

الرد على ادعاء ان خطابات تل العمارنة تثبت خطأ قصة الخروج.

خروج 12 و 13 و 14

Holy_bible_1

الشبهة

لو كانت قصة الخرج صحيحة لكنا وجدناها مكتوبة في رسائل تل العمارنة وهي تقريبا 400 لوحة بين منطقة فلسطين ومصر. ومصر كانت تحتل هذه المنطقة مئات السنين قبل واثناء وبعد الخروج. فلو كان الخروج صحيح لكنا وجدناها وهذا يدل على ان قصة الخروج اسطورة وليس حقيقة.

الرد

الحقيقة لا أعرف من اين اتى المشكك بهذا الادعاء؟

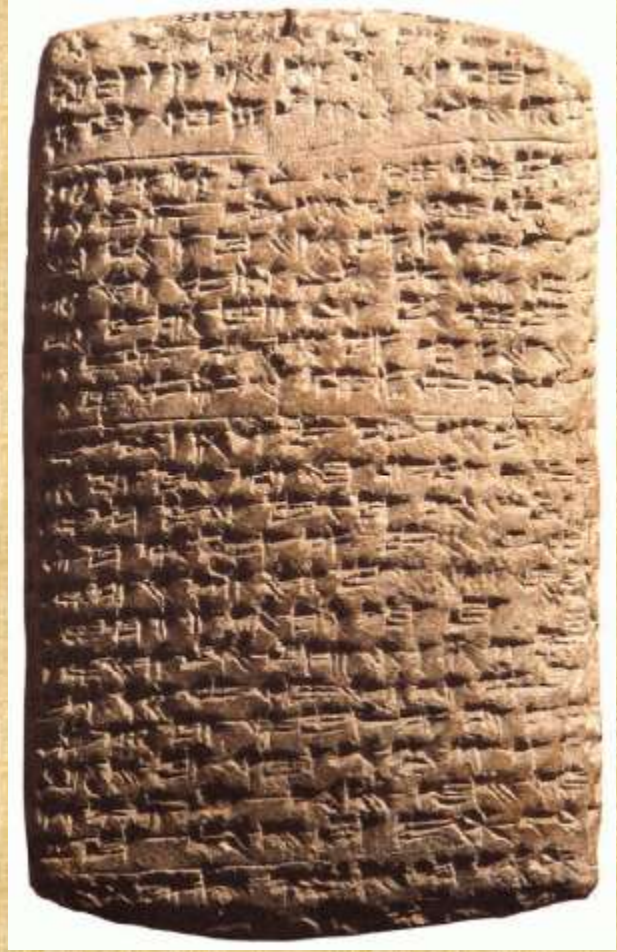
فهل عدم وجود ذكر لحادث تاريخي في رسائل تل العمارنة هذا ينفي حدوثه؟ هل هذا دليل نفي؟

فمن قال اننا اكتشفنا كل رسائل تل العمارنة؟ فكل ما اكتشفناه هو 379 رسالة (وصلت حتى الان الى 382 رسالة تقريبا) من عدد أصلي لا نعرفه. فلا نعرف كم لوحة في الأصل وما تكلمت عنه بقية اللوحات.

هذا يسمى الاعتماد على غياب شيء وأسلوب النفي التي تعتمد على ما لم يذكر انه كتب هو قاعدة منطقية خطأ حتى في علم النقد الكلاسيكي التاريخي لأننا لا نعرف ان كان ذكر ام لا هو فقط لم يوجد فيما اكتشف حتى الان. فافتراض انه لم يكتب ثم الجزم بهذا الفرض ثم استخدام الجزم في نقد شيء هذا مخالف للمنطق. بمعنى تقول ان الخروج لم يذكر. انت تفترض انه لم يذكر لان المكتشف منهم حتى الان لم يذكر هذا الحادث ولكن لم نكتشف كل الرسائل بعد فالاعتماد على هذا الخطأ المنطقي في الاعتراض على ما لم يكتشف في نفي حادث الخروج هو يوضح عدم وجود دليل نفي حقيقي

ثانيا من قال ان هذه الرسائل لم تقدم دليل على الخروج؟ فعندما ندرس سنكتشف ان هذه الرسائل تؤكد الخروج بطريقة قاطعة وليس تنفيه على عكس ما قال المشكك

ولكن قبل تقديم هذا أقدم خلفية سريعة عن رسائل تل العمارنة باختصار شديد



في عام 1885 م قامت إحدى النسوة بالحفر في تلة العمارنة (التل الأثري لأخت أتون العتيقة)

لاستخراج التربة من أجل صناعة الأجر الطيني، وخلال الحفر استخرجت بالصدفة بعض اللوح

المسمارية مكسرة، لقد اعتقد الباحثون في البداية أن كسر هذه اللوح مزورة، لكنه تبين فيما بعد

أنها حقيقية وعبرة عن مراسلات دبلوماسية من عدة ملوك موجهة للملك امنحتب الثالث

وإخناتون، كثير من هذه المراسلات مصدرها ملوك قليلوا الأهمية خاضعين لسياسة فرعون

ويطلبون مساعدته ومشورته

خلال العامين 1891-1892 م تمكن پتري (Flinders Petrie) من كشف الأرشيف الملكي

في مدينة إخت أتون واكتشف المزيد من الرُّقم، حيث وصل عددها المعروف منها 379 لوحة

ويقدمون معلومات عن الحلفاء الآسويين للقصر الملكي. حيث أن أقدم الرسائل يعود لزمان

أمنحوتب الثالث (1396 الى 1358 ق.م). والحديثة تعود لزمان اخناتون (أمنحوتب الرابع)

(1358 الى 1341 ق.م)،

وفي النهاية سأضع بعض الألواح المكتشفة حتى الان التي تؤكد ما أقول.

ولكن ما يهمنا ان هذه الرسائل المكتشف منها حتى الان هو من 1400 ق م الى 1341 ق م

وهي فقط أمور سياسية بين هؤلاء الملوك وفرعون مصر في وقت هذه الرسائل وليس أمور

تاريخية سابقة لهم.

ومن القائمة التي سأضعها لاحقا سنعرف انها بينهم وبين ملوك بابل وقبرص واشور وغيرها

ولكن كما نعرف ان حادثة الخروج تمت سنة 1447 ق م أي قبل هذه الرسائل بمقدار اكثر من

اربعين سنة امتلاك ارض الموعد وحروب يشوع الذي حدث تقريبا سنة 1400 ق م أي في زمن

بداية هذه الرسائل ولكن بقية الرسائل هي في زمن القضاة.

الامر الاخر الذي يعتمد عليه المشككون ان ادعاء ان الخروج كان في سيناء وهذا أيضا خطأ لان

الخروج كان في مديان

ولكن كما قالت من قال ان هذه الرسائل لم تقدم دليل على الخروج؟

الحقيقة هو العكس فهذه الرسائل تؤكد الخروج وزمنه وتؤكد امتلاك يشوع لارض الموعد

شرحت سابقا في ملف

متي خرج موسي وشعب اسرائيل من ارض مصر؟

فقد ورد في أحد هذه الرسائل التي تتحدث عن شعب قدم الى ارض فلسطين اسمه قبل تاريخ الرسائل بقليل وتدعو اللوحات هذا الشعب باسم Habiru(خبيرو) او العبيرو الذي يترجمه العلماء أن هؤلاء هم العبرانيون الذين جاءوا إلى أرض فلسطين قبل هذا التاريخ.

القصة كلها التي بني عليها الشبهة ان بعض من العلماء الملحدون الذين بالفعل يكرهوا الكتاب المقدس ويتمنوا ان يثبتوا انه خطأ حاولوا بكل الطرق الغير امينة ان ينكروا ان تعبير عبيرو هو عن الشعب العبراني رغم ان هذا واضح ومن يجادل فيه هو غير امين.

فلو لم يكن شعب عبيرو هو الشعب العبراني فمن هو شعب عبيرو الذي في فترة 1400 ق م اتى من تيه في البرية وحارب وامتك ارض الموعد مدينة تلو الاخرى؟

ولكي اؤكد ما اقول وان رسائل تل العمارنة تؤكد خروج الشعب العبراني وتيهانهم في البرية 40 سنة ودخولهم ارض الموعد وامتلاكهم لمدن ارض الموعد مدينة تلو الاخرى اقدم بعض اللوحات التي تشهد بهذا نصا

اولهم رسالة 287

هذه الرسالة هي موجودة في متحف برلين حاليا وتقول

جاء شعب شديد المراس من " سكير " يدعون " الخابيرو او الخابري " أي " العابيري " والذين وصفهم الملك الأموري في أورشليم ، بأنهم " قضوا على كل حكام البلاد " ويقول عنهم انهم التائهين , "a wanderer", "one who wanders". أما عبارة " جم جاز gumm gaz) " (التي تعني " رجل الحرب " فقد أطلقت عليهم كما أطلقت على غيرهم من رجال الحرب الأقوياء من البلاد الأخرى.

