

2d King's 8 describes how Hazael murdered the ^{sub} weak king and placed himself upon his throne. The event is recorded in the words of Shalmanizir that "Hazael, son of a nobody, seized the throne".

After these events there was a period of about half a century as we have noticed in which Assyria rested before gathering its forces for its unbroken series of great conquests.

Before noticing the further contacts between the biblical account and the Assyrian inscriptions, we should notice a stone which was found near Palestine in the land of Moab and which has to do with this period. In 1868, a German missionary, Rev. A. Klein, discovered a stone in the region east of the Dead Sea, which was the kingdom of Moab in ancient times, with some ancient characters on it. It was of bluish black basalt, two ft. wide, nearly 4 ft. high and fourteen and one-half inches thick and rounded both at the top and bottom. On one side could be seen an inscription of thirty-four lines in old Hebrew characters. Mr. Klein tried to purchase this stone from the natives for the Berlin Museum and after about a year, succeeded in making an arrangement to secure it for about \$400.00. The French residents at Jerusalem heard of the matter and decided that it would be a good thing to have in the Louvre in Paris, so Clermont-Ganneau, the French consul at Jerusalem had a paper impression made of the stone and offered the natives more than \$1800.00 for it. This offer led the Arabs to believe that it must contain fabulous powers and the Governor of Nablus demanded it for himself. Fear of losing it, led the natives to build a fire under it and when it became hot, to pour cold water upon it, so that it cracked into fragments which they distributed among themselves as amulets and charms. Fortunately, Clermont-Ganneau succeeded some time later in recovering about two-thirds of the broken pieces and in piecing them together and filling the gaps by means of the paper