

can be said but every Hebrew scribe who is now perplexed about an Ugaritic root can thank archaeology for it...and we who are now more perplexed about the Ebla tablets and roots have even more for which to give thanks. In both cases, the substantive nature of the Old Testament has been positively benefitted.

d. Cautions in the use of Archaeology

(1) The knowledge in this field is always partial and a totally complete picture is not likely to be soon achieved. It means that on any given day some new item may be brought to the fore that was not previously seen or noted.

(2) An evaluation of the facts is not always easy--certainly it is not automatic. Two men may have the same material and come to rather different conclusions. The vein in which the material is studied is the problem as well as the views and intent of the people involved.

(3) The temptation to generalize is gigantic and must be constantly subdued. The process of moving from general truths to specific eternal truths is a long process and the tendency to try to run to a fast and binding conclusion is a strong temptation but not usually one in the interest of health.

2. History The study of history is a bit less scientific as the arguments of historiography, etc., wrangle back and forth. Both historical and literary critical studies have as a base the foundational facts and then these are counter-searched for the clue for "between the lines" insights, etc. History is less speculative than literature, but not so exact as archaeology. The notes in Harrison are adequate for the general understanding of the historiography problems and the following are some concepts that help us glean service from historical studies without becoming the servant of historical pressures.

a. The discussion of historiography questions allows us to see the particular reason for the written content and so enforces the basic ideas about the integrity of a work. It calls us to think about the relation of facts and the expression of facts...about the traditional understanding of anything and the telling of it, about the history of the people and the way in which the people themselves viewed it. Admittedly there is a danger of speculation in this but the fact is that not everything was written down,