

it has only been a systematic work in the last century or so and the refined nature of the work has only come into sharp definition in this century.

In general, archaeology has been enormously corroborative of the Scripture but we are caught with the paradox that as the science has been more closely supportive of the Word, the literary critics have been more suspicious of the science. It is troublesome in the scholarly world to see that as the evidence of trustworthiness in the Bible has increased, the nature of speculative doubt has multiplied.

b. Particular areas of usefulness

In his small booklet, BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, Dr. MacRae has outlined in very precise fashion three particular areas of usefulness for archaeology:

(1) Confirmation: the results of archaeological study are often valuable in that they produce materials giving the same report as is found in the biblical narrative.

(2) Illustration: the records of history and such findings show the actual existence of practices and phases of culture described in the Bible, archaeology often illustrating matters that were not clearly understood in former times.

(3) Correlation: the findings of archaeology often enable us to put things together and see them in a sequence where formerly they were not known.

c. As a Definitive Aid in Introduction

Archaeology helps us plot and follow the development of language and culture about which the biblical narrative is woven. It does not, so far, uncover pictures of the prophets writing the books but it does inform us historically of the circumstances in which the prophetic voices moved and from that we learn more of the persons, the world of their experience, the expressions of life in the time, etc. And occasionally we pick up an actual name, or a fragment of a writing, or a true synchronism, etc., that has either been denied existence by critically minded scholars or pushed into the corner of myth. As noted earlier, the reality of the prophetic age is greatly helped by the discoveries of this science. Much more