

# Think BIBLICALLY



**RENEW**  
your mind  
Romans 12:2

THE  
SAME  
OLD  
THINKING

THE  
SAME  
OLD  
RESULTS

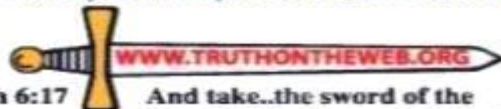
[www.totw.org](http://www.totw.org)



**Church of God at Woodstock**

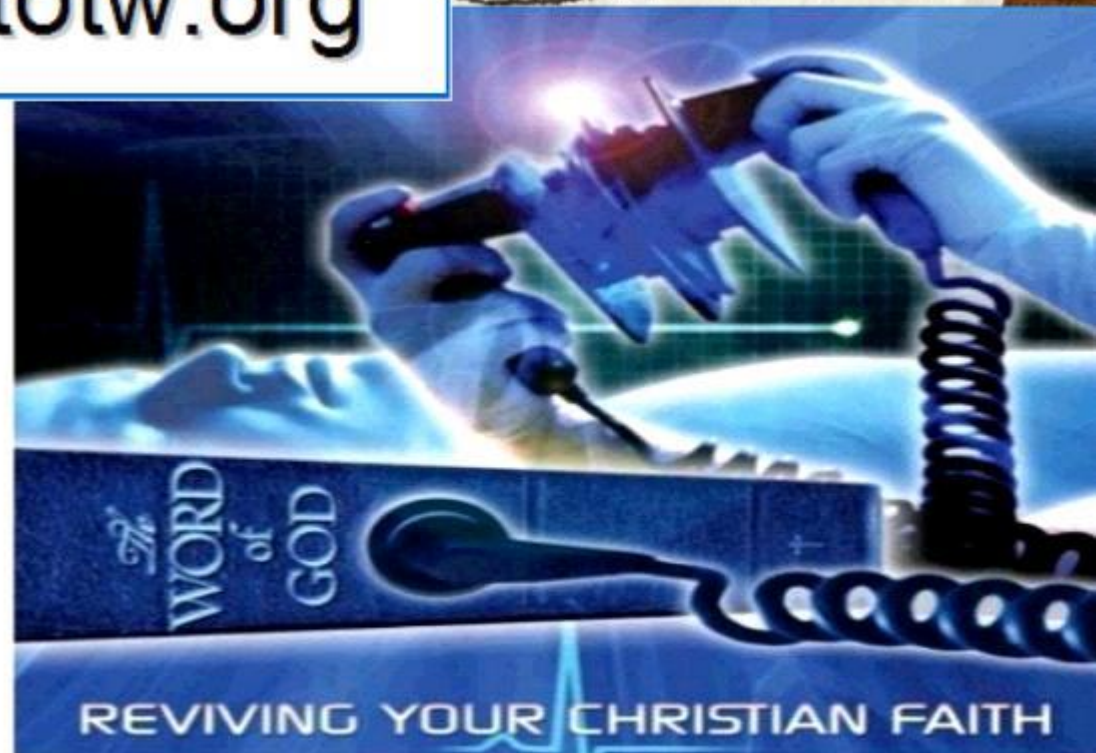


Truth On The Web Ministries



Eph 6:17

And take..the sword of the  
spirit, which is the word of God.



REVIVING YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

# Truth Of The Word

Our Royal Guide



[www.totw.org](http://www.totw.org)

*“It's just a %\$#@ing BOOK!!!”*

*“A bunch of ancient myths!”*

*“You believe in fairy tales, huh?”*



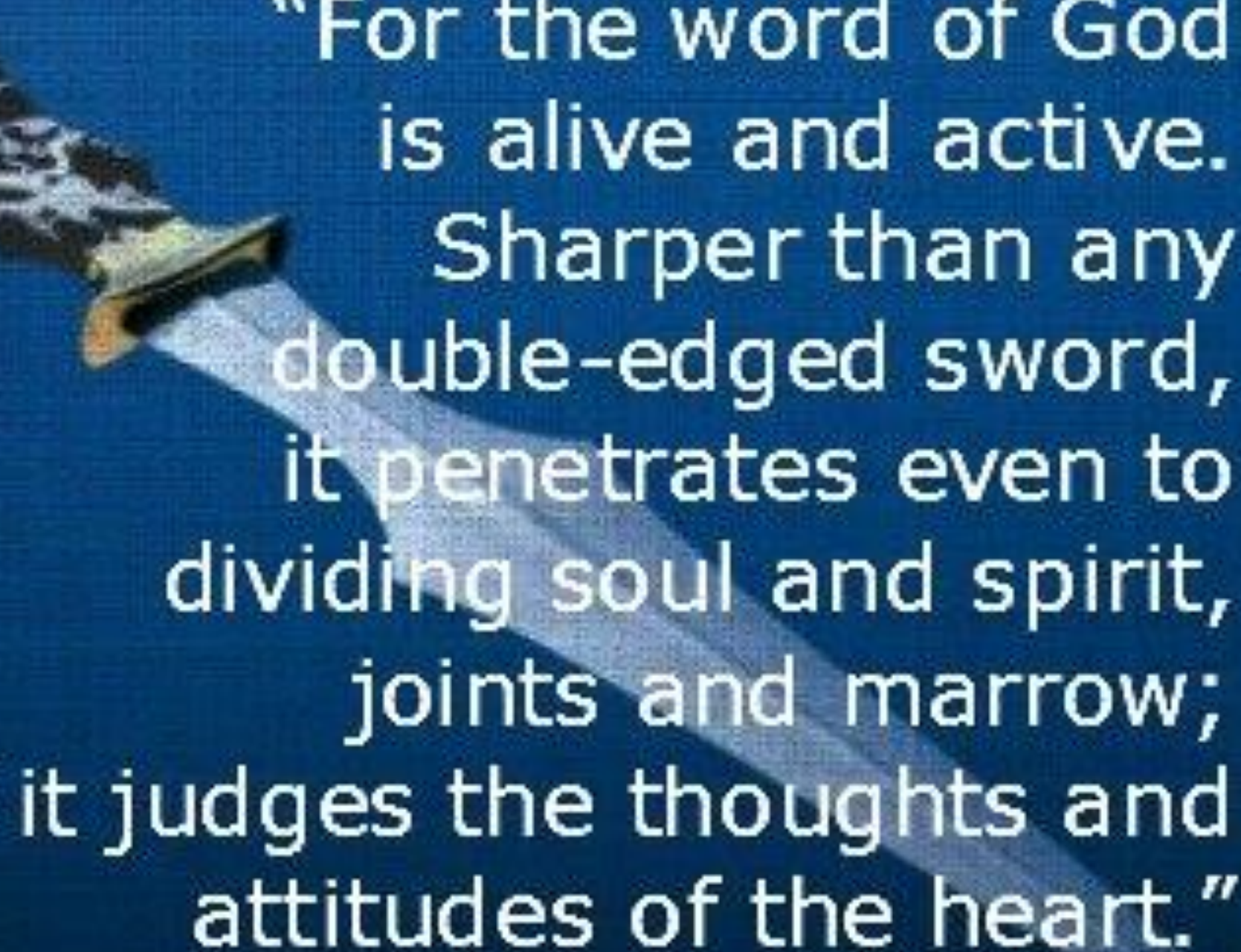


**For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**



**2 Timothy 4:3-4**






“For the word of God  
is alive and active.  
Sharper than any  
double-edged sword,  
it penetrates even to  
dividing soul and spirit,  
joints and marrow;  
it judges the thoughts and  
attitudes of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

# Testimony Of The Word

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the Scriptures**, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Matthew 22:31-32 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, **have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God**, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.





Matthew 4:5-7 Then the devil took him into the holy city. He set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, **for it is written**, 'He will give his angels charge concerning you.' and, 'On their hands they will bear you up, So that you don't dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written, 'You shall not test the Lord, your God.'"

*It Is  
Written*

# Testimony Of The Word

For this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of the message of God, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also works in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13





# Testimony Of The Word

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:37



# Testimony Of The Word

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken;





# **Testimony Of The Word**

**All Scripture is given by  
inspiration of God, and is  
profitable for doctrine, for  
reproof, for correction, for  
instruction in righteousness:**

2 Timothy 3:16



# Testimony Of The Word

2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Spirit, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on My right hand, till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.





# Testimony Of The Word

1 Kings 17:24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

2 Samuel 23:2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.

Luke 1:70 (As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets who have been from of old),



# **Testimony Of The Word**

**Psalm 19:7-9—“The law of the Lord is perfect... the testimony of the Lord is sure... the commandment of the Lord is pure... the judgments of the Lord are true forever.”**

**Psalm 119:43—“the word of truth.”**

**Psalm 119:142—“Thy law is the truth.”**

**Psalm 119:160—“Thy word is true from the beginning.”**

**John 17:17—“Thy word is truth.”**





# **Testimony Of The Word**

**An inaccurate Bible contradicts God's character quality of absolute truthfulness.**

**Titus 1:2—“God who cannot lie.”**

**Hebrews 6:18—“It is impossible for God to lie.”**





# What is TRUTH?

**An expression, symbol or statement that matches or corresponds to its object or referent.**

**Truth must correspond to reality in order to be true.**





How do we  
know the  
Bible is  
true?

Does the  
Truth in  
the Bible  
match  
reality?

# FULFILLED PROPHECY



God gave the prophecies, not to gratify men's curiosity by enabling them to foreknow things, but that after they were fulfilled they might be interpreted by the event, and His own providence, not the interpreters, be thereby manifested to the world.

--Isaac Newton





# Testimony Of The Word

*I have foretold the former things from the beginning; and they went out of My mouth; and I made them hear; I acted suddenly; and they came about. ... I declared it to you from the beginning. Before it happened I revealed it to you; lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, has commanded them.'*

**Isaiah 48:3, 5**



# Testimony Of The Word

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.



# Testimony Of The Word

Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this Scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.





# Cyrus, My Anointed

Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

“He began his reign about 550 b.c., and this prophecy was therefore delivered not far from a hundred and fifty years before he ascended the throne. None but God himself, or he whom God inspired, could have mentioned so long before, the name of him who should deliver the Jewish people from bondage; and if this was delivered, therefore, by Isaiah, it proves that he was under divine inspiration.”

