

The Bible and archaeology

Biblical reference and archaeological illustration

Creation

Gen 1:1-2:25

The Creation Tablets (Enuma elish) record a perverted polytheistic version of creation in cuneiform writing on seven clay tablets. They were found at ancient Nineveh A.D 1848-1876 in the library of the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal (669-626 B.C.), but composed earlier in the reign of Hammurabi (1728-1686 B.C.). See Gen 1.

The Garden of Eden

Gen 2:8-14

Archaeology has established the lower Tigris-Euphrates Valley (the location of Eden) as the cradle of civilization. The *Hiddeqel* (Babylonian *Idigla, Diglat*) is the Tigris River. F. Delitzsch located Eden just N of Babylon; Sayce, near Eridu, anciently on the Persian Gulf.

The Fall

Gen 3.1-24

The Myth of Adapa was discovered on four cuneiform fragments, three from Ashurbanipal's famed library in Nineveh (7th cen. B.C.) and the fourth from the archives of Amenhotep III and IV at Amarna, Egypt, c. 1375 B.C. The myth is not a parallel to the biblical story of the Fall, but offers suggestive illustration to the fruit of the tree of life (Gen 3:3, 22) and other details.

Earliest civilization

Gen 4:1-26

Farming and cattle raising (Cain's and Abel's occupations) are shown

by archaeology to be the beginning of man's civilization. Arts, crafts, music (Gen 4:16-24) and the rise of urban life are illustrated at Tell Hassuna, Nineveh, Tepe Gawra, Tell El-'Ubaid, Tell Chagar Bazar and other Mesopotamian mounds (lowest levels).

Metallurgy

Gen 4:22

Copper has been attested as early as 4500 B.C. By 3000 B.C. it had displaced stone for tools and weapons. Henri Frankfort attests an iron dagger handle at Tell Asmar c. 2700 B.C. From Ur has come an iron ax.

Pre-Flood longevity

Gen 5:1-32

The Weld-Blundell Prism preserves a very ancient Sumerian King List. It contains eight pre-Flood rulers said to have reigned a total of 241,200 years over the Lower Mesopotamian cities of Eridu, Badtibira, Larak, Sippar and Shuruppak. The shortest reign was 18,600 years, the longest 43,200. These apparently exaggerated figures put the comparatively modest biblical figures in a different light.

Sunset in the marshlands of southern Iraq, near biblical Ur of the Chaldees.



The Flood

Gen 6:1-9:29

Its historicity

C.L. Woolley's 8-foot flood stratum at Ur and S. Langdon's at Kish were the result of local Tigris-Euphrates inundations, not evidence of the universal Noahic deluge. Evidence of the latter must be sought in geology before 4000 B.C.

The Flood**Its reality**

The Epic of Gilgamesh (both Sumerian and Babylonian) gives evidence that this event *did* occur. The oldest account is the Sumerian from Nippur, dating before 2000 B.C. The Babylonian is recorded in the 11th book of the Epic of Gilgamesh. The Flood Tablets were unearthed at Nineveh by H. Rassam (1835) from Ashurbanipal's library (669-626 B.C.) and furnish the most striking extrabiblical parallel to any biblical event, even including sending out of the birds from the ship by the Babylonian Noah (Uthapistim).

The table of the nations

Gen 10:1-32

The names and places of this marvelous ethnographical table have been largely illuminated and clarified by modern scientific archaeology. See notes on Gen 10.

The Tower of Babel

Gen 11:1-9

The location of more than two dozen ancient temple-towers of Mesopotamia, called ziggurats and possibly illustrative of the Tower of Babel, is now known. These towers were gigantic artificial mountains of sun-dried bricks. The oldest one recovered is that at Uruk (biblical Erech, Gen 10:10), from the fourth millennium B.C. Other famous ziggurat ruins remain at Ur, Borsippa and Babylon.

