

Correct and Incorrect Areas

in Ancient History

Yesterday a student brought up the question, "How can I know when the statements made in Langer or other history books are correct or not? How can I be sure?"

There are some general guides that I have mentioned which you should already be aware of. You will notice that that there was no direct purpose in restoring any of the material of Persia except that I introduced the Persian list as a part of Egyptian chronology for your use (vol. one, pages 219-220). Thus it is there if you needed to refer to it in relation to Daniel but especially in regard to Ezra 7. (See the article on Ezra in the Good News of April-May, 1966, page 9.)

There is no need to restore anything for Babylon from 747 B.C. onward. However, I have placed the list in the Compendium (vol. one, pages 288-290) to show what is otherwise difficult to have access to in other volumes—the material that would link up the whole story before that with what we know in the Biblical record beginning with Nebuchadnezzar. But on the other hand, there are many misunderstandings: Not with Nebuchadnezzar's reign, but about how to equate the Biblical record with it!

Now with respect to Greece: That which is from Alexander's time on presents no problem; that which goes back probably to the 600's normally presents no problem. There may be a few questions in Greece in the 600's B.C. in certain areas, but that is incidental.

With respect to Assyria, from 745 B.C. onward we would have no basic chronological problem. You will have, in Sennacherib's time, a basic misinterpretation of the relationship of Sennacherib to the story of Hezekiah. The dates given will not be incorrect but the events will be misassociated because there were two attacks, not one! The initial attack is not recorded in history because Sennacherib (704-681—see vol. one, page 296) was not then sole king. The attack that is recorded in history is the one that is not particularly discussed in the Bible except that we find "great wrath" came on Judah [the reference seems to be to II Kings 23:27], but this is all that's said. We have a similar case in respect to the Book of Jeremiah and the Battle of Carchemish (Jeremiah 46:2): You will discover that historical records speak of one battle of Carchemish, the Biblical record clearly speaks of another one (note pages 171-2 of vol. one of the Compendium). The first one (605 B.C.), as far as I know, is not alluded to in the Bible; the second one (603 B.C.) is mentioned in the Bible and is alluded to in history and would have been completely discussed by the Babylonians had the ancient document been complete! The story of the smassing of the army is discussed but not against what city.

When we come to China, chronologically, if you use the basic framework that is found in volume one of the Compendium (pages 349-353)—which is the old, traditional form—there is nothing wrong! China is the only nation that has what might have been called a standard record which has been correct going all the way back to the Tower of Babel—the only one! Not a single other secular record of history has ever been left alone. Now even the Chinese record is not being left alone. So far the Russians continue to use the material on China in its original, traditional form; but I am not sure how long even scholars in China and Russia will retain this approach. If it pays them to follow tradition in a matter, they will; if, for propoganda reasons, it pays them to break with the past, they won't! That's the rule they will follow.

Archaeologically we have major problems in China in all areas including the earliest part of China in some regions, but I do think that most of the dates for Chinese material are basically correct; the only reason is that they haven't been able to apply radiocarbon to it, and therefore it's much later than it should be if radiocarbon were used as a method to check the age. So this means that, if they use any radiocarbon dating at some time in the future, it'll be in disagreement; presently it's acceptable but you can't integrate it, you have to leave it with the Chinese record.

How about Italy? This new edition of Langer begins with the date 753 B.C. for the founding of Rome which is interesting because this is the first time in probably two generations that they have used a right approach—the old, traditional one has come back with respect to the history of Italy! (Note page 82 in Langer.)

I have never discussed Korea in the Compendium but, as an illustration, should you want to know something about it, the Korean history is correct all the way back to 1122 B.C. when there was a break in the Chinese record at which point you can pick up the Korean material. Therefore I didn't even touch it.

Anything before the dates that I have discussed here would not normally be correctly presented! In many nations, there may be no incorrect historical presentation prior to the time that history takes up, but what you would find is that there is no presentation historically at all. It's all archaeological! Thus we would have no information of early Persia, of early India that is valid.