واسم " العابيري " تسمية جغرافية، لأنهم كانوا يدعون شعب " بلاد العابيري"، أي العبرانيين والحرف الأول من الكلمة " عابيري " قد ينطق " عينًا " أو " خاء ". ويتفق هذا التاريخ مع التاريخ الوارد في العهد القديم لدخول العبرانيين إلى فلسطين . وهذا يؤيد القول بأن " العابيري " الذين هاجموا عجلون ولخيش وأشقون وغيرها من المدن هم العبرانيون،

وهذه هي صورتها



وفيها يقول ملك اورشليم ان العبريين (شعب إسرائيل) يحاولوا اخذ اورشليم. وهذا تقريبا في زمن يشوع وهذا يطابق تماما ان يكون شعب إسرائيل خرج من مصر 1447 ق م ووصلوا بعد التيه في البرية أربعين سنة الى ارض الموعد 1407 ق م وبدوا حروب يشوع وفي هذا التوقيت بدقة

أيضا في رسالة 68 التحذير بان مدينة سومور ستذهب للعبانيين كما قال يشوع 13: 5



نفس الامر في لوحة 76

Amarna Tablet EA76

"From Rib-Hadda
mayor of
Byblos (Geba):
Sumur, your
garrison-city, have
joined the Habiru,
and you have
done nothing.
Send a large
force of archers."

Gebalites: Josh 13:5;
1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

www.bible.ca

Amarna Tablet EA71

From Rib-Hadda **mayor**
of Byblos (Geba):
Abdi-Aširta is a servant
& dog who takes the
king's land for himself.
Through the **Habiru** his
auxiliary force is strong!
Send 100 horses
and 200 men that I may
resist Abdi-Aširta.

www.bible.ca

Gebalites: Josh 13:5;
1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

Amarna Tablet EA73

“From Rib-Hadda
mayor of
Byblos (Geba):
Abdi-Aširta sent
a message to the
men of Ammiya,
‘Kill your city
mayor and join
the Habiru.’”

Gebalites: Josh 13:5; www.bible.ca
1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

Amarna Tablet EA74

"Abdi-Aširta said to
the men of **Ammiya**,
'Kill your leader and
live in peace like us'
They were won over &
the entire country
joined to the **Habiru**.
I am very, very afraid,
since no one will
save me from them.
I, Rib-Hadda, am like
a bird in a trap
in **Byblos**."

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Gebalites: Josh 13:5;
1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

Amarna Tablet EA121

"Rib-Hadda **mayor**
of Byblos, (Geba)
to king of all
countries,
Great King:
Abdi-Asirta has
said to the
Habiru 'Who is
this Rib-Hadda?'
Pharoah,
please send
archers!"

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Gebalites: Josh 13:5; 1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

Amarna Tablet EA88

"From Rib-Hadda
mayor of
Byblos (Geba):
But if the king
does not give
heed to my words,
then Byblos will be
joined to
Abdi-Ašrati,
and all the
lands of the king,
as far as Egypt,
will be joined
to the Habiru."

www.bible.ca

Gebalites: Josh 13:5,
1 Ki 5:18, Ezek 25:18

Amarna Tablet EA77

"From
Rib-Hadda
mayor of Byblos:
If no archers
come out,
all lands will be
joined to the Habiru.
I'm afraid the residents
of Byblos will
strike me down."

Gebalites:
Josh 13:5;
1 Ki 5:18;
Ezek 27:9

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Amarna Tablet EA90

"King, the
war is severe.
Abdi-Aširta has
taken all my cities;
Byblos alone
remains to me.
You yourself have
been negligent of
your cities so that
the **Habiru**
takes them."

www.bible.ca

Gabalites: Josh 13:5; 1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

Amarna Tablet EA118

"From Rib-Hadda
mayor of
Byblos (Geba):
Sidon and Beirut
don't belong any
longer to the king,
Look, if the residents
abandon Byblos
the Habiru will
seize the city."
www.bible.ca

Gebalites: Josh 13:5; 1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9

Amarna Tablet EA82

"Are you
unable to rescue
me from Abdi-Aširta?
All the **Habiru** are
on his side & he
is strong. If within
two months there
are no archers,
then I will
abandon **Byblos**."

Gabalites: Josh 13:5;
1 Ki 5:18; Ezek 27:9 www.bible.ca

Amarna Tablet EA144

"From Zimreddi,
mayor of Sidon
to Pharoah:
The war against me
is very severe.
All the cities that the king
put in my charge,
have been
joined to the Habiru."

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Judg 1:31; 10:6; 1 Ki 11:5; Lk 10:13-14; Acts 12:20

Amarna Tablet EA215

"Bayawa, your servant.
I fall at the feet of the king,
my lord, my Sun, my god,
7 times and 7 times, on
the stomach and on the
back. Should Pharaoh's
district overseer, Yanhamu
not be here within this
year, all the lands are
lost to the Habiru."

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Amarna Tablet EA243

"From Biridija
mayor of Megiddo:
I am guarding
Megiddo, the
city of Pharaoh,
day and night, as
the warring of
the Habiru in the
land is severe."

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Amarna Tablet EA299

"From Yapahu
mayor of Gezer
to Pharaoh:
my god, my Sun,
the Sun from
the sky:
The Habiru are
stronger than we,
send help and
save me from
the Habiru
lest the Habiru
destroy us."

www.bible.ca

Amarna Tablet EA271

“From Milkili,
mayor of Gezer.
King, the war
against me
and Shuwardata,
mayor of Hebron
is severe, save
your land from
the power of
the Habiru.”
www.bible.ca

Amarna Tablet EA366

"From
Shuwardata,
mayor of Hebron:
all my brothers
have abandoned me.
Only Abdi-heba,
mayor of Jerusalem
and I, have been
at war with
the Habiru."
www.bible.ca

Amarna Tablet EA286

"From Abdi-Heba,
mayor of Jerusalem
to king Pharaoh:
"The king has
no lands.
The Habiru
has plundered
all the lands
of the king."

www.bible.ca

وغيرها الكثير في

[http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-maps-conquest-
amarna-tablets-letters-akhenaten-habiru-abiru-hebrews-1404-
1340bc.htm](http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-maps-conquest-amarna-tablets-letters-akhenaten-habiru-abiru-hebrews-1404-1340bc.htm)

وسأضع نص كل منها في الهامش

والمجد لله دائما

Amarna Letter EA68

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[R]ib–Hadd[a sa]ys to his lord, [king] of all countries, Great King:

May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. 7–11 I fall at

the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. May the king, my

lord, know that Gubla, the loyal maidservant of the king, is safe and

sound. 12–18 The war, however, [o]f the Ἀpiru forces [aga]inst me is

extremely severe, and so may the king, my lord, not ‹ne›glect Ṣumur

lest ever[yo]ne be joined to the Ἀpiru forces. 19–26 Through the

king's commissioner who is in Ṣumur, Gubla is alive. Paḥa[mna]ta,

the commissioner of the king who is in Ṣumur, knows the straits: *ma–*

na–AŠ (?) that Gubla is in. 27–32 It is from the land of Yarimuta that

we have acquired provisions. The w[a]r [agai]nst us is extremely

severe, and so may the king not [ne]glect his [ci]ties." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 68)

Amarna Letter EA76

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Rib–Hadda says to the king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 7–16 May the king, my lord, know that the war of ʾAbdi–Aširta against me is severe. [H]e wants to take [*for himself*] the two cities that have remained to me. [Mo]reover, what is ʾA[bdi]–Aš[ir]ta, the dog, that he strives to [ta]ke all the cities of the king, the Sun, [fo]r himself? Is he the king of Mittana, or the king of Kaššu, that [h]e strives to take the land of the king for himself? 17–29 He has just gathered together all the ʾApiru against Šigata [and] Ampī, and [h]e himself has taken these two cities. [*I s*]aid, "There is no place where [*me*]n can enter against him. He has seized [...],³ [so] send me [a garris]on of 400

men *a[nd x pairs of h]orses [with all speed." It] is [thus that I keep writing to the pa]l[ace, but [you do not rep]ly [to m]e. 30–37 [...] ...*

For years archers would come out to inspect [the coun]try, and yet now that the land of the king and Šumur, your garrison–city, have been joined to the ʿApiru, you have done nothing. 38–46 Send a large force of archers that it may drive out the king’s enemies and all lands be joined to the king. Moreover, you are a great lord. You must not neglect this message." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 76)

Amarna Letter EA71

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns of a non–Hebrew traitor named Abdi–Aširta, who is working against pharaoh's interests in Canaan and helping the Hebrews. A request for 100 horses and 200 troops is made of pharaoh in Egypt to help.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Rib–Hadda mayor of Byblos (Geba):

Abdi–Aširta is a servant & dog who takes the king's land for himself.

