

## The Ancient Assyrians

<http://www.ccds.charlotte.nc.us/History/MidEast/05/howey/index.html>

The massive empire achieved by 711 BC could have never been done without the advanced weapons and brilliant military tactics used by [Assyrian kings](#). One of the tactics made famous by the bible, was [Assyrian torture](#). Assyrians thought of torture as important as winning battles. Many times there was mass torture sessions, which were basically mass executions. They were public events and common to the Assyrian people. They normally had anywhere from 25 to 100 people in the sessions. The torturing sessions were made public for two reasons: the enemy's moral and the discouragement of conquered peoples. If you see your friends brutally tortured and murdered, you would be much more likely to desert your army or if you are a general, to come to terms much more quickly with the Assyrians. A weapon also referred to by bible was the chariot. The Chariot was the offensive power of the Assyrian army in it's early days.

The Assyrians were the first people to use the chariot successfully. They modified into many different versions. There was a small fast one man chariot that was used for intercepting purposes as well as a huge four-man chariot used as a shock vehicle against other armies. Once horses were bettered mastered and used in the latter part of the Assyrian Empire the chariot no longer stood alone in the spotlight. The Calvary became very able in every aspect of warfare. They were capable of being a quick response force for revolts, as well as a strong armored part of the Assyrian Army in major battles. Infantry made up the bulk of the Assyrian army. There were over ten different kinds of infantry a soldier could choose to be. He could be an archer, a spear thrower, a shieldsman, a slinger, a swordsman, a Calvary rider, a chariotsman, and many more. The Assyrians had a standing army of over 60,000 men at one time. Most of their reign they had only 30 to 40,000 men. The infantry were separated into divisions which could attack separately or all as one. All of these things helped Assyria to become the great empire it was.