

المرحلة الثانية

النص 3

الجزء 2

Civilization of the Middle East

Whichever view is followed, it is necessary to bear in mind that geographical conditions in both regions were not identical, and it can in fact be stated that in Mesopotamia environmental factors were not as wholly favourable as in the valley of the Nile. The Nile is a single stream, without tributaries in its lower course; but Tigris and Euphrates are both braided streams, and the former receives important affluents which bring down immense masses of silt that block the lower courses of both rivers, giving rise to swamps, lagoons, shifting banks and coastlines. Moreover, the floods of Mesopotamia are more variable, since they

depend on rainfall that occurs within the Middle East area, and this tends to be capricious and unreliable. Further, because of their direct relationship to winter rainfall (either from runoff, or the later melting of snow), Mesopotamian floods occur in spring, not as in Egypt, during the late summer.