

and it was taken there and put in the museum there. It is called the Siloam Inscription because of having been found there in 1880. Translated into English it reads as follows: "Then ^{boring through?} ~~98-2~~ ~~pool~~ is completed. This is the story of the boring through. While as yet they applied the ~~quill~~ drill each toward his fellow and while yet there were three cubits to be bored through there was heard the voice of one calling unto another for there was a crevice in the rock on the right hand. On the day of the boring through the stone cutters struck each to meet his fellow ^{blow} ~~they~~ upon ^{drill} ~~blow~~ and the waters flowed from the source to the pool for a thousand and two hundred cubits, and a hundred cubits was the height of the rock above the heads of the stone cutters." So through a hill in between a hundred and fifty feet high there was cut this tunnel from both sides and without modern machinery and doing it in haste like this it was quite a happy surprise when the diggers from the two sides came right together there as described in the inscription. It is written in old Hebrew characters, not the kind of characters we have in our Bible which are the later square Hebrew characters. These are the round Hebrew characters. The similarity of them to the square characters is fairly definite. Many of them you would recognize immediately; others of them it would take a little study to learn to recognize them. There is no question that square characters are derived from the round characters but they are the earliest of writings. So this Siloam inscription which nobody questions comes from the time of Hezekiah and describes this digging through of this hole to bring the waters from the virgin fountain from outside the city inside and then, of course, it was easy to put a top over it and cover it with dirt so that the invading army coming would not have any idea that there was a spring there and actually it was being brought into the city and would give them more water in the city while at the same time cutting down the supply available for any besiegers from outside. The Siloam Inscription was for