Through the Habiru his auxiliary force is strong! Send 100 horses and 200 men that I may resist Abdi-Aširta."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[To] Haya, the vizi[er]: Message of Rib-Hadda. I fal[l] at your feet.

May Aman, the god of the king, [y]our lord, establish² your honor in the presence of the king, your lord. 7–16 You are a wise man; the

king knows (this) and because of your wis[dom] he sent you as

commissioner. Why have you been negligent, not speaking to the

king so he will send archers to take Šumur? 16–22 What is Abdi-

Aširta, servant and dog, that he takes the land of the king for

himself? What is his auxiliary force that it is strong? Through the

Apiru his auxiliary force is strong! 23–27 So send me 50 pairs of

horses and 200 infantry that I may resist him in Šigata until the

coming forth of the archers. 28–35 Let him not gather together all the

Apiru so he can take Šigat[a] and Ampī, and [seize ...] ... What shall

I be able to d[o]? There will be no place where [men] can enter

against [him]." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992

AD, EA 71)

Amarna Letter EA73

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns that the traitor named Abdi–Aširta, is telling the people of each city to rise up and kill their city mayor and become allied with the Hebrews. In this case pharaoh is warned that the town of Ammiya, near Byblos, is at risk of such an insurrection.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Rib–Hadda mayor of Byblos (Geba):

Abdi–Aširta sent a message to the men of Ammiya, ‘Kill your city mayor and join the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To Amanappa, my father: Message of Rib–Hadda, your son. I fall at the feet of my father. May the Lady of Gubla establish your honor in the presence of the king, your lord. 6–11 Why have you been negligent, not speaking to the king, your lord, so that you may come out together with archers and fall upon the land of Amurru? 11–16 If

they hear of archers coming out, they will abandon their cities and desert. Do not you yourself know that the land of Amurru follows the stronger party? 17–25 Look, they are not now being friendly to ʾAbdi-Aširta. What will he do to them? [And so] they are longing² day and night for the coming out of the archers, and ʾthey say, “Let us join them!” All the mayors long for this to be done to ʾAbdi-Aširta, 26–33 since he sent a message to the men of Ammiya, “Kill your lord and join the ʾApiru.” Accordingly, the mayors say, “He will do the same thing to us, and all the lands will be joined to the ʾApiru.” 33–38 Report this matter in the presence of the king, your lord, for you are father and lord to me, and to you I have turned. 39–45 You know my conduct when you were in [Š]umur; I am your [l]oyal servant. So speak to the king, [your] lord, that an auxiliary force be [s]enṯ t[o] me with all speed.” (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 73)

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns of a non–Hebrew traitor named Abdi–Aširta has successfully convinced the townsfolk of Ammiya to kill their mayor and join the Hebrews. Notice that the expression, "bird in a trap" is similar to what Sennacherib said of Hezekiah in the "Sennacherib's Annals" when he attacked Jerusalem: "I shut up in Jerusalem, his capital city, like a bird in a cage".

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Abdi–Aširta said to the men of Ammiya, 'Kill your leader and live in peace like us' They were won over & the entire country joined to the Habiru. I am very, very afraid, since no one will save me from them. I, Rib–Hadda, am like a bird in a trap in Byblos."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Rib–Hadda says to [his] lord, king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle:2 May [the Lady] of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 5–10 May the king, the lord, know that Gubla, the loyal maidservant of the king since the days of his ancestors, is safe and sound. The king, however, has now withdrawn his support of his loyal city. 10–12 May the king inspect the tablets of his father's house (for the time) when

the ruler in Gubla was not a loyal servant. 13–19 Do not be negligent of your servant. Behold, the war of the Ḫapiru against «me» is severe and, as the gods of y[our] land [are ali]ve, our sons and daughters (as well as we ourselves) are gone since they have been sold in the land of Yarimuta for provisions to keep us alive. “For lack of a cultivator, my field is like a woman without a husband.”⁶ 19–22 All my villages that are in the mountains: ḫa–ar–ri or along the sea have been joined to the Ḫapiru. Left to me are Gubla and two towns. 23–30 After taking Šigata for himself, Ḫabdi–Aširta said to the men of Ammiya, “Kill your leader and then you will be like us and at peace.” They were won over, following his message, and they are like Ḫapiru.⁸ 30–38 So now Ḫabdi–Aširta has written to the troops: “Assemble in the temple of NINURTA,¹⁰ and then let us fall upon Gubla. Look, there is no one that will save it from u[s]. Then let us drive out the mayors from the country that the entire country be joined to the Ḫapiru, ... to the entire country. Then will (our) sons and daughters be at peace forever. 39–45 Should even so the king come out, the entire country will be against him and what will he do to

us?"Accordingly, they have made an alliance among themselves and, accordingly, I am very, very afraid, since [in] fact there is no one who will save me from them. 45–50 Like a bird in a trap: ki-lu-bi (cage), so am I in Gubla. Why have you neglected your country? I have written like this to the palace, but you do not heed my words. 51–57 Look, Amanappa is with you. Ask him. He is the one that knows and has experienced the stra[its] I am in. May the king heed the words of his servant. May he grant provisions for his servant and keep his servant alive so I may guard his [lo]yal [city], along with our L[ad]y (and) our gods, f[or you]. 57–62 May [the king] vis[it] his [land] and [his servant]. [May he] give thought to his land. Pac[ify yo]ur [land]! May it seem go[od] in the sight of the k[ing], my [lo]rd. May he send a [ma]n of his to stay this time so I may arri[ve] in the presence of the king, my lord. 62–65 It is good for me to be with you. What can I do by [my]self? This is what I long for day and night." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 74)

Amarna Letter EA121

Storyline: Rib-Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns of a non-Hebrew traitor named Abdi-Aširta, is about to attack Byblos and is telling everyone that Rib-Hadda is no one to be feared!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Rib-Hadda mayor of Byblos, (Geba) to king of all countries, Great King: Abdi-Asirta has said to the Habiru 'Who is this Rib-Hadda?' Pharaoh, please send archers!"

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Rib-Hadda w[rit]es to his lord, king of all countries, Great King: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, [7] times and 7 times. As to the king, my lord's, writing me, 8-17 "Guard yourself," what is to g[uar]d [me]? Consider that with my ancestors there was a garrison of [the king], and pro[v]isions from the k[ing] were at th[eir] disposal, but in my case, [there are no pro]visions (or) garrison of the king for [me. 18-25 And] as the war against <me> is very severe, the sons of .Abdi-Asirta have said to the .Apiru and the men who have [jo]ined them, "What is there

[wit]h Rib–Hadda?"[So give thou]ght t[o] your [ser]vant and let me tell my [lord] 26–40 ... 41–49 [I wr]ote to [the king, my lord, "S]end [archers]."Did they [no]t take [in a day] the lands for the k[ing, your father]? Now, may the king [heed] the words of [his] serva[nt] and send archers to ꜥꜣꜥ[ke] "the land of the king for the king, 50–53 that you may give p[ea]ce in the lands to the [king's] mayors. Have they not been [ki]lled like [do]gs, and you have done nothing? 54–59 Moreover, ... 60–64 [S]end ... [...] If [the king, my lord], love[s] his servant, [then may he fetch his servant] to himself [...]." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 121)

Amarna Letter EA88

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns that a non–Hebrew traitor named Abdi–Aširta, will capture the entire promised land from Byblos down to the Wadi El–Arish (border of Egypt). What an incredible statement! This is exactly what Joshua accomplished!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Rib–Hadda mayor of Byblos (Geba): But if the king does not give heed to my words, then Byblos will be joined to Abdi–Ašrati, and all the lands of the king, as far as Egypt, will be joined to the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[Ri]b–Had[da s]ay[s to his lord: Be]fore the king of all countries, [Great King], a[t the feet of my lord], my Sun, I fall [7] times and 7 times. I have w[ritten] 5–12 repeatedly to y[ou], "The war is against] Ardat, against Irqat, and agai[nst ..., an]d Am[mi]y[a and Šigat]a, loyal [ci]ties of the king", [but the king], my lord, [has done nothing].

