



ARCHÆOLOGY
AND THE BIBLE

GEORGE A. BARTON

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A Hillside Street in Roman Jerusalem along which Jesus and the Disciples may well have walked (after Germer-Durand).—*Frontispiece.*

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ARCHÆOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

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PART I THE BIBLE LANDS, THEIR EXPLORATION, AND THE RESULTANT LIGHT ON THE BIBLE AND HISTORY

PART II TRANSLATIONS OF ANCIENT DOCUMENTS WHICH CONFIRM OR ILLUMINATE THE BIBLE

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To CAROLINE B. D. BARTON Faithful Comrade in the Campaign of Life

[Pg v]

PREFACE

For a hundred years or more the explorer and the excavator have been busy in many parts of the world. They have brought to light monuments and texts that have in many cases revolutionized our conceptions of history and have in other cases thrown much new light on what was previously known.

In no part of the world have these labors been more fruitful than in the lands of the Bible. In Egypt and Babylonia vistas of history have been opened to view that were undreamed of before exploration began. The same is true for that part of the history of Palestine which antedates the coming of Israel. Information has also been obtained which illumines later portions of the history, and makes the Biblical narrative seem much more vivid. It is now possible to make real to oneself the details of the life of the Biblical heroes, and to understand the problems of their world as formerly one could not do. Exploration has also brought to light many inscriptions in the various countries that confirm or illuminate the traditions, history, poetry, and prophecy of the Bible. The sands of Egypt have even yielded us some reputed new sayings of our Lord.

It is the purpose of this book to gather into one volume the most valuable information of all sorts that the excavations in Bible lands have afforded, and to put it in such form that it may be of service to the pastor and Sunday-school teacher. An attempt has been made so to present the material that one may not only have the wealth of illumination for Biblical study that exploration has produced, but also that he may possess an outline of the history of the exploration and of the countries sufficient to enable him to place each item in its proper perspective. Whether in handling so large a mass of data the writer has achieved his aim, the reader must judge. The preparation of the volume was undertaken at the request of the Board of Managers of the American Sunday-School Union, for publication under the John C. Green Income Fund,—a fund founded in 1877 “for the purpose of aiding ... in securing

[Pg vi]

a Sunday-school literature of the highest order of merit ... by procuring works ... germane to the objects of the Society." The foundation requires that the manuscripts procured by the fund shall become the exclusive property of the American Sunday-School Union, and, that the selling price may be reduced, the Society is prohibited from including the cost of the manuscript in the price of the book.

This work is confined to those phases of archæology upon which light has been thrown by exploration. No attempt is made, for example, to treat the constitution of the Hebrew family, or the dress worn in ancient Palestine, for these are subjects to which exploration has contributed no new knowledge.

The texts published in Part II have, with few exceptions, been freshly translated by the writer especially for this work. This is true of all except the majority of the Egyptian texts and two Greek papyri which were not accessible in the original. Translations of these were taken from the works of well-known scholars, to each of whom credit is given in connection with the passage quoted from his work. The quotations of Palestinian place names from the inscriptions of the Egyptian kings, of which the writer has made a special study, are based on his own translations of the originals.

An archæological fact, or a text brought to light by excavation, is often of little significance apart from its interpretation, and the interpretation of such data frequently varies according to the point of view occupied by the interpreter. As stated in the foreword of Part II, it has been the writer's aim throughout to maintain a neutral attitude on controverted points.

Not the least service that archæology has rendered has been the presentation of a new background against which the inspiration of the Biblical writers stands out in striking vividness. Often one finds traditions in Babylonia identical with those embodied in the Old Testament, but they are so narrated that no such conception of God shines through them as shines through the Biblical narrative. Babylonians and Egyptians pour out their hearts in psalms with something of the same fervor and pathos as the Hebrews, but no such vital conception of God and his oneness gives shape to their faith and brings the longed-for strength to the spirit. Egyptian sages developed a social conscience comparable in many respects with that of the Hebrew prophets, but they lacked the vital touch

[Pg vii]

of religious devotion which took the conceptions of the prophets out of the realm of individual speculation and made them the working ethics of a whole people.

Archæology thus reinforces to the modern man with unmistakable emphasis the ancient words, "Men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

The writer is under obligation to all his predecessors. Endeavor has been made in the footnotes to acknowledge each individual obligation. Lest any oversight may have occurred there, he would here express both his indebtedness and his gratitude to all who by their various explorations and studies have preceded him and been his teachers.

