

of Ahab. We have said small "a" under "l". We have said a bit about Ahab already. Ahab was not a strong character like his father. There is no evidence to suggest ~~it~~ that. He was a man who seemed to have carried on the policies of his father very definitely and probably to have done it quite well on the whole. But he was a man who was very much under the influence of his wife even though he never seemed to have given into her entirely. There is no evidence that he ever became openly or officially a follower of Baal. During his reign his wife who was quite an ~~expert~~ to quite an extent behind the scene was nevertheless extremely important and the coming in of this Baal worship is the great force which makes the vital ~~of~~ factors of the history at this time. There is one other thing which should be mentioned here which is not in the Bible at all. I left out in the office a book which I intended to bring in here this morning to read you a little from. I think I'll just give you an idea of it instead of reading it exactly since I left it out there. This is a book which contains certain quotations from the annals of the kings of Assyria. This is the first time we have come to Assyria in the history and Assyria is not mentioned in the Bible at this point. Assyria, however, at this time had a king who began from Mesopotamia leading his army through and further westward, conquering and destroying the cities and he tells us that he came to a place called ~~Qarqar~~ Qarqar in Syria. At this place of Qarqar he fought a great battle with a number of kings. These kings included one named Benhadad, king of Aram, and it also included a king named Ahab, the son of Omri. So we find the mention of Ahab and the mention of Benhadad, called by a slightly different name Hadadibrie, on the inscription in the annals of this Assyrian king. He names them and a number of other kings and tells how these kings fought against him at Qarqar and he says with a typical Assyrian bravado, he says, "I destroyed them. I plundered them. I utterly ruined them, and made their rivers run red with their blood." But then he says that he went back to the land of Assyria and he does not describe any further expedition that went beyond where he fought with him