Moreover, what is [he, A]bdi–Ašrati, the servant (and) dog, that he has a[ct]ed as he pleased in the lands of my lord, [and yet] the king, my lord, has done nothing for [his] servant? 13–21 [Moreov]er, I sent my messenger (each time) that [he too]k my cities and moved u[p aga]inst me. [N]ow he has taken Baṭruna, and he has moved up against me. [Behlold the city! He has ... the entrance of the gate of Gubla. How long has he not moved from the gate, and so we are unable to go out into the countryside.4 21–28 Moreover, look, he

strives to seize Gubla!6 And [... and] may the king, my lord, give heed t[o the words of] his [ser]vant, and [may] he hasten [with] all speed chariots and [troops]8 that they may gu[ard the city of the king], my lord, and [... until] the arr[iva]l of the king, [my] lor[d]. 28–39 For my part,) I will [no]t neglect the word of [my] lord. But i[f the k]ing, my lord, does [not give heed] to the words of [his] ser[vant], then Gubla will be joined to him, and all the lands of the king, as far as Egypt, will be joined to the ʿApiru. Moreover, should my lord not have wor[d] brought to hi[s] serv[ant] by tablet,

with all speed, then ... the city to him and I will request a town from him to stay in, and so I will stay a[ki]v[er]. 40–51 [Moreov]er, may the king, my lord, hasten the troops (and) chariots that they may guard the city of the king, my lord. Look, Gubla is not like the [other] cities; Gubla is a loyal city of the king, [my] lo[rd], from most ancient times. Still, the messenger of the king of Akka is honored more than [my] messeng[er], f[or they fur]nished [h]im with a horse. [May he furn]ish him (my messenger) ... with 2 horses. May he not come out [empty–

handed]." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 88)

Amarna Letter EA77

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns that Byblos will be lost to the Hebrews and he is afraid for his life from his own townsfolk who might rise up and kill him!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Rib–Hadda mayor of Byblos: If no archers come out, all lands will be joined to the Habiru. I'm afraid the residents of Byblos will strike me down."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To Ama[nappa, my father]: Message of [Rib–Hadda, your son]. I fall [at your feet]. May [Aman, the god of the king], your lord, and [the Lady of Gu]b[la] establiꜥsh your hon[or] in the presence of the king, [your] lord. As to 7–15 your writing me f[or] copper and for sinnu, may the Lady of Gubla be witness: there is no copper or šinnu of

[cop]per available to me or [to] her unjustly treated ones. Milkayu⁵ overlaid one with ... [...], but I gave his šinnu to [the ruler] of Tyr[e f]or [my] provisions. 15–25 [Y]ou yourself [should] know [the straits I am i]n ... Wh[y have you been neg]ligent? ... who [m]oves [agains]t the country. You do not spe[ak t]o your lord so he will send you at the head of the archers to drive off the ʾApiru from the [m]ayors. 26–37 If t[hi]s year no [ar]chers come out, then all lands will be joi[ne]d t[o the ʾApir]u. If [the king, my lor]d, is neg[li]gent and there are no [archers], then let a ship [fetch] the men [of Gubla], your [me]n, (and) the g[ods] (to bring them) all the wa[y to you so I can abandon Gubla. Look], I am afraid the peasa[ntry] will strike m[e] down." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 77)

Amarna Letter EA90

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns that a non–Hebrew traitor named Abdi–Aširta has captured all the nearby cities and

aligned themselves with the Hebrews. It is interesting that the mayor actually criticizes and accuses pharaoh of being responsible for the loss and ultimately negligent!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "King, the war is severe. Abdi-Aširta has taken all my cities; Byblos alone remains to me. You yourself have been negligent of your cities so that the Habiru takes them."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[S]ay [t]o the king, my lord: Message of Rib-Hadda, [your] se[rvant]. I fall at the feet of my lord, [my] Su[n, 7 times and 7 times]. Be informed [that] the war aga[inst me] is severe. [He has taken] all my cities; [Gubla] alone rem[ains] 8–12 to me. I was in Šigata and I wr[ote] to [y]ou, "Give thought to [your] city lest Abdi-Aširta take it."13–19 [But] you did not listen to m[e. Then fr]om Baṭruna I wr[ote] to yo[u], "Send men to ta[ke the ci]ty for you." [My] words went [u]nheeded, [and]3 they were [no]t taken to heart. Now they have [ta]k[en] my cities. 19–28 Moreover, that [do]gis [i]n Mittana, but his eye is on [Gu]bla. What can I do by myself? You yourself have been [neg]ligent of your cities so that the Apiru [dog] takes them. It is to

you that I have turned.⁶ Moreover, all the [mayors] are at peace with
 Abdi-Aširta. 29–35 ... 36–47 [Our] [sons], [our daughters, the
 furnishings] of the houses are gone, since they have been sold in the
 land of Yarimuta «[for]» for provisions to keep [us] alive. Like [a
 bird] in a trap, so am I in (Gub)la. “For lack of a cultivator my
 field is [like] a woman without a [hus]band.” Moreover, ... [...], and
 send [x m]en and 30 pairs of [h]ors[es] that [I] may guard the city
 for you. 48–56 [And] your me[ss]engers send ..., and if you do not
 send a garrison, [then] ... I am afraid for my life. [And] all [I]
 messenger[s that] were bound have been released]. ... 57–62 Do
 not be negligent. Send archers that they may take the land of
 [Amurru]. Day and night [everyone awaits the coming forth of the
 archers]. I have been plundered of [my grain, and] it is [to you] that I
 have turned.” (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992
 AD, EA 90)

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, informs pharaoh that both the cities of Sidon and Beirut have been lost to the Hebrews and that Byblos may be next!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Rib–Hadda mayor of Byblos (Geba):

Sidon and Beirut don't belong any longer to the king, Look, if the residents abandon Byblos the Habiru will seize the city."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to the king, my lord: Message of Rib–Hadda, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. 6–15 May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I keep writing like this to the pala[ce], ... [...] the war against me, and so may the king give a garrison to his servant. Moreover, I have litigation. Send the commissioner, let him hear my case, 16–23 and give me [m]y due, or, on the other hand, let the king take from the mayors anything of mine for himself. Moreover, the war [again]st me is severe, and so there are no provisions [for] the peasantry. 24–33 Look, [th]ey have [gone off] to the sons of ʾAbd–Aširta, to Sidon and Beirut. As the sons of ʾAbdiAširta are hostile to the king, and Sidon and Beirut do

not belong (any longer) to the king, send the commissioner to take them, 34–44 lest I abandon the city and go off to you. Look, if the peasantry goes off, the Ḫapiru will seize the city. Seeing that my only purpose is to serve the king in accordance with the practice of my ancestors, may the king send archers and pacify them. 45–56 As for the mayors, since the cities are theirs and they are at peace, they do not keep writing to the king. It is against me and against Yanḫamu that there is war. Look, previously the commissioner at Šumur would [d]ecide between us, but now no mayor listens to hi[m]! The king has no servant like Yanḫamu—a loyal servant!" (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 118)

Amarna Letter EA82

Storyline: Rib–Hadda, mayor of Byblos, warns that a non–Hebrew traitor named Abdi–Aširta is strong and that Byblos will fall in two months if archers are not sent from Egypt to help.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Are you unable to rescue me from Abdi-Aširta? All the Habiru are on his side & he is strong. If within two months there are no archers, then I will abandon Byblos."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to Am[a]nappa, my father: Message of Rib-Hadda, your son. I fall at the feet of my father. 5-13 I have said to you again and again, "Are you unable to rescue me from Abdi-Aširta? All the Apiru are on his side, and as soon as the mayors hear anything, they write to him. Accordingly, he is strong."14-22 You ordered me again and again, "Send your man to me at the palace, and as soon as the request arrives, I will send him along with an auxiliary force, until the archers come out, to protect your life."But I told you, "I am unable to send <him>. 23-30 Let not Abdi-Aši[rta] hear about it, or who would rescue m[e] from him?"You sa[id]2 to me, "Do not fea[rl]"You ordered me again and again, "Send a ship to the land of Yarimuta so silver and clothing can get out to you from them."31-41 All the men whom you gave me have run off. The (legal) violence done to me is your responsibility, if you neglect me. Now I have obeyed. Is it not a fact

that I sent my man to the palace, and he gave orders to a man and he attacked me with a bronze dagger. I was stabbed 9 times!⁵ He is strong through this crime, and from another crime what could rescue me? 41–46 If within two months there are no archers, then I will abandon the city, go off, and my life will be safe while I do what I want to do. 47–52 Moreover, do not you yourself know that the land of Amurru longs day and night for the archers? Has it not been distressed : n-aq-ša-pu (have they not been angry)? So tell the king, “Come with all haste.” (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 82)

Mayor abandons Byblos!

