

# *Smoky Mountain Bible Institute*

## *Archeology 105*

Let's wrap up our discussion on Old Testament archeology with a few more interesting archeological artifacts. Then we can move on to archeological support for some New Testament finds.

**Burial Plaque:** On the Mount of Olives stands a Russian church, and on its grounds is a burial plaque that states the following "Here the bones of Uzziah, King of Judah were brought...do not open". Someone went to a lot of trouble to carve a burial plaque that fits in the culture and architecture of the reign of King Uzziah circa 775-725 BC, or this is just another piece of evidence for the scriptural accuracy of Chronicles and the whole of Scripture.

**A Commemorative Inscription:** In 701 BC King Hezekiah completed a tunnel which allowed for the safe gathering of water from the Gihon spring without leaving the safety of the city walls. In 1880, two boys playing in the tunnel discovered an inscription in the wall of the tunnel that celebrated the completion of this tunnel, confirming exactly as recorded in the accounts in 2 Kings 20 and 2 Chronicles 32 – a clear physical witness to biblical accuracy.

**The Hezir Family:** 1 Chronicles 14 and Nehemiah 10 mention this priestly line, and a complex and elaborate burial site in the Kidron valley carries this same name and three generations buried in this tomb. Hezir was on the list of priests during the reign of King David. This is no coincidence, but is evidence of a culture and a people matching God's Holy word.

**Pleas for Help:** In 1935 an archeologist discovered 21 letters in the ruins of the ancient city of Lachish. These letters (on ostrakon) pleaded for help from the city of Judah. Their content concurs historically with the events prophesied by Jeremiah, and recorded in 2 Kings, of the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 587 BC.

**The Dead Sea Scrolls:** These amazing scrolls, some of which are almost 2300 years old, contain some or all of 38 of the 39 Old Testament books – only Ester is missing. Some of these texts are more than 1000 years older than our oldest copy when they were discovered in 1947. This 1000-year gap was bridged amazingly. There were no errors that in any way affected the text meaning. These are a miraculous witness to scripture's divine origin, accuracy and infallibility!!

**Over 2600 years old:** That is how old the piece of jewelry found in a tomb in Jerusalem is. On this earring is a silver scroll on which is carved the oldest existing word of scripture, often referred to as the Arronic blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26. You may have heard similar words at the close of worship. **"The Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you Peace."**

This blessing is a great place to complete our study of archeology from an Old Testament prospective. Tune in next time when we will examine some artifact from the time of Christ and the early Church.

In Christ  
Pastor Portier