Abraham's birthplace

Gen 11:27-31

C.L. Woolley's excavations in 1922-34 have made Ur one of the best-known ancient sites of southern Babylonia. Under the

**Main Archaeological Sites**



● Main archaeological sites

famous Third Dynasty (c. 2070-1960 B.C.), when Abraham left the city, it was at the height of its splendor as a commercial and cult center dedicated to the moon-god Nanna. The famous ziggurat, temple and sacred precincts of the moon-god have been uncovered.

Terah's religion

Gen 11:31-32

Terah was apparently a worshiper of Ur's god Nanna. Terah's stay at Haran is singular, since Nanna was also worshiped there (cf. Josh 24:2).

Abraham at Haran

Gen 11:31; 12:5

Cuneiform sources confirm the existence of Haran in the 19th and 18th cen. B.C. The city appears in Assyrian documents as Harranu ('road'), because it was on the great E-W trade route between Nineveh, Damascus and Carchemish.

Patriarchal sojourn in Mesopotamia

Paddan Aram

Gen 25:20; 26:6

Nahor, Rebekah's home (Gen 24:10), often occurs in the Mari Tablets, discovered in 1935 and dating from the 18th cen. B.C. Also attested as cities in this region are Terah, Peleg (Paligu) and Reu (cf. Gen 11:10-30).

The patriarchal era

Gen 12:1-50:26

A relatively recent treasure store of archaeological data was unearthed in 1975 by Italian scholars Pettinato and Matthiae in Ebla (Tell Mardikh) in northern Syria. Cuneiform documents from the site attest to a proto-Canaanite language closely related to Hebrew, dating from 2300 B.C. Close parallels to names such as Eber (Ebrum), Ishmael (Ishmail), and Israel (Ishrail) have been found. Moreover, the findings attest to the cultural situation reflected in the patriarchal narratives, even noting place names of cities such as Hazor, Megiddo, Jerusalem, Lachish, Dan, Gaza, and perhaps even Sodom and Gomorrah.



The sphinx, Cairo. Archaeology has resurrected ancient Egypt for the Bible student.

Patriarchal sojourn in Canaan

Gen 12:1-50:26

Archaeology has corroborated the semi-nomadic life of the patriarchs as pictured in Genesis in the Middle Bronze Age (2100-1550 B.C.). Shechem, Bethel, Dothan, Gerar and Jerusalem (Salem) are all known from excavations to have existed in Abraham's day. Canaan, the older native name of Palestine, seems derived from Hurrian, meaning 'belonging to the land of red purple,' and applied to traders in purple dye obtained from the murex shells on the Phoenician seacoast.

Abraham in Egypt

Gen 12:10-20

This visit occurred during the Middle Kingdom under Dynasty XII (c. 1989-1776 B.C.). Archaeology has resurrected ancient Egypt for the Bible student.

Abraham and the Mesopotamian kings

Gen 14:1-24

The antiquity and historicity of this chapter are supplied by including such ancient sites as Ashtaroth and Karnaim in Bashan, as well as Ham (Gen 14:5). It is quite possible that several of the places and perhaps even the kings are named in the

Ebla documents. The line of march over the later designated King's Highway is perfectly in accord with archaeological knowledge of this region of eastern Gilead and Moab, where the Early Middle Bronze Age city at Ader was discovered in 1924.

Sodom and Gomorrah

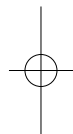
Gen 19:1-32

Valley of Siddim (Gen 14:3) is known to be the area now covered by the southern end of the Dead Sea. This region was populous c. 2065 B.C. The city of Bab ed-Dra, which belongs to this era, came to an abrupt end at this time, as Kyle and Albright have shown. An earthquake and explosion of the salt and free sulphur made the area a burnt-out region of oil and asphalt.

Patriarchal customs

Gen 15:1-50:26

The tablets from Nuzu (1925-41) near Kirkuk illustrate such patriarchal customs as adoption, marriage, rights of the firstborn, the teraphim (household gods) and many other details of local color. The Mari Letters from Tell el Hariri on the Middle Euphrates, discovered in 1933, also illustrate this period, as well as the Code of Hammurabi from 1700 B.C. discovered in 1901.



