

“ . . . I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out” (Luke 19:40b).

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CHAPTER XI

THE RELATION OF ARCHAEOLOGY TO THE BIBLE

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During the past century and a half a new world has opened up through the excavation and research of the archaeologist. Statues, bas-reliefs, foundations of houses, implements, pottery, inscribed tablets, and other evidences of human activity in ancient times, have been dug from the places where they had lain buried for thousands of years and have begun to yield their secrets to the patient toil and careful research of modern scholars.

Archaeology is a comparatively new science. Most of its techniques have been developed recently. The light which it sheds on the history and culture of ancient man was not available to us until a short time ago.

This does not mean, of course, that we knew nothing of ancient history before archaeological results began to be available in large measure. There was another source of such knowledge which had never been lost. It consisted of the classics and the Bible. The former gave us pictures of the history and culture of ancient Greece and Rome, while the latter told of many events in Palestine and other sections of the Near East. While both of these provided useful sources for knowledge of ancient history, they had the disadvantage of not being available to us in

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