

Another matter which must be noticed is related to the nature of archaeology. Archaeology, as we have seen, is the study of material remains from the past, which actually comes from the times of the events considered, and are not simply copies of materials from that time or later accounts of them. With this definition in mind, we must note ~~the~~ the fact that we have no archaeological material which is contemporary with and clearly related to events previous to the time of Abraham.

A general question of importance is the matter of the origin of writing. It was easy to develop theories of the origin of the books of the Bible and of the comparative alleged unhistoricity of the events described, when it was generally believed that writing was unknown until long after the occurrence of many of these events. It is now known, however, that writing was not only in existence as early as the time of Moses, but that it was very common at that time and; in fact, at the time of Abraham. If Moses was trained as the Bible says in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, he certainly would have known the hieroglyphic writing, and in this writing we have many lengthy documents written long before his time. It would also be extremely likely that he would be trained in the cuneiform ~~writing~~ writing, for we have whole archives from Egyptian kings from such and such a year before Christ, consisting of letters between the kings of Egypt and the kings of Canaan, of Babylon, of the Hittites, of the Mittony and so forth, all written in the cuneiform script, which is the type of writing originated and used in distant Mesopotamia. Both of these were rather cumbersome types of writing, which never attained the simplicity of an alphabetic type of writing. Both originated at about 3000 B.C. and are the earliest types of writing known. In fact, no other type of writing came into existence until many centuries after the origin of these two types of writing. However, by the time of Moses, a type of writing was known in the Sinaitic Peninsula which is almost certainly the precursor of the Hebrew letters/^{from} which our modern Hebrew letters and also our Greek and Latin letters have been derived.

This is the earliest alphabetic system of writing known and all subsequent alphabetic systems of writing have been either directly derived from it, or have received their impetus from a knowledge of it.

We notice that writing originates at about 3000 B.C. This is very important when