

he destroyed, he says, the city of Qarqar and then he met a great coalition against him and he describes Ben hadad of Damascus and Ahab of Israel as leaders of the force against him. The Bible tells us nothing of the alliance of Ahab with Benhadad for the purpose of fighting Shalmaneser but it is interesting to find the name of Ahab which previous to the discovery of this tablet had been not/known to us from anything on which it was written in the time of Ahab to find (that is to say, in the Bible, of course, it is copied and copied and re-copied, but we don't have the original thing on which it was written then, nor do we have any monument on which Ahab actually had his name put up in his life time, but here is this inscription of King Shalmaneser of which we have the tablets which we consider come right from the very life time of Shalmaneser, the very tablet written then on which he names Ahab the king of Israel and Ben-Hadad, the king of Damascus. It is interesting that he doesn't call him Ben-hadad; he calls him Hadad-Isri and so when this tablet was first found scholars thought that the real name of the King of Damascus was Hadad-Isri but that Ben-hadad was another form of the name used by the Israelites. Since that time we have found an inscription actually put up by Benhadad, in which he uses the name is his form, using the Aramaic word instead of the Hebrew Ben, but otherwise it is exactly the same and in view of that it is now accepted by scholars that Ben-Hadad, is the Hebrew way of saying Hadad, which was the actual name of the king when he himself put up an inscription and then it was the Assyrians who used another form of the name but that the Bible preserves the actual form used by the king himself. Benhadad. This inscription tells us how all this coalition met this king and he overthrew their arms and pulled out a through the plain with their mighty troops, with weapons I made their blood to flow, the field was too narrow for smiting, with their corpses I dammed the river and so on--he tells how completely he defeated them but he never went past that spot in any of his later expeditions, so that it is considered pretty safe by scholars to say that in all these words he tells us of how completely he annihilated them are just his boastful way of trying to cover up the fact