

So these El-amarna tablets as they call them from the place where they were found. Some of them are in the British Museum some in the Berlin Museum. They are writings some from the kings of Babylon and from the kings of the Hittites, but most of them from cities in Canaan, cities named in the Bible. From them to the Pharaoh of Egypt and from the Pharaoh of Egypt to them, and instead of writing in their language or in Egyptian language they used the language and writing of Babylonia. So Moses could have written in that different type of writing. ~~It was well-known~~ if he chose. It was well-known before the time of Moses.

If you turn in the Bible to Judges ch. 8, you find that it tells about Gideon and when he was pursuing the Midianites he had asked the people of Succoth for help and the people of Succoth had refused to give it. So Gideon said when I come back from pursuing the Midianites I'm going to punish you. When he came back we read in v.14 he found a young man of the men of Succoth and he inquired of him and he described unto him the princes of Succoth even 77 men.

1 Now it says he described the princes of succoth. I'm glad I wasn't in Gideon's place because if somebody described 77 people to me I wouldn't remember any of them--anything about them 5 min. later. If somebody was to describe everybody in the Admiral to me, I would not get anywhere. The only way it would mean anything is if they would write them down, write it out and a little bit about them I would have something that I could use. But just to describe it to me, of course maybe they had much better memories in those days than we do. That's a possibility. And I think the KJV translators thought they did.

This word translated "describe" in KJV, is a word that occurs several hundred times in the OT. Every time except c. 21 t. it is always trns. "write." There are about 21 t. where it is translated "describe." One of them is this, and the other 20 or so are where it tells of arranging the borders in the Book of Joshua for the different tribes and it tells how a committee went and they described the border between each place. Now that means they wrote down the border, of course. There it uses the word describe. It's perfectly alright to say they described the borders meaning they wrote down a description. But the Heb. word is the simple common Heb. word "write."

It's easy to see that in the days of the KJV translators they said, He describe to them the princes -- he wrote for him the names of the princes of Succoth and the elders 77 men all of them leaders in the city. They said, Here's a man just caught by Gideon. Do you think a man caught just at random like that would be able to write down. They said, It must mean to describe like in the case of the tribes. So they made it describe. But now with writing being found in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Palestine we know that we can take this exactly as it stands in the Hebrew and know that at that day writing was more taught in Palestine than it is today. It's right here in the book of Judges. You caught a man at random and he was able to write down the account of these 77 leaders for him. So today it is recognized by all scholars that writing was common in Palestine, quite common at that time.