

Assyrian Cuneiform Seal discovered in 2025

“The mouths of liars will be silenced”—Psalm 63:11 NIV

Until the 1840’s critics claimed the Bible’s many references to the Assyrians were fictional, because there no external evidence outside of the Bible of an Assyrian kingdom. However, these critics claims were silenced with numerous independent archaeological discoveries supporting the Bible’s record of the Assyrian kingdom.
Archaeological discoveries continually uncover artifacts which support the Bible record as being authentic and true. One headline described a recent sensational find this way:

> *Archaeologists Uncover 2,700-Year-Old Inscription Under the Western Wall on the Temple Mount*

THE 2025 DISCOVERY OF THE ASSYRIAN CUNEIFORM SEAL

Details of this discovery are quoted here in this article.

> *Archaeologists Found an Ancient Tablet Inscribed With an Ominous Royal Threat*

© 2017 Bible Authenticity | BibleAuthenticity.com

> *Death and taxes have always been inevitable, even in the ancient world. Here's what you'll learn when you read this story:*
> *A fragment of a cuneiform seal that's now the first direct evidence of official communication between the kingdoms of Judah and Assyria has emerged at an archaeological site in Israel.*
> *According to the cuneiform writing on the seal, which was meant to summarize a longer document, the king of Assyria demanded that the king of Judah pay his taxes.*
> *The seal is thought to be from the same time period when Assyria conquered Judah and made it a vassal state required to pay tribute to the Assyrian king.—Popular Mechanics, November 3, 2025*

The world super power of 2,700 years ago was the kingdom of Assyria. Like all world super powers, it went out and conquered much territory, and heavily taxed them, including the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Naturally, such treatment is greatly resented, and resisted when possible. Here is the Biblical record of the Assyrian invasion of the kingdom of Judah in about 701 BCE:

"Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them. Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, 'I have done wrong. Turn away from me; whatever *penalty* you give to me I will bear.' So the king of Assyria set *a penalty* on Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. Thus Hezekiah gave *him* all the silver which was found in the house of Yahweh and in the treasuries of the king's house. At that time Hezekiah cut off *the gold from* the doors of the temple of Yahweh and *from* the doorposts, which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria"—2 Kings

© 2017 Bible Authenticity | BibleAuthenticity.com

18:13-14 LSB

The ancient Assyrians couldn't exactly take to the phones like the IRS, making incessant calls demanding that loyal subjects of the kingdom pay their taxes by the deadline, but they did have vaguely threatening clay tablets promising to punish late payments. Some things never change.
Even kings were not exempt from taxes. Between the 8th and 7th centuries B.C.E., also known as the First Temple Period, the Neo-Assyrian empire conquered the southern kingdom of Judah and other adjacent regions, declaring them to be vassal kingdoms under their rule. Kings Hezekiah and Manasseh were the heads of Judah during this period. Ancient texts do not make either sound thrilled to bend the knee.
Hezekiah's refusal to pay tribute to his rival is described in the Bible and led to Assyrian king Sennacherib's forces barging into Judah. While the reluctance of the king to pay his taxes may have not been the only reason behind the Assyrian invasion, it is linked to a 2,700-year-old clay fragment of a royal seal recently unearthed in Jerusalem's Old City at an archaeological site at the Davidson Archaeological Park next to the Western Wall. Overdue taxes were supposed to be paid by the first of the month of Av, the fifth month of the Jewish calendar that is between July and August.
Assyrian accounts of the time revealed that Sennacherib demanded exorbitant tribute payments from Judah after Jerusalem had been crushed. A royal envoy from the Assyrian court, known as a "chariot officer" or "the holder of the reigns," apparently delivered the message with the seal, though both messenger and king go unnamed. The Iron Age fragment is

© 2017 Bible Authenticity | BibleAuthenticity.com

> *only an inch long, but carries a message with the resonance of a booming voice.*
> *"Dear king of Judah," it reads in Akkadian, an ancient language related to Arabic and Hebrew, "send the tribute quickly by the first of Av—and if not, the consequences will be severe."—Popular Mechanics, November 3, 2025*

In order to pay the enormous tax bill to the powerful Assyrian king, Hezekiah resorted to drastic measures, as we can see fro the account:

"Thus Hezekiah gave *him* all the silver which was found in the house of Yahweh and in the treasuries of the king's house. At that time Hezekiah cut off *the gold from* the doors of the temple of Yahweh and *from* the doorposts, which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria"—2 Kings 18:15-17 LSB

> *Archaeologist Ayala Zilberstein of the Israel Antiquities Authority is excavation director at the Davidson site, located west of the Temple Mount, where she and her team have been investigating the remains of a building from the period during which the Judeans became Assyrian vassals. She and her team keep finding other seals and more evidence that suggest high-level administrative business carried out by people involved with the court and the king. It was her colleague Moriah Cohen who identified the seal while sifting through a pile of rubble.*
> *"At first I thought the markings were decorative," she recently told The Jerusalem Post. "Then I realized it was writing, and when I understood it might be cuneiform, I screamed. Everyone ran over. To think I was the first*

© 2017 Bible Authenticity | BibleAuthenticity.com

> *person in 2,700 years to touch it was incredible."*
> *While cuneiform writings on clay tablets and prisms have survived for millennia, there had been no direct evidence of official correspondence between Assyria and Judah until the discovery of this artifact. It was not locally produced. Petrographic analysis revealed that the source of the clay it is made from lies far north of Jerusalem in the Tigris river basin, near Assyria's most powerful cities.*
> *"We have the connection between archeology, history, and science," Assyriologist Peter Zilberg of Bar-Ilan University told The Times of Israel. "This artifact is very, very important in connecting the history of the Land of Israel to the Bible and to the history of the ancient Near East as a whole."*
> *Both the Bible and Assyrian sources say that Hezekiah eventually relented. He later sent a message to the king of Assyria at Lachish, admitting he had done wrong and giving the Assyrians permission to extract payment from him. Hezekiah was fined 300 silver talents and 30 gold talents for his tax delinquency. Even back then, this is what happened if you didn't pay your taxes.—Popular Mechanics, November 3, 2025*

CONCLUSION

"All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever"—1 Peter 1:24-25 NIV

The scripture above contrasts perishable things with the permanence of word of God. While the Bible stands on its own, and doesn't need any independent confirmation that it is **"the word of God" (2 Thessalonians 2:13),** there is a super-abundant wealth of external

© 2017 Bible Authenticity | BibleAuthenticity.com

archaeological and historical support available for anyone who wishes to check the authenticity of the Bible. In contrast to other sacred religious works, such as the Book of Mormon, the more time marches on, and new discoveries are made, the proof of the Bible's authenticity grows ever stronger. This recently discovered Assyrian cuneiform seal, is just one more evidence of that!

For more information about the authenticity of the Bible, please see:

https://bibleauthenticity.com/old-covenant-lan…covenant-reality/

Please also see:

https://bibleauthenticity.com/ahaz-king-of-jud…am-authenticated/

> *The Book of Esther – History or Fiction?*

© 2017 Bible Authenticity | BibleAuthenticity.com