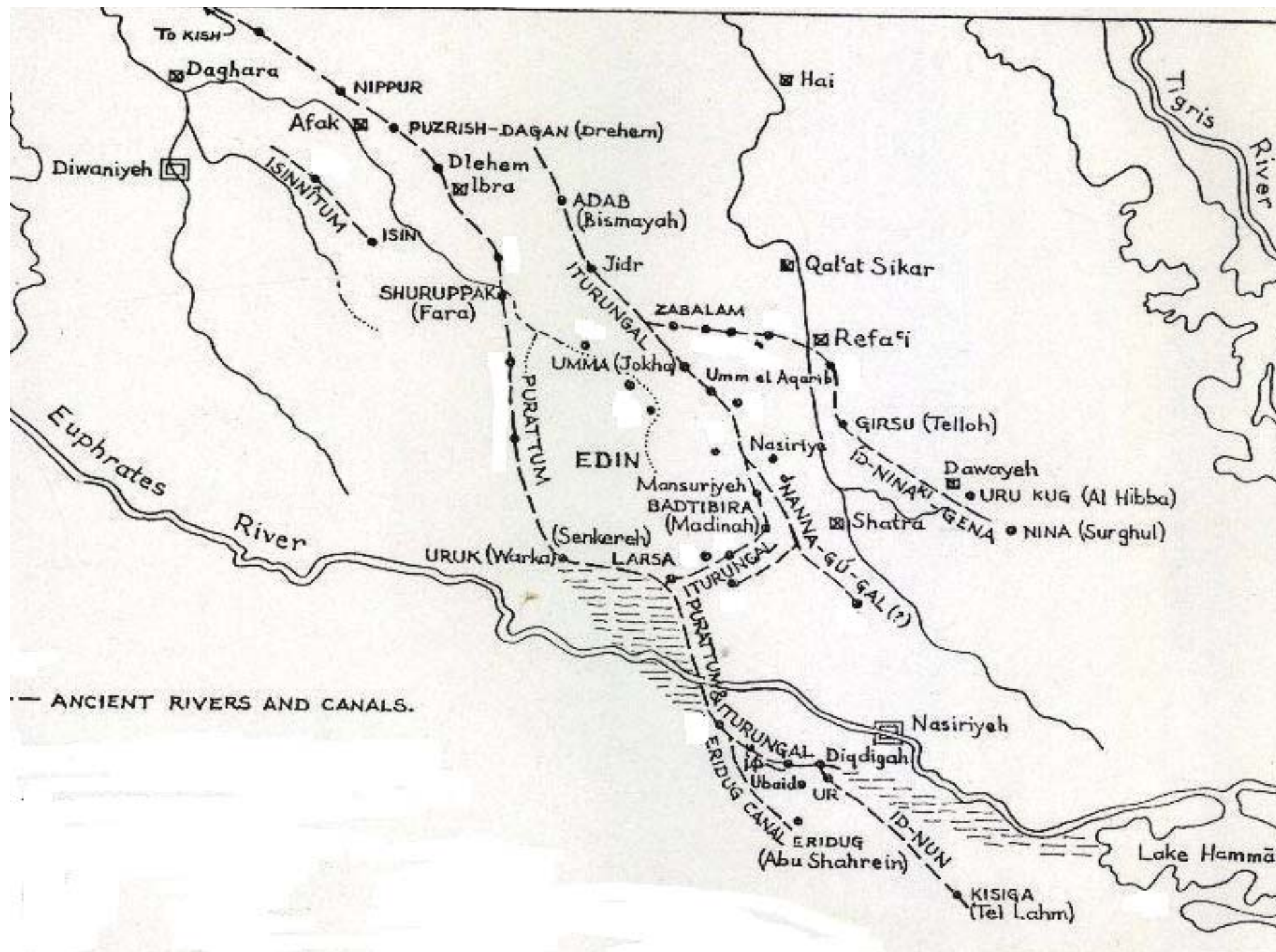
Daniel 10:4: And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is **Hiddekel**;



Psalm 137:1: "By the **rivers** of Babylon, there we sat down,
yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion."

Ezekiel 1:3: "The word of the LORD came expressly unto
Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the
Chaldeans by the **river Chebar** ..."

