

and other great stories of the early days of humanity. We've mentioned already the part which the rediscovery of the story of the flood had in stimulating interest in archaeology, the question of the relation of these stories to the Biblical stories is a very interesting and important one and one to which we will give some attention next semester. Now this king Hammurabi conquered most of the nations round about and one of the last that he conquered was one with which he had been allied for a very long time, a city state called Mari on the northern Euphrates River and this city of Mari was excavated by the French just before the war and thousands of clay tablets from it were taken to France. During the war when the Germans had conquered France and the German scholars had to be helping their armies and making their plans and translating documents and censoring newspapers and all that sort of thing, the French scholars and the Belgian scholars, seeing that their land had been conquered and they could no longer perform any war-like acts, had their time entirely at their disposal, so they were able during the war to study forward on these Mari tablets and since the war two volumes have already been published and I understand there are two more in manuscript which will soon appear, volumes of these texts from Mari. It is as a result of these texts that the date of Hammurabi is now moved forward about four hundred years from the previous date that had been given to it. These are very interesting texts because they are mostly letters from the king and the leaders in his court to his representatives in the court of Hammurabi. We might say they give us an intimate view of history at that time and they have solved many problems but they have raised twice as many new ones that we didn't even know about before as they have solved. Some people think they have found the name David and the name Benjamin, which we find used in the Bible and which we find parallels to in the Mari text now and whether these actual parallel through light on the Biblical story is a matter that needs to be further thought through. Already the Mari tablets are of great importance and they promise to be increasingly important in the next few years because they through light on this very important period of Mesopotamian