

his kingdom and to increase the wealth and power of his dynasty by making an alliance with the kingdom of Tyre. So Omri made an arrangement with the king of Tyre by which the king of Tyre sent his daughter down to Samaria and there she became the wife of the crown prince, the son of King Omri. Later on his son carried on the same policy and his daughter, the daughter of this princess became the wife of the king of the southern kingdom, the king of Judah. Thus in this way Phoenician culture, Phoenician civilization, Phoenician religion began to pour in in a great stream into the land of Israel and from Israel on down into Judah eventually. Now this Phoenician culture ~~was~~ ~~is~~ was in many ways far ahead of the culture of ~~the~~ Israel. Phoenicia had contact with Egypt and with Greece and with regions beyond the sea. They had a material civilization superior to that of Israel. They also had a sophistication and a general attitude toward life which they considered immensely superior to what they considered the backward culture of Israel. So the king of the Sidonians was glad to make friendship with this rather powerful kingdom to the south and to send his daughter down there. She never ceased to fear that the land from which she came and its customs were far superior to that of the land into which she had gone. Professor Amstede of the University of Chicago in his history of Palestine and Syria says that this woman as she was there married to the son of Omri who became king of Israel must have felt much like a Christian matron in the early days of the Christian church would have felt married to a Roman noble, anxious to win him to her god and to her religion and anxious to advance what seemed to her a backward type of life and culture. That is the way it doubtless looked to her. So Professor A thinks very well of Queen Jezebel, thinks very differently about her from the impression that we see in Sunday School when we read about her. The fact of the matter is, of course, that Jezebel was indeed a true representative of Phoenicia and of Tyre at this time and she was anxious to bring Israel in line with that which she had done in Phoenicia.