Israel's entrance into Egypt

Ex 1:1-6

A fine archaeological parallel is the sculpture on a tomb from about 1900 B.C. at Beni Hasan showing the entrance of a group of Semites into Egypt under 'Sheik of the highlands, lbshe.'

Evidence of Israel's sojourn in Egypt

Ex 1:7-12:41

(1) Egyptian personal names of Levites (Moses, Assir, Pashhur, Merari, Hophni, Phinehas and Putiel). (Cf. 1 Sam 2:27.)

(2) Authentic Egyptian local color in accord with data from Egyptian monuments, such as titles 'chief cupbearer' and 'chief baker' (Gen 40:2).

The Exodus

Ex 12:1-14:31

Under early view Thutmose III (1490-1445) was the oppressor; Amenhotep II (1445-1425 B.C.), the pharaoh of the Exodus. Late views place the events under Raamses II after 1280 or under Merneptah, whose famous stele contains the first extrabiblical mention of Israel (c. 1224 B.C.).

Excavations at ancient Jericho.



Excavations at ancient Hazor.

Fall of Jericho

Josh 6:1-27

The ancient city is illustrated by Ernst Sellin's excavations in 1907-09, John Garstang's in 1930-36 and Kathleen Kenyon's in 1950's.

Laws of Moses

Ex, Lev, Deut

Illustrated by the Code of Hammurabi (c. 1750 B.C.) discovered at Susa in 1901; the laws of Lipit-Ishtar of Isin (c. 1875 B.C.), and the even earlier laws of Eshnunna.

The conquest

Josh 1:1-11:23

Illuminated by: (1) excavation at Jericho, Lachish, Debir and Hazor. (2) The Amarna Letters discovered in 1886 in Egypt which, apparently, describe the invasion of Palestine by the Habiru (Hebrews?). (3) The religious literature from Ras Shamra (Ugarit), 1929-37, which illuminates the culture, religion and morals of the Canaanites.

Period of the Judges

Jud 1:1-21:25

Archaeological resurrection of Egyptian, Hittite, Aramean, Assyrian, Phoenician and Hurrian history now furnishes background to this

period. Also excavations at Megiddo and Bethshan.

Period of Samuel

1 Sam 1:1-8:22

Shiloh, as a religious center, is illustrated by great pagan central sanctuaries at Nippur in Babylonia, Nineveh in Assyria, at Haran (temple of Sin), at Qatna (temple of Belit-ekalli) and at Byblus (temple of Baaltis). Excavations at Shiloh show that the city fell to the Philistines c. 1050 and was destroyed (cf. Jer 7:10-15).

Saul's reign

1 Sam 9:1-31:13

Saul's rustic palace-fortress of Gibeah (Tell el-Ful) about four miles N of Jerusalem was identified by Edward Robinson, the pioneer Palestinian explorer (19th cen.) and excavated by W. F. Albright in 1922 and 1933, shedding much light on the king's reign. Saul's resort to occultism (1 Sam 28:7-25) is abundantly illustrated by Hittite, Assyrian, Hurrian texts and the Mari Letters.

David's conquests

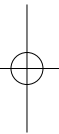
2 Sam 1:1-24:25

Archaeology has shown that the Jebusite city David took (2 Sam 5:6-8) was the SE part of Jerusalem above the Gihon spring. Old Jebusite walls and the ancient water tunnel and shaft have been explored, dating from 2000 B.C., like similar water works found at Gezer and Megiddo.

Solomon's empire

1 Kgs 3:1-11:43

Archaeology has brilliantly illuminated Solomon's reign. (1) Excavations at Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer have confirmed his army and chariotry (1 Kgs 9:15-19; 10:26). (2) Excavations of Nelson Glueck at Ezion-geber (cf. 1 Kgs 7:46) have uncovered Solomon's copper furnaces. (3) Solomon's matrimonial alliances (1 Kgs 11:1-5, 33) are illustrated by royal records of Egypt, Mitanni, etc. (4) His 'fleet of Tarshish' (smeltery or refinery fleet) is illustrated by Phoenician inscriptions. (5) His horse and



chariot trade and commerce with Hiram I of Tyre (c. 969-936 B.C.) are illustrated by archaeology.

