

And in these tunnels he found the remains of copper. He found near the front of them remains of ancient fires taking the copper and getting rid of some of the slag and<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> preparing it to carry and to carry it all that distance north and around the Dead Sea and up into Jerusalem would be terribly expensive. Probably not worth it at all. I remember a man who found a copper mine up in Canada but he found the expense of building it, and of carrying it out from the place he found it made it absolutely worthless and he gave up all thought of it, but fortunately he laid a claim on the land. And then someone else found a gold mine 40 miles further on and that was worth building a rail-road into to reach it, and it came within 10 miles of his copper mine. So now his <sup>mine</sup> copper mine was of great value. Well, for Sol. to take this copper and carry it by boats from Ezion Geber down to<sup>2</sup> Ophir and trade it for gold would make much more sense than to carry it overland clear up to Jerusalem. So maybe Solomon wasn't so unwise after all when he found the evidence of these copper mines, many of them so near to Ezion Geber.

Then he began to excavate at Ezion Geber and very soon the doubts of Solomon's wisdom began to come again. Did Solomon sit in Jerusalem with a chart before and say Here's where I want a town. You go and build it, and people just had to go and do whatever this great powerful ruler said even if it didn't seem sensible to them? Well here was the mound. And they dug a well and they got Salt Water. Then they went 50 ft. that way and they get salt water, and they kept going and trying and they went a mile that way and they get fresh water. Then they went this way, they went 50 ft. -- a 100 ft., going on. all was salt water until they went a mile and a half and then they got fresh water. As far as they could see it would be <sup>just</sup> as good a place for a town as where the town was built. Did Sol. just say on the chart here's where I want my town? And then the people had to carry the water on donkey back every day a mile or a mile and a half, and in that hot country they carry a lot of it. Was that the situation? Why did they build it right there? Then they began to excavate, and they hadn't excavated very far very long before a big hot wind began to come down through that Arraba. that depression between great cliffs on both sides that reaches clear north to the Dead Sea --