

twenty-seven different languages have been found written with these cuneiform signs. Here again we find an interesting commentary on the old claim that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible. In Upper Egypt have been found a large number of clay tablets using this cuneiform writing, containing the letters sent by the kings of the various cities of Palestine to the king of Egypt, either at or somewhat before the time of Moses. There is clear evidence that the writing in far away Babylonia was known both in Egypt and in Palestine before the time of Moses.

The material on these last has given us a great insight into the conditions in Palestine before the coming of the Israelites. In fact, it has been said that we know more about exact conditions in various parts of Palestine at that period on account of the information gathered from these letters than at any period since, up to the present day.

In what we have already observed of the contrast between Mesopotamia and Egypt, we have had the key to a number of the important features of the history of each of these territories. We have the continuity of development in Egypt due to its comparative isolation as contrasted with the many upheavals which Mesopotamia experienced on account of its comparatively open situation. This is a very important element in the nature of the history of the two sections. In Egypt there developed an opposition to foreigners, while ~~xxx~~Mesopotamia came to be something of a melting pot of many races.

The contacts of the Old Testament with both Egypt and Mesopotamia are many and varied, though both nations were far from Palestine, they were powerful enough to exert a constant influence through Palestine. In the Old Testament we find Abraham