

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Amazing corroboration for the historical record
presented in scripture

Abraham and Ur



The ziggurat of ancient Sumer

A stepped tower that formed the platform for a temple

Pillars of Salt



- Where were Sodom and Gomorrah located?
- A fanciful etiological story or fact?

Brick Making in Egypt



- Sun-dried bricks were a mainstay of construction from early times
- Straw was mixed with clay as a binder

The Nile

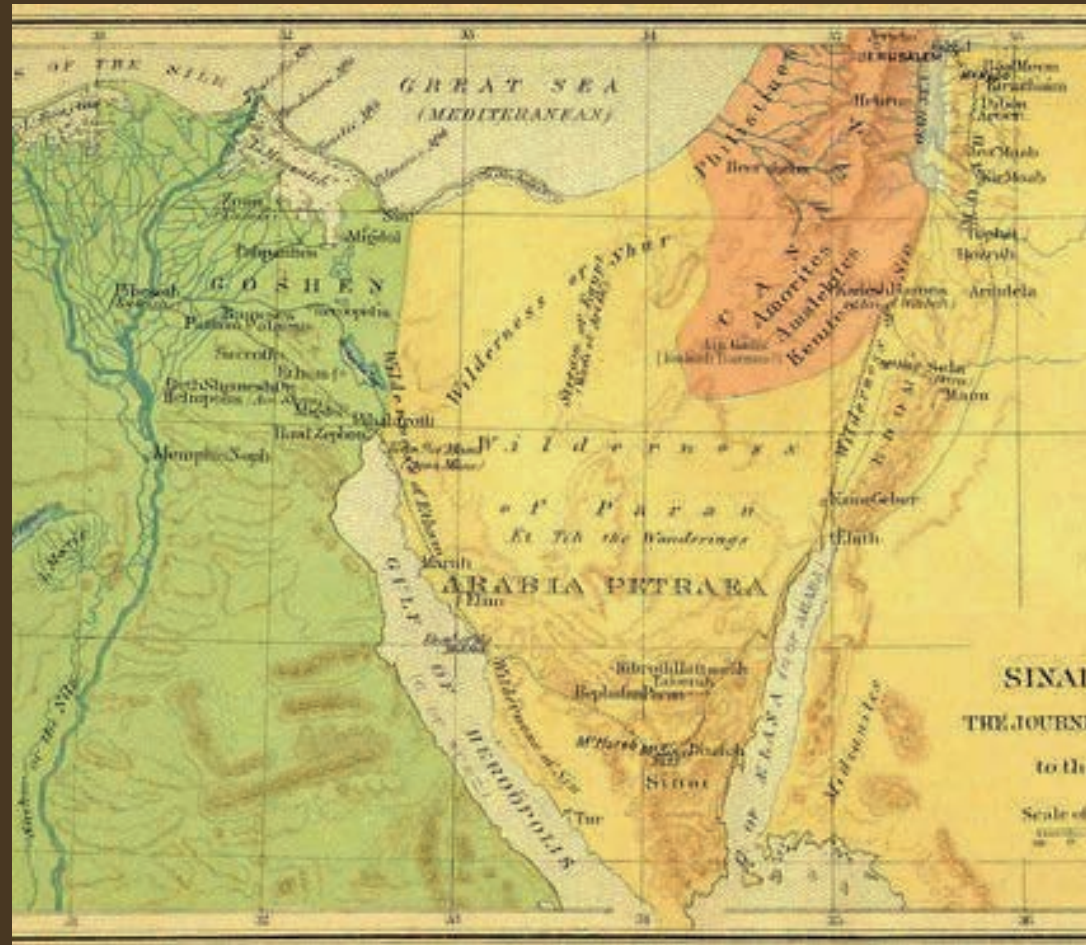


- This river was the life-blood of Egypt.
- If it became a river of death, would the Egyptians have admitted it?

To the Promised Land

Egyptian texts and the biblical account agree on 6 key chronological stops on the Israelite trek.

Even though scholars do not agree about where these places are located.





Calf Worship?

- Contrary to previous opinion the scholars came to see evidence that calf worship was indeed a part of the culture during the time of the Exodus.



