

the last century B.C.E., followed by intensive occupation in Nabatean, Roman and Byzantine times. Sedentary occupation in these areas decreased rapidly after the end of the Byzantine period and declined even faster after the twelfth-century Crusades and especially after the Turkish Conquest in the early sixteenth century.

Nelson Glueck's proof of the periodicity of occupation on the fringes of the desert and the sown must be attributed to human intervention and cannot have anything to do with alternating wet and dry periods as believed by such geographers as Ellsworth Huntington and still accepted by a good many historians and sociologists.

Nelson Glueck has by no means limited himself to surface exploration. He has also excavated at a number of places, including especially the important sites of Tell el-Kheleife and Jebel Tannur. He is undoubtedly right in identifying Kheleife with Ezion-geber, Solomon's port on the Red Sea, from which the joint Sidonian-Israelite expeditions to Ophir set sail. In this connection it is interesting to note that he exhibited unusual intellectual honesty and willingness to change an archaeological interpretation defended for many years (which I and many other scholars had accepted). On going over his excavation records a few years ago in preparation for a volume on the site, he saw that he had been wrong in explaining the building remains as copper refineries. I still think there was some melting and casting of copper at the site but he is undoubtedly right in greatly reducing its significance. Primarily Ezion-geber was a seaport. Recent attempts to locate Solomon's seaport on the Red Sea at Jeziret Far^on, "The Island of Pharaoh," are absurd! All we know of the archaeological remains on this island are opposed to the identification, while Kheleife has exactly the archaeological history which biblical tradition requires for Ezion-geber. The lowest occupation remains certainly date from the age of Solomon. The account of the destruction of the ships of Judah in the time of Ahaziah by a storm which "broke them up" support Nelson Glueck's identification. No place would suit the situation in question as well as