

Sennacherib Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

What sort of things motivate kings?

What is attractive about war to a king?

Does love of money (wealth) enter into this equation?

How does cruelty in war begin?

If there were a war crimes tribunal in the time of Sennacherib, how would he have answered charges against him?

What do you imagine the training and development of a new soldier in the Assyrian army must have been like?

What techniques can produce the qualities necessary for success in a military environment?

What can specifically prevent the development of sympathy or mercy?

Is there anything about human nature that motivates towards mercy?

What view of the nature of personhood opposes cruelty?

How does evolution affect attitudes towards violence?

How does creation affect attitudes towards personal responsibility?

Are there any modern parallels to Assyrian cruelty?

How does the theory of just war relate to kingdoms like Assyria?

Might Assyria have had a major problem with post-traumatic stress disorder among its veterans?

Could that explain the response of Nineveh to the prophet Jonah's call to repentance?

How did Sennacherib understand the nature of supernatural power?

Was Israel or Judah a good witness to the Assyrians regarding the importance of worshipping and serving the LORD?

Could Sennacherib have repented?

What would have been necessary for him to do so?