

there were interesting contacts with the Bible. Because this is from the area to which Jacob went when he lived with Laban for a time. There are a number of very interesting contacts. But it has Sumerian writing in it, you see. In the Babylonian writing which is written by another people who had another language as their language. So it is rather complicated matter, all types of material in it. I could not get quite as excited about it as Dr. Speiser for instance. Dr. Speiser would read this man had 10 sheep which he sold for so much and he bought 3 cows and paid so much for them. And he's say, Isn't this fascinating reading about people about 1400 B.C. Well, I would find that if you are going to get so interested in the price of cows and sheep, I'd find it more interesting to study them in our day, and maybe 100 years ago when you would 10 times as much material. But it is interesting to figure out what you can about their life in those days, and it does make the people come to life and shows you you have a real living society there in the midst of which these events happened which are described in the Bible.

Dr. Cohen: Now in the OT times around Nebuchadnezzar, is it that they were speaking Babylonian in Babylon and writing it in cuneiform? And the Hebrews spoke Hebrew? What is the relationship say between Hebrew, Aramaic, and Babylonian and the writing styles?

Dr. MacRae; Now the Hebrew and Aramaic are two very similar languages, very similar and yet which some very marked differences, a few marked differences, but very similar in many ways. The Arameans, the people Damascus, were great traders. They did an awful lot of commercial work and travelled extensively. It seems very likely that simply to trade and through peaceful interrelations the Aramaic language displaced Hebrew as far as a common spoken language was concerned in Palestine before the exile. We are not sure it was before the exile, but certainly when they returned from the exile they were speaking Aramaic.