Of these, Prof. R. A. Stewart Macalister should, perhaps, be singled out for an especial word of gratitude, for in Chapters VI-XI of Part I his work of excavation has been quoted more frequently than any other. This apparent partiality is due to the

fact that Gezer was excavated more completely than any other Palestinian site; that, because of its early and long-continued occupation in ancient times, it reveals a great variety of civilizations; and that, in *The Excavation of Gezer*, Prof. Macalister has presented the results of his work with a completeness and a degree of intelligibility that no other excavator in Palestine has approached. He has made his work a model of what such a publication should be, and has thereby made us all his debtors.

Especial thanks are due to Dr. George B. Gordon, Director of the University Museum, Philadelphia, for his kindness in furnishing an advance copy of the proof-sheets of Volume X of the *Publications of the Babylonian Section* of the museum, from which the material embodied in Chapter VIII of Part II was translated, and to Prof. Morris Jastrow, Jr., and Dr. Edward Chiera for the benefit of their fresh collation of the text. This was of considerable importance, since Dr. Langdon's copy of large portions of it had been made from photographs, rather than from the original tablet. The writer is also indebted to Prof. W. R. Arnold, of Andover Theological Seminary, for helpful suggestions concerning the interpretation of a passage in the temple-papyrus from Elephantine which has hitherto baffled translators. Thanks are also due to the following authors and publishers for permission to reproduce illustrations contained in books written or published by them: The Palestine Exploration Fund, for permission relating to Warren's *Jerusalem*; Bliss and Macalister's *Excavations in Palestine, 1898-1900*;

[Pg viii]

Macalister's *Excavation of Gezer*, and Peters and Thiersch's *Painted Tombs of Marissa*; Rev. Prof. C. J. Ball, of Oxford, *Light from the East*; J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, Koldewey's *Das Wieder Erstehende Babylon*; Dr. I. Benzinger and Herr Paul Siebeck, *Hebräische Archäologie*; Monsieur J. Gabalda, Vincent's *Jérusalem*; Prof. A. T. Clay, of Yale, *Light on the Old Testament from Babel*; Prof. Paul Haupt, of Johns Hopkins, *The Psalms* in his *Sacred Books of the Old Testament*; Rev. J. P. Peters and G. P. Putnam's Sons, *Peters' Nippur*; Prof. C. C. Torrey, of Yale, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*; George H. Doran Co., *Ramsay's Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*; Dr. Mitchell Carroll, *American Journal of Archæology* and *Art and Archæology*; Rev. A. E. Breen, *Diary of My Life in the Holy Land*; Thomas Nelson and Sons, *The Illustrated Teachers' Bible*; and to Ferris and Leach, for permission to use again a number of photographs published in the writer's *A Year's Wandering in Bible Lands*. Dr. R. E. Brünnow not only granted permission to reproduce illustrations from Brünnow and Domaszewski's *Provincia Arabia*, but generously loaned the original photographs and drawings. Prof. Harold N. Fowler, Editor of the *American Journal of Archæology*, also kindly loaned an original photograph of the excavation at Sardis. The source of each illustration, when not the writer's own, is indicated in the list of illustrations by mentioning the name of the author of the book or article from which it is taken.

Grateful acknowledgment should also be made to Rev. Edwin Wilbur Rice, D. D., Litt. D., Honorary Editor of the Publications of the American Sunday-School Union, who carefully read the book in manuscript and made many valuable criticisms and suggestions.

The table of contents and the chapter-headings were prepared by James McConaughy, Litt. D., Editor of the Publications of the American Sunday-School Union; the indices, by A. J. R. Schumaker, M. A., Assistant Editor. The writer is grateful to them, not only for this service, but for many helpful criticisms and courtesies while the book has been passing through the press. Valuable suggestions have also been made by Mrs. Barton, who has carefully read the proofs. Miss Bertha V. Dreisbach has given intelligent and painstaking service in preparing the manuscript for the press, and in proof-reading; Mr. V. Winfield Challenger and Miss Laura G. Leach have rendered a like valuable service in assembling and arranging the illustrations.

[Pg ix]

The quotations of Scripture passages throughout are from the American Standard Revised Version.