Jeroboam's calves

1 Kgs 12:25-33

This was a dangerous religious innovation which apparently represented the invisible Deity (Yahweh) enthroned or as standing on the bulls, rather than Yahweh as bull-god (cf. Ex 32:4-6). Pagan deities, such as Baal, are pictured on seals, etc., in the form of a bolt of lightning on a bull's back.

Shishak's invasion

1 Kgs 14:25-28

The gold-masked body of Shishak (Sheshonk I, Dynasty XXII, c. 945-924 B.C.) was discovered at Tanis in 1938-39. His Karnak inscription lists his conquests in Judah in the coastal plain at Megiddo, where a part of his stele was discovered, and his advance into Gilead.

Ben Hadad of Damascus

1 Kgs 15:18

His stele discovered in northern Syria (1940) confirms the dynastic order of 'Ben Hadad, son of Tabrimmon, son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus.'

Omri and Mesha

1 Kgs 16:21-27

2 Kgs 3:4-27

Famous stele of Mesha of Moab set up at Dibon c. 840 B.C., discovered in 1868, mentions Omri, Ahab, Mesha, Chemosh (Moab's god) and many place names.

Omri and Samaria

Excavations of G. A. Reisner, C. S. Fisher, D. G. Lyon (1908-10) and J. W. Crowfoot, K. Kenyon and E. L. Sukenik (*The Buildings at Samaria*, 1942) have traced the city of Omri, Ahab, Jeroboam II and later periods.

Omri and Assyria

1 Kgs 16:23-27

From Omri's time on, Israel is mentioned in Assyrian records as *Bit-Humri* ('house of Omri'), and Israelite kings as *mar-Humri* ('son,' i.e., royal successor of Omri).



The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III. Jehu kneels before the Assyrian emperor.

Ahab and Assyria

1 Kgs 17:1-22:39

'Ahab, the Israelite' is mentioned by name on the monolith Inscription of Shalmaneser III (859-824).

Jehu and Assyria

2 Kgs 9:1-10:36

Hazael of Damascus (2 Kgs 8: 7-15) is mentioned in a text from Ashur, and Jehu (or an emissary) is actually pictured on the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III (found 1846) kneeling in tribute before the Assyrian emperor – 'tribute of *laua* (Jehu), son of Omri.'

Ben Hadad II of Aram

2 Kgs 13.25

Mentioned in the stele of Zakir, king of Hamath, found in 1903 in northern Syria, published 1907 by H. Pogon.

Jeroboam II

2 Kgs 14:23-29

Jasper seal of 'Sheme, servant of Jeroboam,' was found at Megiddo by Schumacher. Jeroboam II's capital at Samaria is illuminated by excavations there (see 'Omri' above).

Menahem

2 Kgs 15:19

Menahem's tribute is mentioned in the annals of Pul (Tiglath-Pileser III, 745-727 B.C.).

Fall of Damascus

2 Kgs 16:9

Described in Tiglath-Pileser's Annals but lost. Mentioned in Assyrian records also are Azariah of Judah (2 Kgs 15:1-7), Rezin (Rasunna) of Aram, Ahaz of Judah (2 Kgs 16:7-8), Pekah and Hoshea (2 Kgs 15:30).

Fall of Samaria

2 Kgs 17:3-23

Siege begun by Shalmaneser V (726-722 B.C.) completed by Sargon II (722-705 B.C.); cf. Isa 20:1. In his Khorsabad Annals Sargon relates how he deported 27,290 *Samerinai* (people of Samaria). He does the same in the 'Display Inscription' at Khorsabad, his capital.

Hezekiah and Sennacherib

2 Kgs 18:13-19:37; Isa 36:1-37:38

In the Annals of Sennacherib (705-681) preserved on the Taylor Prism in the British Museum, the Assyrian monarch tells of his siege of Jerusalem (701 B.C.) in which he says he shut up Hezekiah 'like a caged bird.' Sennacherib's great capital, Nineveh, excavated by Austen Layard, yielded the royal palace (1849-51), besides many other archaeological treasures.

