

Nowadays if you want to know what your rights are you have to go and pay a lawyer to find out what they are. But in those days he put up this in the public square with the idea that everybody should be able to read. And I'll tell you if you started reading that Code of Hammurabi, before you got very far you'd decide you were mighty wise to learn how to read, because Hammurabi says in his code, "If anybody/^{sees} seize a piece of property/ in someone else's hands, that belongs to him, he can call the police and have that man seized, and bring him before the judges and give proof that that is his property. And when he does so, the other man will be put to death as a thief, unless the other man can bring proof that he acquired it lawfully, in which case the man he acquired it from is put to death as a thief, unless he can prove it. Well, now, you could prove it by bringing the witnesses to testify to your getting it, but they might be out of town. So it's a lot safer to have a written document. And so you see in those days it was a matter of life and death to be able to read and write.

Well, now, the Bible, we can depend upon it; it is true; we can depend upon what it says. But we should read it carefully. And see what it says. And not jump to conclusions, and take phrases out of context. A very interesting case of this is when you get over in the books of Chronicles and Ezra and Nehemiah: there are four cases over there; I won't call your attention to a particular case now; where it speaks about a ~~certain sum of men~~ certain sum of money, and it says, about this period, telling about the Persian period, it says, "they gave - so many - darracomendie (?) the Hebrew ~~xxx~~ word is, " of gold. And you look at the word dar and you think, "What does that mean?" Well, if you know something about ancient history, D - would suggest to you drachma, and the drachma was the Athenian measure. But Athens, the ~~Athenian-greatne~~ Athenian greatness came quite a while after this ~~Persian~~ Persian period, and it's way across the Mediterranean from Palestine. You wouldn't want to translate it "drachmas" would you? Well, I'm sure the King James translators faced the question