

Do historians mention the Hittite King Suppililiumas?

Historians have written about King Suppiliuma.

Carl DeVries wrote:

For the most part, the biblical references do not suggest that the Hittites were more than a minor group, but the association of Hittite kings and Egypt with Solomon's trade in horses and their involvement in the conflicts of Syria and Israel in the divided monarchy indicate that the Hittites were a people of great consequence....¹

And Barry, Bomar, Brown et al wrote:

...According to the Deeds of Suppiliuma, Tudhaliya III's son, Suppiliuma I, joined in his campaigns against the Kaska, Isuwan, Arauwanan, Azzi-Hazaya, and the Arzawan. This military work laid strategic foundations for the advances of the Hittites under the rule of Suppiliuma.

Suppiliuma apparently seized the throne by murdering Tudahilya. As king, he stabilized Hittite control of Anatolia and advanced through the Mitannian territories of Syria, taking both Aleppo and Carchemish. While laying siege to Carchemish in 1327 BC, Suppiliuma was approached by the widow of Tutankhamun, who requested a prince for a marriage alliance with the Hittites. His son, Zannanas, was murdered on the way to Egypt, preventing this alliance from coming to fruition. Suppiliuma installed his sons as viceroys in Aleppo and Carchemish, and he formed critical alliances with other kingdoms. Shortly after securing the Syrian front, Suppiliuma succumbed to a plague brought to Hatti by Egyptian prisoners of war. The same plague likely took his heir, Arnuwanda II, which left a young Mursili II to rule the empire (Collins, Hittites, 48–50).²

Notable Hittites in scripture include: Ephron (Ge 49:30), Ahimelech (1 Sa 26:6) and Uriah (2 Sa 11:6, 21).

The Hittites land was promised to Israel (Ge 15:18, 20). God commanded their destruction (Deut 7:1, 2, 24).

¹ DeVries, C. E. (1988). Hittites. In Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (Vol. 1, p. 981). Baker Book House.

² Hittites, History of. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), The Lexham Bible Dictionary. Lexham Press.