

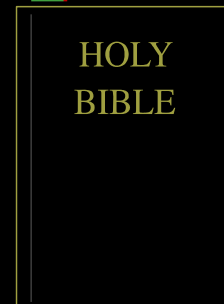
T.A.P. into your Bible

Good book or God's book?





3 T.A.P. Points



1. **T**ransmission

2. **A**rcheology

“The Stones will Cry Out”

3. **P**rophecy (next week)





What the Scholars are saying

. . .

"The actual evidence concerning the Exodus resembles the evidence for the unicorn."

Baruch Halpern of Pennsylvania State University.

"The figure of King David is about as historical as King Arthur."

Philip Davies of University of Sheffield, England.

"The period of the patriarchs, exodus, conquest, or judges as devised by the writers of Scriptures . . . never existed."

Robert Coote of San Francisco Theological Seminary.





What the Scholars are saying

...

The Genesis and Exodus accounts are "a fiction written around the middle of the first millennium [500 BC]"

Niels Peter Lemche at the University of Copenhagen

"The Book of Joshua is of no historical value as far as the process of settlement is concerned."

Volkmar Fritz, director of the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem.





Current State of Archeology

- Prejudice against the Bible.
- Arguing from Silence.
- Archeology's limitations:
 - A Fraction of material remains,
 - Only a fraction of that has been excavated,
 - Only a fraction of that has been examined thoroughly,
 - Only a fraction of that has been published.





1 Corinthians 15:17-19

17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.





Historical Basis of Our Faith

- The Resurrection is the most significant event in history . . .
- Involving the most significant person in history . . .
- Who is connected with other historical figures.

So can we trust the historical accuracy of the Biblical record?





Matthew 1:1

The record of the genealogy
of

Jesus the Messiah,

the son of **David**,

the son of **Abraham**:





Jesus on Abraham

Matthew 22:31-32

“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:

‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”





Skeptics View of Abraham

- A myth written in the sixth or fifth century B.C. to console the Jews being held in Babylon.
- Patriarchs were reflections of astral deities or transformed Canaanite deities.
- Patriarchs are figures of folk poetry.





Treaties made by Patriarchs

- Abraham, and later Isaac, made a treaty with King Abimelech, and Jacob made a treaty with Laban. Gen. 21:27-30; 26:28; 31:44.
- Over 90 documents of ancient treaties and covenants to compare from 2600 B.C. down to 600 B.C.
- Treaties take distinctive forms over the centuries.
- The treaties with Abimelech and Laban fit precisely the structure of treaties at the time of the Patriarchs.
- **How would Jewish writers in 500 BC know about the style of treaty in 2000 - 1500 BC?**

2000 BC
Abraham

1500 BC
Moses

1000 BC
David

600 BC
Exile

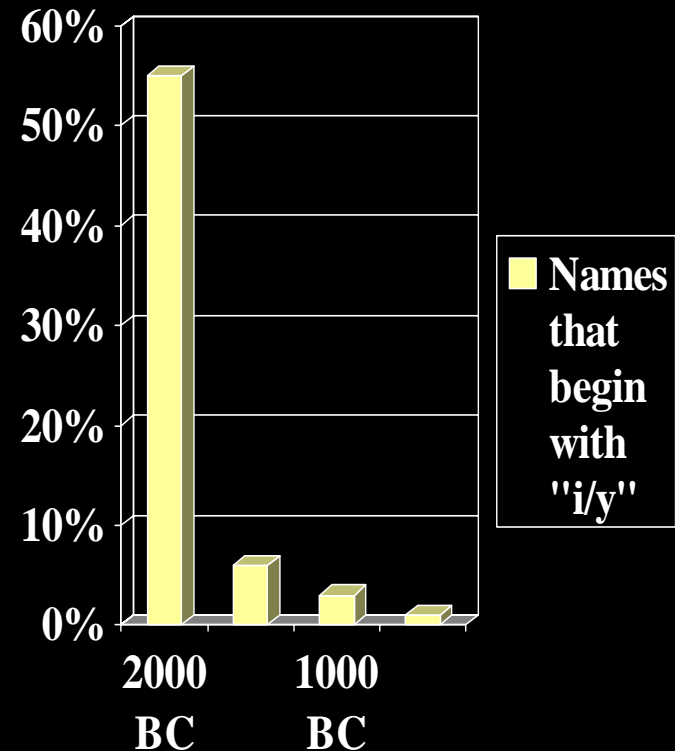
400 BC
Silence





Language of Abraham

- The names Yitzchak (Isaac), Ya'akov (Jacob), Yoseph (Joseph), and Yishmael (Ishmael) all begin with a unique "i/y" sound.
- Studying thousands of names from 3000 BC forward.
- 55% of names used this during Patriarchs.
- By 1500 BC it had dropped to a fraction of this, by 500 BC it had dropped almost completely.
- How would 500 BC Jewish writer know this to even create names?



2000 BC Abraham	1500 BC Moses	1000 BC David	600 BC Exile	400 BC Silence
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Abraham's Defeat of a Coalition of Kings

Skeptics say Genesis written in, therefore reflects, 500 BC Israel.

Gen 14:1-2 And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, *that* they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

2000 BC
Abraham

1500 BC
Moses

1000 BC
David

600 BC
Exile

400 BC
Silence



Jesus on David

Matthew 22:41-46 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They *said to Him, "*The son of David.*" He *said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet"

"If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

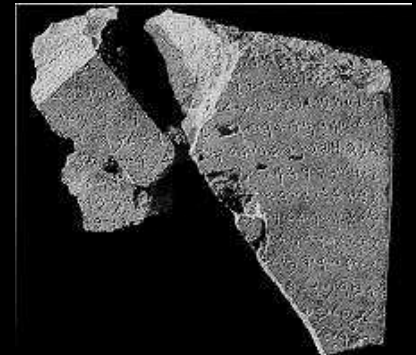


Skeptics on David

- “Historicity hardly applies to those aspects of the traditions about Saul, David, and Solomon that mark them indelibly as **legends** of dynastic founders and of rulers of a golden age.”
- “The David of the Bible, David the king, is not a historical figure.”
- “The figure of King David is about as historical as King Arthur.”

David in Archeology

- In 1993 a stone slab with "House of David" was discovered dated 841 BC.
- Mesha stele (850 BC ca.) had another reference to "House of David".
- Egyptian Temple Wall speaks of the "highlands of David" dated only 50 years after his death, 4 years after Solomon's death (2 Sam 2).



2000 BC
Abraham

1500 BC
Moses

1000 BC
David

600 BC
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Israel's Distinctive Religion versus their surrounding cultures

- ① The Hebrews have the only Monotheistic God.
- ③ The Hebrews alone did not project human-like (negative) characteristics upon its deity.
- ② The Hebrews have the only holy, ethical God.



The Bible is Historically Accurate

“The excessive skepticism against the Bible . . . has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.”

– William F. Albright





1 Corinthians 15:17-19

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18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.





If Jesus rose . . . ?

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- 1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,
- 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

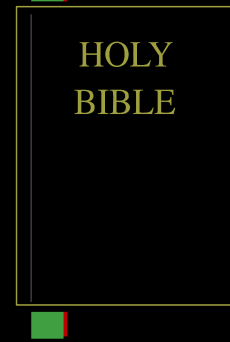


Saint: If Jesus rose...?

- Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58



3 T.A.P. Points



1. **T**ransmission
2. **A**rcheology
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Jesus, answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- John 14:6

