Mesopotamia begins to loom as a vital force, and Mesopotamian archeology shows the rise of Assyria as a powerful aggressor at this time. The picture contained in the book of Nahum and elsewhere of the terror that the Assyrians inspired is well illustrated by the accounts given out by Assyrian kings, in which they gloat over the policy of "calculated frightfulness" that they adopted in order to scare those whom they had conquered into remaining loyal to them. The Biblical description of the carrying off of multitudes of people into captivity in distant lands fits with the Mesopotamian evidence which shows that the Assyrian kings invented a policy of attempting to strengthen their control over their empires by moving whole populations from one section to another. The Bible says that Cyrus reversed this policy, allowing the Jews to return to their homeland, and this change of policy is also corroborated by cuneiform records.

6. Relation to Special Corroboration.

It would require a volume to consider all the specific points that should be considered under this head. Most of them will be treated under the names of the persons concerned. One special matter should be indicated here. There are many individuals mentioned in the Bible whose names are also found in cuneiform records. Proper names are among the most difficult matters to pass on accurately, as it is very easy to make errors in copying them, particularly when they are foreign names. The Septuagint was translated from the Old Testament about 200 B.C. and has been copied and recopied, as the Hebrew manuscripts have been. When we look at the proper names in the Septuagint, we find that at many points they are greatly changed, while the Hebrew Bible, which was considered by its copyists as a sacred book, has preserved them far more accurately. The Assyrian and Babylonian records give some of these names as they were written down at the time, and thus