

THE VENUS TABLETS OF
AMMIZADUGA

A SOLUTION OF BABYLONIAN
CHRONOLOGY BY MEANS OF
THE VENUS OBSERVATIONS
OF THE FIRST DYNASTY

BY S. LANGDON, M.A., AND
J. K. FOTHERINGHAM, M.A.
D.LITT.

With Tables for Computation by
CARL SCHOCH

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CHAPTER II
TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION

K. 160, *Obverse*

1. [*šumma ina araḥ Abi ūm 21-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na ina šit šamši*]¹ *bal-it*
2. [*2 arḥē ūmī 11-kam ina šamē iḥ-ḥa-ram-ma*]¹ *ina araḥ Araḥsamna ūm 2-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na*
3. [*ina erib šamši innamir*] *zunnē ina māti ibaššū ar-bu-tu iššakan*

If on the 21st of Ab Venus disappeared in the east, remaining absent in the sky for two months and 11 days, and in the month Araḥsamna on the 2nd day Venus was seen in the west, there will be rains in the land; desolation will be wrought. [7th year]

4. *šumma ina araḥ Du'uzi ūm 25-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na ina erib šamši it-bal*
5. *ūmī 7-kam ina šamē iḥ-ḥa-ram-ma ina araḥ Ab ūm 2-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na*
6. *ina šit šamši innamir zunnē ina māti ibaššū ar-bu-tu iššakan*

If on the 25th of Tammuz Venus disappeared in the west, for 7 days remaining absent in the sky, and on the 2nd of Ab Venus was seen in the east, there will be rains in the land; desolation will be wrought. [8th year]

7. *šumma ina araḥ Adar ūm 25-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na ina šit šamši it-bal*. [8th + 9th years]

If in the month Adar on the 25th day, Venus disappeared in the east.²

8. *mu* ^{si}*dūr-gar kug-gi-ga*³-*kam*

Year of the golden throne. For restoration, v. K. 2321, R. 24-5.

9. *šumma ina araḥ Sivan* ⁴*ūm 11-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na ina erib šamši it-bal* 9 *arḥē ūmī 4-kam*
ina šamē iḥ-ḥa-ram-ma
10. *ina araḥ Adar ūm 15-kam ina šit šamši innamir šarru ana šarri šulma išapp-ār*

If on the 11th of Sivan⁵ Venus disappeared in the west, remaining absent in the sky for 9 months and 4 days, and on the 15th of Adar she was seen in the east, king shall send greetings⁶ to king. [9th year]

11. *šumma ina araḥ Araḥsamna ūm 10-kam* ^d*Nin-si-an-na ina šit šamši it-bal* 2-*arḥē ūmī 6-kam*⁷
*ina šamē iḥḥaram-ma*⁸
12. *ina araḥ Tebet ūm 16-kam ina erib šamši innamir ebūr māti iššir.*

¹ Restored from K. 2321, Obv. 16.

² The period of absence and the date of the western rising were omitted or suppressed to insert the date formula.

³ The ideogram for 'gold' is usually read *guškin* = *ḥurāšu*, but in all the variants for this passage the phonetic complement *ga* indicates a Sumerian word ending in *g*. See also PBS. X 20, 12 = AJSL. 39, 180, 12. This is the date formula of the eighth year of Ammizaduga; for the more complete forms see POEBEL, BE. VI p. 100. In the preceding year, when this event actually occurred, this king placed a golden throne and his statue in Enamtila, which usually refers to the chapel of Enlil in Ekur at Nippur, see Langdon, *Babylonian Liturgies*, p. 134. But there was a

chapel of Gula-Bau in Babylon, probably in Esagila, and this date formula undoubtedly refers to that chapel. See also Langdon, *Babylonian Wisdom*, 64, 7.

⁴ So the text clearly on K. 2321, Obv. 22.

⁵ *Sivan*, the 3rd month, must be changed to *Adar*, the 12th month, and the 9 months which follow are to be struck out. In other words, the scribe was operating with *figures*, not names of months, and 9 months were inserted in the wrong place. See note on K. 2321, Rev. 25, and Obv. 22.

⁶ Var. K. 2321, Obv. 23 has *šalla išapp-ar*, shall send declaration of war.

⁷ K. 2321, R. 16 as 8 here.

⁸ Written *NI-ma*, but Var. K. 2321, Obv. 24, *iḥ-ḥa-ram-ma*.