

in Egypt in recent years was made in 1895 and the years following at Elephantine, an island in the Nile at the far southern end of Egypt. There Ostraca and rolls of dried papyri covered with Aramaic writing were discovered. The documents proved that a Jewish colony had been in this far southern place as early as the 5th century B.C. The law under which these people lived was Persian and Babylonian, rather than Egyptian. The documents can be dated over almost the entire 5th century. They give us a very interesting idea of the life of this colony and they give us much material on the Aramaic language as it was used at that time, which is of great value for the critical study of Ezra and Daniel.

The letters mention Sanballat, governor of Samaria who is also referred to in Nehemiah II - 10-19, etc., as having put great difficulties in the way of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. A discovery bearing on the Old Testament events of the Persian period has been made in quite a different section of the Near East. Susa was one of the capitals of the Persian Empire. It is referred to in the 5th Nehemiah I-1. M.J. De Morgan, a French excavator dug there in 1884-6. He uncovered almost a complete palace which is supposed to have been identical with the one in which the events of the Book of Esther occurred. This palace has been reconstructed from the remains that were found. The structure restored in the model fits the environment described in the Book of Esther. It is easy in the model to locate the "Kings Gate" where Mordecai annoyed Haman. "The inner court of the king's house over against the King's house" (5-1) where Esther appeared unbidden before the king "The outward court of the king's house" (6-4) where Haman appeared to request permission to hang Mordecai and the "palace garden" (7-7) to which the king retired to cool his hot wrath against Haman. An interesting event in the Book of Esther is the way in which it was determined when the desire of