

Certainly to me, one of the most convincing evidences of the truth of the Bible is the tremendous amount of corroboration of the statements of the Old Testament that has recently come to light.

One of my purposes in this course of lectures will be to try to give some idea of this corroboration, to show the tremendous amount of evidence that has come to light on this point in recent years and also to give an idea of the point at which our present knowledge ends in order that we may be able to speak of the things that are known and to avoid statements which cannot be supported. I think there is great harm done in exaggerated statements. A person must know his material quite well if he is to state exactly what can be substantiated and not to run over into statements which while they may be true, cannot yet be proven to be true.

A second purpose in these lectures which I think is almost as important as this purpose of showing the great new grounds for faith that we have in the Old Testament is to give some idea of the ~~big~~ ^{rich} historical ground of the Old Testament in order that we may understand it better. It is written against the background of the ancient Orient. Its qualities often enter closely into the customs of that time. Many of the statements are directed toward great leaders in other nations at that time or toward events which can be better understood by us than they could have been a few years ago.

If we are correctly to visualize the events of the Old Testament, we must have some idea of the complex of nations among which these events took their part. This situation can be understood by us now with great clearness.

I shall try during the first half of these lectures to give a clear idea of the world situation during the Old Testament times, in addition to presenting the many evidences that bear upon the corroboration of the Old Testament. The material in the lectures will