

A detailed painting of a prophet, likely a scribe or seer, with a long white beard and hair, wearing a brown robe. He is seated at a desk, writing on a large, unrolled scroll with a quill pen. The scene is dimly lit, with a small clay cup of ink on the desk to the right. The background is dark and indistinct.

# Listening to the Prophets- Part 2

Chapter 4  
Jonah  
760 B.C.

Mervin W. Tapsfield

<http://newjerusalemcommunity.blogspot.com/2011/05/old-testament-prophets.html>

# Introduction-Ryrie

- Some regard the book of Jonah as an allegory written around 430 B.C.



<http://theviewfrommychair.blogspot.com/2015/07/jonah-reluctant-evangelist.html>

- This view would state:
  - Jonah represented disobedient Israel.
  - The sea represented the Gentiles.
  - The great fish represented Babylon.
  - Jonah's three days in the fish's belly symbolized the Babylonian captivity.



<http://theviewfrommychair.blogspot.com/2015/07/jonah-reluctant-evangelist.html>

- 2 Kings 14:25 states Jonah was a real person and was a prophet from Gath-hepher near Nazareth. [ ]
- The Pharisees stated that no prophet came from Galilee (John 7:52).[ ] However, Jonah came from that region (2 Kings 14:25).



<http://www.biblediscovered.com/biblical-maps/kingdoms-of-israel-and-judah-map/>

- Jesus treated Jonah's experience as factual (Matthew 12:38-41). [ ]
- Jonah lived during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 B.C.) as stated in 2 Kings 14:27. [ ]



<http://www.bibleisdiscovered.com/biblical-maps/kingdoms-of-israel-and-judah-map/>

- Jeroboam II reigned over Israel (north of Judah-see map above) previously controlled by King David and King Solomon.

- To date, archaeologists have not found any Assyrian inscription mentioning a religious awakening such as described in the book of Jonah

Jeroboam II

Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad
Rehoboam	1 Kings 11-14	BAD	Jeroboam I	1 Kings 12-14	BAD
Abijam	1 Kings 14-15	BAD	Nadab	1 Kings 15	BAD
Asa	1 Kings 15	Good	Baasha	1 Kings 15-16	BAD
			Tahash	1 Kings 16	BAD
			Zimri	1 Kings 16	BAD
			Tibhath	1 Kings 16	BAD
Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22	Good	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22	BAD
Jehoram	2 Kings 8	BAD	Jehoram	2 Kings 1	BAD
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8-9	BAD	Jehu	2 Kings 3-9	BAD
Athaliah	2 Kings 11	BAD	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 9-10	BAD
Joash	2 Kings 11-12	Good	Jehoash	2 Kings 13-14	BAD
Amaziah	2 Kings 14	Good	<b>Jeroboam II</b>	2 Kings 14	BAD
Azariah	2 Kings 15	Good	Zechariah	2 Kings 14-15	BAD
Jotham	2 Kings 15	Good	Shallum	2 Kings 15	BAD
			Menahem	2 Kings 15	BAD
			Pekahiah	2 Kings 15	BAD
Ahaz	2 Kings 16	BAD	Pekah	2 Kings 15	BAD
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18-20	Good	Hoshea	2 Kings 15-17	BAD
Manasseh	2 Kings 21	BAD	Assyrian Captivity - No return		
Amon	2 Kings 21	BAD			
Josiah	2 Kings 21-23	Good			
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23	BAD			
Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23	BAD			
Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24	BAD			
Zedekiah	2 Kings 24-25	BAD			
Babylonian Captivity - 70 years					
Restored from Captivity					

