

in Qarqar. So historians consider that actually they defeated him or brought him to a standstill. That was the end of his westward expansion even though he claimed to have victory over them. It is always customary to claim a great victory if you can possibly get away with it. The Assyrians' kings always did so, but the historical evidence seems to point quite clearly to this being a standstill or a defeat for him. That would not be so important for our purposes except for this fact. The battle of QarQar can be dated quite definitely in the annals of the kings of Assyria. So it gives us a point in our Biblical history where we can make a fairly definite date. That, of course, is very useful for the establishment of the chronology. If the Assyrian chronology is right (and we have far more evidence on it than we have on the Israelite chronology), it gives place to which to tie the Israelite chronology. Now

Now "b", the religious situation. Date of QarQar, 854 B. C. Now the religious situation we have already mentioned. It is a situation in which you have in Israel the people ordered not to go to Judah and worship at the temple at Jerusalem, told that they can worship God just as well by going to the shrines of the golden calves in Bethel and in Dan. That is what they are told. The great overwhelming bulk of the people are at least nominally ~~Israelite~~ followers of Jehovah. That is the established religion of the land and is the attitude of the bulk of the people where there is a tremendous amount of indifference among them. Jezebel is there the wife of Ahab busily trying to win people to her heathen religion and she has a great number of very able men who are priests of Baal with her who are actively propagandizing and the Baalworship before Ahab's reign has gone on very long, while never officially recognized by the king, is winning more and more adherents. The king always claims to have worshipped Jehovah, but the people know that if they want to get ahead of the king it is good to have Jezebel ready to say a word in their favor and they know that if they want Jezebel to favor them, it is a good thing to be worshipers of Baal. So the leaders of the kingdom ~~under~~ honor the king more and more become worshippers of