

## ~TARTAN (82) (Tar'tan)

- Assyrian writings indicate that the title **Tartan** applied to an officer of high rank, probably second only to the king. Concerning the order of the titles in Assyrian eponym lists, **James B. Pritchard**, editor of **Ancient Near Eastern Texts [1974, p. 274]**, comments:
- Later on, the position of the official within the hierarchy was decisive for the sequence, the highest official, *tartanu*, following the king immediately, while important palace officers and the governor's of the foremost provinces took their turn in well-established order.
- Lists an inscription by Assyrian King Ashurbanipal, now in the British Museum, reads, in part: I became very angry on account of these happenings, my soul was aflame. I called the *turtan*, official, the governor's, and also their assistants and gave immediately the order. **[Ancient Near Eastern Texts, p. 296]**
- King Sennacherib sent the **Tartan** along with other officials, including the Rabshakeh, the king's chief cupbearer who acted as spokesman, to deliver an ultimatum of capitulation to Jerusalem. The **Tartan** is listed first, possibly because his was the superior position.
- And the king of Assyria proceeded to send Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah with a heavy military force to Jerusalem, that they might go up and come to Jerusalem. So they went up and came and stood still by the conduit of the upper pool, which is at the highway of the laundryman's field. (**2 Kings 18:17**)
- And Rabshakeh continued to stand and call out in a loud voice in the Jews language, and he went on to speak and say; Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria. (**2 Kings 18:28**)
- This is what the king has said; Do not let Hezekiah deceive you people, for he is not able to deliver you out of my hand. (**2 Kings 18:29**)
- And do not let Hezekiah cause you to trust in Yehowah, saying; Without fail Yehowah will deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. (**2 Kings 18:30**)

- **Do not listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria has said; Make a capitulation to me, and come out to me, and eat each one from his own vine and each one from his own fig tree and drink each one the water of his own cistern. (2 Kings 18:31)**
- **Until I come and I actually take you to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil-olive trees and honey, and keep living that you may not die. And do not listen to Hezekiah, for he allures you, saying; Yehowah himself will deliver us. (2 Kings 18:32)**
- **Have the gods of the nations at all delivered each one his own land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? (2 Kings 18:33)**
- **Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? (2 Kings 18:34)**
- **Who are there among all the gods of the lands that have delivered their land out of my hand, so that Yehowah should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand? (2 Kings 18:35)**
- **A Tartan was sent by King Sargon II of Assyria to besiege the city of Ashdod, in the days of Isaiah the prophet.**
- **In the year that Tartan came to Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him, and he proceeded to war against Ashdod and to capture it. (Isaiah 20:1)**

**See Also CHRONOLOGY (Eponym or limmu)**