

ARCHAEOLOGY  
by  
Allan A. MacRae, Ph.D.

During the past two or three years excavation has been carried on intensively at various places in Palestine. Much of the work has been concerned with the period before 1,000 B.C. Since our Biblical material relating to Palestine is mainly from the period after 1,000 B.C. excavation from the earlier time is sometimes rather frustrating, <sup>as</sup> ~~since~~ we have comparatively little written material to give us help in its elucidation.

One section of this earlier period in which there is considerable Biblical material is the period of the Israelite Judges. Judges is a difficult book to interpret, since it tells about events in various parts of Palestine and does not always indicate how large a part of the country was involved in connection with the activities of each judge. The chronology of the period of the Judges is still largely unknown. If the dates contained in the book are simply added together it makes much too long a period and we know that many of these events must have taken place at the same time in various parts of the country.

Archaeology corroborates a number of particular elements or events mentioned in the book of Judges but has not yet given us sufficient evidence to show ~~us~~ how to fit together the various parts of the book. No one of the excavations now going on has as yet made a significant contribution in this particular problem, but it is possible that comparison <sup>to</sup> the results of several of them may yet give us important clarification at vital points.

The excavations at Gibeon, Dothan, Shechem, and other sites are constantly increasing our knowledge of the practical background of life in early Palestine. Great numbers of small details are being