

any more. Many of the dates in early Egyptian history can be agreed upon with considerable certainty by Egyptologists, but never closer than within four years, and sometimes there is considerable diversity of opinion.

It is interesting that as recently as 1930, J. H. Breasted, one of our greatest authorities on ancient Egyptian history, insisted that 4241 B.C. was the date when the Egyptians established their calendar. It is doubtful if today (1961) any recognized Egyptologist would place this event as early as 3000 B.C.

It is usual to think of ancient Egyptian history as divided into thirty dynasties. This idea is taken from a book on Egyptian History by Manetho, an Egyptian priest, who wrote at about 250 B.C. Selections from Manetho's book have been preserved in extensive quotations by later writers. Manetho was able to read the names of the Egyptian kings on the monuments, and seems to have arranged them into the thirty groups which he called dynasties. The division is sometimes rather arbitrary, but has proven quite convenient. The names of the kings, which Manetho wrote in Greek, were considerably changed in the course of transmission.

## 2. Prehistory.

The time before writing began is called prehistory. In Egypt this period is evidenced by a number of remains, but has little connection with any Biblical statements. It is quite certain that many sections of Egypt became united under local rulers, and eventually these coalesced into two main sections called upper and lower Egypt. Eventually these two were united under the first dynasty, but to the very end of ancient Egyptian history the kings were styled "King of Upper and Lower Egypt," and often represented with two different crowns, one for each section.