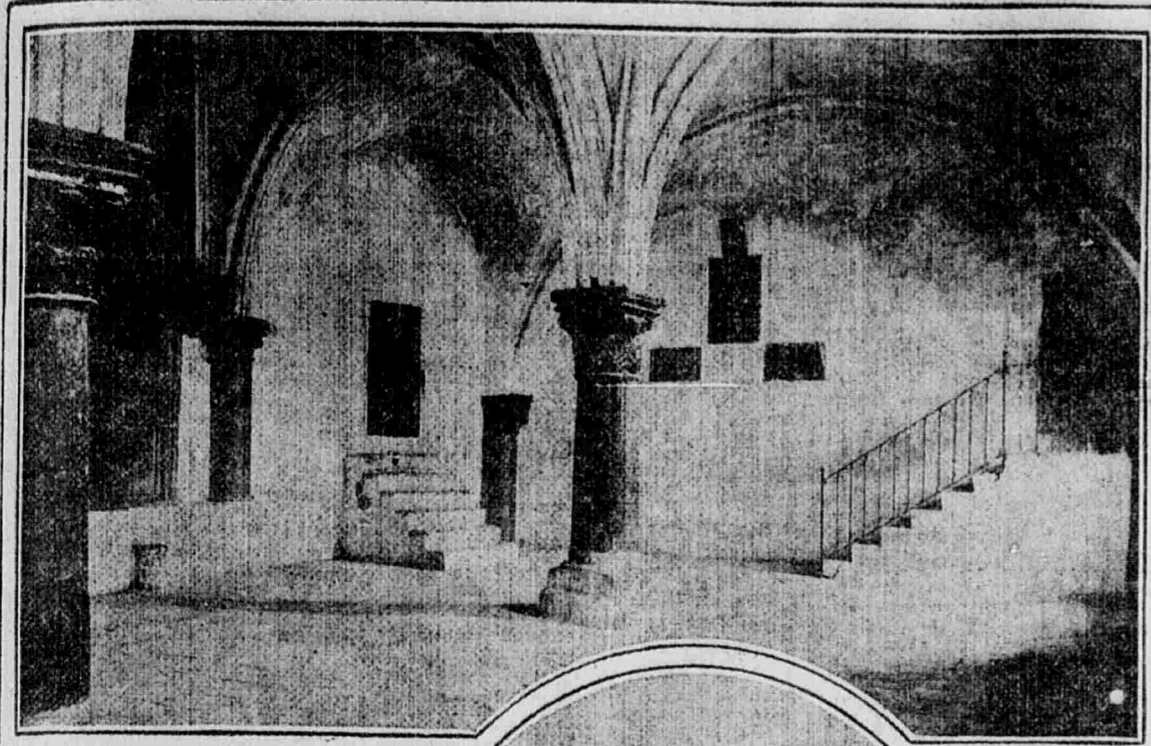


GEOGRAPHERS OF THE BIBLE

THE ROMANCE OF SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION AND EXCAVATION IN THE HOLY LAND AND EGYPT BY WHICH SCRIPTURAL NARRATIVE IS VERIFIED AND EXPLAINED



THE NEWLY DISCOVERED CHAMBER OF THE LAST SUPPER

By Laura Farlow
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Photographs by the author.

THE medieval chivalry of the world, kings and knights, with devout and devoted hosts, poured out blood and treasure to visit the holy places from the Moslem; yet to-day we find Turkish troops keeping order on Easter morn in mound or city's site without mystic incense and firmans from the Sublime and permits from mutesarrifs, kaimakams and the whole hierarchy of Turkish officialdom in Palestine.

I know no more curious fact in all his- tory. Reading the Bible on Palestine's face has been done in the teeth of opposition. For fifty years Islam has eyed the work with suspicion—ever since some scientific lines, that each new find might be welcomed with the same enthu- siasm acceptance given to work from a physical laboratory.

And so military engineers were borrowed from the war offices and Oriental scholars from the museums. Sir Charles Warren, Sir Charles Wilson, Lord Kitchener, and Captain Conder represented England; M. Clermont Ganneau and the Comte de Vogüé, France; Herr Conrad Schick and his colleagues, Germany, and Dr. Clay Trumbull, America. At first \$4,000 was raised, and Christians of all sects, with Hebrews the world over, grew keenly in- terested.

