

of the general background of the Bible with a vividness which was previously impossible. We are able to test the accuracy of its particular statements at many points and to examine striking instances of special corroboration. Careful study of the archaeological facts makes it possible to determine what is the true situation in regard to the newer views which derive Biblical religious ideas from heathen sources rather than from divine revelation.

Archaeology is a long and arduous study. When its results are described in a popular lecture the impression is sometimes created of an entirely beautiful and romantic quest. Actually, there are long periods of arduous toil, gathering and seeking to understand material features or linguistic facts. This, however, is often enlivened by the discovery of matters of great importance in contexts where they might least be expected. It is indeed a hand-maid of Biblical study and one which should become increasingly known to the Christian Church.

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