

royal name in Assyria. He is Pul, King of Babylon. And the Assyrian kings didn't much care whether Babylon was called part of the Assyrian empire or whether the Assyrian king was simply king of Babylon as long as it amounted to the same thing, but there is another feature of it. For many centuries the Babylonians had had a custom at their new year's festival of having their king take the hand of their god and from to receive the control of the city of Babylon as represented it for the coming year and so long as the Assyrian king was there with his forces in Babylon on New Year's day he could take the hand of the king and/of the god the king who through the New Year's festival would be crowned as king for one year, but the king of Assyria liked to be off on warlike expeditions a great part of his time and when he wasn't doing that he preferred to enjoy the pleasures of his capital at Ninevah than to have to make a trip down to Babylon at this particular point in every year. He'd do it when he could but when he wasn't able to do it it made trouble and the Babylonians had to have somebody to crown king on New Year's day and if the Assyrian king wasn't there they would crown somebody else, and so Tiglath-Pileser had a great deal of trouble with the Babylonians and Sargon decided, instead of having to make this trip every year, to try to put up a puppet king and so he took a Babylonian who he thought would be loyal to him and let him be king and then he could take the hands of the god every year but he was supposed to be subject to him, but every once in awhile would revolt against him. One time he was driven away and he hid in the marshes down at the southern end of Mesopotamia and was about twenty years down there and then he came back and the people rallied around him and again there was a great rebellion against Assyria and so during the reign of Sennacherib there were two or three times when Babylon was independent for a period of a number of years and finally Sennacherib became so angry at the Babylonians that he led a great army against them and he tells us in his inscriptions that he conquered the city of Babylon and he destroyed, he utterly devastated it, he