

arrival of their day of destruction. Esther 3.7 (cf. v.13) says that "they cast Pur, that is, the lot," in order to determine the time. A most interesting instance of general corroboration is provided by the fact that the French excavators found in the mound at Susa one of the dice that were thus used to determine events. Careful tests showed that this die might be thrown even scores of times before it would stop on the desired number.

While there is not a great deal of actual material from Persia that has a definite relation to Biblical statements, the little that we have is very interesting.

Mention should be made of the claim that important features of Biblical teaching have been derived from Persian religion. The sources for knowledge of the history of ancient Zoroastrianism are rather obscure and theories differ widely. Here is an area where study of Persian antiquity should yield fruitful results as regards a vital question of derivation, particularly since some of the religious aspects that are said to have entered Judaism from Persia occupy an important position in the New Testament as well.

D. South Arabia.

A great number of short inscriptions have been found in South Arabia, showing the early existence of a high civilization. Great irrigation works were built at an early period. This was probably the home of the Queen of Sheba who came to see the wisdom of Solomon (1 Kings 10.1-13).

V. Archeology of Palestine.

A. Difference from Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Although far more events in Old Testament History took place in Palestine than anywhere else we are treating Palestine last, because archeology there secured a firm foundation considerably later than in either Egypt or Mesopotamia. It is easy to see why it would be harder to get a solid footing in Palestinian archeology than