

Why the Bible student is interested in Biblical Archaeology.

There are four reasons why the student of the Bible should be interested in Biblical Archaeology. The first of these is what we might entitle general corroboration. There have been many sceptics in the past, ~~particularly among those with little knowledge of the established facts of ancient history,~~ who have assumed that the Bible was entirely a book of myths and legends, and did not spring from a background of solid historical fact. This was particularly easy to do a century and a half ago, when practically nothing was known of ancient Babylonia and Egypt, aside from the ~~few bits of knowledge~~ statements contained in the Greek writers, whose material was gathered long after the greatness of those lands had become but a memory. The impression has sometimes been given that the Bible is merely a collection of fairy stories, written ~~long ago~~ to deceive the credulous, and to secure support for ~~the~~ professional religious leaders. When archaeology brings to light materials used in Biblical times and references to individuals and places mentioned in the Bible this gives an air of verisimilitude to Biblical statements and causes us to feel that they do not come from someone's imagination but refer to events and movements which have actually occurred. Thus everything from Biblical archaeology which gives us more assurance of the reality of the movements and events described in the Bible may be placed under this head of general corroboration.