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Proofs for
the
BIBLE



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THE FLOOD

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The Sumerian King List

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THE FLOOD

The Sumerian King List

- ❧ The Sumerians established the first civilization in the biblical world.
- ❧ Several clay tablets and prisms containing the list of their kings have been found in the ruins of Mesopotamia.

THE FLOOD

The Sumerian King List

☞ Surviving copies of the Sumerian king list date to c. 2100 BC.



THE FLOOD

The Sumerian King List

- ❧ The list of Sumerian kings is divided into two groups.
- ❧ The first group is composed of those who ruled before a great flood.
- ❧ The second group is composed of those who ruled after it.

THE FLOOD

The Sumerian King List

- ✎ The lengths of reigns (and life spans) of these kings drastically decreased after the flood, as did life spans of people recorded in the Bible.

An Ancient Flood Story

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THE FLOOD

An Ancient Flood Story

- Accounts of a massive flood are found in many cultures.
- The Gilgamesh Epic (the saga of an ancient Babylonian king, Gilgamesh) includes an expanded flood story on Tablet 11, similar to the flood story in Genesis 6–9.

THE FLOOD

An Ancient Flood Story

🌀 The best known copy of the Epic was found at Nineveh on a series of baked clay tablets.



THE FLOOD



Tablet 11 of the Gilgamesh Epic tells of a great flood brought on earth by the wrath of gods.

THE FLOOD

An Ancient Flood Story

- ❧ The Gilgamesh Epic includes a hero who is told to build a ship.
- ❧ He is instructed to take every kind of animal along.
- ❧ The hero also uses birds to check if the water had receded.

THE FLOOD

An Ancient Flood Story

- ❧ Copies of the Epic and other flood stories have been found in the Near East.
- ❧ The popularity of the flood theme argues for its historicity and supports the flood of Noah's time.

THE FLOOD



Copied piece from the 15th century BC, found in Megiddo.

THE PATRIARCHS

Ur, Hometown of Abraham

Beni Hasan Tomb Painting

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Boghazkoy, Hittite Capital

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Haran, Home of the Patriarchs

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Ur, Hometown of Abraham

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THE PATRIARCHS

Ur, Hometown of Abraham

☪ Ur (in Iraq today) is mentioned four times in the Bible as the hometown of Abraham.

☪ It was occupied from the 4th millennium BC.



THE PATRIARCHS

Ur, Hometown of Abraham

- ❧ Excavations of Ur have continued off and on since the 1800s.
- ❧ The famous Royal Tombs at Ur (c. 2500 BC) reveal gold and silver objects of great beauty.
- ❧ Finds show that Abraham's ancestral home had been a powerful city-state before it fell.



THE PATRIARCHS



Part of the “Standard of Ur,” from the Royal Tombs, made before Abraham, show Sumerian people.

THE PATRIARCHS

Ur, Hometown of Abraham

☞ If Ur's decline and fall came during Abraham's time, perhaps archaeology has provided another clue as to why Abraham's father relocated his family to Haran.

(Genesis 11:31; 15:7; Nehemiah 9:7; Acts 7:2-4)



Beni Hasan Tomb Painting

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THE PATRIARCHS

Beni Hasan Tomb Painting

- ❧ This ancient Egyptian tomb painting, dating close to the time of Abraham, shows a caravan of people from Palestine carrying merchandise for trade in Egypt.
- ❧ They carried eye paint to sell and armed themselves with bows and spears.



THE PATRIARCHS

Beni Hasan Tomb Painting

✚ Dating to around 1900 BC, this tomb painting, with words and pictures on it, shows how Old Testament people from the time of Abraham and Sarah looked, how they dressed, their hair styles, and even a musical instrument of the day (lyre).



THE PATRIARCHS



Part of the Beni Hasan tomb painting showing Semitic people from Canaan.

THE PATRIARCHS

Beni Hasan Tomb Painting

- ✎ The weapons they used (spear, bow and arrow, ax, sword) depict some of the armaments available to Abraham (Genesis 14).



The Law Code of Hammurapi

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THE PATRIARCHS

The Law Code of Hammurapi

- ✎ This black diorite stele (a carved upright stone slab) was commissioned around 1750 BC by Hammurapi (Hammurabi), king of Babylon.
- ✎ It contains about 300 laws.



THE PATRIARCHS

The Law Code of Hammurapi

☞ The stele was found, partially defaced, at Susa (in Iran today) where it was taken as loot in the 12th century BC.



THE PATRIARCHS



On top of the Code of Hammurapi, the king is shown in front of a seated deity, Marduk.

THE PATRIARCHS



The king's laws are written on the remainder of the stele for public display. The stele is more than seven feet tall.

THE PATRIARCHS

The Law Code of Hammurapi

- Some of the laws, and the way they are written, are remarkably similar to those found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.
- This indicates that a “common law” existed in the ancient Near East.



THE PATRIARCHS

The Law Code of Hammurapi

- ❧ For example, *lex talionis* (“an eye for an eye”) is found in both the law code of Hammurapi and in Exodus 21:24.
- ❧ Unlike Hammurapi’s law, the biblical law is between God and His people.



Boghazkoy, Hittite Capital

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THE PATRIARCHS

Boghazkoy, Hittite Capital

- ❧ Although Hittites are mentioned often in the Old Testament, almost nothing was known about them until modern times.
- ❧ One hundred years ago, critics thought the Hittites were an imaginary people made up by the biblical authors.



THE PATRIARCHS

Boghazkoy, Hittite Capital

- ❧ The ancient Hittites' large capital city has been discovered about 90 miles east of Ankara, Turkey.
- ❧ The Hittite's rule extended to Syria and Lebanon.



THE PATRIARCHS

Boghazkoy, Hittite Capital

- ✎ Excavations uncovered fortified gateways, temples, and a large archive.
- ✎ The city fell around 1200 BC.



Warrior god from King's Gate.



THE PATRIARCHS



Hittite artifacts shown at the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations at Ankara, Turkey.

THE PATRIARCHS

Boghazkoy, Hittite Capital

- ❧ Finding the Hittite's empire forced that claim to be withdrawn and supported the biblical record.
- ❧ The find also helps explain the language, history and literature of people who appear in the Old Testament and ruled in the 2nd millennium BC.



Nuzi Tablets

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THE PATRIARCHS

Nuzi Tablets

Excavations at the ancient city of Nuzi east of the Tigris River turned up over 20,000 baked clay tablets.



THE PATRIARCHS

Nuzi Tablets

- ✎ Dating between 1500-1401 BC, many of these tablets, with cuneiform writing on them, reveal customs and stories very similar to those found in Genesis 15-31, such as marriage, adopting an heir, surrogate motherhood, and inheritance.



THE PATRIARCHS

Nuzi Tablets

- Because culture changed very slowly in the ancient Near East, the tablets help explain some of the common practices and background which are found in earlier biblical events of the patriarchal period (2000-1500 BC).



Haran, Home of the Patriarchs

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THE PATRIARCHS

Haran, Home of the Patriarchs

- ❧ The cities of Ur and Haran both had the moon god as their main deity.
- ❧ Terah, father of Abraham, worshiped “other gods” (Joshua 24:2) and moved his family from Ur, in southern Mesopotamia (Iraq today), to Haran in the north (Genesis 11:27-31).



THE PATRIARCHS

Haran, Home of the Patriarchs

✚ A village of Harran (Haran) exists in Turkey today, and has been found to stand atop the ancient one from the Old Testament period.



THE PATRIARCHS

Haran, Home of the Patriarchs

- ✚ Also found near Haran are villages that still bear the names of Abraham's great-grandfather and grandfather, Serug and Nahor, as mentioned in Genesis 11:22-26.
- ✚ Haran was the father of Lot (Genesis 11:27).



Shechem

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THE PATRIARCHS

Shechem

- ❧ Shechem is important in many biblical stories.
- ❧ It was a city of refuge for anyone who unintentionally caused death (Joshua 20).



THE PATRIARCHS

Shechem

- Shechem was strategically placed in the central hill country.
- It controlled all the roads in the area, but its location made the city vulnerable to attack.



THE PATRIARCHS

Shechem

- ✚ Excavations in the city of Shechem reveal a city with walls made of large megalithic stones and the city gate system.
- ✚ The most important find is a fortress-temple of Baal from the story of Abimelech (Judges 9:46).



THE PATRIARCHS

Shechem

- ❧ People could find refuge in the temple from enemies.
- ❧ Before Abimelech, Abraham and Jacob built altars to God in the area of Shechem (Genesis 12, 33).
- ❧ After the Exodus, the Israelites renewed their covenant with God at Shechem (Joshua 24).



THE PATRIARCHS

Shechem

- ❧ In the 10th century BC, King Jeroboam I fortified the city and made it the capitol of the kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 12:25).
- ❧ Shechem's vulnerability to attack may be one reason the capitol was moved shortly after Jeroboam I died.



THE PROMISED LAND

Pithom and Raamses

Megiddo (Armageddon)

Horned Altars

Ashkelon

Mereneptah Stele

Gezer

Picture of Israelites

Shiloh

Jericho

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Pithom and Raamses

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THE PROMISED LAND

Pithom and Raamses

- ❧ According to Exodus 1, the Hebrews were slaves in the Egyptian cities of Pithom and Raamses before the Exodus.
- ❧ The Egyptians forced the Hebrews to make bricks, both with and without straw (Exodus 1:14a ; 5:7-19).



THE PROMISED LAND

Pithom and Raamses

- ❧ The location of Raamses is now associated with Qantir (Tell el-Dab'a).
- ❧ Pithom was within the Wadi Tumilat, a natural corridor in and out of Egypt, but its exact location is not yet settled.



THE PROMISED LAND

Pithom and Raamses

- ❧ Ongoing excavations at Tell el-Dab'a (Raamses) have revealed a prosperous ancient city with many monuments, temples, and buildings.
- ❧ Tell el-Retaba is thought to be the most probable location of Pithom, but sufficient excavation has not been done at the site.



Horned Altars

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THE PROMISED LAND

Horned Altars

- ❧ The Old Testament speaks of horned incense altars at least 20 times.
- ❧ This find shows how horned altars were shaped.
- ❧ The Bible tells how they were used.
- ❧ One was in the Tabernacle.



THE PROMISED LAND

Horned Altars

- ✚ The Lord told Moses to make an acacia-wood horned altar five cubits long, five cubits broad, and three cubits high with the horns of it at the four corners and overlaid with brass (Exodus 27:2; 1 Kings 1:50).



THE PROMISED LAND

Horned Altars

- Excavations have turned up some excellent examples of horned altars.
- Horned altars made of stone have been found at places like Dan and Beersheba.



THE PROMISED LAND

This reconstructed horned altar dates from the 10th century BC and was found at the city of Beersheba. It was most likely a pagan altar. It was obviously made of dressed (cut) stone, a practice prohibited by the Lord in Exodus 20:25.



Merneptah Stele

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THE PROMISED LAND

Merneptah Stele

- ❧ The Merneptah (Merenptah) Stele is also called The Israel Stele.
- ❧ The hieroglyphic text of the stele made in Egypt describes the victories of Pharaoh Merneptah around 1230 BC over the Libyans and people of Palestine.



THE PROMISED LAND

Merneptah Stele

- ❧ The Merneptah Stele stands more than seven feet high.
- ❧ It contains the earliest extrabiblical mention of the name “Israel” thus far known.
- ❧ The Egyptian pharaoh brags of a victory over Israel around 1230 BC.



THE PROMISED LAND



This photograph shows the part of the inscription where it says *foreign nation Ysyrial* (line 27).

THE PROMISED LAND



Twice the god Amon-Re and Merneptah are depicted in the center, with goddess Mut at left and god Khonsu at right.

THE PROMISED LAND

Merneptah Stele

- ✚ Although this battle between Egypt and Israel is not mentioned in the Old Testament, the stele does show that the Israelites were in fact living in the Promised Land at that time, and that their entrance into the land had already taken place by 1230 BC.



The Oldest Picture of Israelites

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THE PROMISED LAND

The Oldest Picture of Israelites

- ✚ In Egypt, on a long wall of the great Karnak Temple, is a recently identified scene of the aftermath of a battle between the Egyptians and Israelites dating to about 1209 BC.

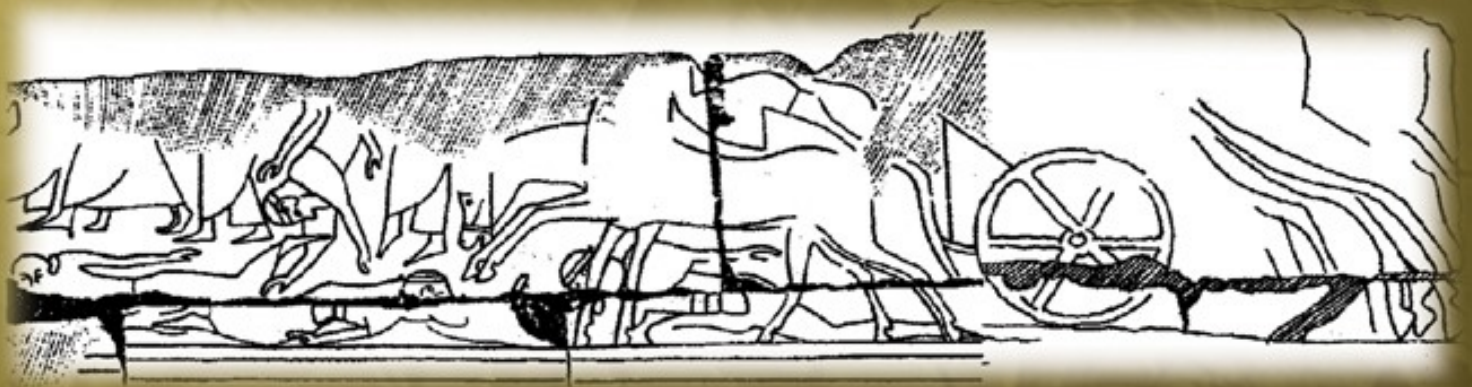


THE PROMISED LAND



Karnak Temple, Egypt

THE PROMISED LAND



The drawing (above) of the carved scene shows possibly the Israelites vanquished by the armies of Pharaoh Merneptah. Scene 4 of the Karnak Temple relief, Thebes (Luxor).

THE PROMISED LAND

The Oldest Picture of Israelites

- ❧ Carved about 200 years after the time of Moses and Joshua, this battle scene is by far the earliest picture of Israelites ever discovered.



THE PROMISED LAND

The Oldest Picture of Israelites

- ❧ This same event is also told of on the Merneptah Stele.
- ❧ It shows that the Exodus had taken place and the Israelites were living in the Promised Land by 1200 BC.



Jericho

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THE PROMISED LAND

Jericho

- ❧ The biblical importance of Jericho is underscored by the fact that it is referred to more than 50 times in the Old Testament.
- ❧ Perhaps the most significant references are those in Joshua 6.



THE PROMISED LAND

Jericho

- ❧ Joshua 6 tells of the Israelite conquest of the city, their first victory in the Promised Land.
- ❧ Archaeology has shown where the city once stood, and that it guarded the key spot for entering into the Promised Land from the east.



THE PROMISED LAND

Jericho

✚ The earliest ruins at Jericho date to the Stone Age (Neolithic).



THE PROMISED LAND

Jericho

- ❧ There's debate over whether Joshua's wall of Jericho has been found.
- ❧ Massive erosion has removed much of the remains of that period, and mud bricks could easily erode away over the centuries.



THE PROMISED LAND

Jericho

- ❧ A tower found in the Jericho ruins dates back before Abraham's time.
- ❧ The tower is made from stones obtained when the surrounding moat was cut.
- ❧ It was connected to a mudbrick wall.



THE PROMISED LAND



Tower found in the Jericho ruins

The Philistines

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THE PROMISED LAND

The Philistines

❧ The earliest known record of the Philistines was carved on the wall of an Egyptian temple at Thebes (Luxor) around 1175-1150 BC.



THE PROMISED LAND

The Philistines

- ❧ Philistines are mentioned over 200 times in the Old Testament.
- ❧ This temple record shows when the main wave of Philistines tried to invade Egypt.



THE PROMISED LAND

At the Temple of Rameses III, the Philistines are both pictured and listed as being one of several groups of “Sea Peoples” invading the coastal plains from Egypt to Palestine.



THE PROMISED LAND

The Philistines

- ❧ From Samson (Judges 14-16) to David (1 Samuel 17), the Israelites battled constantly against the Philistines for control of much of the Promised Land.
- ❧ This record depicts the dress and armor the Philistines might have worn as they interacted with the Israelites.



THE PROMISED LAND



The Sea Peoples' boat (right side of picture) being defeated by the Egyptians.

Canaanite Gods and Goddesses

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THE PROMISED LAND



Astarte

The Old Testament repeatedly refers to gods and goddesses, like Baal and Ashtaroath (Asherah or Astarte), which were worshiped by the Canaanites living among the Israelites in the Promised Land.

THE PROMISED LAND

Canaanite Gods and Goddesses

- ❧ The prophets of Israel strongly warned God's people not to worship these false gods in Numbers 25, 1 Kings 11, Jeremiah 23, and Hosea 13.



THE PROMISED LAND

Between 1929-1939 excavators found hundreds of stories about Canaanite gods and goddesses written on clay tablets among the ruins of the ancient city of Ugarit, in modern Syria.



THE PROMISED LAND

Canaanite Gods and Goddesses

- ❧ These finds reveal many details about the Canaanite religion.
- ❧ They help us better understand how prevalent idol worship was in Israelite cities and show the challenge for the children of Israel to worship the one true God.