Albert Barnes

Daniel 9:2 In the first year of his reign **I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet**, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 25:11-12 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 29:10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.



There are extensive prophecies dealing with individual nations and cities and with the course of history in general, all of which have been literally fulfilled. More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled by Christ Himself at His first coming. Other prophecies deal with the spread of Christianity, as well as various false religions, and many other subjects.

Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors.

# HISTORICAL ACCURACY





The historical accuracy of the Scriptures is likewise in a class by itself, far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations.

"Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy ...this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

Sir W M Ramsay, *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1915.

# ARCHAEOLOGY



“The discoveries found thus far have led scholars, know matter what their religious opinion, to affirm the historical nature of the narratives related to the patriarchs.”

Donald F. Wiseman

"No archeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."

Dr. Nelson Glueck  
authority on Israeli archeology<sub>31</sub>

# Sumerian Adam & Eve







Clay Tablet, Ebla. The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the Patriarchs to be viable. Documents written on clay tablets from around 2300 B.C. demonstrate that

personal and place names in the Patriarchal accounts are genuine. The name “Canaan” was in use in Ebla, a name critics once said was not used at that time and was used incorrectly in the early chapters of the Bible. The word *tehom* (“the deep”) in Genesis 1:2 was said to be a late word demonstrating the late writing of the creation story. “Tehom” was part of the vocabulary at Ebla, in use some 800 years before Moses. Ancient customs reflected in the stories of the Patriarchs have also been found in clay tablets from Nuzi and Mari.



# The Ebla Tablets

**PEOPLES**

**CITIES**

**DIETIES**

**Adam**

**Ur**

**Baal**

**Eve**

**Sodom**

**Ishtar**

**Noah**

**Gomorrah**



# The Ebla Tablets

“Lord of heaven and earth, the earth was not, you created it; the light of day was not, you created it; the morning light you had not [yet] made exist.”

Ebla Archives 259

Evidence Demands p.376

# Hittite Empire

Genesis 23:10 And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth, even of all that went in at the gate of his city...

Genesis 49:30 In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace.



# Hittite Empire



Evidence for the Hittites was bolstered in Egypt with the discovery of a treaty between Pharaoh Ramses II and the Hittite Empire. Originally written on silver tablets in Heliopolis and Hattusus, a huge copy was found on a wall of the great Karnak Temple.

# **The Destruction Of Sodom**

Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

Genesis 19:24-25



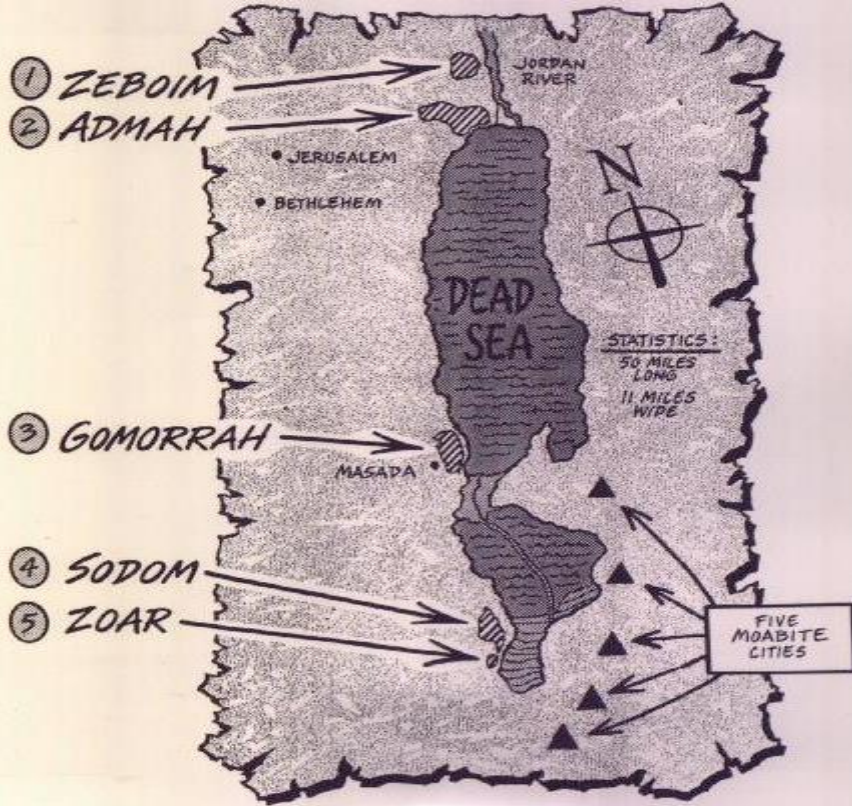


Sodom  
&  
Gomorrah



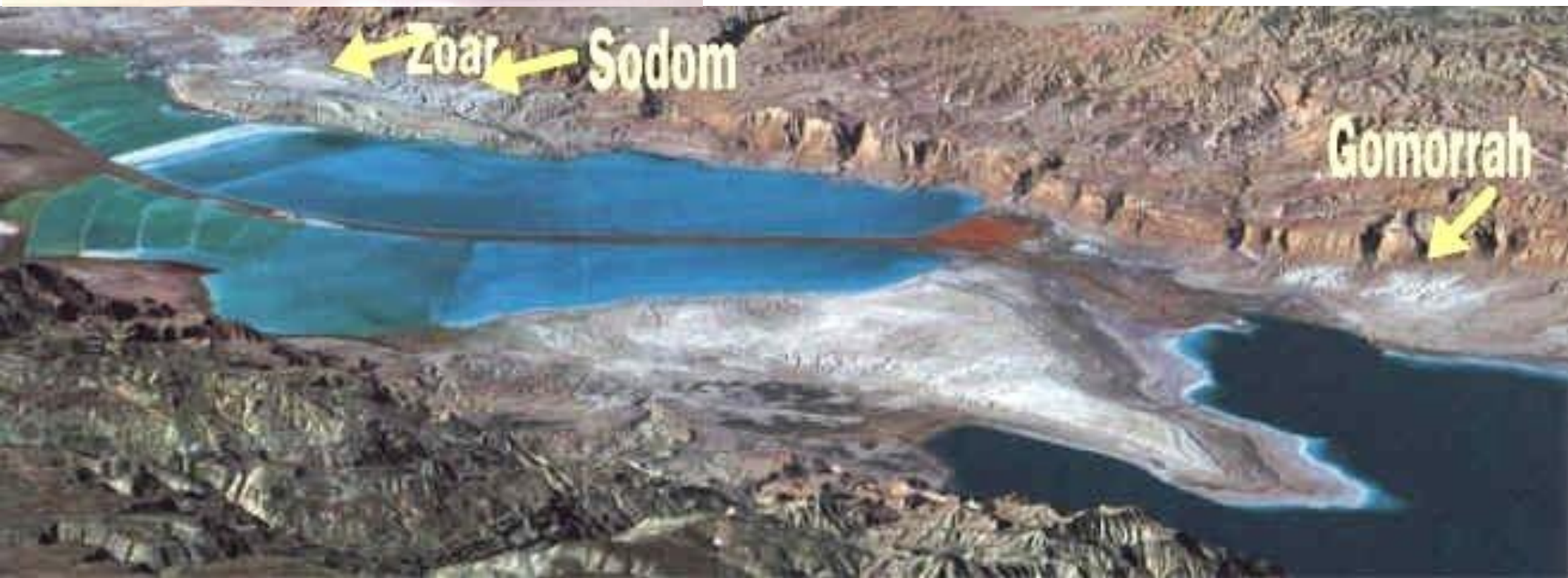
Zoar





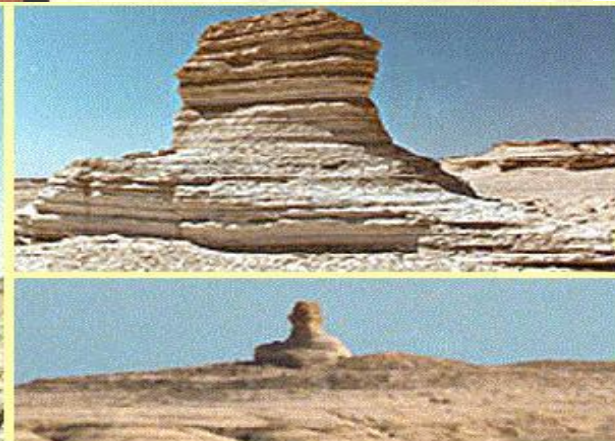
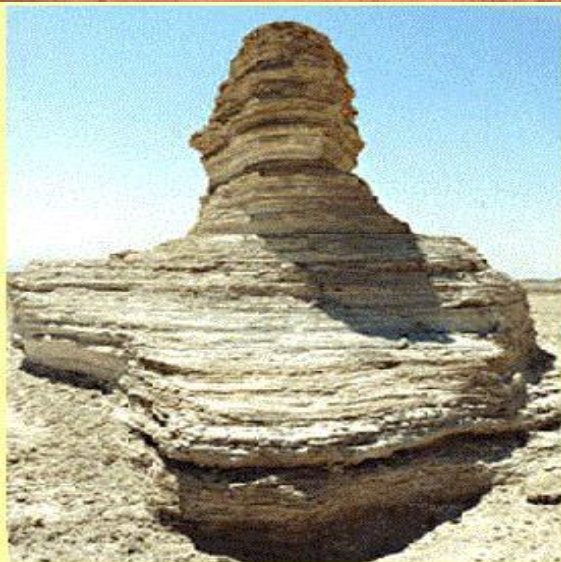
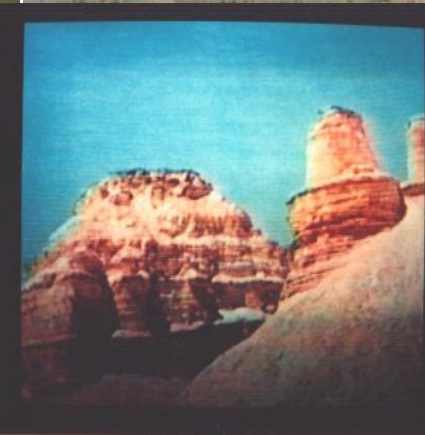
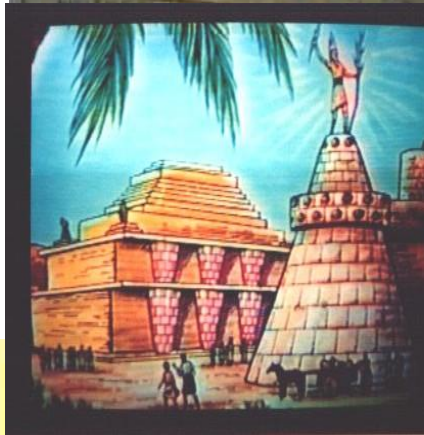
Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

Genesis 19:24-25





# The Destruction Of Sodom



What appears to be a Sphinx  
at Gomorrah







## Sodom:

Sulfur balls prove to be 95.7% pure in laboratory tests

■ Continued from page A-1

The ash is layered. This, Wyatt contends, is the result of thermal ionization that takes place when objects are burned at an extremely high temperature. Substances burned with sulfur leave an ash that is actually heavier than the original material, thus explaining how these buildings have survived for nearly 40 centuries, he says.

