

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Sons of Ham

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In considering the relation of archaeology (or any other science) to the Bible, it is extremely vital that we make sure what the Bible actually says. Sometimes men have spent a great deal of time trying to prove that some scientific theory or statement agreed or disagreed with the Bible, without first making an accurate determination of the real meaning of the relevant Biblical passages.

It is vital to recognize the fact that there are many matters with which the Bible does not deal. For example, it tells in detail of the relations of Ahab with the prophets and with the religion of Israel, but does not fully present ^o these important political and international actions of his, which we learn from archaeology to have been of great significance. It is not the purpose of the Bible to give us a full presentation of any science, or even of history, but to present those facts which are vital in our understanding of the relation of God to the universe. Since God is the real author of the Bible, we can be sure that no statement or reasonable inference will be contrary to the actual facts of the material universe that He created. It is very easy to misinterpret the Bible and to read our scientific ideas or theories into it. Consideration of any phase of the relation of science with the Bible should always be based upon a very careful study of the actual teaching of the Bible in the original.

Yet it is strange how frequently we find interpretations advanced which can easily be shown to be utterly false, simply on the basis of the English Bible.