

took him captive and the Assyrian records do not describe the particular incident. Esarhaddon says "I overthrew the kings of the Hittite country and those beyond the sea, Baal, king of Tyre, Manasseh, king of Juda, etc....."

It may easily be that this statement of Esarhaddon's refers to having taken Manasseh captive and carried him a prisoner. Events recorded in the annals show that Sennacherib, the father of Esarhaddon, had been very hostile to Babylon. Esarhaddon, on the contrary, was greatly attached to the famous old city, which liked to regard itself as equal, if not superior, to Nineveh in every way. He entirely reversed the attitude of his father and lavished attentions upon Babylon. He had himself crowned king of Babylon, in addition to being king of Nineveh. It would be very natural for him to take Manasseh captive to Babylon instead of to Nineveh. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that it was Assurbanipal who took Manasseh captive. In that case, the situation is easily explained from the incidents of Assurbanipal's reign.

Before Esarhaddon's death, he established Assurbanipal as king of Nineveh and successor in the supreme command of the Assyrian Empire. But he made a very unfortunate arrangement by placing another son, Shamash-shum-ukin as king of Babylon and subject only to Assurbanipal. For a number of years this arrangement seemed to work, but Shamash-shum-ukin soon came to desire to be supreme himself. The people of Babylon who regarded their city as the leading city of the world and Nineveh as only a military upstart, very inferior in culture and prestige to Babylon, desired to establish Babylon as also politically supreme and supported Shamash-shum-ukin in rebellion against his brother. Careful plans were laid. The kings of all the neighboring countries and even kings far to the west were persuaded to join in the revolt. It took a number of years for Assurbanipal to conquer