

Chapel - 4/29/58 - Dr. MacRae

book Olmstead contributes an article on Hebrew (11.5). And in this article Olmstead refers to this verse. And Olmstead says there's an interesting progression here. He says, "Here we have the Bible with its statement here, 'In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod ( when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him) and fought against Ashdod, and took it' and this statement was in the Bible and then the higher criticism came along and undertook to correct the Bible saying, 'No, that can't be Sargon. There was no such king. It must be somebody else.' And then the archaeology comes along and corrects the higher criticism because the archaeology discovered that great palace of King Sargon about 12 miles from Ninevah and finds there the records of the reign of King Sargon and proves that he was a great king and you read in his record how he conquered Ashdod, and he conquered many great cities and had a tremendous number of great military exploits. There you have your archaeology and then the circle goes one step more and completes the ring because now the higher criticism tried to correct the Bible. The archaeology has corrected the higher criticism. Now the Bible corrects the archaeology." Because you read in Sargon's records how he lead his army into Ashdod and conquered it and about the same time you read how he led his army against a great city over in Persia and conquered it and the two are hundreds of miles apart on opposite sides of his great capital and they didn't have any airplanes to carry the commander-in-chief rapidly from one to the other in those days so that he could do both. And what were the facts - is Sargon telling the truth about one and lying about the other or telling the truth about the other and lying about the one? Well the Bible corrects it - "In the year that Tartan (which we have discovered from the Babylonian records is a word for 'commander', a general under a king) that Tartan came unto Ashdod (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him) and fought against Ashdod, and took it" - so we know now that when Sargon says "I led my army and conquered Ashdod" he's meaning "I, through my representative, the general whom I sent." And the Bible tells us that (14.) who conquered Ashdod. And thus Professor Olmstead, whose mind was filled with the higher criticism, and who invented all kinds of weird theories of interpretation of various sections of the Bible, in this and in many other instances did remarkably to show the dependability of