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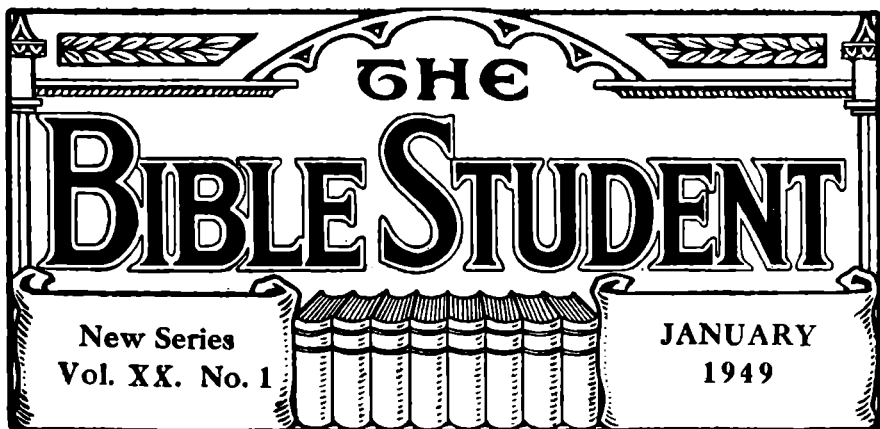
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"The Entrance of THY WORDS Giveth Light"

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Editor: A. McDONALD REDWOOD

We may gather up the many grounds on which Paul condemned the false teachings which threatened the Church:

- (i) It is a *vain deceit*—empty, misleading.
- (ii) It is *traditional*—and therefore quite unsatisfactory.
- (iii) It is *of men*—whereas the Gospel is of God.
- (iv) It is *rudimentary*—the doctrine of Christ aims at spiritual maturity and perfection (ch. 1:28).
- (v) It is *of the world*—Christianity is from above.
- (vi) It is *not* of Christ—in contrast to “Christ in you the hope of glory” (ch. 1:28).

(To be continued)

THE HITTITES*

A. W. BRUSTAL

The Hittites were descendants of Heth, son of Canaan, and inhabited the rugged mountain country of Judah. They are described as “short, thick-set and plain,” and are thought to be of Aryan or Indo European origin.

This powerful nation is first mentioned in Genesis 15:20 together with the Kenites, Kenizites, Kadmonites, Perizzites, Rephaims, Amorites, Canaanites, Gergashites and Jebusites. The land occupied by all these nations was promised to Abraham and his progeny by the Lord.

No less than forty-eight times are the Hittites mentioned in the Old Testament.

They are referred to as “Kheta” in the archaeological monuments of Egypt, and as “Khaat-tu” in the Assyrian inscriptions. Until recent years there was no record of the Hittites in secular history. All that we knew about them was revealed in Scripture.

The modern critics of the Bible made the most of this silence of secular history regarding the Hittites to heap opprobrium upon the Word of God. They branded the Biblical references to the Hittites as mythological and legendary. They were vociferous in condemning the Bible as a collection of fairy tales and fables.

* The story of the ancient empire of the Hittites has been taken up more seriously during the last half century, and is still a subject of archaeological research. In our July issue (back cover) we remarked on Mr. F.F. Bruce's recent book *The Hittites and the Old Testament*, which is full of real interest to the Bible Student for it shows how this new knowledge of an ancient people tallies very remarkably with any allusions Scripture contains regarding them. The above short article (taken from *The Religious Digest*) gives some little indication of the subject.—Ed.

However in recent years the spade of the archaeologist has unearthed such an abundance of evidence regarding the Hittites as to silence completely the "tinkling cymbal" voice of the Biblical critic. Moreover the wealth of information regarding the Hittites, which for centuries lay buried in the protective bowels of the earth, and has now been placed into the record of history, indicates that all which the Scriptures said about the Hittites was true.

When the Rosetta Stone opened the vast storehouse of Egyptian lore and the Behistun rock opened the ancient archives of Assyria to modern research, we got our first trickling information regarding the once powerful Hittite nation.

The thousands of recently unearthed clay tablets, inscribed in cuneiform, relate that the Hittites successfully waged war and concluded a peace treaty with Egypt. This treaty of peace, in Babylonian cuneiform, dated 1272 B.C., is the earliest treaty known in history. An Egyptian copy of the treaty had previously been found in the land of the Nile. The Hittite copy, engraved on silver plates, doubtless to indicate its great importance, reads in part:

"The Hittites and Egyptians shall live in peace and in brotherliness and there shall be no hostility between them forever. The person who does not observe this peace treaty between the Hittites and the Egyptians, the thousand gods of the Hittites and the thousand gods of the Egyptians shall destroy his house, his country, and his servants."

Egypt's Karnak temple walls reveal that Rameses II had fought against the Hittites, and that when the treaty of peace was agreed upon between him and the Hittite King Hattusil, the visiting Hittite prince was given the hand of Rameses' daughter in marriage.

Most interesting is the fact that on one of the discovered Hittite tablets is found the name of Joshua, as pointed out by Sir Charles Marston.

Prof. Garstang describes the discovery of "crude, but natural sculptures of the Cappadocian Hittites with their peaked hats, gloves without separate fingers, and turned up snowshoes."

The ancient records reveal that the Hittites inhabited the central part of Asia Minor about 2500 B.C. and that their capital was Boghaz-Keui, explored by Hugo Winckler in 1906 and located about one hundred miles from Ankara, modern capital of Turkey. Under their warrior-king, Subbiluliuma, who lived about one millenium later, they extended their dominion to the Euphrates and down the Palestinian corridor to Lower Egypt over which they reigned for almost five hundred years. Prof. Sayce, a re-

cognized authority on the Hittites, writes: "There is now abundant evidence that the Hittites once held dominion throughout the greater portion of Asia Minor, so that we need no longer feel surprised at their being able to call Trojans and Lydians to their aid in their wars against Egypt." For one thousand years they were a great ruling power comparable to ancient empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece and Rome. Dr. T. R. Glover indicates that only since 1900 do we know that the rule of the Hittites extended from the Euphrates to the Aegean.

During the 1906 excavations at Boghaz-Keui Prof. Winckler discovered the royal Hittite record-office. These archaeological treasures were subsequently transported to Berlin.

In 1915, a Bohemian scholar, Prof. F. Hrozny, of Prague University, discovered the key to the decipherment of the Hittite language—and a new world of ancient history was revealed to us.

Among the documents found was a Hittite code of laws indicating an advanced social order. Like the code of Hammurabi, the code of the Hittite reveals a remarkable resemblance to the Laws given to the Hebrews by God through Moses. This is not at all surprising since St. Paul in Romans 2:14, 15 tells us that "when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in that law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another."

Prof. Sayce indicates that the influence of the Hittites who lived over four thousand years ago, has, through the Hebrews, come down to our own day. It has "actually affected our language." Several references are in place. "Some of the Hittite words were taken into Hebrew and also into Greek and are found in our New Testament. The word for 'wine' in the Bible is a Hittite word adapted to both the languages. The Hittite word is 'unios.' The Hebrew word for priest, familiar to us in the common name, Cohen, is also of Hittite origin—the word 'kuanis.' We read of David's dealings with Araunah in II Samuel 24:16-25 where he bought a site to offer a sacrifice. Araunah is called a Jebusite but he has a Hittite name, or title, 'Araunis,' meaning 'freeman,' or 'noble,' and we can see his nobility in the courteous way he dealt with David."

The archaeological records regarding the Hittites are in perfect harmony with the Bible.