

Isin II and Assyria

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The second dynasty of Isin came to rule Babylonia after the Kassites. Historians have been unable to document the overlap, if any, between the late Kassites and the early rulers of Isin II. The solution lies in separately establishing the dates of the Kassite line and the Isin dynasty. Isin's kings are known contemporaries of certain Assyrian kings. These documented relationships set upper and lower limits for Isin II. One document determines exactly where, within these limits, the dynasty of Isin II should be placed. That document is from the reign of Sennacherib which indicates 418 years elapsed from the seizure of a statue by Marduk-nadin-akhe and its return to Assyria by Sennacherib. Sennacherib overthrew Babylon in 689. By 687, the statue was returned. As Marduk-nadin-akhe cannot be placed earlier than 1104-1087, with an accession year in 1105/04, this earliest possible date becomes the exact date, for 418 years before 687 is 1105 B.C. The entire dynasty is therefore determined by this clear synchronism as given on the next page. Dating is in typical Roman years, but with accession years added.

No.	Name of King	Length of Reign	
1.	Marduk-kabit-ahheshu	18 years	1162-1145
2.	Itti-Marduk-balatu	8 years	1144-1137 accession-year: 1145/4
3.	Ninurta-nadin-shumi	6 years	1136-1131 → " " 1137/6
4.	Nebuchadnezzar I	22 years	1130-1109 → " " 1131/0
5.	Enlil-nadin-apli	4 years	1108-1105 → " " 1109/8
6.	Marduk-nadin-ahhe	18 years	1104-1087 → " " 1105/4
7.	Marduk-shapik-zeri	13 years	1086-1074 → " " 1087/6
8.	Adad-apla-iddina	22 years	1073-1052 → " " 1074/3
9.	Marduk-ah[he-eriba]	1 year 6 months	1051 ← (reigned 6 months, but reckoned as one year)
10.	Marduk-zer?-[...]	12 years	1050-1039
11.	Nabu-shumu-libur	8 years	1038-1031 → accession year 1039/8

The question now is how to determine the preceding Kassite line's dates. A key document states that from the time Tukulti-Ninurta I seized Babylon there were []6 years to the reign of Ninurta-tukulti-Aššur. The latter Assyrian king reigned only part of one year - in 1133. But the problem is, shall the broken text read [9]6 [8]6 or [7]6 years? There are enough known documents to limit the choice between these three possibilities. Now that the sequential reign of Ninurta-apil-Ekur is 3, not 13 years, the [9]6 is excluded because it would place the death of the Kassite Adad-šuma-usur prior to the beginning of the reign of the Assyrian king Enlil-kudurra-usur, his known contemporary. The reading [7]6 is excluded because it places an event that occurred 30 years after the fall of the Kassites to Elam too late in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar I of Isin. So 86 is the correct reading.

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We may now reconstruct the Kassites as follows. The reign of the Assyrian king Tukulti-Ninurta I is not reckoned in Babylonian records. In stead are three subordinate Babylonian (Kassite) kings whose reigns covered these 7 years. The Cambridge Ancient History, third edition, misunderstood this period, which has been clarified by J.A. Brinkman. Eighty-six years prior to 1133 is 1219. That year was the last year of Kaštiliaš IV, who reigned 8 years. That year was the Assyrian king's accession year in Babylon, but the Babylonians refused to reckon years by him and instead reckoned by Kassites who functioned during these 7 years in royal office under the Assyrians.

7 years of reign in common

Kaštiliaš	8 years	1226-1219	
Enlil-nadin-šumi	6 months,	} 1218	}
	reckoned as 1 year		
Kadašman-Kharbe	6 months,	} 1218	}
	reckoned as same 1 year		
Adad šuma-iddina	6 years	1217-1212	
Adad šuma-usur	30 years	1211-1182	
Meli-Šikhu	15 years	1181-1167	
Marduk-apla-iddina	13 years	1166-1154	
Zababa-šuma-iddina	1 year	1153	
Enlil-nadin-akhi	3 years	1152-1150/49	
Elamites invade, end of Kassites' rule in Babylon.			

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The Kassite dynasty therefore overlapped that of Isin from 1162 to 1150 or 13 regnal years. In fact, there is no record that Isin ever ruled Babylon until about the end of the reign of Isin's first king and the beginning of the reign of its second king. During these years the Elamites dominated the land.

Earlier kings of the Kassites, prior to Kastilias IV, are as follows, not including possible joint reigns:

Kurigalzu II	22 years	1322-1301
Nazimaruttas	26 years	1300-1275
Kadasman-Turgu	18 years	1274-1257
Kadasman-Enlil II	8 years	1256-1249
Kudur-Enlil	9 years	1248-1240
Sagarakti-Surias	13	1239-1227

From these reigns it is immediately possible to restore the reigns of Ramses II as 1279-1218, and the reigns of the contemporary Nittites, too.

The names of preceding Kassite kings are recorded but no lengths of reigns are preserved except for a 29-year reign of Burnaburiaš II and the earliest four kings: Gandaš 26 years, a contemporary of king Sabium of Babylon; Agum I 22 years; Kastilias I 22 years; Ussi 8 years. The dynastic total