

It was necessary to cut a conduit more than 1700 ft. long through solid rock, in order to carry this water to the pool of Siloam.

In 1880 a small boy who was paddling around in the water as it emerges from the tunnel to pour into the pool, slipped down and as he got up, he noticed some scratching at the side of the opening. Some archaeologists heard of it and investigated. An inscription in the same type of writing as is found on the Moabite stone was seen here, just inside the entrance to the tunnel. The inscription has been cut out and taken to the Turkish Museum in Constantinople. It contained a description of the building of the tunnel.

"The piercing through. And this was the manner of the piercing through. While yet (the diggers were lifting up) the pick, each towards his fellow, and while yet there were three cubits to be cut (through, each heard) the voice of one calling to his fellow, for there was a crack (?) in the rock on the south. And on the day of the piercing through, the diggers struck pick against pick, one over against the other, and there flowed the water from the source of the pool, 1,200 cubits and 100 cubits was the height of the rock over the heads of the diggers."

For the inhabitants of Jerusalem in those days, it was quite a feat to make this tunnel 1800 ft. long and with the rock in some places 150 ft. over their heads. It was especially a task to do it with such speed.

Just before the War, this conduit was cleaned out and it was found that the tunnel is about 6 ft. high during its entire length. It is quite a stunt today for visitors to Jerusalem to walk through this tunnel. There is a certain amount of danger connected with it, because the water flows intermittently and at times it rises so high that if one happened to be in the middle at that time, he might be drowned. Naturally, anyone going through the tunnel tries to learn something of the movements of the water before starting.