

Ugaritic evidence to determine the true situation in regard to the many statements that have been made about derivation of Biblical material from Canaanite sources, but also in gleaning its valuable help for Biblical interpretation.

B. The Hittites.

There was a time when the very existence of the Hittites was doubted. However it has now been proven that they were a very great people, able to fight with the Egyptians on even terms over a period of a century, and eventually to make a treaty of alliance with them. In 1906 at Boghaz-keuoi in Asia Minor, the Hittite capital was excavated and many tablets were unearthed, written in cuneiform script but in the Hittite language, which proved to be related to the Indo-European group of languages. The relation of the Hittites to Biblical history is not great. Some of the Old Testament references to the Hittites probably refer to Hurrians, rather than Hittites (see article on HURRIANS.)

C. Persia.

We have noticed that the first clues to the interpretation of cuneiform came from Persia. Here Darius had his great palace at Persepolis. The Persian kings had another great palace at Susa, which was excavated by the French in 1884-6. The antiquities brought from Susa to Paris have been deposited in two large rooms in the Louvre and a model of the palace has been constructed. Many of the events in the book of Esther took place in "Shushan the palace." With the model before us it is easy to see where each of these events occurred. In fact, there is hardly an event described in the Old Testament whose material surroundings can be so vividly and accurately restored from actual excavations as these details in the book of Esther.

Objection has been made to the actuality of the story of Haman's decree in Esther 3.5-15, because of the long interval that was allowed the Jews before the