Some of the outer ash crumbles easily to the touch, he says, and many spots around the two cities show the effects of wind erosion. The brittleness makes exploration tedious and prevents the Tennessean and his crew, including his wife, Mary Neil Wyatt, from entering some of the buildings.

Wyatt also is convinced that several large outcroppings are the remains of ziggurats. He believes they were used in the promiscuous worship rites that brought God's wrath down on the two cities.

"It was this behavior that caused God to destroy them with fire and brimstone," he says with conviction.

Several of the outcroppings also look like the remains of sphinxes, he says.

But it is the sulfur that most

fascinates Wyatt and convinces him that he has found the two doomed cities.

"When the burning sulfur rained down upon the cities, everything was set ablaze. As the cities burned, these balls of flaming sulfur were smothered out by the ashen remains.

"A capsule was formed around the remaining sulfur which preserved it all these years," he explains.

The substance from these capsules has proven to be 95.7 percent sulfur in tests conducted at Galbraith Laboratories in Knoxville.

Like nowhere else in the world, the sulfur from these capsules was ball shaped. "This is an indication that it passed through the atmosphere," Wyatt says.

When Wyatt returns next month to continue his exploration, he will be using electronics "to locate some empty rooms and that sort of things." He hopes some of them contain furniture and decorative items.

"We have a subsurface interface radar system that we used on Noah's Ark. We want to use that to look for uncollapsed chambers and that sort of thing.

"What we also have is fiber optics. When we locate these chambers below the surface, we will bore a hole about an inch in diameter and then introduce these fiber optics with a light source, and that will give us the ability to video and photograph the interior of these chambers."



# **The Destruction Of Sodom**

2 Peter 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

# **The Red Sea Crossing**

Exodus 14:2-4 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.



# **The Red Sea Crossing**

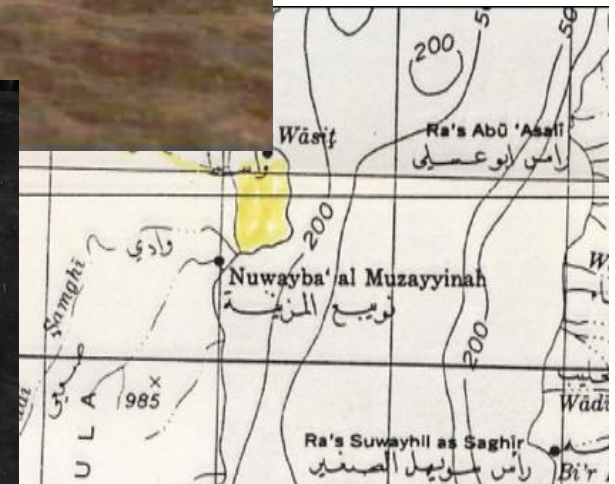
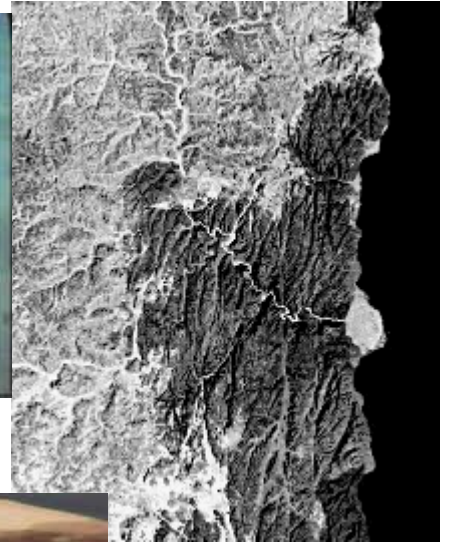
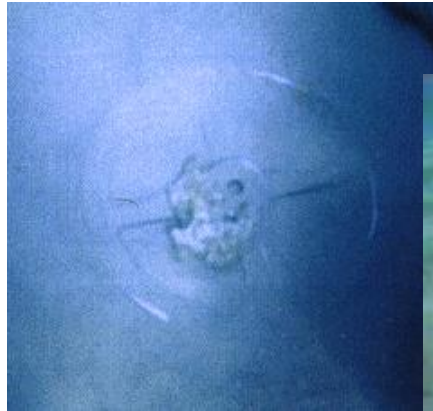
Exodus 14:22-25 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

# **The Red Sea Crossing**

Exodus 14:26-28 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

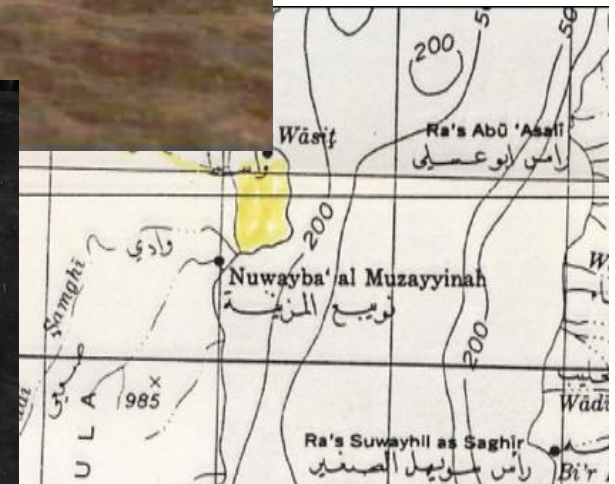
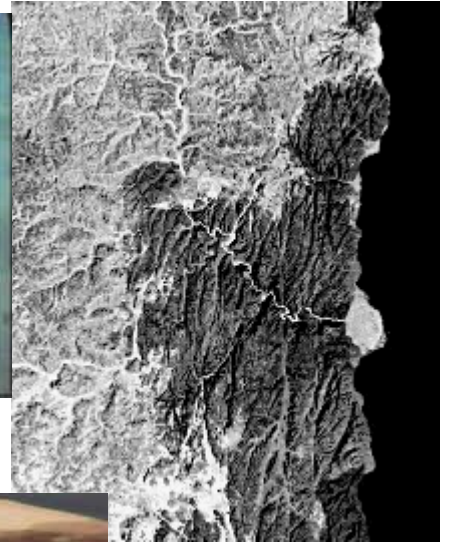
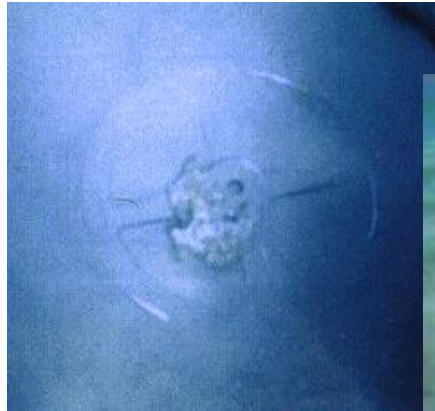


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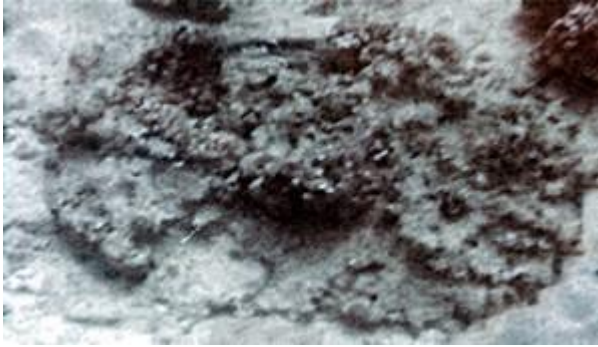




