

CONTENTS.

of Nabonassar 747 years B. C. Archbishop Usher's Chronological tables. What tablet inscriptions teach us as to Chronology. Condition of Palestine before Abraham's day. Babylonia politically and socially in the time of Abraham. Probable population of the world then. The Chronological period from Noah to Abraham. Must have been several centuries longer than Usher states. Chronology of Christian era. Characterised by much difficulty and disorder Page 75.

CHAPTER V.

The Religions of ancient Egypt, Babylonia, and Assyria. No Messiah could arise from them.

Heathen forms of religion firmly established by law and custom. No opening for a Theistic Church, nor for the legitimate advent of the Messiah. It was necessary that a new nation, devoted to the worship of the one true God, should be founded. The religion of ancient Egypt. Its numerous gods and goddesses. Its mode of worship. Degrading animal worship in temples. Belief in a future state of rewards and punishments. Final judgment of Osiris. Mode of burial.

Religions of Babylonia and Assyria. Record of first settlement of these countries in Genesis X. supported by tablet inscriptions. Their early civilisation, as proved by tablet literature. Methods and character of religious worship. Period of Sargon I., the great religious reformer. He founds a new state church. Character of Assyrian mythology. Where its gods were worshipped Page 104.

CHAPTER VI.

The ancient Religions of Iran or Persia, Asia Minor, and Carthage.

Geographical description of ancient Persia. The religious doctrines and teaching of Zoroaster. Spread of the new creed. Good feeling between Jews and Persians. The modern Parsee and his fire-worship. Strange mode of burial. The Parsee's political and social condition in British India.

Religions of Asia Minor and Carthage: geographical extent of these countries. Their relations with the Hebrew Kingdoms. The Phœnician creed. Its cruel character as regards human sacrifices, and especially as to children. The Roman pro-consul hangs the priests of the bloody rites on the trees of their sacred grove. Religion of Ancient Syria. The character and worship of its gods. Moab and Ammon, the children of Lot. Their gods. Evidence of Naomi and Ruth as to their idolatry. Israel surrounded on all sides by heathen nations, and thus frequently alienated from the worship of the true God Page 121.

CHAPTER VII.

The ancient Religions of Greece and Rome.

The more joyous creed of Greece, when compared with that of Rome. Both creeds, however, sanctioned human sacrifice on special occasions. Special