

Old Testament History 117

that actually they fought him to a standstill, because he never went past the place in later expeditions, and so it is considered that this was a successful holding back of the Assyrian invasion. Had there been so sweeping a triumph as Shalmaneser claimed he certainly would have pressed forward and so this is very important for us because it shows us that Ahab must have been living in the years when he fought against King Shalmaneser and since we date the Assyrian dates pretty definitely here it results in trying to fit the Biblical dates into such an arrangement as will have Ahab living in 854 B. C., but it is a striking confirmation of the name of Ahab, the fact that he and Benhadad were contemporaries and the fact that he was actually a king of Israel. Now Shalmaneser, in another inscription tells us of Jehu. He mentions Jehu as bringing tribute to him. This was one of the earliest/great inscriptions found. It is a black obelisk-- not a high thing like the Egyptian obelisks, it only stands about so high and it is square and black, and on its side there we have pictures of people bringing tribute to the king and among one is named as Jehu, the son of Amri and so the name of Jehu is found there as bringing tribute to king Shalmaneser, and in another of Shalmaneser's inscriptions (we have quite a large number of his inscriptions preserved) he mentions that Hazeel, son of a nobody, seized the throne of Assyria, and he mentions Jehu as a king of Israel, showing the change from Ahab to the destroyer of his dynasty, Jehu, and the change from Benhadad to Hazeel, son of a nobody. Now, after this king, Shalmaneser III, there is a period in Assyrian history in which there was a depression which lasted about a century. They had evidently overextended themselves. They had gone beyond the resources they had in their conquests and had not been able to hold the conquered territory permanently so there was a depression of about a century but it was not a complete end by any means to their power because their power became much greater afterwards than it had been before and we find the revival of the power of the king of Assyria about a century later under a very important king whose name we spell in modern spelling as Tiglath-Pileser, III. He called himself Tiglath-Pileser.