

exact date might be. If you know the date of one event you may know the date of another event three or four hundred years later, but if a thousand years later there is a period of two hundred years when we have comparatively <sup>little</sup> knowledge, it leaves the possibility that the whole complex of dates might be moved forward or backward. This third millennium is a very interesting period, a period, however, which does not have a great many contacts with the Bible. We noticed that it began with the Sumerians, that great practical people, a small people in number and also in stature, but an able people and a people who for a long time were the dominant people, doubtless were completely absorbed by the far larger conquered population eventually. In the latter part of the millennium we noticed that the Accadian peoples, a Semitic speaking people came to the front and then there was a retrogression of Sumerian again, which probably was a dead language but used much as Latin is used in the middle ages. Then came the rise of Babylon, Babylon not heard of in history prior to the end of the third millennium B. C. The beginning of Babylon used to be put in the third millennium; in the light of new discoveries of the last three or four years it is now more probable that it comes in the second millennium, so we will discuss it under No. 3, the second millennium B. C. Now this second millennium B. C. is a period in general of which we know much less than we do about the third millennium. The first part of it--Hammurabi and the first Babylonian dynasty come in the first part--is comparatively well known. Hammurabi was the first great codifier of law, and in his day there was, as we mentioned last time, a great spelling reform, an improvement in the methods of writing, an improvement of the system to adapt it to the Babylonian, a system not naturally adapted to it, a great improvement such is so sadly needed in our English writing but we have not yet produced a Hammurabi who would carry it through. Therefore we have a system that is very awkward and to our language, but the system was greatly revised and improved and the great standard classics of Babylonian literature were put into a definite form at this time. This included a story of creation and a story of the flood