

taken over from the mythology of other nations? Were the religious views contained in the Old Testament revealed by God to the people of the Old Testament or did they simply take these over from the religions of other nations? That is what is involved, those two questions of derivation. In this class I'm not interested in giving you sweeping answers to these problems but in examining them in specific detail in order that we see exactly what the evidence is. So at this point all we are trying to do is merely to mention the problem because we will not deal with it any great amount until much later in the semester, but we couldn't properly cover this matter of corroboration without having at least introduced it here.

Now I want to take up another very difficult matter here very briefly. "g" the problem of chronology. Another instance like so many instances in the study of any subject where it is so easy for people to assume that what is not always has been, that that which you are accustomed to is what people have always done everywhere. Like Marie Antoinette when she was told that the people in Paris were starving, they couldn't get any bread, she ~~said~~ said "Why don't they eat cake then?" She had plenty of cake all her life and if the palace ran out of bread she didn't see why she couldn't eat cake and get along, and it just never occurred to her that the poor people in the town didn't have either cake or bread. It sounds silly to us when we say it about Marie Antoinette, but everyone of us has been so accustomed to thousands of things in our lives that we don't realize that many other people don't have these particular things and we especially don't realize that in another country people may be in an entirely different situation or in a different time. So when anybody who has studied modern history a little bit takes up the question of something in the Bible, the natural question that he immediately asks is, when did this happen? What is the date of it? And if you want to know when Thomas Jefferson became president of the United States all you have to do is go look in a modern book of history and it will give you the date, and consequently it isn't easy to ~~assume~~ assume that for any ~~date~~ date in the Old Testament; you