

showing the burning of the conquered city.

After the coming of the Israelites we trace a gradual increase in material prosperity extending over a long period until we reach its climax in what the Bible describes as the period of David and Solomon. Here it is interesting to find archaeological remains of Egypt and Babylonia and also of the land of the Hittites as showing that there was a period of comparative weakness in all of these regions, so that it is one of the few times when such a strong power as the empire of David and Solomon could have developed in this area without quickly causing active interference on the part of one of the far greater ancient empires. Examination of Palestinian mounds shows ~~xxxxxx~~ a marked change at this period also. Its outstanding example is the great series of stables at Megiddo, showing the greater part of an entire city given over to the equipage of Solomon. (Of. I Kings 9:15 and 19).

OK

In the later period we gradually find evidences of the coming of a great aggressive power from the northeast. This described as the forces of the Assyrian kings with their capital at Nineveh. Many passages in the Prophetic books give us vivid pictures of the terror which was aroused as this great aggressor moved forward. About a century ago the palaces of many of the Assyrian kings were excavated and hundreds of statues and bas reliefs and thousands of inscriptions give a vivid idea of the ruthless expansion and brutal terror which was characteristic of these great conquerors. The picture in the Bible is made vivid and real as we see from these other sources the actual background into which it fits.

The Bible depicts the northern kingdom as carried away by the invaders, and the southern kingdom of Israel as taken into captivity by their successors, the Neo-Babylonian empire. Again we find a burnt layer in many of the hills which mark ancient cities; city after city is destroyed and either not rebuilt or there was only a very small settlement on top of it. A great depopulation is vividly indicated in the archaeological remains and fits with the sad picture described in Kings and Chronicles and mourned in the Lamentations of Jeremiah.

After this the Bible presents pictures of the life of the Israelites under the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The picture of Daniel of Nebuchadnezzar looking out over his city and saying: "Is not this great Babylon which I have built?" is vividly illustrated