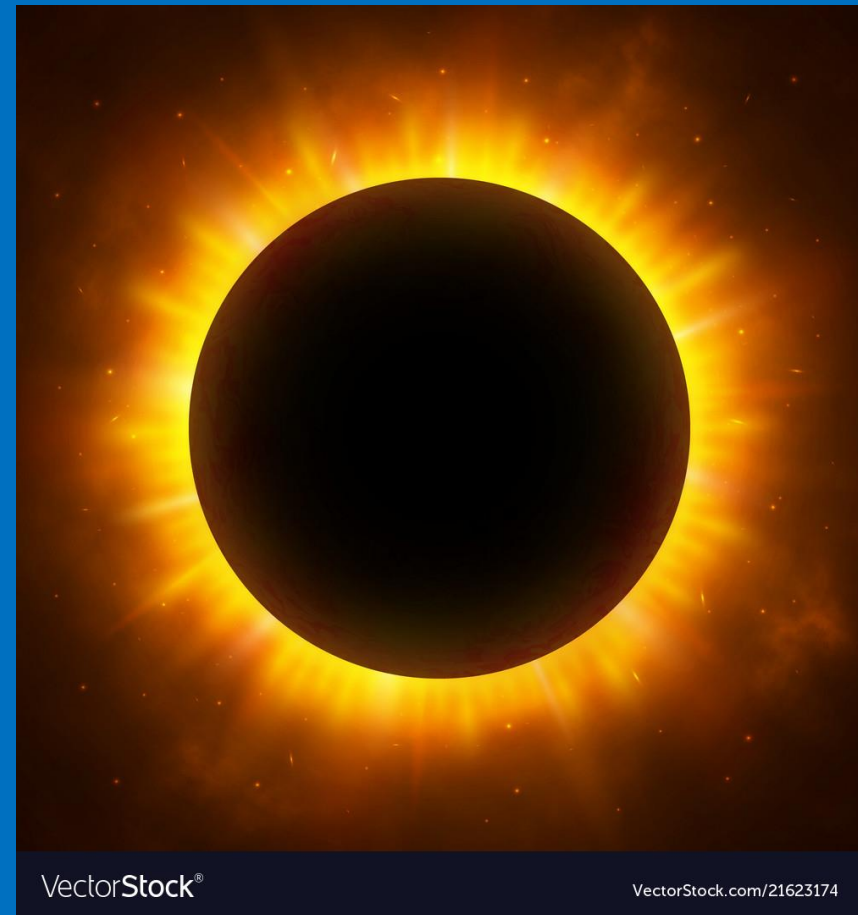
  

General Chronological Line-up of Prophets to Kings					
Prophet	Est. Year BC	From/To	Period	Address	
Obadiah	848	841	Pre-Exile	Edom	
Joel	835	835	Pre-Exile	Judah	
Jonah	782	753	Pre-Exile	Assyria	
Amos	760	753	Pre-Exile	Israel	
Hosea	755	715	Pre-Exile	Israel	
Isaiah	740	680	Pre-Exile	Judah	
Micah	735	700	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Nahum	664	654	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Assyria	
Zephaniah	632	628	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Jeremiah	627	580	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Habakkuk	609	605	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Daniel	605	535	Judah also in Exile	Judah	
Ezekiel	593	571	Judah also in Exile	Judah	
Haggai	520	520	Post-Exile	Returned Jews	
Zechariah	520	480	Post-Exile	Returned Jews	
Malachi	432	424	Post-Exile	Returned Jews	

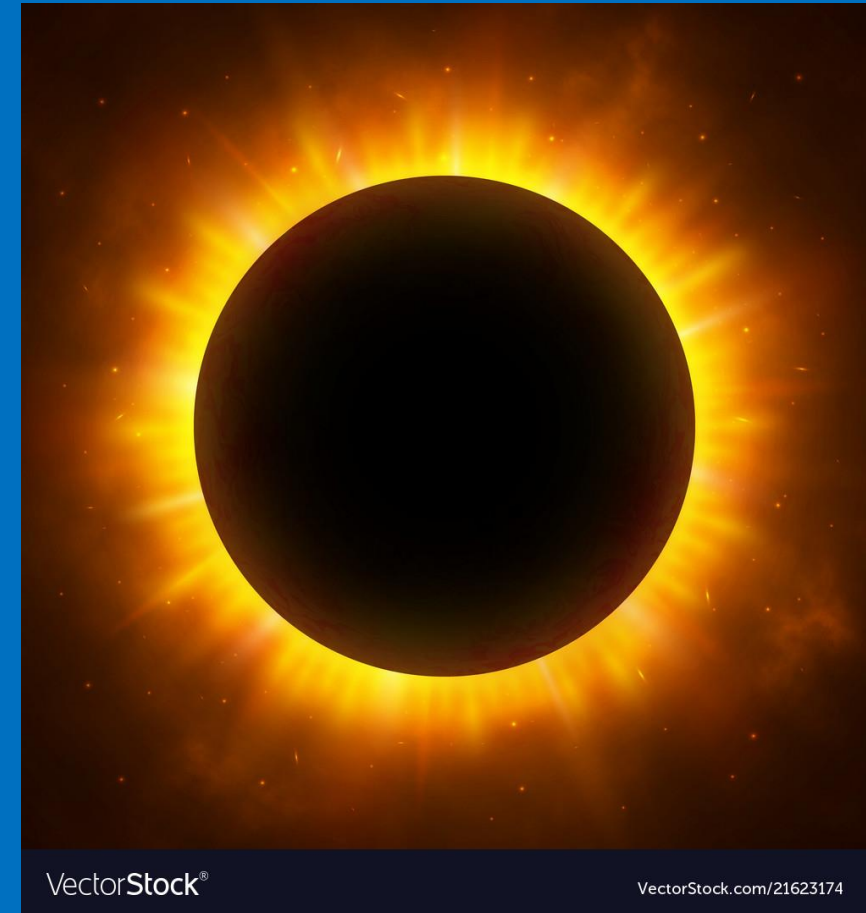
Followed by 400 "Silent Years" between the OT & NT, then the life of Christ & Apostles, followed by the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and organized nation in 70 A.D.