Dan (Laish)

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THE PROMISED LAND

Dan (Laish)

- ❧ The city of Dan was originally a Canaanite stronghold that was conquered by the tribe of Dan (Judges 18).
- ❧ Dan has more artifacts of biblical significance than almost any other city found so far.



THE PROMISED LAND

Dan (Laish)

- ⌘ According to Judges 20:1, Israel's northern boundary was the city of Dan.
- ⌘ The book of Judges tells us that the children of Dan destroyed a Canaanite city by sword and fire and built their own city.



THE PROMISED LAND

Dan (Laish)

- ❧ The Israelites named the city Dan and set up graven images.
- ❧ The High Place where Jeroboam I erected a gold calf has been found in Dan (1 Kings 12:28-31).



THE PROMISED LAND

Dan (Laish)

- ✚ Excavations show that the large and well-fortified Canaanite city was destroyed around 1150 BC, after which the city was rebuilt, with Israelite artifacts found thereafter.



THE PROMISED LAND



The 4000-year-old mud-brick Gate of Dan from the Middle Bronze Age shows gate system construction in the patriarchal period.

Megiddo (Armageddon)

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THE PROMISED LAND

Megiddo (Armageddon)

- ❧ Megiddo is on a hill beside a wide plain, a strategic location for many battles.
- ❧ Although Joshua defeated the armies of Megiddo's Canaanite king (Joshua 12:21), the Israelites failed to conquer the city then.



THE PROMISED LAND

Megiddo (Armageddon)

- ❧ Not until the time of David or Solomon did Megiddo come under Israelite control.
- ❧ The gate found at Megiddo was like those associated with Solomon's reign.



THE PROMISED LAND

Megiddo (Armageddon)

- ❧ Solomon made Megiddo a fortress city in the 900s BC (1 Kings 4:12; 9:15).
- ❧ Later, in 609 BC , King Josiah of Judah was killed in a battle against the Egyptians on the plain beside Megiddo (2 Kings 23:29, 2 Chronicles 35:22).



THE PROMISED LAND

Megiddo (Armageddon)

- ✚ Revelation 16:16 refers to Megiddo (called Armageddon) as the place where the army of Christ battles the forces of Satan in the end times.



THE PROMISED LAND

Megiddo (Armageddon)

✚ Finds reveal ruins of a strong prosperous Canaanite city under ruins of a heavily fortified Israelite city with a strong city gate.



THE PROMISED LAND



The Canaanite bamah (high place)
at Megiddo.

Ashkelon, Philistine Seaport

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THE PROMISED LAND

Ashkelon, Philistine Seaport

- ❧ The Israelites did not conquer Ashkelon (Judges 1:18-19).
- ❧ Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it in 604 BC as predicted by Jeremiah.



THE PROMISED LAND

Ashkelon, Philistine Seaport

- ❧ The prophets Amos, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, and Zechariah all pronounced condemnation upon the city of Ashkelon
(Amos 1:6-8, Jeremiah 25:15-20 and 47:5-7, Zephaniah 2:4-7, Zechariah 9:5).



THE PROMISED LAND

Ashkelon, Philistine Seaport

🌀 Ongoing excavations since 1985 have discovered the large (about 150 acres) and heavily fortified city of Ashkelon.



THE PROMISED LAND

Ashkelon, Philistine Seaport

- ❧ A small bull figurine was found, illustrating pagan worship.
- ❧ There is evidence that Ashkelon was a major seaport that traded with other Mediterranean nations.



THE PROMISED LAND



Ashkelon was one of five major cities of the Philistines (Josh. 13:3 and 1 Sam. 6:17).

Gezer, Gift to King Solomon

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THE PROMISED LAND

Gezer, Gift to King Solomon

- ❧ Gezer did not become an Israelite city during the conquest and settlement of the Promised Land (Joshua 16:10; Judges 1:29).
- ❧ The Egyptian Pharaoh destroyed the city and its Canaanite inhabitants.



THE PROMISED LAND

Gezer, Gift to King Solomon

- After destroying the city, the Pharaoh gave it as a wedding gift when Solomon married his daughter (1 Kings 9:15-17).
- The wedding gift shows that Egypt was pulling out of Palestine and considered Solomon stronger.



THE PROMISED LAND

Gezer, Gift to King Solomon

- ❧ Solomon later rebuilt Gezer as an Israelite stronghold.
- ❧ The similarity of Gezer's gateway to those found at Megiddo and Hazor indicates they were all built by Solomon.



THE PROMISED LAND

Gezer, Gift to King Solomon

☞ At Gezer, archaeologists found clear evidence of Egyptian destruction, as well as a bit of Solomon's defensive walls and the city gate.



THE PROMISED LAND



The Solomonic city gate
in the city of Gezer

Shiloh

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THE PROMISED LAND

Shiloh

- ❧ According to the Old Testament, Shiloh was an important early sanctuary in the Promised Land.
- ❧ The Tent of Meeting (part of the Tabernacle) and the Ark of the Covenant resided at Shiloh after Joshua's conquest (Joshua 18 and 1 Samuel 1-4).



THE PROMISED LAND

Shiloh

- ❧ 1 Samuel 4 tells of Israel moving the ark from Shiloh to a battlefield, hoping it would protect them from the Philistines, but the Philistines captured the ark in battle.
- ❧ Archaeological evidence indicates that sometime later the Philistines destroyed Shiloh.



THE PROMISED LAND

Shiloh

Archaeology at Shiloh has found an Israelite city from Joshua's time and evidence of subsequent destruction by fire.



Ashdod, Where Dagon Fell

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THE PROMISED LAND

Ashdod, Where Dagon Fell

☚ Ashdod was one of the five major Philistine cities mentioned in Joshua 13:3 and 1 Samuel 6:17.



THE PROMISED LAND

Ashdod, Where Dagon Fell

- ✚ In 1 Samuel 5 the Philistines brought the Ark of the Covenant to Ashdod after they captured it in battle.
- ✚ After placing the Ark in the temple of Dagon (the chief Philistine god), the statue of Dagon fell and broke into pieces and the people of the city became infested with tumors.



THE PROMISED LAND

Ashdod, Where Dagon Fell

- ❧ They eventually sent the Ark back to Israel.
- ❧ Some three centuries later the prophet Amos received this word from the Lord, “I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod . . . and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish . . .” (Amos 1:8).



THE PROMISED LAND



“Deity in a Fish-Robe” was often identified as the Philistine god Dagon, 9th century BC, found in Assyria in the 1800s. The true appearance of Dagon is uncertain.

THE PROMISED LAND

Ashdod, Where Dagon Fell

- ❧ Archaeological work between 1962-1969 yielded much new information about Ashdod.
- ❧ No temple of Dagon has been found, but an open area where there had once been a temple has surfaced.



THE PROMISED LAND

Ashdod, Where Dagon Fell

- Archaeologists have found that the Philistine culture had begun to fade away in the city during the 700s BC as Amos prophesied.



Beth Shemesh

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THE PROMISED LAND

Beth Shemesh

✚ According to 1 Samuel 6:12-15, the Philistines returned the captured Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites at Beth Shemesh.



THE PROMISED LAND

Beth Shemesh

- ❧ Later, about 940 BC, Pharaoh Shishak of Egypt invaded and destroyed several cities in the foothills region (2 Chron. 12:2-4).
- ❧ Also, discoveries of massive fortifications and a water supply show Solomon's building activity in the city.



THE PROMISED LAND

Beth Shemesh

- ✚ Excavations at Beth Shemesh have yielded both Philistine and Israelite artifacts, as well as evidence of its destruction as described in 2 Chronicles 12.



THE WILDERNESS

THE PROMISED LAND



Beth Shemesh

Hazor

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THE PROMISED LAND

Hazor

Archaeology has found evidence of fiery destruction of Hazor, the major city of the north during the Conquest, possibly by the forces of Joshua (Joshua 11).



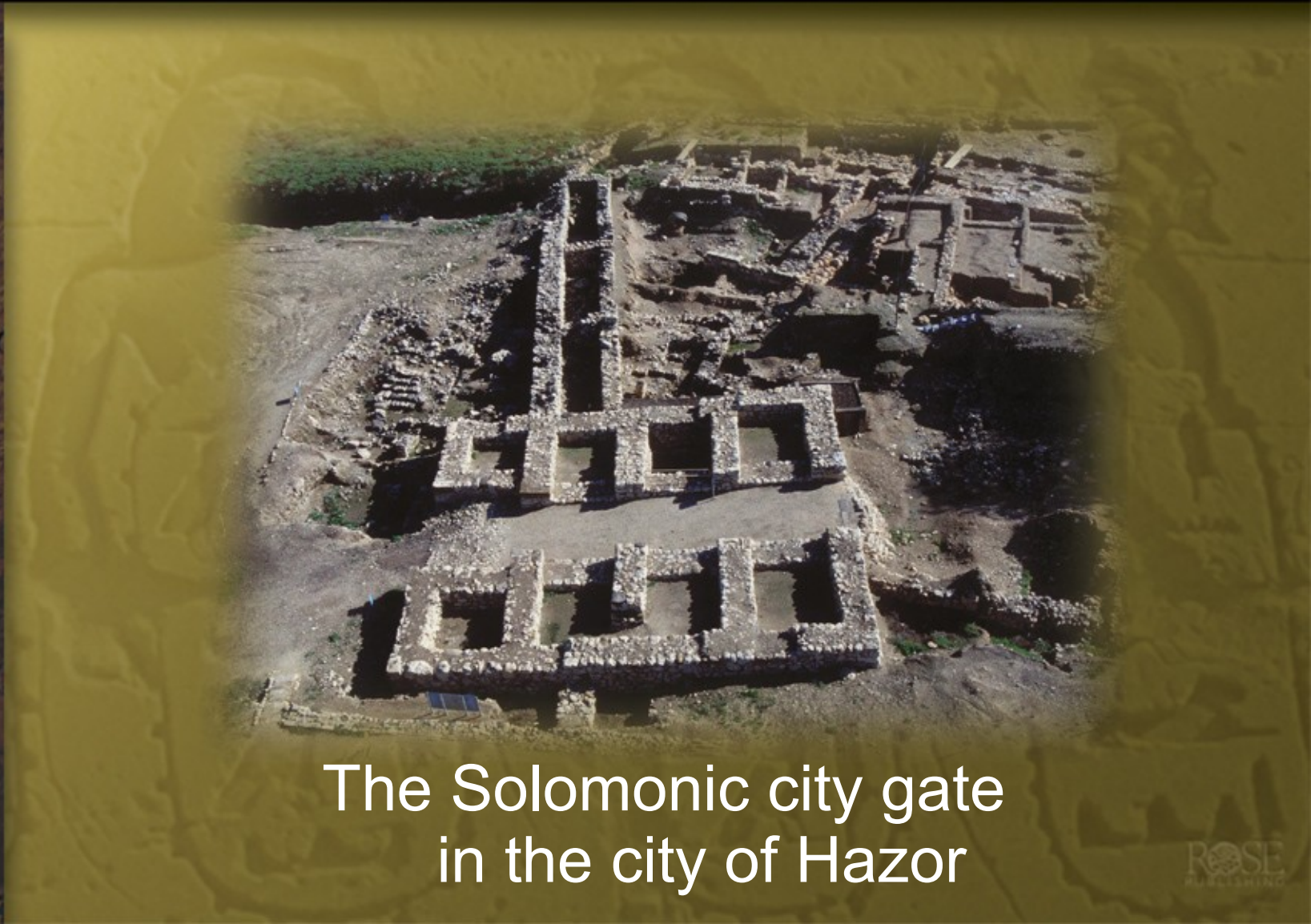
THE PROMISED LAND

Hazor

- ❧ The rebuilding and fortification by Solomon parallels what he did at Megiddo and Hazor.
- ❧ Hazor's distinctive gates were found to be nearly identical to gates of those cities.



THE PROMISED LAND



The Solomonic city gate
in the city of Hazor

THE PROMISED LAND

Hazor

- ❧ Finding that Hazor occupied about 200 acres, far larger than a normal city in that day, provides reason for the Bible calling it “the head.”
- ❧ The city’s king, Jabin, rallied the kingdoms in the north against the Israelites. Yet the forces of Joshua prevailed (Joshua 11).



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Pool at Gibeon

Beersheba

Gibeah

Ivory Ornaments

Beth Shean

The Gezer Calendar

King David's Jerusalem

House of Yahweh

House of David

Hezir Family Tomb

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Pool at Gibeon

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

Pool at Gibeon

- ❧ 2 Samuel 2:13 and Jeremiah 41:12 speak of a great water pool at Gibeon.
- ❧ The find verifies the location of the pool at Gibeon and shows the great effort taken to have a secure source of water.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Pool at Gibeon

- ❧ Dating to before 1000 BC, this pool was found largely intact.
- ❧ The pool was discovered in Gibeon, six miles north of Jerusalem, around 1956.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Pool at Gibeon

- ❧ The pool goes down 80 feet.
- ❧ The original diggers removed 3000 tons of limestone.
- ❧ A tunnel runs under the city to an outside spring.
- ❧ This internal water supply was important in case of siege.

THE UNITED KINGDOM



The Gibeon Pool

Gibeah, King Saul's Capital

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

Gibeah, King Saul's Capital

- ❧ Gibeah was the principal town of the tribe of Benjamin (Judges 19:11-14).
- ❧ It was also Saul's home.
- ❧ He eventually made it his capitol (1 Sam. 10:26; 11:4; and 15:34).
- ❧ Finding Gibeah so close to Jebusite Jerusalem indicates that Saul never fully controlled the land.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Gibeah, King Saul's Capital

Archaeologists have identified Gibeah with the ancient ruins on a hill known today as Tel el-Ful, about three miles north of Jerusalem.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Gibeah, King Saul's Capital

- ❧ Excavations have shown that the site of Gibeah was inhabited about 1100 BC, the time of King Saul.
- ❧ Saul's fortress-palace was found here.
- ❧ It was small and modest compared with the later palaces of David and Solomon.

Beth Shean

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

Beth Shean

Archaeology shows that Canaanites, and possibly Philistines, occupied Beth Shean from the time of the judges until after Saul.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Beth Shean

- ❧ Beth Shean was a city within the tribal allotment of Manasseh (Joshua 17:11).
- ❧ However, the Israelites did not conquer Beth Shean (Judges 1:27), and the Philistines eventually took it.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Beth Shean

- ❧ Later King Saul and his armies fought the Philistines on Mt. Gilboa.
- ❧ King Saul and his sons (all but one) died in the battle.
- ❧ The Philistines hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons from the walls of Beth Shean (1 Samuel 31:10).

THE UNITED KINGDOM



Beth Shean is the large tell (hill) in the background.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Some believe that finding Philistine coffin lids like this one from a nearby cemetery shows that the Philistines occupied the city at or before the time of Saul.



King David's Jerusalem

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

King David's Jerusalem

☞ The City of David Archaeological Project (1978-1985) uncovered much of the buried remains of David's city of Jerusalem.



THE UNITED KINGDOM



City of David, Area G' with the supporting wall of a 10th century BC structure

THE UNITED KINGDOM

King David's Jerusalem

- ❧ Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of David's conquest and a palace that may have belonged to King David himself.
- ❧ The most important find has been that the Siloam spring was guarded by towers.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

King David's Jerusalem

- According to the Old Testament books of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, King David conquered Jerusalem and made it the capitol of Israel.
- Virtually nothing apart from the Bible was known about the city of that time until excavations were done.

The House of David Inscription

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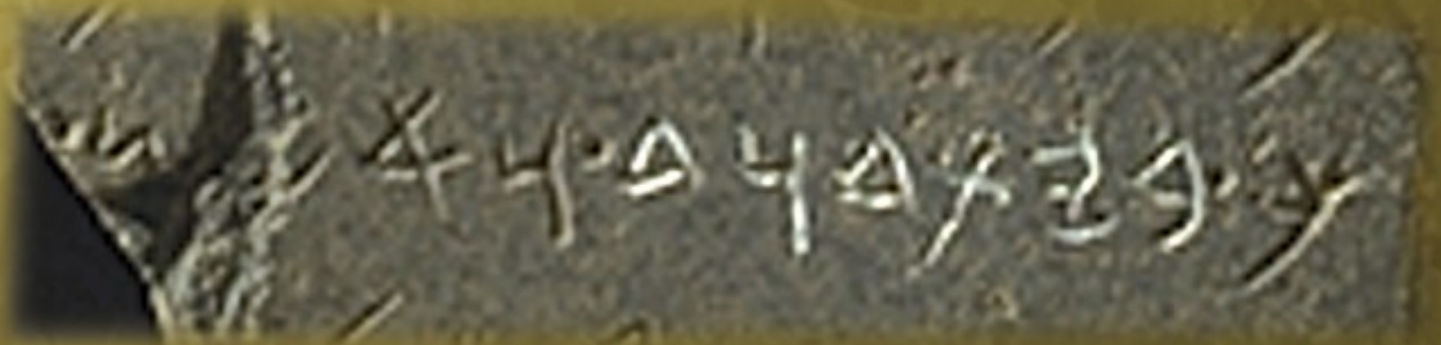
THE UNITED KINGDOM

The House of David Inscription

- An archaeologist working at the Old Testament site of the city of Dan in 1993 and 1994 found three pieces of an inscribed stone referring to David.



