

A photograph of three people at an archaeological excavation site. They are sitting on a stone wall within a dirt-filled trench. The woman on the left wears a light blue t-shirt, a wide-brimmed hat, and glasses. The woman in the center wears a green tank top, khaki pants, and glasses. The man on the right has a beard, glasses, and is wearing a tan long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. Several black buckets and tools are scattered around the site. The background shows more of the excavation site with stone walls and dirt.

Archaeology

Proves the Bible True



Isa 43:9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.



Isa. 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

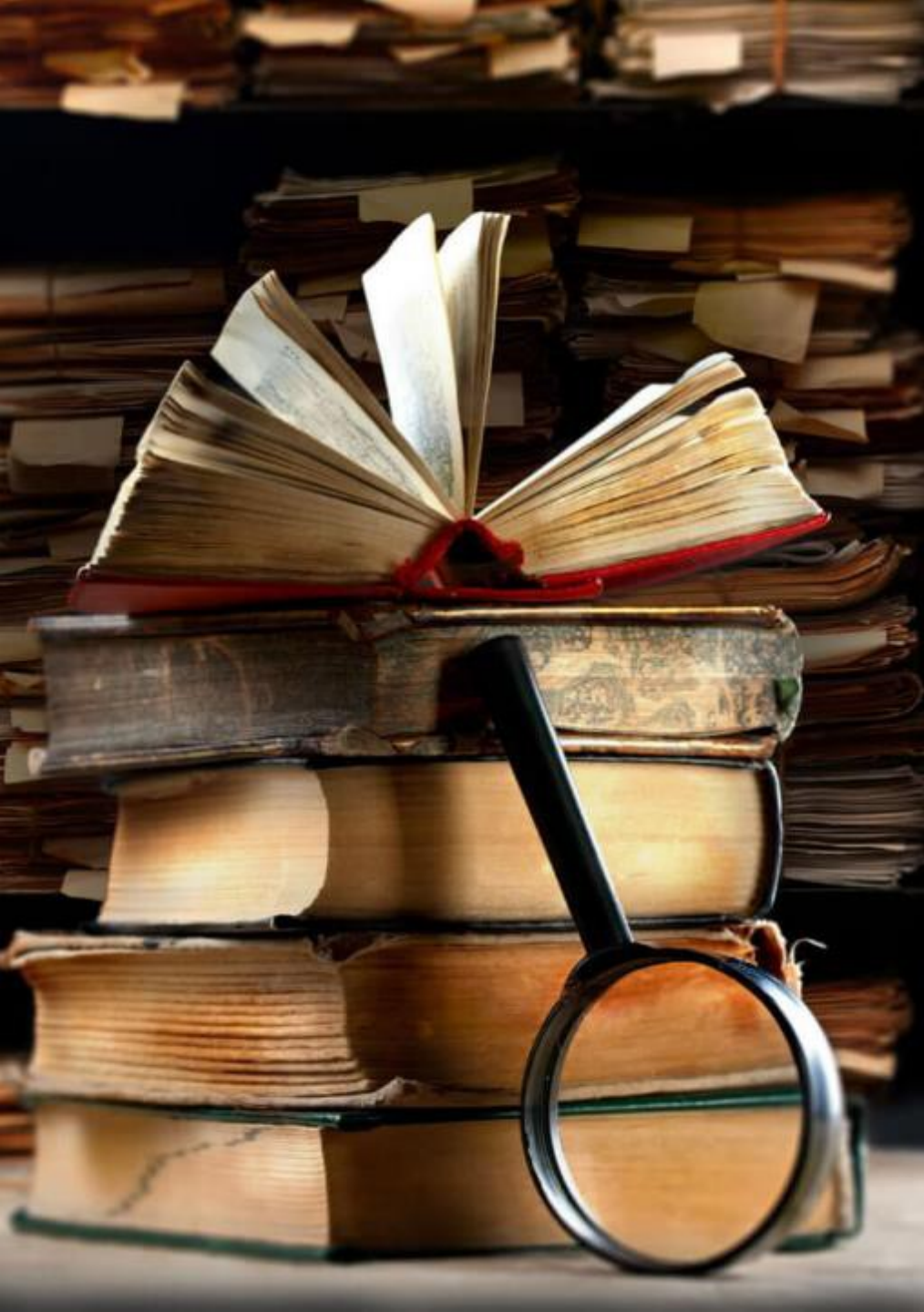
25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. 26 Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.



Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

(YLT) by faith we understand the ages to have been prepared by a saying of God, in regard to the things seen not having come out of things appearing;

(Diaglott) In faith we perceive that the ages have been so thoroughly adjusted by God's command



Primary sources provide first-hand testimony or direct evidence concerning a topic under investigation. They are created by witnesses or recorders who experienced the events or conditions being documented.

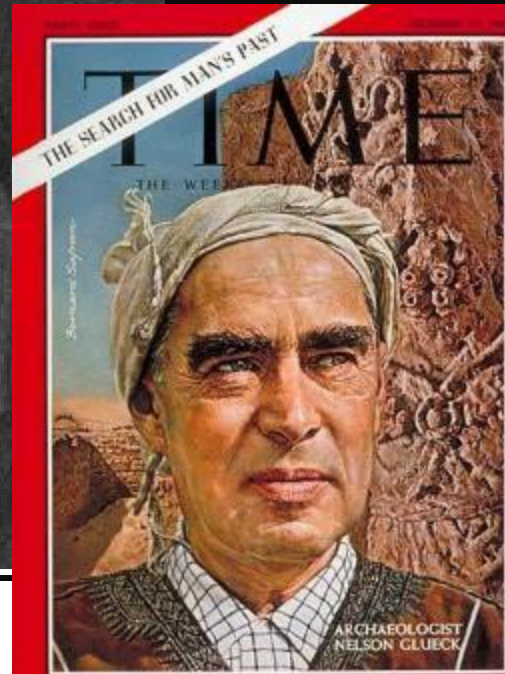
Often these sources are created at the time when the events or conditions are occurring, but primary sources can also include autobiographies, memoirs, and oral histories recorded later.

Primary sources are characterized by their content, regardless of the format available. (Handwritten notes could be published; the published book might be digitized or put on microfilm, but those notes are still primary sources in any format).



There can be no doubt that
archaeology has confirmed the
substantial historicity of Old
Testament tradition.