If this volume should bring to some remote worker or secluded young person a tithe of the inspiration and joy that such a book would have brought the writer in the rural home of his boyhood, he would ask no higher reward for the labor it has cost.

George A. Barton.

Bryn Mawr, Pa. May, 1916.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

It is gratifying to know that this book has been found useful by so many students of the Bible and that a second edition is necessary. Minor errors, especially typographical, have been corrected throughout the volume. The chief feature of this edition is the addition of an Appendix, in which will be found some material that has come to light in the last year, and one or two items that were overlooked when the first edition was written.

George A. Barton.

Bryn Mawr, Pa. June, 1917.

[Pg x]

[Pg xi]

CONTENTS

PART I

Chapter

List of Illustrations

Table of Signs

Introduction

I.

Egypt

The Land. The Preservation of Antiquities. Egyptian Discoveries. Decipherment. Chronology.

History. Egyptian Discoveries which bear on the Bible.

- II. Babylonia and Assyria
The Land. The Preservation of Antiquities. The Discovery of Antiquities. The Decipherment of
Inscriptions. Chronology. Outline of the History. Discoveries which illumine the Bible.
- III. The Hittites
A Forgotten Empire. Hittite Monuments. Hittite Decipherment. Hittite History.
- IV. Palestine and Its Exploration
The Land. Early Exploration. Early American Explorations. Palestine Exploration Fund. The
Society. The American School at Jerusalem. Samaria. Parker's Excavations at Jerusalem. Late
- V. Outline of Palestine's Archæological History

The Early Stone Age. The Late Stone Age. The Amorites. The Canaanites. Egyptian Domination
The Hebrews. Philistine Civilization. The Hebrew Kingdoms. The Exile and After. The Coming
History.
- VI. The Cities of Palestine

Their Sites. The Walls. The Stone Work. Houses. Palaces. Foundation Sacrifices. City Gates. W
- VII. Roads and Agriculture
- VIII. Pottery

Importance of Pottery. Pre-Semitic Pottery. First Semitic Pottery to 1800 b. c. Pottery of Seco
Period. Third Semitic Period. Israelitish or Fourth Semitic Period. Hellenistic Period.
- IX. Utensils and Personal Ornaments
- [Pg xii]
- X. Measures, Weights, and Money

Measures. Weights. Inscribed Weights. Money.
- XI. High Places and Temples

A Sanctuary of the Pre-Semitic Cave-Dwellers. A Rock-Altar at Megiddo. A Rock-Altar at Jeru
at Tell es-Safi. High Place at Gezer. At Taanach. High Places at Petra. A Supposed Philistine Te
Megiddo. The Temple to Augustus at Samaria.
- XII. The Tombs of Palestine

Burning the Dead. Cave Burials. Cistern Burial. Burial under Menhirs. Earth-Graves. Rock-Hewn Doorway Tombs. Tombs with a Rolling-Stone.

XIII. Jerusalem

Situation. Gihon. Cave-Dwellers. The El-Amarna Period. Jebusite Jerusalem. The City of David. Jerusalem. From Solomon to Hezekiah. Hezekiah. From Hezekiah to the Exile. The Destruction of the Second Temple. Nehemiah and the Walls. Late Persian and Early Greek Periods. In the Time of the Asmonæan Jerusalem. Herod the Great. The Pool of Bethesda. Gethsemane. Calvary. Agrippa's Wall.

XIV. The Decapolis

Origin. Damascus. Scythopolis. Cities East of the Sea of Galilee. Gadara. Pella and Dion. Gerasa. Jesus in the Decapolis.

XV. Athens, Corinth, and the Churches of Asia

PART II

I. An Epic of the Creation which Circulated in Babylon and Assyria in the Seventh Century b. c.

Text of the Epic. Comparison of the Epic with the First Chapter of Genesis. The Epic and Other Bible.

II. Another Account of the Creation Found at Babylon

Text of the Account. Comparison of it with Genesis 2.

III. The Babylonian Sabbath

Feast of Marduk and Zarpanit. A Day called Shabatum. A Day in Some Tablets at Yale.

IV. The Legend of Adapa and the Fall of Man

Comparison with Genesis 3. The Adapa Myth.

V. The Patriarchs before the Flood

Babylonian Long-Lived Kings. Comparison with Genesis 5. Comparison with Genesis 4. Comparison with List of Berossos.

