

They describe a flood with some details, paralleling the biblical account of the flood. These stories which go back of the period which can be considered history have many exaggerated and phantastic details in them. In a comparison of the history for the corroboration of the Old Testament records, the comparison of these stories with the early stories of Genesis, does not form a part. From another viewpoint, the comparison is of tremendous importance. We will touch on that, after we have compared the two histories. It is dangerous, however, to be too certain of the unhistorical nature of the entire early legendary material from Mesopotamia.

In the lists of kings that they have preserved, occurs the first Dynasty of Ur with several kings in it. It is followed by a dynasty with very long reigns and mythical characters among its names. Ten years ago, scholars were united in regarding both of these dynasties as entirely legendary. Since that time, the University of Pennsylvania expedition at Ur has discovered an inscription coming from one of the kings of the first dynasty and the first dynasty has been established on a definite historical footing. It was entirely unexpected that anything ^{sh} could be discovered from this period which was regarded as entirely legendary. Now, of course all scholars recognize the historical nature of this period.