

These people of Accad, these Semitic people, these Accadians, were not like the Sumerians. They did not shave their faces, they had long beards; the Sumerians shaved their faces and the tops of their heads as well, but the Babylonians let their hair grow in both places. Both peoples were consistent, the Sumerians and the Accadians, but the Accadians conquered the Sumerians and their civilization is quite interesting but the contacts with the Bible are not very numerous. Then there was a renewal of Sumerian civilization. We are not sure whether it was actual Sumerian or people who were imitating Sumerian civilization. We call this the third dynasty of . It doesn't have much direct contact with the Bible, but our contact with the Bible of any extent begins with the Babylonian civilization. We'll put that under the second millennium, No. 3. It would have been put under the third millennium up to ten years ago. In fact, it was considered that the date of Hammurabi was definite and fixed. That was believed by all scholars up to ten years ago. Hammurabi's dynasty, while we know a tremendous amount about it, comes before a long period of which we know comparatively little, and it was quite a guess what was the length of this latter period, and new discoveries made within the last ten years enable us to shorten this period very materially, a period formerly thought to be about five hundred years in length was cut down to about one hundred, so Hammurabi, who used to be dated between 2100 and 2000 is now usually dated about 1700. This Babylonian dynasty, of which Hammurabi was the sixth king, was a very progressive dynasty. They were great conquerors. They conquered most of Mesopotamia, all of Mesopotamia and much of the territory as far west as the Mediterranean Sea, but they were progressive in other ways. They took the Sumerian writing and they changed it quite a bit. They modernized the spelling. Instead of going on with such silly things as spelling was "w a s" when a never is pronounced " " and "s" shouldn't be pronounced " ", such silly things as writing " t u h o u g h" when all they mean is "though", they gave up some of those crazy habits that the former Accadians had had and adopted a revised spelling system which was continued from that time on, to the end of Mesopotamia's history. So the change in the method of writing is very