Hezekiah's tunnel

2 Kgs 20:20

The Siloam Inscription, discovered in 1880, was carved on the conduit

Excavation Sites in Palestine

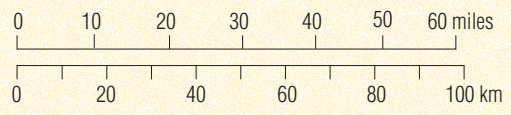


MEDITERRANEAN SEA

NEGEV

SINAI

ARABAH



● Major excavations

● Timna



Excavations at Qumran have filled in historical gaps of the period 150 B.C.-A.D. 70.

about 19 feet from the Siloam end of Hezekiah's aqueduct to mark the completion of the 1777-foot-long rock tunnel (c. 700 B.C.)

Manasseh's idolatry

2 Kgs 21:1-15

The Ras Shamra Epic literature from Ugarit has shed a great deal of light on Baal, Asherah, and Canaanite fertility cults. Manasseh's compulsory visit to Nineveh (cf. 2 Chr. 33:10-13) is mentioned in Assyrian monuments.

Isaiah's prophecy

Isa 1:1-66:24

The Isaiah Scroll, discovered with other Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran (1947), is the entire prophecy, antedating other known texts by 1,000 years.

Jeremiah's age

Jer 1:1-52:34

The Lachish Letters discovered in 1935 and 1938 at Lachish (Tell el-Hesi) illustrate Jeremiah's age and Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Judah 588-586 B.C.

Jehoiachin's exile

2 Kgs 25:27-30

This is confirmed by Babylonian records which list *Yaukin* of the land of Yahud ('Jehoiachin of Judah') as one of the recipients of royal rations in Babylon. This text was published in 1940.

Ezekiel's prophecy

Ezk 1:1-48:35

The genuineness of this prophecy is supported by archaeology in such details as dating by King Jehoiachin's captivity. Jar handles from Tell Beit Mirsim and Bethshemesh are stamped 'Eliakim steward of Yaukin.'

Nebuchadnezzar II

Cf. Jer, Ezk and Dan 2:1-4:37

The splendors of his capital city Babylon are now well known from R. Koldewey's excavations 1899 onward (cf. Dan 4:30). The Ishtar Gate, the palace, the ziggurat, Marduk's temple and the Hanging Gardens have been discovered. Bricks stamped with Nebuchadnezzar's name attest his building activities.

Jewish exile

2 Kgs 25:1-30; Ezk, Dan, Ezer

Three hundred cuneiform tablets found near the Ishtar Gate in Babylon, dating between 595-570 B.C., include the name of Jehoiachin of Judah among other captive princes, besides many Jewish names similar to those in the OT.

Belshazzar

Dan 5:1-31

Belshazzar is corroborated as the eldest son and coregent of Nabonidus by contemporary Babylonian records. Belshazzar reigned in Babylon (Dan 5:1-31; 7:1;

8:1) from 553 B.C. to the fall of Babylon 539 B.C., as the Nabunaid Chronicle indicates.

Fall of Babylon

The Nabunaid Chronicle relates how Cyrus and his general Gobryas took Babylon (539 B.C.).

Cyrus' edict

Ezr 1:2-3; 2 Chr 36:22-23

Cyrus' Cylinder, discovered by H. Rassam in the 19th cen., tells of Cyrus' restoration of people and their gods, and is in line with the spirit of the decree recorded in the Bible.

The return

Ezr 1:1-10:44

Prominent leaders, such as Sheshbazzar (Ezr 1:11) and Zerubbabel (Ezr 2:2) bear good Babylonian names illustrated by discoveries in this area. The 'daric' (Ezr 2:69, RSV) is the Greek drachma, and shown to be authentic for this date.