<https://visalettersapplication.com/>

- There was:
  - A plague in 765 B.C.
  - A total eclipse of the sun in 763 B.C.
  - A second plague in 759 B.C.



- Ancients regarded these events as evidence of divine judgment and could have prepared the people to receive Jonah's message.



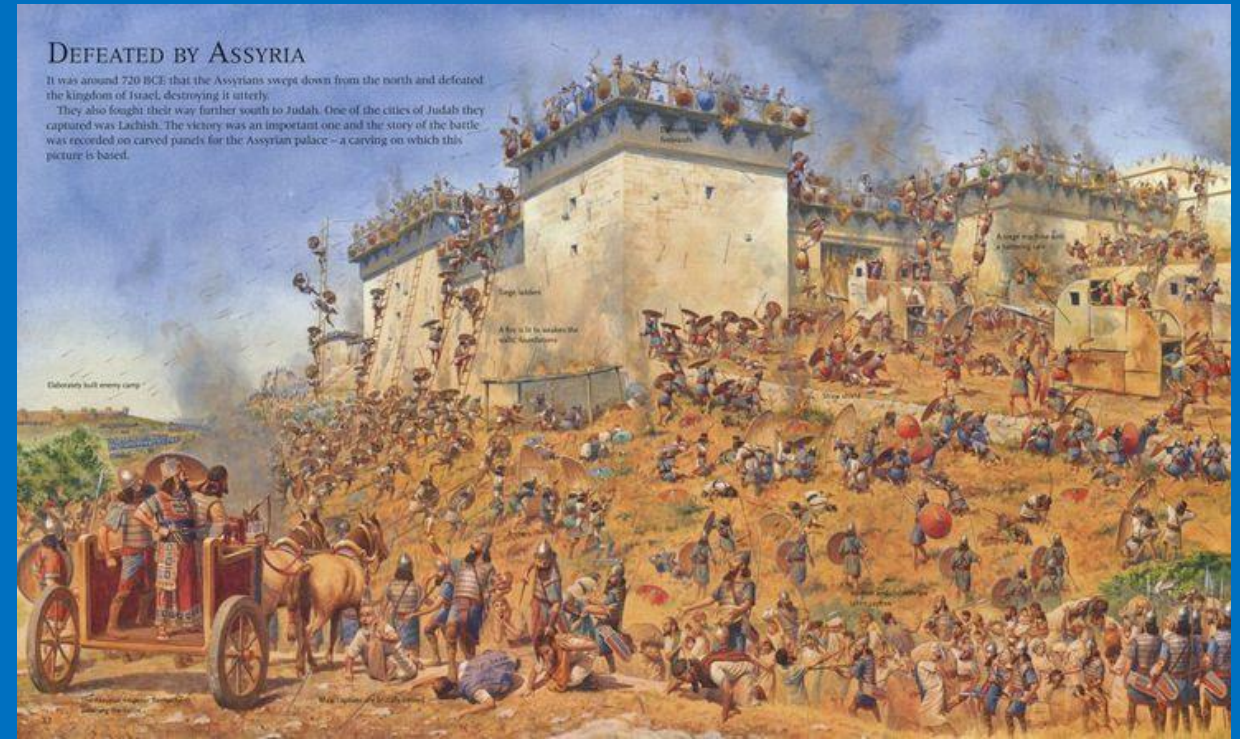


- Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, conquered Israel in 722 B.C.
- This conquest occurred approximately 38 years after Jonah preached to Nineveh.
- Nineveh's revival did not last long (Matthew 13:20-21). [ ]



