

should Solomon have built his city at such a disagreeable place?

Before excavation had gone very far it became apparent that the remains of a fine city from the time of Solomon were buried here. Everything was well made and evidently carefully planned and built as a whole, indicating the work of a very powerful and able ruler who could transport sufficient forces of men to build such a city so far from his capital. When the principal building of the place had been laid bare the reason for the particular site chosen by the monarch became evident. The rooms were so arranged as to make it clear that they were parts of a great refinery. Remnants of smolten copper and of charcoal were found on the floors. An intricate system of flues and air channels in the walls made use of the wind which blows so constantly at this place to provide a forced draft system for the furnaces. Thus the principle of the modern blast furnace, previously considered to have been unknown until modern times, is seen to have been understood and utilized by Solomon. All suspicion that his wisdom was of a low order vanishes before this concrete evidence of the greatness of his knowledge, ability, and power.

It was assumed by some that such wisdom must have originated with the Edomites rather than with Solomon and that Solomon must merely have taken over a refinery which they had built. Careful examination by the excavators in a third season showed conclusively that the city of Solomon was the first built at the place and that there was no trace whatever of Edomite influence.

With this new evidence before us of the greatness and wisdom of Solomon, should we not give greater heed to the words of our Lord in Matthew 12:42, "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here," and apply ourselves with increased energy to His service.