— *William F. Albright* —



AZ QUOTES

Manuscript Reliability



Author	# of Copies	Time Span
Caesar	10	1,000 years
Plato (Tetralogies)	7	1,200 years
Tacitus (Annals)	20	1,000 years
Pliny the Younger (History)	7	750 years
Suetonius (De Vita Caesarum)	8	800 years
Homer (Iliad)	643	500 years
New Testament	over 24,000	25 years

Dead Sea Scrolls

For a long time, the earliest copies of the Old Testament were from the 10th century AD (901-1000). Until the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, 1956. They were written in the 3rd century BCE (300-201)



Burnt Offering

The Lord summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying: Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When any of you bring an offering of livestock to the Lord, you shall bring your offering from the herd or from the flock.

If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you shall offer a male without blemish; you shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, for acceptance in your behalf by the Lord. You shall lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be acceptable in your behalf as atonement for you. The bull shall be slain before the Lord; and the priests shall offer the blood, dipping their fingers against all sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. The burnt offering shall be cut up into its parts. The sons of Aaron shall put fire on the wood and arrange it on the fire. Aaron shall arrange the suet on the head of the burnt offering, and the suet of the entrails shall be arranged on the suet.

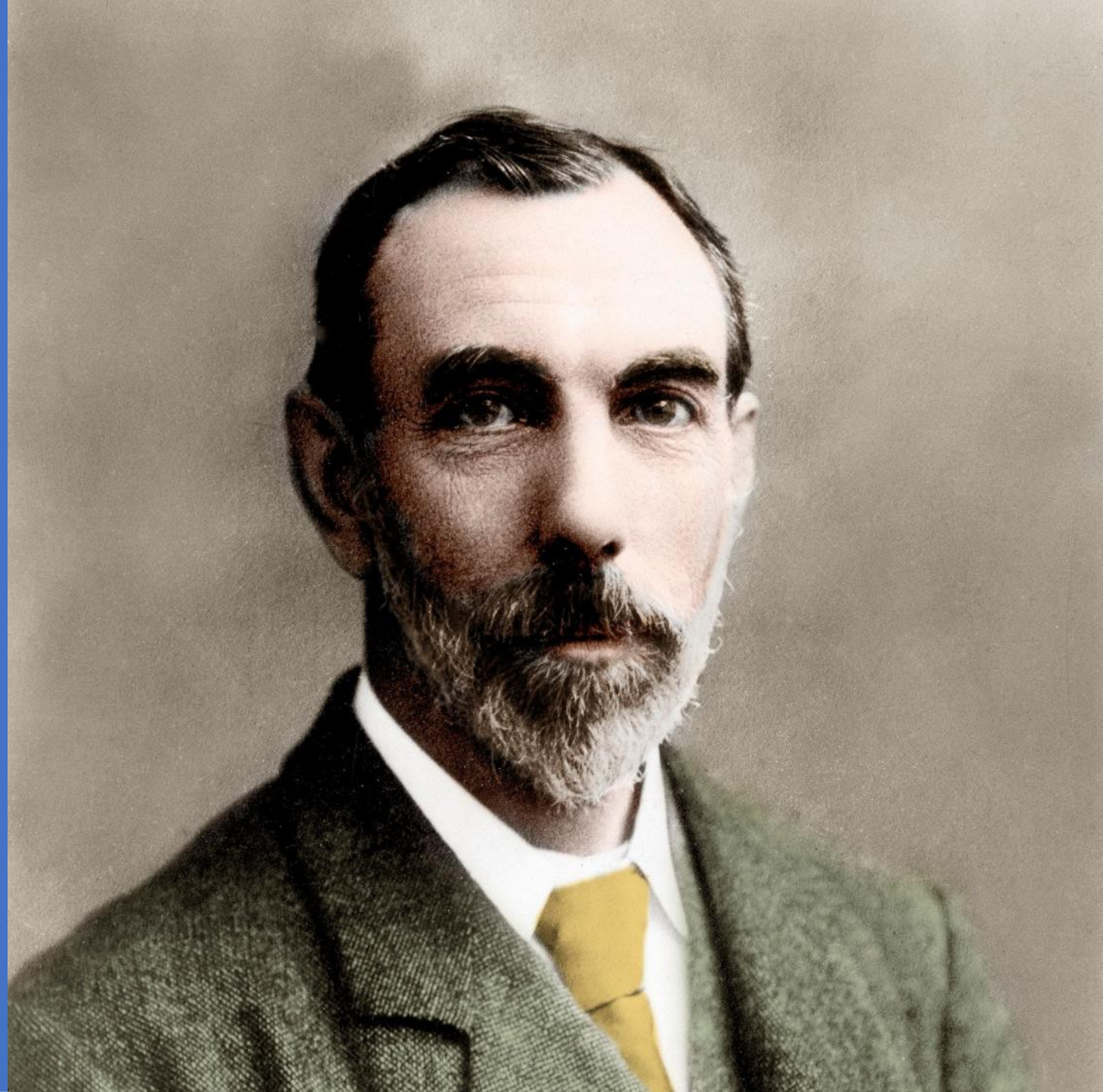


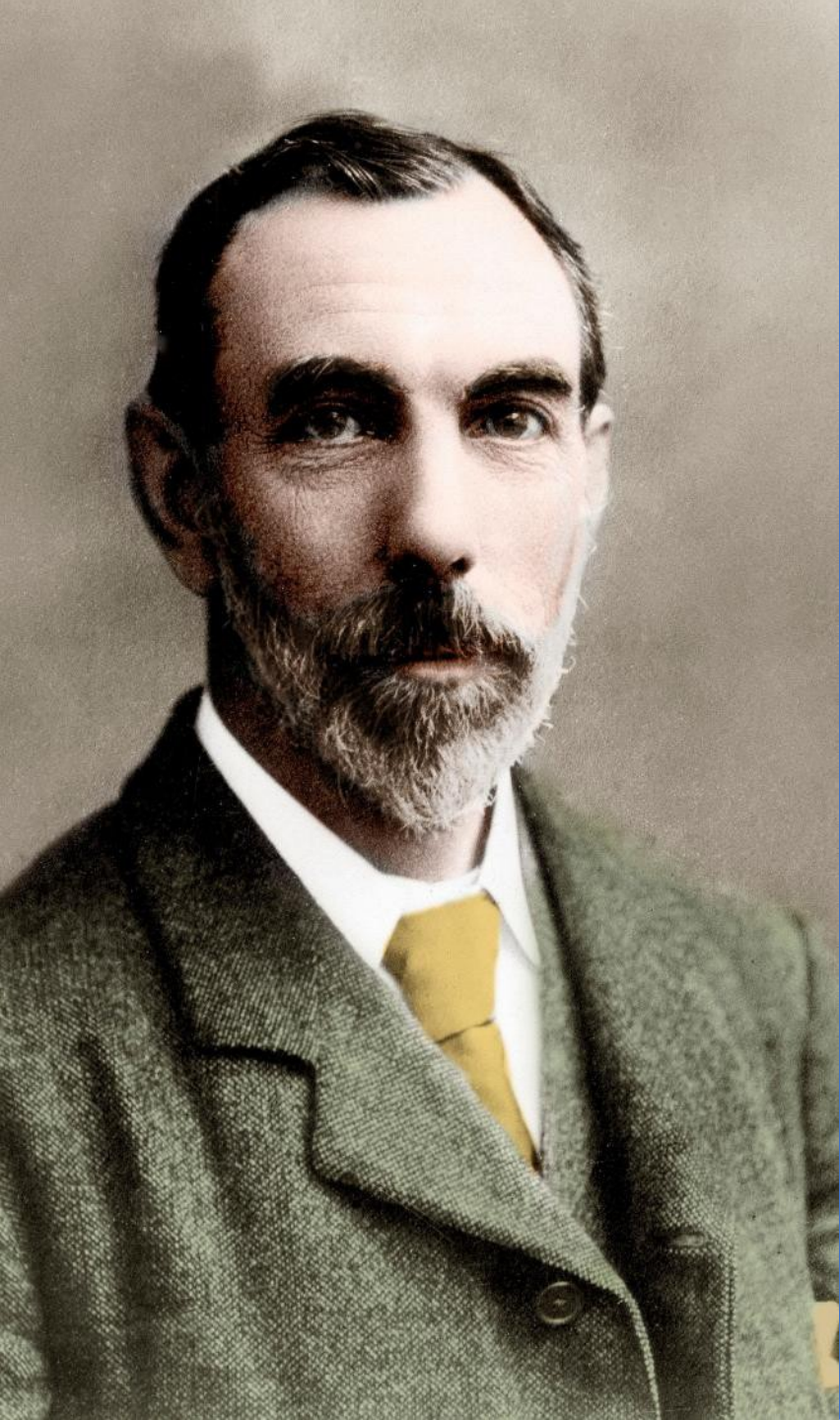
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NOT ONE archaeological discovery has EVER contradicted or cast doubt on a Biblical reference, all have CONFIRMED its accuracy!

Historical Accuracy of Luke

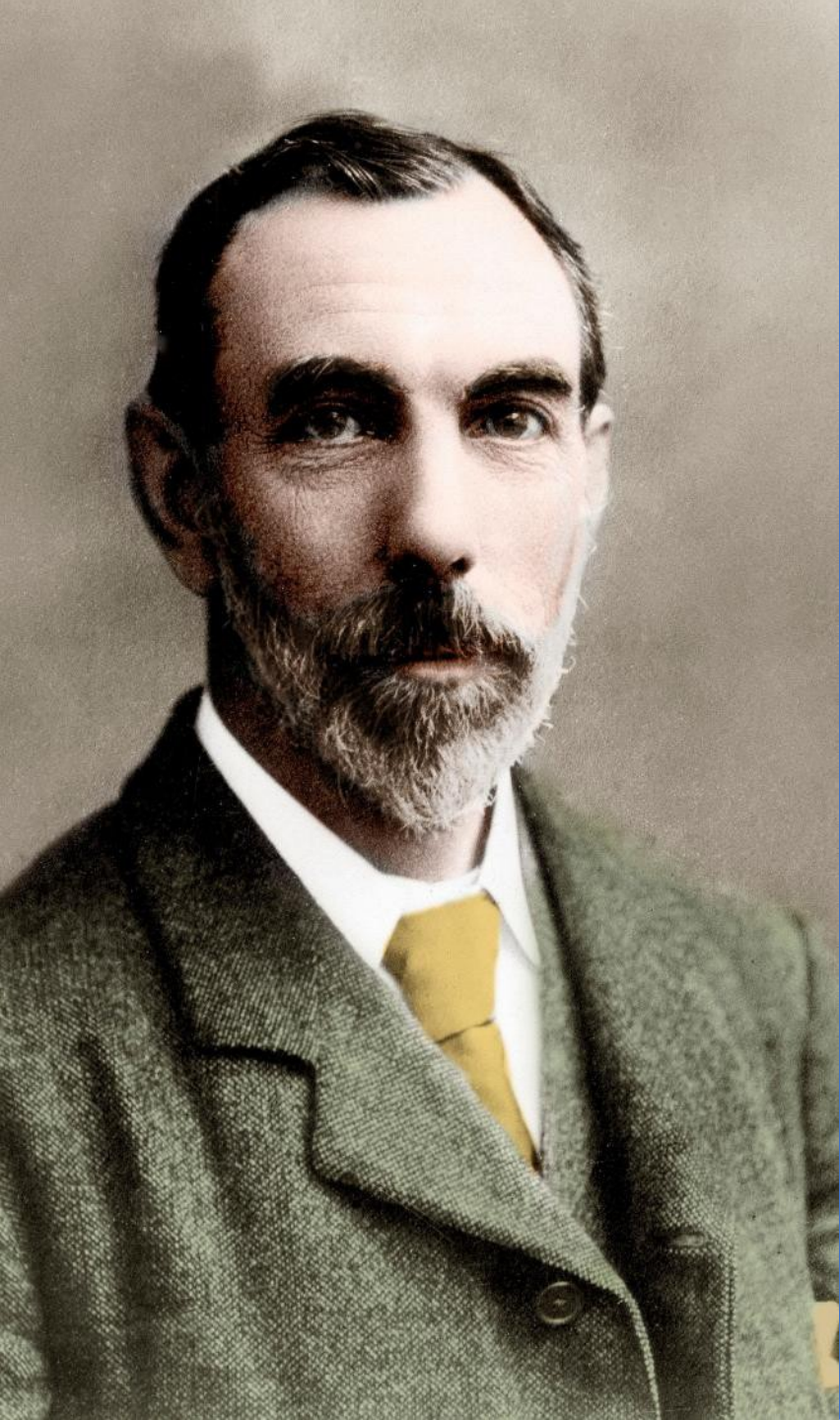
One of the greatest archaeologists is the late Sir William Ramsay. He studied under the famous liberal German historical schools in the mid-nineteenth century. Known for its scholarship, this school taught that the New Testament was not a historical document. With this premise, Ramsay investigated biblical claims as he searched through Asia Minor. What he discovered caused him to reverse his initial view.





