

after six years, in fact, he found that the tribute was just too heavy a load for his country to bear and he revolted, and this time when the people revolted they knew if the Assyrians conquered them now they would be absolutely unsparing with them and therefore they fought to the very utmost and it took a three-year siege to conquer Samaria this time so there were the two conquests of the land of Israel but so far as we know only the one seige of the city of Samaria. Well now this king Sargon is not named in the Bible except in the one place in Isaiah in the 20th chapter and the first verse. Our inscriptions show that he was a very powerful and successful ruler. He reigned from 722 to 705, but the actual name is mentioned only of course in this one place in the Bible. Now Sargon, who is generally called Sargon II although Sargon I is many centuries earlier, so many that there isn't a great deal of need of using the number, Sargon II was succeeded by his son Sennacherib. Sennacherib became king in 705 and reigned until 681. S e n n a c h e r i b, mentioned more times in the Bible, perhaps, than any other Assyrian king. Sennacherib inherited the situation in which the northern kingdom had been overcome and the southern kingdom was right next to it, and Sennacherib set out to conquer the southern kingdom too. He was a powerful ruler, a successful conqueror, he conquered many territories, he conquered many cities much/more powerful than the city of Jerusalem and therefore it is quite surprising when we read in his annals, "As to Hezekiah the Judean who had not submitted to my yoke, forty-six of his strongholds, fortified cities and smaller cities of the environs without number were the onset of battering rams and the attacks of engines, mines, and axes, I besieged, I captured. 200,150 people, small and great, male and female, horses, mules, asses, camels, oxen and sheep without number I brought out of their midst and county as booty. He himself I shut up like a caged bird in Jerusalem, his capital city. He shut him up like a caged bird in Jerusalem. It sounds pretty small. I don't remember any other case in the Assyrian records where they think it is something to boast about that they shut a king up like a bird in a cage in his capital city. Every other