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**ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE**

The undersigned, administratrix of the estate of the late David May, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., Master Mariner, hereby notifies all persons indebted to the said estate, to make immediate payment to her and all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, duly attested to her, at her residence Grafton St., Charlottetown, within three months from this date.  
 CATHERINE J. MAY,  
 Charlottetown, Feb'y. 16 1898.  
 dy law & wk

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**NOTICE**

The property on the corner of King and Pownall Sts., belonging to the estate of the late Catherine McKenna, (subject to a 3 years unexpired lease, from May 1st, 1898), will be sold by Public Auction on Tuesday, May 3rd, 1898, at 12 o'clock, noon.  
 This property is now known as the Finlay House. Terms Cash.  
 M. P. HOGAN,  
 PATRICK BLAKE,  
 Executors  
 an12 wlltetapriyl2awid

**THE WITNESS**

OF EGYPTIAN AND BABYLONIAN RESEARCH TO THE VERACITY OF THE PENTATEUCH

A Course of Addresses Delivered in St. Peter's Cathedral by Rev. T. H. Hunt, M. A., B. D.  
**PATRIARCHAL PALESTINE.**

Last week I gave some account of ancient Palestine or Canaan, and of the peoples who lived there in the age of the Patriarchs. To-night I am going to continue the subject by giving a sketch of the history of the same country before the time of the Exodus, as it is made known to us by ancient records from Babylon and Egypt. These records I must remind you were written before the time of Moses. Most of them have been unknown to us until quite recent years, some of them, we may almost say until only the other day. The first glimpse of the history of Canaan that we catch is in the ancient records of Babylonia. According to their chronology it was about the year 3800 B.C. that a king named Sargon arose in that part of Babylonia known as Akkad. He first made himself master of northern Babylonia and the country to the east of it and then turned his attention to the west where he founded the first great empire of Western Asia of which we have any knowledge. Four times did he make his way into "the land of the Amorites" i. e. Canaan until it was subdued. "The countries of the sea by the setting sun" i. e. the Mediterranean, acknowledged him as king. On its shores he set up statues of himself.

I may mention that he is recorded to have founded a library in his capital city from which probably these records come. His son was also a conqueror and in an expedition to the west conquered Magan, the name under which they knew what we call the peninsula of Sinai and the country near it. This country was valuable on account of its copper mines. In order to get so far in safety it was of course necessary to conquer practically the whole of Palestine and from the fact that they called the whole of Palestine "the land of the Amorites" we have pretty good evidence that the Amorites even then had penetrated very far to the south and perhaps even then held the block of mountains to which the books of Moses give the name "the mountain of the Amorites." How long the Babylonians at this time held the country we do not know but it must have been long enough for some of the Babylonian knowledge and culture to extend into the country. In evidence of this we have these remarkable facts. It is well known that the Babylonians used small engraved stone cylinders for the purpose of sealing the clay tablets on which they wrote. The cylinder was set on an axle and rolled along on the clay while soft. (You may remember the allusion in Job "It is turned as clay to the seal.") Now more than one seal cylinder of this age (Sargon's and his son's) has been found in Cyprus and Syria while many others have been found which are more or less rough imitations, probably made by the natives of Canaan. Now this shows that the use of documents and therefore of writing was known there in exceedingly ancient times—according to the generally received date more than 2000 years before Moses—at any rate centuries before.

About 1000 years later about B. C. 2700, we again catch a glimpse of Canaan and its neighbors. In the city of Lagas in southern Babylonia have been found statues and clay books which give some hints as to intercourse with the West. Some of the statues found here (now in Paris) have inscriptions saying that they were made of stone from Magan, i. e. Sinai. Besides, wood was brought to this city from Syria; limestone from Mt. Lebanon; copper from Arabia and gold dust from that part of Arabia called Havilah in

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"I have sold Ayer's Sarsaparilla for more than twenty-five years, and have never heard anything but words of praise from my customers; not a single complaint has ever reached me. A preparation must possess great merit to maintain such a reputation. I believe your sarsaparilla to be the best blood purifier that has ever been introduced to the general public. I often hear other manufacturers say that this is "as good as Ayer's," but no one ever yet heard it said that Ayer's was "as good" as any other kind. They always set Ayer's up as the standard of excellence."—S. F. Boyce, Duluth, Minn.

Genesis. These facts show that there must have been not only trade but pretty good roads as well between Babylonia and Canaan.

The next glance we have is about 400 years or more later when Khammurabi became king with his capital at Babylon. His great grandson calls himself king of "the land of the Amorites." Somewhere about this time Prof. Sayce of Oxford considers that we have traces of Chedor-lamer and his allies who invaded Canaan in the time of Abraham. The names of Eri-Aku (Arioch) and Kudur Lagamar (Chedor-lamer) are said by him and some other authorities to be inscribed on a clay tablet of that age, while in another inscription is found the name of Shinab, king of Admah which was one of the cities of the plain, near Sodom. The identification of these names with those in Genesis does not yet however seem certain. Considerable light though is thrown on the story of Melchizedek by information from another quarter. It has been the fashion to refuse credit to this story altogether and to say that the name Jerusalem or Salem did not exist before the time of David. Now quite recently a discovery has been made which shows that it is not the Bible but the critics who have made the mistake. Let me first briefly describe the source from which this information is drawn.

