

We have hundreds of thousands of records from Mesopotamia. So you get Mesopotamia on the one hand; you get Egypt on the other, and you get material that you can use to throw light on Palestine.

When I got to Berlin I immediately took a course in Hebrew, it's a study of the book of Deuteronomy. There were 60 in the class and the professor said, I want it understood, nobody should be in this class that doesn't know Hebrew well. He said we don't want any slow work on Hebrew here. This is an advanced class. If you are going to be in this class you must know Hebrew just as well as you know Latin. Of course that was no challenge to me, but to those German students you could see that with the training they had they knew Latin so very thoroughly that to say you must know Hebrew as well as you know Latin was a real challenge. I took this course in Hebrew with them. We took Deuteronomy. I could have looked at Deuteronomy in Hebrew and translated it right off into English. I could have looked at the English and translated it right off into German, but to go from the Hebrew direct to the German I found to be a very difficult task, especially as the word order is so utterly different. I had a course in Hebrew; I had a course in Aramaic; I had a course in Arabic, and I took my first year course in Egyptian hieroglyphics and first year in Babylonian cuneiform. So I had plenty of languages that year. Now as time went on, I devoted myself more to the Egyptian and to the Assyrian. I remember one time the professor in the Egyptian, I mentioned to him one of the things we were reading. My, I said, how interesting this is. Oh yes, he said, Not like the Assyrian. This is interesting and human he said, not like the Assyrians and Babylonians with their harsh methods of approach, etc. I was talking to a professor of Assyriology and I mentioned to him what the Professor in Egyptian had said, Oh yes, he said, But the Egyptians were awful liars!