

like that. There have been hundreds of books that have been published made up of simply long documents in this cuneiform that have been found in Mesopotamia. I speak of it as cuneiform, because we are thinking of it as the writing rather than of the language. I might say in comparison between Egyptology and Assyriology, that in Egyptology you have pictures that you soon learn to recognize quite easily. So the Egyptian writing though it is a very peculiar sort of thing is fairly easy to recognize. It is not hard to learn to recognize the Egyptian characters. But the cuneiform characters - you see how there are about 300 common ones and maybe 1000 other uncommon ones, and it's quite a job to learn to recognize those characters well. The reason is the Egyptian is actually pictures, so the writing is much simpler in Egypt. But when it comes to interpreting what you write, the Egyptian never represents, at least till very late times, vowels at all. Egyptian signs are all consonantal. Thus there is one sign in Egyptian that represents the letter like our Y and like our R and then another Y. You have three consonants. And this is a picture of an eye. When you see that picture you immediately say eye. What does that mean? Does it mean to see? It does occasionally. It just so happens that these same 3 consonants with other vowels make up a different Egyptian word that means to do. Consequently this word "to do" in Egyptian is used like we use it in English, like an auxiliary. In English we are constantly saying, I did it, I have done it, I will do it. We are using it as an auxiliary, like we use our auxiliary verbs. They use this word to do. They use it over and over. So on Egyptian monuments you have this eye over and over and over, to represent the idea of doing rather than of seeing because it has the same consonants. The vowels were never represented. In Assyrian the vowels are always represented. The only Semetic language that represents the vowels except the late marks like we have in Hebrew above or below the letters. Those marks were put in at a late time in Hebrew, in Aramaic,