

pause to look at the matter of the polytarchs in Thessalonica, and this we discuss now, and then we go ~~on~~ to a conclusion.

Conclusion.

We have noticed that the Bible no longer stands alone as it did formerly. The Old Testament is one of many sources throwing light on the history and culture of ancient times. As to the reality of the world to which it refers as historical background, there can be now no doubt. Then the question of the verasimilitude of the references, we note that there are many points at which the reconstruction of history and culture as provided by the excavations and archaeology and that provided by the Old Testament coincides. Naturally, there are points in both of them where the history and culture is obscure, and consequently, problems remain, ~~an~~ but very few problems which are vital as far as the accuracy ^{or} ~~and~~ authenticity of the Bible is concerned. We have noticed that the general framework of ancient history as archaeology has clarified it, makes it far easier to understand many portions of the Old Testament, and the light thrown in detail upon many of its statements is extremely helpful. When the Ras Shamra material has been further studied and developed, it will be a prime source for earnest students to use in explaining the meaning of many words and passages of the Bible, which are now to some extent obscure. It will, of course, have to be used with caution, because there is danger of squeezing interpretations which are unfounded. The matter, of derivation, the third reason which Archaeology is of tremendous importance for the Bible student, we can safely say that there is no proof that any of the primary stories of the Bible dealing with matters previous to historic times or that any of its outstanding doctrines are simply taken over from heathen nations. ~~No~~ There is no reason not to accept the word of the Bible that these were given by revelation of God. The culture of the people was to a large extent derived from the nations round about them. The material aspects of their civilization came from this ~~source~~ source, but that which makes the Bible a great book was not something which was derived from heathen nations, but something which came from God Himself.