

anything to boast about. So they did not put up any monuments to say God delivered the Israelites from us! But the Babylonians and Assyrians conquered the Israelites and took them off into captivity so they had something to boast about, so you have more of a direct contact with the Bible from that field. But we have a tremendous amount of importance for the Bible, and for that reason I emphasized the Mesopotamian studies rather than the Egyptian.

During the years I have spent a great deal of time on the Mesopotamian studies, on the study of cuneiform, and I regret I spent as much on it. I think that with half the time I put through the years on Mesopotamian studies I could have secured 95% of <sup>as</sup> much value with my OT work as  $\frac{1}{4}$  with the amount of time I put on it. To really do much in this field itself I'd have had to put twice the amount of time I did on it, and my interest is in the Bible, of course, and the OT. I feel that we need a few  $\times$  Christians who are experts in Egyptology. And we need a few who are experts in Assyriology, but I don't think we need any great number of people who specialize in these fields. Both of them have a tremendous fascination and it's very easy to after you get into it to get so interested you forget serving the Lord and simply try to be an expert in that field, and I think that is something a Christian has to watch and avoid, to be sure that the Lord's service is primary and you are interested in this field for what you can accomplish for the Lord's service. I spent at least half of my time on OT studies through the years, and the Lord has given me many insights that I feel will be worthwhile if I can get them all written down. I put maybe 40% of my time on cuneiform studies, and I wish it had been about 20% because I just don't feel it is worth that much time for the Christian. However, I would say this, that a person who is going to do much study in the OT field is going to inevitably have a fair amount of contact with quotations from material from Babylonian and Mesopotamia.