

have left imposing archeological monuments. While Old Testament history extends over a thousand years, the entire history described in the New Testament occupies little more than half a century. Another difficulty with New Testament ~~archeology~~ archeology is that the most terrible upheaval in the whole history of Palestine took place just after the end of the New Testament period: Jesus had told his disciples that the temple would be destroyed, so that not one stone would be left upon another. It is true not only of the temple but of Palestine as a whole, that the devastation in connection with the Roman conquest was very far-reaching. These changes so soon after the New Testament events made a very sweeping change in the condition of the country as a whole, and particularly in the Jerusalem area. This was followed sixty years later by the rebellion of Bar Kochba, with further turmoil and destruction, followed by banishment of all Jews from the area. Later on, the Arab conquest made still further changes. Very soon the external appearance of the land was very different in many regards than it had been in New Testament times.

Another difference between New Testament times and Old Testament times in Palestine is that we are not nearly so dependent upon archeology for illuminating material relating to what is contained in the sacred text. Before the rise of modern archeology we knew practically nothing about life in Old Testament times except for the statements in the ~~Classical Greek writings~~ Old Testament itself. Classical Greek writings mostly dealt with events after the end of the Old Testament. In the case of the New Testament, the writings of Josephus contain extensive descriptions of life and historical events in Palestine, and there are a few references to Palestine in the writings of pagan historians. These materials give us far more with which to check the accuracy and integrity of the New Testament materials than we can expect to secure from archeology. They are drawn on extensively in the discussion of these various subjects in other articles in this encyclopedia.