

added by each of these expeditions. Little by little these will be pieced together by archaeologists. Excavations may thus sometimes yield significant results years after the actual work was done.

It is well to be prepared for discoveries which may at any time burst on the scientific world. Therefore, it would be good for readers of the Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation to have an idea of the background of some of the cities where excavations are being conducted.

Gibeon first comes to our attention in connection with the invasion of Joshua, when the men from Gibeon obtained a treaty with Joshua by false pretenses (Josh. 9). Since the Israelites had been ordered not to make any treaty with the inhabitants of the land, but to root them out entirely lest they be themselves corrupted by their wickedness, this was a serious error and clear disobedience to God's commands. The Gibeonites had deceived Joshua by pretending to have come from a long distance. Joshua failed in his responsibility to carry out a full investigation, before making any actual decision.

All through subsequent history Israel suffered as a result of the mistake of Joshua in not looking before he leaped. God required that the rash promise be kept. Although the Gibeonites were reduced to servitude, their lives were carefully protected all through subsequent Israelite history, and those who broke this command were severely punished (2 Sam. 21:1-9).

The preservation of the Gibeonites produced a foreign area which separated the large tribe of Judah in the south from the large tribe of Ephraim on the north, and, humanly speaking, had a great deal to do with the eventual breaking of Israel into two nations.