# The Red Sea Crossing



# The Red Sea Crossing



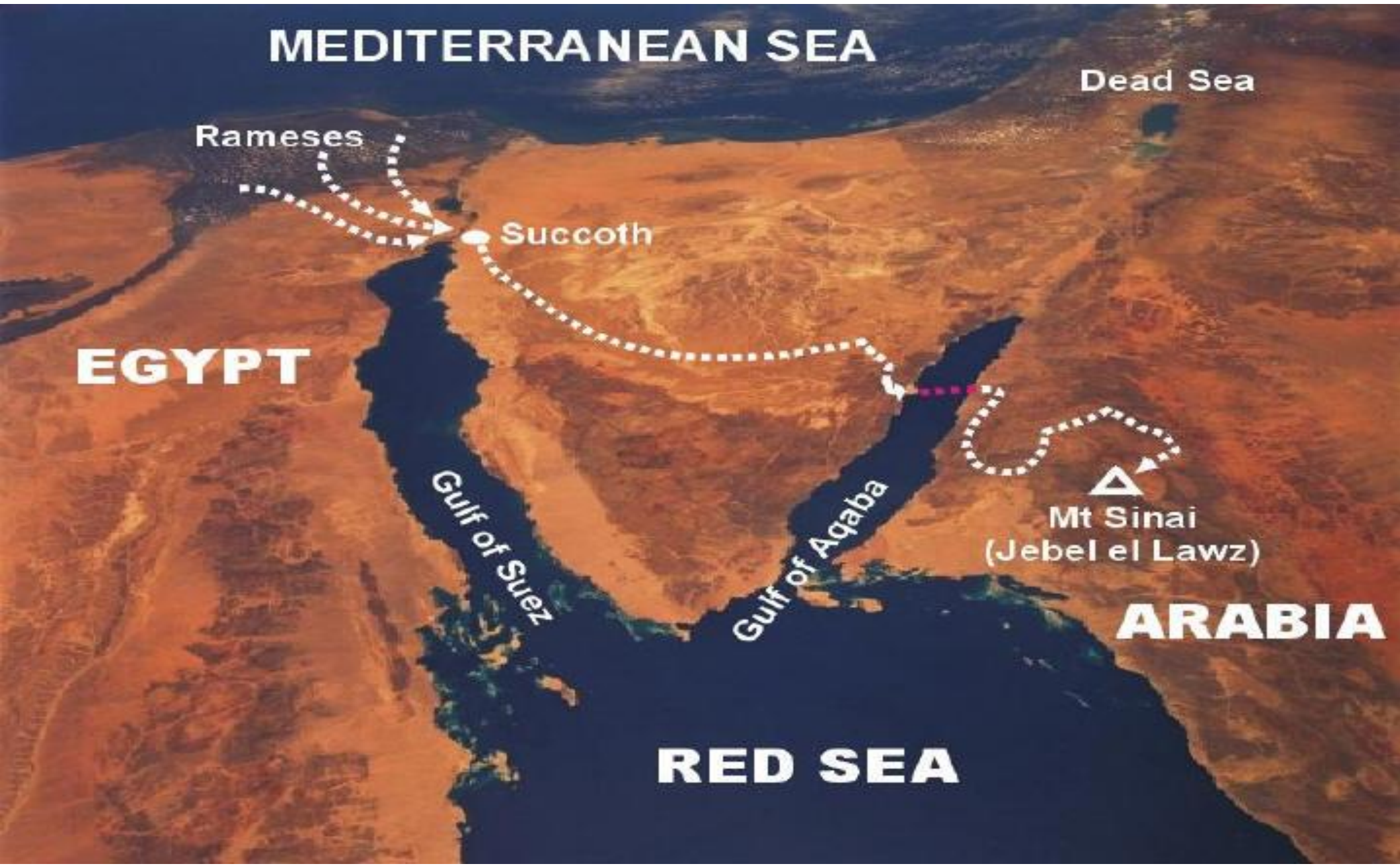
# The Real Mt Sinai

Exodus 3:1-2, 12 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed....And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

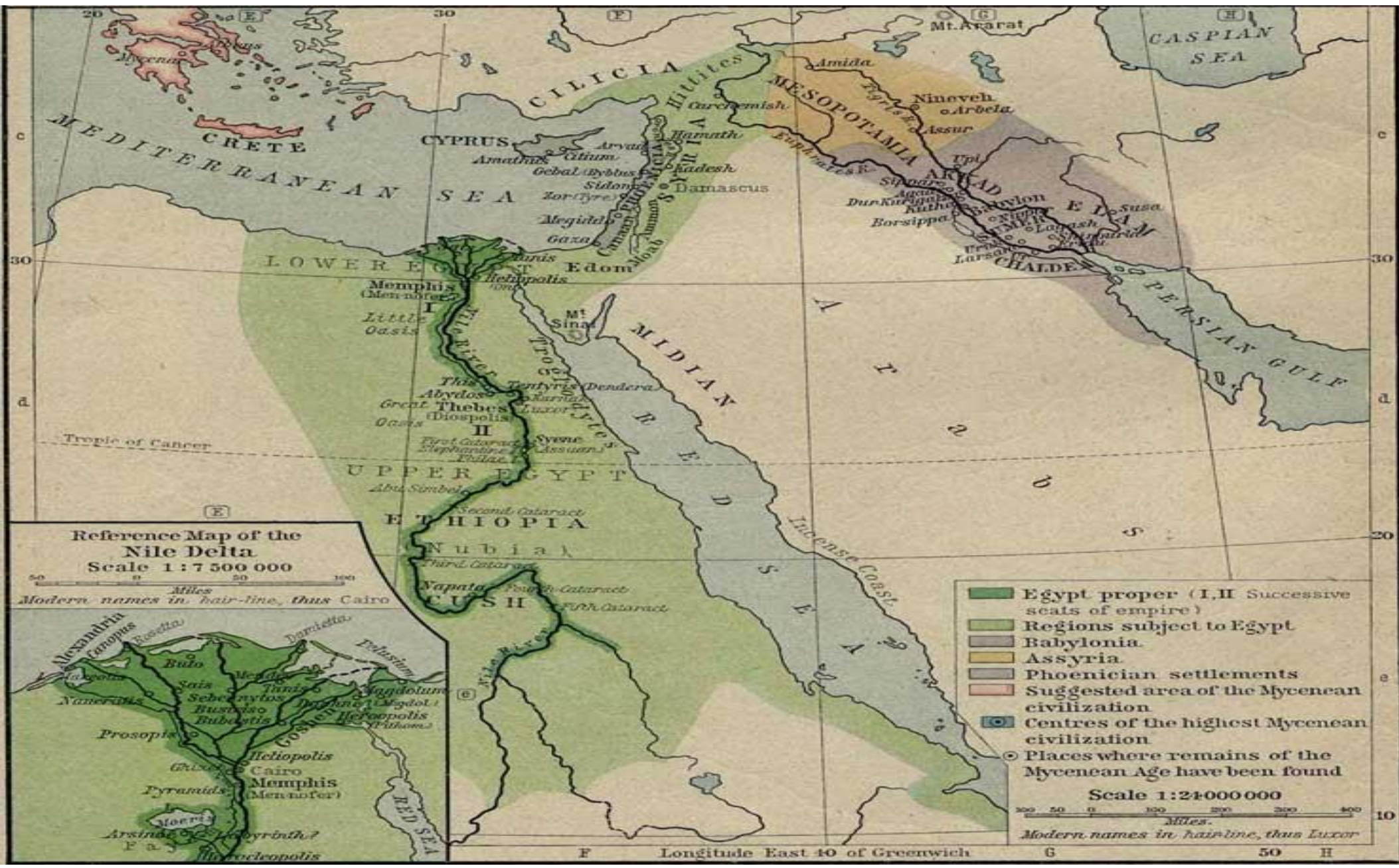


# The Real Mt Sinai



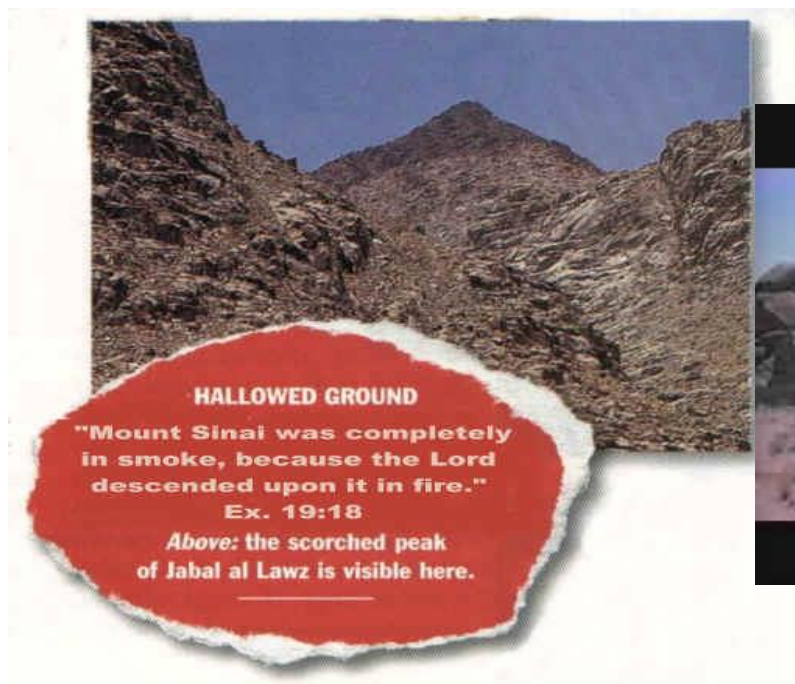
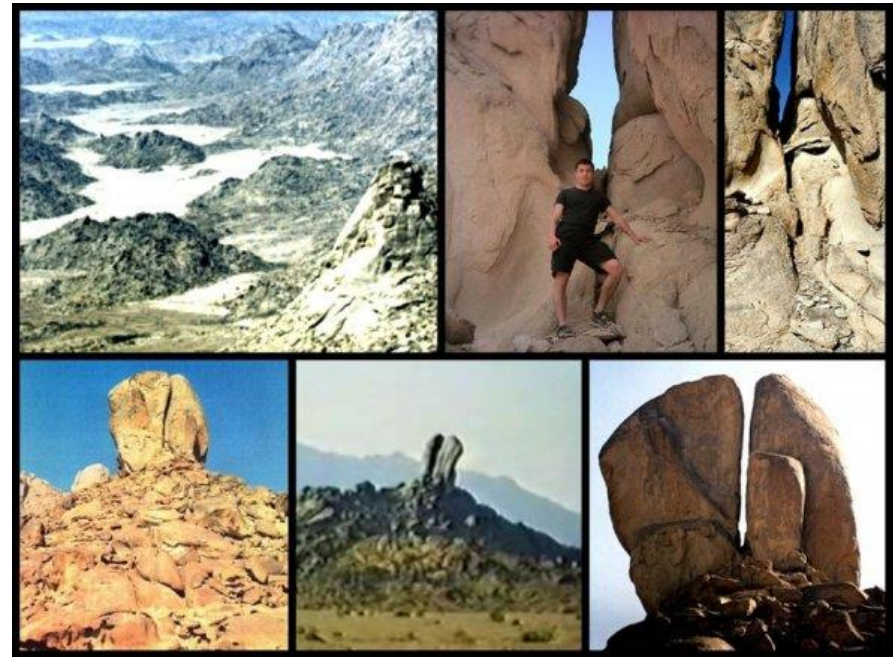
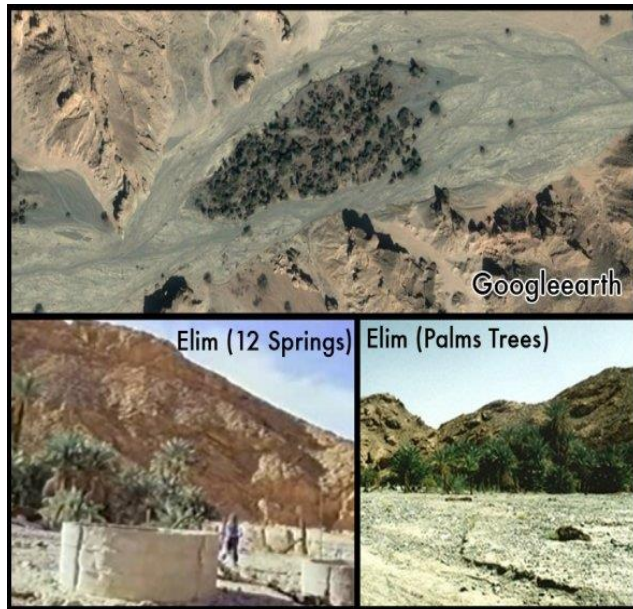


# The Real Mt Sinai





# The Real Mt Sinai



# The Walls Of Jericho

Joshua 6:2-5 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and **the wall of the city shall fall down flat**, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.