Historical Accuracy of Luke

He wrote: I began with a mind unfavourable to it [Acts], for the ingenuity and apparent completeness of the Tübingen theory had at one time quite convinced me. It did not then in my line of life to investigate the subject minutely; but more recently I found myself often brought into contact with the Book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor. It was gradually borne in upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvellous truth



Historical Accuracy of Luke

Luke's accuracy is demonstrated by the fact that he names key historical figures in the correct time sequence as well as correct titles to government officials in various areas: Thessalonica, politarchs; Ephesus, temple wardens; Cyprus, procouncil; and Malta, the first man of the island.

Politarch inscriptions

Luk 1:1-4 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That

ΠΟΛΕΤΑΡΧΟΥΝΤΩΝ ΣΟΣΙΠΑΤΡΟΥ
ΠΑΤΡΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΛΟΥΚΙΟΥ ΠΟΝΤΙΟΥ
ΥΙΟΥ ΑΥΛΟΥ ΑΟΥΙΟΥ ΣΑΒΕΙΝΟΥ ΔΗ
ΡΑΥΣ ΤΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΝΕΚΟΥ
ΤΟΥ ΠΑΡΜΕΝΙΩΝΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΝΙΣΚΟΥ
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ΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΡΗΓΛΟΥ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΑ

ΙΙ Ρ ΕΓ Μ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΡΗΓΛΟΥ

Solomon's Copper Mines

In the Bible, King Solomon is said to have been rich in precious metals, and to have used vast quantities of copper for features of his Jerusalem temple, such as the “molten sea,” a giant basin that rested on the backs of 12 metal oxen. But the phrase “King Solomon’s mines” actually appears nowhere in the Bible. It was coined by the novelist.





Proving or disproving the Bible, Glueck said, was a fool's errand. "Those people are essentially of little faith who seek through archaeological corroboration of historical source materials in the Bible to validate its religious teachings and spiritual insights," he wrote in *Rivers in the Desert*, and he probably should have left it there. Instead, he continued: "As a matter of fact, however, it may be categorically stated that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference." In other words, archaeology didn't have to prove the Bible's account of history, but it did prove it, or at least never disproved it—and he himself, he wrote with pride, had "discovered Solomon's copper mines."



What Ben-Yosef has produced isn't an argument for or against the historical accuracy of the Bible but a critique of his own profession. Archaeology, he argues, has overstated its authority. Entire kingdoms could exist under our noses, and archaeologists would never find a trace. Timna is an anomaly that throws into relief the limits of what we can know. The treasure of the ancient mines, it turns out, is humility.

Mesha Stele

Mesha (II Kings 3) king of Moab contemporary with Omri dynasty of Israel, waged war with Israel. Attested to in Mesha Stele, Mesha waged war with an Omri dynasty king. 45

Omri (I Kings 16, II Kings 8, Micha 6, I Chronicles 7,9, 27; II Chronicles 22) King of Israel, founder of Omride Dynasty Name mentioned on Mesha Stele, dynasty (House of Omri) referred to in several Assyrian cuneiform texts. 48





The Mesha Stele

This engraved stone contains a royal inscription by Mesha, king of Moab during the ninth century BC. It celebrates Mesha's victory over the "son [or descendant] of Omri," probably Joram (Jehoram).

In boasting of his victories, Mesha gives glory to Chemosh—the chief god of the Moabites—and describes his looting of the temple vessels of Judah. The stele contains the earliest known reference to the name "Yahweh" outside of the Old Testament.

The stele supports the biblical account of events during Joram's reign of Israel. Second Kings 3:21–27 describes the king of Moab offering his son as a sacrifice, after which "great wrath came upon Israel." On the stele, Mesha credits his god, Chemosh, as conquering his enemies.



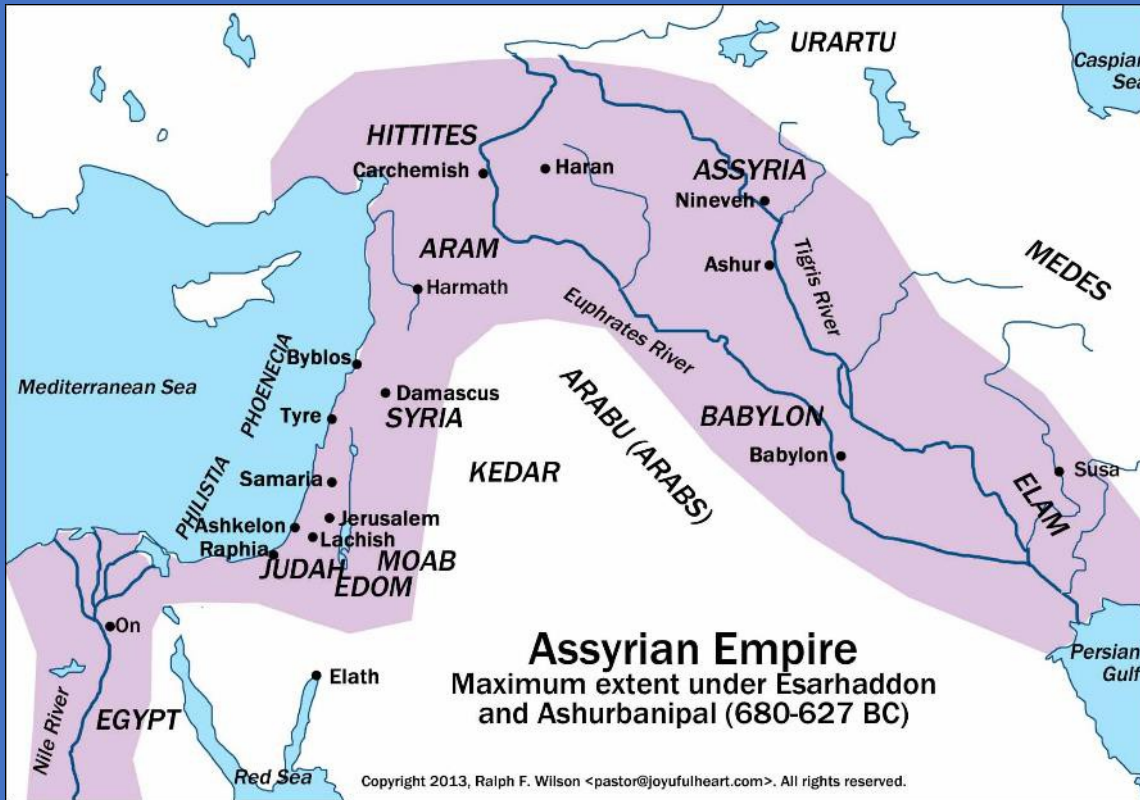
“In boasting of his victories, Mesha gives glory to Chemosh – The chief god of the Moabites – and describes his looting of the temple vessels of Judah. The earliest reference of “Yahweh” outside of the Old Testament.

