

THE OVERTHROW
OF
SODOM AND GOMORRAH.
(ACCADIAN ACCOUNT.)

TRANSLATED BY
REV. A. H. SAYCE, M.A.

THE following Accadian poem describes a rain of fire similar in character and effect to that which destroyed the cities of the plain. It seems merely a fragment of a legend, in which the names of the cities were probably given, and an explanation afforded of the mysterious personage mentioned in line 17, who, like Lot, appears to have escaped destruction. It must not be forgotten that the campaign of Chedorlaomer and his allies was directed against Sodom and the other cities of the plain, so that the existence of the legend among the Accadians

is not so surprising as might appear at first sight. The original Accadian text is given in the tablet as well as the Assyrian translation. Unfortunately only one half of the tablet is perfect. A copy of it will be found in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. IV., 19, 1 *Obv.*



THE

OVERTHROW OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

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- 1 An overthrow¹ from the midst of the deep² there came.
 2 The fated punishment³ from the midst of heaven descended.
 3 A storm like a plummet the earth (overwhelmed).
 4 To the four winds the destroying flood like fire did burn.
 5 The inhabitants of the citie(s) it had caused to be tormented; their bodies it consumed.
 6 In city and country it spread death, and the flames as they rose⁴ overthrew.
 7 Freeman and slave were equal, and the high places it filled.
 8 In heaven and earth like a thunder-storm it had rained; a prey it made.
 9 A place of refuge the gods⁵ hastened to, and in a throng collected.
 10 Its mighty (onset) they fled from, and like a garment it concealed (mankind).
 11 They (feared), and death (overtook them).
 12 (Their) feet and hands (it embraced).

¹ Literally, "sinking down," or "darkness" (Aram. שָׁמַע).

² Not the sea, but "the waters which were above the firmament."

³ Assyrian, "the oath" (*mamitu*).

⁴ Literally, "the goings forth of the flames."

⁵ Assyrian, "their god."

- 13¹
 14 Their body it consumed.
 15¹ the city, its foundations it defiled.
 16¹ in breath, his mouth he filled.
 17 As for this man, a loud voice² was raised; the mighty
 lightning flash descended.
 18 During the day it flashed; grievously (it fell).
¹

¹ Lacunæ.² That is, "the thunder."

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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