# The Walls Of Jericho



Kathleen Kenyon found “fallen red bricks piling nearly to the top of the revetment. These probably came from the wall on the summit of the bank [and/or]...the brickwork above the revetment” (Kenyon 1981: 110).

# The City Of Jericho

The Israelites “burned the whole city and everything in it” (Joshua 6: 24).



The destruction was complete. Walls and floors were blackened or reddened by fire, and every room was filled with fallen bricks, timbers, and household utensils; in most rooms the fallen debris was heavily burnt, but the collapse of the walls of the eastern rooms seems to have taken place before they were affected by the fire (Kenyon 1981: 370).



Situated near the International Coastal Highway and guarding the primary route into the Israelite hill country, Gezer was one of the most strategic cities in the Canaanite and Israelite periods. Gezer is a prominent 33-acre site that overlooked the Aijalon Valley and the road leading through it to Jerusalem. The tell was identified as biblical Gezer in 1871 by C. Clermont-Ganneau who two years later found the first of many boundary stones inscribed with the city's name.

# City of Gezer



# City of Gezer

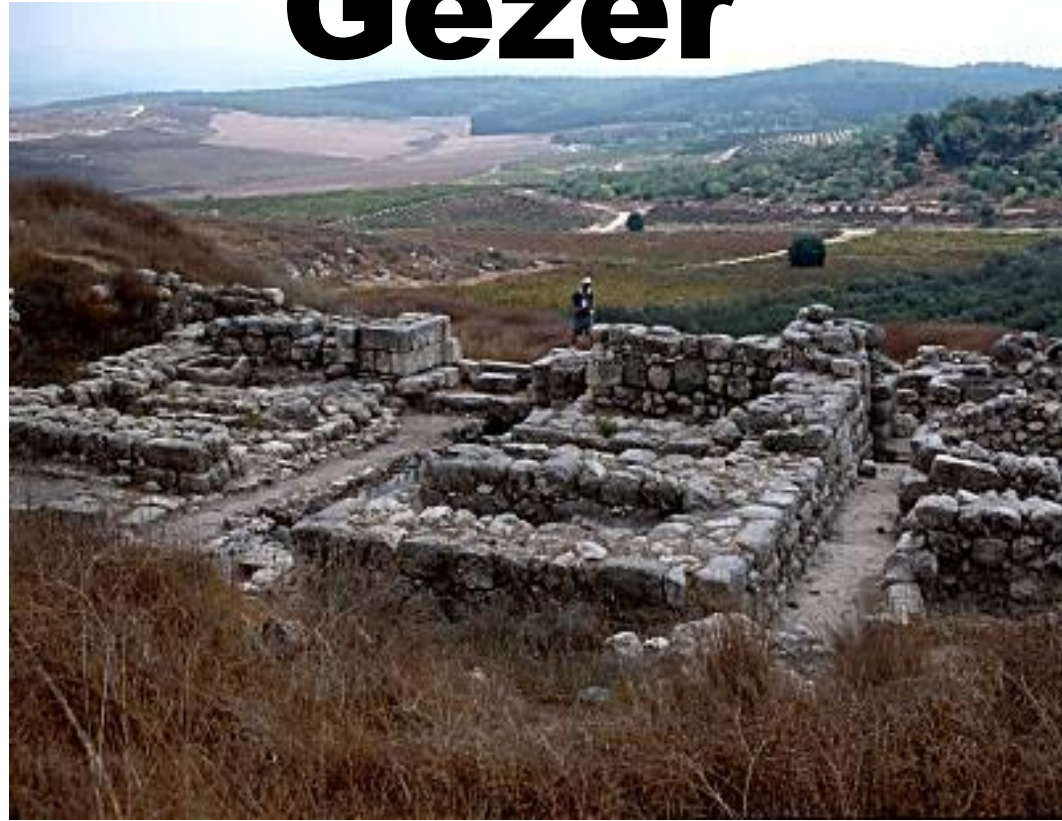
The excavation of Gezer in 1969 ran across a massive layer of ash that covered most of the mound. Sifting through the ash yielded pieces of Hebrew, Egyptian, and Philistine artifacts. Apparently all three cultures had been there at the same time. This puzzled researchers greatly until they realized the Bible told them exactly what they found.



And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build...Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer. For Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up, and taken Gezer, and burnt it with fire, and slain the Canaanites that dwelt in the city, and given it for a present unto his daughter, Solomon's wife. And Solomon built Gezer...

1 Kings 9:15-17

# City of Gezer



A beautiful monumental gateway from the time of Solomon, similar to those at Hazor and Megiddo. The date of this gate is confirmed by the presence of a destruction level underneath it and a destruction level not long after its construction (by Shishak in 925 B.C.)

# **Over 50 People Confirmed**

“...at least 50 people mentioned in the Bible have been identified in the archaeological record. Their names appear in inscriptions written during the period described by the Bible and in most instances during or quite close to the lifetime of the person identified.”

**“Archaeology Confirms 50 Real People in the Bible”** *Biblical Archaeology Review*, March/April 2014



Egypt

Name	Who was He?	When He reigned or Flourished B.C.E.	Where in the Bible?
1 Shishak (= Shoshenq I)	pharaoh	945–924	1 Kings 11:40, etc.
2 So (= Osorkon IV)	pharaoh	730–715	2 Kings 17:4
3 Tirhakah (= Taharqa)	pharaoh	690–664	2 Kings 19:9, etc.
4 Necho II (= Neco II)	pharaoh	610–595	2 Chronicles 35:20, etc.
5 Hophra (= Apries)	pharaoh	589–570	Jeremiah 44:30

Moab

6 Mesha	king	early to mid-ninth century	2 Kings 3:4–27
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Aram-Damascus

7 Hadadezer	king	early ninth century to 844/842	1 Kings 11:23, etc.
8 Ben-hadad, son of Hadadezer	king	844/842	2 Kings 6:24, etc.
9 Hazael	king	844/842–c. 800	1 Kings 19:15, etc.
10 Ben-hadad, son of Hazael	king	early eighth century	2 Kings 13:3, etc.
11 Rezin	king	mid-eighth century to 732	2 Kings 15:37, etc.



## Northern Kingdom of Israel

12 Omri	king	884–873	1 Kings 16:16, etc.
13 Ahab	king	873–852	1 Kings 16:28, etc.
14 Jehu	king	842/841–815/814	1 Kings 19:16, etc.
15 Joash (= Jehoash)	king	805–790	2 Kings 13:9, etc.
16 Jeroboam II	king	790–750/749	2 Kings 13:13, etc.
17 Menahem	king	749–738	2 Kings 15:14, etc.
18 Pekah	king	750(?)–732/731	2 Kings 15:25, etc.
19 Hoshea	king	732/731–722	2 Kings 15:30, etc.
20 Sanballat “I”	governor of Samaria under Persian rule	c. mid-fifth century	Nehemiah 2:10, etc.

## Southern Kingdom of Judah

21 David	king	c. 1010–970	1 Samuel 16:13, etc.
22 Uzziah (= Azariah)	king	788/787–736/735	2 Kings 14:21, etc.
23 Ahaz (= Jehoahaz)	king	742/741–726	2 Kings 15:38, etc.
24 Hezekiah	king	726–697/696	2 Kings 16:20, etc.
25 Manasseh	king	697/696–642/641	2 Kings 20:21, etc.
26 Hilkiah	high priest during Josiah's reign	within 640/639–609	2 Kings 22:4, etc.
27 Shaphan	scribe during Josiah's reign	within 640/639–609	2 Kings 22:3, etc.
28 Azariah	high priest during Josiah's reign	within 640/639–609	1 Chronicles 5:39, etc.
29 Gemariah	official during Jehoiakim's reign	within 609–598	Jeremiah 36:10, etc.
30 Jehoiachin (= Jeconiah = Coniah)	king	598–597	2 Kings 24:6, etc.
31 Shelemiah	father of Jehucal the royal official	late seventh century	Jeremiah 37:3, etc.
32 Jehucal (= Jucal)	official during Zedekiah's reign	within 597–586	Jeremiah 37:3, etc.
33 Pashhur	father of Gedaliah the royal official	late seventh century	Jeremiah 38:1
34 Gedaliah	official during Zedekiah's reign	within 597–586	Jeremiah 38:1

<b>Assyria</b>				
35	Tiglath-pileser III (= Pul)	king	744–727	2 Kings 15:19, etc.
36	Shalmaneser V	king	726–722	2 Kings 17:3, etc.
37	Sargon II	king	721–705	Isaiah 20:1
38	Sennacherib	king	704–681	2 Kings 18:13, etc.
39	Adrammelech (= Ardamullissu = Arad-mullissu)	son and assassin of Sennacherib	early seventh century	2 Kings 19:37, etc.
40	Esarhaddon	king	680–669	2 Kings 19:37, etc.
<b>Babylonia</b>				
41	Merodach-baladan II	king	721–710 and 703	2 Kings 20:12, etc.
42	Nebuchadnezzar II	king	604–562	2 Kings 24:1, etc.
43	Nebo-sarsekim	official of Nebuchadnezzar II	early sixth century	Jeremiah 39:3
44	Evil-merodach (= Awel Marduk = Amel Marduk)	king	561–560	2 Kings 25:27, etc.
45	Belshazzar	son and co-regent of Nabonidus	c. 543?–540	Daniel 5:1, etc.
<b>Persia</b>				
46	Cyrus II (= Cyrus the Great)	king	559–530	2 Chronicles 36:22, etc.
47	Darius I (= Darius the Great)	king	520–486	Ezra 4:5, etc.
48	Xerxes I (= Ahasuerus)	king	486–465	Esther 1:1, etc.
49	Artaxerxes I Longimanus	king	465–425/424	Ezra 4:7, etc.
50	Darius II Nothus	king	425/424–405/404	Nehemiah 12:22

