

a score of languages saying Christianity is just a pale copy of the sects that lived in the wilderness and wrote the DSS. There is no scientific foundation for it, but it is an approach of mind they use to injure the faith of a great many people.

So in connection with the OT the study of Akkadian is of great value in order to see the actual evidences on this question of the derivation. To see the actual evidences and thus to be able to see what is derived from the civilization round about. Because a great deal in the life of any of us is derived from the life that is around us. But also to show that the essential teaching of the Bible is fact, it's ethical and moral teachings were given by God by revelation and are different rather than similar to the teachings of the heathen nations round about.

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#### c. For help in Interpretation

Akkadian is of help in interpretation of the Bible, because we have many historical events briefly referred to in the OT, on which we get more light as we read about the situation at the time in Assyrian documents.

It is of help because sometimes we find a Heb. word which is similar to an Akkadian word and the Akkadian word has a meaning that fits the context far better than the idea that has been traditionally held in the meaning of the Heb. word. Thus it can assist us in understanding the correct meaning of Heb. words in some cases. This is not so common with it as it is with some other of the Semitic languages. So I did not include that separately -- it helps in the study of words.

But it is enough of a force to mention it under this "for help in interpretation" -- for the interpretation of the OT Akkadian is in many cases a very definite help. There are dozens of scholars in the world today giving study to material written in this == in these cuneiform languages. Many many ~~xxx~~ books are written in it, many of them cannot be understood by people outside the field. But people in the field draw great conclusions from them and write popular books which have considerable influence in the Christian world. So it is of great importance that we have a few people who are able to deal first hand with this material.

We'll go on to the second chronologically of these ancient languages: that is Aramaic. Aramaic is a language of great importance to us for many reasons.

a) An actual part of the OT is in Aramaic. It is written in the Bible in the same letters as the Heb., so if you just at a glance cannot tell which pages are in Aramaic and which pages are in Hebrew. I have often amused myself in classes in Heb. by asking them to read Jer. 10:9-12, and he'll read v. 9 (very easy to read), v. 10 (very easy to read), and then v. 11 looks exactly the same and the words are the same words but with different endings, different vowels in the middle. Occasional consonant different. And he's usually quite stumped by it. Then he realizes this is not Hebrew; this is Aramaic. Here in Jeremiah where Jeremiah is speaking to the people who are to go into captivity, he tells them about the