THE UNITED KINGDOM



This stone inscribed in Aramaic with the expression “the house of David” refers to King David’s descendants.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

The House of David Inscription

- ❧ The House of David Inscription is also called the Tel Dan Inscription.
- ❧ Originally part of a victory pillar of a neighboring king of Damascus (possibly Hazael), the stone has been dated to two or three centuries after David's time.

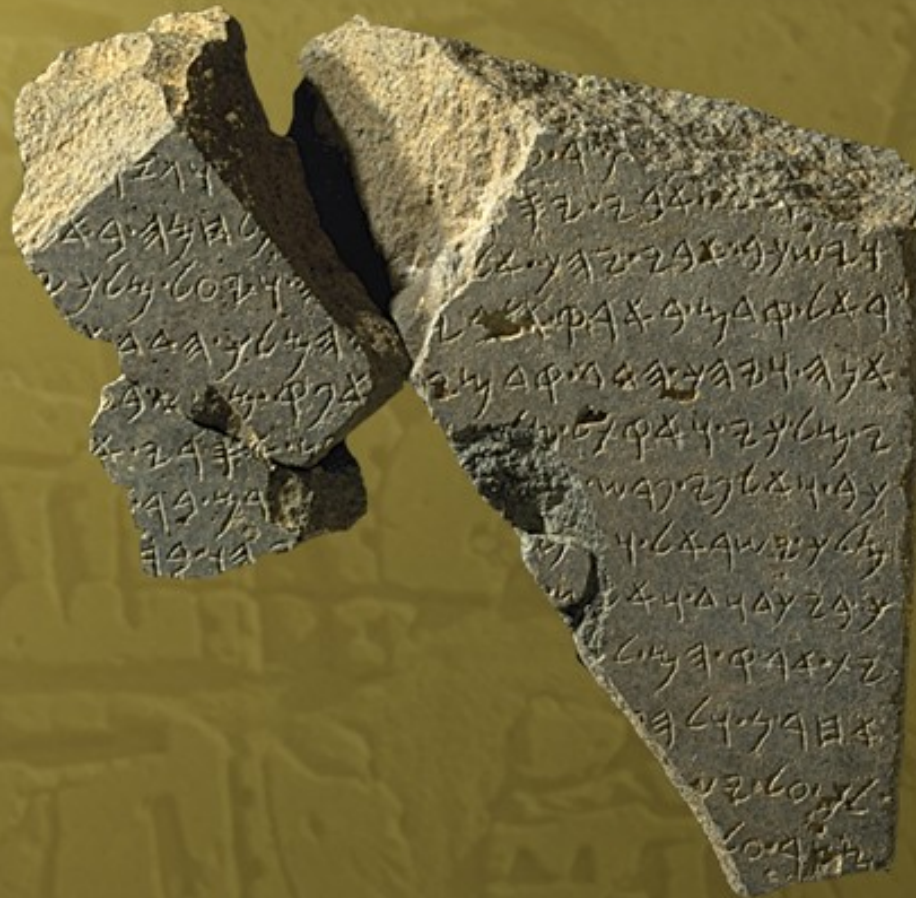


THE UNITED KINGDOM

The House of David Inscription

- It mentions a “king of Israel,” possibly Joram son of Ahab, and a king of the “House of David,” possibly Ahaziah of Judah.
- This inscription is a very important find because it is the first reference to King David found outside of the Bible.

THE UNITED KINGDOM



House of David Inscription
on black basalt stone

Beersheba

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

Beersheba

- Excavations between 1969-1976 uncovered the Israelite city of Beersheba with its strong defensive walls and a massive city gate, built after David's time.



THE UNITED KINGDOM



Beersheba was found to have a large well, long storehouses, and private residences which date to the 1st millennium BC.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Beersheba

- ❧ Beersheba eventually became Israel's key fortress city in the south during the period of King Solomon (1 Kings 4:25).
- ❧ Finding the strong walls and gate supports the biblical account of Beersheba after the time of David.

Ivory Ornaments and Objects

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

Ivory Ornaments and Objects

- Decorative ivory has been found in several sites in Palestine, including Megiddo and Samaria.



THE UNITED KINGDOM



This ivory pomegranate, found in a dealer's shop, possibly an ornament (thought to have been atop a scepter) from Solomon's temple. The inscription says: "Belonging to . . . Holy to the Priest."

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Ivory Ornaments and Objects

- ❧ There is dispute about the authenticity of the inscription.
- ❧ According to 1 Kings 10:18 and 2 Chronicles 9:17, King Solomon “made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold” (1 Kings 10:18).

The Gezer Calendar

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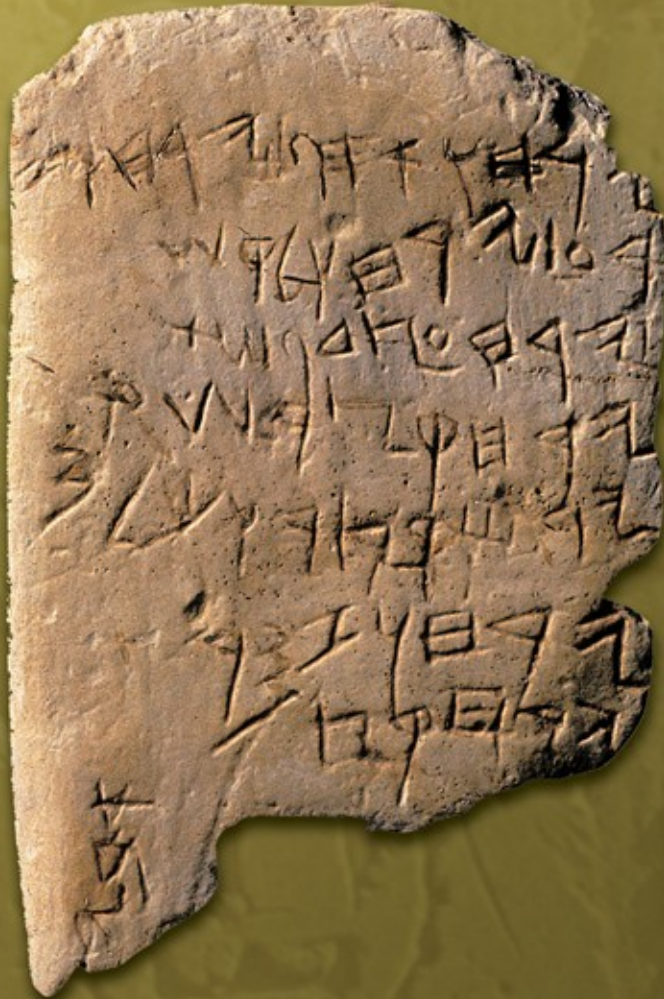
THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Gezer Calendar

- Found at Gezer, one of King Solomon's fortress cities, this tablet contains a school memorization drill—a short poem about the agricultural seasons in biblical Palestine.



THE UNITED KINGDOM



Gezer Calendar.
This small palm-sized limestone tablet bears one of the first known examples of Hebrew writing (971-913 BC).

THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Gezer Calendar

- ❧ The text gives insight into when certain tasks were done during the agricultural year.
- ❧ It shows literacy in the 10th century BC.



House of Yahweh Ostrakon

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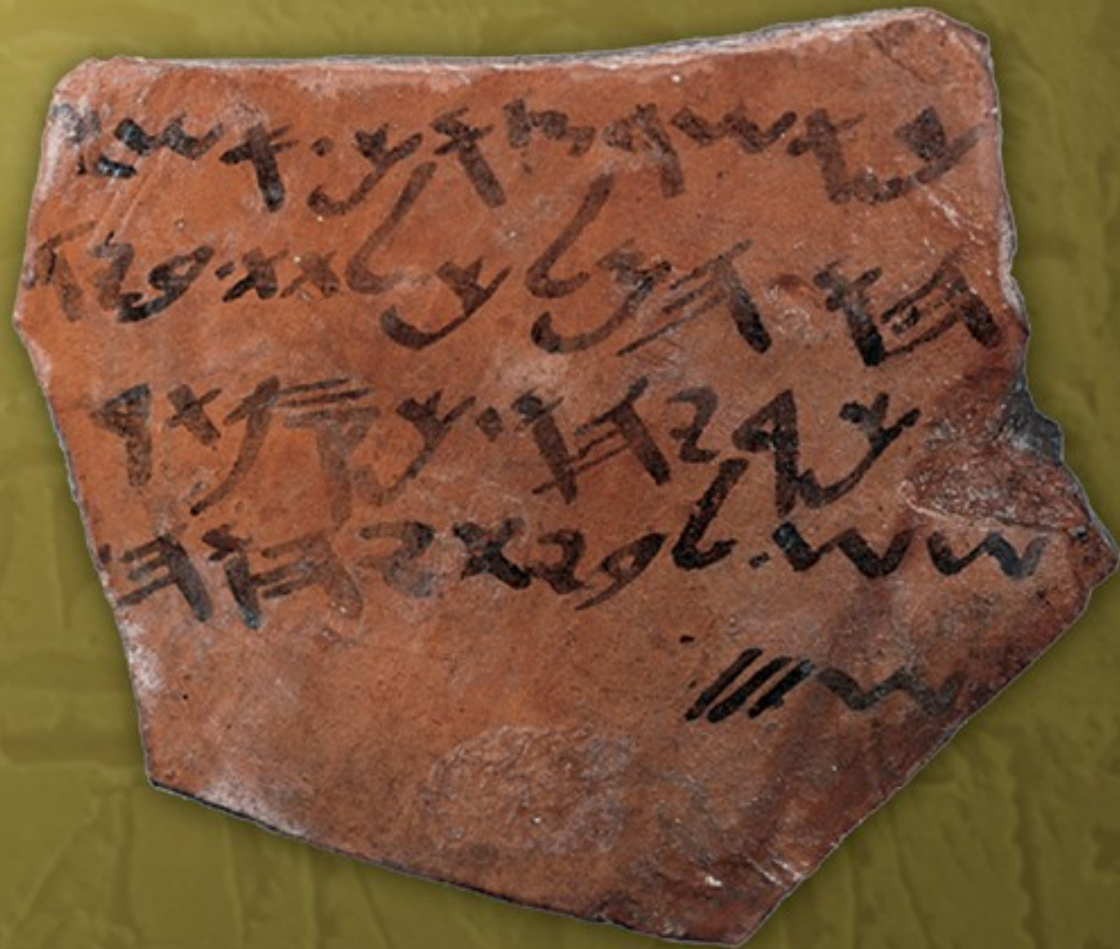
THE UNITED KINGDOM

House of Yahweh Ostracon

- ❧ This find appears to be a receipt for a donation of three shekels of silver to the House of Yahweh (Solomon's Temple).
- ❧ This ostracon (writing on a piece of pottery) is 4 inches wide and 3½ inches tall.
- ❧ The location of the find is unknown.



THE UNITED KINGDOM



House of YHWH ostracon

THE UNITED KINGDOM

House of Yahweh Ostrakon

- ❧ Some scholars date it between 835 and 796 BC, some 130 years after the Temple was built.
- ❧ This extremely important find is the oldest mention of Solomon's Temple that has been found outside the Bible.

Tomb of the Hezir Family

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

Tomb of the Hezir Family

- ✚ In an elaborate tomb complex cut into the wall of Jerusalem's Kidron Valley is a Hebrew inscription identifying the burial cave as belonging to the descendants of Hezir.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Tomb of the Hezir Family

- ❧ The names of three generations of priestly Hezir family members also appear in the inscription.
- ❧ This verifies the existence of this priestly family mentioned in 1 Chronicles 24:15 and Nehemiah 10:20.

THE UNITED KINGDOM



The Tomb of the Priestly Hezir Family

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Tomb of the Hezir Family

- ❧ A list of the Levitical priests during King David's time found in 1 Chronicles 24 includes the name of Hezir.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Tomb of the Hezir Family

- Later, in Nehemiah 10, another priest named Hezir (possibly a descendant of the former Hezir) is listed as one of the priests who signed a covenant to keep God's Law in the restored Temple around 450 BC.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Shishak's Invasion Record

Samaria

Royal Court Seals

The Moabite Stone

Obelisk of Shalmaneser

Uzziah's Burial Plaque

Siloam Tunnel Inscription

The Lachish Reliefs

Sennacherib Prism

Carchemish

The Lachish Letters

Silver Amulets

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Shishak's Invasion Record

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Shishak's Invasion Record

- ❧ According to the Old Testament (1 Kings 14 and 2 Chronicles 12), Shishak invaded Judah during the fifth year of King Rehoboam's reign.
- ❧ Other verses that refer to Thebes (the city of No) in Egypt are Jeremiah 46:25 and Ezekiel 30:14-16.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

...Shishak, king of Egypt, came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the Lord, with twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen; and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt...

—2 Chronicles 12:2, 3



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Shishak's Invasion Record

❧ A record of Pharaoh Shishak's raid has been found carved on a wall in the Karnak Temple of Amun, god of Thebes (Luxor, Egypt today).



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Shishak's Invasion Record

- ❧ The record lists 140 places, including the kingdom of Judah.
- ❧ The Shishak Relief (Sheshonk I) commemorates his victory over Rehoboam when Solomon's Temple was robbed of its riches (c. 925 BC).
- ❧ The relief shows that Egypt raided Israel, not just Judah.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Egyptian goddess Mut holds a club and bow, and leads five rows of captives.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Shishak grasps a group of captives by the hair and strikes them with his club.

Samaria

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Samaria

✚ Few cities are mentioned more times in the Old Testament than Samaria.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Samaria

- ❧ The Bible speaks of this well-fortified city built by King Omri and King Ahab.
- ❧ Many of the Samaritan ruins of the Old Testament period were destroyed when King Herod built over and through earlier levels.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Samaria

- ❧ Excavations have uncovered much of the city and have found it to have been extravagant, prosperous, and strong.
- ❧ For most of the history of the kingdom of Israel, Samaria was the third, and last, capitol of the Northern Kingdom.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Samaritan ivory
furniture inlay,
8th century BC

Seals from the Royal Courts

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Seals from the Royal Courts

- ✚ Excavations at several sites in modern Israel and antiquity shops have turned up carved semi-precious stones belonging to members of the royal courts of kings in the Old Testament.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Seals from the Royal Courts

- ❧ Dating from about 900 to 600 BC, these stones were used to press images into pieces of clay that sealed up kings' important documents.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Seals from the Royal Courts

- ❧ One of the most famous seals, found at Megiddo, depicts a lion with the words, “belonging to Shema, servant of Jeroboam.”
- ❧ Seals with the names of other kings were found also (see 1 and 2 Kings).



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



The seal above says “SHLOMO”
(Solomon) in Hebrew.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Seals from the Royal Courts

- Seals were found for:
 - Uzziah (around 760 BC)
 - Hoshea (around 730 BC)
 - Hezekiah (around 700 BC)



The Moabite Stone

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Moabite Stone

- ❧ On this stone King Mesha brags of having driven the Israelites out of his land.
- ❧ 2 Kings 3 tells that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel after the death of King Ahab of Israel.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Moabite Stone

- ❧ The Moabite stone is one of the earliest finds that mentions biblical people.
- ❧ The stone says that King Omri and his son Ahab “humbled” Moab for many years.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Moabite Stone

✚ In 1868, a German missionary found a stone slab over three feet tall near Dibon, east of the Dead Sea.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Moabite Stone

- ❧ Inscribed on the stone were the accomplishments of Mesha, king of Moab around 850 BC.
- ❧ This stone is sometimes called the Mesha Stele.
- ❧ The ancient Moabites were relatives of the Israelites according to Genesis 19:37.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



The Moabite Stone
(Mesha Stele)

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Moabite Stone

- ❧ After Ahab's death, King Mesha said he had "triumphed" over Ahab's family and that Israel had "perished forever."
- ❧ Some scholars say that the stone also contains a reference to the "house of David."



The Obelisk of Shalmaneser

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Obelisk of Shalmaneser

- ❧ Dating from 841 BC, this important find is the only picture we have so far of an Israelite king.
- ❧ This is the first mention of tribute paid to Assyria by Israel.
- ❧ King Jehu's reign is mentioned in 2 Kings 9, 10, even though the tribute is not.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Obelisk of Shalmaneser

- ❧ The Black Obelisk was discovered in the palace at Nimrud in 1846.
- ❧ It shows the biblical Jehu, king of Israel, kneeling down and bringing tribute to the Assyrian king, Shalmaneser.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



This 6½-foot-tall black basalt obelisk (four-sided pillar) reports in pictures and words the conquests of Assyrian King Shalmaneser III, enemy of the Israelites.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Part of the inscription (top) reads:
“Tribute of Jehu the Israelite.”

King Uzziah's Burial Plaque

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

King Uzziah's Burial Plaque

- ❧ King Uzziah ruled Judah (792-740 BC) at the time that Amos, Hosea and Isaiah were prophesying.
- ❧ He was 16 years old when he became king and he reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years.
- ❧ As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

King Uzziah's Burial Plaque

- ❧ According to 2 Chronicles 26, Uzziah sinned against the Lord and was stricken with a leprous disease toward the end of his life, and upon his death was buried in a “field of burial that belonged to the kings.”



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

King Uzziah's Burial Plaque

- ❧ A stone plaque, found on the grounds of the Russian church on the Mt. of Olives, reads: "Here, the bones of Uzziah, King of Judah, were brought. Do not open."



