

## II. Egyptian Archeology.

### A. The Land of Egypt.

We shall begin our examination of Biblical Archeology with Egypt rather than with Palestine. This is not only because extensive materials from Egypt and Mesopotamia were discovered before any great progress in Palestinian archeology had been made but also because far more written material has been discovered in these lands than in Palestine. Palestinian archeology would have been relatively unrewarding, if it were not for the many relationships with the work that had already been done in these other countries.

~~Egypt has been called "the gift of the Nile."~~

Egypt has so little rainfall that it would be a barren desert if it were not for the fact that the Nile river brings fertility to it. Southern or Upper Egypt consists of a long and narrow strip of land beside the Nile. Northern or Lower Egypt consists of the Nile delta, a region about 140 miles in length and maybe 100 miles in width, where the Nile divides into a large number of different mouths, thus producing a wider area of extremely great fertility. As a result of Egypt's very dry climate, archeological remains have lasted better in Egypt than almost anywhere else in the world. Its colossal ruins form a great outdoor museum. Roman tourists visited the pyramids and other great monuments of Egypt, and pondered over their meaning. During the Middle Ages the land was regarded as an area of mystery and enchantment. Naturally it was one of the first regions where archeology made great advances.

Another feature that is important in the history of Egypt is its isolation. The wilderness protected it on both sides. To the south lay a barren desert, broken only by the course of the Nile. To the north was the Mediterranean Sea. Only from the northeast