



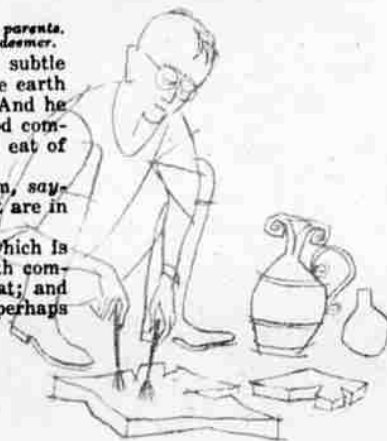
### CHAPTER 3

*The serpent's craft. The fall of our first parents. Their punishment. The promise of a Redeemer.*

**N**OW the serpent was more subtle than any of the beasts of the earth which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman: Why hath God commanded you, that you should not eat of every tree of paradise?

2 And the woman answered him, saying: Of the fruit of the trees that are in paradise we do eat:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of paradise, God hath commanded us that we should not eat; and that we should not touch it, lest perhaps we die.



# SCIENCE HELPS YOU BELIEVE

by William F. McDermott

**T**HE BIBLE stories of the Garden of Eden, the Flood, the Walls of Jericho, Solomon's reign, and other familiar Old Testament accounts—are they fact or fable? The science of archaeology supports those who believe them to be true.

Strangely enough, it is a distant relative of a great scientist—Edmund Halley of England, discoverer of Halley's Comet—who spotlights the Scripture records and their scientific verification. He is Henry H. Halley of Chicago, who publishes a "Bible Handbook," which registers many of the discoveries in question.

"Archaeological research steadily increases the evidence of Biblical accuracy," says the 82-year-old author, "and piece by piece the Old Testament is being confirmed. Science thus is proving our faith is founded on solid rock. The time will come when additional discoveries will completely validate the history of man as the Bible records it."

Let's look at some of archaeology's findings:

Long shadows of one of the world's greatest oil fields hover over the traditional site of the Garden of Eden near the mouth of the Euphrates River. "Edin" was the ancient name of the Babylonian plain. The particular spot is known as Eridu, and ancient Babylonian inscriptions, uncovered by excavators, say:

"Near Eridu was a garden, in which was a sacred tree, a tree of life, planted by the gods, whose roots were deep, while its branches reach to heaven, protected by guardian spirits, and no man enters into the midst of it."

Other Eden evidences are two prehistoric seals found among ancient Babylonian tablets. One, called "The Temptation," is now in the British Museum; the other, called the "Adam and Eve seal," is in the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

The "Temptation" seal (see picture above) obviously refers to the Garden of Eden account, for at the center of the tablet is a tree; on the right, a man; on the left, a woman plucking the fruit; behind the woman, a serpent standing erect.

The "Adam and Eve seal," dated about 3,500 B.C., shows a naked man and woman walking, downcast and disheartened, followed by a serpent.

This Eden setting in the Caucasus-Euphrates region is at approximately the geographical center of the Eastern Hemisphere—not inappropriate for the beginning of man, the central figure of creation. Many ethnologists agree that the human race originated in this area, from which also came the ox, goat, sheep, horse, pig, dog, and other domestic animals.

Only 12 miles from Eridu lie the buried ruins of Ur, the city of Abraham. "It was the most magnificent city in the world in its time," Halley asserts. "Then Babylon slowly eclipsed it, the Euphrates changed its course, and Ur was buried by desert sands."

British and American archaeologists have uncovered an area of the city two miles long and a half-mile wide. A residence section of Abraham's time revealed homes, shops, schools, and chapels, with thousands of tablets, business documents, contracts, hymns, and liturgies. Abraham may have walked these very streets centuries ago.

Historic evidences of the Flood, which the Bible says Noah and his family survived in the Ark, are numerous, Halley affirms. Ancient tablets from Ninevah speak of "the Flood," "the age before the Flood," and "the Flood that overthrew the land." Thus the Flood apparently was a fixed fact in the memory of the early inhabitants of Babylonia.

At Ur, under several strata of human occupation, archaeologists found a great bed of solid water-laid clay eight feet thick, without trace of human relic. Yet the ruins of another city were buried beneath it! The leader of the excavating party said eight feet of sediment implied a very great depth and long period of inundation, that it could have been put there only by some such vast deposit of water as the Biblical Flood. He added, "The civilization underneath the flood layer was so different from that above that it indicated a sudden and terrific break in the continuity of history."

In spite of wars and upheavals, the fall of dynasties and dictators, researchers continue to dig in ancient ruins, finding new verification of ancient records. Thus, in Halley's view, archaeology is drawing science and religion closer together.