The Siloam Tunnel Inscription

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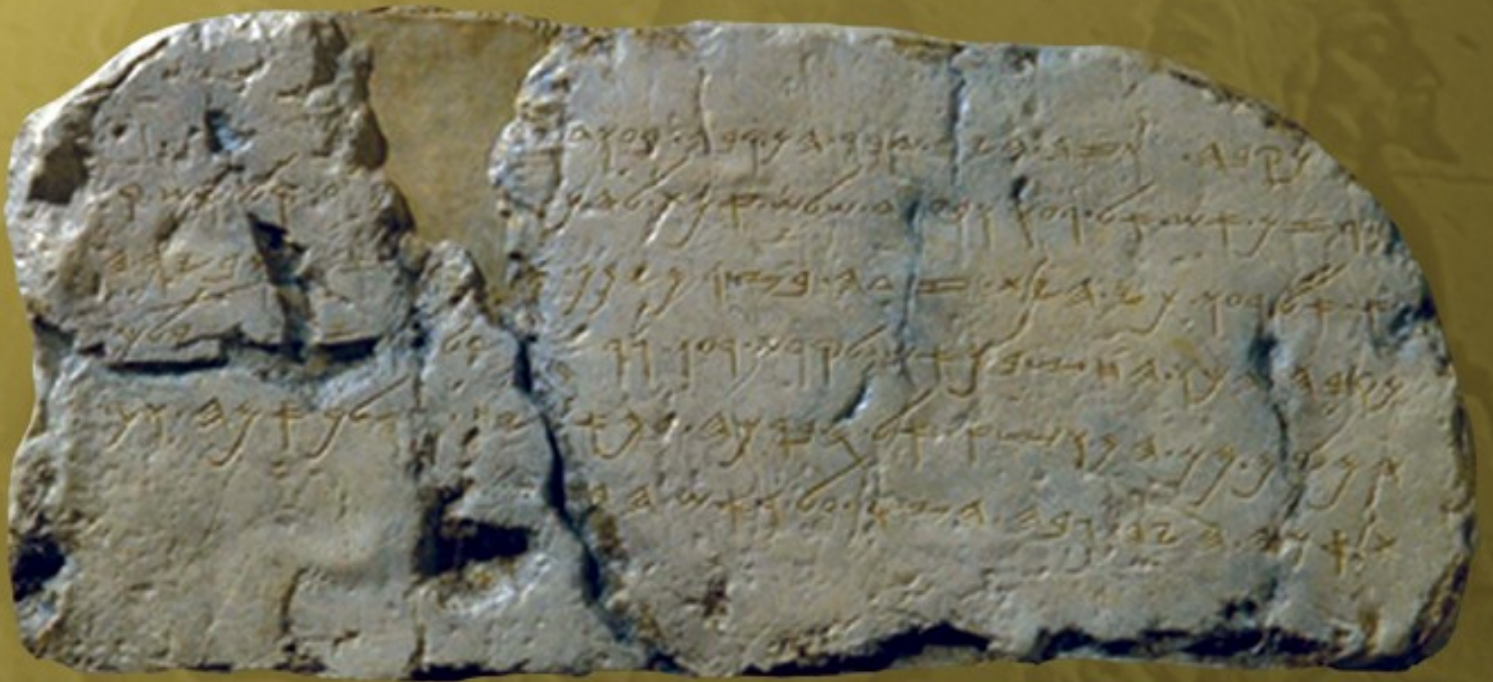
THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Siloam Tunnel Inscription

- ❧ Two boys discovered this ancient Hebrew inscription carved in stone along the wall of a tunnel as they were wading through the tunnel's waters in 1880.
- ❧ The inscription comes from the days of King Hezekiah (701 BC).



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Siloam Tunnel Inscription
found in Hezekiah's Tunnel.

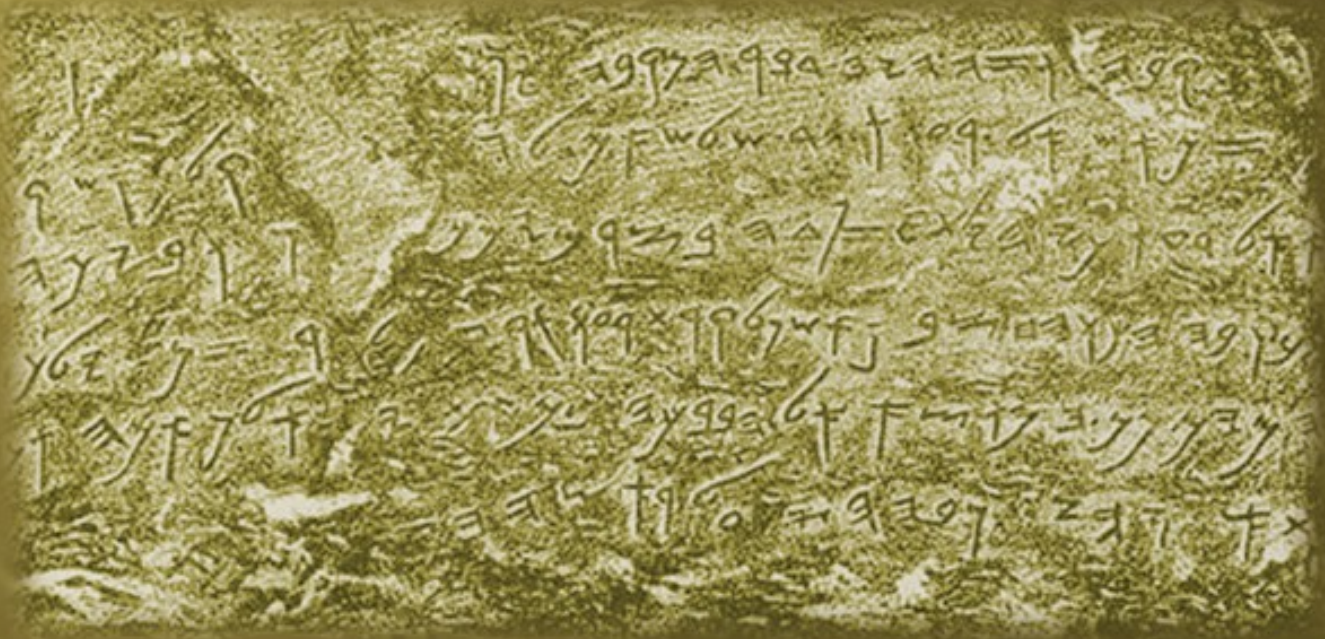
THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Siloam Tunnel Inscription

- ❧ King Hezekiah ordered the tunnel to be made so the water from Jerusalem's Gihon Spring could be brought into the city to a man-made reservoir, the Pool of Siloam.
- ❧ This tunnel provided water to Jerusalem during the anticipated siege of King Sennacherib of Assyria.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



The inscription celebrates the completion of this remarkable tunnel as mentioned in 2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:30.

The Lachish Reliefs

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Reliefs

Among the ruins of the Nineveh palace of Assyrian King Sennacherib were found 62-foot-long reliefs.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Reliefs

These reliefs picture the fall of the Judean fortress of Lachish in 701 BC, over 100 years before the attack on and fall of Judah.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Assyrian troops are shown advancing with stone slingers and archers. Siege towers were wheeled up ramps to batter the city wall.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Reliefs

✎ These Nineveh palace carvings of the Lachish defeat amplify the biblical record concerning the siege of the kingdom of Judah in the days of King Hezekiah.

Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah did Sennacherib, king of Assyria, come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.

—2 Kings 18:13



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Reliefs

- ✚ However, before the Assyrians could capture Jerusalem, they were destroyed by “God’s angel” and Sennacherib withdrew (2 Kings 20:35; 2 Chronicles 32).



Sennacherib Prism

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Sennacherib Prism

- ❧ The Sennacherib prism was found at Nineveh.
- ❧ King Sennacherib of Assyria is mentioned in 2 Kings 18-19.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



This 15-inch tall, six-sided baked clay prism from ancient Assyria contains the story of the invasion of the kingdom of Judah by Sennacherib in 701 BC.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Sennacherib Prism

- ❧ Isaiah prophesied that God would protect Jerusalem against attack by Sennacherib (Is. 36-37, 2 Chron. 32).
- ❧ While the prism does say that the Assyrians trapped Hezekiah in Jerusalem “like a bird in a cage,” like the biblical record, it says nothing of them conquering the city.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Sennacherib Prism

- ❧ The Bible says that God spared Jerusalem.
- ❧ The prism, together with the Lachish reliefs and excavations, adds detail to the biblical account.
- ❧ King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Sennacherib Prism

- ❧ Isaiah brought him God's message.
- ❧ That night the Lord smote 185,000 Assyrians, and Sennacherib went back to Nineveh and later was killed by his sons (Isaiah 37:35-38).



Carchemish

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Carchemish

- ❧ Carchemish was important in biblical history for one key battle.
- ❧ In 605 BC, the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian and Egyptian armies there.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Carchemish

- ❧ This battle destroyed the Assyrians and paved the way for the Babylonians to conquer much of the biblical world, including the kingdom of Judah.
- ❧ In 586 BC, the Babylonians stormed Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Carchemish

- ❧ Jeremiah 46 and 2 Chronicles 35–36 speak of the prophecies and circumstances leading up to the Battle of Carchemish, and the devastating chain of events that followed.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Carchemish

🌀 This city is mentioned only three times in the Bible, but archaeology reveals that it was in a strategic location, desired by the Hittites, Assyrians, and Babylonians.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Sir T.E. Lawrence and Sir Leonard Woolley standing beside a Hittite slab found during excavations at Carchemish, Syria

The Lachish Letters

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Letters

✚ In 1935 several letters (588 BC), written on 21 pottery pieces, were unearthed from among the burned ruins of the ancient city of Lachish.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Letters

- ❧ The Lachish messages were desperate pleas by the Judean defenders of the city for military assistance.
- ❧ Apparently the city was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar before the letters could be sent.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Letters

- ❧ The letters show Judah was trying to obtain help from Egypt, relying on man rather than God.
- ❧ One ostrakon mentions that no fire signals from another defensive city, Azekah, could be seen.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Lachish Letters

- ❧ Jeremiah 34:2-7 prophesied the conquest of Judah, destruction of Jerusalem, and exile to Babylon. (See 2 Kings 24-25.)



Silver Amulets

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Silver Amulets

- ❧ In 1979, while excavating 6th-century BC tombs in Jerusalem, excavators found two small amulets (under two inches long) that looked like necklaces made of silver sheets rolled up like miniature scrolls.
- ❧ They date to about Jehoakim's reign in Judah (2 Chronicles 36).



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Silver Amulets

- When unrolled, each of the scrolls was found to have the prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 scratched on it:

*“The Lord bless thee and keep thee;
The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift
up his countenance upon thee, and give
thee peace.”*

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Silver Amulets

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Silver Amulets

- ❧ This is the first time God's divine name has been found on an artifact from Jerusalem.
- ❧ Dating to about 600 BC, these amulets contain the oldest examples of a Scripture passage yet found.



THE EXILE

Babylon

The Cyrus Cylinder

Susa

The Dead Sea Scrolls

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Babylon

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THE EXILE

Babylon

✚ The ruins of ancient Babylon, capitol of the Babylonian Kingdom, cover 2000-3000 acres in Iraq, 56 miles south of Baghdad.



THE EXILE



The Ishtar Gate was constructed in about 575 BC by order of King Nebuchadnezzar II on the north side of the city. This relief shows the Gate's blue glazed tiles.

THE EXILE

Babylon

- ❧ Babylonian ruins include one of many ziggurats (stepped towers) from the area.
- ❧ Later finds include ruins of the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❧ The palace of King Nebuchadnezzar was the site of Belshazzar's feast in Daniel 5.

THE EXILE

Babylon

- ❧ Jeremiah wrote that the Lord would make Babylon desolate forever (Jeremiah 25:12; 51).
- ❧ The present ruins also echo the prophecy of Isaiah 13:19-20.

The Cyrus Cylinder

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THE EXILE

The Cyrus Cylinder

- ❧ A 9-inch long clay cylinder was found at ancient Babylon and dates to 539 BC.
- ❧ It tells of King Cyrus of Persia's (Iran area today) conquest of Babylon.



THE EXILE

The Cyrus Cylinder

- ✚ It also tells of King Cyrus's decree to let captives held by Babylon return to their lands and restore their temples.
- ✚ King Cyrus also made a similar decree that the Jews, carried away captive to Babylon, could return to Jerusalem.

THE EXILE



The Cyrus Cylinder

THE EXILE

The Cyrus Cylinder

- ✚ Cyrus sent the Jews back to their homeland after many years of exile in Babylon as Isaiah prophesied (2 Chron. 36:23; Ezra 1; Is. 44:28).

THE EXILE

The Cyrus Cylinder

- ✚ This “return-home” decree was one of many issued by Cyrus.
- ✚ Though not mentioning Judah, it confirms that this was Cyrus’s policy and gives credibility to the biblical record.

Susa

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THE EXILE

Susa

✚ Located in modern Iran, Susa's ruins have been excavated by several teams during the last century.



THE EXILE

Susa

- ❧ The most impressive find has been the remains of the elegant royal palace built mainly by Darius (522-486 BC).
- ❧ The book of Esther is set in Susa later.

THE EXILE



Frieze of
life-size
Persian royal
guard from the
palace
of Darius the
Great (father of
Xerxes I)
at Susa.

THE EXILE

Susa

- Susa (“Shushan” in Hebrew) was one of three royal cities during the reign of King Cyrus of Persia.
- Xerxes and Artaxerxes carried on the building of the palace complex.
- Daniel saw a vision in Susa (Daniel 8:2, c. 551 BC).

THE EXILE

A large number of beautiful artifacts and elaborate stone columns were found at Susa, including this inscribed silver bowl of Artaxerxes I (c. 464-424 BC), son of King Xerxes.



THE EXILE

Susa

- ❧ Queen Esther (c. 478 BC) was married to King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) and saved the Jews.
- ❧ Artaxerxes sent Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem (Ez. 7:14-21; Neh. 13:5-8).

The Dead Sea Scrolls

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THE EXILE

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ❧ The Dead Sea Scrolls are actually hundreds of scrolls and scraps that date between 300 BC and AD 70.
- ❧ About one-third of the scrolls contain copies of portions of Old Testament books (every book but Esther).

THE EXILE

The Dead Sea Scrolls

✚ The first collection of scrolls was discovered in 1947 in caves in the Qumran area near the Dead Sea, about seven miles south of Jericho.



THE EXILE



Some of the scrolls were found in jars.

THE EXILE

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ✚ These copies of Old Testament books are over 1000 years older than most of the manuscripts scholars previously had available for study and translation.



THE EXILE

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ✚ This is one of the most important finds in history because it shows that the Old Testament was copied very accurately over the centuries.



THE EXILE

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ❧ When the scrolls were compared with the oldest Masoretic text, on which most modern translations are based, only insignificant differences were found.
- ❧ Therefore we can be confident that our current translations are faithful to the original.

NEW TESTAMENT

THE LIFE OF JESUS

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

PAUL'S MINISTRY

EARLY CHRISTIANITY

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Church of the Nativity

Nazareth

Bethsaida

Cana

Church at Capernaum

Synagogue at Capernaum

Gergesa

Jacob's Well

Jericho

The Pool of Bethesda

Bethany

Pontius Pilate Inscription

Caiphas's Family Tomb

Crucifixion Evidence

Rolling Stone Tombs

Jesus' Burial Place

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The Church of the Nativity

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Church of the Nativity

- ✚ Matthew 2:1-8, Luke 2:4-15, and John 7:42 all identify Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth.
- ✚ Because Joseph and Mary could find no room at the village inn, the newborn Jesus was laid in a manger (animal feedbox).



THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Church of the Nativity

- ❧ It has been assumed that the birth of Jesus took place in a stable.
- ❧ The church marks the place that Christians throughout history identified as Jesus' birthplace.
- ❧ Archaeology and tradition combine in this instance to lend both accuracy and insight to the Gospel accounts.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Church of the Nativity

Archaeology has shown that the use of caves as animal stables in the Holy Land has been a common practice from very ancient times.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Church of the Nativity

- ❧ Ancient records show that for at least two centuries before a church was built, Christians had marked this particular cave as the place of Jesus' birth.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Since AD 326 a building known as the Church of the Nativity has stood over a cave at what was the ancient outskirts of Bethlehem.

Nazareth

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Nazareth

- ✚ Little would be known about the town where Mary received the angelic news that she would give birth to Christ, and where Jesus grew up, if it were not for the Christian holy places and archaeology.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Nazareth

- ✚ Matthew 2:23, 4:13, Mark 1:9, and Luke 1:26-28 give the New Testament accounts of the events connected with Nazareth.
- ✚ John 1:46 also mentions Nazareth.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Nazareth

Today Nazareth is a bustling Arab-Jewish city built atop and around the ancient village, located in the southern hills of lower Galilee.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



The modern Church of the Annunciation stands over an ancient church building.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Nazareth

- ✚ Excavations in and around the church have turned up silos, olive oil presses, foundations of houses, and many artifacts from Christ's time.
- ✚ The nearby Church of St. Gabriel stands over the city's ancient well, and the well is still fed by fresh spring water.



