

39.3-13. One of the marvels of the Bible is the way in which proper names of a type that had completely disappeared have been carefully preserved. In dozens of instances, names of kings or of officials which are found in the Bible are also found on the contemporary inscriptions. Those inscriptions were written at the very time of the events described. The biblical account has been copied and recopied. Ordinarily in the copying of a book by hand, it is almost impossible to keep little errors from creeping in to the proper names, especially of a type which is unknown at the time of the copying.

A book known as the Pseudo-Callisthenes, gives us a history of Alexander the Great and twelve companions of his. This story was written in both Greek and Syrac. We have both versions of the story as each of them has been copied and recopied and thus preserved. The two stories are the same, but the names of the twelve companions which are contained in the Syrac and those contained in the Greek have been so corrupted in the process of copying, that it is now impossible to say with certainty that any particular name in the Greek list corresponds to a particular name in the Syrac list.

Manetho, an Egyptian priest who lived about 250 B.C. who could read the hieroglyphics and ascertain the facts about the Egyptian kings from their own writings wrote a chronicle of his native land in the Greek language. This work has come down to us through quotations in the writings of Julius Africanus and of Eusebius of Caesarea. The lists of the kings have been copied and recopied in order to preserve them. We can now read the names on the monuments which he must have used in ~~XXXXX~~ compiling his lists. In the process of time, the proper names have become so corrupted that only about one third of them can even be recognized as corresponding with particular dates on the monuments.

These illustrations give an idea of how difficult it is to transmit proper names accurately. Compared with these, the remarkable