

~~the papyrus did not last, nearly as well as in the drier atmosphere of Upper Egypt. Archaeology in Palestine would be in a very unsatisfactory condition if it had to stand entirely alone. Fortunately that is not the case. It was on the high road of commerce between Mesopotamia and Egypt, and its ruins contain many signs of contacts with both lands. It was good that excavation was slower to get started in Palestine than in either of these regions. Without the great help which inscriptional material would afford it needed to profit by advanced methods of digging, and also by knowledge of the meaning of objects imported from countries whose cultural history was already worked out.~~

~~A great step forward was made in 1890 when Sir William Flinders Petrie, already a veteran of Egyptian excavation, spent six weeks excavating in southern Palestine, and in that brief time discovered two principles which have been of incalculable importance in all subsequent Palestinian archaeology.~~

The first of these was the importance of the "tell". Previous excavators had frequently been disappointed by the fact that a place bearing the name of a Biblical city would prove to have no remains earlier than the time of the Roman Empire. Petrie found the reason for this. In early days in Palestine it was most vital that a city be capable of defence. Hence it was always desirable to build it on a hill, provided the hill had a good source of water on it. Here walls would be built, and within their confines the street level would gradually rise, since there was no organized method of disposal of rubbish. Inevitably the time would come when an enemy would prove strong enough to conquer and destroy the city. It might have lasted as little as fifty years, or as much as five hundred. ^{continues?} Eventually either the destroying people, or some later group would desire to build a city of their own in the neighborhood. Since the number of situations capable of good defence and containing a suitable source of water was limited, the same place was apt to be selected for the new city. The ruins would be flattened down, and new buildings placed on top of them. The same wall might be repaired and enlarged, or a new one might be constructed. Thus constantly the hill grew higher, and the inhabitants lived above the ruins of many previous settlements. This continued until the time of the Roman Empire when the legions put an end to banditry and established such peace and security as had hardly been known before. By this time the series of ruins had generally become quite high, and the daily trip down to the fields in the level country and back to the top of the hill at night was