Bethsaida

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethsaida

- ❧ Bethsaida was the birthplace of Peter, Andrew, and Philip, and is mentioned in the Gospels more than any other city except Capernaum and Jerusalem.
- ❧ Jesus pronounced a “woe” (condemnation) upon the city in Matthew 11:21 and Luke 10:13.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethsaida

- ❧ It was destroyed around AD 66-68, and was never rebuilt.
- ❧ Mark 8:22 and John 1:44 also mention Bethsaida.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethsaida

- ❧ Much of the ancient harbor city of Bethsaida has been recovered since 1987 after several seasons of archaeological work.
- ❧ It has finally been placed accurately on biblical maps as a result.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Ruins of Bethsaida

Cana

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Cana

✚ The Gospel of John (John 2:1-11) records the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine during a wedding celebration in the village of Cana.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Cana

Archaeological investigations show that the ruins at Khirbet Qana were a village during the time of Christ.

Its ruins are located about nine miles north of Nazareth.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Cana ruins at Khirbet Qana
date to the time of Christ.

The House Church at Capernaum

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

The House Church at Capernaum

While excavating an early church building at Capernaum in 1968, archaeologists found that the building had been placed over a house from the time of Jesus.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Words were found scratched on the walls of the house indicating that the early Christians believed the house had been that of the apostle Simon Peter.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

The House Church at Capernaum

- ✚ Matthew 8:14, Mark 1:29, and Luke 4:38 all speak of Peter's house and Jesus' visits there.
- ✚ This may be the reason Christians began to worship at this site.



The Synagogue at Capernaum

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Synagogue at Capernaum

- ☞ Capernaum served as Jesus' headquarters during his ministry in Galilee.
- ☞ According to Mark 1:21-28, 3:1-6, Luke 4:31-37, and John 6:59, Jesus both taught and healed people in the synagogue there.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Synagogue at Capernaum

Archaeologists have restored a synagogue that stood there some 350 years after Jesus' time.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Synagogue at Capernaum

- ✚ However, recently it was discovered that this synagogue was built over the foundation of the synagogue from Jesus' time, confirming that this is the place where important Bible events took place.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Left: A newer synagogue at Capernaum was built on the foundation of the black basalt synagogue of Jesus' time (shown at right).

Gergesa

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Gergesa

☪ The location of Gergesa has remained a mystery until recently.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Gergesa

- ✚ In 1970 Israeli archaeologist Vasilios Tzaferis investigated ruins of a Byzantine church from AD 585 uncovered during road construction along the east side of the Sea of Galilee.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Gergesa

- ❧ The excavations turned up an ancient church building, monastery, and chapels.
- ❧ A mosaic-paved chapel had been built at the foot of a steep slope.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Gergesa

- ✚ Dr. Tzaferis concluded that the ancient Christians had built the entire complex here to preserve an early tradition that this was where the miracle occurred in which swine ran off a cliff into the sea.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Gergesa

- ✚ In Matthew 8:28-34 Christ casts demons out of two men into a herd of swine.
- ✚ The swine then ran down a steep place into the Sea of Galilee.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Gergesa

- ❧ Two other possible locations were thought to be Gadara or Gerasa (Mark 5:1-13; Luke 8:26-39) but both are located far from the Sea of Galilee or any steep place.
- ❧ The ruins of the El-Kursi monastery probably mark the location of Gergesa.



Jacob's Well Near Sychar

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jacob's Well Near Sychar

- ☞ John 4:1-42 tells the story of Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.
- ☞ Since ancient times Christian pilgrims have come to the well and have written about it.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jacob's Well Near Sychar

- ☞ The well can be found today beside what archaeologists have identified as the ancient north-south road near Mount Gerizim, in the eastern part of Nablus.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Today the well is still fed by an underground stream, and an unfinished church building covers it.

Jericho

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jericho

- ❧ The Jericho of Jesus' day lay a few miles south of the Old Testament city.
- ❧ Jericho was connected to Jerusalem by means of a 17-mile-long road that ran through a steep valley.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jericho

✚ Jericho is where Herod the Great built many grand buildings at great public expense.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jericho

- ❧ Herod the Great was king when Jesus was born (Matthew 2:1-12).
- ❧ Jericho was the city where Jesus encountered Zacchaeus, a tax collector (Luke 19:2-10).
- ❧ Jericho is also the setting of Jesus' story of "The Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:30-37).



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jericho

- Among the structures discovered there were Herod the Great's winter palace and a hippodrome (stadium for horse races and other spectacles).



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Most of the ruins of Herod the Great's winter palace at Jericho reveal that it was built in the finest Roman style.

The Pool of Bethesda

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Pool of Bethesda

- ❧ Site of Jesus' healing of a paralyzed man (John 5:2-11).
- ❧ Much of the remains of this pool, in Jerusalem, have been unearthed since 1956.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



The ruins of what was the Pool of Bethesda. Portions of the five porticos (roofs supported by columns) mentioned in the Gospel story have been found and can be seen by visitors today.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Pool of Bethesda

✚ John 5:2 (NIV) says, “Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.”



Bethany

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethany

- ❧ The village of Bethany is mentioned 13 times in the New Testament.
- ❧ It is located on the east side of the Mount of Olives, only a short distance from Jerusalem.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethany

- ❧ Bethany was a favorite stopover for Jesus and the disciples when they came to Jerusalem.
- ❧ It was from Bethany's cemetery that Jesus raised Lazarus (John 11).



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethany

- ❧ A village grew around the first-century AD tombs that once comprised Bethany's cemetery.
- ❧ Since early Christian times, one tomb has been said to be that of Lazarus.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Bethany

- ❧ By the AD 300s a church had been built over the tomb of Lazarus, with steps leading down into the tomb.
- ❧ Today visitors can still visit that ancient tomb and reflect on the great miracle Jesus performed there.



The Pontius Pilate Inscription

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Pontius Pilate Inscription

✚ In 1961 archaeologists working at the ruins of Caesarea Maritima, in Israel, found a stone slab bearing the name of Pontius Pilate, who was involved in the trial of Jesus.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Stone, bearing Pilate's name, which commemorated his dedication of a temple to Emperor Tiberius.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Pontius Pilate Inscription

- ✚ This is the oldest appearance of Pilate's name to be found, and it dates to the time of Jesus.
- ✚ Luke 3:1 says: "Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberias Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee..."



Caiphas's Family Tomb

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Caiphas's Family Tomb

- ❧ In 1990 builders accidentally uncovered a first-century AD burial cave south of Jerusalem.
- ❧ Later, archaeologists investigated and found several stone boxes (called ossuaries) that contained human bones.




THE LIFE OF JESUS



The ossuary of Caiaphas, the priest who brought Jesus to trial. Ossuaries were used to store the bones of several generations of family members.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Caiphas's Family Tomb

- 
- ❧ Inside the stone boxes were the bones of two infants, a child, a teenager, a woman, and a man.
 - ❧ One box had the name “Caiaphas” on it. The man’s bones may be those of Caiaphas, the priest who brought Jesus to trial, mentioned in Matthew 26:57 and John 18:13, 14.

Crucifixion Evidence

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Crucifixion Evidence

- ❧ In 1968, the bones of a young man who had been crucified during New Testament times were found in the Jerusalem area.
- ❧ The bones were found in a stone box bearing the name “Yehohanan.”



THE LIFE OF JESUS



A 7-inch-long nail was still embedded in the heel bone.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Crucifixion Evidence

- ❧ This find shows gruesome evidence of how the Romans crucified people.
- ❧ Luke 23:33 NIV says, “When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him [Jesus], along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.”



Rolling Stone Tombs

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Rolling Stone Tombs

- ❧ At several places in modern Israel there are examples of the type of tomb in which Jesus' body was placed after the Crucifixion.
- ❧ Mostly cut into the sides of hills, each used a large circular stone to cover the entrance.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Rolling Stone Tombs

- ❧ Inside the tomb is a central room, called an antechamber, and as many as six to eight burial shafts.
- ❧ After the bodies decayed, the bones would be removed from each shaft and placed in a covered stone box (called an ossuary) in the central room.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



This photograph was taken from inside the tomb, looking out past the rolling stone and up the steps.

Jesus' Burial Place

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus' Burial Place

- ❧ Two different places in Jerusalem have been suggested as the site of the tomb from which Jesus arose.
- ❧ Most archaeologists believe that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built around AD 340, stands over the site of the tomb.



THE LIFE OF JESUS



Archaeology in and around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre has revealed a rock quarry from the end of the Old Testament era. Tombs had been cut into the quarry wall during the first century AD.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus' Burial Place

- ❧ The other proposed site for the tomb is the Garden Tomb, or “Gordon’s Calvary.”
- ❧ Archaeology in the Garden Tomb area has turned up tombs of the type used during Old Testament times, with some having been reused between AD 400-600.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus' Burial Place

- ❧ Evidence from both locations may shed new light on the search for this all-important Christian site.
- ❧ Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:45-46, Luke 23:50-53, and John 19:38-42 refer to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Ossuary of James

Caesarea Philippi

Herodium

Caesarea on the Sea

Madaba Mosaic Map

Megiddo Church

The Galilee Boat

Sepphoris

Tiberias

The Decapolis

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Limestone Ossuary of James

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Limestone Ossuary of James

- ✚ In 2002 a limestone box from the first century AD with the words “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus” inscribed on it in Aramaic was found in a private collection in Israel.
- ✚ Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3 refer to James, brother of Jesus.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



The James ossuary was on display at the Royal Ontario Museum from November 15, 2002 to January 5, 2003.

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Limestone Ossuary of James

- ❧ Scholars disagree about whether the patina (a film that develops over centuries on stone) in the incisions of the inscriptions chemically matches the patina elsewhere on the ossuary.
- ❧ The history of this ossuary is in debate, as is its authenticity.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Limestone Ossuary of James

- ❧ The inscription on the box may be the oldest tangible link to Jesus.
- ❧ Of hundreds of these ossuaries, only one other mentions a brother.
- ❧ Scholars suggest that either the brother was responsible for the burial or was prominent.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Limestone Ossuary of James

- ✚ By the AD 60s when James was stoned for his devotion to Jesus as the Messiah.
- ✚ By the time James was buried, Jesus' name was renown in Jerusalem where James was head of the church.



Herodium

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Herodium

- ✚ Matthew 2:19, 20 tells of the death of King Herod while the young child Jesus was in Egypt.
- ✚ Matthew 2:1-16 and Luke 1:5 also refer to Herod.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Herodium

- ✚ An ancient non-biblical writer, Josephus, wrote that Herod was buried at his 45-acre palace, called Herodium, about two miles southeast of Bethlehem.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Herodium

- ✚ Excavations have revealed much of one of Herod's luxurious palaces.
- ✚ In 2007, archaeologists unearthed several fragments of an ornately carved sarcophagus.
- ✚ The sarcophagus is likely the tomb of King Herod.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Portions of the ornately carved sarcophagus believed to be the tomb of King Herod.

The Madaba Mosaic Map

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Madaba Mosaic Map

- ✚ The Madaba Mosaic Map is the oldest map of the Holy Land yet found.
- ✚ It shows the locations of dozens of places where important biblical events occurred.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Madaba Mosaic Map

✚ This mosaic map of the Holy Land was made about AD 560 to serve as the decorative floor of an early church located near the Dead Sea in modern Jordan.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Madaba Mosaic Map

The Galilee Boat

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Galilee Boat

- ❧ When drought caused the waters of the Sea of Galilee to recede in 1986, residents of a village on the northwest shore found a boat buried in the mud.
- ❧ Later it was removed and restored.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



The Galilee boat,
similar to those
used by Jesus
and his disciples.
(Matthew 8:23;
Mark 1; 3-6; 8;
Luke 5; 8; John 6:22)

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Galilee Boat

- ❧ Coins and pottery found with the boat date to New Testament times.
- ❧ The only such boat ever found, it shows what the boats used by Jesus and the disciples were like.



Tiberias

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Tiberias

- ❧ Herod Antipas (one of Herod the Great's sons) founded Tiberias in AD 18 as the capital of Galilee.
- ❧ Herod Antipas was involved in Jesus' trial.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Tiberias

- ❧ Tiberias is mentioned only once in Scripture (John 6:23).
- ❧ It was, however, an important city of the area where Jesus probably carried out much of his ministry.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Synagogue floor preserved in Tiberias.

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Tiberias

- ❧ The modern city of Tiberias stands today over much of the ancient one.
- ❧ However, excavations in 1973-74 revealed two large round stone towers on either side of the main gate dating to the city of Jesus' time.



Caesarea Philippi

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Caesarea Philippi

- ✚ According to Matthew 16:13-20 and Mark 8:27-30 Jesus and the disciples were near this city when Jesus asked them who people were saying he was.
- ✚ Peter said, “You are the Christ.”



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Caesarea Philippi

Excavations since 1990 have recovered much of the city of Caesarea Philippi from Jesus' day.

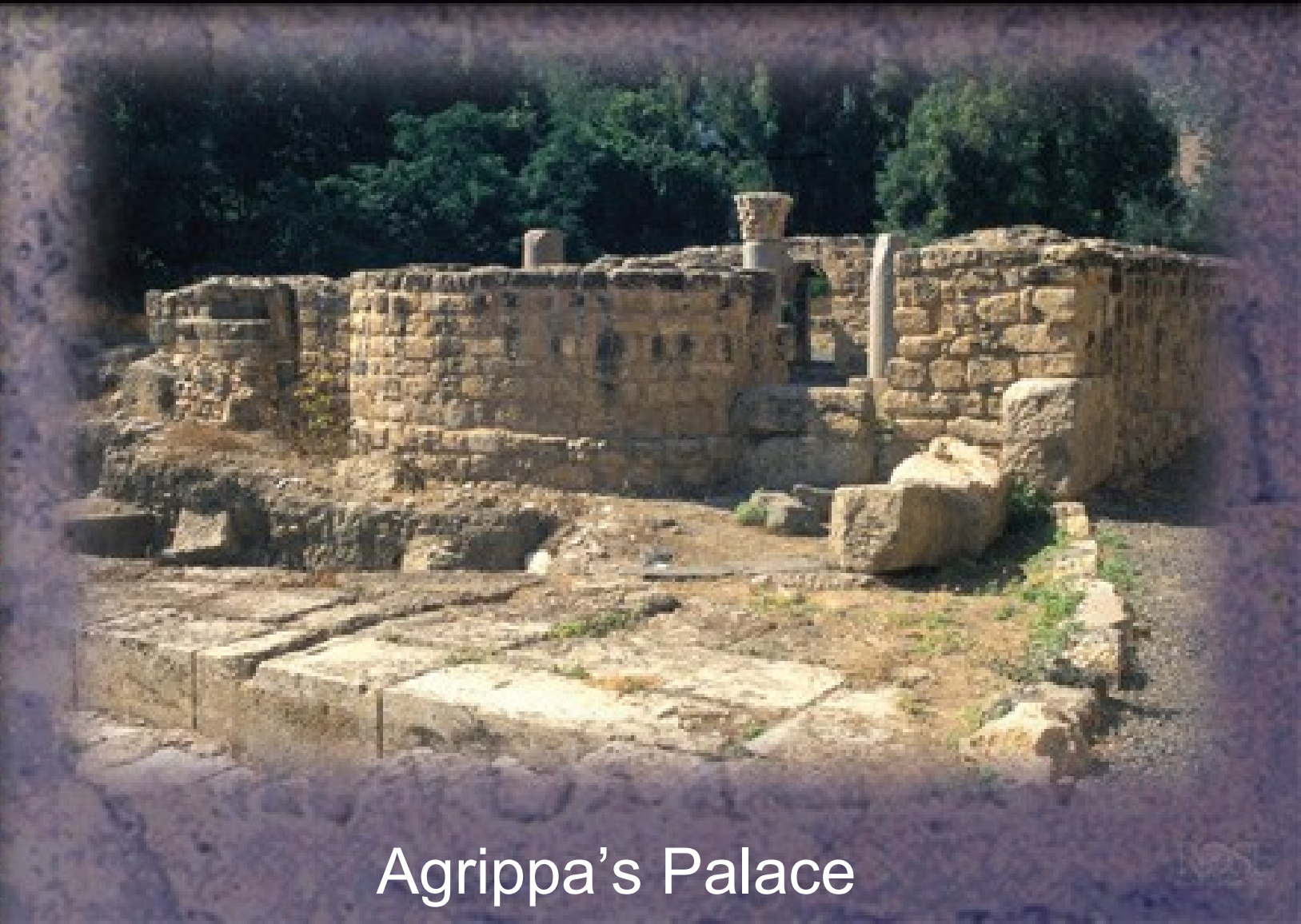
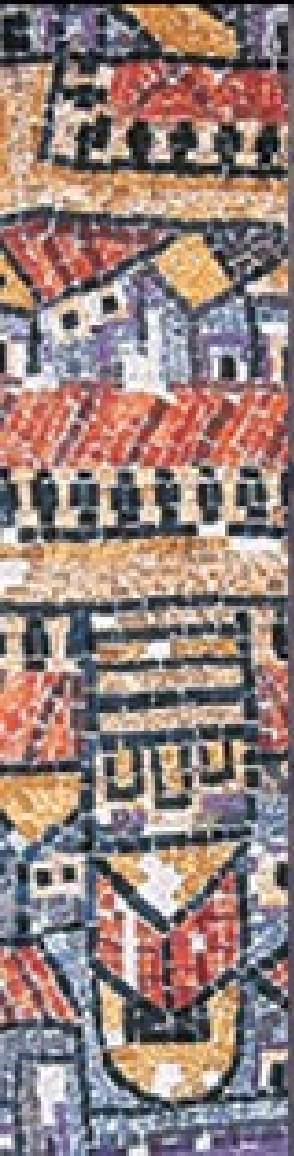


PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Caesarea Philippi

- ❧ A large palace was found which matches Josephus's descriptions of that of Herod Agrippa II, a descendant of Herod the Great.
- ❧ Herod Agrippa II was the governor of Galilee before whom Paul gave a defense of his faith (see Acts 26:2-29).