Hopes were high. Sir Austin Layard, fresh from marvellous Babylonian discov- eries, spoke of the light to be thrown on the ancient history of the Holy Land, and the Jewish nation by excavations of mounds and sites, rubbish heaps and ruins such as dot the stony face of Palestine. Sir Herbert Kitchener, a great geog- rapher, consulted a geological survey. He wanted to know whether any volcanic changes had occurred about the Dead Sea within historic times. They might throw new light on the story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Germans were as keen as any to tam- bouline the hosts of science in the Holy Land, where the documents of our faith were written and the momentous events they describe enacted. "Who knows?" they argued. "All may be made clear through some little inscription, like the far famed Rosetta stone, which gave us the key to all Egypt's hieroglyphics and threw back man's history 10,000 years be- yond all previous records."

MIRACLES OF THE DAY.
And money, they pointed out, had been tal- lowed on Hattin, Nineveh and Carthage. Then why not on the land of Moses and Christ? Such a little country, after all, its extreme length might be trav- eled in an hour by air, its breadth in less than two. Distance seemed so great in the Bible. When David fled furthest from Saul he was not yet forty miles from Bethshem, nor more than fifty from Gil- ead, where Saul abode.

And romances were intact here which would have wholly perished in less favored times. The country should be mapped, disputed points of topography settled, the ancient towns of Holy Writ identified with the modern villages, built high on rubbish heaps above their walls and temples. An- cient roads were to be traced; coins, in- scriptions and other relics systematically collected and collated for our greater knowledge of the successive inhabitants of Syria—Canaanite, Israelite, Roman.

AN ANCIENT BURIAL JAR FROM THE MOUNDS OF JERICHO.

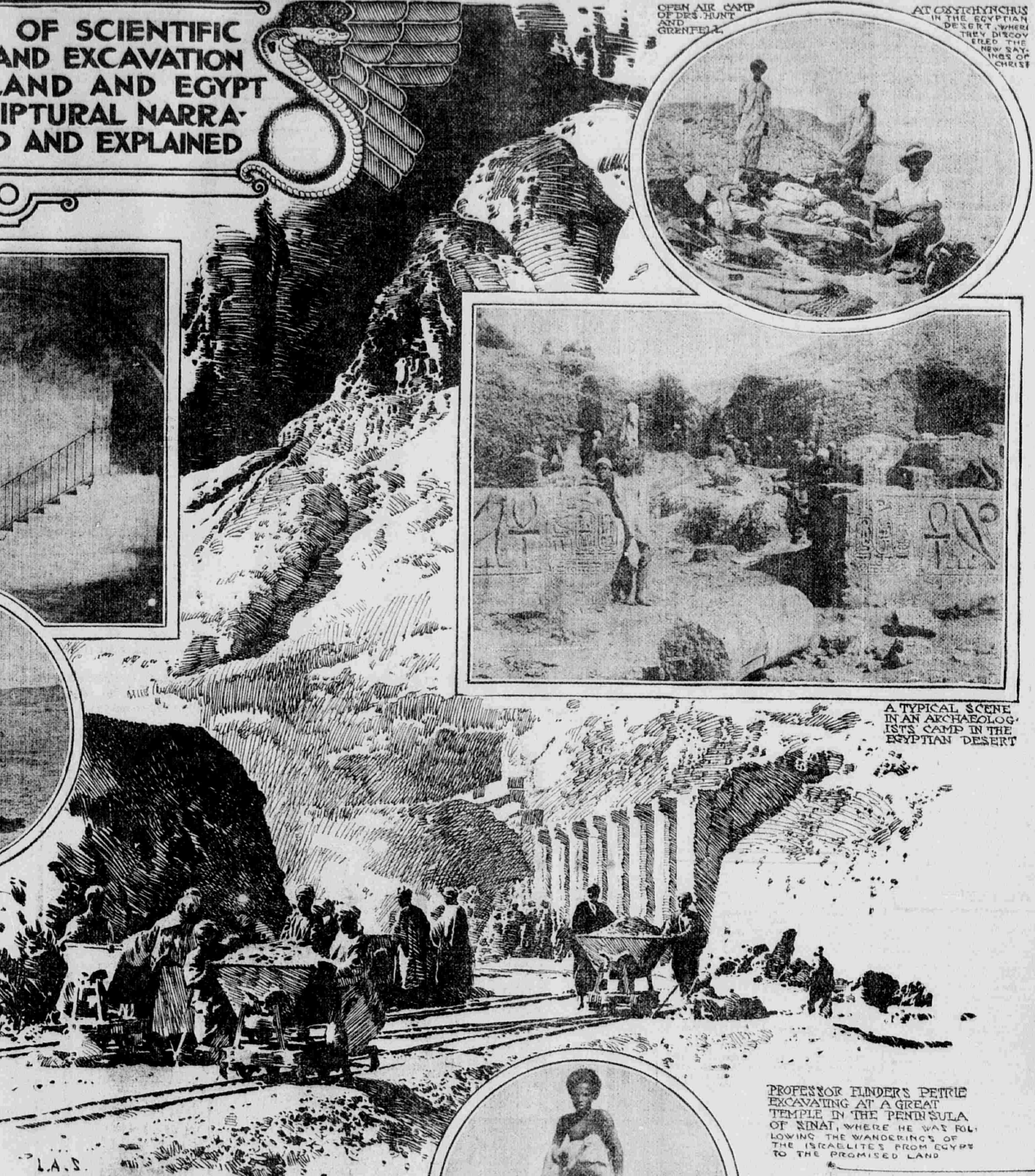
And it was strange to see from what un- expected quarters light was cast on seemingly hopeless problems. Conder dis- covered the long lost city Kadesh, of the Hittites, through information read in hieroglyphics on an Egyptian monument 3,000 years old. Conder was the born archaeologist. Picture the man on camel- back in the awful burning desert about the Dead Sea, or in rains groveling in wells and holes, with his notebook in one hand and the book of Joshua in the other—that book which is the central focus of Biblical topography.

