REGAL REWARDS

Gary McDade

As one studies the Old Testament and supporting information on the kings of Judah and Israel as well as the surrounding contemporary kings of Egypt, Babylonia, and Assyria, he or she reaps regal rewards. These rewards are reflected not only in the knowledge gained about the Bible and ancient history but also in gaining greater confidence in the inspiration and historicity of the Bible itself as the Word of God.

Kings from other nations mentioned or alluded to in the Bible include with their corresponding approximate dates of their reigns from Egypt: Sheshonk I (924) [all dates are B.C.] and Pharaoh-Necho (609-594); from Babylonia: Nabopolassar (625-605) and Evil-Merodach (561-560); from Assyria: Adad-Nirari II (911-890), Tukulti-Ninib II (889-884), Assurnasirabal II (883-860), Shalmanezer III (859-824), Shamshi-Adad V (823-811), Adad-Nirari III (810-782), Shalmanezer IV (781-772), Assurdan III (771-754), Assur-Nirari II (753-746), Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727), Shalmanezer V (726-722), Sargon II (721-705), Sennacherib (704-681), Essarhadon (680-669), Assurbanipal (668-626), Assuritililani (625-620), Sinshariskun (619-612), and Assur-Uballit II (611-609) (from Edward J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, p. 199).

"Regal rewards" of pursuing this study emerge from Bernard Ramm's book *Protestant Christian Evidences* and Robert Dick Wilson's book *A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament.* Ramm says, "In 184 cases where the names of kings are transliterated into the Hebrew, the task has been done accurately. This means that for 3900 years the names of these kings have been faithfully transmitted" (p. 23). He tells us that from 2,000 B.C. to 400 B.C. there are about 40 of these kings. What is remarkable, as Wilson adds, is that each one appears in chronological order "with reference to the kings of the same country and with respect to the kings of other countries" (p. 86). Wilson affirms, "No stronger evidence for the substantial accuracy of the Old Testament records could possibly be imagined, than this collection of kings" (p. 86). Here's why according to Ramm, "Mathematically it is one chance in 750,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 that this data would be correctly recorded" (p. 24). That is 750 septillion to one! That certainly is not much room for error! Wilson's statement, "No stronger evidence for the substantial accuracy of the Old Testament records could possibly be imagined, than this collection of kings," emphatically emphasizes the "regal rewards" of studying the Bible in general and in particular the kings of the Bible.