Amarna Letter EA101

Storyline: Rib-Hadda, mayor of Byblos, announces that that a non-Hebrew traitor named Abdi-Aširta has been killed by the pirates of the region of the Amurru because he wouldn't pay them tribute. As we

will soon see, Abdi-Aširta's son will take over his command. Rib-Hadda tells pharaoh to seize all the ships in Egyptian ports flying under the control of anyone from the city of Arwada that were stolen.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Pharaoh, the pirates of Amurru killed Abdi-Aširta because he was unwilling to pay tribute to Mittana (Assyria). They have seized the cargo of Pharaoh's ships and given your ships to the men of Arwada. Seize any Amurru ship of the men of Arwada currently docked at your seaports in Egypt."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Moreover, why² is there war [against] the king? Is it not Ḫaya? [No]w, the ships of the army are not to enter the land of Amurru, for they have killed Abdi-Aširta, since they had no wool and he had no garments of lapis lazuli or MAR-stone color: bu-bu-mar(?) to give as tribute to the land of Mittana. 11-18 Moreover, whose ships have attacked me? Is it not the men of Arwada? Indeed, they are now with you. Seize the ships of the men of Arwada that are with you in Egypt. 18-25 Moreover, though Ḫaya [s]ays, "[...] ... If we [do] not [give] (it) to the land of Amurru, then [the men] of Tyre and the men of

Sidon and the men of Beirut will furnish (it),"25–31 to whom do these cities belong? Is it not to the king? Put a man in each city and let him not allow a ship from the land of Amurru (to enter), for they have killed ʾAbdi-Aširta. It was the king that placed him over them, not they! 32–38 Let the king tell the 3 cities and the ships of the army not to go to the land of Amurru. If a servant seize a bo[a]t, let him give it to you. Be informed of the affairs of your loyal servant." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 101)

Amarna Letter EA144

Storyline: Zimreddi, mayor of Sidon, informs pharaoh that all the nearby cities have been lost to the Hebrews.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Zimreddi, mayor of Sidon to Pharaoh:

The war against me is very severe. All the cities that the king put in my charge, have been joined to the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the breath of my life:

Thus Zimreddi, the mayor of Sidon. 6–12 I fall at the feet of my lord, god, Sun, breath of my life, «at the feet of my lord, my god, my Sun, the breath of my life» 7 times and 7 times. May the king, my lord, know that Sidon, the maidservant of the king, my lord, which he put in my charge, is safe and sound. 13–21 And when I heard the words of the king, my lord, when he wrote to his servant, then my heart rejoiced, and my head went [h]igh, and my eyes shone, at hearing the words of the king, my lord. May the king know that I have made preparations before the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord. I have prepared everything in accordance with the command of the king, my lord. 22–30 May the king, my lord, know that the war against me is very severe. All the cit[i]es that the king put in [m]y ch[ar]ge, have been joined to the ʾAp[ir]u. May the king put me in the charge of a man that will lead the archers of the king to call to account the cities that have been joined to the ʾApiru, so you can restore³ them to my charge that I may be able to serve the king, my

lord, as our ancestors (did) before." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 144)

Sidon in the Bible:

1406 BC: "Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon"(Judges 1:31)

"1100BC: Jephthah "The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, worshiping the Baals and the Astartes, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. Thus they abandoned the Lord, and did not worship him."(Judges 10:6)

960 BC: "For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites."(1 Kings 11:5)

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. "But it

will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you."(Luke 10:13–14)

Amarna Letter EA147

Storyline: Abi–Milku, mayor of Tyre tells pharaoh that he is guarding Tyre, but that Zimredda, king of Sidon, is a traitor who is aligned with Aziru, the son of the deceased traitor, Abdi–Aširta. Aziru, Abdi–Asratu's son now in charge!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abi–Milku, I am guarding Tyre, the principal city, for the king. Zimredda, the king of Sidon, writes daily to the rebel Aziru, the son of Abdi–Ašratu."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Abi–Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am the dirt under the sandals of the king, my lord. My lord is the Sun who comes forth over all lands day by day, according to the way (of being) of the Sun, his gracious father, 9–15 who gives life by his

sweet breath and returns with his north wind; who establishes the entire land in peace, by the power of his arm: ḥa-ap-ši; who gives forth his cry in the sky like Baal, and all the land is frightened⁴ at his cry. 16–21 The servant herewith writes to his lord that he heard the gracious messenger of the king who came to his servant, and the sweet breath that came forth from the mouth of the king, my lord, to his servant—his breath came back! 22–28 Before the arrival of the messenger of the king, my lord, breath had not come back; my nose was blocked. Now that the breath of the king has come forth to me, I am very happy and: a-ru-u (he is satisfied), day by day. 29–38 Because I am happy, does the earth not pr[osp]er? When I heard the gracious me[sse]nger from my lord, all the land was in fear of my lord, when I heard the sweet breath and the gracious messenger who came to me. When the king, my lord, said: ku-na “(Prepare) before the arrival of a large army,” then the servant said to his lord: ia-a-ia-ia (“Yes, yes, yes!”) 39–51 On my front and on:

ṣú-ri-ia (my back) I carry the word of the king, my lord. Whoever gives heed to the king, his lord, and serves him in his place, the Sun

comes forth over him, and the sweet breath comes back from the mouth of his lord. If he does not heed the word of the king, his lord, his city is destroyed, his house is destroyed, never (again) does his name exist in all the land. (But) look at the servant who gives heed to «to"his lord. His city prospers, his house prospers, his name exists forever. 52–60 You are the Sun who comes forth over me, and a brazen wall set up for him, and because of the powerful arm: nu-uh-ti (I am at rest): ba-ṭi-i-ti (I am confident). I indeed said to the Sun, the father of the king, my lord, "When shall I see the face of the king, my lord?" 61–71 I am indeed guarding Tyre, the principal city, for the king, my lord, until the powerful arm of the king comes forth over me, to give me water to drink and wood to warm myself. Moreover, Zimredda, the king of Sidon, writes daily to the rebel Aziru, the son of Abdi-Ašratu, about every word he has heard from Egypt. I herewith write to my lord, and it is good that he knows." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 147)

Tyre in the Bible:

"Hiram king of Tyre sent David cedar trees, carpenters and stonemasons; and they built a house for David."(2 Samuel 5:11)

"Also men of Tyre were living there who imported fish and all kinds of merchandise, and sold them to the sons of Judah on the sabbath, even in Jerusalem."(Nehemiah 13:16)

"I am against you, O Tyre, 'They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; and I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock. 'She will be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' declares the Lord God."(Ezekiel 26:2-5)

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."(Matthew 11:21)

Amarna Letter EA148

Storyline: Abi-Milku, mayor of Tyre warns that the mayor of Sidon the mayor of Hazor are both traitors who have joined the Hebrews in spite

of any message they send that they are still loyal! Hazor was captured first by Joshua in 1401 BC and then Jabin, king of Hazor was defeated by Deborah in 1200 BC. Notice the language of sun worship.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abi-Milku Mayor of Tyre: To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: The Mayor of Sidon raids your land. The Mayor of Hazor has aligned himself with the Habiru. These are treacherous fellows. They have taken over the king's land for the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord, [m]y god, my Sun: Message of Abi-Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 4–17 The king, my lord, has written for glass. I give to the king, my lord, what I have on hand—100 (units) in weight. May the king, my lord, give his attention to his servant and give Usu to his servant so he can drink a jug: a-ku-ni of: mi-ma (water). May the king, my lord, give 10 palace attendants to guard his city in order that I may enter and see the face of the ki[ng], my lord. 18–26 My presence will be as pleasing to the king, my lord, as when the king, my lord, charged me

with the guarding of his city. I write to the king, my lord, because every day the king of Sidon has captured a palace attendant of mine. 26–34 May the king give attention to his servant, and may he charge his commissioner to give Usu to his servant for water, for fetching wood, for straw, for clay. 34–40 Since he has acted hostilely, has he not violated the oath? There is not another palace attendant. The one who rai[d]s the land of the king is the king of Sidon. 41–47 The king of Ḫaṣura has abandoned his house and has aligned himself with the Ḫapiru. May the king be concerned about the palace attendants. These are treacherous fellows. He has taken over the land of the king for the Ḫapiru. May the king ask his commissioner, who is familiar with Canaan." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 148)

Amarna Letter EA189

Storyline: Etakkama, mayor of kadesh informs Pharaoh that

Biryawaza, mayor of Damascus was a traitor and the city was lost to the Hebrews, but Etakkama, then recaptured Damascus! This is an interesting tablet because it shows that not all the Hebrew military campaigns were successful.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Etakkama mayor of Qadesh to Pharaoh:

Biryawaza mayor of Damascus, allowed all the cities to go over to the Habiru but I went, and with your gods and your Sun leading me, and recaptured the cities from the Habiru and disbanded the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord: Message of Etakkama, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times plus 7. My lord, I am your servant, but the wicked Biryawaza has gone on defaming me in your sight, my lord, and when he was defaming me in your sight, then he took my entire paternal estate along with the land of Qidšu, and sent my cities up in flames. 13–20 But, I assure you, the commissioners of the king, my lord, and his magnates know my loyalty, since I said to the

magnate Puḥuru, "May the magnate Puḥuru know that [...] ... " (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 189)

Amarna Letter EA215

Storyline: Bayawa begs pharaoh to send Yanhamu, an Egyptian ambassador or provincial overseer, to help within the year or the entire land of Canaan will be lost to the Hebrews.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Bayawa, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. Should Pharaoh's district overseer, Yanhamu not be here within this year, all the lands are lost to the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Bayawa, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. 9–17 Should Yanḥamu not be here within this [year, a]ll the lands are [lo]st to the

„Apiru. So give life to your lands." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 215)

Amarna Letter EA243

Storyline: Biridija, mayor of Megiddo claims to be loyally protecting the city from the unceasing attacks of the Hebrews.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Biridija mayor of Megiddo: I am guarding Megiddo, the city of Pharaoh, day and night, as the warring of the Habiru in the land is severe."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[Say] to the king, [my l]ord and my Sun and [my] go[d]: Message of Biridi[ya], the loyal servant of the king. I f[a]ll at the feet of the king, [my] lord and my Sun and my god, 7 times and 7 times.