Assyrian Empire

“They were greatly aided by a sudden rise of the Tigris, which carried away a great part of the city wall and rendered the place indefensible. So complete was the desolation that in Greek and Roman times the departed Nineveh became like a myth. Yet all the while part of the city lay buried under mounds of apparent rubbish.” - Westminster Dictionary of the



Assyrian Empire



“Formerly the history of the Assyrian empire was one of the most obscure chapters in the world’s annals.” “All that was known of ancient Nineveh was comprised in the scattered allusions and prophecies alluding to it in the Bible, and the casual and fragmentary notices of Assyrian history in Diodorus Siculus . . . and others.” —Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, Volumes 1 and 3, 1862.



Assyrian Empire

The Greek historian Diodorus Siculus lived 2,000 years ago. Nineveh, he claimed, was a quadrangular city; the four sides totaled 480 stadia in length. That is a circumference of 60 miles [96 km]! The Bible gives a similar picture, describing Nineveh as a great city “with a walking distance of three days.” — Jonah 3:3.

Bible critics of the 19th century refused to believe that an unknown city of the ancient world could have been that large. They also said that if Nineveh ever existed, it must have been part of an ancient civilization that preceded

The Lachish Relief

Situated in a room in the British Museum, the Lachish reliefs depict an ancient and animated scene of conquest, occupation, depopulation, and deportation that took place around 700 B.C. These large stone panels excavated and removed from the Palace of the Assyrian King Sennacherib in Nineveh in northern Iraq show a heated battle scene of a bloody siege of a fortified hill town. The stone carvings show the mass transfer of men, women, children as well as beasts of burdens, wretched refugees, carrying their worldly possessions, fleeing their homes while a triumphant King Sennacherib, sitting on an elaborately carved throne, is seen receiving



Taylor Prism

In my third campaign I marched against Hatti.... As to Hezekiah, the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke, I laid siege to his strong cities, walled forts, and countless small villages, and conquered them by means of well-stamped earth-ramps and battering-rams brought near the walls with an attack by foot soldiers, using mines, breeches as well as trenches. Himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage.

Hezekiah (II Kings 16,18-21; Isaiah 1,36-39; Jeremiah 15,26; Hoshea 1; Micha 1; etc)



Annals of Sennacherib

Sennacherib's death is also recorded on a Babylonian inscription which reads:

"On the 20th day of Tebet, his sons revolted against him and they killed their father, Sennacherib. . . . On the 18th day of Sivan, Esarhaddon, his son, became king."





Ebla Tablets

The Ebla Tablets were discovered in northern Syria by two professors from the University of Rome, Dr. Paolo Matthiae, an archaeologist; and Dr. Giovanni Petinato, an epigrapher. The excavation of Tell Mardikh began in 1964 and in 1968 they uncovered a statue of King Ibbit-Lim. Since 1974, 17,000 tablets have been unearthed from the era of the Ebla Kingdom.



Bulla Seals



*Baruch ben Neriah (Jeremiah 32,36,43,45) a scribe, a disciple of the prophet Jeremiah. Several bullae bearing the name Baruch ben Neriah have been found in the archaeological City of David. One bulla bears the inscription "Baruch ben Neriah the Scribe." The stratum in which the seals were found is contemporaneous with Jeremiah. 12

*Seraiah the son of Neriah, (Jeremiah 51) brother of Baruch ben Neriah. Bulla bearing the name Seraiah ben Neriah found. 54



Cuneiform tablet with part of the Babylonian Chronicle

British museum, Neo-Babylonian (550-400 BC)

From Babylon, southern Iraq

Nebuchadnezzar II's campaigns in the west

This tablet is one of a series that summarizes the principal events of each year from 747 BC to at least 280 BC. Each entry is separated by a horizontal line and begins with a reference to the year of reign of the king in question.

Cuneiform tablet with part of the Nabonidus Chronicle



Neo-Babylonian dynasty, about 530-400 BC

Probably from Babylon, southern Iraq

The fall of a dynasty

This tablet forms part of a series, and summarizes the principal events of each year from the accession of Nabonidus in 556 until the 530s BC. The chronicle stresses that Nabonidus was absent in Arabia for much of his reign, thereby interrupting performances of the annual spring festival in Babylon where the king's presence was essential.

Tel Dan Stele (858-824BC)

Israel Period of the Kings - Language: Aramaic - Tel Dan, Galilee - Location: Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Excavated by: Avraham Biran 1994

1 Kings 8:16 - "Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel."

Fragments of the Aramaic stele

Fragments of a large inscribed basalt stele were found in the square located in front of the Israelite city gate complex. The largest of these fragments measures 32 x 22 cm. and, of the original inscription, thirteen lines have been partially preserved. The language is ancient Aramaic.





The Balaam Inscription

In an unprecedented discovery, an ancient text found at Deir Alla, Jordan, in 1967 tells about the activities of a prophet named Balaam.

Written in Aramaic, the text begins with the title "Warnings from the Book of Balaam the son of Beor. He was a seer of the gods." It is in red ink, as are other portions of the text where emphasis is desired. The reference to the "Book of Balaam" indicates that the text was part of a pre-existing document and therefore the original date of the material is much earlier than the plaster text itself. Balaam goes on to relate a vision concerning impending judgment from the gods, and enters into a dispute with his listeners.