# Tel Dan Stele (900–850 BC)



House of David



# The Meesha Stele (846 BC)



- YHVH
- David
- Omri

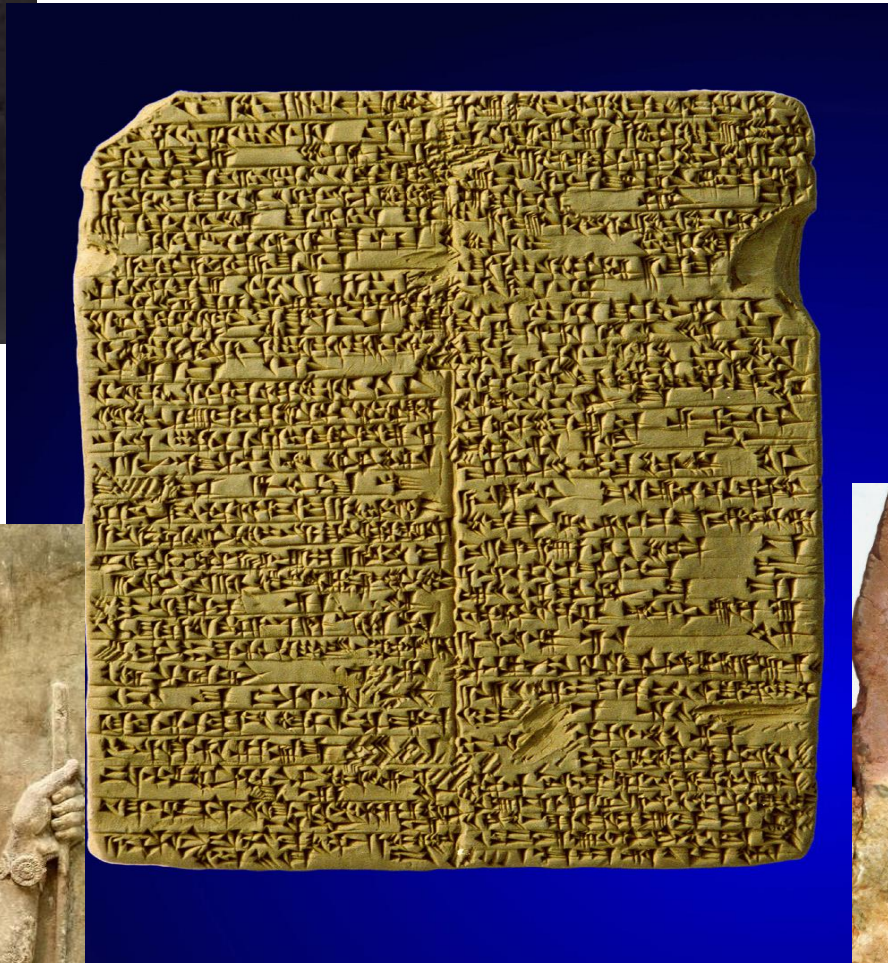
# King Sargon

In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;

Isaiah 20:1

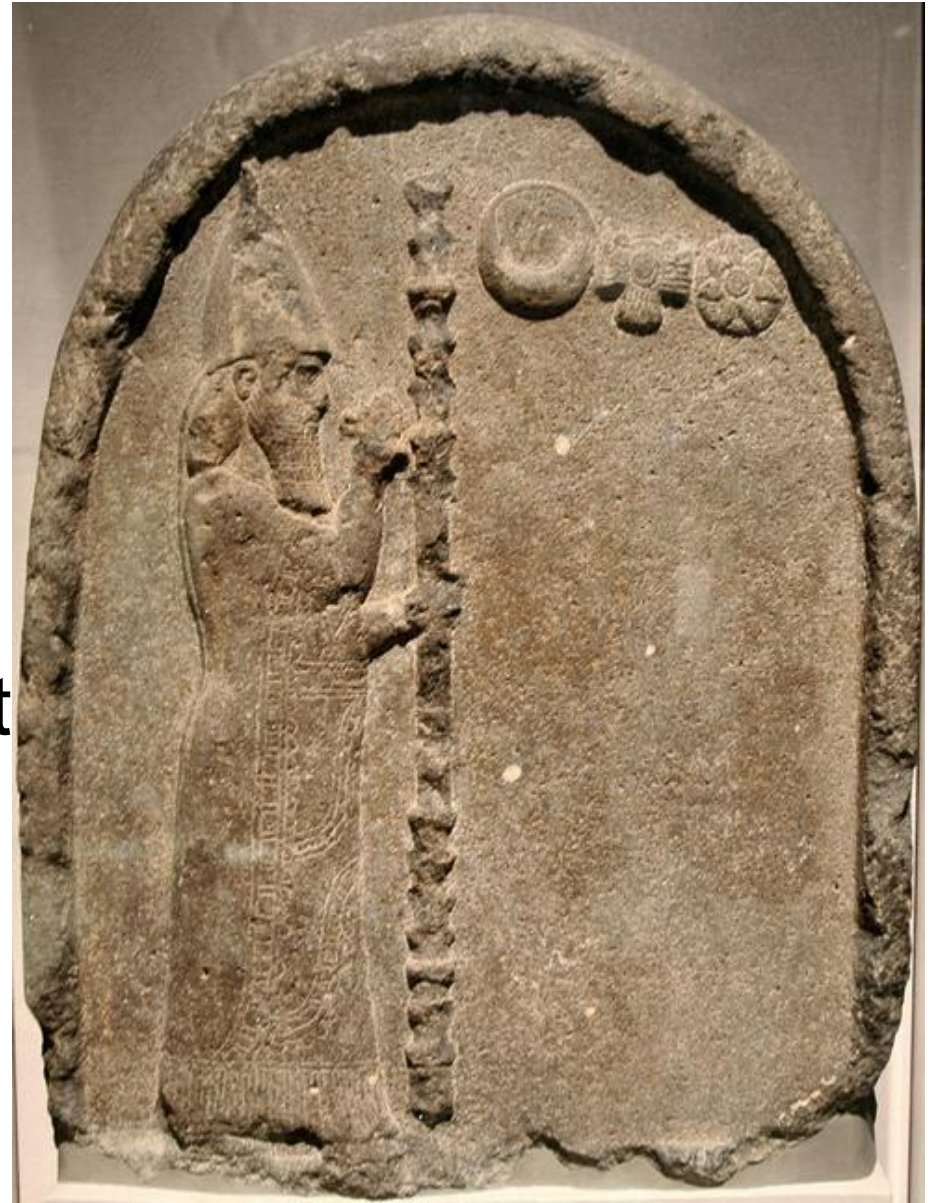


# King Sargon



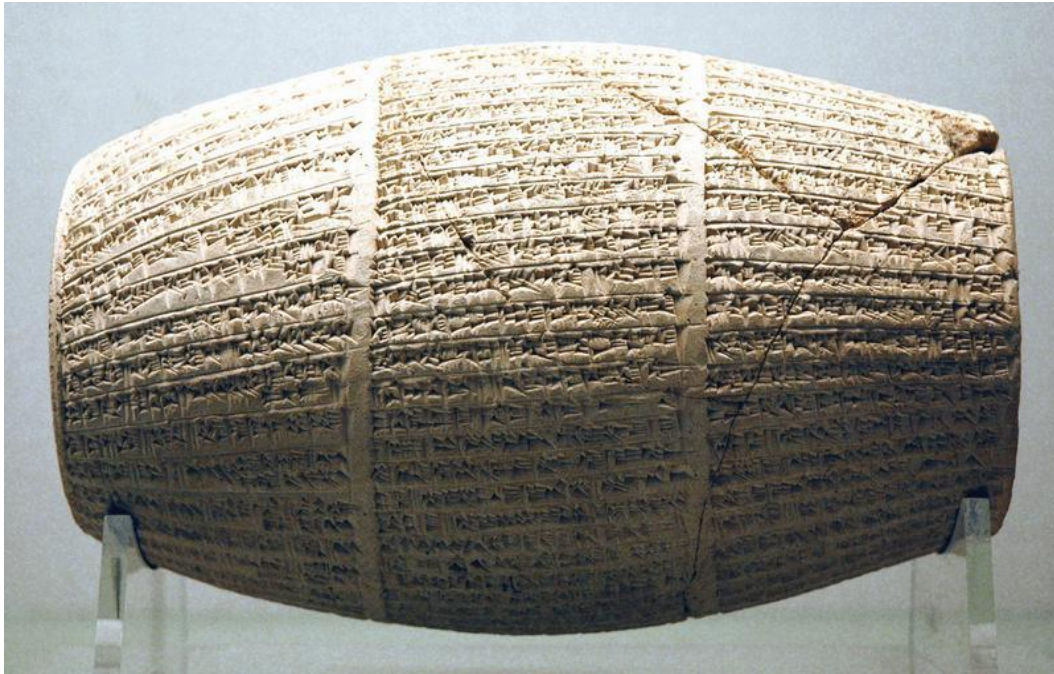


Another king who was in doubt was Belshazzar, king of Babylon, named in Daniel 5. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. Tablets were found showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as co-regent in Babylon. Thus, Belshazzar could offer to make Daniel “third highest ruler in the kingdom” (Dan. 5:16) for reading the handwriting on the wall, the highest available position.



King Nabonidus of Babylon<sup>69</sup>

# Nabonidus Cylinder



Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

The cylinder states:

"As for me, Nabonidus, king of Babylon, save me from sinning against your great godhead and grant me as a present a life long of days, and as for Belshazzar, the eldest son -my offspring- instill reverence for your great godhead in his heart and may he not commit any cultic mistake, may he be sated with a life of plenitude."