8–22 I have obeyed the orders of the king, my lord and my Sun, and I am indeed guard[ing] Magidda, the city of the king, my lord, day and night: I[e–l]a. By day I guard (it) [f]rom the fields with chariots, and by

n[ight]2 on the wall[s of] the king, my lord. And as the warring of the
A[pi]ru in the land is seve[re], may the king, my lord, take
cognizance of his land." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran,
introduction, 1992 AD, EA 243)

Amarna Letter EA246

Storyline: Biridija, mayor of Megiddo, warns pharaoh that the two
sons of Labayu, mayor of Shechem, are traitors who have joined with
the Hebrews and the mercenary army (fight anyone for pay) known as
the Suteans.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Biridija, mayor of Megiddo to Pharaoh:

The two sons of Labayu (mayor of Shechem) have given money to the
Habiru & the Suteans to wage war against me."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to the king, my lord and my Sun: Message of Biridiya, your loyal servant. I fall at the feet of the king, m[y] lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

8–9 I have heard the mes[sage] o[f] the ki[ng ...] ...

Rev. 1–11 and [...], and indee[d ...] you ar[e ...]. May the king, my lord, know. The two sons of Lab,ayu have indeed gi[v]en their money to the Ḍpiru and to the Su[teans in ord]er to w[age war again]st me. [May] the king [take cognizance] of [his servant]." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 246)

Amarna Letter EA254

Storyline: Labayu, mayor of Shechem, received a letter from pharaoh who wanted to know why his two sons were traitors. This incredible series of correspondence starts with EA246 where Biridija, mayor of Megiddo, "rats out" his sons. Now in this third letter, Labayu defends himself from Biridija's charges by saying that he was not aware that

this sons had crossed over to the Hebrews side. It is kind of like saying, "Pharaoh it is 11pm and I DON'T know where my children are" kind of excuse, As we will see in the next tablet, Labayu is lying and has in fact himself joined the Hebrews. Labayu will next attack Biridija, mayor of Megiddo, since he was the one who ratted him out in the first place. This tablet represents a delaying tactic like Hitler's assurances to British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in 1938 that there would be "Peace for Our Time". It is all lies and this letter represents a stalling and delaying tactic the way Iran is trying to drop a nuclear weapon on Israel while claiming they are a nation of peace.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Labayu mayor of Shechem to king I am a loyal servant of the king! I am not a rebel and I am not delinquent in duty. Moreover, the king wrote about my son. I did not know that my son had joined with the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord and my Sun: Thus Labayu, your servant and the dirt on which you tread. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 6–10 I have obeyed the orders that the

king wrote to me. Who am I that the king should lose his land on account of me? 10–15 The fact is that I am a loyal servant of the king! I am not a rebel and I am not delinquent in duty. I have not held back my payments of tribute; I have not held back anything requested by my commissioner. 16–29 He denounces me unjustly, but the king, my lord, does not examine my (alleged) act of rebellion. Moreover, my act of rebellion is this: when I entered Gazru, I kept on saying, “Everything of mine the king takes, but where is what belongs to Milkilu?” I know the actions of Milkilu against me! 30–37 Moreover, the king wrote for my son. I did not know that my son was consorting with the Ḫapiru. I herewith hand him over to Addaya. 38–46 Moreover, how, if the king wrote for my wife, how could I hold her back? How, if the king wrote to me, “Put a bronze dagger into your heart and die”, how could I not execute the order of the king?” (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 254)

Amarna Letter EA244

Storyline: Biridija, mayor of Megiddo reports to Pharoah that Labayu, mayor of Shechem, has now attacked Megiddo. So the gig is up and the cat is out of the bag. Labayu AND his two sons are traitors to Egypt who have allied themselves with the Hebrews.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Biridija, mayor of Megiddo to Pharoah: Labayu, mayor of Shechem, has waged war against me and is determined to seize Megiddo immediately."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to the king, my lord and my Sun: Message of Biridiya, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 8–17 May the king, my lord, know that since the return (to Egypt) of the archers, Labayu has waged war against me.

We are thus unable to do the plucking: Ka–Zi–ra (harvesting), and we are unable to go out of the city gate: ša–ah–ri because of Labayu.

18–24 When he learn archers were not co[m]ing o[ut], he immediately [de]termined³ to take Magidda. 25–33 May the king save his city lest Labayu seize it. Look, the city is consumed by pestilence, by ...⁵ So may the king give a garrison of 100 men to guard his city lest

Lab.ayu seize it. Look, Lab.ayu has no other purpose. He seeks simply the seizure of Magidda." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 244)

Amarna Letter EA299

Storyline: Yapahu, mayor of Gezer warns Pharaoh that the war with the Hebrews is intense and begs pharaoh to send help and save him!

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Yapahu mayor of Gezer to Pharaoh: my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: The Habiru are stronger than we, send help and save me from the Habiru lest the Habiru destroy us."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord, my god, the Sun, the Sun [f]rom the sky:

Message of Yapaḥu, the ruler of Gazru, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. Truly I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. 12–21 I have listened to the words of

the messenger of the king, my lord, very carefully. May the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, take thought for his land. Since the Ḫapiru are stronger than we, may the king, my lord, give me his help, and may the king, my lord, get me away from the Ḫapiru lest the Ḫapiru destroy us." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 299)

Amarna Letter EA298

Storyline: Yapahu, mayor of Gezer warns Pharaoh that his younger brother had defected to Hebrews and sought sanctuary in the city of Muhhazu. (unknown city)

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Yapahu mayor of Gezer to Pharaoh: May the king, be informed that my younger brother, having become my enemy, entered Muhhazu and pledged himself to the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

**"[T]o the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky:
Message of Yapa[h]u, the ruler of Gazru, your servant, the dirt at your
feet, the groom of your horses. I prostrate myself at the feet of the
king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, both on the
stomach and on the back. 14–19 Whatsoever the king, my lord, has
said to me, I have listened to very carefully. I am a servant of the king
and the dirt at your feet. 20–33 May the king, my lord, be informed
that my younger brother, having become my enemy, entered Muḥḥazu
and pledged himself to the ḌApiru. As [Ti]anna is at war with me,
take thought for your land. May my lord write to his commissioner
with regard to this deed." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran,
introduction, 1992 AD, EA 298)**

Amarna Letter EA271

**Storyline: Milkili, mayor of Gezer warns pharaoh that both he and
Shuwardata, mayor of Hebron, are under attack of the Hebrews.**

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Milkili, mayor of Gezer. King, the war against me and Shuwardata, mayor of Hebron is severe, save your land from the power of the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Milkilu, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 9–16 May the king, my lord, know that the war against me and against Šuwardata is severe. So may the king, my lord, save his land from the power of the Ḫapiru. 17–27 O[th]erwise, may the king, my lord, send chariots to fetch u[s] lest our servants kill us. Moreover, may the king, my lord, ask Yanḫamu, his servant, about what is bein[g] done in his [l]and." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA271)

Amarna Letter EA284

Storyline: Shuwardata, mayor of Hebron, claims that all lands nearby have been captured by the Hebrews and that he alone is left.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Shuwardata, mayor of Hebron: I fall before you 7 times on my tummy 7 times on my back to worship you O Pharaoh, my lord. All your lands have been taken away. I am all alone."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord: Message of Šuwardata, [your] servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord. I fall 7 times and 7 times more, both on the stomach and on the back. 6–12 Be informed, O king, my lord, that all the lands of the king, my lord, have been taken away. I am all alone. As Ra[h]manu, wh[o in]spected the lands of the king, my lord, has departed, [th]ere is n[o] one for the king. May the king, my lord, t[a]ke m[e]. 13–16 I wrote to the king, my lord, "He knows ... [...]." May the king, my lord, se[n]d 17–20 ... [...] still. May the king, my lord, [s]end [forth] his power[ful] hand. 21–35 ... [...]." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 284)

Hebron in the Bible:

“Jacob said: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in Hebron, in the land of Canaan. “There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah— the field and the cave that is in it”(Gen 49:29–32)

Cave of Machpelah: Gen 23:9; 50:13

“Then Joshua fought against Hebron and captured it and struck it and its king and all its cities and all the persons who were in it with the edge of the sword.”(Joshua 10:36–37)

“Joshua gave Hebron to Caleb for an inheritance because he followed the Lord God of Israel fully.”(Joshua 14:13–14)

Hebron is not mentioned in the New Testament.

