

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY TODAY
INSTRUCTOR: GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
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I. Introduction

1. Some ancient inscriptions which confirm the Bible Text

- A. Babylonian ...Gen. 14:1
- B. Moabite Stone
- C. Cyrus Cylinder
- D. Taylor Prism
- E. Israel Stele
- F. Black Obelisk
- G. Nebuchadnezzar, brick
- H. Nabonious/Belshazzar/Daniel

2. Archaeology illuminates a text...2 Cor. 2:17

3. Does Archaeology "prove" the Bible?

- A. Confirms the Bible

4. Book of Mormon

- A. Quotes
- B. How much archaeology?
- C. Letters

(1) Columbia University

(2) Smithsonian Institute

5. Minimalist vs. Maximalist

A. Quotes from BAR

6. Definition

A. Archaeology - A study of the past based upon the recovery, examination and explanation of the material remains of human life, thought and activity; coordinated with available information concerning the ancient environment. Biblical archaeology searches for correlation between excavated items and Bible events, people and teachings. Excavated items include remains of buildings, cities, graves, inscriptions, papyri, clay tablets and ostraca.

7. Tells

8. Glossary

A. Acropolis: Citadel or highest elevation of a city. Often the setting for the city's most striking temples and other public structures.

B. Agora: In Greek cities, an open market or square for public affairs, corresponding to the Roman forum

C. Artifact: Any material object altered by human intervention for some purpose; a stone or metal knife, clay formed and fired to a figurine, coin, and so on.

D. Basalt: A kind of dense, greenish, dark gray or brownish-black igneous volcanic rock. Much basalt is found in the mountains of Galilee.

E. Basilica: An elongated rectangular building with a central nave and side aisles. Roman basilicas served as business and legal buildings.

F. Bedouin: Tribal nomadic Arabs that inhabit the desert regions in the Near and Middle East. Members of the Ta'amireh tribe were responsible for discovering many of the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as other archaeological artifacts from tombs in the West Bank and Jordan.

G. Bema: A speaker's raised platform, often used as a place of judgement. It is used in this way in the New Testament for the place of the believer's final judgement (Greek, "the bema-seat of Christ"—2 Corinthians 5:10)

- H. Bulla (Bullae): Seal impression stamped on a lump of clay or other plastic material, used in antiquity to seal documents.
- I. Capital: The topmost section or member of a classical column or pilaster.
- J. Casemate: A room built within a defensive wall. A casemate wall is a double wall with a row of casemates between its outer and inner faces; a double wall with partitioned compartments, sometimes used for storage or dwellings.
- K. Ceramic Typology: The observation of changing patterns or forms in ancient ceramic pottery, used to establish chronological sequence in dating.
- L. Codex (Codices): Ancient manuscript(s) bound in the form of a book (especially a Bible) rather than a scroll; book of laws in the Byzantine period.
- M. Cuneiform Script: The wedge-shaped writing originally developed from about 3000 BC by the Sumerians in southern Iraq to write on clay tablets. It was later adapted for writing a number of other languages (Sumerian, Hurrian, Urartian, Hittite, Elamite, Ugaritic, and most notably Akkadian), spoken by the earliest Semitic inhabitants of Iraq, and then used as the international diplomatic language until superseded by Aramaic under the Persian Empire. At Ras Shamra (Ugarit) it was specially modified to write the local language in a wedge-shaped alphabet. Cuneiform was written by pressing the end of a flat stylus, or stick, into moist clay tablets. This produced wedge-shaped impressions, since the writer tended to press his stylus harder on one side.
- N. Cursive: Rapid, handwritten form of a script.
- O. Cylinder Seal: Cylinder (usually of stone) carved with figures, designs, or writing; when the seal is rolled on to a soft substance, a continuous band of relief is imprinted; a typical Mesopotamian object, usually pierced for suspension.
- P. Forum (Fora): In Roman cities, an open square for public affairs; marketplace. In Greek cities it was known as the *agora*.
- Q. *In Situ* (Literally, "at the site," "in place"): Used to designate the precise position in which artifacts and architectural fragments were originally found.
- R. Lachish Letters: Ostraca inscribed in Hebrew, found at Lachish, and dated to the last days of Judah. The ostraca contain important information about this period.
- S. Maximalist (Biblical): A biblical scholar who gives maximum authority to the biblical text as a source for historical and factual information about the past.
- T. Minimalist (Biblical): A biblical scholar who minimalizes the biblical text as an authoritative source for reliable historical and factual information about the past.
- U. *Miqveh* (*Miqvaot*) (Hebrew "ritual bath"): Facility for Jewish ritual bathing, either public or in a private home.
- V. Ossuary: A box, urn, or other receptacle for the bones of the dead after the flesh has decayed (secondary burial).

