

of our day that it is sometimes easy to imagine that it consists merely of a work of mythology or of imagination. Against this, archeology presents us with evidence of the existence of the situation that forms the background of the events described in the Bible, <sup>and</sup> thus gives us a general assurance of the reality of the Biblical world. This is one of the most important values of archeology to the Bible student.

A second great importance of Biblical archeology might be designated as special corroboration. This deals with points at which archeological evidence clearly indicates the accuracy of particular statements in the Bible. Many a Biblical statement which had previously been considered to be erroneous or even impossible has thus been shown to be precisely in accord with historic fact.

A third reason, perhaps the most important of all, is the help that archeology gives for Biblical interpretation. Biblical statements often deal with a specific situation in the past. Archeology helps us to understand that situation better. Many Biblical words indicate material objects used in Biblical times. Sometimes these objects were very different from those used today. Archeology enables us to see similar objects and to know more detail about them than could be gained from the Bible. Frequently archeology makes particular statements in the Bible easier to understand.

A fourth reason why archeology is of interest to the Bible student deals with a new factor that has arisen in recent decades. This might be entitled "Help in the Study of Derivation." After archeology began to shed light upon the historical accuracy and dependability of the Bible, some of the enemies of Biblical teaching changed their approach. Admitting its general historical accuracy, they began to allege that its religious and cultural teachings were not original