

in the other area, but I've always had a very great regard for the importance of what you find. Now in Palestinian archaeology, unfortunately, most of what we find so far is buildings and walls, ancient materials. Of course these materials in a way are better evidence than what you find written, because anybody can tell a lie. Ancient kings did it constantly on the monuments. But when you actually find the foundations of a city from a certain period, you know that that city was at that period. There is no imagination, there is no lie about that.

On the other hand you can be in the position that Dr. Heddy Goldman was when she went to Tarsus to excavate. She got there and they began to excavate, and as they dug into this mound outside the modern town of Tarsus, and a lot of the people from the area were out there watching them as they began their excavation, they dug down a little ways and they began to find the foundations of a building and they began to wonder, Is this from Tarsus in the Middle Ages? Perhaps is this the place where Paul studied as a boy in Tarsus? Or is this from an earlier period? And as they were discussing it they noticed an elderly woman in the crowd who began to talk with very vociferously. One of the archaeologists in the party wondered what she was talking about. She was so excited, and he went back and stood near her. And she was saying to her friends, Do you see that building they are digging up? That's where I went to school when I was a girl. I remember when that place burned down." Well if you don't have writing, you can easily be thousands of years off in your dating of things or in your conclusions as to what they are.

Now in Palestine unfortunately, they were fairly near Egypt, so they had papyrus to write on. You could get papyrus from Egypt. But the country is not dry like it is in Egypt. Most of the papyrus we have from ancient Egypt comes from tombs.