There are
Many More

A vertical orange line is positioned to the right of the text, extending from the top to the bottom of the text area.



Archeology Proves the Bible True

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Isa 41:21-23 Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. 22 Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. 23 Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. (ESV)



The Bible – Proven Historically Accurate Over and Over Again

Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the LORD, and there is no other. (ESV)



"I know of no finding in archaeology that's properly confirmed which is in opposition to the Scriptures. The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen."
- Dr Clifford Wilson, formerly director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology (quote obtained from: Archaeologist Speaks Out)

"Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible's historical accuracy. In every case where its claims can thus be tested, the Bible proves to be accurate and reliable."

- Dr. Jack Cottrell, *The Authority of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979), pp. 48-49.



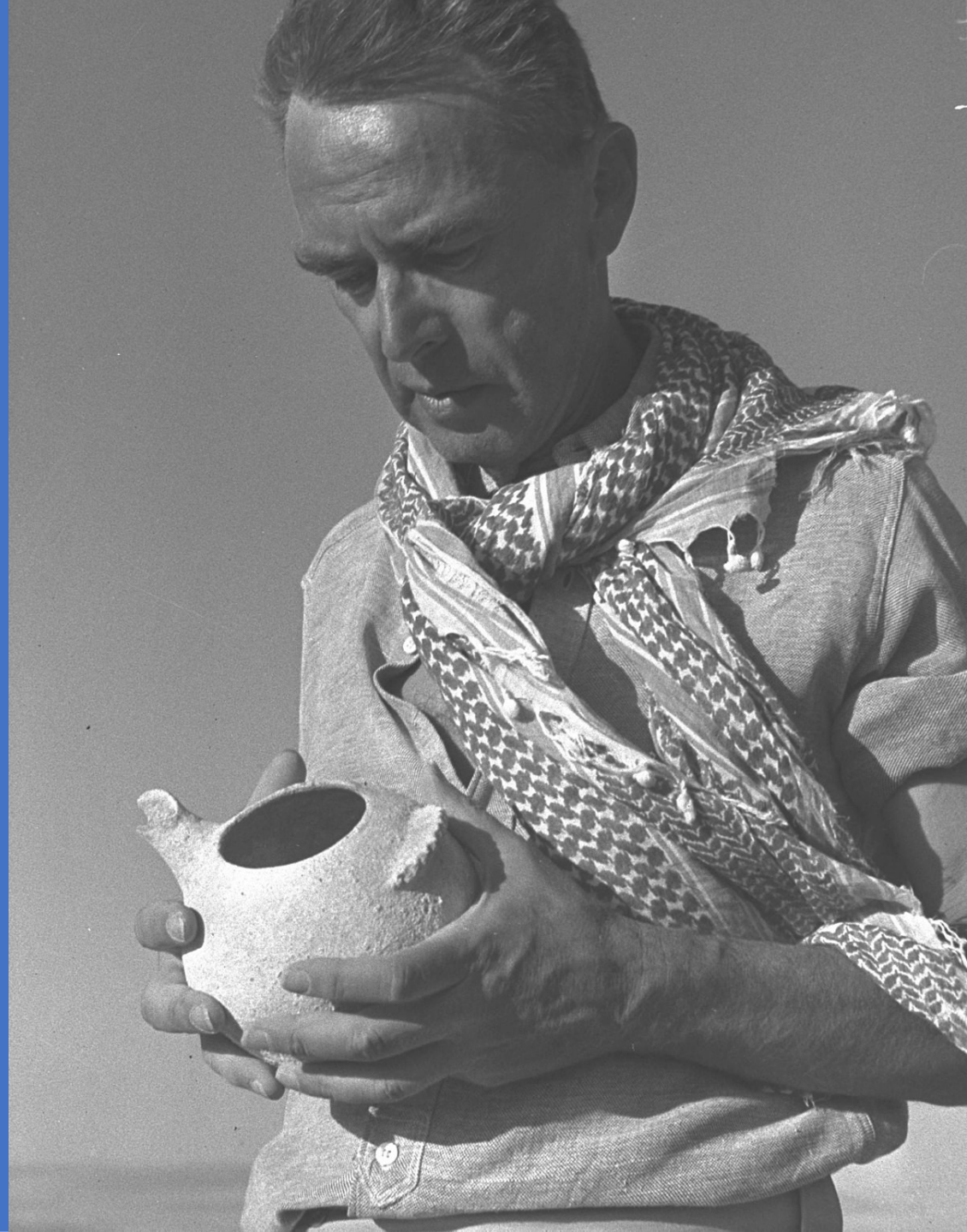


"In every instance where the findings of archaeology pertain to the Biblical record, the archaeological evidence confirms, sometimes in detailed fashion, the historical accuracy of Scripture. In those instances where the archaeological findings seem to be at variance with the Bible, the discrepancy lies with the archaeological evidence, i.e., improper interpretation, lack of evidence, etc. -- not with the Bible."

- Dr. Bryant C. Wood, archaeologist,
Associates for Biblical Research [1]

"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical description has often led to amazing discoveries."

- Dr. Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, (New York: Farrar, Strous and Cudahy, 1959), 136.



ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLE HISTORY



Joseph P. Free
REVISED AND EXPANDED BY
Howard F. Vos

"Archaeology has confirmed countless passages which have been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contradictory to known facts.....Yet archaeological discoveries have shown that these critical charges.....are wrong and that the Bible is trustworthy in the very statements which have been set aside as untrustworthy.....We do not know of any cases where the Bible has been proved wrong."
- Dr. Joseph P. Free, Archaeology and Bible History. Scripture Press, Wheaton, IL, 1969, pg. 1

"The reader may rest assured that nothing has been found [by archaeologists] to disturb a reasonable faith, and nothing has been discovered which can disprove a single theological doctrine. We no longer trouble ourselves with attempts to 'harmonize' religion and science, or to 'prove' the Bible. The Bible can stand for itself."

- Dr. William F. Albright, eminent archeologist who confirmed the authenticity of the Dead Sea Scrolls following their discovery





"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition."

