

Egyptian material is of great value for general corroboration. It is disappointing to find that the amount of it available for special corroboration is far less than might be expected.

2. Special Corroboration.

Two very interesting cases of special corroboration are involved in Genesis 12.16 where Abraham is described as having acquired considerable property in Egypt and a catalog of his wealth is given. In this list there is no mention of horses. In later times Egypt was the great land of the horse, and it would be difficult for anyone who invented a story like this in the time of the later Israelite kingdom to fail to mention horses in the list of the property that Abraham amassed. It is only in comparatively recent years that examination of Egyptian antiquity has led to the discovery that the horse was unknown in Egypt until the time of the Hyksos invasion. It was by the use of horse-drawn chariots that the Hyksos made their successful "lightning attacks" on the land of Egypt. After the Hyksos were driven out the Egyptians saw to it that they were always well-equipped with horses, and Egypt became widely known as the land of the best horses (cf. 1 Kings 10.28-29).

The mention of camels at the end of Gen.12.16 formerly produced a very important problem in special corroboration. Thus in the 1930 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, H. R. Hall, Director of Antiquities in the British Museum, made the statement that the camel was unknown in Egypt until the late Persian period, or approximately the fourth century B.C. This would contradict the Biblical statement that more than a thousand years earlier Abraham had amassed a great number of camels in Egypt. For some reason the nobles did not care to have camels pictured on the paintings in their tombs, and the camel is seldom mentioned in Egyptian references. Yet a rope of camel hair has now been discovered from a time as early as the middle of the second millennium B.C. Other scanty and