

Interoffice

AC 1048-3

May 13, 1987

DATE

To:

Dr. Hoeh
Keith Stump

DEPT.

From:

Oesterreichische Chronik:

DEPT.

Subject:

Is "Count Sattan" the Sakkanak of Ashur?

Re: the Austrian Chronicle -- I have wondered who "the Assyrian Count Sattan of Aligemorum" might have been. Here are some thoughts:

Abraham was born in 1972 B.C., during the reign of Shulgi (original reading = Dungi) of Ur III. During the latter part of Shulgi's reign, the Assyrians were brought completely under the domination of Ur. (The subservience of the Assyrians to Ur is dated from the 43rd year of Shulgi.) Thereafter, Assyria was tributary to Ur until that city's fall to the Elamites in 1900.

During the latter years of Shulgi's reign and during the reign of Shulgi's son Pur-Sin [Bur Sin], a viceroy named Zariqu [Zariku] governed in the city of Ashur. (All authorities agree that the city governors of Ashur were first compelled to submit the rule of Ur in the time of Shulgi.) Zariqu, a Semite, had previously held the governorship of Susa.

In an inscription found on the temple of Belti-ekallim in Ashur, Zariqu is called the sakkanaku [governor] of the city of A-usar [Ashur]. (See Early History of Assyria to 1000 B.C. by Sidney Smith, 1928; page 131.) The title is also seen with the spellings sakkanaku, shakkanaku and Sakkanak.

Possibly "Sattan" is an approximation of "sakkan", in which case "Count Sattan" may have been Zariqu -- Sakkanak -- himself, or a successor to his title of sakkanaku in Ashur.

The Cambridge Ancient History describes Zariqu as "king of Assyria, tributary to Sumer", and lists him as a contemporary of Naplanum of Larsa and Ishbi-Erra of Isin, which fits the Abrahamic time frame nicely.

Also -- a wild guess! -- could "Aligemorum" be a corruption of "Imgur-Enlil", an Assyrian city between Nineveh and Ashur?

Keith