



Faith Theological Seminary

ELKINS PARK, PHILADELPHIA 17, PA.

June 27, 1962

Rev. Alfred R. Paashaus
Bible Presbyterian Church
Firth, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Paashaus:

Thank you for your note of June 14. In a few words you ask enough questions to keep one busy for days to give a full answer.

There are many men working in the field of Biblical archeology, as in most scholarly fields. The area of knowledge is gradually being extended. A few men devote themselves simply to studying what has been thoroughly worked out and endeavoring to present it in clear dependable language. In my opinion men of this type render a great service, but they are usually not highly regarded.

Some other men make wild guesses in every direction and then look for proof to support or disprove their guesses. Such men usually are proven wrong in most cases and consequently are poorly thought of, except among the small group of followers that each may have.

Occasionally a man comes forward who is good at mastering the content of the material that has been well-investigated and also in making useful suggestions as to the areas on which little evidence is available as yet. When evidence comes forward to support some of these suggestions, the man's reputation grows. If he is generally in line with widely accepted attitudes, the incorrect suggestions that he has made are usually forgotten.

Professor William F. Albright possesses a remarkable combination of qualities. He has a most remarkable memory, and therefore is able to draw upon his recollection of the results of many excavations for illustrations that may enable him to suggest correct interpretations of new problems. He has a brilliant gift for putting things together and suggesting new interpretations. In many cases, these suggestions have been proved correct. Professor Albright has mastered the entire field of archeological material related to the Bible to an extent that would be hard to equal. As a result he enjoys a very great reputation.

Dr. Albright has always pushed forward on the frontiers of knowledge, and so naturally has made many suggestions that have not worked out. Once he gave me a collection of reprints of articles that he had written during the