

It was here that King Josiah was killed when he tried to stop an Egyptian army from going up to mix in the stirring events accompanying the death throes of the Assyrian Empire (2 Kings 23.29-30; 2 Chr. 35.20-24).

A start had been made in excavating Megiddo as early as 1903, when the German Palestine Society began to conduct excavations there. A number of interesting things were found, but the results were not what they might have been because of the unfortunate necessity of using the unsatisfactory trench system of excavation.

In 1925 the University of Chicago began a long period of excavations here with Dr. Fisher as the first director. The results threw important light on many interesting matters both in the Israelite and in the Canaanite period. In the Early Bronze age Megiddo was surrounded by a massive city wall, originally thirteen feet thick and later strengthened to twice that thickness. Very interesting carved ivories were found from the times when great Egyptian armies marched through this region. To the Bible student the most interesting discovery made at Megiddo was the great stables of King Solomon, which we shall discuss later (V.E.2).

The third of the great expeditions was a new attempt to uncover the remains of the city of Lachish. Lachish was the second most important city in Judah. When King Sennacherib was unable to conquer Jerusalem, he consoled himself with a great bas relief put up in his palace to commemorate his capture of Lachish. In 1890 it had been the desire of the Palestine Exploration Fund that Petrie excavate Lachish and the work that he and his successors did at Tell el-Hesi was described as late as 1930 as "the Lachish Expedition." However, doubts were raised as to whether this actually was Lachish and in 1933 a well-financed British Expedition began work at Tell ed-Duweir, a larger mound somewhat farther east, and continued to excavate for a number of years. As in the other two great expeditions, a tremendous