

Well, they went to the courts, and he said he spent half his time in the court arguing and half his time on the mount excavating and actually the court gave the ~~the~~ decision that the payment of \$15 would be a fair price. But he probably put in \$1000 worth of time and effort before the decision was reached.

But Babylonia is an archaeologist's paradise and you find a great city that was an important center in the time of Jeremiah and there's a great high mound in the wilderness. You ~~skk~~ look around and you see nobody, and you begin digging and nobody comes near. You ~~may~~ may have to haul your water 10 or 15 miles but it's worth it to be free from interference by local people or by tourists except very rarely to carry on your work. It is exactly as described here. Her cities are a desolation, a dry land a wilderness and land in which no man dwelleth neither does any son of man pass by it. How would Jeremiah know this would happen in Babylonia and not in Palestine. How did it happen? Those cities went on for another 500 or 1000 years after Jeremiah, still great centers of population, still active places all that time. One might die, one might disappear, others might spring up but most of them continued for centuries, and then way up there in the mts. N. of Mesopotamia, the rivers at that time had been gradually digging their channels against the sides of the hills and that happened which one in a while happens in a mountain, a few cases where it has happened in a few streams out in the Rocky Mts. here. Rarely has it happened in the world's history with such big rivers and as the Tigris and Euphrates but eventually it happened with them. That the river broke through a new channel up in the mt. and came out in a different place. The result was that that old channel down there was left dry and desolate, and the waters came down to the flat plain, made a new channel ten or 20 miles away from the old one, and the towns were left high and dry with no water for drinking, no water for irrigation, no river for commerce, etc. So the people picked up and moved over to the new side of the river.

So today you have great cities up and down that river, great commerce going on the river. Agriculture, prosperity in those towns, but they are 10 to 20 miles away from the old towns, and the cities of Babylonia have become a dry land, a desolation, a wilderness, a land in which no man dwells, neither does any son of man pass by. Now do you think Jeremiah could have figured this all out. Do you think Jeremiah could have looked forward and seen all this was going to happen? Do you think he just made a guess and put in the name Babyoon? He might just as well have said Egypt, or Palestine. Any one of other things ~~wh~~ he might have said which would not fit the situation. But this is exactly what happened there in Babylonia and God enabled Jeremiah in this verse to put in just that little feel to say there is a knowledge back of Jeremiah ~~and~~ here that no ordinary man could have. God is speaking through Jeremiah. You can trust him when he speaks of these material things. When he speaks of eternal things, you can know they also are true because God has spoken them.

Now let's move down to Egypt and over to the book of Ezekiel. In Ezek. 30 (two or three chs. he is talking about Egypt) but in ch. 30 he has a discussion of certain cities in Egypt and I'd like to call your attention to what he says about two things.