

First, Robt. Dick Wilson told me what tremendous prejudice you meet if you're going to get a doctor's degree at that time there was hardly a place that really stood for real Christianity. One fellow who tried to write a paper at the U. OF PA, and Dr. Barton wrote on his paper, Only a dogmatist could write like this. He told him, You can take courses as long as you want but your chances of getting a doctor's degree are practically nil. I figured that to work under anyone who was available then in direct biblical study, you'd either have to fight them constantly, or you would have to take something purely historical and even there you would run into all kinds of points. Dr. Wilson was anxious I work into Assyriology because there are so many contacts between it and the Bible. When you get into Assyriology it is a fascinating field. A tremendous and endless field. I had quite a bit of it in Berlin and ~~xxx~~ I came back here and I took quite a lot of it at the U. of PA. Dr. Speiser recommended the subject for a thesis. I went ahead and took it. I attended his courses in Assyriology for the next 20 years after that. If I'd put 50% more of my time on it, I could have written=== really done something worthwhile on Assyriology. I think with half the work I did in that it would have been well worth while and have the rest for OT study. I regret I spent as much time on it as I did. It was to get the doctors degree that would give you certain standing. Dr. Wilson and others were very anxious that one should get it. It is true my name on that book has carried weight. Shortly before it came out I met Prof. Pfeiffer of Harvard. He said, Oh, are you the famous MacRae? He used to work in that field. It is the standard work on the subject around the world. today, and there may be 300 people in the world who can understand it. To them it;s the standard and the rest of the world knows nothing about it.