

In the dry air of the region of the region, these have been preserved remarkably well and tell us much about ancient Egyptian life and culture. So much remains in this area, easily accessible for study, that there has been little incentive to undertake the far more difficult and expensive task of excavation in Lower Egypt, where most of the ancient remains are buried under many feet of debris or of somewhat damp soil, deposited by the river on its yearly overflow. Most of the choice sites in Lower Egypt are under modern farms or towns, while in Upper Egypt they may generally lie outside the narrow area of cultivation. Since many of the great dynasties which exercised power in Egypt came from families originating in Upper Egypt, it was their custom to build temples and set up great monuments in that region even when their activities centered largely in Lower Egypt. On these monuments they did not try to give a full or impartial picture of events, but simply to celebrate these matters which gave cause for pride. While they give us much valuable information, it is all from a biased viewpoint and must be interpreted with caution.

This leads to the second reason why the proportion of the Egyptian material that bears on Biblical statements is much smaller than might be expected. A very large amount of our material from any part of Egypt consists of memorials, monuments made by a king or by one of his nobles. From such material no complete picture can be expected. At the tomb of Napoleon in Paris special monuments record the greatness of many of that warrior's battles, but, naturally enough, the memorial contains no mention of Waterloo! Since the outstanding reference to Egypt in the Bible deals with a deliverance of the Israelites from the power of the Pharaoh, it would hardly be expected that a great Egyptian monument would bear witness to it. There was little in the relation of Egypt to the Israelites which would give the Egyptians cause for boasting. One such instance is the raid of Shishak through Palestine, described in I Kings 14:25, 26; and this we find celebrated on the wall of the temple of Karnak in Upper Egypt by a great inscription, listing the conquered Palestinian cities. OK

Later on we shall mention a few of the contacts between Egypt and the Bible, under appropriate heads. The total number of such contacts is far smaller than one might wish, yet always Egypt will remain of great interest to the Bible student, for one can never tell when some previously unsuspected portion of the great amount of