

## SENKEREH

## INSCRIPTION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

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TRANSLATED BY

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THIS text is inscribed on the cylinders which were found at Senkereh in the ruins of the temple of the Sun, which are now in the British Museum.

The original text of this inscription was published in *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. I., pl. 51.

The inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar relate chiefly to the repairs of temples, which are often given at great length.

If we possessed a single historical inscription of that monarch, it could not fail to cast a strong light on Babylonian history, and perhaps on that of the Jews also. But hitherto the researches of our explorers have been unsuccessful in finding any annals or civil records of his reign, unconnected with the public worship of the temples.



SENKEREH  
INSCRIPTION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

COLUMN I.

- 1 NEBUCHADNEZZAR King of Babylon  
 2 the monarch devout and pious  
 3 worshipper of the Lord of Lords <sup>1</sup>  
 4 restorer of the temples of SAGGATHU and ZIDA  
 5 the noble son of NABOPOLASSAR  
 6 King of Babylon, I am he.  
 7 When the great Lord MARDUK  
 8 the renowned Chief of the gods  
 9 this land and people  
 10 gave unto my rule,  
 11 at that time the temple of Tara  
 12 which is the temple of the SUN at Senkereh <sup>2</sup>  
 13 from extreme old age  
 14 had mouldered into ruin :  
 15 its interior had fallen, and lay scattered about :  
 16 its figures <sup>3</sup> were no longer visible.  
 17 And during my reign the great Lord MARDUK  
 18 that temple  
 19 shook with an earthquake.  
 20 Towards all the four quarters of the heavens it was  
 thrown down  
 21 the earth of the interior had been dug up  
 22 in looking for the figures.  
 23 Then me NEBUCHADNEZZAR King of Babylon  
 24 his chief worshipper  
 25 to restore that temple

<sup>1</sup> The god Marduk.      <sup>2</sup> Senkereh is the modern name of the city.

<sup>3</sup> Idols, or symbolic figures.

## COLUMN II.

1 greatly he commanded me.  
 2 Of its ancient platform <sup>1</sup>  
 3 I made a repair.<sup>2</sup>  
 4 On its ancient platform  
 5 fine earth I broke small,  
 6 and flat bricks I placed thereon.  
 7 Then the temple of Tara, a noble temple,  
 8 the dwelling of the SUN my Lord  
 9 for the SUN dwelling in Tara  
 10 which is within the city of Senkereh,  
 11 the great Lord, my Lord, I built.  
 12 O SUN ! great Lord !  
 13 into the temple of Tara, thy divine dwellingplace  
 14 in joy and gladness  
 15 when thou shalt enter  
 16 the pious works of my hands  
 17 regard with pleasure !  
 18 and a life of prolonged days  
 19 a firm throne  
 20 a long reign  
 21 may thy lips proclaim for me !  
 22 and may the gates and doors, and halls, and apartments  
 23 of the temple of Tara  
 24 which I have built  
 25 with no sparing of expense  
 26 remain recorded in thy book !<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Or foundation of the old temple.

<sup>2</sup> *Akhit.*

<sup>3</sup> The good deeds of the Babylonians were recorded in heaven.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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