- W. Ostrakon (Ostraca): Greek for "potsherd"; used by archaeologist to describe any fragment of pottery, bone, or wood that has writing on it. Because papyrus was expensive, ostraca were commonly used in Egypt and Palestine for everyday writing purposes in the local cursive scripts, but not the cuneiform script.
- X. Papyrus (Papyri): A writing material or paper made from the papyrus reed growing in the Nile River. Widely used in ancient times.
- Y. Parchment: Refers to writing paper that, in ancient times, was made from animal skins or vellum.
- Z. Potsherds: Broken pieces of ceramic pottery found in excavations. It's typically the most abundantly preserved evidence in archaeological remains.
- AA. Stele (Stelai): an upright slab or stone pillar used for inscriptions, reliefs, and tombstones. Stelai served a variety of purposes in the ancient world: as funerary monument, as monuments commemorating royal victories, and for dedications to gods.
- AB. Stoa: A long, covered walk or hall with columns in front; a colonnade or portico; Greek freestanding building, usually one story high, consisting of a long rear wall and a row of columns in front bearing a sloping roof.
- AC. Stratification: The layers of a mound created by successive destructions; superimposed occupational layers as they are uncovered in excavation.
- AD. Stratigraphy: The process of observing, interpreting, and recording the layers of a mound created by successive destructions. This is one of the major interpretative principles of field archaeology borrowed from geology. It depends on the fact that where one deposit of debris overlies another, the upper must have accumulated after the lower, since the latter could not have been inserted beneath it. In practice there are numerous modifications to this general rule, for many acts of nature, from earthquakes to burrowing animals, will disturb any orderly sequence of deposits as will interference by man (pits, graves, fills, foundation trenches, and so on). It is the modern archaeologist's main purpose to distinguish one deposit from another by its texture, color, or contents (which may of course include intruders from other levels), and to draw diagrams (sections) of a site's stratigraphy so that others may check the interpretation. The various layers of debris so recognized are conventionally called either levels or strata.
- AE. Stratum (Strata): A layer of soil containing artifacts and debris representing a particular time and culture at a site; the combination of all loci belonging to one construction, habitation, and destruction cycle, representing one historical and cultural period of habitation at a site; usually distinguished from one another by differences in soil makeup, architecture, artifacts, and so on.

A.F. Tell (Tel): The Arabic word (with *onel* in Hebrew) used in reference to the unnatural mounds created by the repeated destruction and rebuilding of ancient cities and villages on the same site. The word is now used in most languages for such mounds throughout the Near East. This same word appears in the Hebrew text of Joshua 11:13: "cities that stood on their tells."

II. Ancient languages unlocked

1. Rosetta Stone

A. Napoleon

B. Champollion

C. Languages

(1) Hieroglyphics

(2) Egyptian

(3) Greek

D. Unlocked the Egyptian Hieroglyphic

2. Behistun Rock

A. Location

B. Rawlinson

(1) Great danger

C. Unlocked Assyrian/Babylonian

III. Herod the Builder

1. Masada

2. Herodium

3. Caesarea

4. Jerusalem

A. Temple

5. Machaerus

IV. Capernaum

1. Location

2. Synagogue

3. Peter's house

4. Magdala

V. Chorazin

1. Synagogue

A. Moses' seat

VI. Dan

1. Location

2. Biran

3. Inscription (Dan)

4. "House of David"

5. Religion

6. Gate

VII. Hezekiah

1. Route

2. Inscription

3. History

VIII. Lachish

1. Tel

2. Letters

IX. Inscriptions with Bible names

1. Bullas/Seals

2. Jezebel

3. King Hoshea's Minister

4. Shema Seal

5. Caiaphas

X. Misc.

1. Crucifixion

2. Roads

3. Jesus Stairs

4. Hammurabi

5. Galio

6. Libertines