

Abraham (say, 2500 B.C.) there was a settled and complex system of industry and law, we cannot positively declare that the poet's age of Job might not fairly present the features under consideration.

Nevertheless (for reasons that cannot be fully stated here), these features must be regarded as inconsistent, to some extent, with the extremely simple, nomadic civilization otherwise set forth, in great fullness of detail, by the Book of Job. At all events, we cannot, with positive certainty, regard this book as authority for any period earlier than, say, 750 B.C. For that period it simply adds some picturesque details to what we know already about the arts and commerce of the time of Solomon, 250 years earlier. Whether the author of 'Job' was, or was not, correct in putting these descriptions into his poetic reconstruction of a distant antiquity, he cannot be fairly regarded as the "first writer" on mining.