

or maybe two thousand years within which we know ~~it~~ that this lasted this long and this lasted this long and this this long, and we could put them straight ahead but we don't know just where to start or end this period, so the question of moving it forward or moving it back.

I mentioned yesterday that the period between approximately 500 B. C. and 330 B. C. is a period which is very obscure. Comparatively little definite information is preserved about that time in any country. All that the Jews have preserved about that period only consider it as being about forty years long and their traditions speak of men who were active in the beginning of the period and being active in the end of the period. Those conditions are considered by all scholars to be simply late and erroneous ideas and not to be accurate at all. Probably that is correct that they are not accurate and incorrect, but it is interesting that all the Jewish evidence on this prediction (there is none in the Bible) the ~~xxxx~~ Jewish evidence on this period which comes from statements in the Talmut written centuries after that. All these statements suggest a very brief period, less ~~xxx~~ than one-fourth as long as it is usually considered to be. Now Ptolemy, a great Greek geographer and historian of the second century A. D., took the ~~xxxxxxx~~ material available to him for this period hundreds of years before his time and from that scanty he tried to reconstruct an idea of the chronology of the period. He had certain names of kings and he ~~xxxx~~ estimated about how long they might have reigned. So he built up a history of the Persian Empire. That is a very brief chronological system for this period from approximately 500 up to 330. The figuring which he did in the second century A. D. has been accepted by all scholars ever since. When we name a date in ancient history and we say it was 2572 B. C. that means that we are quite sure it was 2072 years back of this date 500. And we have pretty good evidence for just about every period back of that. That is to say we may have a list of a series of years and what happened ~~in~~