

something with dramatic impact upon Biblical study, such as the earlier discovery of Solomon's stables or Solomon's seaport. In recent years most of the excavation is throwing light on particular details and has not yielded such sudden great steps forward. One never knows, however, when something of this type may occur.

E. Relation of Palestinian Archeology to the Bible.

1. The Situation in General.

Before considering specific relations of Palestinian archeology to the Bible, it is necessary to look briefly at the relation of each of these to history and culture.

First, we note that it is not the purpose of the Bible to give us a complete history of ancient Palestine. Its purpose is rather to show how man has turned away from God, and how God has provided for man a marvelous plan of redemption. The history of Palestine is important in this connection but is far from being the real objective for the Biblical writing. The periods or activities that are vital from a religious viewpoint are stressed and clearly explained in the Bible, and only so much of the political and cultural background as is necessary for their understanding. Events of great political or cultural importance are sometimes completely passed over in the Bible, because they are not related to its purpose. The Bible tells us much about the history of Palestine, but there are great gaps in its coverage of this subject, and many matters are left unexplained.

The situation is somewhat similar when we look at the relation of Palestinian archeology to history. We have seen that very little written material from Old Testament times has been discovered in Palestine. Nothing has been found there in the way of a connected account of contemporary events, or of a presentation of an Israelite king's claim to have done mighty deeds. Practically all the findings consist of material objects. It would be very difficult to interpret these historically if it were not for the fact that many of them have similarities