

narrative - the region of Palestine and Syria. It is well to mention this third because our material is far less important or extensive here than from the other countries. Excavation in Palestine is more recent than excavation in Egypt and in Mesopotamia. Far less rich material has been found here than in those other countries. The Palestinian archaeology has been greatly benefited by the fact of the many points of contact between it and types of material already discovered in those other countries, and occasional objects in Palestine which actually originated in those countries.

As a result of the scarcity of written material in Palestine, it is necessary to lay far greater stress on purely archaeological materials than in the other nations. The factors which are important in those nations become extremely important here. By the principles of modern archaeological methods, it has been possible particularly within the last twenty years, to make many extremely important discoveries in Palestine. The present paper does not allow time to enter into them at any length. A few specimens may be selected for discussion. Here we discuss the background of the time of Genesis in general, we speak briefly of Sodom, we speak of the conquests, we speak more at length of the time of Solomon, we speak somewhat of the exile. needs to be written up.

Then we go on to discuss the matter of the Ras Shamra material which is discovered in northern Syria, and which gives us a great store of written material showing something of the culture of the ancient Canaanites. New ideas of derivation of Biblical subjects from this are sometimes advanced, as in the suggestion that the Daniel of Ezekial is actually a Daniel of the Ras Shamra texts, and not the Daniel of the Bible. As if the prophets who were so constantly against what they described as the abomination of the Canaanite religion should thus speak with high approbation of a Canaanite mythological hero! Much has been written attempting to show derivation of Biblical ideas from Canaanite sources. The whole field of Ras Shamra, but at present there is no great problem involved here as to derivation from Palestinian sources. The other prime source of alleged derivation is that from Arabian, which we will not go into at this time.

While it is not our intention at this point to go into materials bearing on the New Testament, of which there is considerable, although far less than bearing on the Old Testament, nor to go into Asia Minor either in Old Testament or New Testament times, yet we will