

throw a great deal of light upon events described in the Bible at that period. Since these are not directly concerned with the history of Mesopotamia, it is well to leave them for the present and discuss them when we are dealing with the material that has been gained through archaeological study in Palestine. One chapter, however, we must touch upon at present. That is Genesis 14. Many of the outstanding features of this chapter, including some extremely remarkable corroborations of its accuracy we shall leave until our discussion of the material from Palestine. We shall notice at present simply two features. One is the statement that was formerly made that such an expedition as this going from Mesopotamia to Palestine in the far west and conquering cities there could not have occurred at this early period. While we have not yet found records of this particular expedition, we do have records of other expeditions as far as the Mediterranean Sea from even earlier periods, so it is impossible to state that the thing could not have occurred. Also the record gives us the names of the kings who took part in this. These kings have not been identified with certainty, but their names are exactly the same type as the names of kings who landed about this period in the <sup>area</sup> ~~regions~~ from which they are said to have come. To have invented names of the proper sorts for these different regions at a much later time would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible.

The remaining contacts of the book of Genesis are largely with Egypt, rather than with Mesopotamia. The rest of the Pentateuch describes the wanderings through the wilderness.

During the early days of the Israelites in Palestine, Mesopotamia was in a quiescent state and had comparatively little contact so far west. This period is filled with important items from Palestine archaeology, but not so important from the biblical viewpoint, as the Mesopotamian materials.