

## V

### THE EVIDENCE: HISTORY

FINALLY, let us review the framework of Old Testament history as a whole and see how it stands the test which modern scientific research has brought to bear upon it. Can a man of scientific attainments still place any reliance upon the chronological, geographical and other historical statements of the books of the Old Testament canon? Or, has the light from Egypt and Babylon dispelled as a baseless fabric of a vision of the night that which was formerly considered to be a real structure of historic fact?

### THE CHRONOLOGY

Let us look at the chronology of the Bible, beginning with the time of Abraham.

1. In the four great systems of biblical chronology prepared from the biblical statements alone, before anything definite was known in the fields of Egyptian and Babylonian archaeology, Hales puts the time of Abram's leaving Haran at 2078 B.C., Jackson at 2023, Petavius at 1961, and Ussher at 1921. Since Gen. xiv places Abraham in the time of Hammurabi, it is fair to ask when the Assyriologists date the reign of the latter. Jeremias puts him at about 2000 B. C.,<sup>217</sup> Clay at about 2100 B.C.<sup>218</sup> It will thus be seen

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<sup>217</sup> *The Old Testament in the Light of the Ancient East*, I, 332.

<sup>218</sup> *Light on the Old Testament from Babel*, 130.

that the date of Abraham as deduced from the facts provided by the biblical text alone has been confirmed in a wonderful way by the evidence derived from Babylonian sources.

2. The relative date of Shishak, king of Egypt, corresponds to that of Rehoboam and is certainly to be placed somewhere in the tenth century B.C.<sup>219</sup>

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<sup>219</sup> See Jeremias, *op. cit.* II, 204 f.