And India, since this will probably be coming up more than some other nation, I doubt that anything before the time of Asoka is correctly stated. And even there I think you should very carefully examine Eggermont's work if you want to know the background for anything prior to the reign of the Mauryas which is after the time of Alexander the Great (317 B.C.) (See chapter 15 of vol. one.) From then on you will normally find "circa" used in Indian records. Frankly I don't see why circa needs to be used; but the reason it is used is that though they have a clear ending point, there are many things in between that they cannot be sure of because they have no solid beginning point. If they had established Asoka based on the Chinese record, and the clear evidence originally, then they would not have had to have the circa. So don't let "circa" fool you in all the statements made; for all practical purposes the dates will probably be correct.

The same is true of Parthia. I have not attempted to restore its chronology in detail in the Compendium. As far as I know, probably 99 out of 100 dates are correct though every one would be labelled "circa" because they have thrown out the initial date—which they have right but they don't accept it as proved. (See pp. 95-96 in the new Langer on Parthia and the comments on it by Dr. Hoeh in Chapter 17 of vol. two of the Compendium.)

There is a peculiar feature with respect to the Anglo-Saxon world. Here you will probably not pick up the story correctly until the 6th century A.D.! The 5th century with the coming of the Angles and the Saxons and a traditional date of 449 A.D. is probably still dismissed by historians (page 179 in Langer). So England, you see, can be perhaps 500 or more years A.D. before there will be a correct evaluation. The same is true of France though we have the whole record of most of these nations on back correctly preserved. But the modern-day approach dictates that anything which is not confirmed by contemporary source material is rejected!

Key Dates and Events in Ancient History

- ✓ 2371-2000 The Flood. (The period from Adam to the Flood was 1656 yrs.)
- 2274 Establishment of human government at Babel.
- 2222 Cush comes to Egypt from Shinar. He is Mones of Dynasty I.
- 2251-2192 Reign of Cush till his death in Armenia.
- 2192-2137 Reign of Nimrod in Egypt.
2167 Nimrod executed in Italy by Shem; Semiramis flees Egypt.
- 2167-2137 Semiramis in exile from Egypt for 30 yrs.
2137 Semiramis returns to Egypt with the child Horus.
2006 Death of Semiramis in Armenia at the hands of Horus.
- ✓ 2037-2019 Shem's reign in Dynasty I in Egypt.
2019 Death of Noah in Italy 350 yrs. after Flood; Shem goes there.
2025 Shem created two new dynasties in Egypt beside Dynasty I.
- ✓ 1917 Birth of Abraham.
- 1842-1911 The reign of Mentuhotpe II of Dynasty XI of Thebes. He is the Pharaoh Abram and Sarah met.
- 1940 Abram and Sarah in Egypt.
- 1933 Slaughter of the four kings of Assyria by Abraham in Gen. 14.
- 1721-1657 Joseph's 66-year reign in Egypt.
1711-1692 Reign of Amenemhet III, the great Pharaoh under whom Joseph ruled.
- ✓ 1726 Jacob and his children come to Egypt.
1726-1663 Reign of Job in Dynasty IV. Job was the son of Issachar.
1713 Plagues of Job.
1540 Death of Job 140 years after his trials.
1734-1720 Fourteen years of plenty and famine in Egypt.
1650 Death of Joseph at age 110.
- 1100 Approximate date for the beginning of Israel's Egyptian slavery.
- 1612-1418 Reign of Pepi II (the Great) during time of Israel's enslavement
- ✓ 1547 Birth of Moses.
✓ 1527 Moses flees Egypt.
✓ 1487 Moses leads Israel out of Egypt-with a little help from God at the Red Sea and elsewhere!
✓ 1447 Death of Moses at age 120.
- ✓ 1477 Egypt is dominated by the Hyksos (Amalekites) for over 400 yrs.
- 1076-1041 Reign of Ahmose, first ruler of the 18th Dynasty, who threw off the Hyksos yoke once and for all.
- 997-943 Reign of Thutmose III (Shishak) who invaded Jerusalem in 967 BC.
941-871 Reign of Hatshepsut, the Queen of Sheba, who visited Solomon in 936 BC.
- 79-41 Reign of the sexual pervert, Ikhnoton, during the decline of the once great 18th Dynasty.
- 610-551 This was the 66-year reign of Ramses the Great who was a contemporary of Nebuchadnezzar of Babel and Daniel the prophet.

