

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

Important Archaeological Finds of the Bible – INTRODUCTION

At the end of John the Baptist's life, while he was in prison, he started to have doubts. So, he sent messengers to ask Jesus, "Are You the Coming One, or should we to look for someone else?" We might expect a rebuke from Jesus, like, "Oh John, have some faith, you need to stop doubting and quit your questioning!" This, however, is not how Jesus responded.

"Jesus responded, "Go and **tell John the things which you hear and see**: the blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:2-5). Instead of a rebuke, Jesus offered physical proof to alleviate John's doubts.

What does archeology do for us? It offers physical proof to alleviate our doubts about the Bible. Archeologists in Israel look for evidences that identify biblical PERSONS, PLACES, and EVENTS. The most important artifacts found in any archeological dig are ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS that mention biblical persons, or identify cities, or connect to events described in the bible.

BIBLICAL PERSONS – Archeology has identified many biblical persons.



This ancient inscription reads, "Hither were brought the bones of Uzziah, King of Judah. Do not open!" (Photo taken by Chip Thompson, Israel Museum, 2016)

Biblical Archaeology Review [magazine], March/April 2014, contains an article titled, Archaeology Confirms 50 Real People in the Bible, By Lawrence Mykytiuk.

To read this article go to:

<https://www.baslibrary.org/biblical-archaeology-review/40/2/4>

In upcoming months, we will focus on several persons men-

BIBLICAL PLACES – There are approximately 339 cities mentioned in the Bible.



How do we know this city is Gezer? (Photo by permission, Joel Kramer/sourceflix.com)



13 boundary stones that say, "This is the Boundary of Gezer" surround this ancient city. (Photo from: Wikipedia Commons)

tioned in the biblical narrative.

The Bible also mentions geographical sites such as seas, rivers, springs, valleys, etc. The total number of identified biblical sites is astounding.

For a glimpse of the sheer number of identified biblical places search the following website:

Biblical Sites in Israel and Beyond – Google My Maps

Suffice it to say that hundreds of biblical places are known today. In the Solid Rock Café—Bible Museum, in Ephraim, Utah, there are ancient artifacts from 85 different biblical sites.

On the Solid Rock Café Israel tours, we visit 50 biblical sites in 14 tour days. Over the next year, we will discuss some of the more interesting and important biblical sites.

BIBLICAL EVENTS – Some Archeological finds depict biblical events.



This stone relief depicts the siege of the biblical city Lachish by the mighty Assyrian army in 701 B.C. (photo by Chip Thompson, British Museum, 2018)

Archeology often centers around destructions. Every time an ancient city was destroyed, an archeological destruction layer was left behind and every destruction layer has a story to tell. Some destructions were natural such as earthquakes, fires, or floods. Some destructions were supernatural as when God rained down fire on Sodom and Gomorrah. Some destructions were the result of conquests as in the conquest of Israel/Judah by the Assyrians.

In light of ALL the archeological evidences for the Bible, it does not require much faith to believe the Bible is true history. The fact that the Bible is true and trustworthy is a no-brainer. It does, however, require personal faith to believe in the God of the Bible and to believe the message of the Bible. It takes personal faith to believe you must place your complete trust in Jesus alone for salvation from the penalty of your sins.