

~**BEN-HADAD 3 (149)**

(Ben-ha'dad) [Son of Hadad]

.. **Ben-hadad in Ancient Inscriptions**

- The son of Hazael, king of Syria.
- And Yehowah's anger became hot against Israel, so that he gave them into the hand of Hazael the king of Syria and into the hand of **Ben-hadad** the son of Hazael all their days. (**2 Kings 13:3**)
- **Ben-hadad III** was evidently associated with his father in the oppression of Israel in the days of Jehoahaz **876-860 B.C.E.**, and in the Syrian capture of Israelite cities. Yehowah, however, raised up a savior for Israel, apparently in the persons of Jehoahaz son Jehoash circa **859-845 B.C.E.**, and his successor Jeroboam II circa **844-804 B.C.E.**
- In time Jehoahaz softened the face of Yehowah, so that Yehowah listened to him, for he had seen the oppression upon Israel, because the king of Syria had oppressed them. (**2 Kings 13:4**)
- Consequently Yehowah gave Israel a savior, so that they came out from under the hand of Syria, and the sons of Israel continued to dwell in their homes as formerly. (**2 Kings 13:5**)
- In fulfillment of Elisha's final prophecy, Jehoash recaptured from the hand of **Ben-hadad** the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from the hand of Jehoahaz, defeating the Syrian forces on three occasions.
- And the man of the true God grew indignant at him, hence he said; It was meant to strike five or six times! In that case you would certainly be striking down Syria to the finishing point, but now it is three times that you will strike down Syria. (**2 Kings 13:19**)
- However, Yehowah showed them favor and had mercy upon them and turned to them for the sake of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and he did not want to bring them to ruin, and he did not cast them away from before his face until now. (**2 Kings 13:23**)

- Finally Hazael the king of Syria died, and **Ben-hadad** his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 13:24)
- And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz proceeded to take back again from the hand of **Ben-hadad** the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from the hand of Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Jehoash struck him down, and he got to recover the cities of Israel. (2 Kings 13:25)
- Jeroboam II followed up his father's victories over Syria, returning Israel's boundaries to their former state, thus serving as a savior for Israel.
- In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Jehoash the king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Jehoash the king of Israel became king in Samaria for forty-one years. (2 Kings 14:23)
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, with which he caused Israel to sin. (2 Kings 14:24)
- He it was that restored the boundary of Israel from the entering in of Hamath clear to the sea of the Arabah, according to the word of Yehowah the God of Israel who spoke by means of his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet that was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kings 14:25)
- For Yehowah had seen the very bitter affliction of Israel. There was neither any helpless one nor any worthless one, nor was there a helper for Israel. (2 Kings 14:26)
- And Yehowah had promised not to wipe out the name of Israel from under the heavens. Consequently he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Jehoash. (2 Kings 14:27)
- **Ben-hadad III** is not mentioned in connection with Jeroboam's conquests and may not have been living by that time.
- The expression the dwelling towers of **Ben-hadad**, used by the prophet Amos, who prophesied during Jeroboam II's reign to refer to the royal palaces in Damascus
- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Damascus, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on

account of their threshing Gilead even with iron threshing instruments. (**Amos 1:3**)

- And I will send a fire onto the house of Hazael, and it must devour the dwelling towers of **Ben-hadad**. (**Amos 1:4**)
- And I will break the bar of Damascus and cut off the inhabitant from Bikath-aven, and the holder of the scepter from Beth-eden, and the people of Syria will have to go as exiles to Kir, Yehowah has said. (**Amos 1:5**)
- At that the king of Assyria listened to him and the king of Assyria went up to Damascus and captured it and led its people into exile at Kir, and Rezin he put to death. (**2 Kings 16:9**)
- Continued to be used in a similar way by Jeremiah some two centuries later.
- For Damascus! Hamath and Arpad have become ashamed, for it is a bad report that they have heard. They have disintegrated. In the sea there is anxious care. It is not able to keep undisturbed. (**Jeremiah 49:23**)
- Damascus has lost courage. She has turned to flee, and sheer panic has seized her. Distress and birth pangs themselves have taken hold of her, as with a woman that is giving birth. (**Jeremiah 49:24**)
- How is it that the city of praise has not been abandoned, the town of exultation? (**Jeremiah 49:25**)
- Therefore her young men will fall in her public squares, and all the men of war themselves will be brought to silence in that day, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. (**Jeremiah 49:26**)
- And I will set a fire ablaze on the wall of Damascus, and it will certainly devour the dwelling towers of **Ben-hadad**. (**Jeremiah 49:27**)

•• Ben-hadad in Ancient Inscriptions

- An inscription of Shalmaneser III, after relating a conflict with the Syrians, states: **Hadadezer, himself perished. Hazael, a commoner literally, son of nobody, seized the throne.** [**Ancient Near Eastern Texts,**

edited by J. Pritchard, 1974, p. 280] Thus, Ben-hadad II appears to be called **Hadadezer**, **Assyrian**, *Adad-idri*, by Shalmaneser III.

- The Zakir Stele describes a punitive effort launched by **Barhadad**, the son of Hazael, king of Aram, at the head of a coalition of Syrian kings against Zakir, king of Hamat and Luath, thereby adding archaeological testimony to the existence of **Ben-hadad III**, son of Hazael. [Ancient Near Eastern Texts, p. 655]

- A stele, known as the Melqart Stele, was found in **1940 C.E.**; about 6 kilometers (3.5 miles) North of Aleppo in northern Syria, and although the inscription is not entirely legible, it reads in part: **A stela set up by Barhadad, for his Lord Melqart.** [Ancient Near Eastern Texts, p. 655] Whether this **Barhadad** should be identified with **Ben-hadad I, II, III**, or some other **Ben-hadad** is uncertain.