[Pg xiii]

VI. A Babylonian Account of the Flood, from a Tablet Written at Nineveh in the Seventh Century

Translation of the Text. Comparison with Genesis 6-9. Another Babylonian Version.

- VII. An Account of the Creation and Flood, from a Tablet Written at Nippur before 2000 b. c.
Translation. Comparison with the Other Version.
- VIII. An Account of the Origin of a City and the Beginning of Agriculture, from a Tablet Written at
before 2000 b. c.
Translation. Comparison with Biblical Material.
- IX. Abraham and Archæology

Abraham hired an Ox. Abraham leased a Farm. Abraham paid his Rent. Who was this Abraham
between Babylonia and Palestine. Hammurapi, King of the Westland. Kadur-Mabug. Kings su
to be those of Genesis 14.
- X. Jacob and Joseph

Appearances of these Names in Babylonian and Egyptian Records. "The Tale of the Two Brot
on the Story of Joseph in Genesis. Letters to a Ruler like Joseph. The Seven Years of Famine. I
showing Preparation for Famine.
- XI. Palestine in the Patriarchal Age

The Tale of Sinuhe. Communication between Egypt and Palestine.
- XII. Moses and the Exodus

The Legend of Sargon of Agade; its Resemblance to the Story of Moses. The Pillar of Mernept
Appearance of the Name "Israel" outside of the Bible.
- XIII. The Code of Hammurapi and the Pentateuch

The Text of the Code; Resemblance to and Contrast with the Mosaic Code. The Mosaic Code r
from the Babylonian; Different Underlying Conceptions.
- XIV. An Alleged Parallel to Leviticus—a Carthaginian Law Concerning Sacrifices

The Text of the Carthaginian Law. Comparison with the Levitical Law.
- XV. Some Letters from Palestine

Letters of Rib-Adda of Gebal. Of Ebed-Hepa of Jerusalem. Their Light on Conditions in the Pe
Egyptian Domination of Palestine.
- XVI. Documents from the Time of Israel's Judges

Report of Wenamon. Its Illustration of Certain Points of Biblical History about the Time of David. Reference to the Philistines.

[Pg xiv]

XVII. Archæological Light on the Books of Kings

Gudea and Cedar-Wood for his Palace. The Eponym Canon. The Seal of Shema. Shishak's List of Asiatic Cities. Ashurnasirpal's Description of his Expedition to Mediterranean Lands. Shalmaneser's Inscription regarding Tribute from the Kings of Israel. The Moabite Stone. Adadnirari IV's Mention of the Moabite Stone. Inscription describing Tiglathpileser IV's Campaign. Sargon's Conquests. Sennacherib's Westward Campaign. The Siloam Inscription. Esarhaddon's List of Conquered Kings. Ashurbanipal's Assyrian Campaign in Egypt. Nebuchadrezzar II. Evil-Merodach. Discoveries in Sheba.

XVIII. The End of the Babylonian Exile

Inscriptions of Nabuna'id; their Bearing on Biblical Statements regarding Belshazzar. Account of Babylon bearing on the Book of Daniel. Inscription of Cyrus bearing on the Capture of Babylon. Permission for the Return to Jerusalem.

XIX. A Jewish Colony in Egypt during the Time of Nehemiah

Papyri Witness to the Existence of a Colony at Elephantine. Translation of a Petition relating to the Reply of Persian Governor. Historical Bearings of these Documents. A Letter relating to the Papyri showing that the Jews were Unpopular at Elephantine.

XX. A Babylonian Job

Translation of a Poem relating to the Afflictions of a Good Man. Comparison with the Book of Job and of Another Similar Poem.

XXI. Psalms from Babylonia and Egypt

Character of their Psalms. Babylonian Prayers to the Goddess Ishtar. Comparison with the Psalms. Babylonian Hymn to the Moon-God. A Babylonian Hymn to Bel. An Egyptian Hymn to the Sun-God. Hymn Monotheistic? An Egyptian Hymn in Praise of Aton. Comparison with the Psalter.

XXII. Parallels to Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

The Nature of the Book of Proverbs and the Parallels. Babylonian Proverbs from the Library of Ashurbanipal. Precepts from the Library of Ashurbanipal. Comparison with the Bible. Egyptian Precepts of Proverbs. Comparison with the Bible. Parallel to Ecclesiastes from the Gilgamesh Epic.