<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/117/neo-assyrian-empire/>

- Israel's captivity took place during the seventh year of King Hoshea [Ho-sha-a], King of Israel, and the fourth year of godly King Hezekiah, King of Judah.
- King Shalmaneser laid siege against Samaria for three years.
- After three years, Samaria fell (722 B.C.).



<https://www.pinterest.com/ideas/>

- Sennacherib became King of Assyria in 705 B.C.
- In 701 B.C., Sennacherib captured the cities of Judah and threatened to capture Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:13-19, 37; Isaiah 36-37). [ ]
- God miraculously saved Judah and King Hezekiah.



<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/117/neo-assyrian-empire/>

- An angel of the Lord destroyed Sennacherib's army of 185,000 soldiers.
- After returning home, the Ninevites **murdered** Sennacherib.
- Babylon eventually became the next major empire during the 7<sup>th</sup> century.



# Chapter 1

- **Nineveh** was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire and well-fortified.
- God instructed Jonah to preach against the city due to its **wickedness** (1:1-2). [ ] [ ]
- For whatever reason, Jonah decided to flee the Lord's presence and sail to **Tarshish**.



<https://shawnethomas.com/2022/09/25/lifeway-explore-the-bible-jonah-115-210-no-escape/>

- Tarshish was on the southern tip of Spain near Gibraltar.
- God caused a storm and Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard.
- A great fish swallowed Jonah and the storm subsided (1:8-17). [ ]
- Jesus referenced this event in Matthew 12:40. [ ]



alamy

Image ID: DF95M6  
www.alamy.com

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/nineveh-ancient-assyrian.html?sortBy=relevant>

# Chapter 2

- Jonah stayed in the fish's belly for **three** days.
- Jonah prayed to God for deliverance.
- God reminded Jonah He would restore those who looked toward the holy temple (2:4; 1 Kings 8:44-50). [ ]
- Verse 10 states the fish vomited Jonah up onto the dry land. [ ]



<https://shawnetomas.com/2022/09/25/lifeway-explore-the-bible-jonah-115-210-no-escape/>

## Chapter 3

- God told Jonah a second time to go and preach to Nineveh.
- It took about three days to walk around the perimeter of Nineveh (approximately 60 miles-3:1-3) [ ]



<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/nineveh-0010595>



- Jonah told the people of Nineveh that God would destroy the city within 40 days if they did not repent (3:4). [ ]
- The king and the people repented, and God did not bring calamity upon the city (3:10). [ ]



<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/nineveh-0010595>

## Chapter 4

- Jonah became angry with God for not destroying Nineveh.
- Nevertheless, the people of Nineveh believed in Jonah's words and repented.



<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/nineveh-0010595>

- Jonah sulked (4:2-3). [ ]
- God gave Jonah an object lesson by providing him with a plant that gave shade during the day. [ ]



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/26740191516254273/>

- The plant withered and Jonah became bitter.
- God reminded Jonah that He loved all people and His compassion for them was much greater than Jonah's compassion for the plant (4:10-11). [ ]



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/26740191516254273/>

- Summary

- Pride often hinders God's best for us.
- We can become so concerned about our reputation that we stop relying upon God.
- Due to Jonah's reputation, he lost sight of God's compassion for the people of Nineveh.
- We must stay focused on God's priorities and less focused upon our own wants.
  
- Over---

- God desires blessings for us.
- Do not hinder God's plan by selfishly demanding justice.
- Anger, hate, and a desire for revenge can destroy God's plan for humanity.
- God knows our needs and will take care of us in unimaginable ways.

