

glorious future which awaits the pharaoh in his afterlife as he makes his entrance among the gods. The Pyramid Texts tell much about Egyptian beliefs regarding the next world, but very little about earthly life in ancient Egypt.

The Great Pyramid was a burial place and memorial for Khufu, and nothing else. Assertions that it in some way indicates the prophetic history of the world or tells anything about the Christian religion are entirely imaginary. There is no basis for such claims either in the Bible or in any ancient Egyptian writing~~x~~.

Mention should also be made of the material objects and pictures found in the tombs of the nobles. Many of these are beautifully colored and portray ordinary life on the large estates of the nobles. They have proven a great source for understanding the life and culture of the ancient Egyptians.

The monuments and other objects remaining from ancient Egypt are very extensive, but Biblical archeology has far more contacts with the written material from Egypt than with the physical remains.

### C. Egyptian Writing.

#### 1. The Decipherment.

During the Middle Ages it was generally thought that the pictures of men, women, animals and plants that decorated many of the monuments of Egypt had a magical purpose. Actually they represented a strange type of writing, the meaning of which had been completely forgotten. When Napoleon's engineers were preparing defense works near the Rosetta mouth of the Nile in 1798, they came upon a stone which contained a fairly long inscription, written in three different types of writing. At the top were several lines in the hieroglyphic or picture writing which was familiar from its occurrence on the great Egyptian monuments. Below was writing in a different type of character (later called demotic). Still further down was writing in Greek characters, stating that some priests had put up this monu-