

## THE PRESENT STATUS OF BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY

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In contrast with the golden era of Palestinian Archeology which ran from 1921 to 1939, the period since the war has been one of considerable frustration. A number of things have contributed to this. First of these is the unsettled political condition of Palestine. Even during the thirties archeology was hampered to some extent by riots and interracial difficulties, as for instance, when the excavator of Lachish, James Leslie Starkey, one of the greatest of Palestinian excavators, was brutally killed.

In 1948 the difficulties reached a climax in the partition of Palestine. Since that time the land remains in uneasy truce with a no-man's land straight down through its entire length. The highest and least fertile portion of the country is now a part of the Arab Kingdom of Jordan, while the remaining section forms the new nation of Israel. Israel is prosperous, prices are high, and excavation is very expensive. Excavation in Jordan is much less expensive, prices in Jordan are low, wages are low, there is much unemployment, and the poor nature of the soil and the difficulty of transportation to other countries offers little possibility of amelioration in the near future. The great majority of the promising archeological sites are in Jordan.

Some of the archeological institutes of the various nations are in the part of Jerusalem which is in Jordan, while others are in the part of the city which is in Israel, and intercommunication between the two is extremely difficult and cumbersome.