

## ***T.A.P. into your Bible – ARCHEOLOGY***

Transmission

**Archeology: "The stones will cry out!"**

Prophecy (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 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.

### **State of Archeology**

1. Prejudice against the Bible.
2. Arguing from Silence.
3. 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.

### **Historical Basis of Our Faith**

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- The Resurrection is the most significant event in history . . .
  - Involving the most significant person in history . . .
  - Who is connected with other historical figures.

Matthew 1:1 ". . . Jesus, the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

### ***Abraham in archeology***

#### **Jesus on Abraham: Matthew 22:31-32**

#### **Skeptics View of Abraham**

- A myth written in the sixth or fifth century B.C. to console the Jews being held in Babylon.

### **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?

### **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?

### **Abraham's Defeat of a Coalition of Kings**

- Skeptics say Genesis written in, therefore reflects, 500 BC Israel.
  - Gen 14:1-2 List of kings from small city-states.
  - Before Abraham, Dynasties of Ur controlled area, after Abraham, Babylon and Assyria controlled the region.
  - The ONLY time where kings of small city-states roamed the countryside is when Abraham lived!
- How would Jewish writers in 500 BC know this?

### ***David in archeology***

#### **Jesus on David: Matthew 22:41-46**

#### **Skeptics on David**

- *"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)

## Israel's Religious Distinctives

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

### The Bible as 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

### Conclusion:

### Selected Sources:

Kevin D. Miller "Did the Exodus Never Happen?", *Christianity Today*, September 7, 1998 Vol. 42, No. 10, Page 44

--- "King David Was Here" *Christianity Today*, September 7, 1998 Vol. 42, No. 10, Page 49

Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Rev. Ed.; (San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Pub., 1979).

Edwin Yamauchi, *The Stones and the Scriptures*, (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981).

A.R. Millard, James Hoffmeier, editors, *Faith, Tradition and History*, (Eisenbrauns: Winona Lake, IN, 1994)

Websites:

<http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html>

[http://www.bible-history.com/resource/ar\\_bib.htm](http://www.bible-history.com/resource/ar_bib.htm)