

**BY-PATHS OF BIBLE  
KNOWLEDGE: THE RACES  
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

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By-Paths of Bible Knowledge: The Races of the Old Testament by A. H. Sayce

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XVI

*The*  
*Races of the Old Testament*  
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## PREFACE.

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THE following pages must be received with the indulgence due to first attempts in a new field of research. Ethnology itself is but a young science, still busied in collecting its facts and arranging its materials; biblical ethnology is younger still. Indeed, it is only within the last three or four years that a study of the ethnology of the Old Testament has become possible. We owe the greater part of the materials upon which it must be based to that prince of living excavators and practical archaeologists, Mr. Flinders Petrie. The casts and photographs of the ethnographic types represented on the Egyptian monuments, which he made for the British Association in the winter of 1886-7, have at last given us a solid foundation upon which to work. To Mr. R. S. Poole belongs the merit of first calling the attention of anthropologists to the unexplored mine of facts preserved in the pictures of the ancient Egyptian artists, and to the leading members of the Anthropological Institute that of obtaining a grant for their reproduction. But the grant by itself would not have carried us very far; there were needed the seeing eye

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and the observing mind of the explorer, to select the most typical and best preserved examples, and to photograph or model them with scientific skill. The results of Mr. Petrie's labours are given in the *Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science* for 1887, in a report by Mr. Petrie himself on 'Racial Photographs from the ancient Egyptian Pictures and Sculptures,' and in a supplementary paper by the Rev. H. G. Tomkins on the 'Collection of Ethnographic Types in Egypt.' Further articles on the same subject have been published by Mr. Tomkins and Mr. Petrie in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, and the *Babylonian and Oriental Record*, references to which will be found in the footnotes to the present volume. With characteristic generosity, Mr. Petrie has allowed an unrestricted use to be made of his photographs in illustrating the pages which follow. Those who desire a complete set of the photographs, which number several hundreds, can obtain them at the low price of 45s. from Mr. Browning Hogg, 75 High Street, Bromley, Kent.

Apart from these photographs there is little published material available for the student of Old Testament ethnology. Most of the Assyrian and Babylonian examples must be studied in the original bas-reliefs and terra-cotta figures in the British Museum; the figures of the Armenian soldiers depicted on the bronze gates of Balawat are reproduced in the plates accompanying the memoir on *The Bronze Ornaments of the Palace Gates from Balawat*, published by the Society of Biblical



Archæology ; while the photographs of the early Chaldaean heads discovered at Tello, and now in the Louvre, will be found in the beautifully-executed plates (3, 6, 12, and 22) of de Sarzec and Heuzey's *Découvertes en Chaldée*.

The pictures and sculptures bequeathed to us by the Egyptians have, however, an ethnological value far exceeding that of other similar relics of Oriental antiquity. The Egyptian artist had an innate gift for portraiture ; he seized at once the salient traits in an individual face, and reproduced them with almost photographic fidelity. The trustworthiness of his likenesses can be proved in numerous instances. Doubtless at times he may have exaggerated some striking feature in the head of a foreigner, and Dr. Garson has remarked to me that in certain cases the forehead is made to recede unnaturally. But such exaggerations only bring into stronger relief a racial peculiarity, and it may after all be questioned whether the exaggeration is as great as it seems. At all events a comparison of the Hittite profile as drawn by the Egyptians with the profile as drawn upon the Hittite monuments by the Hittites themselves goes to show that the exaggeration was not on the Egyptian side. We have only to look at the heads in the inscriptions published by Dr. Wright in his *Empire of the Hittites* (plates viii and ix) to assure ourselves of the fact.

The Egyptian artists took as their models the prisoners whom the Pharaoh had led with him into

Egypt. They drew consequently from life, and it is astonishing what a close racial resemblance exists in every instance between the members of a group which comes from the same locality, in spite of the individual differences of detail which the artist has been careful to note. Though the individual face may have peculiarities of its own, the racial type presented by it can never be mistaken. Of course in the case of the Egyptians themselves the ethnologist has an assistance which he does not possess in the case of their enemies or allies. The portraits of the natives of the valley of the Nile which they have bequeathed to us in statuary or in painting, are supplemented by the mummies in which the actual features of the dead are still preserved. Professor Virchow's measurements of the skulls of the Pharaohs, whose mummies were found at Deir el-Bahari, illustrate the advantage this has been to the anthropologist.

In the course of the following pages more than one new fact will be found to be announced for the first time. Thus the geographical position of the Zakkur of the Egyptian monuments has at last been settled by a papyrus obtained last winter by Mr. Golénischeff, with the further consequence that they must be the Teukrians of Salamis in Cyprus. A definite habitation has accordingly been obtained for those enemies of Egypt who, in the age after the Exodus, descended upon her from the islands of the north.

Before concluding I must offer an apology for the repetitions which will be met with in the volume. They

have been due to the necessity of making the book intelligible to readers who are not ethnologists by profession. In fact one of my main difficulties in writing it has been to present a new department of ethnological study in a clear and readable form. Terms like dolichocephalic and leptorrhine must indeed occur, explanations must be given of the mode in which skulls are measured and the facial angle determined, but I hope that I have succeeded in making the scientific meaning of such terms clear to every reader, and in robbing the explanations of some portion of their repellent character. It must be remembered, however, that it is impossible to treat a scientific subject, if it is to be of any scientific value, in what is called a purely 'popular' manner. We may make science intelligible to the educated public; it ought to be the aim of every man of science to do so; but intelligibility is one thing, the inaccurate superficiality which is too often signified by 'popular writing' is another.

In one respect I have ventured to break the rule laid down for those who wish to gain the ear of a wide audience. I have given references in the footnotes from time to time for the statements made in the text. Many of the conclusions of ethnology are still disputed, and many of its facts, more especially those bearing on the races of the Old Testament, are hidden away in learned journals. For the sake of clearness I have often had to speak positively where the evidence does not yet amount to more than preponderant probability, and in such cases