

and he is referred to by that name in both the inscriptions of Babylonia and in two places in the Bible. Ordinarily, he is called by the name which he seems to have assumed on becoming king, the famous old name of Tiglath-Pileser. He was an able general and an excellent administrator. He practiced the same ruthlessness in his dealings with his enemies that we have observed in the writings of his predecessor, Asur-nasirpal.

During his reign Ahaz was king of Juda. The king of Syria, Rezin and the King of Israel, Pekah, formed an alliance against Juda as described in the 7th Chapter of Isaiah. Ahaz was terrified. Isaiah made him the famous prophecy of the child Immanuel, saying (Verse 16) "For before the child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings."

Very soon after Isaiah gave this promise, Tiglath Pileser came with his army and succeeded in doing what his predecessor had been trying for more than a century to accomplish -- to overthrow Damascus. He captured Rezin, the king of Damascus and the people of Israel in terror deposed Pekah who had been allied with Rezin and surrendered to Tiglath-Pileser. He deported many Israelites to other parts of the empire, as described in 2d Kings 15-29,30, and as he also tells us in his annals. He made Hoshea king of Israel in place of Pekah.

While he was at Damascus, Ahaz went from Jerusalem to carry tribute to him. During his stay there, he saw an altar that he liked (2d Kings 16-10 following) and he sent the pattern of it to Jerusalem and had one made like it for his use there. The brazen altar which God had ordained for the temple, he kept "to inquire by".

During this period many references to Assyrian kings occur in the Old Testament and many references to places and characters men-