About the year 1400 B. C. not very long before the Exodus a king succeeded to the throne of Egypt whose name was Amenophis or Amon-hotep IV. His mother was an Asiatic and a very able woman, and her influence was so strong that her son undertook to reform the heretico religion. He rejected the gods of Egypt and declared himself a worshiper of the one god whose visible semblance was the Sun. The Sun-god was the only one of the old gods he would acknowledge. In fact his religion was a form of Syrian-Baal worship. He tried to force this on the people, and even changed his own name to Khu-n-Aten, "Splendour of the Sun." There was a religious war and at length the king left Thebes, the old capital and built himself a new one in the north. As a matter of fact the new religion died with the king in about thirty years and the new city was abandoned. The mounds which mark where it stood are called Tel-el-Amarna. At this place have recently been found a series of clay tablets, mostly official letters from Palestine and the surrounding countries, together with some older ones brought from Thebes. The letters are written, not in Egyptian writing, but in the Babylonian character, showing how thoroughly Canaan had become saturated with Babylonian learning.

Now among these letters are some from Ebed-Tob, King of Jerusalem. Not only is this name of the city the only one used, but the city is already one of the most important fortresses of Canaan. It was the capital of a large district and its king apparently had some jurisdiction over the neighboring states, for he tells of having repaired roads in the plain of Jordan. This king Ebed Tob while an ally and vassal of the Pharaoh, declares in his letters that he is not an Egyptian governor such as there were in some cities of Canaan, and that he had received his royal power not by inheritance, but through the arm of the "mighty king." This mighty king is distinguished from the king of Egypt and it is therefore most probable that he represents the god worshipped by Ebed-Tob. Have we not here the "Most High God" of Melchizedek? Ebed Tob is in fact a priest as well as a king. He has not received his throne by inheritance. As far as his office is concerned he is "without father or mother." His office so far is the same as that of Melchizedek. As for the name Jerusalem or "Uru-Salem" it simply means city of Salem or "city of peace," Uru being an ancient word for city. The city is also referred to on Egyptian monuments by the simple name of Salem.

There is a point in the story of Melchizedek which may be worthy of mention. When Abraham returned from the defeat of the invaders he meets Melchizedek and the new king of Sodom near Jerusalem. It seems therefore that the Priest King of Jerusalem in those days held a position such as Ebed-Tob did later on and that the new king came to do homage when he became king. This position, too, would be an additional reason for the tribes which Abraham paid him.

These letters also give us some idea of the state of culture in Canaan in those days. We have already seen that the Babylonian writing had spread there long before. There was a city in what was afterwards the country of Judah called Kirjath-Sopher the "city of the scribes." This city was a place where, as in the libraries of Babylon, scribes were kept at work copying out books. Educated people used the language of Babylon although the common language was sometimes used. The religion and art of Babylon had also found a home in Canaan. To what a pitch of excellence they had arrived in the arts may be seen from the spoil which Thothmes III of Egypt (about 1500 B. C.) carried off from Canaan. We hear of chariots and tent poles overlaid with gold; of iron armour and helmets; of gold and silver rings used as money; of golden sceptres; of tables, etc., inlaid, some with gold, others with ivory; of bowls of gold, silver and bronze. Iron seems to have been worked there very early. The Canaanites traded with Babylonia, Egypt, the Soudan, Cyprus Asia Minor, and even amber from the Baltic has been found at Lachish, mixed with remains of about 1400 or 1500 years B. C. The ships of Canaan were famous.

For want of space I pass over the Egyptian conquest of Canaan. It is sufficient to say here that it became subject to Egypt partly under the native kings, partly under the Egyptian governors. At the time of the Tel-el-Amarna tablets this empire in Canaan was breaking up. Many of the letters were sent to beg for troops which the Pharaoh could not or would not send. The Hittites were attacking the country

from the north (they were very formidable warriors as I have already told you) and there was rebellion within.

Lachish was one of the fortresses of the south of Canaan. Excavations lately made have uncovered the walls of the old Amorite city. They were of brick and twenty nine feet thick, bearing out remarkably the report of Moses' spies. At this city has been found a head bearing the name of the mother of Amenophis IV to whom I have referred. More remarkable still a tablet was found there containing the name of Zimrida an Egyptian governor already known to us from the Tel-el-Amarna letters.

I had intended to make some reference to a curious book discovered at the same place giving a semi-humorous account of the travels of an Egyptian in Syria and Canaan but I must content myself with saying that many of the names of towns and villages mentioned by him are the same as those found in the Old Testament.

I have I think shown you three things: 1. That Canaan was before the time of Moses a comparatively civilized country and had made some progress in the arts and the knowledge of letters. 2. That the little we are told in the Bible respecting that age is in accordance with the records of Babylon and Egypt. 3. That at the time of the Exodus both Babylon and Egypt had ceased to exert any real influence over the affairs of Canaan, so that the occasion was favorable for the conquest by Israel under Joshua.

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 "If it is all the same to you, Mr. Jones, I should prefer it at the bottom of a check for \$50, made to the order of Snip & Cuttum, tailors. You have the bill, I believe."—Harper's Bazar.

West Turkestan is thinly populated and has few schools. The Russian government has fitted up as schools a few railroad carriages, which remain at each station for a few weeks. The teacher lives in the carriage. The children are required to learn a lesson or two until the itinerant school again reaches their neighborhood.

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The bath before going to bed is a problem. Medical men differ as to the relative values, but all agree that sleep will be all the sweeter if the sleeper is clean. At least two hours should be given the dinner for digestion, and even then it is unfair to cut off the blood supply by stepping into even warm water.—Exchange.

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