

Egypt ranks much larger in the mind of the average/reader of the Bible. The reason for this is that Egypt is so prominent in the early part of the Old Testament in the account of the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt despite the wish of Pharaoh to keep them there. Naturally this receives far more attention than the conquest of the Israelites by the Babylonians and the Assyrians and their being led away into captivity. It is, therefore, rather disappointing to the average Bible student to learn that there is far less material from Egypt bearing directly upon the Bible than ~~that~~ there is from Mesopotamia. Whether there ~~that~~ is actually more direct reference in the Bible to Mesopotamia than to Egypt, there is far more in Mesopotamia bearing directly on the Bible than in Egypt. Two or three reasons for this need to be noticed. One of these lies in the peculiar constitution of Egypt. Egypt is a land which would be desert where it not for the influence of a great river. The Nile River brings water and fertilization to Egypt and produces a country which exists only where the Nile flows. In northern Egypt the Nile has divided out into many mouths and this large delta region is the most populous and prosperous region of Egypt. The so-called Upper Egypt is a region where for hundreds of miles civilization only exists for a/short distance on both sides of the Nile. Beyond that there is desert. Many of the greatest rulers came from Upper Egypt. They returned to that region to hold their great celebrations and had established their tombs up there. Yet their capitals were quite generally in lower Egypt in the delta regions, and it was here that the ~~the~~ bulk of the great events of Egyptian history took place. Here it was also that the contact with Asia would occur, since this is between Asia and Upper Egypt.

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Probably nine-tenths of what remains from ~~Upper~~ ancient Egypt is in Upper Egypt. This is because the great monuments which were placed there were placed generally just beyond the cultivated area on the edge of the desert, and were not in the way of further cultivation. In that remarkably dry climate, they have lasted wonderfully well through the ages. In lower Egypt, however, the land has constantly been rising higher and higher as it has been held by large numbers of people and even today is extremely prosperous. It would be difficult to do any great amount of excavation in lower Egypt, since there is a thriving civilization above it today. It is particularly unlikely that much will be done there, since ~~it~~ not only would it be extremely expensive there, but it is so com-