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to the contrary. We read in vs. 26 that Solomon built a navy of ships in Ezion-Geber. Now we have reference elsewhere to Solomon's having ships in the Mediterranean. But Ezion Geber is far S. of Pal. and a bit east. It is right near what is today Akkaba. It says he built a navy of ships in Ezion Geber which is beside Elath on the shore of the Red Sea and the land of Edom. And Hiram sent in the navy his servant shipmen who had knowledge of the sea with the servants of Solomon." Hiram was from Phoenicia the great land of naval travel, of commerce and that sort of thing in ancient times. Hiram was very helpful to David we read in the Bible. He was also to Solomon.

Then we read in vs. 28: "And they came to Ophir and fetched from thence gold 420 talents and brought it to King Solomon." Well if Solomon wanted to get gold from Ophir why would he build a navy of ships down in Ezion Geber there way down there to the south, way across the desert at Akkaba the northern end of the Gulf of Akkaba. If you can imagine the Red Sea. You have the Red Sea ending in two big gulfs. One goes way up to Suez, up to where the Suez canal was built in the last century. The other the eastern one goes up to Akkaba. Now if Solomon wanted to get to E Ophir which is south Arabia and southern Ethiopia if he wanted to get down there to get gold he could conceivably have taken his ships which we find elsewhere in the Script. he had taken those ships and gone down to Suez and then just carried the stuff across the little distance of what is now the Suez canal and there built some ships to go down the Suez gulf and down to Ophir and get the gold.

Well you say gold is very very valuable. Maybe the people as in Ophir were so fond of Solomon they just loved to give him their gold and he would take the gold and it would be brought up to Akkaba the gold is so valuable it was worth carrying it by donkey back up all that distance north. Maybe so. But a young man named Gleuck who was a student of archaeology found that difficult to believe. He found that very difficult to believe and he started an expedition to go down there to study this. He went down this long distance down there to the desert south of the Dead Sea, hot and disagreeable and very unpleasant a place filled with poisonous snakes in many areas. We read about them when the Israelites came up out of Egypt, and if you read T. L. E. Lawrence's The Seven Pillars of Wisdom about his experiences there in the World War you find how prominent