What was Ophir?


What is Gold Land Ophir in 1 Kings 9:28? According to Xenophon of Athens, Ophir was situated near the Tigris (in Tilstone-Beke, 1834, p. 116, noot 1). Another guy named William Vincent connected in his book The Commerce and Navigation of the Ancients in the Indian Ocean, Ophir to the city of Opis on the Tigris (Vincent in Tilstone Beke, 1834, p. 116, noot 1). Opis was destroyed and rebuilt under the name Ctesiphon in which we recognize Tzaphon. On the opposite side of the Tigris, Seleucia was built. In Homer’s Odyssey 20 a guy is named Ctesippus. In the same book a Golden Wine Cup is mentioned. This is a reference to Jeremiah 51:7 in which Babylon is named a Golden Wine Cup. The Bible verse in Genesis 2:1, ‘The gold of this land is good’ is an Egyptian expression (Van der Valk, 1930, p. 85). About this very good quality gold we read also in 2 Chronicles 3:5, 8 (Van der Valk, 1930, p. 85). No one knows where this extreme good quality gold was mined. But the reference to Eden suggests that the location of this mining was close to or even in Israel. After the mining the gold was refined in Opis on the Tigris. Then it returned to King Salomo. Ophis means ‘slang’ and ‘see’ (Van der Valk, 1930, p. 98). Also in Opis could be hidden a menorah with 49 lamps that is mentioned in Zacharia 4:1-10 (Mock, 2003). In 1 Kings 10:14 we read that King Salomon 666 talents of gold every year. This is also a reference to Babylon and Opis.

Literature

