

(MacRae - continued - 4)

showing that it is intellectually respectable to believe the Bible; that it is really the most reasonable thing we can do and that it is unreasonable to deny the statements of the Word of God. Now this evening, I am going to look with you at a few of the facts which I have gleaned in my study of archaeology in relation to the Bible, and I am going to show you a few instances in which we see how the facts of history, the facts of archaeology, as we get them and understand them prove not to disagree with the statements of the Word of God, but to be in absolute agreement with those statements of the Word of God. About a century and a half ago, there began a movement which we call "The Higher Criticism"; a movement of denying the truth of the statements of the Scripture and working up very clever and ingenious theory as to the methods by which these books came into existence. And these theories of the "Higher Criticism" were theories which could easily be developed a century and a half ago, because very little was known about ancient times then, except what we have in the Bible. We had no other source of knowledge back of 500 B. C., one hundred and fifty years ago. During the past hundred and fifty years, as a result of archaeology this situation has completely changed. Today, ancient history runs back just as far back of 500 B. C. as modern history comes this side of 500 B. C. You see my field of study is ancient history; the field related to the Old Testament. So I think of modern history as starting in 500 B. C. And the Ancient history goes just as far back of that; now it goes back to 3,000 B. C., as a result of archaeological discoveries. And that's as far back as it can ever go, because writing began at 3,000 B. C., approximately. And you can't have history before you have writings. Before that you have ~~pre~~^{me} history. You find remains of buildings, you find some skeletons, you find some signs of where people have lived and you make a guess as to how long people lived there. And you say, well this must have taken 500 years and this must have taken 800 years; well that's your guess and it's no better than the next person's guess. You cannot have exact dates until you have writing and that is only since 3,000 B. C. If you pick up a high school text book of ten years ago, you are quite sure to find in it a statement like this; I have in mind Breasted's "Ancient Times", which was very widely used as a high