

his empire into several sections, Ptolemy seizing Egypt, and Seleucus seizing Babylon and the surrounding areas. From each of these proceeded a dynasty that ruled a large territory, the borders of which shifted from time to time in the succeeding period of more than two centuries. During this time the Greek language came to be widely used and Greek customs and culture assumed a dominant position in many parts of the Near East, though the cuneiform writing, like the Egyptian hieroglyphics, continued to be used to some extent.

#### E. Relations of Mesopotamian Archeology to the Old Testament.

The relations of Mesopotamian archeology to the Old Testament are very extensive and extremely varied. They relate to many different periods of time. There are many obvious relationships and many that are not so obvious. It is likely that there is more material at present available from Mesopotamia that directly bears on the Old Testament, than from all other archeological sources put together. We shall look first at a few of the high points of relationship.

##### 1. Genesis 1-11.

There is nothing in Mesopotamian archeology throwing light upon the historical events described in Genesis 1-11. The historical connections begin with the time of Abraham. However, certain scholars have held that practically everything in these chapters was taken over from or based upon a Babylonian prototype. In most cases examination of this alleged derivation proves it to be highly questionable. The form of writing, or even the mode of expression, may sometimes have been influenced by Mesopotamian culture. But the particular stories that are alleged to have similarities to the accounts of creation, of the fall, etc., are in most cases very different from the Biblical material. However, there is one striking exception: the story of the flood.