

Chapel Nov. 7, 1973

Archaeology

The last time I spoke here, I spoke about Archaeology. I'm going to speak further about Archaeology this morning. I think it is good that we as Christians know something of the change that has come about in the last century in relation to the leaders in this field. 100 yrs. ago it was held in just about all universities and all theological seminaries that the Bible was God's word and free from error. This ~~is~~ was the general attitude of people everywhere. It is interesting to read how about 150 yrs. ago when Chas. Darwin ~~was~~ found that he did not like medicine and it was suggested that he therefore go into the ministry. Darwin said, I want to be sure that I can accept the doctrines of the church. He said, Give me time to think about it. He said, I have grave doubts about the deity of Christ, but he said, Of course I have no doubts that the Bible is entirely ~~true~~ true, and free from error. Now of course that was a very illogical attitude to take because the Bible very clearly teaches ~~that~~ the deity of Christ. But it does reflect the attitude that was so widespread. So a century and a half ago when we began to find material from ancient times that threw further light on Biblical life and situations, the attitude of those who found it was immediately to see a relation to the Bible or a corroboration for the Bible. And almost anything they would find they would say: Look here how this fits with the Bible. Look how this proves the Bible. And of course many things they did find did fit, but they said this ~~is~~ about ~~it~~ things that had little to do with any Biblical statements (being) + carried away by the excess of their enthusiasm. Now today - or perhaps I should not say today -- I should say during the years prior to 1915 or 20 things swung equally far in the opposite direction. So that most of your professors of archaeology of the ~~near~~ Near Eastern countries about 1920 were men who believed that the Bible was to be accepted wherever you had absolute proof that it was true, and to be greatly doubted in almost any other place. So their attitude was to be extremely skeptical. And to hold up in derision statements of 50 years before that took the matters that had ~~nothing~~ ^{said} nothing to do with the Bible and say, Look at the wonderful proof that the Bible is true.