

has been shown to be remarkably accurate. As a result of archeological investigation and excavation, a whole new world has risen from the dust so that today history extends just as far back of 500 B.C. as it has proceeded on this side of that date. It can never go still further back, because history is an account of events that is based upon written records, and writing did not come into existence until approximately 3000 B.C. Whatever precedes that time is not history but prehistory.

Biblical archeology is of real importance in relation to New Testament study also, but not nearly as important as in relation to the Old Testament. The reasons for this will be discussed in sections VI. and VII.

B. Archeology Defined.

Archeology is not so much a science or a division of knowledge as it is a way of securing knowledge. It is a method for increasing our knowledge of the history of political and social events of past times. Until the rise of archeology, all our knowledge in these areas was based upon material that had been written down and passed on from generation to generation in manuscripts. As old manuscripts wore out they were copied. The old ones disintegrated; the new ones were in turn copied, and in turn disintegrated. Thus the Bible and what remains of the classical literature of Greece and Rome were passed on from century to century. These were our only sources for knowledge of ancient times, until men began to copy inscriptions on old monuments and to dig in search of buried cities.

Archeology consists of the examination of actual materials that were used in ancient times. It is divisible into two parts; first, there is the study of the remains of ancient buildings, monuments, dishes, statues, and other manifestations of the culture of a given period; second, there is also the study of