Conder never laid down a newly found name or a ruin on his map without in- quiring what connection it had with the sacred Narratives. His Bible intuition and wide knowledge told him that some old ruin, made up of nothing but a few scattered and mournful broken cisterns, and the ancient stars of Israel, the sun god, and the ancient Phoenician, was in reality the site of a Biblical city, long wanted to fit into its place for the determination of a tribe boundary. It was such men as Conder that encouraged civilization to spend nearly a million dollars in this fascinating work.

The very first expedition, that under Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, R. E., was a whole year at work. Observations were made at forty-nine different points be- tween Beirut and Hebron, and a series of detailed maps resulted, one mile to the inch, covering the whole backbone of the country from north to south, including the Lake of Genezareth, inscriptions were collected, plans of churches, tombs, temples and synagogues drawn, "squeezes" taken of the tablets of Sennacherib and Assyrian and all Hebrew and Samaritan inscrip- tions on the walls of the present enclosure, known as the Haram esh-Sheif, and the site of Constantine's Church, which in turn in- volved the site, both true and traditional, of the Holy Sepulchre.

For generations scholars had warred over Jerusalem's sites; no less than sixteen dif- ferent reconstructions of the ancient city were proposed. One school contended that the Moslem Tomb of the Rock within the Temple enclosure in its reality Constantine's Basilica, and that the cave beneath it is in truth the Holy Sepulchre; so that the present traditional site must have been fraudulently assumed to keep up the flow of pilgrims from all parts of the Christian world.

Our dispassionate archaeologists merely consulted topographical references in the Bible, the glowing descriptions of Josephus, the Rabbinical writings, notices of the city found in ancient authors and ecclesiastical history, the travels of early pilgrims, the plans of the ground, architectural evidence and homonymous tradition.



OPEN AIR CAMP OF DES. HUNT AND GREENFIELD.

AT OXYRHYNCHUS IN THE EGYPTIAN DESERT, WHERE THEY DISCOVERED THE NEW SAY, THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.



