

coming out of the land of Mesopotamia. We find him making a short visit to Egypt, then we find his descendants coming down into Egypt. Many chapters of the Book of Exodus are occupied with events in Egypt and so at the beginning of the Bible, Egypt occupies a more important place than Mesopotamia, but during the latter chapters of Israelite history, Egypt is in a declining condition, for the greatest events of Egyptian history lie at the beginning of bible history, or before it, while the greatest periods of Mesopotamian history came later.

The latter books of the Old Testament have Egypt always present as an important factor, but Mesopotamia occupies a far greater ^{part} portion. In fact, it is impossible to understand the later books of the Old Testament unless one has some idea of the great events that were then occurring in Mesopotamia. From Mesopotamia we have found contact after contact with biblical history. Our contacts with Egypt are less frequent. This may be partly due to the fact that the outstanding events of the Old Testament in relation to Mesopotamia are the conquest of Palestine by the people from Mesopotamia. This was something of which the Babylonians and Assyrians could be proud and they naturally set up monuments to celebrate it and wrote annals to record the glory of their deeds. The principal contacts with Egypt, on the other hand, represent a defeat of the Egyptians and an exodus of the Israelites against the will of the Egyptians. It was not something that the Egyptians would be proud to celebrate or to remember in later days, consequently the Egyptian records that deal with events mentioned in the Bible are far less frequent in number or in importance than those from Babylonia. We have some contacts with Egyptian history of tremendous importance, but the number of Egyptian contacts are