

is an absolutely unnecessary way to take the phrase -- a land that eats up the inhabitants of ~~the~~ the land. Lange, I think, has a very good statement of it. He says this means, they so pressed one another for its possession that that they grind each other up. I think that is a good statement in the light of context of ~~the~~ what the phrase means here. It is a land that eats up the inhabitants. It means its a land in which life tends to be short because these big strong people are fighting one another a great deal. We have the Tel-el-Amarna Tablets discovered in the late '80's in Egypt; the tablets which were written by the kings of different sections of Palestine to Pharaoh at about this period. And you find them how the cities in Palestine were constantly fighting against each other and there was all kinds of confusion and turmoil in the land at this time. And therefore there was a ~~great~~ real danger for a person going through there that wasn't really careful. I mentioned to someone the other day, I said back in the '30's for 8 yrs. I had an apartment down in the center of Phila. I was not married then. I was living alone, and practically every night I would go out and I would walk a mile or two this direction, that or the other. I just walked down the streets here and there and it was interesting seeing the different streets and the different areas. He said, You couldn't do that today, he said, you'd be hit on the day. You ~~just~~ just couldn't do it today. Many people think -- I haven't been down there in the evening for a long time now. I don't know whether the reports are true or not but many think that it's an area that eats up its inhabitants now -- a section in which at night if you are going to walk through you'd better be in a group of 3 or 4. Well now that was true to quite an extent of Palestine at that time. It was true of that area even as recently as the period in the 1930's. I remember hearing at that time -- Well I travelled through for 23 days at that time on horseback with a group of 3 others and, and then 3 or 4 muleteers we carried stuff with us, and we rode on horseback visiting back countries and different sections of Palestine. And we never had any trouble in the ~~daytime~~ daytime at all, but when night came we always went to a village. Dr. Albright was very familiar with modern Arabic. We would come