End---

## 2 Kings 14:25

25 He (Jeroboam II) restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. [ ]

John 7:52

They answered and said to him, “You are not from Galilee as well, are you? Examine the Scriptures, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.” [ ]



## Matthew 12:38-41

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign; and so no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet; 40 for just as Jonah was in the stomach of the sea monster for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

Over---

41 The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. [ ]

2 Kings 14:27

27 Yet the Lord did not say that He would wipe out the name of Israel from under heaven, but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. [ ]

## 2 Kings 18:13-19, 37

13 Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria marched against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them. 14 Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent messengers to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will endure." So the king of Assyria imposed on Hezekiah king of Judah the payment of three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

Over---

15 Hezekiah then gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king's house. 16 At that time Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord, and from the doorposts, which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and he gave it to the king of Assyria. 17 Then the king of Assyria sent Tartan, Rab-saris, and Rabshakeh [*Rab-sha-ka*] from Lachish [*La-kish*] to King Hezekiah with a large army to Jerusalem. So they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they went up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the road of the fuller's field.

Over---

18 Then they called to the king, and Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the secretary, went out to them. 19 And Rabshakeh said to them, “Say now to Hezekiah, ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria says: “What is this confidence that you have? [ ]

## Jonah 1:1-2

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, [A-me-ti] saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it, because their wickedness has come up before Me.” [ ]

## Jonah 1:8-17

8 Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this catastrophe struck us? What is your occupation, and where do you come from? What is your country, and from what people are you?” 9 So he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”

Over---



10 Then the men became extremely afraid, and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. 11 So they said to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. 12 And he said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, because I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”

Over---

13 However, the men rowed desperately to return to land, but they could not, because the sea was becoming even stormier against them. 14 Then they cried out to the Lord and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life, and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, Lord, have done as You pleased.” 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

Over---

16 Then the men became extremely afraid of the Lord,  
and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. 17  
And the Lord designated a great fish to swallow Jonah,  
and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days  
and three nights. [ ]

## Matthew 12:40

40 for just as Jonah was in the stomach of the sea monster for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

[ ]

Jonah 2:4

4“So I said, ‘I have been cast out of Your sight.  
Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’

1 Kings 8:44-50

44 “When Your people go out to battle against their enemy,  
by whatever way You send them, and they pray to the Lord  
toward the city which You have chosen and the house  
which I have built for Your name, 45 then hear in heaven  
their prayer and their pleading, and maintain their cause.

Over---

46 “When they sin against You (for there is no person who does not sin) and You are angry with them and turn them over to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, distant or near; 47 if they take it to heart in the land where they have been taken captive, and repent and implore Your favor in the land of those who have taken them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have acted wickedly’; Over---

48 if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who have taken them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You have given to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name; 49 then hear their prayer and their pleading in heaven, Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, 50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all their wrongdoings which they have committed against You, and make them objects of compassion before those who have taken them captive, so that they will have compassion on them... [ ]

Jonah 2:10

10 Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land. [ ]



## Jonah 3:1-3

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.” 3 So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk. [ ]

## Jonah 3:4

4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown." [ ]

## Jonah 3:10

10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their evil way, then God relented of the disaster which He had declared He would bring on them. So He did not do it. [ ]

## Jonah 4:2-3

2 Then he prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was this not what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore in anticipation of this I fled to Tarshish, since I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in mercy, and One who relents of disaster. 3 So now, Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.” [ ]

## Jonah 4:6-7

6 So the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. [ ]

## Jonah 4:10-11

10 Then the Lord said, “You had compassion on the plant, for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. 11 Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 people, who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left, as well as many animals?” [∗]

## Matthew 13:20-21

20 The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. [ ]

The Assyrians created tablets that showed them torturing their enemies to let the next city know what was coming. These showed them skinning their victims alive, blinding them, and impaling them on stakes. One Assyrian King, named Ashurnasirpal II, has left a whole series of these tablets behind, and the descriptions are positively terrifying. “I flayed many right through my land and draped their skins over the walls,” he boasts in one.

Over---



- “I burned their adolescent boys and girls . . . . A pillar of heads I erected in front of the city.” By the time their armies reached your walls, these stories would have spread. Every person watching their chariots approach would know that, compared to the fate the Assyrian army brought, death would be a relief. [ ]

By Mark Oliver

<https://listverse.com/2016/12/07/10-horrors-of-being-invaded-by-the-assyrian-army/>