

Well, during this second millennium B.C. there was this great literature of Babylon, and there was the great literature of Egypt, none of which was preserved through the ages, but which was buried and then found again, but there was <sup>also</sup> a very interesting development, quite different from this, which occurred in Crete and in Greece, and on the shores of Syria, opposite Crete. Now that, on the shores of Syria - well they're about the same time - I guess I'll mention that first.

On the shores of Syria, there was found in 1929 a place which we call Ras Shamra. Ras Shamra is the present name of a little place on the shore of Syria, north of Palestine, in what is today Lebanon. And, at this place, in 1929, they began to excavate an ancient town from <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ second millennium B.C.. ~~JA~~ And in that <sup>town</sup> ~~town~~, for which the ancient name was Ugarit, we have found a few hundred tablets, clay tablets, which have various types of writing - of material on them, ~~it~~ but they have got the legends and religious stories of the ancient Canaanites. And that has been very interesting to Bible students because, before 1929, there were a number of books written that showed how the view - the religious views of the Bible were largely taken over from the ancient Canaanites. And of course it was easy for anybody to prove they were taken over from the Canaanites for we didn't know anything about the Canaanites' religion, except what we found in the Bible. But now we have rather extensive literature of the ancient Canaanites, and we can see that the religious ideas <sup>of</sup> ~~in~~ the Bible do not come from it. But we can see, on the other hand, where the Bible speaks against the religion of the Canaanites, and we can understand a number of the allusions better, because we learn so much more about the religion of the Canaanites from these Ugaritic tablets. And they had a language similar to Hebrew, and it throws light on the meaning of words ~~in~~ in some cases, in a very interesting way. And here was <sup>an interesting</sup> a literature that was completely forgotten, buried there in Ugarit for more than 3000 ~~in~~ years - until it was excavated, only since 1929. And ~~in~~ <sup>is</sup> an interesting thing about this material is that it ~~was~~ ~~not~~ written, not like the Babylonian and Egyptian, in an idiographic ~~idiographic~~ <sup>is</sup> or logographic form, but ~~in~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~in~~ alphabetic form, that is to say, instead of having signs that represent ~~for~~ words, ~~it~~ has signs that represent