

Biblical accounts.

Another area of alleged derivation is the field of law. At one time it was held that the Pentateuchal laws were far too advanced to have been written at the time of Moses. Discovery of the Code of Hammurabi proved that a much more complex code than that in the Pentateuch had been promulgated centuries before the time of Moses. The next step was to allege that the Pentateuchal laws were borrowed from the Code of Hammurabi. Such dependence of one upon the other, however, can easily be shown not to be the case. There may be places where the civil laws of the Pentateuch reflect civil laws that were known in Mesopotamia, but the basic emphasis of the Pentateuchal law is primarily religious and very different from the basically secular emphasis of the Code of Hammurabi.

Mesopotamian study constitutes a fruitful field for the Bible student.

Many ill-founded theories and superficial interpretations have been disseminated in relation to this material. After they have been carefully sifted and the superficial and the unwarranted have been eliminated, there still remains a tremendous amount of material throwing light upon the Bible, showing it to be remarkably accurate in general, and specifically corroborating it at many points.

IV. Other Areas Outside Palestine, that have Produced Material Related to the Old Testament.

A. Syria.

The region immediately north and northeast of Palestine looms large in the history of the Divided Kingdom. Properly this region should be thought of in two sections, separated from one another by the Lebanon Mountains. The region along the Mediterranean Sea directly north of Palestine is now an independent country called Lebanon, while that further inland, centering around Damascus, is today