

the Old Testament as ~~for~~ for example - - so and so and so and so emp. such and such and such and such.

Most scholarly Bible students believe that this is also true in the genealogies in the book of Genesis, and that the flood instead of occurring at 2500, as it is placed in Ussher's Chronology, was at least as early as 4000 B.C.

It is also true that in the reconstruction of history which is gained from archaeology, there is no complete material for a chronology. We have to use many expedients in determining the exact dates of the events of which evidence is found in Mesopotamia and Egypt as well as in Palestine. As more knowledge has been gained, mistakes in previous calculations have been increasingly found. Thus, ~~Hamurabi~~ Hammurabi about 1900 was supposed to have reigned at such and such a year. A book written about 1920 moved his date up to such and such a year, while it is now quite generally thought that he reigned about such and such a year. Thus, many of the dates have been subtracted greatly, and probably the knowledge of them is much more accurate than in former times. It certainly need not upset the faith of the Bible students ^{if} ~~if~~ Ussher's dates are proven not dependable, in view of the scanty nature of the data he had on which to attempt to build up a system of chronology.

For general corroboration of the factual nature of the Old Testament, i.e. that it is not a group of pious stories, but something which comes from a factual background, it is important to note the general framework of ancient oriental history as reconstructed by archaeological study. Shortly after 3000 B.C. with the beginning of writing and, consequently, the dawn of history, we find strong powers established in Egypt and in Mesopotamia. About 1800 B.C., which is the approximate time of Abraham (the exact date is not known as yet) we find ^{an established in} ~~the~~ empire of Mesopotamia with its capital at Babylon, a city which had not been prominent much before that time. In Egypt at this time there is also quite a strong regime. The dominant powers of these two empires is reflected in the pages of the book of Genesis. The power of Egypt continues quite strong corresponding with the events in the end of Genesis and the beginning of the book of Exodus.