

"DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES"

EGYPT'S WONDER TOMBS

In Egypt tremendous thought was given to preparation for the after-life, in fact, life after death depended upon the preserving of the royal corpse and this obsessed Egyptian thinking! In the days of the Old Kingdom the pyramids were built in which to secrete the body and thus preserve the soul for eternity! Intricate passages and booby traps eventually failed to stop tomb-robbers stealing the fabulous treasures buried with the Pharaohs for use in the next world.

The Great Pyramid at Gizeh, near Cairo, originally 480ft. high, covered 13 acres at its base, and 2½ million blocks of limestone; enough, Napoleon's engineers estimated, to erect a wall 10ft, high and 1ft thick right around France. 100,000 men took 20 years to build one pyramid alone.

In the days of the New Kingdom the Royal embalmed bodies were placed in the famous Valley of the Kings at Thebes. There, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in November 1922 unearthed one of the most fabulous finds of all time - the tomb of Tutankhamen, standing almost exactly as it was left some 3,300 years ago, filled with treasures of extraordinary beauty and priceless value. He was only a minor Pharaoh, and yet the treasure placed in his tomb was worth £22 million!

PAPYRUS

Egypt has been described as "the gift of the Nile" without which there would be no annual irrigation and no crops. Papyrus reeds from which paper was made, grew thickly along its banks. At Cairo Museum there is a small pond in which papyrus reeds are cultivated. These regularly die and have to be replaced from another country, which reminds one of the prophecy in the Bible, Isaiah 19:7 - where it was predicted that papyrus would be no more in the land of Egypt, a fact well in evidence today.

GOLDEN GATE, JERUSALEM

Despite various determined attempts to re-open it, this gate through which Jesus of Nazareth rode, has always been walled up and closed just as the prophet Ezekiel foretold. "Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut." Ezek. 44:2. A strange old prophecy still uncannily true after 2,000 years.

BYBLOS

Oldest continuously inhabited town in the world, on the Mediterranean a few miles north of Beirut, scene of worship of fertility gods. Citizens were buried in Easter-egg shaped jars, knees drawn to the chin imitating the position of an unborn babe. Over 2,000 jars have been found, buried near the kitchen hearths. They believed the warmth would assist the resurrection.

Greeks named the Papyrus shipped from this town, "biblos". These rolls of paper bound together, became "biblia" (plural). The scriptures, which are a library of 66 books were called "the biblia", hence the origin of our modern word "Bible".

BAALBECK

Ancient centre of Baal (Sun-god) worship, in Lebanon. Just how did her builders erect single stones weighing nearly 1400 tons, exquisitely carved, atop pillars 60ft.high in the Temple of Jupiter?

TYRE

The capital city of Phoenicia. A wealthy yet wicked seaport some 2,500 years ago. Her sailors navigated by the stars, the great maritime nation of the ancient world that dug the first Suez Canal, circumnavigated Africa and founded Carthage - great rival of Rome. Her walls, 20ft thick and 150ft high were impregnable.

Mothers offered their babes to the red-hot embrace of their great iron idol, MOLECH. Such cruelty reaped its own reward and so the Bible prophets foretold Tyre's downfall. Here is a brief summary of the prophecies to be found in Ezekiel 26:4,5,12,14.

1. Nebuchadnezzar - King of Babylon, would destroy the city (verses 7,9) - this he did in the middle of the 6th Century BC after a siege lasting 13 years.

2. Other nations would come against Tyre - a fantastic prophecy - completed in the exact manner as predicted. When Alexander the Great came 200 years later to attack the city again, the Tyreans fled to the offshore island. So, the Scriptural prophecy was fulfilled in every detail.

3. Stones, timber and dust to be thrown into the sea - this was done by Alexander in order to build a causeway to the island so that his army could march across and capture it. Pillars, broken pottery and even coins fill the causeway.
4. The site of Tyre to be made as flat as the top of a rock - Alexander grew short of materials for his causeway, so he ordered that the city site be swept clean to provide more materials, today it is a vast empty plain scraped bare!
5. It would be a place to spread nets - today local fishermen use the site to dry their nets in the sun.
6. It would never be rebuilt - 3 times attempts have been made to build Tyre again on the old site, but each time a strange supernatural occurrence has put an end to the efforts and a seal upon the prophecy, because down the ages rings the Bible eternal judgment on cruel Tyre - "Thou shalt be built no more, for I the Lord have spoken it." Yet Sidon, Tyre's sister city, still flourishes, a simple proof of the exact fulfilment of Bible words.

BABYLON

MISTRESS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD - some 2,700 years ago, the prophet Isaiah wrote these amazing words, "And Babylon... shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. . . Wild beasts of the desert shall lie there." (Isaiah 13:19—22).

When this prediction was made Babylon was at her peak of power, controlling an Empire of vast extent. Babylon was the greatest city yet seen on earth. Her walls, 10 miles in circumference (Rome was only 6 and Athens 4), 200ft high and 26ft thick were surrounded by a moat 87ft. wide. There was enough food and provision stored within these walls to last out a siege of 20 years! This daring prophecy's fulfilment was surely impossible — so great and so old a city - yet her downfall came.

In the year 539 BC, during Belshazzar's drunken feast, the great nations of the Medes and Persians diverted the river Euphrates, which ran through Babylon, and marched under the closed gates of iron and brass, along the semi-dried up river bed, and captured the city, slew King Belshazzar and overthrew the golden Kingdom" - centre of one of the ancient wonders of the world. Even to this day, though still fertile, as is shown by the abundant date palms, Babylon has never again been rebuilt or inhabited, except by the wild beasts of the desert. Even the Arabs are afraid to pitch tent there, and as Isaiah had said, "Neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there," (Isaiah 13:20). Other great cities just as ancient are still with us and inhabited today, Babylon, Queen City of the world, is just as the Scriptures prophesied - "heaps" - ruins!

SARGON - KING OF THE WHOLE WORLD!

This is what King Sargon of Nineveh called himself - 4,500 years ago. He made himself master of Ur and Lagash and Umma and all the other cities in the plain. Then he set out to conquer the lands around. His armies marched to the mountains in the east, and west to the Mediterranean Sea. Sargon was a supreme King for 50 years. A head of Sargon was found in bronze, with precious stones set in the eye sockets, The Assyrians were among the world' cruellest conquerors, with no compassion for their captives and subject nations.

For many years critics claimed that Sargon had never lived because his name had never been seen on any of the ancient monuments. In fact, a list of 47 kings was drawn up by these critics and it was claimed that although their names appeared in Scripture, nowhere could any evidence be found for them on the archaeological monuments. Then as the science of archaeology developed and in due time the inevitable happened and one by one each of the 47 kings 'turned up.'

In the case of some (e.g. Sargon), whole palaces and libraries of these kings were unearthed. These FANTASTIC FINDS will be included in our future picture programmes.

Amazing discoveries in the Middle East have proved with unerring accuracy the truthfulness of the Bible. With spade in one hand, and the Bible in the other, archaeologists have discovered buried cities, lost scrolls, and strange peoples with stranger customs. Thus, they have shown that history and the Bible harmonize perfectly. Professor Yigael Yadin, ex-Chief of Staff of Israel's War of Independence, and director of the successful MASADA excavation in a recent BBC broadcast said, "We archaeologist use the Bible as a guidebook - it's so accurate!"

Centuries in advance, the pages of this Guide book forecast the rise and fall, not only of nations, but of individual towns and cities, and the exact manner and even the very year when these prophecies would be fulfilled. From their dusty beds comes a story more exciting than fiction - for Dead Men Do Tell Tales!