

History Of Israel From Her Stones

1. Attitude of Liberal Archeologists

a. Ze'ev Herzog, Professor of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University

"This is what archaeologists have learned from their excavations in the Land of Israel: The Israelites were never in Egypt, did not conquer the land in a military campaign and did not pass it on to the 12 tribes of Israel."

b. Late Yasser Arafat, Former President of the Palestinian Authority

"The notion of a Jewish origin in Jerusalem is a religious myth used to justify occupation and colonialism."

2. Fierce battle raging; profound implications, politically and religiously.

I. Consider The Evidence From Her Stones

A. The Altar Of Joshua, found by Adam Zertal, U. Of Haifa

1. Occasion described, Deut.27:4-5, 11-21; 28:1-6

2. Map

3. Dr. Lawrence Stagar, Prof. of Archeology Of Israel, Harvard

"If a sacrificial altar stood on Mt. Ebal, its impact on our research is revolutionary. All of us have to go back to kindergarten."

4. Huge complex revealed.

5. Scripture required no cut stones, no steps, Ex.20:25-26

6. Pottery dated from time of the Exodus.

7. Full of bones and ashes. Department of Zoology at U. of Haifa examined: 942 Bones; 50-100 individuals; sheep, goats, cattle, one year old males.

8. Egyptian scarab seal found, from Ramses II (1245-1220 B.C.), the time of the Exodus.

9. Adam Zertal, Dept. Archeology, University of Haifa.

"What happened regarding the new accumulation of facts I have cited?" Almost nothing. Since the appearance of the detailed report and the many articles I have published on the excavation... silence has descended on the scholarly world."

B. Gilgal found on eastern edge of Jericho

1. Scriptural description, Joshua 4:19

2. Shape of sole, Deut.11:24; Josh.1:32

3. 12 stones from river Jordan, Joshua 4:20

C. Sisera's Palace

1. Unique window structure in wall.

2. Sisera's mother looked through, Judges 5:20

D. Secular inscription describing Balaam found

1. Excavation at Tel Deir 'Alla in Jordan said:

"Warnings given by Balaam, the son of Beor. A seer of the gods."

2. Confirms Biblical account, Num.22:2, 5, 28

E. Fortified gates of Solomon found, I Kings 9:15

F. Oldest Hebrew text found, silver amulet, 7th century B.C.

1. Jeremiah's time; 400 years older than Dead Sea Scrolls

2. Quotes Num.24:25-26. Identical to modern text.

3. Method of inscription described, Jer.17:1.

4. Demolishes "Documentary Hypothesis."

G. Jeroboam's Altar at Tel Dan

H. Tel Dan inscription documenting, "House of David"

II. Major Battle Over "City Of David"

A. David's Capture of Jerusalem from Jebusites, I Sam.5:6-11

B. History of excavation of "City of David"

1. Kathleen Kenyon, 1961-1968.

2. Yagal Shiloh, 1978-1985 (Cahill appointed to publish).

3. Ronny Reich And Eli Skukron 1989 to present.

C. Vicious Opposition (Understand profound significance)

1. Israel Finkelstein, Tel Aviv U., Dir. Inst. Archeology; "almost no signs of monumental building operations....The mythical united monarchy is a literary construct." *Jerusalem In Bible And Archeology*, 2003, p.81, 91

2. David Ussishkin, Tel Aviv U.

"I'm afraid that evidence regarding the magnificent Solomonic Capital was not discovered because it is nonexistent, not because it is still hidden in the ground." *Jerusalem In Bible And Archeology*, 2003, p.112

3. Niles Peter Lemch, U. of Copenhagen, "Archeological data have now definitely confirmed that the empire of David and Solomon never existed." *Biblical Archeological Review*, 11/12. 2004, p.17

D. Leading archeologists, convinced by the evidence, are taking a stand!

Example: Jane Cahill, Hebrew U.; "The most frequently voiced argument by those who challenge the historical existence of the United Monarchy is a supposed lack of archeological evidence. In most cases these arguments are either grossly misleading, illogical, disingenuous or all three."

Biblical Archeological Review, 11/12. 2004, p.27.

III. Evidence For Biblical Account Of City Of David

A. Pictures of the "City of David" today

B. Examples of archeological finds: (1st ref. to Jerusalem, 14th C., B.C.)

1. Stronghold of Zion, II Sam.5:7.

2. Administration Buildings.

3. Fifty one Bullae, many documenting Biblical characters

4. Joab's water shaft, II Sam.5:8.

5. Gihon Springs, II Chron.32:30.

6. Guard towers.

6. Solomon's coronation site, I Kings 1:33.

7. Pool of Melchizedek? (In-filled by Hezekiah).

8. Hezekiah's tunnel, II Chro.32:30; II Kings 20:20.

9. Tower of Siloam, Luke 13:4.

10. Hezekiah's Wall.

11. Rebuilt wall of Nehemiah, Neh.2:17; 3:8.

12. Tombs of House of David, II Kings 2:10.

13. Walls surrounding Herod's temple.

14. Stairs down to pool of Siloam, Neh.3:15; Acts 3:1-2; Mk.13;1-2.

15. Pool of Siloam, Neh.3:15; John 9:7.

16. Palace of David, II Sam.5:11, 17.

Conclusion: Adam Zertal, Dept. Archeology, University of Haifa

"Again and again we have seen that an accurate memory has been preserved in its transmuted narratives, waiting to be unearthed and exposed by archaeological fieldwork and critical mind work. The area [Manasseth Survey] is relevant in particular for the reliability of the early Bible. The nearly 1000 new sights explored create a new archaeological reality, which connects the books of Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges to the territory where they have happened."