

When counting the strength of an army some might count just the fighting men, while others might count the office workers, the cooks, and everyone that made up the army. There are different ways of counting but it is important to know just what the standpoint was. So that as far as Chronicles is concerned there is not the same sureness that Chronicles is so late as the critics once used to claim. Ezra and Nehemiah we would say were written around the time of Artaxerxes but the critics would claim that they were written much later and were not dependable--that is a question on the reliability of the books. There is no proof that they were written but at the time they claim. The book of Ecclesiastes is also a puzzle--it is hard to get from the book itself an idea of its date. The traditional point of view is that Solomon wrote it, though we can't be sure who the author really is, though there is nothing to prove that Solomon was not the author of this book. Now the book of Esther is claimed by the critics to come after the time of Ezra, ~~but~~ but there have been discoveries made in the land of Mesopotamia--a French expedition found the place of Shushan and it was most interesting in examining the remains of that palace to see how it fits with the book of Esther. It is very easy as you read the book of Esther to see how this thing happened here and another thing happened over there--Describes how Haman went to his house, how the king went into his garden to cool off his hot wrath, etc--all this fits in with what is there. The tendency even among agnostic critics tend towards thinking that Esther is quite a dependable book after all. Now regarding the Psalms, the tendency has been quite radical. Some of the Psalms are said by them to have been written even as late as the Maccabean period, as coming long after the time of David and some would claim that David didn't even write any of the Psalms. There is much evidence on the fact that David did write some of the Psalms which is taken up in Poetical books. For our present study, we are especially in the question, Is there evidence to show that any of the Psalms were written after the time of Ezra. There is no certain evidence at all to those later times in any of the Psalms; there is a passage in the Maccabees in which a battle is described, the Jews against the Syrians, and the Syrians thought they would win the battle because of the wonderful instrument of war which they had, and this instrument of warfare was a few elephants which they had and these elephants (Cf. Macc. 6:30) which overcame many of their enemies. Here they had 32 elephants with a 1000 men around the elephant--there were 32 men around on top of the elephants and Eleazer ran into their midst and killed the elephant on which he thought the king rode, and though it killed him, yet he was able to kill the elephant--the Syrians were victorious in this battle. But notice these particular Psalms --Psa. 20:7