

We have sketched very briefly the principal events in the opening up of the remains of ancient Babylonia and Assyria. I have tried to point out the two movements there. The movement of exploration in archaeology and the separate movement of decipherment of the inscriptions and told how these movements proceeded for a time side by side, each of them contributing to and helping with the other. Without either one of these movements, the other would have been of comparatively little importance. It took different men on the whole to work out each of these, because the nature of the work was quite different. It is rare in fact that the same man is a good philologist and also a good excavator.

I was especially anxious to show how much of a sensation had been produced by the sudden reopening of our knowledge of this ancient world and to give an impression of how it was the work of many different hands laboriously piecing together different bits of knowledge and of hypothesis that finally resulted in the establishing of our knowledge on a solid footing.

Since the end of the expeditions of which I spoke, there have been others going to Mesopotamia in increasing number and many scholars in different parts of the world have busied themselves with studying the language and the materials gained from the translation of the various documents. As a result, today we are able to put together a fairly complete history of this ancient world.

Before pointing out its important contacts with biblical history, it is advisable that we get a good idea of this history as a whole and that we form some impression of its most important periods and the aspects of each.

When recorded history as far as it is yet known in Mesopotamia begins, we find two races there, the Semites and another race called the Sumerians. At that time, the Sumerians were the dominant