

Smoky Mountain Bible Institute

Archeology 104 Cities & Artifacts

Let's break out our brush again and knock some dust off more interesting archeological artifacts. This veritable mountain of ancient treasures all makes perfect sense in light of God's truth.

Cities: Here is a small list of Middle Eastern cities or towns that either have, or have had, archeological digs that validate biblical chronologies with regard to those places: Gezer, Shiloh, Ashdod, Beth Shemesh, the pool at Gibia, Gibeah, Beth Shean, Jerusalem, Beersheba, Samaria, Hazor, Carchemish, Babylon, Suza, Nazereth, Bethsaida, Cana, Capernaum, Gergesa, Sychar, Jericho, Bethany, Tiberias, Ceasarea Philippi, Megiddo, Sepphoris, the ten cities of the Decapolis, Damascus, Areopagus, Corinth, Ephesus, multiple Antioch's, Thessalonica, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Sardis. This is really only a very small sampling of a very large list of such places.

House of David: The inscription found on a piece of stone at Tel Dan is the first extra biblical mention of King David. Many claimed in the late 1800's that he never existed.

Ivory: Decorative ivory ornaments, and other objects with Hebrew inscriptions, have been found in several sites in Palestine dating to the time of King Solomon. They may not come from his ivory and gold covered throne, but they do give evidence of a unique craft in use at the time and place of the biblical Solomon.

Ancient donation receipts: Ostrakon is the word for pieces of pottery used for notes, messages and receipts. Because they are made of pottery, they can be dated very accurately. There is a 2800-year-old ostrakon that is a receipt for a donation of 3 shekels to the house of Yahweh. Hmmm, Solomon's Temple anyone???

Royal Seals: A number of royal seals carved out of precious stone have been discovered. These seals bear the names of Uzziah, Hoshea, Hezekiah and Solomon. They went to a lot of trouble to carve these stones for kings many skeptics say never existed, and are the stuff of cultural legend, not history.

Things carved in stone: There are many things carved in stone that are a real problem for those who seek to dismiss biblical history. On a Moabite stone, King Mesha brags of fighting off the king of Israel, and even uses that phrase "house of David" on the stone. Shalmaneser's black obelisk brags of conquering the Israelites. Lachish has a 62-foot-long relief boasting of the defeat of Israel, and Sennacherib had a 15 inch tall, 6 sided prism carved claiming to have vanquished Israel. Pharaoh Shishak describes on the walls of the temple of Karnack about invading Judah around 925 BC. A lot of kings had a lot of carving done to brag of their defeat of Israel that just happens to jive chronologically with scripture. And for those who would argue that the Israelites were just a small band of nomads, consider this: do kings brag about destroying a large and powerful nation or do they brag about defeating a small band of shepherds? When you put it that way, the stone seems to speak for itself.

In Christ
Pastor Portier