Merneptah Stele

- Victory Hymn on granite stele
- Proof that Israel was established in the land of Canaan
- 1209 B.C.E

Altar

- Arad in the Negev:
- an altar of un-hewn stone built according to the biblical instructions



Balaam in history?

This seer had a reputation far beyond the pages of scripture.

An inscription on a wall in Tell Deir 'Alla was part of a prophecy of Balaam



Weights and Measures

- Stone Weights
- Beka: 1/2 shekel
- Pim - 2/3 shekel
- Two Shekels
- Neseq
(not seen in scripture)



Gezer



- Stones were often erected to signify covenant unity

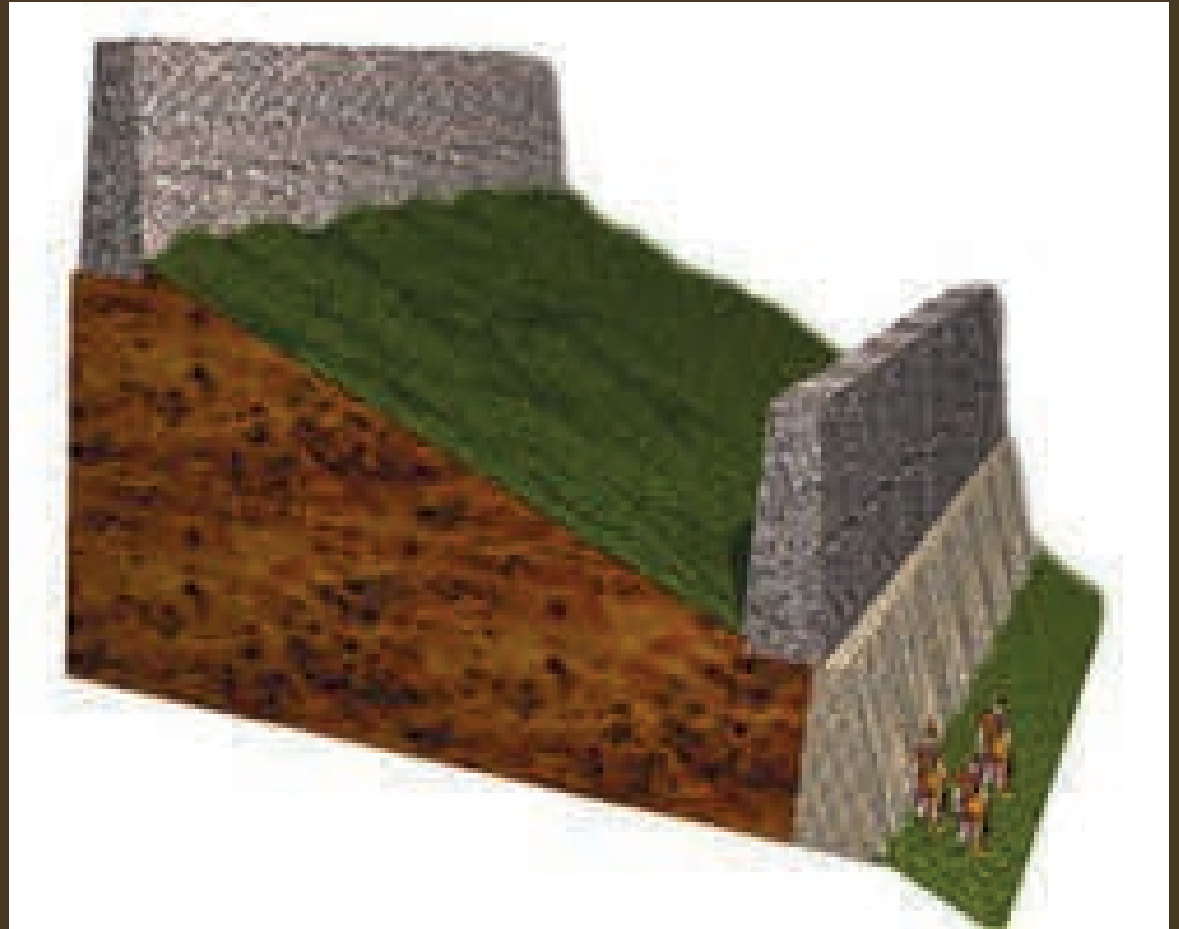
Jericho and the Shofar

- Ram's horn trumpets: the type of instruments used in military campaigns.



