

influences and though there were periods when an individual civilization developed itself here~~in~~ during a number of centuries, it was nothing to compare with the long development of the Egyptian civilization.

At many points, there was almost a complete overthrow by a foreign people with the resulting entrance of many new influences into the civilization and life of the people. Both Egypt and Mesopotamia, with their constant assurance of fertility, were able to become the center of great empires which could exercise power and control far outside their own boundaries and to become centers of civilization, such as only a prosperous land can develop.

In between these two lands was Palestine, without a great river to give it constant fertility, dependent on the rains which at times failed to come and with a much less fertile territory. Palestine was always under the shadow of these two great world empires and was constantly affected by the efforts of one or the other of them to reach out and seize the country before it.

Another point at which it is interesting to sharply contrast Egypt and Mesopotamia is in the nature of their writing. Both countries developed systems of writing very early. There used to be those who questioned whether Moses could have written the first five books of the Bible. We now have hundreds of *pages* of literature from both Egypt and Mesopotamia from periods long before the time of Moses. There is now no question that writing was known and widely used long before the time of Moses.

The writing which developed in these two regions was sharply differentiated by the nature of the writing material. In Egypt, a system of hieroglyphics was developed. These are pictures of human beings, of animals, of household utensils, of parts of buildings and of other elements of daily life. These pictures.