

material have had to be utilized to get the very important help for Biblical archeology that has come from Palestine.

B. Exploration to 1914: the Vital Principles Discovered.

In Palestine the period before 1914 was not extremely productive of valuable results in Biblical archeology. Many times as much has been learned since the first World War as before. Yet the foundations of all subsequent progress in Palestinian archeology were laid before 1914 and credit for them belongs particularly to two men: Prof. Edward Robinson and Sir William Flinders Petrie.

Among the Christians of the first three centuries after Christ, there seems to have been little interest in the details of Palestinian geography. Christians were oriented toward the return of Christ to set up His glorious kingdom of peace and happiness. They spread over the earth witnessing to their Master and pointing people toward the coming age rather than toward the events of the past (1 Thess. 1.9-10). Little effort was made by Christians during those years to preserve the memory of the places where Biblical events had occurred. This was especially unfortunate for our knowledge of Palestine since the Jews were not in a position to make up the lack. Multitudes of Jews perished in A.D.70, when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. In A.D.132-5 the rebellion of Bar Cochba was savagely put down, and Hadrian established a pagan city on the ruins of Jerusalem with orders that no Jew could come within ten miles of the city. Thus these three centuries were a time when it was easy to lose all knowledge of the locations where Biblical events had occurred.

A change came with the reign of Constantine, the first Christian emperor. Interest in learning about the region where the Saviour had lived was stimulated when Constantine's pious mother, Helena, visited Palestine, and tried to find the places where events in the life of Christ had occurred. Helena was no