

**THE RELIGION OF
BABYLONIA
AND ASSYRIA**

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The Religion of Babylonia and Assyria by Theophilus G. Pinches

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THEOPHILUS G. PINCHES

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By

THEOPHILUS G. PINCHES, LL.D.

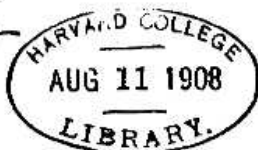
LECTURER IN ASSYRIAN AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON,
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PRONUNCIATION OF BABYLONIAN DIVINE NAMES

Vowels as in Italian. *G* always hard. *H* = Scotch *ch*. *P* often pronounced as *f* (*ph*), and *t* as *th*. *T* emphatic. *S* is a hissing *s* (sometimes transcribed as *ç*). *Š* is the Heb. *sh* and *s* the Heb. *s*, but were probably pronounced conversely. *M* and *w* are expressed by the same characters—*Tiauwath* or *Tiamat*, *Dawkins* or *Damkina*, etc. (the Greek and other transcriptions favour *w*).

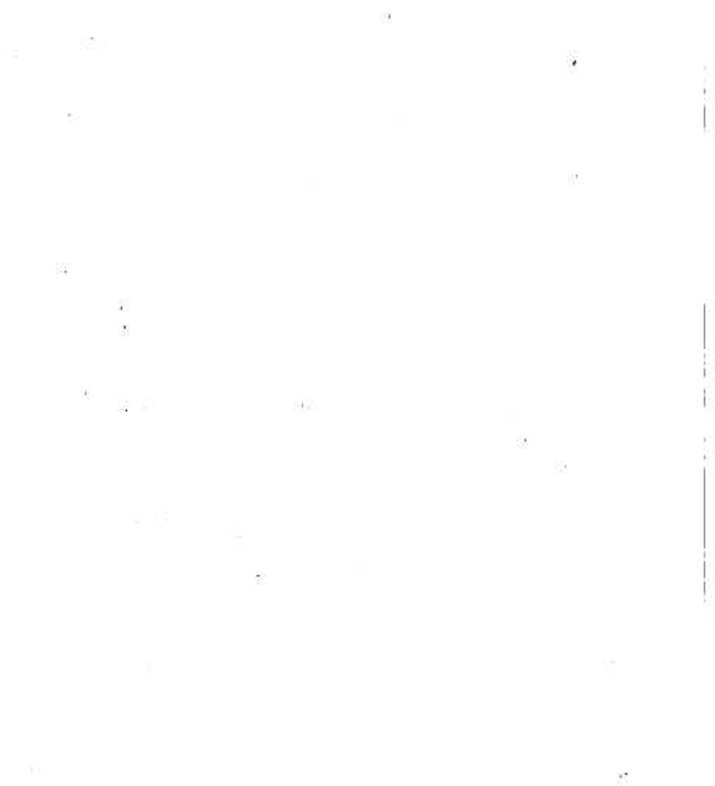


Figure 1. Relationship between the number of days of rain and the number of days of sunshine.

THE RELIGION OF THE
BABYLONIANS AND ASSYRIANS

CHAPTER I

FOREWORD

Position, and Period.—The religion of the Babylonians and Assyrians was the polytheistic faith professed by the peoples inhabiting the Tigris and Euphrates valleys from what may be regarded as the dawn of history until the Christian era began, or, at least, until the inhabitants were brought under the influence of Christianity. The chronological period covered may be roughly estimated at about 5000 years. The belief of the people, at the end of that time, being Babylonian heathenism leavened with Judaism, the country was probably ripe for the reception of the new faith. Christianity, however, by no means replaced the earlier polytheism, as is evidenced by the fact, that the worship of Nebo