# Cyrus Cylinder

The text on the Cylinder praises Cyrus the Great, listing his genealogy as a king from a line of kings. The Babylonian king Nabonidus, who was defeated and deposed by Cyrus, is denounced as an impious oppressor of the people of Babylonia. The victorious Cyrus is portrayed as having been chosen by the chief Babylonian god Marduk. The Cylinder's text has been linked by some as corroborative evidence of Cyrus' policy of the repatriation of the Jewish people following their Babylonian captivity, as the text refers to the restoration of cult sanctuaries and repatriation of deported peoples







## **Pontias Pilate Inscription**

*Pontius Pilate,  
the Prefect of  
Judea, has  
dedicated to the  
people of  
Caesarea a  
temple in honor  
of Tiberius."*

# Caiaphas Ossuary



"Joseph son of Caiaphas"

"Miriam, daughter of Yeshua, son of Caiaphas, Priest of Ma'aziah from Beth 'Imri"





# Sergius Paulus

Acts 13:6-8 And when they had gone through the whole island unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus; who was with the proconsul, **Sergius Paulus**, a man of understanding. The same called unto him Barnabas and Saul, and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn aside the proconsul from the faith.<sup>74</sup>



The first of these inscriptions was found at the city of Silo in 1877 just a short distance north of Paphos, mentioned by Luke in the book of Acts, just before Paul's encounter with Sergius Paulus. The inscription mentions "the proconsul Paulus" and dates to around 54 A.D. during the reign of Claudius. It reads as follows:

"Apollonius to his father ... consecrated this enclosure and monument according to his family's wishes ... having filled the offices of clerk of the market, prefect, town-clerk, high priest, and having been in charge as manager of the records office. Erected on the 25th of the month Demarchexusius in the 13th year (of the reign of Claudius - 54 A.D.). He also altered the senate by means of assessors during the time of the proconsul Paulus.'

The second inscription is from Kythraia (Chytri), located in northern Cyprus, and makes reference to a “Quintus Sergius” whose last name is missing from the inscription, but could possibly be Paulus. The inscription, found on a blue marble slab indicates that this man must have lived during the reign of either Claudius, Gaius, or Tiberius Caesar. One translation of the inscription which is located in the Metropolitan Museum reads:



“[CLAUD]IUS CAESAR SABASTOA  
....[Q]UINTUS SER[GIUS PAULUS]”



# Sergius Paulus

Another artifact, a boundary stone set up by the Emperor Claudius Caesar was discovered in Rome during 1887 with the inscription “L. Sergius Paulus”. His name was listed along with several others as being in charge of maintaining the banks and channels of the Tiber river. The inscription reads:

“...L.Sergius Paullus ... curators of the river Tiberis ... Claudius Caesar...”



# James Ossuary



# 'Son of Joseph, Brother of Jesus'

A stone box found in or near Jerusalem bears the inscription "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." It is written in the ancient language Aramaic.

READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT

JESUS (YESHUA)      BROTHER OF      JOSEPH (YOSEF)      SON OF      JAMES (YA'AKOV)

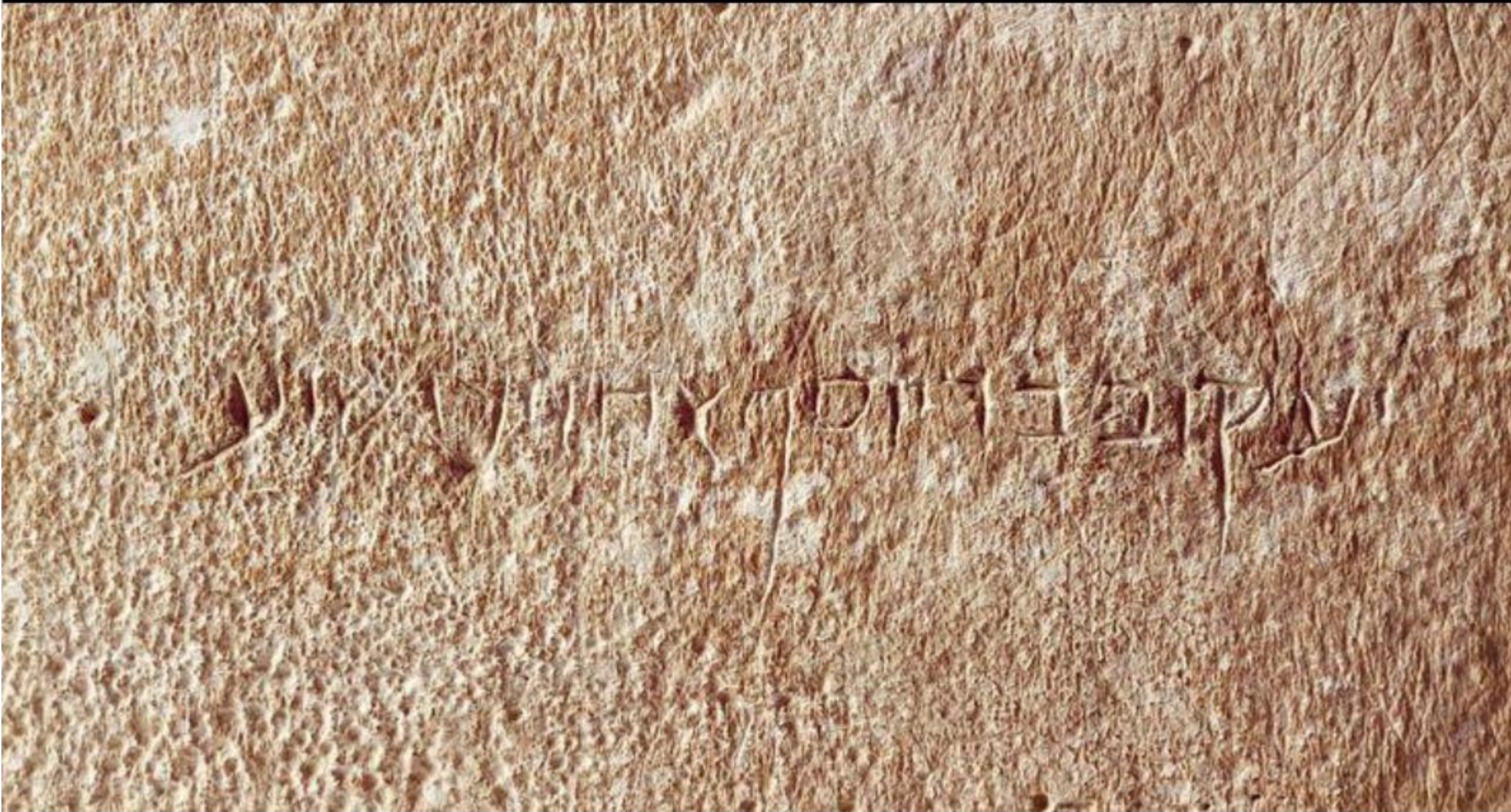


יַעֲקֹב בֶּרֶךְ יוֹסֵף אַחַי יֵשׁוּעַ

Source: *Biblical Archaeology Review*




**Ya'akov bar Yosef akhui di Yeshua**




**James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus**





**We looked over the box very carefully, and subjected it to analytical testing using a light polarizing microscope, ultraviolet light, a microscope with 60 times the magnification, and electron microscopy. I'm very comfortable saying that the ossuary itself and the inscription are totally genuine and everything we found was consistent with considerable age.**

**Ed Keall, director of the Near Eastern and Ancient Civilization department of the Royal Ontario Museum**



**The ossuary is authentic. Its inscription is a forgery. All the various scratches on the ossuary are coated in the original patina and only the inscription and its immediate surroundings are coated with an artificial "patina" - like [a] material of round crystalline granules. The inscription cuts through the original patina and appears to have been written by two different writers using different tools.**

**Material; subcommittee member Jacques Neguer summarizes the Israel Antiquities Authority assertions.**



# ***Forgery trial of the century***



- ✦ **Major embarrassment for the IAA and a vindication for the defendants.**
- ✦ **4 years of trial, more than 75 witnesses and 5000 pages of testimony**
- ✦ **Many experts have recanted their findings under cross examination.**
- ✦ **October 2008, Judge Farkash advised the prosecution to consider dropping the case.**



# SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY



- Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- Almost infinite extent of the sidereal universe (Isaiah 55:9)
- Law of conservation of mass and energy (II Peter 3:7)
- Atmospheric circulation (Ecclesiastes 1:6)
- Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- Vast number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)
- Law of increasing entropy (Psalm 102:25-27)
- Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)
- Gravitational field (Job 26:7)



The image shows an open Bible with the text "Text Authenticity" overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters. The Bible is open to the Gospel of Matthew, specifically chapters 23 and 24. The left page (Matthew 23) is titled "The Sign of Jonah" and "The Foundation of the Church". The right page (Matthew 24) is titled "The Foundation of the Church" and "The Parable of the Sower". The text is in English, and the Bible is resting on a dark, textured surface.

# Text Authenticity



Jeremiah 8:8 How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of Jehovah is with us? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes hath wrought falsely. (ASV)

Jeremiah 8:8 How do you say, We are wise, and the law of Yahweh is with us? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has worked falsely. (WEB)

Jeremiah 8:8 How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of Jehovah is with us? Behold, certainly the lying pen of the scribes hath made it falsehood. (Darby)

## New International Version

"How can you say, "We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD," when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?

## New Living Translation

"How can you say, "We are wise because we have the word of the LORD," when your teachers have twisted it by writing lies?

## English Standard Version

"How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.

Jeremiah 8:8-9 Howe dare ye say then, we are wyse, we haue the lawe of the Lorde among vs? Truely in vayne hath he prepared his penne, and vainely haue the writers written it. Therefore shall the wyse be confounded, they shalbe afraide and taken: for lo, they haue cast out the worde of the Lorde, what wisdom can then be among them? (Bishop's)

Jeremiah 8:8-9 How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?



1 Samuel 25:21 Now David had said, **Surely in vain [*sheqer*] have I kept all that this fellow hath** in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

# The Reliability of the Bible

- When compared against classical literature, the historical reliability of the Bible is outstanding
  - Number of manuscripts: NT 24,000; *Iliad* by Homer 643
  - Time between when written and earliest copy: NT 25 years; *Iliad* 500 years
- OT accuracy verified by the *Dead Sea Scrolls*

Thucydides – History of the Peloponnesian War lived from 460 BC to 400 BC. Virtually everything we know about the war comes from his history. Yet, the earliest copy of any manuscripts of Thucydides' work dates around 900 AD, a full 1,300 years later!

