

O. T. H. 122

of a name. Now in this neo-Babylonian period we have other interesting corroboration, archaeological corroboration, the life of Nebuchadnezzar, his power, the general nature of the man, his tremendous interest in building--Daniel describes him--See, is not this great Babylon which I have built?-- exactly fits with his general character. We have one interesting little light which archaeology sheds on this period, which is somewhat questionable, and yet I think fairly reliable. In the book of Daniel we have described the time when ~~the~~ Nebuchadnezzar gave the order that the people should bow down and worship before the great image that he set up, and when he gave that order we read that all the princes bowed down except Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego and so they were cast into the fiery furnace. Now ~~most~~ scholars have said, "Why should there be persecution right at this time?" They have said, "The book of Daniel was not written till the Maccabean period. We have no evidence of any religious persecution at the time of the book of Daniel. It was written at a later time and they invented this story." Well, it is interesting that in excavating at Ur of the Chaldees discovered there one of the great temples had largely rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar and you can tell what parts were rebuilt because Nebuchadnezzar wanted everybody to know what he did and so on one of every few bricks he would put the inscription, stamped on, that would say, "Nebuchadnezzar, the great king, the king of Babylon, the rebuilder of this temple," and so we have over a million bricks that have been excavated in Babylon with that on them about Nebuchadnezzar. Well, now, down in Ur of the Chaldees you find it on these bricks and so it is possible to reconstruct the arrangement of the temple before Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt it and the arrangement afterwards, which is substantially the same, but there is one striking difference. In the temple of at Ur of the Chaldees before Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt it you have in front of the shrine of the god in which the image was, the image of the moon god, in front of that shrine you have little rooms, which evidently were store-rooms so that