

of the events described in this much disputed chapter of the Bible.

Petrie's work was utilized to a greater or less extent by subsequent explorers and excavators. Some work of fair importance was done before the first world war but organization of expeditions was not generally as carefully planned as was possible later, and the basis had not yet been laid for most effective excavation. Frequently excavation was made by simply digging trenches, a method that might promise to yield immediate results but generally failed to provide enough related material for proper understanding. A few men made great efforts to master the science of Palestinian pottery, and eventually succeeded in convincing the scholarly world that it is a safe criterion for chronology. When a few clear specimens are available it is often possible to date something as close as within half a century. For purposes of dating, history has been divided into the various portions of the Stone Age, followed by Early Bronze (about 3000-2000 B.C.), Middle Bronze (about 2000-1500 B.C.), Late Bronze (about 1500-1200 B.C.), Iron I (about 1200-900 B.C.), Iron II (about 900-600 B.C.), and Iron III (about 600-300 B.C.). Later periods are named according to the group that is politically or culturally dominant.

C. Excavation Between the Two World Wars (1919-1939)

1. General Conditions.

The period between 1919 and 1939 was a time of great advance in Palestinian archeology. There are a number of reasons why conditions were far more satisfactory and progress far greater than at any previous period. First of these is the fact that Palestine was now under a British Mandate. When it had been part of the Ottoman Empire, its administration had been largely subject to the whims of local satraps. Now the British Mandate undertook to establish orderly control in every regard, and this made the carrying on of excavation much more satisfactory.