

actual writing == monuments on which these kings wrote their names we have some dozens of names of kings (particularly I'm thinking of names of foreign kings) in the Bible, and we have the names as they actually wrote them at that time, and in comparing them we find that there is very very little divergence that has come in. I don't think perhaps we realize altogether the difficulty of such names.

I came to realize it ~~when~~ in a very strong way when I entered the U. of Berlin as a student. When I went there I found they had a very fine habit. Instead of waiting for you to graduate they gave you a diploma as soon as you entered! That diploma certified that you had been received as a student at the U. of Berlin. We had a speech from the Rector of the university. He went out and one of the clerks stood up and called our names. This was the reception of a couple hundred people from various countries. He would call out the name and you would come forward to get your diploma that you had been received as a student in the university.

It seemed to me as if the Egyptian names, and the Polish names, and the ARABIC names, and the Russian names--it didn't seem to me he had any difficulty (with). But when he came to the American names, when he called Woodbridge, Blakely though he said Blakely! He said Woodbidgah. When he came to my name he was absolutely stuck. He said Her Muck Muck Alexander Muck! And I knew it was A. Alexander MacRae he was trying to say and I stepped forward and received my diploma.

But these names have been preserved accurately written down and preserved to give us very very close to the original form of them. As we compare 2 Sam., 1 Kings, 2 Kings with 1 and 2 Chron. we find some places where there's been a change of one letter. Like Benhadad. A well-known name is several times given as Benhater. A change of one letter. It doesn't fit. We have an interesting case in Chronicles. In 1 Chron 20:3 we read that David brought out the people from the city he had conquered and "cut them with saws and with harrows of iron and with axes." (KJV). He brought out the people from this conquered city and he cut them with saws and with harrows of iron and with axes! Wasn't he a bloodthirsty fellow!

Why did he have to use harrows of iron and axes? and saws in order to cut these people. We have a parallel to it in 2 Sam. where it says, He made them work with these. There's a difference of one letter in the Hebrew. And scribe after scribe as these were copied and recopied and recopied knew that that was a terrible slander on David to say he cut them to pieces with saws and harrows and axes. Most of them probably knew that in 2 Sam. it says he made them labor with these instruments. But they kept it exactly as it was. I think that is a marvellous evidence as to the dependability of our Hebrew MSS.

We have in a way a similar instance in connect on with the KJV. I was only familiar with it rather recently. When you try to make a difficult effort at something you strain yourself to do it correctly. But if you had something that was real difficult for you to face you are under a strain. You are apt to really strain to do it.