XXIII. Egyptian Parallels to the Song of Songs

Nature of the Song of Songs. Translation of Some Egyptian Love-Poems. Comparison with Bible.

XXIV. Illustrations of Passages in the Prophets

Uniqueness of the Prophetic Books. An Assyrian Prophetic
[Pg xv]

Vision. Comparison with the Bible. The Egyptian Social Conscience. Tale of the Eloquent Peas
with the Bible. An Ideal King; Extract from the Admonitions of Ipuwer. Comparison with Me
Expectations. Sheol. Ishtar's Descent to the Underworld. Comparison with Prophetic Passages
for Tammuz.

XXV. Reputed Sayings of Jesus Found in Egypt

Early Collections of the Words of Jesus. Translation of Sayings found in 1897. Comments. Tra
found in 1904. Comments. Opinions as to these Sayings.

XXVI. Archæological Light on the Enrolment of Quirinius

Translation of a Papyrus showing that in the Second Century Enrolment was made Every Fo
Comments. Translation referring to an Enrolment in the Reign of Nero. Fragment from the R
Enrolments probably inaugurated by Augustus. Document showing that People went to their
Enrolment. Inscription supposed to refer to Quirinius. Inscription from Asia Minor referring
Discussion. Conclusions.

XXVII. Archæological Light on the Acts and Epistles

The Politarchs of Thessalonica. An Altar to Unknown Gods. An Inscription from Delphi and t
Contact with Gallio. Some Epistles from Egypt. Inscriptions mentioning Aretas, King of Arabi

Appendix

Discoveries at Carchemish. Hrozný's Decipherment of Hittite. Discoveries at Jerusalem and B
Babylonian Account of the Creation of Man. Reports of Commanders of Egyptian Frontier -Fo
to the Entrance of Asiatics into Egypt in Time of Famine. Supposed Trace of the Ten Lost Trib
Mesopotamia.

Index of Scripture Passages

Index

Illustrations: Plates 1-114.

[Pg 1]

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

A Hillside Street in Roman Jerusalem along which Jesus and the Disciples may well
have walked

Figure

- 1 Syrian Traders in Egypt, from a Tomb at Beni Hasan (*after Ball*)
- 2 Crown of Lower Egypt
- 3 Crown of Upper Egypt
- 4 Crown of United Egypt
- 5 Sphinx and Pyramid of Khafre
- 6 Pyramids of Khufu and Khafre
- 7 Step Pyramid of Zoser
- 8 Body from a Pre-dynastic Tomb
- 9 Head of the Mummy of Ramses II
- 10 A Store-Chamber at Pithom (*after Naville*)
- 11 Ancient and Modern Brick-Making (*after Petrie*)
- 12 Plan of City and Temple of Leontopolis (*after Petrie*)
- 13 A Passover-Oven (*after Petrie*)
- 14 The Rosetta Stone (*after Thomas Nelson and Sons*)
- 15 The "Israel" Inscription of Merneptah
- 16 Mounds of Nuffar (*after Clay*)
- 17 Excavation at Nuffar (*after Clay*)
- 18 Gate of Ishtar, Babylon (*after Koldewey*)
- 19 Phalanx of Soldiers from Eannatum's "Stele of Vultures"
- 20 Inscribed Column from Persepolis
- 21 Silver Vase of Entemena
- 22 Mound of Birs Nimrûd (*after Peters*)
- 23 Hittite Gates at Boghaz Koi (*after Puchstein*)
- 24 Hittite Types from Egyptian Monuments (*after Garstang*)
- 25 A Hittite King (*after Puchstein*)
- 26 The Boss of Tarkondemos
- 27 The Seal of Shema, Servant of Jeroboam
- 28 Tell el-Hesy after Excavation
- 29 The Site of the Old Testament Jericho
- 30 Excavation of Gezer
- 31 Remains of a Colonnaded Street at Samaria
- 32 Excavation at Tell Hum
- 33 Egyptians Attacking a Palestinian City (*after Perrot and Chipiez*)
- 34 Israelitish Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 35 Israelitish Houses at Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- [Pg Philistines from the Palace of Ramses III
- 2]
- 36
- 37 Canaanitish Fortress at Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 38 Inscribed Disc from Phæstos (one-fourth actual size)
- 39 Gebel Fureidis
- 40 Bastion for the Protection of an Inserted Tower (*after Macalister*)
- 41 Remains of Walls of Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
- 42 Walls of Buildings at Samaria (*after Reisner*)
- 43 Specimens of Stone-Work at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 44 Building-Bricks from Gezer (*after Macalister*)

