

"Her towns will be desolate and dry and desert land, a land in which no one is and through which no one travels." In the time when Jer. wrote the cities of Babylonian were a quite a sizeable number of rather large cities there in Mesopotamia having the Euphrates river with which to water the land and irrigate it. The land would be dry and desolate land if it were not for the Euphrates river. It is a flat land, a land in which there is very little source of water there.

But the Euphrates river flows through it and from a very early time the waters of the river were used to irrigate the area round about and there were these large and important cities which existed for thousands of years there in this area of Mesopotamia which is here spoken of as the towns of Babylon. Today in Iraq you have large towns, prosperous towns alongside the Euphrates river able to produce tremendous crops because of using the water for irrigation. How would this statement ever be fulfilled? "Her towns will be desolate and dry and desert land, a land in which no man lives and through which no man travels."

Notice it is said about the towns of Babylonia; it is not here said about the towns of Egypt. Those towns along the Nile have large populations. Getting water for irrigation from the Nile. There were towns there in ancient times; there are great towns there today. Not very prosperous economically now but very populous---many people there.

It was not said about the land of Israel. No such prophecy was made. In the land of ~~Israel~~ Israel back in 1921 Dr. Albright began to excavate to try to find the headquarters of King Saul. The land did not have anywhere near the number of people in it that are there today. There has been a tremendously large Jewish immigration into the land of Israel since the second world war, and to some extent during the decade or so before it. But before that there were comparatively few Israelites there. Prof. Albright desired to excavate the hill called tel --- the Hill of Beans it was called--Tel-El-Full in Arabic. A hill which stood there with no evidence of anybody living near it.

He desired to excavate this hill so he hired some men and went to the hill in 1921 and got up near the top of the hill and had them begin digging. In his account of it he said as he looked out over the country there it looked barren and desolate. You could hardly see a house anywhere in sight. There was hardly a town visible. It looked as though there were no people around. But he said, The minute he began to dig into the mound he looked out and it looked as if from mud houses that you hardly could see against the dirt background, people began coming out by the hundreds. People swarmed out and they rushed toward him.

They said to him, What are you doing digging into our hill? He immediately talked with them and learned that they wanted a few thousand dollars for permission to excavate in their hill. But he only had a couple thousand to pay for all the expenses of the excavation, so he let them take him to court. During the next few months he spent half his time excavating and half the time in