to persuade the inhabitants of Jerusalem to surrender against the will of Hezekiah, is generally completely ignored. However, we have known for some time that this may be historically in its nucleolus very accurate, since the Assyrians made similar efforts to save their troops from the necessity of an expensive and wasteful siege. That this was sometimes their custom is found in is contained in an Assyrian letter found in Kalach (today called Nimrud), probably from the year 731, which tells about the dealings with the inhabitants of Babylon. H.W.F.Saggs published and discussed it in Iraq 17(1955) p.23ff. On page 47 he shows the similarity of the account in 2 Kings 18f. Unfortunately part of the letter has been very poorly preserved, and also it may not have been copied entirely correctly. I have had no opportunity to examine it personally. All I can do here is to get a translation of the understandable part and in parentheses to place the transcription which I read differently than Saggs. In

(1) To my lord the king (2) your servant [Sama] s -bunaga (and) y Though the grouponied, acrime, Nabu-etir (3) May everything go well with my lord the king; (4) Nabu (and) inf redeeded his desploy Marduk may they bless my lord the king! (5) On the 28th we went to Babylon house of his dervant lawid: (6) (and) took our place in front of the Marduk Gate (7) We spoke with (issi!) nave burn since the world begin: a Babylonian. (8) [. . .]. nu, a servant of Ukinzer (9) A Chaldean man was ing of all that he to her with him (i-se!-e!su) -, (10) they came out (and) stood with Babylonians (11) :inpreves vior pid rodarno; in front of the gate. We spoke as follows (12) to the Babylonians: (13) "The lerevileh gried e dati jep com êmrig biber en dati smalling rid evies in in selmone such to hand out to dro

In adliness and righteoweness before him, sil the

but thou, onlid, shall be called the propert of the

deye of our life.

.oospo

¹ Ukin-zer was king of Babylon for barely three years,732-730.

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remination of their sina, Through the tender mercy of our God; warreby the dayoring from on high heth visited us, to give light to them that sit in deriment of to you out out tool out out of the other to Luke 1:67-73