

after a lapse of 1,635 years by Sardanapalus. The Elamites, however, left the land to be ruled by subject princes. The capital of the southern part of Babylonia then was Larsa, the Ellasar of the Bible (Genesis xiv., 1), of which Arioch was king in the time of Abraham. Babylon came to great eminence at the same time in the north, but under a new Semitic dynasty, at first dependant on Elam. The names of the early kings of Babylon are all Semitic; but they are of a different tribe from that of Sargon, being more recent arrivals. They required interpreters between them and the earlier Semites of Sargon's invasion; but they adopted the language of the latter and became incorporated with them. The sixth ruler of this Semitic dynasty of Babylon was the celebrated Hammurabi, one of the greatest generals and statesmen the world has seen. It is supposed, but not absolutely proved, that he is the Amraphel, or Amarphal, King of Senaar, of Genesis xiv., 1. Hammurabi was a contemporary of Eri-Aku, King of Larsa, whose name is also written differently in the Bible as "Arioch of Ellasar," (Genesis xiv., 1), a contemporary of Amraphel. Hammurabi, it would appear from Genesis xiv., 1-16, was, at first, like all other neighbouring kings, in some degree feudatory to Chedarlaomer, King of Elam, that is, at the time of the Battle of Five Kings against Four. This relation between the Kings of Elam and Shinar did not last long. About the year 2,250 B.C., Hammurabi conquered Larsa, the capital of the King Eri-Aku, who then owed allegiance to Elam. By this conquest Hammurabi united north and south Babylonia. Babylon, which was already Hammurabi's own capital, thus became for the first time the chief city of all Babylonia, a position she maintained 1,172 years. Sometimes in rivalry with Nineveh, till she succumbed in 538 B.C. to the Indo-Germanic Persians. The position of Babylon was chiefly maintained through those long centuries, owing to the extraordinary enlightenment of the code of laws which Hammurabi prepared and promulgated. These are beautifully cut in a column of balsalt, or fine grained black diorite, in the cuneiform character. This column was discovered lately at Susa, to which place it had been carried after the capture of Babylon. It may be seen by any of you in the Louvre at Paris, where I examined it two years ago. Last year I translated every word of that code from the then newly issued Italian edition of it, a code that had been published while Abraham was still living in his tent. In many points it resembles the laws of Moses.

We now come to the religion of the Shemitic races of Mesopotamia, brought with them from their own country, but soon influenced by the religion of the Sumerians, which they eventually submerged.