Ezra-Nehemiah

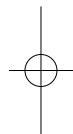
The Elephantine Papyri (discovered 1903) dating 500-400 B.C., written in Aramaic by Jews on the island of Elephantine at the First Cataract of the Nile, are the chief archaeological source for illustrating detail and the genuineness of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Haggai, Zechariah

Illustrated by the trilingual (Babylonian, Elamite and Persian) Behistun Inscription set up by Darius I, the Great (522-486 B.C.). (Zech 1:1, 7.)

Xerxes and Esther

The book of Esther is illustrated by inscriptions from Persepolis, the Persian capital. Xerxes (486-465 B.C.) suffered defeat by the Greeks at Salamis and Plataea. 'Shushan' (Est 1:2) is Susa where Xerxes' palace was discovered by the French (1880-90). The casting of the lot (Pur, 3:7) is illustrated by archaeology as well as details of local color.



Between the Testaments

Illustrated by the Dead Sea Scrolls: two scrolls of Isaiah, Habakkuk Commentary, Manual of Discipline of the pre-Christian sect of the Essenes, War between the Children of Light and Darkness, and fragments of almost all OT books, aiding textual criticism. Excavations of the Essene Community at Qumran (1953- 56) have filled in historical gaps of the period 150 B.C.-A.D. 70.

Luke's census

Lk 2:1-5

Papyri suggest that Quirinius was twice governor of Syria, probably briefly before 4 B.C. as well as in A.D. 6-7. Papyri also show that a Roman census was conducted every 14 years and that people were required to go to their ancestral homes for it. Archaeology supports Luke as far as available evidence goes, showing how invalid was the old liberal charge that Lk 2:1-5 was a medley of errors.

Pontius Pilate

Mt 27:11-25

Coins attest the procurator Pontius Pilate A.D. 6-36, as well as other procurators from Coponius to Antonius Felix.

Synagogues

Mk 1:21; Lk 7:1, 5

The most famous and best preserved of these is the synagogue at Capernaum (late 3rd cen.), probably built on the site of the one Jesus ministered in. Other synagogues have been uncovered at Chorazin, Bethsaida Julias, and Beth Alpha.

Crucifixion

Mt 27:32-60

Two views of the site prevail:

- (1) one within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, thought then to be outside the walls (Heb 13:12-13);
- (2) the other at Gordon's Calvary near the Damascus Gate, outside the present walls on the north side.

Burial of Jesus

Jn 19:41-42

One view favors the site of the



The late 3rd cen. synagogue at Capernaum.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the other the Garden Tomb unearthed by Gen. Christian Gordon (1881) near Gordon's Calvary.

Resurrection

The Nazareth Inscription is an imperial ordinance brought to Paris from Nazareth (1878) and now in the Bibliothèque Nationale. It concerns the crime of the violation of tombs with the death penalty. By those who assign it to Tiberius or Claudius it has been interpreted as evidence of Christ's resurrection. However, some connect it with later emperors, so the proof is not decisive.

NT Jericho

Lk 10:30-37

NT Jericho, excavated in 1950, was Herod the Great's and Archelaus' elegant winter capital. Ruins include a theater, palace, fortress and a hippodrome, like those at Jerash.

Herod's temple

Mt 24:2; Mk 13:2

Two signs from Herod's temple forbidding non-Jews to enter the court of the Jews have been found at Jerusalem, one in 1871 and another in 1935, near St. Stephen's Gate (see Acts 21:28-31). The stones read: 'No alien may enter within the balustrade and enclosure around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will render himself liable to

the death penalty, which will inevitably follow.'

Bethlehem

Mt 2:1; Lk 2:4

A short distance SE of Bethlehem are the ruins of the Herodium, Herod the Great's fortress palace, and farther SE was his 'Mountain Stronghold' at Masada.

Nazareth

Mt 2:23; Lk 1:26

Site of Mary's Well. The important city of Sepphoris, just three miles N of Nazareth, was walled and embellished by Herod Antipas. Japha lay only one and a half miles SW.