Caesar - Gallic Wars (10 Greek manuscripts, the earliest 950 years after the original)

Suetonius - The Twelve Caesars. The Roman historian lived between AD 70 to 140 AD. Yet the earliest copy of his book is dated around AD 950, a full 800 years later.

Tacitus - Annals (20 manuscripts, the earliest 950 years after the original)

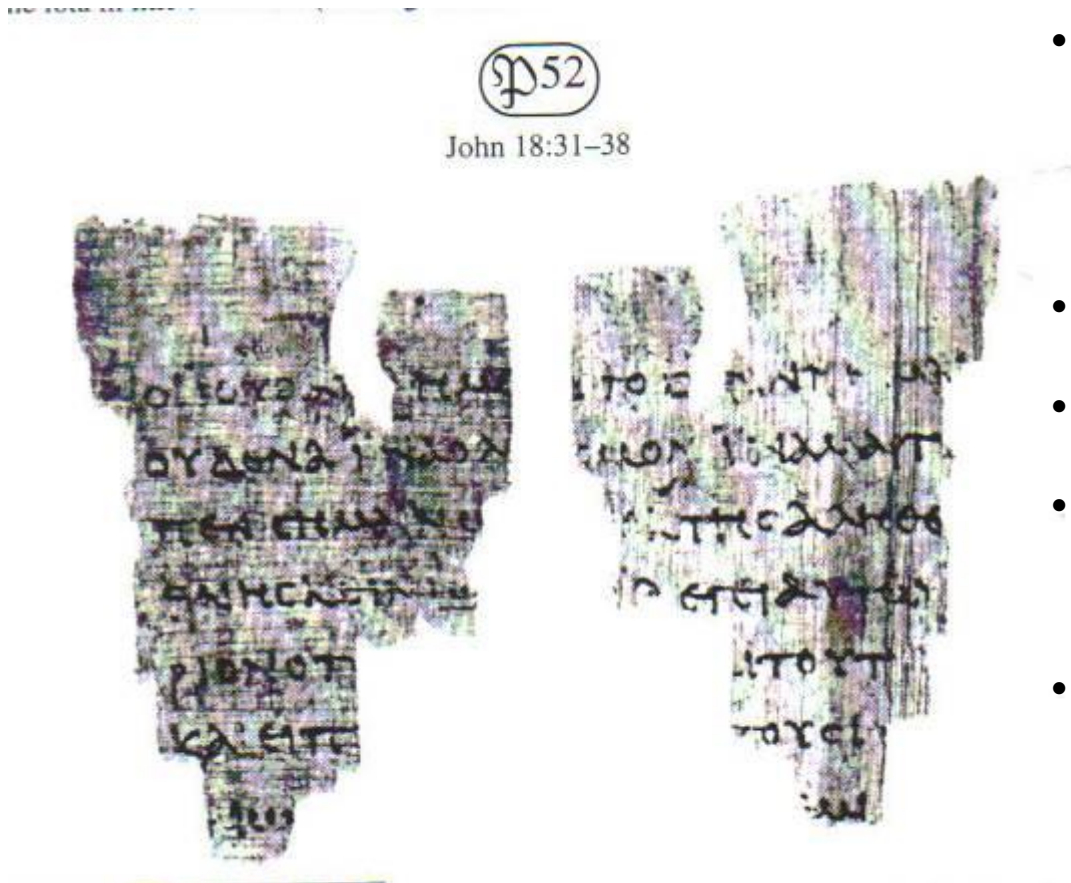


Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Manuscripts
Herodotus	480 - 425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 years	8
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 years	8
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1,100 A.D.	1,400 years	5
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 years	10
Pliny	61 – 113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 years	7
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 years	8
Tacitus	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 years	20
New Testament	40-70 A.D.	40-60 A.D.	0-20 yrs	24,000

Parts of the New Testament have been preserved in more manuscripts than any other ancient work, having over 5,800 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin manuscripts and 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages including Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic and Armenian.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical\\_manuscript](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_manuscript)

# P52 (c. 100-150)



- Was thought to be the oldest copy of any portion of NT (Greek)
- A fragment of John
- Found in Egypt
- Located in Rylands Library
- Proved that John must have been written by c. 90-100



# P<sup>46</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Century Manuscript



P46 contains:

Romans (last eight chapters)

Hebrews

1–2 Corinthians (virtually all)

Ephesians

Galatians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians (two chapters)

# P<sup>46</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Century Manuscript

α β ε μ ρ ρ γ γ γ ω

Contrast to the following “dominant”  
way in which these forms are found  
after the reign of Domitian (81–96 CE):

α β ε μ ρ γ γ ω

Kim, Young Kyu. “Paleographical Dating of P<sup>46</sup> to the Later First Century.” *Biblica* 69 (1988): 248-257

## Q75. (40-68 CE)

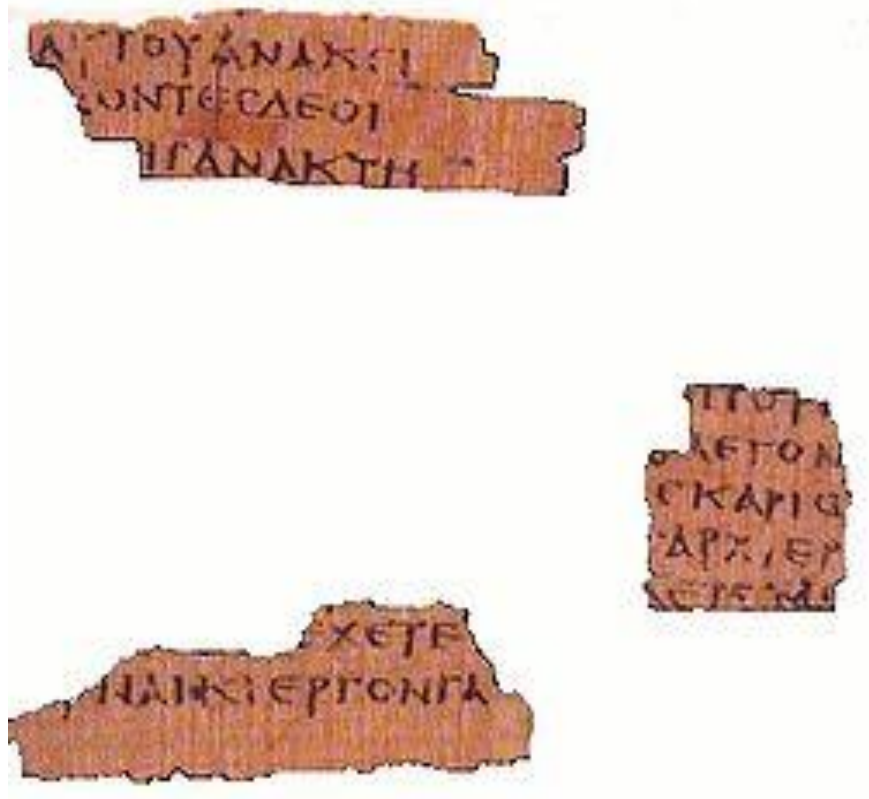


- Possibly a fragment of Mark 6:52-53
- Found in Qumran Caves.
- Part of Dead Sea Scrolls Collection from Cave 7.

Fragments discovered in DSS Cave 7 represent a mixture of Greek content from Exodus (7Q1) and Jeremiah (7Q2), as well as materials (7Q3-19) potentially from the Gospel of Mark & Second Peter.



# Magdalen P 64 (c. 40-60)



- New title holder for the oldest copy of any portion of NT
- A fragment of Matthew 26
- Found in Egypt
- Magdalen College Library at Oxford, England.
- Proved that Matthew must have been written by at least 40-60 AD

# Ancient Quotes

- ✧ **Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians (dated 95 A.D.) cites verses from the Gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Titus, Hebrews, and 1 Peter.**
- ✧ **Letters of Ignatius (115 A.D.) to several churches in Asia Minor cite verses from Matthew, John, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.**
- ✧ **Clement of Alexandria (150 AD – 215 AD) 2,406 quotes from all but three books of the New Testament.**
- ✧ **Tertullian (160 AD– 220 AD) an elder of the church in Carthage quotes the New Testament 7,258 times (3,800 are from the gospels).**
- ✧ **Other quotes from Church fathers include Justin Martyr, 330 quotes; Irenaeus, 1,819 quotes; Origen, 17,922 quotes, Hippolytus, 1,378 quotes; and Eusebius, 5,176 quotes.**





# Authenticity of the New Testament text

- ✧ **The Time Gap** - the time gap between the original writing of the New Testament and oldest existing manuscripts of the New Testament, as compared to other writings from the ancient world.
- ✧ **The Number of Manuscripts** - the number of existing manuscripts of the New Testament, as compared to other writings from the ancient world.
- ✧ **Quotes** - quotes of the New Testament from early Christian writings.





# UNIQUE STRUCTURE



Although it is a collection of 66 books, written by 40 or more different men over a period of 2,000 years, it is clearly one Book, with perfect unity and consistency throughout.

# UNIQUE EFFECT





One final evidence that the Bible is true is found in the testimony of those who have believed it. Multitudes of people, past and present, have found from personal experience that its promises are true, its counsel is sound, its commands and restrictions are wise, and its wonderful message of salvation meets every need for both time and eternity.

# Arguments to Support the Bible

- The unparalleled reliability and accuracy of the historical text of the Bible
- Confirmation of the events, places, nations, and people of the Bible by archaeology
- It is unique in many ways (written over 1,500 year span, over 40 authors maintaining harmony and continuity, survival through time, influence on society, unique teachings, etc.)

It is Written!

**HAPPY SABBATH  
DAY!**

**KEEP IT HOLY!**

**HAPPY SABBATH  
DAY!**

**KEEP IT  
WHOLLY!**

**HAPPY SABBATH  
DAY!**

**KEEP IT HOLY!**

**HAPPY SABBATH  
DAY!**

*Sabbath4CoGs  
Chatroom*

**Thy  
Word  
is  
Truth**

John 17:17



**Church of God at Woodstock**



**THANK YOU!!**