

Where Saul had his HQ's in the tribe of Benjamin. If he went up to the top of that hill and looked out, you could almost imagine this v. described him. It was just a barren hill; a few little plants growing, nothing much. No sign of life around you. You looked out over the countryside and instead of seeing the highly developed communities you have there today, in 1921 it looked desolate, empty, you did not see cars moving, you did not see people moving around. It just looked desolate and empty. A city, a wilderness, a land in which no man dwells neither does any son of man pass by it.

But Dr. Albright wanted to excavate and find out if he could learn something about Solomon, his history and his palace

Saul

and whether it was where he had been by excavating there, so he brought some men with him from Jerusalem and they started to dig in that hill. They had not dug 5 min. before the full countryside looked different than it did before. Because all over that countryside there were little houses made of earth which you would not see ~~if you~~ as you looked at them. It just fit into the background. Homes were made of earth and bricks. There were also people living in caves. And as soon as they saw him digging in that mound they came rushing out from the caves and houses and hundreds of people converged on him from all directions saying, What are you doing to our hill here? He knew that that place was not a place where in no man dwelt neither does any son of man pass by it. Now Albright had already investigated this and knew this was about to happen. But he did it a purpose, because he had found that that little hill there was owned with an ownership which had 35 shares and each share might be owned by as many as 10 families owning part of it. He could have spent 6 mo. hunting up these people to try to get an arrangement with them whereby they would allow him to excavate, but it was easier just to begin excavating and they all came rushing up to him. So if this verse had predicted that that would be the condition of Palestine, it would just not have fit. I said in 1929 when I was in Palestine and looked over the register, I said, if there is almost anybody you want to see, just wait in Jerusalem long enough and they'll show up. It's amazing how many people, particularly in religious work, sometime in their life make a visit to Jerusalem. I remember one man from Berkeley, CA who went out there and excavated -- he had a very important place he was excavating -- he had a little excavation headquarters where he sat and a desk and he had a guest book, and as the cars would stream by the people would stream up there to see him, and to meet the famous archaeologist which he became after having shaken hands with all these people. It was a great thing for his prestige in subsequent days, having excavated in Palestine. But a real excavator isn't apt to want that kind of prestige. He prefers to stick to the work without so much interruption. In this particular case I'll take a second to tell what happened. Dr. Albright immediately dismissed the people he'd brought with him to start the excavation, and hired some of these. So that made them a little more friendly to him. Then he said, Now let's take this up in the courts and get them to make a proper assessment. Well, they said, All right but you might as well save all that trouble by paying us now \$2000 we think would be a fair rental for 6 weeks of excavating.