

He spoke to some lions down in Africa and said, "Go up to the land of Palestine. We want you in Samaria." We know that there were already lions in the country. You remember that the old prophet in I Kings 13 who was killed by a lion. Even in the crusading times in the middle ages there used to be lion hunts in Palestine. They have now for several centuries been extinct. But there were no lions in the wild country at that time. Now ~~the people~~ with the decrease of population the lions naturally increased in number and in boldness. So when these animals began to become a menace to the people of the land they looked about for an explanation of it. ~~They~~ In this case they found a true explanation. They sent word to the king of Assyria and they said that the nations that you have placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the manner of the God of the land. They believed in a tribal God. The modernists today believe that the ancient peoples believed in a tribal god. They are entirely right if they are speaking of these people of Babylon; of Aviv, and of Hamath. But that doesn't mean that the Israelites believed in a tribal god. Various people around may have easily misinterpreted the religion. The early Jesuit missionaries went into lower California, that long peninsula which reaches down into Mexico south of California for about 500 miles. ~~the~~ Jesuits went in there and built missions up and down that land and taught the people the Roman Catholic religion and then in 1598 the king of Spain drove the Jesuits out leaving some fine churches that they had built and leaving quite a knowledge of the Roman Catholic religion among the people. Sometime later a man from the United States made a trip down through there and he went into one of those ~~xxx~~ little towns and he talked to some of the Indians and he saw in the church that the representation of St. Simeon and he said, "Who is that?" And they said, "Oh, that is St. Simeon. That's our ~~patron~~ patron saint." Well, he pointed to another and asked who was that. "Oh, that is St. Ignatius. He is another very great saint." "Well," he said, "have you heard of Christus?" "Oh, yes, he was a saint, too."

"Was He as great a saint as these others?"