

Old Testament History 114

course, in connection with Biblical passages, next semester. (Student) No, Nuzi is quite a bit east of Haran, but the people are the same race as those in Haran and it is from approximately the same period that these discoveries are found; consequently, they throw special light on that. Mr.----? (Student) The question of chronology, of course, is an extensive and involved question, but from some of them can be determined to an extremely great accuracy; others with much less accuracy. As you go back, naturally your accuracy becomes less, but it has interrelations between Egypt and Mesopotamia and we have interrelations between Assyria and Babylonia, and we have in Assyria and in Babylonia long lists of kings running for hundreds of years, telling how long they reigned, and then we have letters from these different kings mentioning things in the other countries, and consequently, while it is a very involved study, it can be determined

, with a very great degree of accuracy. We can feel quite definite about our dates back to about 1000 B. C. and from 1000 to, say, 1700 B. C. it would probably be within twenty or thirty years. When you get back of that, there has been quite a shift within the last ten years. about

2100 are now put about 1700 but after all that is within a comparatively small radius when you think of the long period of time that is coming. Now the study of the history of Mesopotamia. I think for our purpose it will perhaps be as convenient as any to divide it principally according to millennia. The first we will call prehistory, a summary of the history of Mesopotamia, and No. 1, Prehistory. By prehistory, we mean that which happened before this period began, and history in a technical sense means that which is preserved for us in written records, so prehistory is that of which we can gather information from the remains of buildings, of pottery, of statues, of all sorts of things that people made but for which you have no written record. That is prehistory, and prehistory runs up to about 3000 B. C. because writing was invented in Mesopotamia at about 3000 B. C. Now how far back of 3000 B. C. it goes nobody knows. Since history begins, since 3000 B. C. you can be sure of a date