

Tiglath-pileser III burst onto the stage of history in 745 BCE, founding the exceptionally aggressive, efficient but ruthless neo-Assyrian Empire. At his death 18 years later, Assyrian armies were well on their way to subduing vast provinces and vassal-states, extending from the Taurus mountains of Turkey to Israel and beyond. The Empire's harsh policy of massive, forced deportation (II Kings 17:6,24) uprooted long-established cultures and changed the face of the ancient Near East.



In the wake of the brutal warriors who carved out the Empire, came the royal scribes who carved the official records of Tiglath-pileser's campaigns on the walls of his palace at Calah. First discovered by Austin Layard in 1845, most of the slabs themselves, and the paper casts made from them, have been lost; and attempts at reconstructing the original texts and the history of this tumultuous era from Layard's lithographs have been notoriously flawed.

After almost three decades of painstaking research, Prof. Hayim Tadmor has successfully reconstructed the texts from the relatively unknown cuneiform manuscripts prepared by Layard at the site, and from transcriptions by early researchers who had access to some of the original materials. His work also benefitted from recent advances in Assyriology and the discovery of additional related inscriptions elsewhere.

Published by the Israel Academy Press in an attractive clothbound, 320-page volume, **The Inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser III, King of Assyria**, is already being hailed as a major landmark in modern Assyriology. The definitive Akkadian text is accompanied by a lucid English translation, critical apparatus and extensive historical and philological commentary. Copious introductory material and beautifully reproduced plates enliven this thorough, scholarly glimpse at the beginnings of the Empire that subdued the last kings of ancient Israel, several of whom – Menahem, Pekah and Hoshea – are mentioned in the inscriptions themselves.

Copies of the book may be purchased directly from the Israel Academy Press.

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The Foundation can be reached at: **The American Foundation for Basic Research in Israel (AFBRI)**
c/o PDA, 25 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10136
Phone: (212) 840-1166 Fax: (212) 840-1514

Editorial Board: Prof. J. Jortner, Prof. J. Ziv,
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