

The Saturday Evening Post of February 8, 1958, carried an interesting popular account of the excavations at Gibeon, including pictures of a remarkable water works cut out of solid rock in the 8th century B.C. This provided a constant supply of water out of reach of enemies. The pictures of the massive works give one an idea of the importance of the city which he might never have realized from the Biblical account. Yet the Bible tells us that the city was so important that Solomon went there to make his great sacrifice after he became king. And it was there that Solomon had his famous dream (1 Kings 3).

Dothan is mentioned in the Bible in the earlier period. Joseph went there looking for his brothers (Gen. 28:14) and it was in that neighborhood that he was seized by them, put into a pit, and eventually sold to the Midianites. The city is little mentioned after that until we come to the later time of the Israelite kings, when we find that it occupies an important place in the life of Elisha.

Ever since 1953 Dr. Joseph Free of Wheaton College has been carrying on excavation at Dothan. There he has unearthed sections of the city that were actually in use at the time of Elisha. It makes the Biblical history seem much more real to see the ~~actual~~ type of houses lived in and the actual situation of the people among whom Elisha prophesied.

Shechem also was a city of great importance in early times. It was there that the sons of Jacob, through a trick, treacherously killed many of the inhabitants (Gen. 34). On account of this Jacob doomed the descendants of Simeon and Levi to be scattered abroad in Israel (Gen. 49). In the account of the judges Shechem