Genesis 2:10: " And a **river** went out of Eden to water
the garden ..."

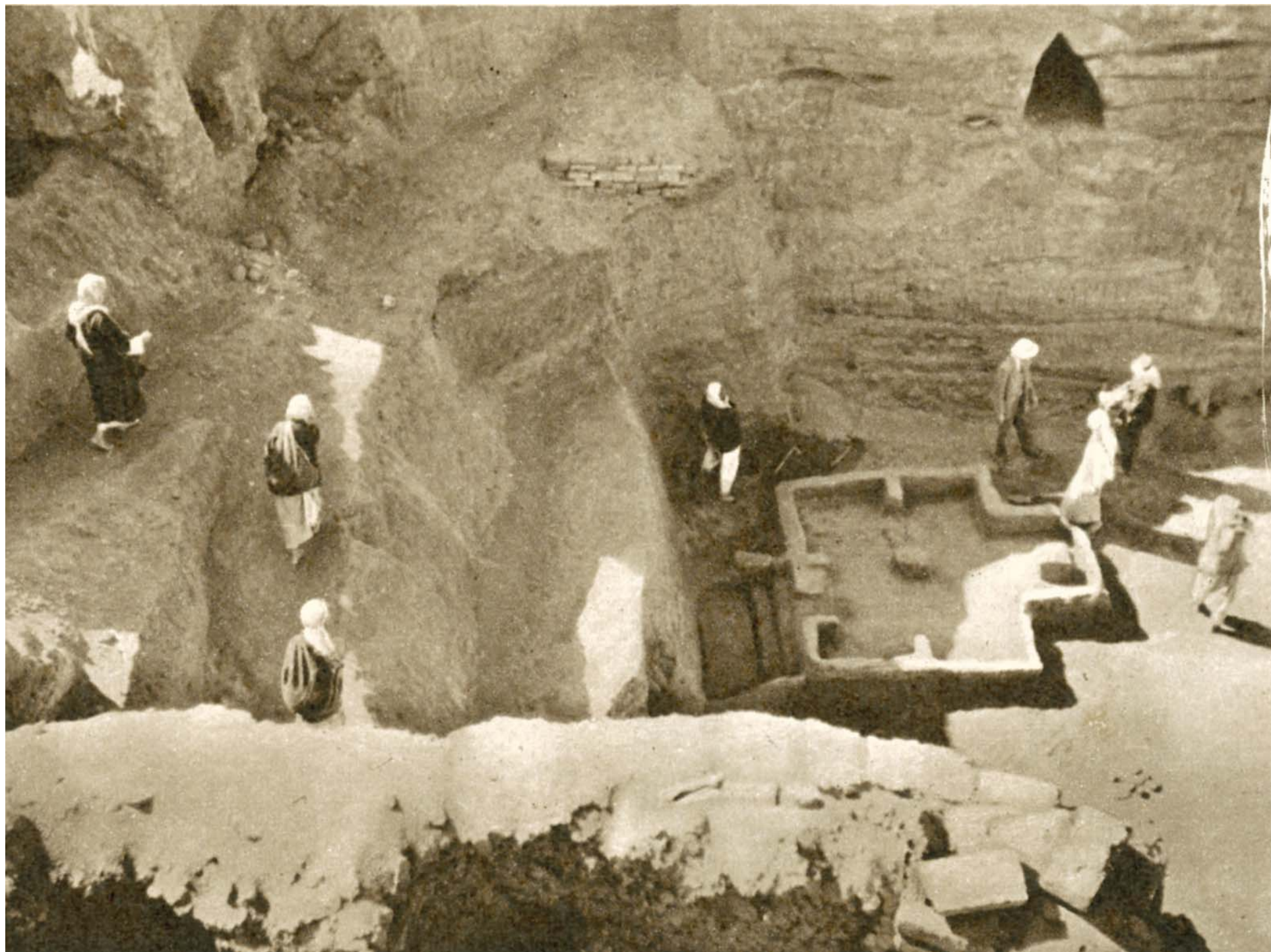


*“When the kingship was lowered
from heaven*

The kingship was in Eridu.

In Eridu, Alulim became king ...”

