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thereby". Jeremiah says, the cities of Babylon are going to become a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby. Now you notice in the first place that he makes this prediction about the cities of Babylon, not the cities of Palestine; he says the cities of Babylon will be a desolation a dry land, and a wilderness, a place where nobody will live or pass by. What a strange thing to say in the time of Jeremiah! In Jeremiah's time, about 600 B.C., over there in Mesopotamia, along the two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, there were many great cities. These cities had stood there, some of them for centuries, going back possibly, some of them, over 2500 years. These cities had stood there, with large numbers of people living in them, and a fine fertile land about them, a great amount of commerce going up and down the rivers. Would these cities become a desolation, a dry land and a wilderness? An enemy might attack them and destroy them,- yes. But new cities would be built and cities would flourish. The situation there is just such that you can hardly help having cities in that area. How could that area become a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness as Jeremiah describes? Well, you notice that he said it about the cities of Babylon, he didn't say it about the cities of Palestine. Suppose he had said it about the cities of Palestine, what would you say today? Well, you would say, it has never been fulfilled; Palestine has been devastated by armies, cities have been wrecked, but Palestine has never become a desolation, a dry land, a land where no one dwells.

I well remember the experience of Dr. William F. Albright, of Johns Hopkins University, in 1921. He desired to excavate a little hill called Tel _____, the hill of beans (Laughter), a little hill which he suspected might hide the city where Saul had his palace and from which