

G. E. 1

They did not have paper. They had to write on clay tablets. There are hundreds of thousands of them dealing with all phases of life. Not every one could write, but it was extremely wide-spread. Discovered about forty-five years ago an extremely important movement teaching about writing. There has been erected in the main square of Babylon by King Hammurabi a monument of laws given for the good of the people. The interesting thing is that Hammurabi put up this code stating in the beginning that it is put there for the purpose of justice. Anyone can come and read it to see whether he is getting a square deal or not. Copies were sent throughout the kingdom so that all the people could read it or get someone to read it to them. Laws were extremely strict. If a man has his piece of property and it disappears and is later found in the possession of someone else he can have the other man brought into court and if it is proven to be his the thief is to be killed unless he can prove otherwise, meaning he must either produce witnesses or have a written contract. Better to have the written contract. In the hills of Mesopotamia thousands and thousands of them have been found, written on clay tablets and then enclosed in clay envelopes and written again on the outside of the envelope. Impossible to break the envelope without being noticed. Write a very important thing and writing was a very important thing and most of it a very common thing. Was Moses writing cuneiform or in the hieroglyphics of Egypt? An Egyptian woman stumbled against something one day and dug it up with her toe. It had markings on it. She called her relatives and they found many more. They put it in a pack and went up to Cairo with it. It was not Egyptian. An antique dealer bought it from her and an eminent Assyriologist came along and found that they were clay tablets with Mesopotamian characters. Interpreted, they found that they were letters from the pharaohs to the kings of Palestine, the Hittites and the Babylonians. They were written in Babylonian characters. Moses would doubtless be familiar with this cuneiform writing. A third possibility is that he was, that he knew an alphabetic writing. These writings have been found from as early a period