

old strategy and one that is used over and over again all through history and one which generally has ^{disastrous} ~~desirous~~ consequences, one which usually produces just the opposite effects to that which is intended. It may give immediate relief, but in the end it puts one in ^{or} ~~in~~ far worse situation than he was in ~~before~~ before. Kings does not give any rebuke against Asa for this action. We read in Kings simply the facts in the case, that he sent ~~them~~ ^{him} into this king there and made this request of him and that Benhadad came and did as he requested and attacked Israel and smote the cities in the northern part of Israel. That made it necessary for Israel to stop its attack against Judah. Now there is an interesting point in verse 18. We have the name of the King of Syria given. The name is here given as Benhadad, the son of T _____, the son of H666 _____, king of Syria. Now this name, Benhadad; Ben is the Hebrew name for son (sona), and so Benhadad meant the son of Hadad, and Hadad is the name of the storm god. That was one of the leading gods of northern Mesopotamia and Syria. In Mesopotamia the god who was called Adad is a very important god. In Syria he is far more important than in Mesopotamia; he is the most important god. Naturally in that upland, mountain country the storm god assumed a position of importance superior to that of any other ~~deity~~ deity. So Benhadad would mean the son of the storm god. Hadad would be the name of the god, and Ben the Hebrew word. But these people up there in Syria were not Hebrew speaking people. Why should people there who are not Hebrew speaking people give a name to their king which has a Hebrew name in it? Why should they call him Ben-hadad. They were Aramaic speaking, their land being [?] Aram, they were Aramaic people and in Aramaic the word which in Hebrew is Ben is Bar, and so Barhadad, the son of Hadad would be the same thing in their language as Benhadad is in the Hebrew. Now in a case like this, we ~~may~~ say right away, what is his name? Is it Benhadad or is it Barhadad? And for an illustration of a comparable situation, Dr. Harris, yesterday, he and I were ~~sitting~~ sitting together at a place and there were Bibles in the pews, and he picked up one of these Bibles and was looking at it, and said to me, "Do you know where this place is?" And he showed me in the gazeteer in the back of it where there