

considered himself one who was following the old God of Israel and desired to be true to him in so far as it did not interfere with his plans for the advancement of his kingdom, but he gave his wife ^{rather} free reign in the ~~introduction~~ introduction of her worship which she considered more advanced, more sophisticated, a worship which was very definitely free from many of the moral restrictions and many of the specific regulations for cleanness and purity of life which were found in the religion of what she considered this backward people of Israel. So from the Israelite viewpoint it was a religion which ~~she~~ brought a great deal of immorality with it, a great deal of looseness of life. They could see that it was not as nearly as fine from the moral viewpoint as the old religion of their land and yet it had a great fleshly and human attraction for many of them. And so we have now as a result of Omri's political scheme the introduction of the ~~greatest~~ greatest religious crisis in the history of Israel. As far as the Bible represents it, the crisis intervenes by the worship of the golden calves was nothing in comparison with the crisis introduced by the bringing in of this worship of Baal. This ~~is~~ was a real crisis of the first magnitude, far more important than the matter of the golden calves. The golden calves, they claimed, represented the God of Israel. This was definitely a false god, definitely an antagonistic god, definitely a god whose idea of ~~immoral~~ morality were utterly different from those of the God of Israel. So with the coming of Queen Jezebel or of Princess Jezebel to be the wife of the crown prince and then to be queen of Israel after the death of Omri, you have the coming into the land of Israel and eventually into the land of Judah the greatest crisis in the history in the religion of Israel. Consequently we will give it a capital "D". We will remember that "C" was the two kingdoms to Omri, and now we will call "D" the Baal crisis. From a religious viewpoint it is the most important event in the history of the northern kingdom from a political and economic viewpoint it had tremendous repercussions. So "D", the Baal crisis and under that we will list number 1, the situation. We have already led up to the situation in connection with Omri. "a", the reign