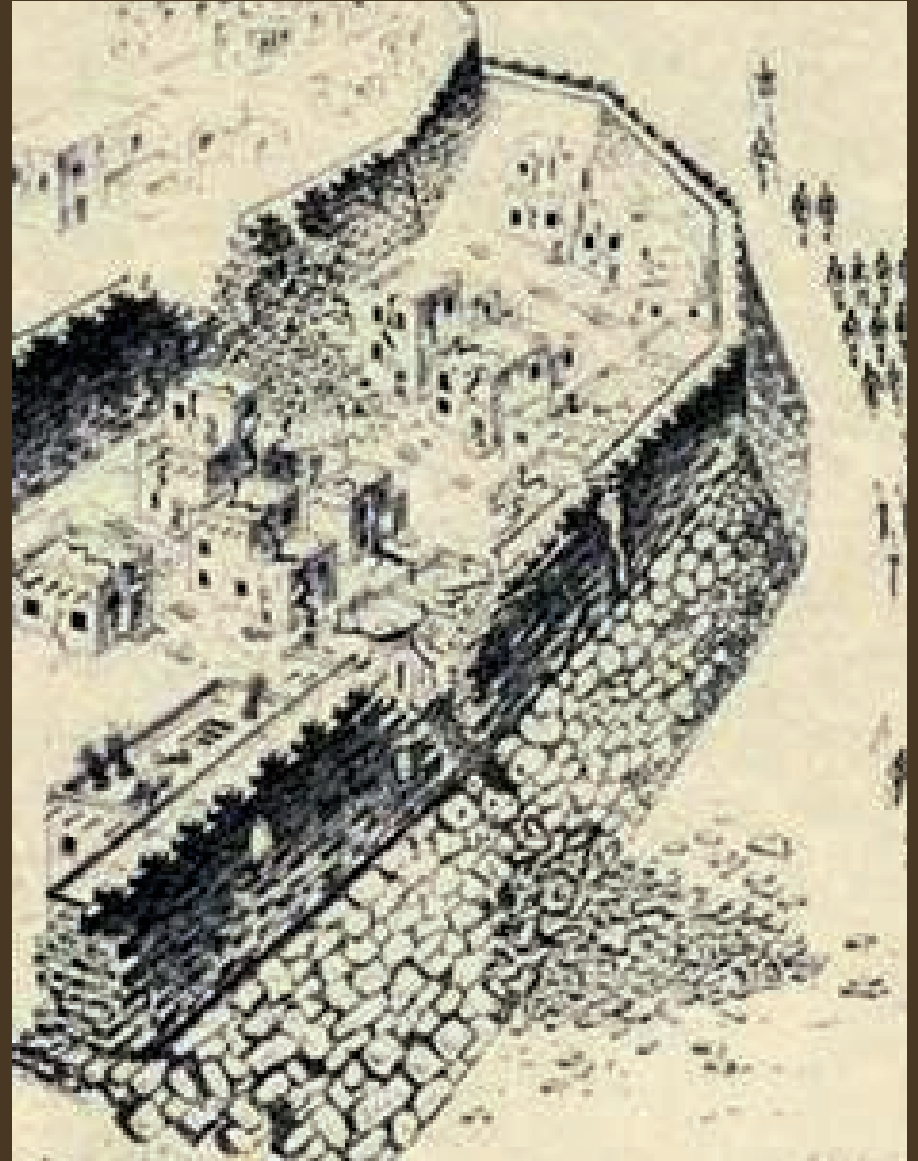
Walls of Jericho

- Fortifications included two walls:
- One mud-brick wall atop a steep rampart
- A second wall at the base atop a retaining wall



Rahab's House?

Artist's rendering
of the walls,
based on German
archaeological
excavations in
1907-1909



An Unusual find!



- Jars full of grain were found in the rubble. This was out of the ordinary.
- Was there a biblical explanation?

A Fiery Finale!