Amarna Letter EA366

Storyline: Shuwardata, mayor of Hebron, informs pharaoh that all his brothers have defected to join the Hebrews and that only he and Abdi-heba, mayor of Jerusalem remain.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Shuwardata, mayor of Hebron: all my brothers have abandoned me. Only Abdi-heba, mayor of Jerusalem and I, have been at war with the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say to the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Šuwardata, your servant, the servant of the king and the dirt at your feet, the ground you tread on. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back.

11–19 May the king, my lord, be informed that the Ḫapiru that rose up: na-aš-ša-a against the lands, the god of the king, my lord, gave to me, and I smote him. And may the king, my lord, be informed that all my brothers have abandoned me. 20–28 Only Ḫabdi-Ḫeba and I have been at war with (that) Ḫapiru. Surata, the ruler of Akka, and

Endaruta, the ruler of Akšapa, (these) two also have come to my aid:
na-az-a-qú (have been summoned to help) with 50 chariots, and
now they are on my side in the war. 28–34 So may it seem right in
the sight of the king, my lord, and may he send Yanḫamu so that we
may all wage war and you restore the land of the king, my lord, to its
borders: up-sí-ḫi." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction,
1992 AD, EA 366)

Amarna Letter EA286

Storyline: Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, informs pharaoh that he is
the last city mayor standing that hasn't been captured by the
Hebrews.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem to king

Pharaoh: "The king has no lands. The Habiru has plundered all the
lands of the king."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say [t]o the king, my lord: Message of ʿAbdi-Ḥeba, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, the king, 7 times and 7 times. 5–15 What have I done to the king, my lord? They denounce me: ú-ša-a-ru (I am slandered) before the king, my lord, "ʿAbdi-Ḥeba has rebelled against the king, his lord."Seeing that, as far as I am concerned, neither my father nor my mother put me in this place, but the strong arm of the king brought me into my father's house, why should I of all people commit a crime against the king, my lord? 16–21 As truly as the king, my lord, lives, I say to the commissioner of the king, [my] lord, "Why do you love the ʿApiru but hate the mayors?"Accordingly, I am slandered before the king, my lord. 22–31 Because I say, "Lost are the lands of the king, my lord,"accordingly I am slandered before the king, my lord. May the king, my lord, know that (though) the king, my lord, stationed a garrison (here), Enḫamu has taken i[t al]l away. [...] ... 32–43 [Now:], O king, my lord, [there is n]o garrison, [and so] may the king provide for his land. May the king [pro]vide for his land! All the [la]nds of the king, my lord, have deserted. Ili-Milku has caused the loss of all the land of the king, and

so may the king, my lord, provide for his land. For my part, I say, "I would go in to the king, my lord, and visit the king, my lord,"but the war against me is severe, and so I am not able to go in to the king, my lord. 44–52 And may it seem good in the sight of the king, [and] may he send a garrison so I may go in and visit the king, my lord. In truth, the king, my lord, lives: whenever the commissioners have come out, I would say (to them), "Lost are the lands of the king,"but they did not listen to me. Lost are all the mayors; there is not a mayor remaining to the king, my lord. 53–60 May the king turn his attention to the archers so that archers of the king, my lord, come forth. The king has no lands. (That) Ḫapiru has plundered all the lands of the king. If there are archers this year, the lands of the king, my lord, will remain. But if there are no archers, lost are the lands of the king, my lord. 61–64 [T]o the scribe of the king, my lord: Message of Ḫabdi-Ḫeba, your [ser]vant. Present eloquent words to the king, my lord. Lost are all the lands of the king, my lord." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 286)

Jerusalem alone!

Amarna Letter EA287

Storyline: Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, informs pharaoh that the Hebrews are now attacking Jerusalem and that Gezer Ashkelon and Lachish are all allied with and supplying the Hebrews oil and food. An amazing statement is made that Jerusalem is "the place where Pharaoh of Egypt has placed his name forever"! Notice how this echoes what God said: "He built altars in the house of the Lord of which the Lord had said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever.""

(2 Chron 33:4)

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem to king Pharaoh: They are now attempting to take Jerusalem. Pharaoh has placed his name in Jerusalem forever, he cannot abandon the land of Jerusalem. "Gezer, Ashkelon, and Lachish have given oil, food & supplies to the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[Say to the kin]g, m[y] lord: [Message of ʿAb]di-Ḥēba, yo[ur] servant.
 [I fall at the feet] of my lord 7 t[imes] and 7 times. 4–9 Consider] the
 ent[ire] affair. [Milkilu and Tagi brou]ght [troop]s into [Qiltu] against
 me. [Consider] the deed that they did [to your servant]. Arrow(s)⁴ [...
] ... 10–19 [...] they brought into [Qilt]u. May the [kin]g know (that)
 all the lands are [at] peace (with one another), but I am at war. May
 the king provide for his land. Consider the lands of Gazru, Ašqaluna,
 and L[akis]i. They have given them food, oil, and any other
 requirement. So may the king provide for archers and⁶ send the
 archers against men that commit crimes against the king, my lord.
 20–24 If this year there are archers, then the lands and the mayors
 will belong to the king, my lord. But if there are no archers, then the
 ki[ng] will have neither lands nor mayors. 25–32 Consider Jerusalem!
 This neither my father nor m[y] mother gave to me. The [str]ong hand:
 zu–ru–uḥ (arm) [of the king] gave it to me.) Consider the deed! This
 is the deed of Milkilu and the deed of the sons of Lab.ayu, who have
 given the land of the king <to> the ʿApiru. Consider, O king, my lord! I
 am in the right! 33–42 With regard to the Kašites, may the king make

inquiry of the commissioners. Though the house is well fortified, they attempted a very serious crime. They [t]ook their tools, and I had to seek shelter by a support for the roof: ga-ag-gi. A[nd so i]f he is going to send [troop]s into [Jerusalem], let them come with [a garrison for] (regular) service. May the king provide for them; [all] of the land might be in dire straits on their account. 43–52 May the king inquire about the[m]. Let there be] much food, much oil, much clothing, until Pauru, the commissioner of the king, comes up to Jerusalem. Gone¹³ is Addaya together with the garrison of soldiers [that] the king [p]rovided. May the king know (that) Addaya [sa]id to me, “[Beh]old, he has dismissed me.” Do not abandon it, [and] send this [year] a garrison, and send right here¹⁵ the commissioner of the king. 53–59 I sent [as gift]s to the king, my lord, [x] prisoners, 5000 ... [...],¹⁷ [and] 8 porters for the caravans of the k[ing, my lord], but they have been taken in the countryside: ša-de⁴-e of Ayyaluna. May the king, my lord, know (that) I am unable to send a caravan to the king, my lord. For your information! 60–63 As the king has placed his

name in Jerusalem forever, he cannot abandon it—the land of Jerusalem.

64–70 Say to the scribe of the king, my lord: Message of ʿAbdi-Ḥeba, your servant. I fall at (your) feet. I am your servant. Present eloquent words to the king, my lord: I am a soldier of the king. I am always yours.

71–78 And please make the Kasites responsible for the evil deed. I was almost killed by the Kašites [i]n my own house. May the king [make an inquiry] in the[ir] regard. [May the kin]g, my lord, [provide] for th[em. 7 t]imes and 7 times may the king, my lord, [provide] for me." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 287)

Amarna Letter EA323

Storyline: Yidya, mayor of Ashqelon, lies to pharaoh that he is loyally protecting the city, when in fact, he has already jointed the Hebrews.

Notice his letter is a kind of "business as usual" note designed to deceive. We know from EA287 that Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, has already written a letter warning pharaoh that Yidya is a traitor.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Yidya, mayor of Ashqelon: I am guarding your city. My king ordered some glass and I send 30 pieces of glassware to you. Who is the dog that would not obey the orders of the king?"

