

However, as mentioned above (IV.A) the Ugaritic literature found at Ras Shamra in Syria gives a basis for comparison of Canaanite religious ideas with those of the Bible. This literature is very helpful for interpretation of certain Biblical references to heathen religion, but shows clearly that Biblical religion was quite distinct from that of the Canaanites and that the stories about the Canaanite gods find no parallel in the Biblical story.

Palestinian archeology, like that from Egypt and Mesopotamia, has done much to show the accuracy of individual Biblical statements. It has done much more to show the general accuracy of the historical background. As a result, even unbelieving scholars tend more and more to accept the Bible as a prime historical source for the reconstruction of ancient history. No evidence from archeology has proven any Biblical statement to be false. Occasionally, as in the case of the former attitude toward the presence of camels in Egypt, or toward the existence of King Belshazzar in Babylon, evidence in hand is utilized by anti-Biblical scholars to try to show that the Bible is inaccurate on a particular point. Many such problems have disappeared in the light of advancing knowledge, and it is safe to say that all of them will be ironed out as more is learned about the history and culture of ancient times. Many a problem in Old Testament interpretation that seemed very puzzling at the beginning of this century has been solved by archeological evidence, and we can confidently recognize that the book that God has inspired and kept from error for the presentation to us of vital spiritual and ethical truths, is equally dependable whenever it touches upon material facts of history or of culture.