- Dr. William F. Albright, *Archaeology and the Religions of Israel*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1956, p. 176

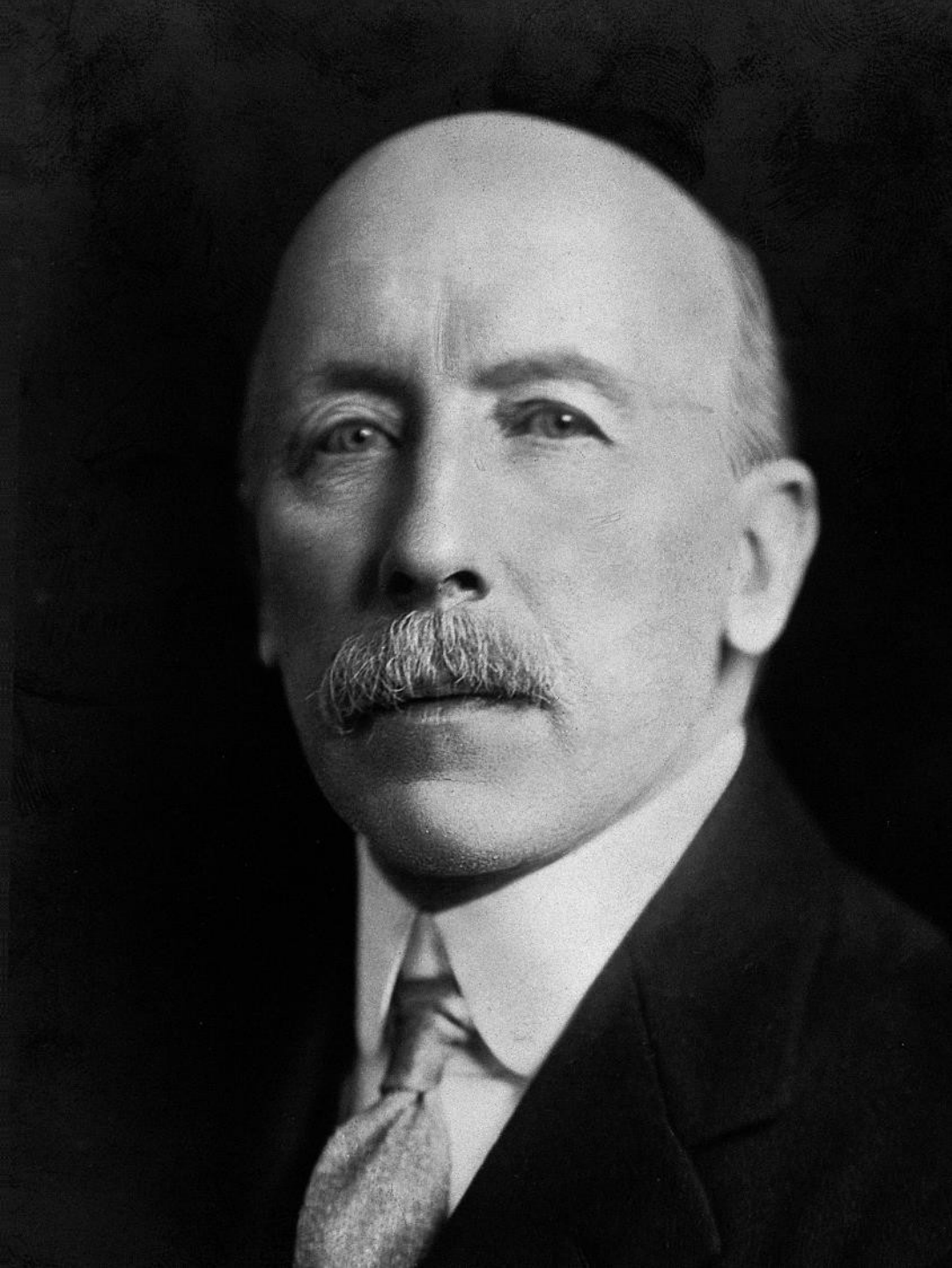


"On the whole, however, archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine....Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics. It has shown, in a number of instances, that these views rest on false assumptions and unreal, artificial schemes of historical development. This is a real contribution and not to be

"The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous predisposition against the supernatural."

- Professor Millar Burrows (Professor of Archaeology at Yale University), *What Mean These Stones?*, Meridian Books, New York, NY, 1956, p. 176.

