

## **The Battle of Qadesh — An Egyptian Account**

Every country trembled before him [the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II]; fear was in their hearts; all the rebels came bowing down for fear of the fame of his majesty.... When his majesty reached the city, behold, the wretched, vanquished chief of Kheta had come, having gathered together all countries from the ends of the sea to the land of Kheta ... every man bringing his chariots, a huge number of people, like no other army. They covered the mountains and the valleys; they were like grasshoppers with their numbers....His majesty [of Egypt] had formed the first rank of all the leaders of his army... [but] the wretched vanquished chief of Kheta was stationed in the middle of the infantry that was with him, and he did not come out to fight, for fear of his majesty. Then he sent out the chariot forces, a huge number, like the sand....

...[The Hittites] surrounded the bodyguard of his majesty, who were by his side. When his majesty saw them, he was enraged against them.... He put on his coat of mail. He was like Baal in his hour. Then he went to his horses [and chariot] and led quickly on, being alone by himself. He charged into the foes of the vanquished chief of Kheta.... His majesty was like Sutekh, the great in strength, smiting and slaying among them; his majesty hurled them headlong, one upon another into the water of the Orontes.

-“Egyptian Account of the Battle of Qadesh” (circa 1274 BCE) excerpt