- 45 Plan of Palace at Taanach (*after Sellin*)
46 The Great City Wall at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
47 Israelitish Houses at Gezer
48 Specimens of Mosaic Floors (*after Macalister*)
49 A Doorway at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
50 Door-Sockets from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
51 Supposed House of Hiel, Jericho (*after Sellin*)
52 Foundation of the Palace of Omri, Samaria (*after Reisner*)
53 Hebrew Palace at Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
54 Plan of the Maccabæan Castle at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
55 Stone-Work of the Maccabæan Castle (*after Macalister*)
56 A Foundation-Deposit, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
57 A City Gate at Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
58 The South Gate at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
59 The South Gate at Beth-shemesh (*after Mackenzie*)
60 Entrance to the Underground Tunnel at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
61 The North Gate at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
62 Plans of the Underground Tunnel at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
63 Plan of Underground Tunnel at Gibeon (*after Abel*)
64 One of Solomon's Pools
65 Post of City Gate, Samaria (*after Reisner*)
66 Part of City Wall and Gate, Samaria (*after Reisner*)
67 Road South of Gerizim
68 Lines of Roman Roads at Tell el-Ful
69 Roman Road North of Amman
70 A Granary at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
71 Some Roman Mile-Stones
72 Plan of a Granary at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
73 A Hoe (*after Macalister*)
74 An Egyptian Reaping (*after Wreszinski*)
75 A Sickle (*after Wreszinski*)
76 Plowshares from Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
77 Egyptian Plowing (*after Wilkinson*)
78 A Modern Threshing-Floor
[Pg Egyptians Threshing and Winnowing (*after Wilkinson*)
3]
79
80 Egyptian Threshing-Sledge (*after Wilkinson*)
81 A Saddle-Quern from Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
82 A Rotary-Quern (*after Macalister*)
83 A Mortar and Pestle (*after Macalister*)
84 Two Women Grinding at a Mill (*after Schumacher*)
85 An Ancient Olive-Press (*after Macalister*)
86 A Modern Olive-Press (*after Macalister*)
87 A Wine Vat (*after Macalister*)
88 An Olive-Press at Work (*after Macalister*)

- 89 Cows' Horns from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 90 Animals' Heads from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 91 A Horse's Bit from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 92 Drawings of Horses from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 93 A Clay Bird from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 94 A Cock from Marissa (*after Peters and Thiersch*)
- 95 A Bee-Hive from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 96 Pre-Semitic Jars (*after Macalister*)
- 97 Pre-Semitic Pottery (*after Macalister*)
- 98 Four Pitchers from the First Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 99 Three Pitchers from the First Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 100 A Jar from the First Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 101 Jugs from the Second Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 102 A Jug from the Second Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 103 A Jar from the Second Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 104 Some Fine Pottery from the First Semitic Stratum (*after Macalister*)
- 105 "Ear" and "Button" Jar-Handles (*after Macalister*)
- 106 A "Pillar" Handle (*after Macalister*)
- 107 A Flat-bottomed Jug (*after Macalister*)
- 108 A Painted Philistine Vase from Beth-shemesh (*after Mackenzie*)
- 109 War-Scene on Potsherd from Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
- 110 Jars of Third Semitic Stratum from Beth-shemesh (*after Mackenzie*)
- 111 Hebrew Pottery from Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
- 112 Hebrew Jars and Pitchers from Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 113 Hebrew Pitchers and Bowls from Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 114 A Funnel from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 115 A Potter's Seal from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 116 An Inscribed Hebrew Jar-Stamp from the Shephelah (*after Bliss and Macalister*)
- 117 Hebrew Pottery from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 118 A Scarab used as a Jar-Stamp (*after Macalister*)
- 119 A Jar-Handle Stamped with a Scarab (*after Macalister*)
- 120 A Jar with Tapering Base from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- [Pg Hellenistic Filter from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 4]
- 121
- 122 Hellenistic Pottery from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 123 Hellenistic Strainer from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 124 Roman Pots from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 125 Hellenistic Jar from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 126 A Lamp of the First Semitic Period, Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
- 127 Lamps from the Second Semitic Period, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 128 Lamps from the Israelitish Period, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 129 A Byzantine Lamp from Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 130 A Lamp bearing a Christian Legend (*after Macalister*)
- 131 Hellenistic Lamps from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 132 Hebrew Lamps from Jericho (*after Sellin*)