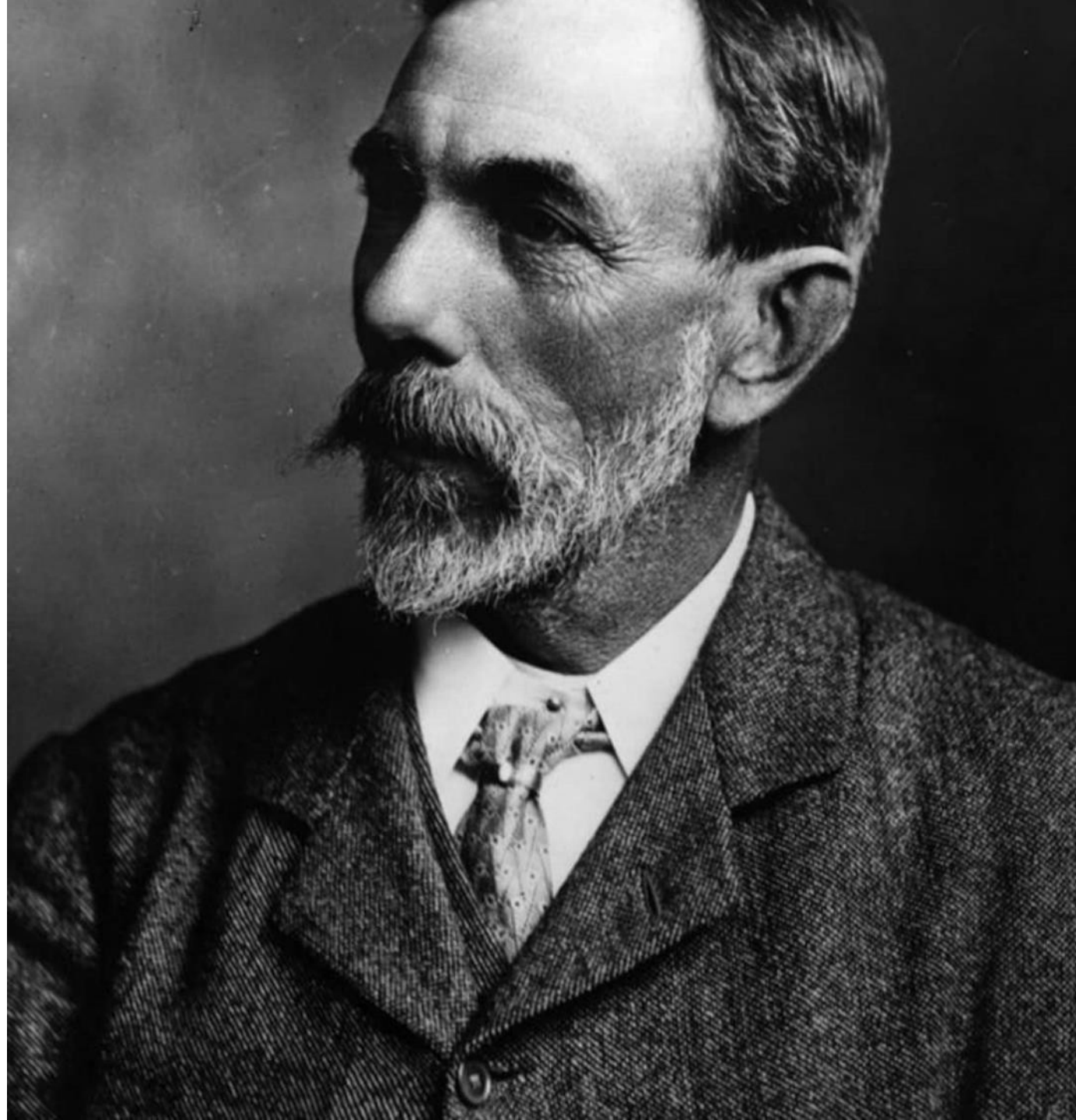


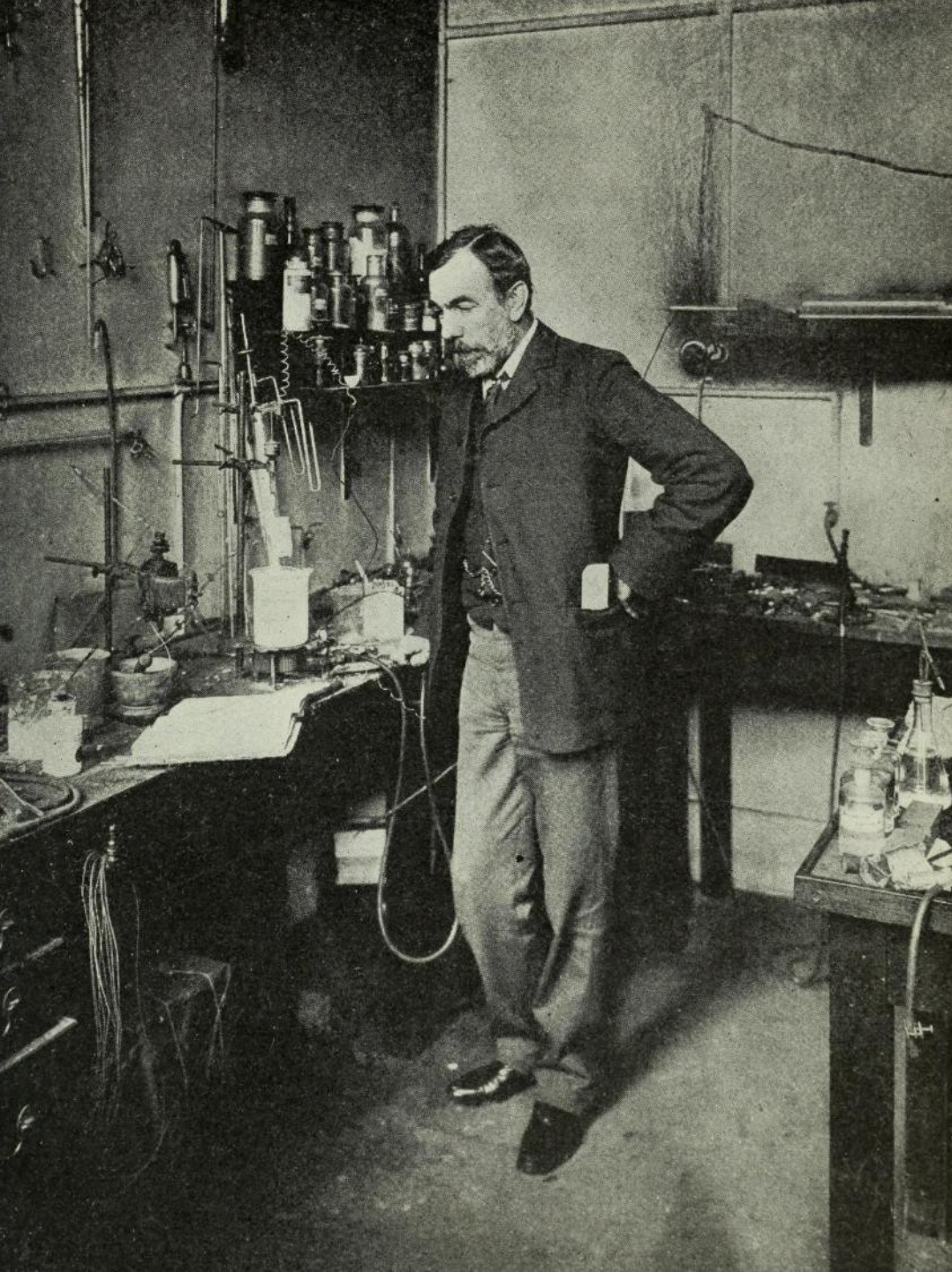


"It is therefore legitimate to say that, in respect of that part of the Old Testament against which the disintegrating criticism of the last half of the nineteenth century was chiefly directed, the evidence of archaeology has been to reestablish its authority and likewise to augment its value by rendering it more intelligible through a fuller knowledge of its background and setting. Archaeology has not yet said its last word, but the results already achieved confirm what faith would suggest – that the Bible can do nothing but gain from an increase in knowledge."

"I set out to look for truth on the borderland where Greece and Asia meet, and found it there. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment."

- Sir William Ramsey (eminent archaeologists who changed his mind regarding Luke after extensive study in the field), (1915), *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1975 reprint), page 89.





“Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of facts trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historic sense...In short this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.”

- Sir William Ramsey (archaeologist),
The Bearing of Recent Discovery on
the Trustworthiness of the New
Testament, 1915, pages 81, 222