- The Sumerian King List



Eridu was excavated by the Iraqi government in 1941-42. Working downward, the first five levels belonged to the Uruk Period typified by red and gray Sumerian pottery. The pottery starting at level six belonged to the Ubaid Period. At the sixteenth level was a pottery style so unique it was called simply "Eridu Ware."

Eridu Ware:

"... extremely fine quality
monochrome-painted ware,
often with a buff or cream slip."

- John Oates, "Ur and Eridu, the Prehistory," *Iraq*



Courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Museum



Courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Museum



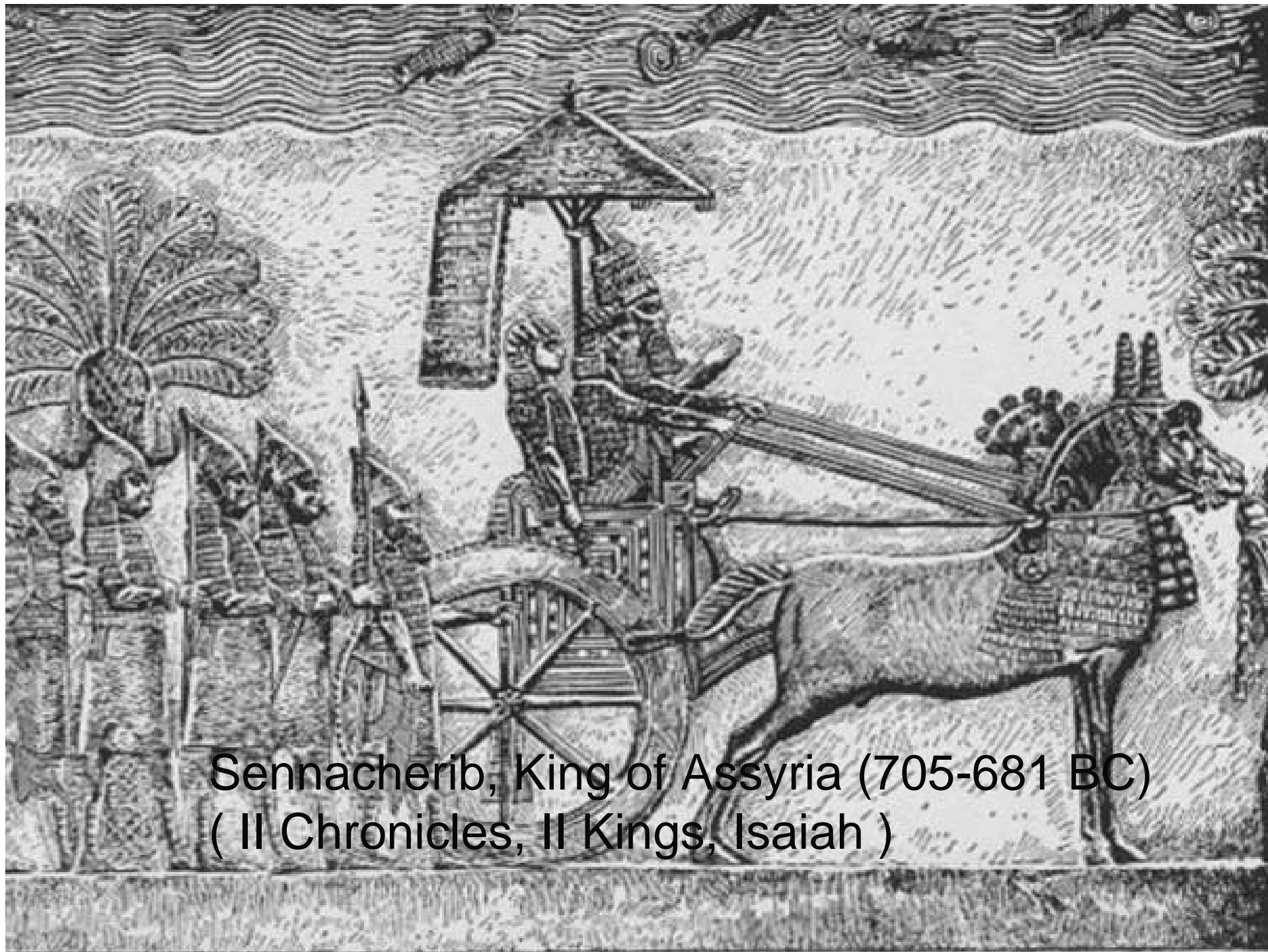
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Ashurbanipal (668-626 BC)



Sennacherib, King of Assyria (705-681 BC)
(II Chronicles, II Kings, Isaiah)

“And Cush begat Nimrod ...