- Pottery showing clear evidence of being burned.
- Both Garston and Kenyon wrote of a burn layer in their reports



Blessings and Curses



Mt. Ebal and
Mt. Gerizim

Israel reaffirms
their covenant
with God

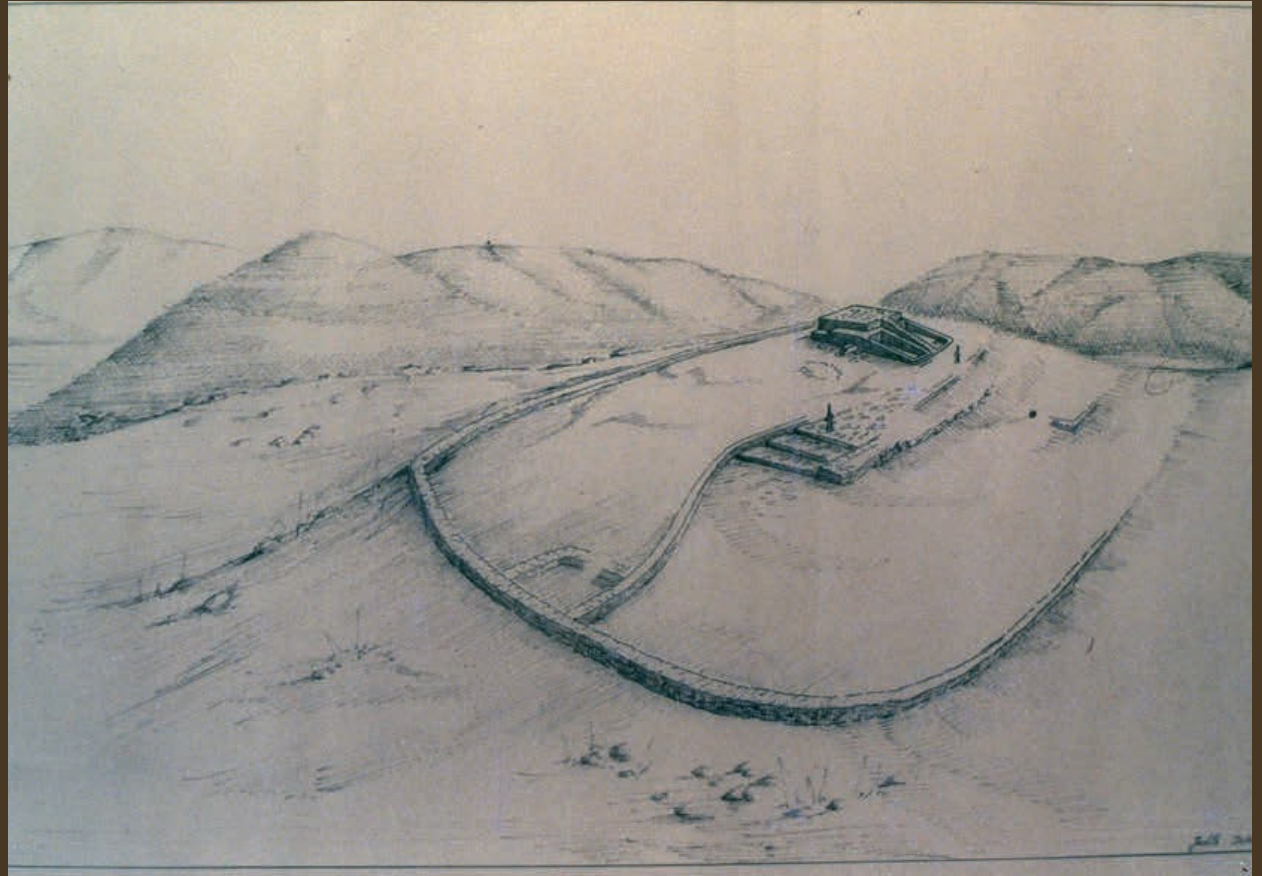
Ebal: Place of Worship?

- Altar of unhewn stones
- Burned remains of animal sacrifices



Mountain-top Discoveries

- Mt. Ebal
- Reconstruction drawing
- Altar and ramp according to God's instructions.