A TYPICAL SCENE IN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CAMP IN THE EGYPTIAN DESERT.

the valleys, till then covered up and hid- den, opened up secret passages, ancient aqueducts and famous tombs. And while he was at work Professor Pal- mer and C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake had gone out into the Desert, in the river near Endor (Psalm lxxxiii, 10). Conder found, strangely enough, that this battlement was identical with the one Napoleon named "The Battle of Mount Tabor."

Here the French drove the Turks into the very same treacherous quagmire of the Kishon Springs. A chain of pools and springs with reeds and rushes marks the river's course even in the driest weather. Along this line fled the chariots and horse- men of the Canaanite captain, but a sud- den storm had swollen the torrent and "The River Kishon swept them away, that river of battles, the River Kishon." For the Bedouin gave the explorer an identical preparation of curdled milk which they call leben.

Conder found the stuff refreshing, but decidedly soporific in effect. He in turn gave some to an English clergyman, who afterward thought he had been poisoned. This in a conservative country, and the Bedouin leben of to-day is undoubtedly the food wherewith Jael piled Siserah to make long and sound his sleep that night, drive her tent peg into his brain with a mallet. Conder pointed out, too, that the expression, "The stars in their courses fought against Siserah" (Judges v, 20), probably had reference to the season of the autumn storms in November, when meteoric showers are commonest.

All these researches tended to sift sites hitherto erroneously marked. As one ex- plorer put it, "Nazareth has slipped down the hill and Jericho been changed three times," and while Conder was following in Siserah's disastrous footsteps, a war- ren was at the ruins of Herod's famous city, Antipatris, now covered with the shell of a vast Crusader's castle flanked with mighty towers.

But in all the records there is no more interesting story than that of the Masada stones, which cast a new light upon his- tory. One day Missionary F. A. Klein caused upon the stone at Dhiban the Arabs revered it as a kind of fetish. Now Klein was a French subject, yet he did not tell the German General of his discovery. Had that faithful man known beyond doubt the precious relic would now be in London, Paris or Berlin—no matter where, provided only it had been saved.

Nor did Sir Charles Warren know of it; otherwise he could easily have got it across the Jordan. Klein did go to the German Consul in Jerusalem, Dr. Petermann. Here was the great mistake. British or French archaeologists could have secured the stone unharmed for a few na- poles, because the Arabs know nothing of its possible value.

Petermann strove to get the stone through native agents, but something went wrong that failed; the result, the Arabs took flight, and put a fantastic value upon it. To make matters worse Klein and Petermann appeared to the Turkish Government. Meanwhile the precious stone was in the possession of the Bedouin tribes east of the Jordan. Even then they were smarting from the effects of a Turkish punitive expedition.

Finally Petermann left Jerusalem for Berlin, assuming his French colleague the treasure was unobtainable. Warren, too, was away and since the coast was clear the Bedouin Ganneau visited the territory of the tribes and took a paper mache "squeeze" of the stone as a whole.

PROFESSOR FLINDERS PETRIE EXCAVATING AT A GREAT TEMPLE IN THE PENINSULA OF SINAI, WHERE HE WAS FOLLOWING THE WANDERINGS OF THE ISRAELITES FROM THE PROMISED LAND.

document. Mutilated as it is, its value beyond estimate—historic, geographic, linguistic, theological, palaeographic. If only we could obtain enough of the upper part we could read it without doubt at least faintly. There were about 1500 figures on the monument, but all we have are 60.

But the work involved was in many cases long and costly by reason of ex- cessive labor and the immense depths at which the true monuments lay. Thus the great Flinders Petrie himself found that the ancient Fortress of Lachish had been actually burned, ruined, destroyed again, and rebuilt again almost twice.

But the gains, too, were many. We now understand the superb Jerusalem Josiasus described; we have in the Masada stones and the Siloam inscription documents contemporary with the Kings of Judah and the true monuments lay. Thus the great Flinders Petrie himself found that the ancient Fortress of Lachish had been actually burned, ruined, destroyed again, and rebuilt again almost twice.

These men are the geographers of the Bible—their work full of romance, ad- venture and fascination. To them Holy Writ is no mere abstract story, but a living, concrete record of biblical history, soci- ology, war, enterprise and law, from the very earliest times.



SIR CHARLES WARREN'S BEDOUIN SERVANT WITH MAPS, DRAWINGS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.