

I might mention a couple of books which are helpful in connection with the general subject that we are discussing now, that of New Light from Mesopotamia and the History Contained in the Old Testament. Twenty years ago there were two books which were the outstanding books in the field for general use. One of them was this book, ARCHEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE, by Dr. George A. Barton. This book was originally published in 1916 and it went through seven editions. The seventh edition was 1937. Dr. Barton was a man whose own personal views were very radical regarding the Scripture. He had been brought up as a, in very conservative background--Quaker background and quite a conservative background. Then he had gone to Harvard University to take three years of graduate work in order to fit himself to be a defender of the Scripture. As he told me once, he wanted to be a second William Henry Greene, but by the time he came out of Harvard University he had decided that the Scripture was entirely wrong and instead of being a defender of the Scripture he became an attacker of the Scripture and he devoted fifty years of teaching to the discussion of matters relating to the Old and the New Testament and in most cases taking a radical view and in some cases an extremely radical view. However, he did a good deal of study in the field of archeology, touching a great many sections of the field of archeology and the American Sunday School Union asked him to publish this book and he tried to publish a book which would be satisfactory to the American Sunday School Union. Consequently, in the book his radical views are kept in the background. They are there but they are in the background. It is not at all such a book as a conservative would have written but neither is it at all such a book as a radical would write if he were writing without this particular objective, to write a book which that organization would publish, and so, while you find radical statements and suggestions