David's Sling: Too Fantastic?

- Mesopotamian slinger during the time of David
- Tenth century B.C.E.

Battle at the Pool of Gibeon

- The soldiers of David and Abner met to contest the throne, at the Pool of Gibeon.
- The biblical account is accurate in every detail!



David: Arthurian Style Legend?



- Tell Dan
- Hazael of Damascus claims victory over the “house of David”

“House of David”: Mesha Stele



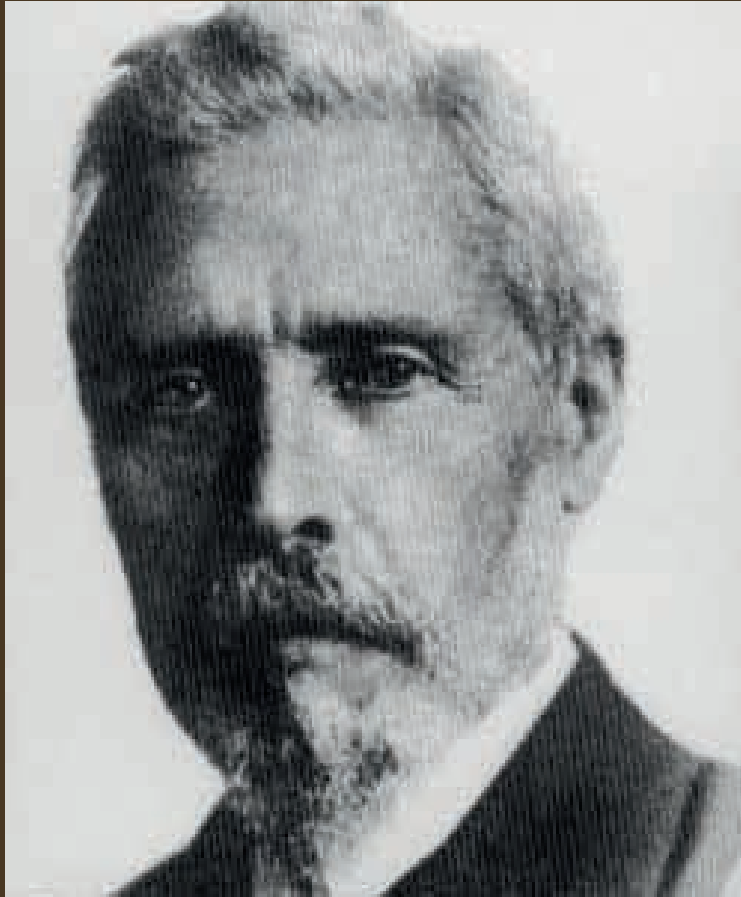
- Also known as the Moabite Stone it was discovered in Dibon in 1868
- The stele celebrates Mesha's victory over Omri, the House of Omri, and refers to the House of David

Belshazzar



- Skeptics claimed there was no ruler in Babylon called Belshazzar. Nabonitus was king when Babylon fell. Was this the whole story?

Sir William Ramsey



- "I set out to look for truth on the borderland where Greece and Asia meet, and found it there. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment."
- Luke is a historian of the first rank..."

William F. Albright



...nothing has been found [by archaeologists] to disturb a reasonable faith, and nothing has been discovered which can disprove a single theological doctrine. We no longer trouble ourselves with attempts to 'harmonize' religion and science, or to 'prove' the Bible. The Bible can stand for itself." - verified the authenticity of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr. Clifford Wilson

- "I know of no finding in archaeology that's properly confirmed which is in opposition to the Scriptures. The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen." - formerly director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology

Dr. Bryant Wood

- "In every instance where the findings of archaeology pertain to the Biblical record, the archaeological evidence confirms, sometimes in detailed fashion, the historical accuracy of Scripture.
- Archaeologist, Associates for Biblical Research

Dr. Nelson Glueck

- "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical description has often led to amazing discoveries."
- Rivers in the Desert

Sir Frederic Kenyon

- Archaeology has not yet said its last word, but the results already achieved confirm what faith would suggest – that the Bible can do nothing but gain from an increase in knowledge.” former director of the British Museum

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