

The Black Obelisk

I am King S _ _ _ _ _ of the powerful country of Assyria. We laid siege to Israel for years and demanded tribute from the kings of Israel.

Some of the kings of Israel tried to avoid paying tribute to us. We had enough of this and in 722 B.C. Assyria conquered Israel and deported the people, leading them off to Assyria with fish hooks in their noses and lips.

The ten northern tribes that made up Israel became mixed breeds with Assyrians and people from bordering countries. Eventually, the old kingdom of Israel became known as Samaria. The people of Samaria were despised by the Jews.



The photograph on the left is a panel from a much larger (and taller) obelisk. The original is in the British Museum in London, England.

This section of the Black Obelisk shows King Jehu of Israel paying tribute to King Shalmaneser of Assyria. So far, this is the first likeness found of any king of Israel or Judah.

Some Bible References: 2 Kings 17:3-6; 18:9-11