

I don't think he had us in mind in doing it but it was very helpful to us because he gathered the literature of all of Mesopotamia, he got the tablets of history, of literature, of art, of religion, of law; every type of tablet had been arranged in his library so that he could get any one he wanted on quick notice and then within a very few years Nineveh was destroyed and his library was covered over with the sand of the ages and those tablets remained there until about a century ago when they were dug up and carried to the British museum. So we have the greatest collection of ancient Babylonian records ever made was made by Ashurbanipal and is now in London and is tremendously helpful to our knowledge of the cultural life of ancient Mesopotamia. In the latter years of his life Ashurbanipal was not very vigorous in fighting, he didn't even go off on great lion hunts, so often; he loves to tell us how he would meet a lion and send a spear through his head or how he would go up and grab it by the mane with his right hand and cut off its head with his sword in his other hand and was very proud of his prowess in fighting lions. Just how much of this is true and how much is of course we don't know, but he boasts of it a great deal, but in the latter part of his life he had a reputation which kept peace. Everybody was afraid of it but he let his army disintegrate to some extent, he had a very quiet period towards the end of his life but the forces of disintegration and rebellion and dissatisfaction were accumulating and when he died in 626 it was the signal for the waking up of the forces which had not dared to fight against him, so after his death in 626 there were two or three unimportant kings of Assyria no one of whom was able to cope with the situation which had become serious and in 612 just fourteen years after the death of Ashurbanipal Nineveh was destroyed. The Medes came from the east and the Babylonians from the south and the two armies met and they attacked the city of Nineveh and destroyed it so completely that it never was rebuilt and remained a ruin until modern times and in the Bible we have the book of Nahum, three chapters devoted entirely to the account of the destruction of the city of Nineveh. Woe to the bloody city. It is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not. The