✓ DATES THAT SHOULD BE DROPPED DOWN BY ONE YEAR!

Notes on World History: Dates for ancient Babylonia and related areas

- 2254-2194 Sixty-year reign of Ushur as recorded in the First Dynasty of Erech.
2192-1867 Shem is assigned a reign of 325 years in the First Dynasty of Erech.
* ~~2269-1949~~ → ^{CORRECTION} Asshur, disobedient son of Shem, and cohort of Nimrod, is assigned these 420 years in the First Dynasty of Erech (actually his entire life-span).
2194-2094 Ninrod, although he died in 2167, is assigned 100 years in Erech I.
2094-1968 The 126 years of Gilgamesh (Horus) as listed in Erech's First Dynasty.
1968-1938 Reign of 30 years of Amraphel, son of Horus, in Erech I. He was slain by Abraham in 1938 as recounted in Genesis 14—the slaughter of the 4 kings.
- 1748-1648 Life-span and reign of the famous Queen Ku-Baba (Third Dynasty of Kish).
1657-1632 The 25-year reign of Lagal-Zaggisi who conquered Kish and dominated Shinar.
1632-1577 Reign of 55 years of Sargon the Great, the founder and greatest ruler of the famous Dynasty of Akkad. He built an empire, sailed to the New World!
1555-1500 Reign of 55 years of Naram-sin, second greatest ruler of the Akkadian Dynasty.
- 1072-1017 Reign of 55 years of the famous Hammurabi whom dominated Babylonia in the days of Saul and David.
- ✓ 1092-1052 Forty-year reign of Saul in Israel.
✓ 1052-1012 Forty-year reign of David in Israel.
✓ 1012- 972 Forty-year reign of Solomon in Israel.
✓ 972- 718 ^{ok} Period of the Kingdom of Israel (Ten Northern Tribes) from the time of Jeroboam down to the captivity.
✓ 972- ~~585~~ ^{ok} Period of the Kingdom of Judah from Rehoboam to the Babylonian Captivity.
- 1000- 546 True period of the Hittite Empire as presented by Dr. Hoeh in volume one of the Compendium of World History.
- 735- 700 Salmeser (III) the Great of Assyria who was a key figure in the captivity of the Ten Northern Tribes (721-718). (See II Kings 17:3-6.)
712- 681 Period of Sennacherib who invaded Judah in 710 B.C. in the reign of Hezekiah and lost an army of 185,000 due to God's intervention! (II Kings 19 and 20.)
668- 626 Assur-banipal, another great king of Assyria, reigned for these 42 years.
612 This date marks the fall of Nineveh and the official end of the Assyrian Empire.
- 604- 561 This period marks the 43-year reign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who took the Jews captive and whose advisor was Daniel the prophet.

Famous events in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar were:

- 604-585 Siege and captivity of Judah over a 19-year period.
585-573 Siege of the famous city of Tyre (see "The Proof of the Bible" by Mr. Armstrong).
570-567 The conquest of Egypt by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar. As a result, Egypt lay desolate and drought-ridden for 40 long years as prophesied by Ezekiel in chapters 29 and 30—from 567 to 527 B. C.
569-562 Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of insanity (Daniel 4).

539 In October of this year, Babylon fell to the armies of Cyrus the Great, king of Persia.

550-330 Period of the Medo-Persian Empire.

558-529 Reign of Cyrus the Great.

522-486 Reign of Darius I.

486-465 Reign of Xerxes I.

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* SEE VOL. ONE OF THE COMPENDIUM, P. 249.