

Chapel - 4/29/58 - Dr. MacRae

tremendous, extensive study. I've had the experience over and over after speaking on archaeology of somebody coming up and saying, "Oh, how fascinating! I'd just like to devote my life to the study of archaeology. How do I get into it?" Well, they ought to know that archaeology, like every other thing, is a study in which there is hard work, there's drudgery, there's comparing of the most uninteresting things, there's day after day after day of the most tedious work. There are weeks and weeks of learning verb forms and learning new words and comparing languages. There is the most tedious sort of thing. And in the course of this you find this that relates to the Bible, you find this three weeks later that relates to the Bible, a month later this that relates to the Bible and then you can gather a few of these things together and you can present it in an inspiring way to people who think, "Oh, what a thrilling study." Any study is, any study that you get into it. But don't get the idea that archaeology is just romance, interest, and thrill. There's lots of that in it as there is in any study but there's lots of hard work and tediousness and if it's worthwhile it has to be done accurately and carefully and you can spend days and days of hard study detail.

(7.5) I took my Ph.D. in this field from the University of Pennsylvania and I put all my spare time for three years and two or three summers on ~~XXXXXXXX~~ preparing what I might call the telephone book of ancient Nuzi - a town in northern Mesopotamia in which there were a few hundred people living. And I listed the people, told their relatives as far as we can tell, tried to figure out what their names mean. Now from the viewpoint of most people today that was uninteresting, boring for the thing you can imagine. You get into it you find it's very interesting. But it is typical of the thousands of hours you spend on that sort of thing to get this and this and this which is of vital importance in showing the fact that Biblical statements are true and ~~XXX~~ are reliable. Somebody said that there are two kinds of archaeologists. There are those who when asked, "Has anything been discovered which disproves the Bible," answer, "No". And those who answer, "Not yet". And that should of course be adequate for the Scripture. A hundred years ago everybody working in the field believed the Bible was true. And it's most interesting to read the writings of men of a hundred years ago, as they went and did some excavation in Ninevah they would pick something up that had nothing in the world to do with the Bible but immediately they'd imagine a relationship. They'd say, "Just