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Agrippa's Palace

Caesarea on the Sea

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Caesarea on the Sea

- ✚ Excavations of Caesarea illustrate how important this city was in Jesus' and Paul's day.
- ✚ Caesarea is where the Apostle Paul first won Gentile converts (Acts 10), and was the site of his imprisonment (Acts 23–26).



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Caesarea on the Sea

✚ Since the 1950s excavations have turned up most of Herod's harbor, as well as city streets, a theater, the marketplace, shops, aqueducts, temples, and private dwellings.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Caesarea's amphitheater

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Caesarea on the Sea

- ❧ Caesarea was also the home of the Roman governors, such as Pontius Pilate.
- ❧ The city began as Herod's dream and grew into Roman Palestine's major port and governmental center.
- ❧ King Herod Agrippa I was smitten of God in this amphitheater (Acts 12:23).



Megiddo Church Inscription

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Megiddo Church Inscription

- ✚ In 2005, a prayer hall was found outside of the Megiddo Prison.
- ✚ It features a detailed mosaic floor with inscriptions that consecrate the church to “God Jesus Christ.”



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Megiddo Church Inscription

- ✚ Archaeologists confirm that the church in Megiddo was built in the late 3rd century.
- ✚ This makes the prayer hall one of the oldest Christian Churches discovered in the Holy Land.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



ΤΕΡΟΧΗΝΙΚΕΝ
ΑΚΕΤΤ ΤΟΥΟ
Η ΦΙΛΘΘΕΘΕ
ΤΗΝ ΤΡΑΤΤΕ
ΣΑΝ ΘΩ ΤΑΧΩ
ΑΝΗΜΟΕΥΝΟΝ

This inscription on the mosaic floors consecrates the church to God Jesus Christ. The name of Jesus is identified as being sacred by a line placed above it.

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Megiddo Church Inscription

- ✠ The Bible teaches and the Christian Church has always upheld that Jesus is God (John 1:1-5, 20:28; Hebrews 1:6-8).
- ✠ This find verifies that the Christian Church recognized the divinity of Jesus as early as the third century.

Sepphoris

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Sepphoris

- ❧ Sepphoris was located only about three miles from Nazareth.
- ❧ It is, however, mentioned nowhere in the New Testament.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Sepphoris

- ❧ Because Sepphoris was very near Nazareth, it is possible that Joseph and the young Jesus could have worked on building projects there.
- ❧ It was also the chief residence of Herod Antipas, who played a role in Jesus' trial in Jerusalem.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

Sepphoris

Extensive excavations at Sepphoris have revealed that it was a sizable city built on a Roman plan.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Among the excavated ruins are a large theater, temples, public buildings, and a lavish palace with beautiful mosaics.

The Ten Cities of the Decapolis

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PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Ten Cities of the Decapolis

- ✚ The Decapolis is a league of ten cities where Greek language and culture flourished.
- ✚ Two of the Gospels (Matthew 4:25; Mark 5:20; 7:31) speak of the spread of Jesus' message among the people of the Decapolis.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Ten Cities of the Decapolis

- ❧ Archaeologists have located almost all ten cities (only the identification of Tell el-Ashari, in Jordan, and Dion remains indefinite).
- ❧ Enough archaeological work has been done to confirm that these were important and wealthy cities in Jesus' day.



PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN



Beth Shan,
also known as
Sythopolis, one of
the Decapolis.
(Deca = 10;
polis = city)

PALESTINE & TRANS-JORDAN

The Ten Cities of the Decapolis

- ❧ One ancient writer lists them as Damascus, Abila, Scythopolis, Hippos, Raphana, Gadara, Pella, Dion, Philadelphia, and Gerasa.
- ❧ For many years the locations of only about half of the cities were known.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Praetorium & Herod's Palace

Herod's Temple

“Place of Trumpeting”

Temple Sundial

Warning to Gentiles

Holy of Holies

The Arch of Titus

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Praetorium & Herod's Palace

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Praetorium & Herod's Palace

- ✚ Eight passages in the New Testament refer to a place in Jerusalem called in Greek “the Praetorium.”
- ✚ It is where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:27; Mark 15:16; John 18:28-33).



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Praetorium & Herod's Palace

- ✚ In those passages “Praetorium” has been translated as:
 - ✚ “The palace courtyard”
 - ✚ “The headquarters”
 - ✚ “The governor’s headquarters”
 - ✚ “Pilate’s headquarters”
 - ✚ “Herod’s headquarters”
 - ✚ “The place of the imperial guard”



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Praetorium & Herod's Palace

- ✚ Since about AD 1100, some pavement north of the Temple Mount has been pointed out as the Praetorium.
- ✚ Archaeologists have found, however, that it dates to about a century after Jesus' and Paul's time.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Praetorium & Herod's Palace

- More recently, archaeologists have identified some Herodian walls, foundations and pavement near the present Jaffa Gate.
- These finds conform to ancient descriptions of the Praetorium.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Praetorium & Herod's Palace

- ✚ These remnants can be found today in the vicinity of the Armenian Orthodox Seminary and what is called “the Citadel,” or “David’s Tower.”



Herod's Temple

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Herod's Temple

- ✚ It is unknown which entrance to the Temple Mount Jesus and the disciples used in Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19-21, and John 2,5, and 7.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Herod's Temple

- Beginning in 1968 excavations commenced in the area of the south retaining wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
- The work has uncovered much of this part of the Temple as it was in Jesus' day, including the southern gates and steps leading up to them.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM



This is the only step on the Temple Mount believed to be from Jesus' day.

“Place of Trumpeting”

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

“Place of Trumpeting”

- ✚ In 1969 excavators removed debris from the southwest corner of the retaining wall of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.
- ✚ They found a rectangular capstone from one of the Temple towers.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM



The Hebrew words carved into this Temple tower capstone say, “...to the place of the trumpeting.”

THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

“Place of Trumpeting”

- ✚ The “place of trumpeting” on the stone refers to the place where the priests blew trumpets announcing the beginnings of holy festivals (Psalm 81:3 and Joel 2:15).
- ✚ This rare find brings to life the Temple rituals of Jesus’ day.



Temple Sundial

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Temple Sundial

✚ Jesus said in Mark 13:2, regarding the Temple, “Not one stone will be left upon another that will not be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2; Luke 21:6).



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Temple Sundial

- ✚ During excavations around Jerusalem's Temple Mount in 1972, excavators found a limestone sundial in a pile of debris.
- ✚ The pile of debris bears testimony to the Roman destruction of the Temple in AD 70.



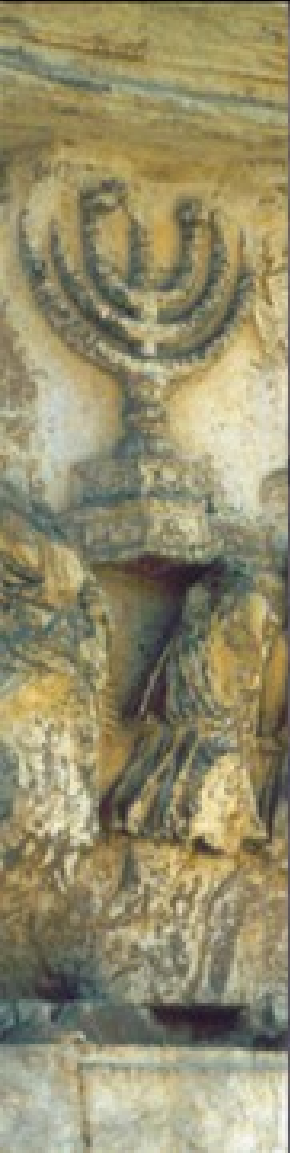
THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Temple Sundial

- ❧ Archaeologists discovered that the notches cut into the face of the sundial were carefully calibrated to tell the time and seasons based on the sun's movement in Jerusalem.
- ❧ Carved on its back is a seven-branched menorah (candelabra), like the large one in the Temple.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM



Temple Sundial

Warning to Gentiles

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Warning to Gentiles

- ✚ In 1871 a stone slab containing Greek writing surfaced in Jerusalem.
- ✚ In 1938 a similar slab was found just north of the Temple Mount.
- ✚ Both translate, “No gentile may enter within this Temple barrier! Anyone caught will be responsible for his own death.”



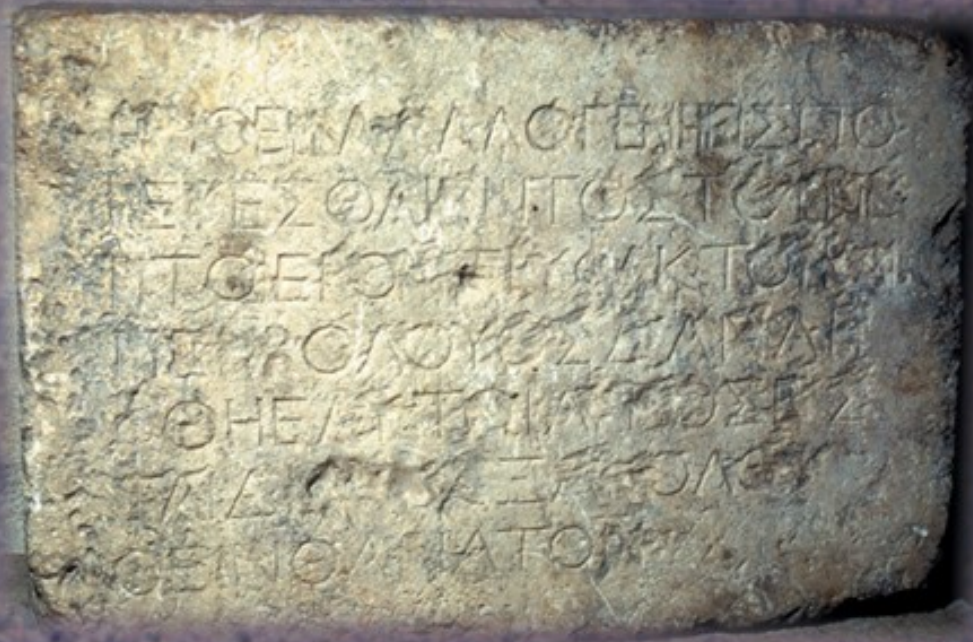
THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Warning to Gentiles

- ⌘ According to Josephus, a Jewish writer of the first century, these warnings were hung on a low wall that divided the public square of the Temple from the sacred inner courtyard that was accessible only to Jews.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM



Stone slab with Greek writing gives warning that Gentiles should not enter the Temple. (In Acts 21:27-29 the Jews accused Paul of bringing Greeks into the Temple.)

THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Warning to Gentiles

- ✚ These rare finds from the Temple of Jesus' day shed light on the Temple regulations and enrich our understanding of the importance of Ephesians 2:14, "For he [Jesus] is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility."



Holy of Holies

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Holy of Holies

- ❧ The Temple was completely destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.
- ❧ Six centuries later the Muslims built a shrine called the Dome of the Rock on the vacant Temple Mount.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM



Many scholars conclude that the exact location of the Temple can no longer be found. However, in the bedrock beneath the Dome of the Rock, trenches were discovered, cut into the rock. Photo shot from above.

THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Holy of Holies

- ✚ The trenches conform precisely to the dimensions of the walls of the Holy of Holies (the most sacred portion), as described in ancient Jewish writings.
- ✚ The Holy of Holies is mentioned in Hebrews 6:19, 9:3-11, 10:20.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

Holy of Holies

- ✚ Finding the trenches that match the dimensions of the walls of the Holy of Holies could well provide the location of the events recorded in Mark 15:38 and Luke 23:45 (the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom when Jesus died).



The Arch of Titus

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THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

The Arch of Titus

- Between Christ's resurrection and the time when Christianity was spreading throughout the Mediterranean world, a cataclysmic event occurred—the Roman army, under General Titus, invaded Jerusalem.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

The Arch of Titus

- ✚ On the ninth of Av (a Jewish calendar month corresponding to June) in AD 70, the army destroyed both the city and the Temple, carrying away the sacred Temple items.
- ✚ See Mark 13:2; Luke 2:16.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM

The Arch of Titus

- ❧ Carved in relief on the triumphal Arch of Titus, in the ancient Forum (public square) of Rome, is a scene of Roman soldiers on parade carrying the sacred items looted from the Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70.



THE TEMPLE & JERUSALEM



Items on the arch included the Table of the Showbread, the Menorah (Golden Lampstand), and a scroll of God's Law.

PAUL'S MINISTRY

Damascus

Politarch Inscriptions

The Aeropagus at Athens

Gallio Inscription

The Bema at Corinth

Ephesus

Erastus Inscription

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Damascus

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PAUL'S MINISTRY

Damascus

- ✚ Located in Syria, modern Damascus covers most of the ancient city today.
- ✚ Limited excavations have revealed some of the city's Roman gates, arches, and even the remains of "the street called Straight," where Saul stayed during his sojourn in the city (Acts 9:11).



PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY



Straight Street in modern Damascus.

PAUL'S MINISTRY

Damascus

- ❧ Damascus is first mentioned in Genesis 14:15.
- ❧ Damascus is also the site of the conversion and early witness of Saul (Paul, Acts 9:1-25).
- ❧ Saul stayed at a home located on the main east-west road, near the heart of the city.



The Politarch Inscriptions

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PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Politarch Inscriptions

- ✚ Because the Greek term “politarchs” could not be found in existing ancient literature outside of the New Testament, some critics argued that Luke must have been mistaken in his use of the term in Acts 17:6.



PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Politarch Inscriptions

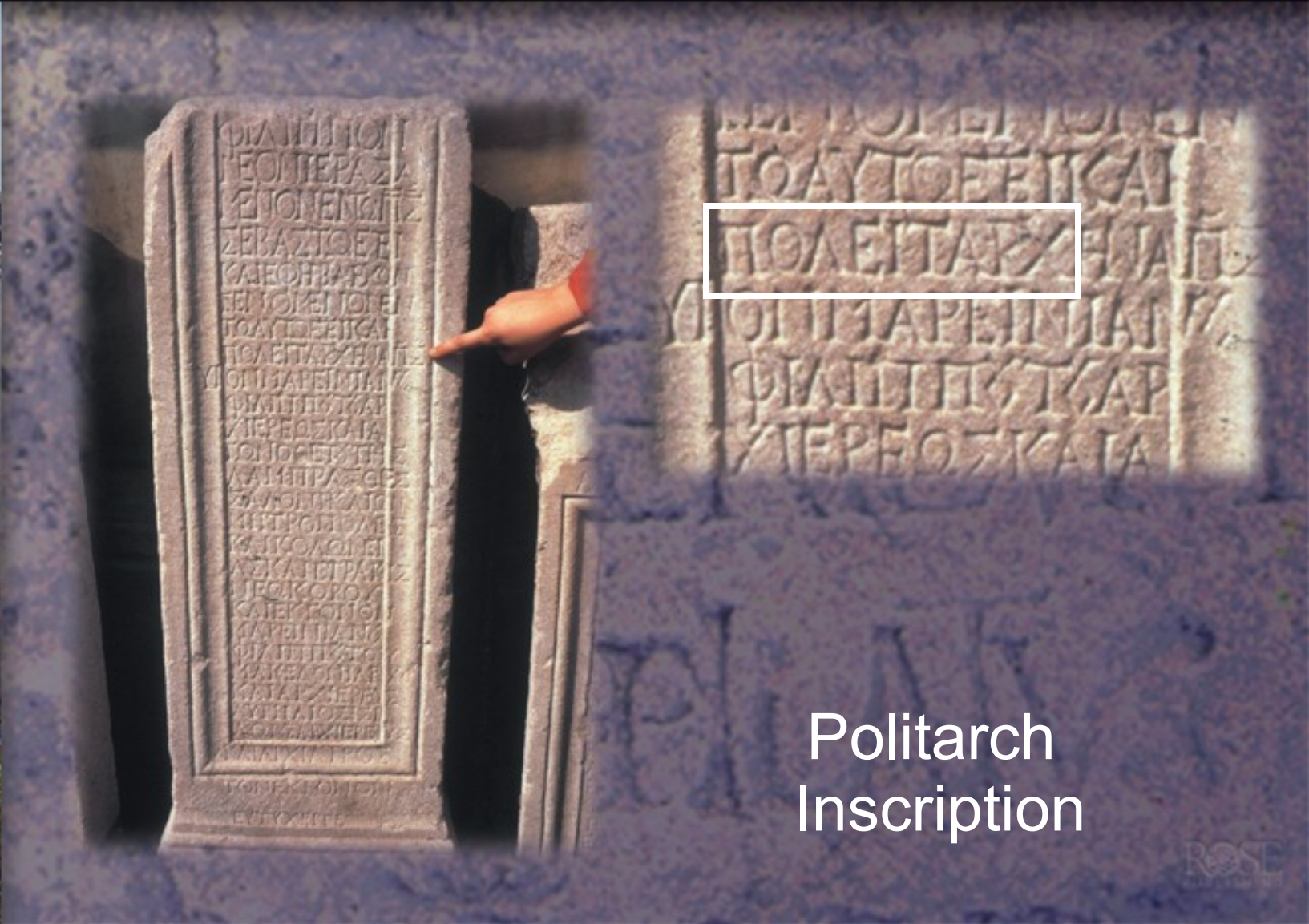
- ✚ Thirty-two inscriptions have been found that have the term “politarchs” (“city authorities”), and nineteen of them come from Thessalonica.
- ✚ At least three inscriptions date from Paul's time, showing that Luke was quite correct in this detail.



PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY



Politarch
Inscription

The Aeropagus at Athens

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PAUL'S MINISTRY



Since early Christian times, a hill in the heart of Athens, immediately west of the Acropolis, has been referred to as the Areopagus (Mars Hill).

PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Aeropagus at Athens

- ✚ Acts 17:19-34 gives the account of Paul's presentation of the Gospel before the Athenian administrative council, known as the Areopagus.
- ✚ The term "Areopagus" is Greek for "Hill of Ares (or Mars)."
- ✚ The council seems to have taken its name from the place where they met.



PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Aeropagus at Athens

- Archaeological investigations have located two terraces linked by steps on the hill.
- The upper terrace has a long rock-cut bench designed for seating many persons.



The Gallio Inscription

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PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Gallio Inscription

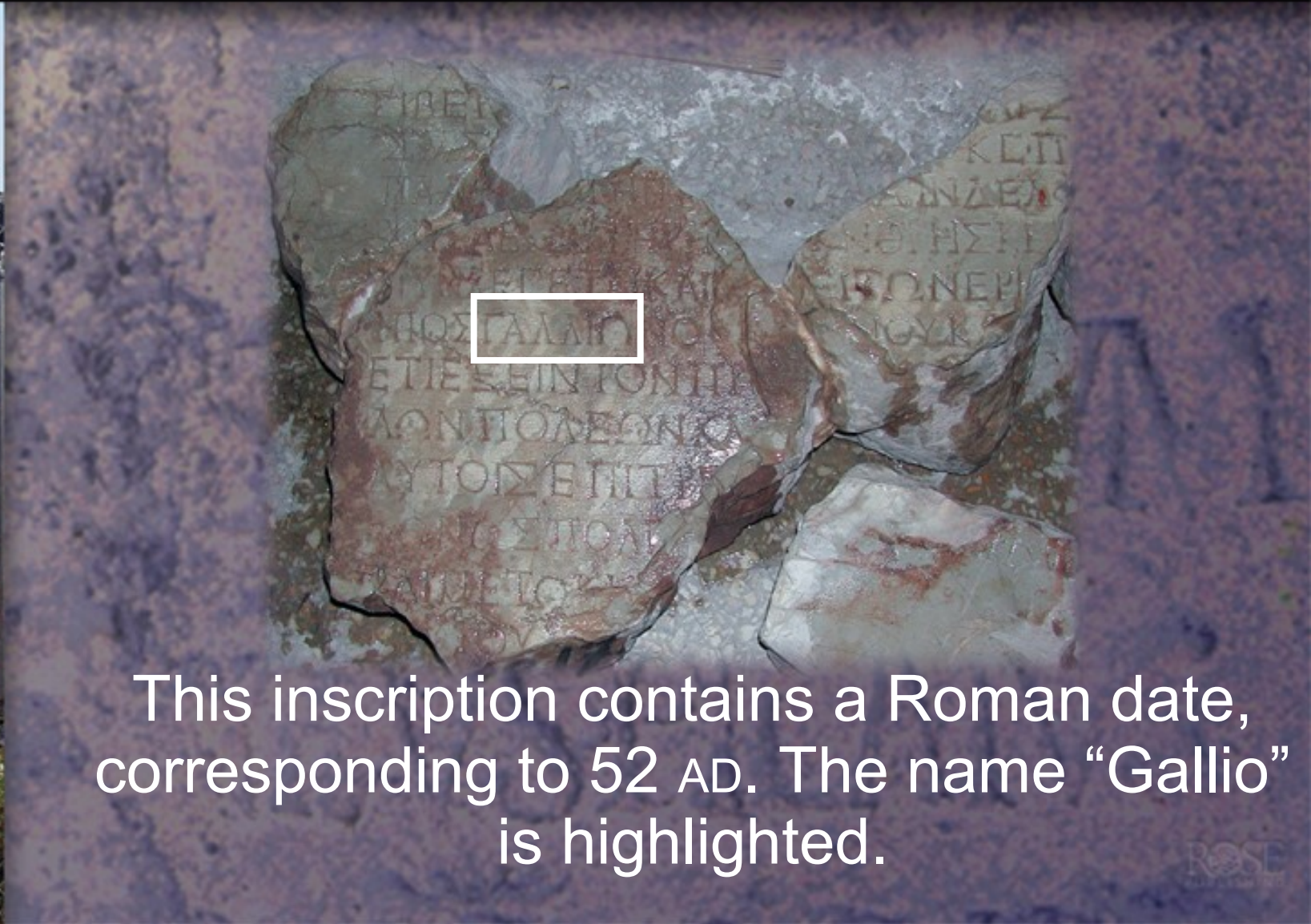
- ✚ Archaeologists found a stone inscription at Delphi, in Greece.
- ✚ The inscription mentions a Roman governor (proconsul) named Gallio of the province of Achaia.



PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY



This inscription contains a Roman date, corresponding to 52 AD. The name “Gallio” is highlighted.

PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Gallio Inscription

- ✚ Gallio is the same governor referred to in Acts 18:12.
- ✚ The date on this inscription allows Bible scholars to know almost exactly when the Apostle Paul was ministering to early Christians in Corinth.



The Bema at Corinth

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PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Bema at Corinth

- ❧ One of the most important New Testament archaeological finds from Corinth is the city's "Bema."
- ❧ The Bema is a platform where officials addressed the public.



PAUL'S MINISTRY



The wall at right is the platform on which the Bema was built. Spectators stood about 7.5 feet below on stone pavement.

PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Bema at Corinth

- ✚ In AD 51 the Apostle Paul was brought before the Roman governor Gallio at this platform in Corinth (Acts 18:12-17).
- ✚ The Bema was discovered in 1935.
- ✚ The identity of the Bema is certain because of seven pieces of an inscription found nearby.



Ephesus

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PAUL'S MINISTRY

Ephesus

- ❧ Archaeology has recovered much of the city of Ephesus from Paul's day.
- ❧ This large city was the place the Apostle Paul stayed the longest during his missionary journeys (Acts 18:19-21 and 19:1-41).



PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY



Theater where Paul's companions were dragged during a riot of silversmiths resulting from Paul's preaching (Acts 19:23-41).

PAUL'S MINISTRY

Ephesus

- ✚ The letter to the Ephesians was written to the believers at Ephesus by Paul.
- ✚ The temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, has been located.



PAUL'S MINISTRY



A statue of
Diana (Artemis),
the goddess
worshiped by the
Ephesians and
mentioned in
Acts 19.

The Erastus Inscription

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PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Erastus Inscription

- ✚ Writing from Corinth, the Apostle Paul passed along greetings from several Corinthian believers, including Erastus, the city treasurer or chamberlain (Romans 16:23).



PAUL'S MINISTRY



PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Erastus Inscription

- ✚ In 1929 archaeologists found a paving stone near the theater of Corinth in Greece.
- ✚ The stone contains Erastus's name, and notes that he was indeed a Roman public official there.



PAUL'S MINISTRY



Erastus's name on paving stone.
The letters are seven inches high.

PAUL'S MINISTRY

The Erastus Inscription

- ✚ This find verifies Erastus's existence as a public official in Corinth just as the Bible says.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Antioch

Philippi

Thessalonica

“God Fearers” Inscriptions

Seven Churches of Revelation

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Antioch

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EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Antioch

- ✚ Acts 11 and 14 recount the work of Paul and Barnabas in Antioch helping to build a Christian community made up of people from a wide variety of backgrounds.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Antioch

- ❧ Antioch was an important crossroad in the immense Roman highway system.
- ❧ It grew to be second only to Jerusalem as a large center of Christianity.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Antioch

- ✚ Excavations have shown that Antioch was a large Roman city in Paul's day covered today by the Turkish city of Antakya.
- ✚ Artifacts found in Antioch (in Turkey today) reveal that the city had a population that was diverse racially and ethnically.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



Modern Antakya, Turkey

EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Antioch

- ✚ These finds help to explain why the establishment of the strong body of believers at Antioch played such a vital role in the future spread of Christianity throughout the entire Mediterranean region.



Philippi

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EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Philippi

- ✚ Located in northeast Greece, Philippi is where Paul preached his first sermon on European soil, and won a convert in Lydia, “a seller of purple” (see Acts 16:12-14).
- ✚ Paul wrote a letter to the Philippians.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



Excavated area of the
Roman forum in Philippi

EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Philippi

- ⌘ Among the ruins at Philippi are numerous carved shrines to various Greco-Roman and eastern gods and goddesses.
- ⌘ On top of the city's acropolis (highest hill) are the remains of ramparts (defensive walls) and a theater.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



The Via Egnatia, an important east-west Roman highway that passed through this significant early seat of Christianity.

Thessalonica

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EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Thessalonica

- ✚ Located about 115 miles southwest of Philippi, along the ancient Roman highway known as the Via Egnatia, lies the city of Thessalonica.
- ✚ Paul visited Thessalonica, preaching three times in the synagogue. (Acts 17:1-10)



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Thessalonica

- ✚ Paul was subsequently expelled from the Thessalonica.
- ✚ Still, he persisted in planting a church, and eventually wrote two epistles to the Christians there.
- ✚ Thessalonica went on to become an important center of early Christianity, with several churches.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Thessalonica

- ✚ The modern city of Salonika, the second largest city in Greece, covers the buried remains of Roman Thessalonica.
- ✚ Little is seen in Thessalonica from the time of Paul.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Thessalonica

- ✚ Archaeological remains include the remnants of several early church buildings, a Roman triumphal arch, and some of the city's ancient walls.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



Arch of Galerius in Thessalonica

“God Fearers” Inscriptions

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EARLY CHRISTIANITY

“God Fearers” Inscriptions

- ✚ At the ancient sites of Aphrodisias and Miletus in modern Turkey, scholars have discovered two inscriptions carved in marble.
- ✚ Each inscription contains the term “theosebeis” (“God Fearers”) with reference to a group identified by outsiders as being a part of the Jews.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

“God Fearers” Inscriptions

- ✚ This term is much the same as what is found in Acts 13:16 and Acts 17 where the meaning has puzzled scholars for a long time.
- ✚ The inscriptions show that the God Fearers likely were non-Jews who believed in the God of Israel.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



Temple of Aphrodite in Aphrodisias

Seven Churches of Revelation

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EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Seven Churches

- ✚ In Revelation 1:11 John is instructed by the Lord to send messages to seven churches in the Roman province of Asia, located in western Turkey today.
- ✚ Those churches were in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Seven Churches

- ✚ Archaeological excavations have now been carried out at all seven ancient cities.
- ✚ The work at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Sardis in particular has been very extensive.



EARLY CHRISTIANITY



Little remains of Smyrna from the New Testament period. Today the city of Izmir in Turkey covers Smyrna's remains.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Earliest New Testament Copy

Oldest copy of John's Gospel

Oldest Complete Copy of New Testament

Greco-Roman References to Jesus

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The Dead Sea Scrolls

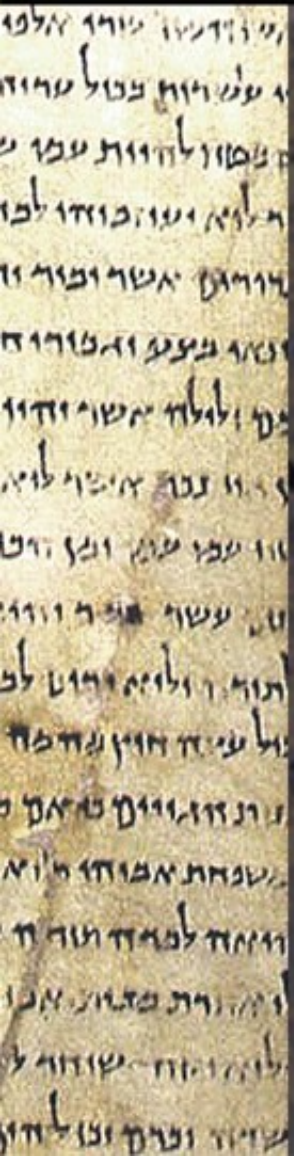
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ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ❧ These copies of Old Testament books are over 1000 years older than most of the manuscripts scholars previously had available for study and translation.



ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ❧ These finds, including both entire ancient scrolls and scraps of them, were found mostly in caves along the northwest shore of the Dead Sea.
- ❧ In 1947 shepherds found the first seven scrolls stuffed in ancient pottery jars in a cave.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS



One of the eleven caves in the Qumran area, about seven miles south of Jericho, where the scrolls were found.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ❧ Practically all of the Dead Sea scrolls are written in Hebrew and Aramaic.
- ❧ Among them are the oldest copies yet found of almost all of the books of the Old Testament.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ❧ They date from between about 300 BC to AD 70.
- ❧ Also of special significance are the non-biblical documents, which reveal much about the varied nature of Judaism during the time between the Old and New Testament periods.

Earliest New Testament Copy

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ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

New Testament Copy

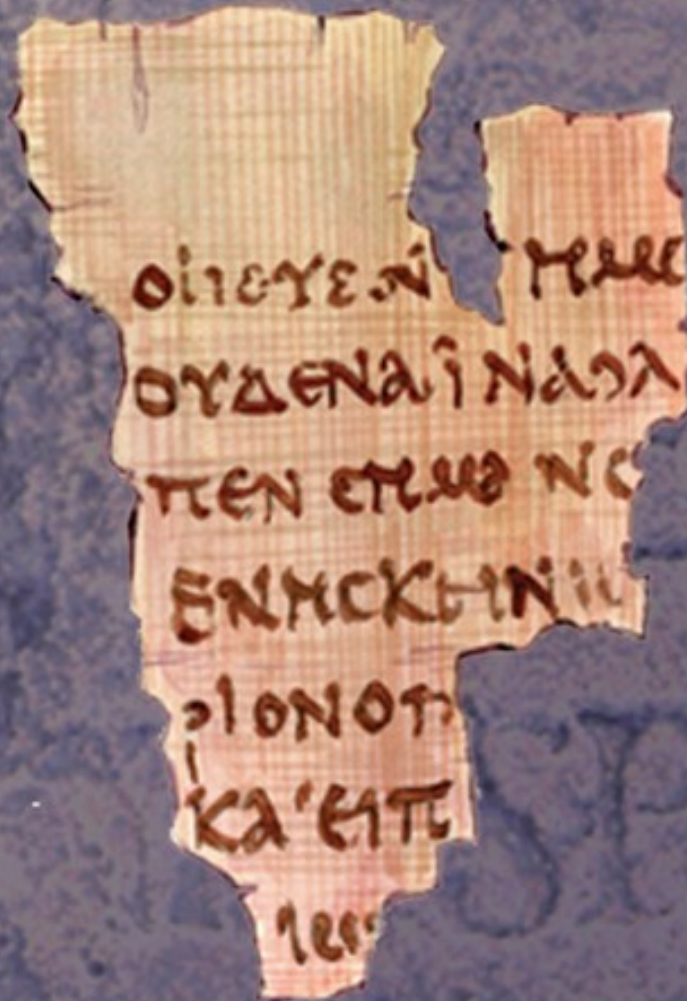
- ❧ In 1920 a British traveler in Egypt acquired a small fragment of papyrus.
- ❧ Scholars discovered that the writing on it was from the Gospel of John.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

New Testament Copy

- ❧ The fragment was part of a codex dated AD 125.
- ❧ The papyrus codex was likely copied within a generation of the original book of John itself.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS



An illustration of the John Rylands Papyrus, the oldest New Testament fragment yet found. The words on it are from John 18:31-33, 37-38.

Oldest Copy of John's Gospel

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ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Oldest Copy of John

- ✚ In 1956 the world learned of the existence of a copy of the Gospel of John that had been penned in Greek on papyrus AD 150-200.
- ✚ About two-thirds of the text has survived, making it the oldest remaining copy.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Oldest Copy of John

- ❧ Swiss industrialist M. Martin Bodmer purchased it in Egypt and later gave it to a museum.
- ❧ This early copy has proved invaluable to Bible scholars and translators in helping to reconstruct the most accurate Greek text possible of the Gospel of John.

Oldest Complete Copy of the New Testament

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ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Oldest Complete Copy

- ✚ In 1844 New Testament scholar Konstantin von Tischendorf discovered the oldest surviving copy of the New Testament.
- ✚ He found it among the books belonging to a monastery that has stood at the foot of Mount Sinai since ancient times.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Oldest Complete Copy

- ❧ Known today as Codex Sinaiticus, this New Testament was written on parchment around AD 350.
- ❧ This text is also known by the name “Aleph,” the Hebrew letter “A.”
- ❧ The other early key Greek text is Codex Vaticanus, also known as “B.”

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Oldest Complete Copy

- ❧ When new Bible versions refer to “most reliable texts,” they are referring to “A” and “B.”
- ❧ Codex Sinaiticus has proved vital to scholars and translators in verifying the accuracy with which the New Testament has been reproduced across the ages.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS



Drawing of parchment codex made from fine quality skins of sheep or goats.

Greco-Roman References to Jesus

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ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

References to Jesus

- ❧ Flavius Josephus, Jewish historian, wrote *Antiquities* (AD 93), which mentions both Jesus and his brothers.
- ❧ Tacitus wrote *Annals* between AD 115-117, which mentions Jesus' execution by Pilate.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

References to Jesus

About this time arose Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of marvelous deeds, and a teacher of men who gladly receive the truth. And when Pilate...had condemned him to the cross, those who had loved him at first did not cease to do so. And even to this day the race of Christians, who are named from him, has not died out.

