

for the time being to be one of Ptolemy's leaders, and he went down there and he managed to amass some money, and get himself in a fairly good position down there. He was only doing it as a temporary thing. And then Seleucus said, (this was nearly ten years now, after Alexander's death) Now's my chance, he said, Ptolemy, I've been glad to work for you, and now I am going to strike for myself and he struck out with some soldiers who were devoted to him, and he headed northeast from Egypt, and he seized Mesopotamia, and in 312 B.C. he took over Babylon, and declared himself the king of Babylon, and 1500 years later Hebrew mss were still dated from the year in which Seleucus took Babylon. It is the first date in history which was ever used as a point from which to date things continuously beyond the reign of ~~one~~ one king, the first point in history. We call it the Seleucid era. We live in the Christian era, that is when we say 1955, we mean 1955 years after the year in which the ~~monk~~ monk Dionysius falsely thought that Jesus Christ had been born. Jesus was born actually four years earlier. We are 1959 after Christ was born, but we are 1955 after what the monk, Dionysius, in about 450 A.D. thought was the year he had been born in, so that is the Christian era. Well, now, Seleucus in 312 seized Babylon, and declared himself king, and the Seleucid era was used, ~~in~~ and in most countries they have had until after that time, in fact, until after 400 or 500 A.D. in most countries, to name things ~~in~~ according to the king. In Egypt for centuries before, they said, in the fifth year of Rameses II, you will find an inscription saying, In the fifth year of Rameses II, such a thing happened, and then you know Rameses II ruled at least five years, and then you find another place, in the 20th year of Rameses III, so you know he ruled at least 20 years, and we have added together the highest dates we can find, in this way, to get an idea how long these kings ruled, but you never have a date that goes on after the man's death, but with Seleucus we began having an era, and so the date goes from Seleucus, right on, they call it that, and you will find ~~the~~ a Hebrew ms, written in 1200 A.D., which will be dated, in the year ~~1500~~ 1525, and that means 1525 years after Seleucus conquered Babylon. Now, of course, the writer of it didn't think of Seleucus, anymore than the great bulk of ungodly people in the United States think of Christ when they say 1955. They simply use the next number after the one which