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky:

Message of Yidya, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. 6–13 I indeed prostrate myself, on the back and on the stomach, at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am indeed guarding the [pl]ace of the king, my lord, and the city of the king, in accordance with the command of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky. 13–16 As to the king, my lord's, having ordered some glass, I [her]ewith send to the k[ing], my [l]ord, 30 (pieces) of glass. 17–23 Moreover, who is the dog that would not obey the orders of the king, my lord, the Sun fr[o]m the sky, the son of the Sun, [wh]om

**the Sun loves?" (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992
AD, EA 323)**

Amarna Letter EA329

**Storyline: Zimreddi, mayor of Lachish (like Yidya, mayor of Ashqelon)
lies to pharaoh that he is loyally obedient, when in fact, he has
already jointed the Hebrews. Notice his letter is a kind of "business as
usual" note designed to deceive. We know from EA287 that Abdi-
Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, has already written a letter warning
pharaoh that Zimreddi is a traitor.**

**Paraphrase of Tablet: "To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun
from the sky: Message of Zimreddi, mayor of Lachish, your servant,
the dirt at the kings feet. You sent a messenger to me and I am
making preparations in strict accordance with his order."**

Full text translation of Tablet:

"To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky:

Message of Zimreddi, the ruler of Lakiša, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 13–20 As to the messenger of the king, my lord, whom he sent to me, I have listened to his orders very carefully, and I am indeed making preparations in accordance with his order." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 329)

Amarna Letter EA330

Storyline: Shipti–Balu, mayor of Lachish (like Yidya, mayor of Ashqelon) lies to pharaoh that YOUR CITY IS SAVE AND SOUND, when in fact, he has already jointed the Hebrews. Notice his letter is a kind of "business as usual" note designed to deceive. We know from EA287 that Abdi–Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, has already written a letter warning pharaoh that Zimreddi is a traitor. Notice there are two

letters send from rulers of Lachish: Shipti-Balu and Zimreddi. they must be alive at the same time and have two different levels of authority and both sent deceptive letters to pharaoh to buy some time before they were discovered as traitors. See EA333 below.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Message of Shipti-Balu mayor of Lachish to Pharaoh: your servant and the dirt at the feet of the king, my lord.

The city of the king where I am is safe and sound."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say t[o] the king, my lord: Message of Šipti-Balu, your servant and the dirt at the feet of the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times, at the feet of the king, my lord. 9–16 May the king, my lord, know that I have heard all the [w]ords of the king, my lord. Moreover, note, too, that Yaḥhamu is the loyal servant of the king and the dirt at the feet of the king. 17–21 Moreover, may the king, my lord, know that the city of the king where I am is safe and sound." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 330)

Amarna Letter EA333

Storyline: Paapu (unknown person) sends another letter to pharaoh warning the both rulers of Lachish, Shipti-Balu and Zimredda are traitors.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "Message of Paapu. I fall at your feet. May you know that the 2 rulers of Lachish Shipti-Balu and Zimredda are acting disloyally together to attack the land of the king."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say [to] the magnate: [Message of P]aapu. I fall [a]t your feet. 4-18 May you know that Šipti-Ba.lu and Zimredda are acting disloyally together, and Šipti-Ba.lu said to Zimredda, "™The foržces of the town of Yaramu have written to me. Give me [x +] 115 bows, 3 daggers, and 3 swords. Look,7 I am about to sally forth against the land of the king, and you are in league with me."19-26 To be sure, he rejects (the charge of) disloyalty to the king, (saying), "The one who

is disloyal is Paapu, so send him [t]o me."I [no]w send Rab-Ilu. He will [certain]ly answer him [i]n this matter." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 333)

Amarna Letter EA288

Storyline: Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem warns Pharaoh that all cities except his are lost to the Hebrews. Strangely, he asks why pharaoh allowed Zimredda of Lachish and Yaptih-Hadda of Shiloh (Silu) to be killed without taking any action. Zimredda is a traitor! The Hebrews killed Zimredda of Lachish, even though he had supplied them with oil and food. Likely, Zimredda was discovered to be a traitor to the Hebrews. He was likely claiming submission to both Egypt and Joshua, while seeking total control for himself.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem to king Pharaoh: The Habiru have taken all the cities. Not a single mayor remains. Turbazu & Yaptih-Hadda were slain in the city gate of Silu

(Shiloh). Habiru killed Zimredda of Lachish The king did nothing.

Why?"

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Say [t]o the king, my lord, [my Su]n: [M]essage of ʾAbdi-Ḫeba, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 5–10 Behold, the king, my lord, has placed his name at the rising of the sun and at the setting of the sun. It is, therefore, impious what they have done to me. Behold, I am not a mayor; I am a soldier of the king, my lord. 11–15 Behold, I am a friend of the king and a tribute-bearer of the king. It was neither my father nor my mother, but the strong arm of the king that [p]laced me in the house of [my] fath[er]. 3 16–22 [... c]ame to me. ... [...]. I gave over [to his char]ge 10 slaves. Šuta, the commissioner of the king, ca[me t]o me; I gave over to Šuta's charge 21 girls, [8]0 prisoners, as a gift for the king, my lord. 23–28 May the king give thought to his land; the land of the king is lost. All of it has attacked me. I am at war as far as the land of Šeru and as far as Ginti-kirmil. All the mayors are at peace, but I am at war. 29–33 I am treated like an ʾApiru, and I do not visit the king, my

lord, since I am at war. I am situated like a ship⁷ in the midst of the sea. 34–40 The strong hand (arm) of the king took the land of Naḥrima and the land of Kasi, but now the ḂApiru have taken the very cities of the king. Not a single mayor remains to the king, my lord; all are lost. 41–47 Behold, Turbazu was slain in the city gate of Silu. The king did nothing. Behold, servants who were joined to the ḂApiru smote Zimredda of Lakisu, and Yaptiḥ–Hadda was slain in the city gate of Silu. The king did nothing. [Wh]y has he not called them to account? 48–53 May the king [pro]vide for [his land] and may he [se]e to it tha[t] archers [come ou]t to h[is] land. If there are no archers this year, all the lands of the king, my lord, are lost. 54–61 They have not reported to the king that the lands of the king, my lord, are lost and all the mayors lost. If there are no archers this year, may the king send a commissioner to fetch me, me along with my brothers, and then we will die near the king, our lord. 62–66 [To] the scribe of the king, my lord: [Message] of ḂAbdi–Ḥeba, (your) servant. [I fa]ll a[t (your) feet]. Present [the words that I hav]e offered to [the king, my

lord]: I am your servant [and] your [s]on." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 288)

Amarna Letter EA289

Storyline: Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, warns pharaoh that Shechem is soon to be given to the Hebrews.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem to king

Pharaoh: As for Jerusalem, the king's land, are we to give the land of Shechem to the Hapiru?"

Full text translation of Tablet:

"[Say t]o the king, my lord: Message of Abdi-Heba, your servant. I

f[all] at the feet of my lord, the k[ing], 7 times and 7 times. 5-10

Milkilu does not break away from the sons of Labayu and from the sons of Arsawa, as they desire the land of the king for themselves.

As for a mayor who does such a deed, why does the king not call

him to account? 11-17 .Such was the deed that Milkilu and Tagi did:

they took Rubutu. And now as for Jerusalem, if this land belongs to the king, why is it <not> of concern to the king like Ḥazzatu? 18–24 Gintikirmil belongs to Tagi, and men of Gintu are the garrison in Bitsanu. Are we to act like Labʾayu when he was giving the land of Šakmu to the Ḥapiru? 25–36 Milkilu has written to Tagi and the sons <of Labʾayu>, “Be the both of you a protection. Grant all their demands to the men of Qiltu, and let us isolate Jerusalem.”⁴ Addaya has taken the garrison that you sent in the charge of Haya, the son of Miyare; he has stationed it in his own house in Ḥazzatu and has sent 20 men to Egypt. May the king, my lord, know (that) no garrison of the king is with me. 37–44 Accordingly, as truly as the king lives, his irpi–official, Puʾuru, has left me and is in Ḥazzatu. (May the king call (this) to mind when he arrives.) And so may the king send 50 men as a garrison to protect the land. The entire land of the king has deser[ted]. 45–51 Send Ye«eh»enḥamu that he may know about the land of the king, [my lord]. To the scribe of the king, [my lord: M]essage of ʾAbdi-Ḥeba, [your] servant. Offer eloq[uent] words to the

king: I am always, utterly yours. I am your servant." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 289)

Amarna Letter EA290

Storyline: Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem, begs Pharaoh to send archers or all the land will be lost to Joshua and the Jews. Of course, Jerusalem remained in Jebusite control until the time of David.

Paraphrase of Tablet: "From Abdi-Heba, mayor of Jerusalem to king Pharaoh: A town near Jerusalem has deserted. Without archers, all the king's land will be lost to the Habiru."

Full text translation of Tablet:

"Sa]y [t]o the king, my lord: Message of [.Abdi]-Ḫeba, your servant. I fall at the feet [of the kin]g, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 5-13 Here is the deed against the land that Milkilu and Šuardatu did: against the land of the king, my lord, they ordered troops from Gazru, troops from Gimtu, and troops from Qiltu. They seized Rubutu. The land of

the king deserted to the Ḫapiru. 14–21 And now, besides this, a town belonging to Jerusalem, Bit–dNIN.URTA by name, a city of the king, has gone over to the side of the men of Qiltu. May the king give heed to .Abdi–Ḫeba, your servant, and send archers to restore the land of the king to the king. 22–30 If there are no archers, the land of the king will desert to the Ḫapiru. This deed against the land was [a]t the order of Milki[lu and a]t the order⁴ of [Suard]atu, [together w]ith Gint[i]. So may the king provide for [his] land." (The Amarna letters, W. L. Moran, introduction, 1992 AD, EA 290)