- 133 Ovens found at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 134 A Baking-Tray from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 135 Bronze Dishes from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 136 Shell Spoons from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 137 Silver Dishes from a Philistine Grave at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 138 Glass Ointment Vessels from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 139 Feeding-Bottles (?), Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 140 Forks from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 141 Philistine Silver Ladle, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 142 Bronze Needles and Pins from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 143 Bone Needles from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 144 Modern Woman Spinning
- 145 Spindle Whorls from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 146 A Large Key from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 147 A Smaller Key from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 148 Lamp-Stands from Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
- 149 Flint Knives from Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 150 Iron Knives from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 151 Bronze Knives from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 152 A Chisel from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 153 A File from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 154 A Cone of Flint for making Knives, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 155 A Bronze Hammer-Head, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 156 A Fish-Hook, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 157 A Bone Awl-Handle from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 158 Whetstones from Jericho (*after Sellin*)
- 159 Nails from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 160 Axe-Heads from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 161 Carpenters' Tools from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 162 A Scimitar from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 163 Impression of a Basket on Mud, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- [Pg 5] Flint Arrow-Heads from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 164
- 165 Bronze Arrow-Heads from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 166 Bronze Swords from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 167 Bronze Spear-Heads, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 168 A Pipe from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 169 An Egyptian Harp (*after Haupt*)
- 170 An Assyrian Upright Harp (*after Haupt*)
- 171 An Assyrian Horizontal Harp (*after Haupt*)
- 172 A Babylonian Harp (*after Haupt*)
- 173 Jewish Harps on Coins of Bar Cocheba, 132-135 a. d. (*after Madden*)
- 174 Assyrian Dulcimer (*after Haupt*)
- 175 Seals from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 176 A Comb from Gezer (*after Macalister*)

- 177 Toys from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 178 Styli from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 179 Children's Rattles from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 180 A Perfume-Box, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 181 A Necklace from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 182 Bracelets from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 183 Spatulæ from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 184 Rings from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 185 Supposed Hebrew Measures from Jerusalem (*after Germer-Durand*)
- 186 A *Neseph* Weight
- 187 A *Payim* Weight belonging to Haverford College
- 188 A *Beqa* Weight (*after Torrey*)
- 189 A "Daric" of Darius (*after Benzinger*)
- 190 A Tetradrachma of Alexander the Great (*after Benzinger*)
- 191 A Coin of Ptolemy Lagi (*after Benzinger*)
- 192 Half-Shekel of Simon the Maccabee (*after Benzinger*)
- 193 A Coin of John Hyrcanus (*after Madden*)
- 194 Tetradrachma of Lysimachus
- 195 A Coin of Augustus
- 196 A Denarius of Tiberius
- 197 A Coin of Claudius
- 198 A Coin of Herod the Great
- 199 A Roman Quadrans (?)
- 200 A Coin of Herod Agrippa I
- 201 A Shekel of the Revolt of a. d. 70
- 202 Cave-Dwellers' Place of Sacrifice, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 203 Plan of Caves at Semitic High Place, Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 204 "Pillars" of the High Place at Gezer
- 205 Rock-Altar at Megiddo (*after Schumacher*)
- 206 The "Beth-el" of Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- [Pg The Supposed Serpent-Pen at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 6]
- 207
- 208 The Rock-Altar at Jerusalem (*after Dalman*)
- 209 The Laver at Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 210 The Terra-cotta Altar from Taanach (*after Sellin*)
- 211 Supposed High Place at Taanach (*after Sellin*)
- 212 High Place at Tell es-Safi (*after Bliss and Macalister*)
- 213 Libation Bowl from Taanach (*after Sellin*)
- 214 An Astarte Plaque from Gezer (*after Macalister*)
- 215 Plan of the High Place at Petra (*after Brünnow*)
- 216 Plan of Herod's Temple at Samaria (*after Lyon*)
- 217 The Altar at Petra (*after Brünnow*)
- 218 The "Round Altar" at Petra (*after Brünnow*)
- 219 Supposed "Pillars" at Petra (*after Brünnow*)
- 219 A Brazen Serpent from Gezer (*after Macalister*)

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