Other cities

Tiberias (Jn 6:23), Magdala, Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida were all on or not far from the Sea of Galilee and have been illuminated by archaeology. Caesarea Philippi near Hermon (Mk 8:27) and the Decapolis (Mt 4:25; Mk 5:20), the latter a ten-city confederation, are now much better known.

Samaria (Sebaste)

Cf. Acts 8:5

Excavations have resurrected the Hellenistic-Roman city, especially the fortifications of Herod the Great and his grandiose Temple to Augustus and stadium.

Caesarea Palestine

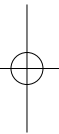
Acts 10:1, 24

This brilliant Hellenistic city built by Herod the Great was the scene in 1960 of undersea exploration of Herod's sea mole by the Link Expedition. Excavation of the city has uncovered a forum, theater, stadium, amphitheater, etc.

Antioch on the Orontes

Acts 13:1; 14:26-28

Extensive excavations since 1932 have shown the beauty and size of this third city of the empire and birthplace of Christian missions. Beautiful mosaics, the Chalice of Antioch, numerous Christian churches, etc., together with important diggings at Antioch's seaport Seleucia Pieria (Acts 13:4), are the result of these researches.





The Temple of Artemis, Sardis, where Christianity supplanted worship of Artemis.

Proconsul vs. Proprætor

Acts 13:7 (ASV)

Luke has been proved correct in calling Sergius Paulus 'proconsul,' not 'proprætor.' An inscription was found reading: 'under Paulus, the proconsul,' dated A.D. 52-53.

Antioch of Pisidia

Acts 13:14-52

The site of this city was discovered in 1833. William Ramsay excavated the sanctuary of the god Men 1910-1913. Numbers of inscriptions were found. Later excavations by the University of Michigan have uncovered the Roman city.

Other Asiatic Cities

Iconium, Lystra and Derbe have also been identified and important inscriptions and other data gained.

Philippi

Acts 16:12-40

Excavated between 1914 and 1938, the site has revealed forum, porticoes, public temples, etc., of the Roman colony.

Thessalonica

Acts 17:6, 8

Accuracy of Luke's use of 'politarchs' (in original, for city officials) has been vindicated by

some 17 inscriptions. The most famous from the Vardar Gate is now in the British Museum.

Athens

Acts 17:15-34

Since 1930 excavations of the American School of Classical Studies have uncovered the ancient agora.

Corinth

Acts 18:1-17

Extensive excavations since 1896 have resurrected the ruins of the ancient city. Gallio's proconsulship is attested.

Ephesus

Acts 19:1-41

Discovery of the Artemision, Dec. 31, 1869, was followed by the excavation of this most famous temple of antiquity, next to Solomon's. Later excavations uncovered the theater, stadium, Odeon, Arkadiane, forum (agora), etc.

Cities of the Lycus Valley

Colossae was identified and explored in 1835 and challenges further excavation. Laodicea, now Eski-Hissar (cf. Col 2:1; Rev 3:14), shows extensive remains for further excavation. Hierapolis (Col

4:13) also shows extensive Graeco-Roman ruins.

Pergamum

Rev 1:11; 2:2 (RSV)

Since 1878 this brilliant Hellenistic Roman city has yielded its exquisite works of art. Digging was done 1955-58.

Sardis

Rev 3:1-2

Excavations reveal how Christianity eventually supplanted the worship of Artemis. Campaigns began in 1958.

Rome

Acts 28:16-31

'The Eternal City' is an archaeological paradise. Excavations and researches have greatly illuminated and clarified temples, forums, theaters, circuses, palaces, inscriptions, arches, etc.

NT as literature

The papyri, ostraca and inscriptions discovered from the Graeco Roman period show that NT Greek was the common language of the period (Koine) with some literary element, not a special 'holy' tongue.

Text of the NT

The NT has been attested by 240 uncial mss., 2,533 minuscules, 1,678 lectionaries, 63 papyri and 25 ostraca. Particularly significant are the Chester Beatty papyri from the 3rd cen. A.D., edited by F. Kenyon 1933-37.



Old Testament

