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The interest of the Bible student in Biblical archaeology can be placed quite definitely under three heads. The original interest in the archaeology of the ~~near~~ near-East came from people who were anxious to illuminate the background of the Bible and to corroborate its statements. Our first heading for Biblical Archaeology may be entitled Corroboration. The Bible gives us a picture of certain events in ancient times. Through Biblical archaeology we learn much of the general culture and history of those lands in those periods. We learn sometimes about the same events from two entirely different angles. We learn of many different phases of the same civilization from these different angles. We take the two pictures and fit them together to see whether or not they fit. Thus, we have a valuable external means of checking upon statements in the Bible. It is strengthening to faith ^{when} we can find important points

A in the ~~the~~ Biblical history at which material dug up from the ground corroborates the accuracy of the Biblical account. On the other ~~the~~ ^{when} hand, ~~where~~ we find points at which material excavated does not seem ^{at first} to fit in with the statements in the Bible, questions and problems are raised, the study of which comes under this ~~general~~ ^{special} head of Corroboration.

C/B Here, a word of caution should be mentioned. Occasionally, one ~~will~~ come across ~~statements~~

wild statements that the whole Old Testament has been corroborated by archaeology. ^{Obviously} ~~On the face of it,~~ such statements are absurd. At least half of the ~~statements~~ ^{verses} of the Old Testament are such as are not susceptible of corroboration by archaeology. The revelation of spiritual truths which it contains, the accounts of many incidents in the daily lives of ~~the~~ people from whom no record has been preserved aside from that in the Bible, ~~are~~ ^{the poems and psalms} not susceptible of corroboration by archaeology. Archaeology does not prove them true or false, although it may cast valuable light upon their background and thus indirectly tend toward corroborating them.

), and many other types of ^{Biblical} material,