And the beginning of his kingdom

was Babel, and Erech, and Accad,

and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”

- Genesis 10:8,10





The Tree of Life







There is one historical personality who very well may have been Adam of the Bible - the legendary Adapa.

Several fragments of the "Legend of Adapa" were taken from the Library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh. One also was found in the Egyptian archives of Amenophis III and IV of the fourteenth century BC. To date, six fragments of the Adapa legend have been discovered written in various Semitic languages.

Versions and fragments of the Adapa legend have been found in Akkadian, Canaanitish-Babylonian, Assyrian and Amorite.

Legend of Adapa

In those days, the sage, the man of Eridu,
Ea, made him like a “riddi” (rabbi?) among men;
A sage, whose command no one could oppose;
The mighty one, the Atrahasis of the Anunaki,
Blameless, clean of hands, anointer, observer of laws.

With the bakers, he does the baking;

With the bakers of Eridu, he does the baking.

Part of one Adapa fragment:

*“... what ill he has brought upon
mankind,*

*[And] the disease that he brought
upon the bodies of men ...”*

Are Adapa and Adam the Same Man?

1. Adapa placed at Eridu, Babylonian tradition places the Garden of Eden near Eridu
2. Adapa also called “the Erechian” – Erech could be a corruption “Enoch.”
3. Adapa neither god nor king, unique in Mesopotamian literature.
4. Adapa called Atrahasis, “exceeding wise,” parallels Ziusudra (Noah).
5. Adapa created by Ea {god}, and Adam created “in the image” of God.
6. Legend of Adapa found all over the region in different languages.
7. Adapa was a “baker,” Adam told he would “eat bread.”
8. Adapa described as a seer, blameless, clean of hands, anointer, observer of laws – descriptive of Adam.
9. Adapa “broke the wing of the south wind” and Adam was given “dominion”
10. Adapa brought “ill” upon mankind, through one man “sin” entered the world.
11. Adapa called to appear before Anu, the father-god, and Adam talked with God - both called to account for bad behavior.
12. Adapa offered the “food and water of eternal life, Adam cut off from the “tree of life.”
13. Adapa told to return to earth and Adam told he would return to dust.
14. Both Adapa and Adam described as ancestral to the Assyrians.

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, said Ea gave Adapa “vast intelligence.”

Sennacherib compared his own accomplishments in conceiving the ground-plan of his palace and city with that of Adapa who received his wisdom from his father, the wise Ea.

King Ashurbanipal referred to Adapa, “the sage.” He recalled a dream where Asshur (who had achieved god status) spoke to him, saying:

O king, lord of kings, offspring of the sage
(Sennacherib) and Adapa ...

Here Ashurbanipal traced his ancestry through his grandfather back to Asshur and to Adapa. This puts Adapa in the chain of descent of the Assyrians, even at the apex, as Adapa, according to legend, had no earthly father.

Writing in 1906, Archibald Sayce argued the name Adapa should have been translated “Adamu” on the strength of the character *pa* which had the value of *mu*. A principle that governed the transcription of names and words was the selection of characters to express their sounds which also harmonized with their sense.

The last syllable of a name like *Ada-mu* was represented by an ideograph which not only had the phonetic value of *mu*, but also signified “man.” Therefore Sayce recommended:

“Henceforward, therefore we must transcribe the name of the first man of Babylonian tradition, not A-da-pa, but A-da-mu.”

Archaeologists found lists of the dead buried in graveyards in various cities. One name that was popular was Adamu. The name perpetuated among the Akkadians for many centuries. One Canaanite governor and one Assyrian king were named Adamu.

When Akkadian words are carried into Hebrew the nominative “u” is dropped. The Akkadian *ilu* for god becomes El in Hebrew for God. And dropping the “u,” the Akkadian “Adamu” becomes “Adam.”



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FROM ADAM TO ABRAHAM

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