—Antiquities

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

References to Jesus

Christus, from whom the name [Christians] had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberias at the hand of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate, and a deadly superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but also in the City.... —Annals

THE END

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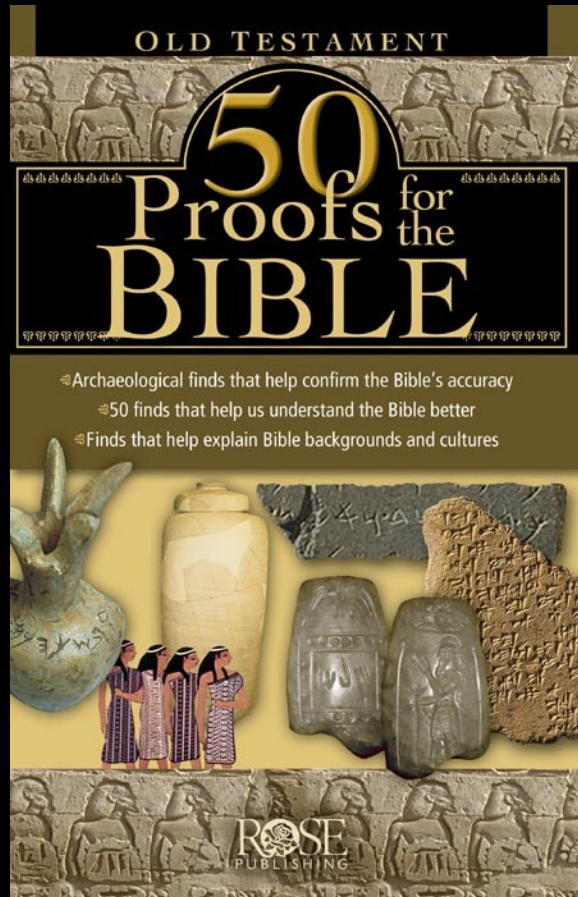
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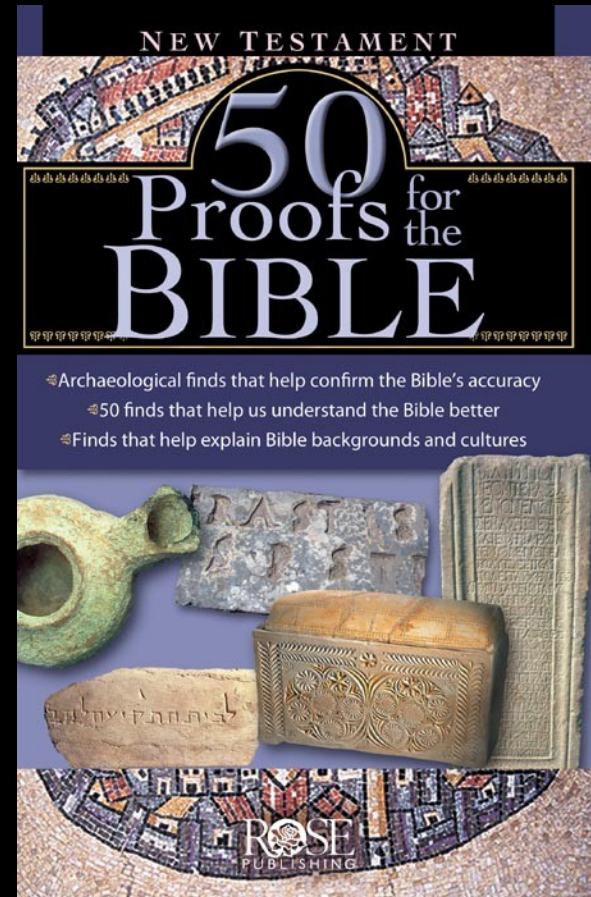
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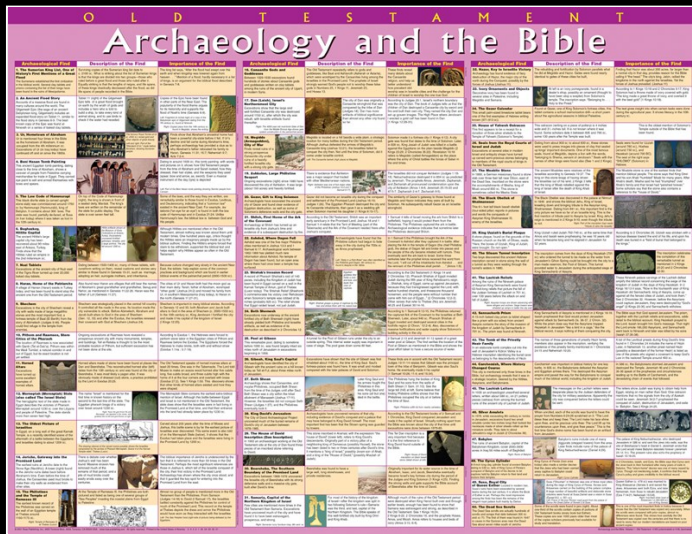
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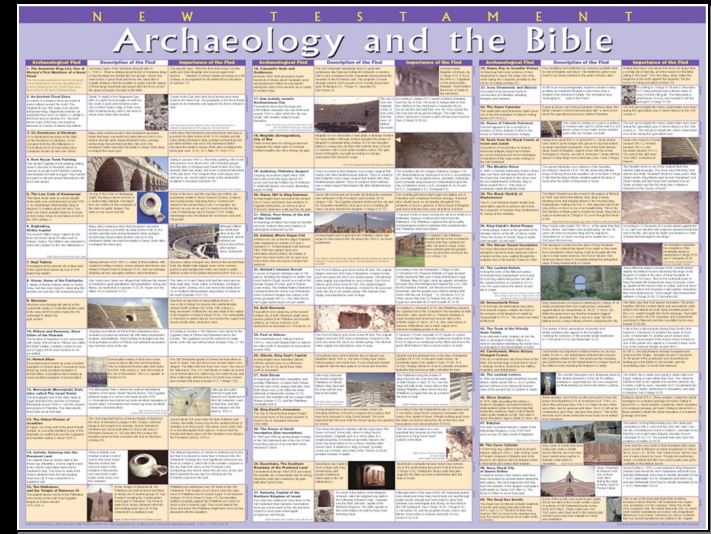
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Old Testament pamphlet***



***50 Proofs for the Bible
New Testament pamphlet***

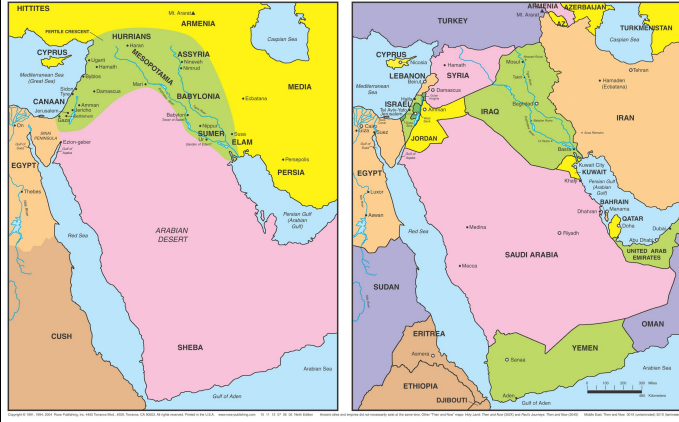


***Archaeology & The Bible:
Old Testament wall chart***



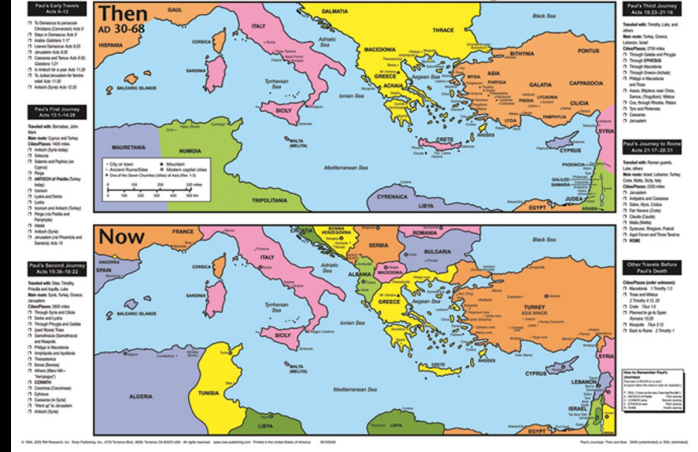
***Archaeology & the Bible:
New Testament wall chart***

The Middle East Then (B.C.) Now



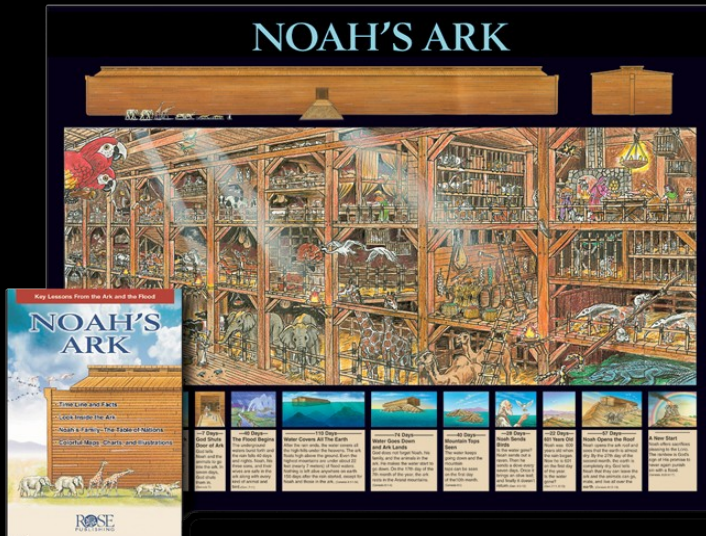
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Then and Now wall chart**

Paul's Journeys



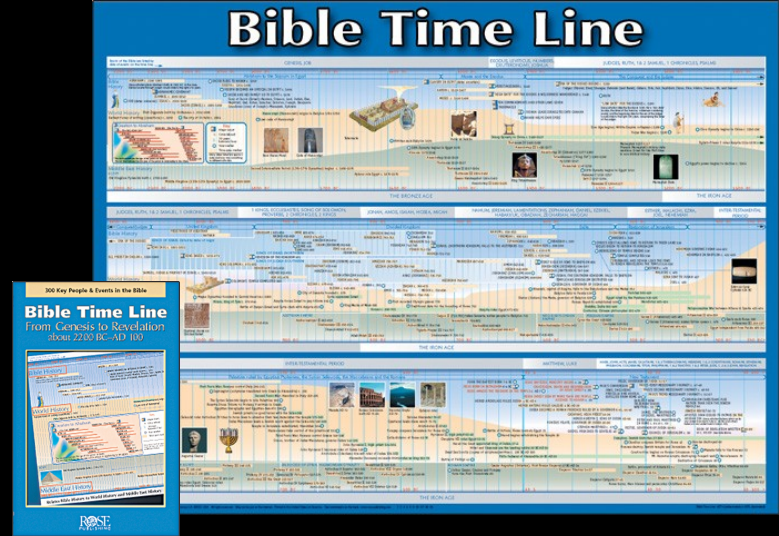
**Paul's Journeys: Then and
Now wall chart**

NOAH'S ARK



**Noah's Ark wall chart
& pamphlet**

Bible Time Line



**Bible Time Line wall chart
& pamphlet**

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

WHAT SPECIFICALLY ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of 900 documents discovered over a half century ago in a region of the Jordan desert in what is today called the West Bank. The scrolls date from different periods - as early as 300 years before the 400 years after Jesus - and were hidden in caves along the edge of the Dead Sea. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the greatest literary and archeological discovery of our time. The scrolls are the earliest documents that make up the Hebrew Bible (the Christian Old Testament), but they are the oldest copies of these documents that we have today.

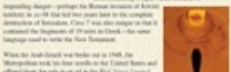


HOW WERE THE SCROLLS DISCOVERED AND WHO DISCOVERED THEM?

In 1947, shepherds of the Transjordan Bedouin tribe settled in a desert area near the Dead Sea, where they traditionally had their flocks and tents. According to local tradition, a shepherd named Khadija was tending his flock near a cave when he noticed a jar that contained one of the scrolls that had been hidden there for centuries. He took it to a local inn where he was told to bring it to a man of a great, but unknown, name.



The Bedouin shepherds were not alone. Helping them were the British and American governments, the Transjordan government, the Jordanian Ministry of Education, the Transjordan Ministry of Culture, and the Transjordan Ministry of Religious Affairs. The scrolls were discovered in a series of caves along the edge of the Dead Sea, and their discovery was a major event in the history of the region.



When the scrolls were first discovered in 1947, the Transjordan government took the scrolls to the Transjordan Ministry of Education, where they were kept in a safe. The scrolls were then sent to the British Museum in London, where they were kept in a safe until they were sent to the United States in 1955.

WHO ORIGINALLY OWNED THE SCROLLS?

Most of the scrolls were found in a cave in Qumran, an isolated desert settlement where scholars believe a Jewish sect called the Essenes lived. The scrolls were hidden in the cave to protect them from the Romans, who were conquering the region in the first century AD. The scrolls were discovered in a series of caves along the edge of the Dead Sea, and their discovery was a major event in the history of the region.

WHAT DO THE SCROLLS TELL US ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT?

The ancient language of the scrolls presents both excitement and mystery. The scrolls were written in Hebrew, but some were written in Aramaic. The scrolls were discovered in a series of caves along the edge of the Dead Sea, and their discovery was a major event in the history of the region.



The scrolls were written in a series of caves along the edge of the Dead Sea, and their discovery was a major event in the history of the region. The scrolls were hidden in the cave to protect them from the Romans, who were conquering the region in the first century AD.

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WHAT DO THE SCROLLS REVEAL ABOUT JEWISH HISTORY?

One of the scrolls discovered is that a number of Jewish groups who were active in the region of the Dead Sea, where they traditionally had their flocks and tents. The scrolls were discovered in a series of caves along the edge of the Dead Sea, and their discovery was a major event in the history of the region.



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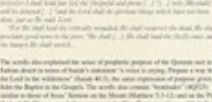
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WHAT DO THE SCROLLS REVEAL ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The scrolls generally seem to have a time before the formation of Christianity, but they contain information that is important to the study of the New Testament. The scrolls were discovered in a series of caves along the edge of the Dead Sea, and their discovery was a major event in the history of the region.



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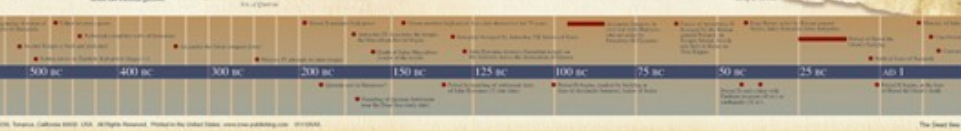
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THE DISCOVERY HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Evidence That Supports the Authenticity of the Bible
New Insights into Life and Culture at the Time of Jesus
How the Scrolls were Found and Their Importance

Number of Hebrew Manuscripts	Number of Greek Manuscripts	Number of Aramaic Manuscripts	Number of Syriac Manuscripts
500	100	50	20
400	80	40	15
300	60	30	10
200	40	20	5
150	30	15	3
100	20	10	2
75	15	7	1
50	10	5	0
25	5	2	0
10	2	1	0
5	1	0	0
1	0	0	0



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How We Got the Bible

The Bible is inspired by God and is a book made up of many books. It was written down by many men of God, on many materials over many years. It was copied very carefully by scribes by hand until the printing press was invented. How millions of Bibles have been printed.



Old Testament Written (approx. 1500-400 BC)



New Testament Written (approx. AD 40-100)



Bible Copied on Papyrus



Bible Copied on Fine Assid Silk



Bible Printed by Printing Press after 1453



The Bible: God's Word to the World

2000 BC / 500 BC

Old Testament
Written on papyrus scrolls in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The Old Testament was inspired by God and includes books like Genesis, Exodus, and Psalms.

500 BC

Jesus
A great teacher and prophet who lived in Palestine. He taught about God's love and the Kingdom of God.

200 BC

Septuagint
The first Greek translation of the Old Testament, made by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt.

AD 1

Paul's Letters
The apostle Paul wrote letters to churches and individuals, which became part of the New Testament.

AD 100

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
The four Gospels were written by Jesus' disciples, recording his life and teachings.

AD 200

Church Fathers
Early Christian leaders who wrote books explaining the Bible and church doctrine.

AD 300

Constantine
The Roman Emperor who legalized Christianity and called the Council of Nicea to settle church disputes.

AD 500

Jerome
Translated the Bible into Latin, creating the Vulgate, which became the standard Latin Bible.

AD 600

Alfred the Great
The King of Wessex who translated the Bible into Old English, making it accessible to more people.

AD 1400

Wycliffe
An English scholar who translated the Bible into Middle English, the first English Bible.

AD 1500

Erasmus
A Dutch scholar who produced the first printed Greek and Latin editions of the New Testament.

AD 1600

King James Bible
The first authorized English Bible, translated by scholars to be clear and beautiful.

AD 1800

Modern Translations
New translations of the Bible in various languages, including the Revised Standard Version.

AD 1900

World Bible
Efforts to translate the Bible into many different languages to reach people worldwide.

A Time Line of Key Events in the History of the Bible

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How We Got the BIBLE

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 THE HOLY BIBLE, KJV

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