

## INSCRIPTION OF NERIGLISSAR.

BY THE

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NERIGLISSAR, or Nergal-sar-uzur (*i.e.*, "Nergal protects the King") was the son of Bel-sum-iskun and succeeded Evil-Merodach on the throne of Babylon, where he reigned from B.C. 559 to B.C. 550. In the Canon of Ptolemy the name occurs as Nerigasolasaros, and it is also found in the prophet Jeremiah<sup>1</sup> among the names of other Babylonian officers of high rank.

Nergal, according to Dr. Oppert, *Exp. Mes.* ii., 324, is the planet Mars, called Nerig by the Sabæans. In 2 Kings xvii. 30 we read that the Cuthæans worshipped this Nergal. Now as the Cuneiform inscrip-

<sup>1</sup> Jer. xxxix. 3, 13.

tions show that the Lion god, under the name of Nergal, was worshipped at Tiggabba, a name which interchanges with Kuti, = Cutha, we have before us, in this fact, a remarkable confirmation of the accuracy of the writer of the Book of Kings. The passages are quoted by Mr. Norris, *Assyr. Dict.* Vol. I., p. 46.

The terra cotta Cylinder of which a translation is here given is preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and was brought from the Ruins of Babylon by Mr. Layard. The Cuneiform text is printed in Vol. I., p. 67 of the British Museum Series of *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*.



## INSCRIPTION OF NERIGLISSAR.

## COLUMN I.

- 1 NERIGLISSAR King of Babylon,  
 2 restorer of Bit-Saggatu and Bit Zida,<sup>1</sup>  
 3 builder of holy places,  
 4 whom, in order to make his kingdom durable  
 5 the great gods have stablished in power :  
 6 MERODACH, powerful among the gods, determiner of  
 destinies,  
 7 for supremacy over many lands hath created him,  
 8 (and) hath determined his destiny  
 9 for help (and) progress in abundance hath he made  
 him :  
 10 NEBO, mighty son, a sceptre of righteousness<sup>2</sup>  
 11 hath caused his hand to hold  
 12 for the regulation of men, the benefit of lands :  
 13 The god ABN-RA, mighty among the gods<sup>3</sup> hath fur-  
 nished him his shield<sup>4</sup>  
 14 son of BEL-SUM-ISKUN, King of Babylon am I :  
 15 while MERODACH, great Lord, my ancient ruler,  
 16 land and people to a master hath given :  
 17 I, to MERODACH my Lord, stedfast, unailing,  
 18 the temple of Bit-Saggatu and Bit-Zida to restore

<sup>1</sup> The kings of Babylon constantly style themselves, defenders or restorers of these two temples, which probably were used as observatories as well as places of worship. Dr. Hincks (*Polyphony* p. 21) gives reason for supposing that the Babylonian kings meant to imply by these titles that they were defenders of the civil and military "institutions of the country."

<sup>2</sup> Compare Psalm xlv. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Compare the expression "*el gibbor*" in Isaiah ix. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Compare Psalm xxxv. 1, 2

- 19 directed my course,  
 20 a principal Governor for secure repose ;  
 21 an image of bronze in the niches of the gates of  
     Bit-Saggatu  
 22 (and) ornaments in silver as pediments were firmly  
     raised,  
 23 for the gate of the Sun-rise, the gate of the mighty god  
     of the West, the water gate and the King's gate,  
 24 which no previous King had strengthened,  
 25 now (as) a place for sacrifice, for the worship of the  
     gods, skilfully  
 26 I fashioned, and eight images of strong bronze  
 27 which on wicked men and foes rain down the fear of  
     death,  
 28 with rows of pure silver I caused to overlay ; and  
 29 for the gate of the Sunrise, the gate of the mighty god  
     of the West, the water gate and King's gate  
 30 in the niches of those gates as of yore,  
 31 silver ornaments as pediments  
 32 as its chief embellishment I erected on its foundation  
 33 ornaments of the interior of Bit-Zida  
 34 . . . . . in a circle on that summit  
 35 . . . . . ground, I placed the great temple of MERO-  
     DACH, god of gods :  
 36 . . . . . in its midst I  
 37 . . . . . and solid, of its gates with  
 38 . . . . . in a circle over against it  
 39 . . . . . its doors

[Lines 40—42 are entirely obliterated.]

## COLUMN II.

- 1 in the days of the former king. An abode for my  
 Royalty  
 2 I reared of *Sauiri* wood all around.  
 3 As for me, I restored its ancient site and  
 4 the course of its waters as of old  
 5 to the wall of Bit-Saggatu I directed,  
 6 at the side of the Sun-rise, which the former king had  
 planned, but  
 7 had not built : its arcades  
 8 close by I planned, and with cement and brick  
 9 its arcades I built.  
 10 Waters of fertility not intermitting,  
 11 I secured for the land.  
 12 To Bit-Saggatu and Bit-Zida I am unfailing to raise a  
 place  
 13 an entire strong-hold of the gods for embellishment  
 14 (and) for a steadfast resting place.  
 15 When as the palace the abode of my Royalty  
 16 in the land of Babylon in the midst of Babylon,  
 17 from Aibur-sabu near Babylon  
 18 as far as the neighbourhood of the Euphrates,  
 19 whose foundation a former king had made and  
 arranged  
 20 in the interior for the protection of the temple  
 21 above the bank of the river Euphrates,  
 22 was damaged, and its mass was loosened,—  
 23 its prostrated fragments I put together and  
 24 a depth of water I secured :  
 25 opposite those waters with cement and brick  
 26 its foundation I laid down, and  
 27 I made, I completed (it) and  
 28 reared aloft its summit :

- 29 tall cedars<sup>1</sup> for its roof,  
30 wood for its galleries and awnings I arranged.  
31 O god MERODACH, Great Lord, Lord of the house of  
the gods is his name,  
32 light of the gods, father, even  
33 for thy high honour which changeth not  
34 a house have I built.<sup>2</sup> May its fulness increase !  
35 may it acquire treasures in its midst !  
36 may its tributes augment  
37 from West to East by the rising sun  
38 from the Kings of the nations of all men !  
39 their many tributes  
40 may it receive within (its walls) !  
41 may they come within it for ever !  
42 may their approach copiously prevail !

<sup>1</sup> Compare the material furnished for the erection of Solomon's temple.

<sup>2</sup> Compare 1 Chron. vi. 33.



# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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