



ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

See the **House Visual Study Bible**
for more discussion of archaeology
and the Bible, hvsb.app.



Archaeology and the Old Testament



ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE PRE-PATRIARCHICAL PERIOD

The background of the slide features a collage of ancient clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions, overlaid with a semi-transparent map of the Middle East. The map shows the Tigris and Euphrates river systems and the surrounding landmasses. The text is centered over this background.

Babylonian Account of Creation

For from the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen



Babylonian Epic of Creation, from the mound W library at Kish, circa 700 BC

For from the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen



Story of Enki and Ninmah, Sumerian myth regarding the creation of man, circa 2000 BC

1:20

The Uniqueness of the Israelite Belief in Creation

Ancient cultures held much in common in regard to cosmology, so that the considerable originality of Israelite ideas and their independence from other ancient near eastern cultures in regard to the beginning of the world become cults pronounced.

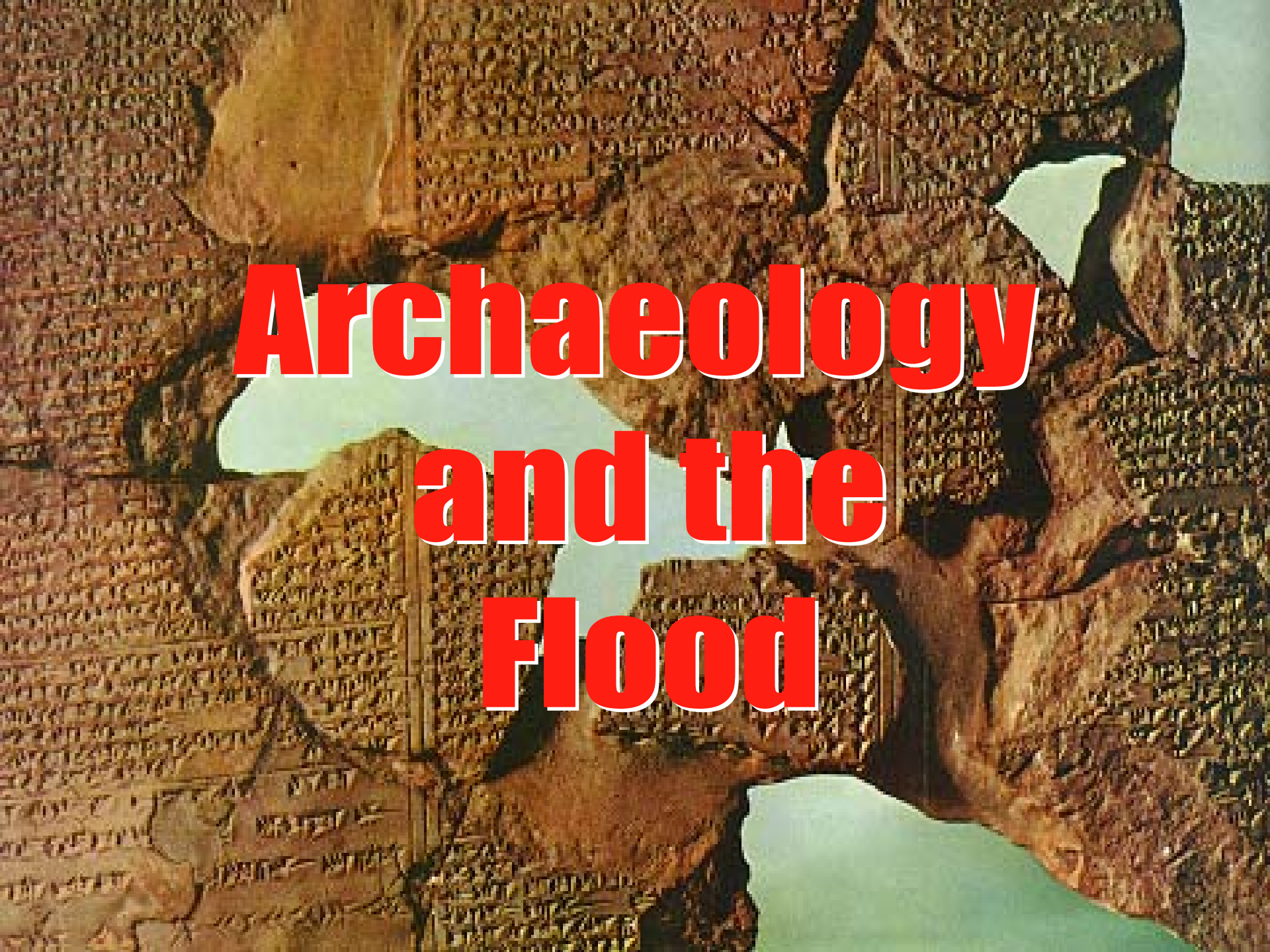
1. Creation is with moral purpose.
2. Creation excludes the theogony (birth of the gods).

In contrast to the ancient near eastern explanation of the origin of the gods, Israel had nothing to say about how God came into being.

This avoided pantheism: a second principle in addition to God.

This avoided pantheism: identifying God and the world.

3. Creation is *ex nihilo*
 - a. Heaven and earth refers to the entire cosmos, an example of *merismus* (two opposites encompassing totality).
 - b. *bārā*' (בָּרָא) is always used with God as subject.
 - c. The use of *bere'sit* (בְּרֵאשִׁית) fixes an absolute beginning for creation, in contrast to the pagan mythology that considered the cosmos as having no beginning.
 - d. The emphasis in the biblical text is on the absolute freedom by which God acts.

The background of the slide is a collage of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. The hieroglyphs are carved into stone tablets and are arranged in a somewhat chaotic, overlapping manner. The colors of the stone range from light tan to dark brown. The hieroglyphs themselves are in various colors, including red, black, and white. The overall effect is a textured, historical background.

Archaeology and the Flood

The Babylonian story of the Flood
Old Babylonian, written in year 12
of Ammisaduqa, king of Babylon,
1635 BC
Probably from Sippar

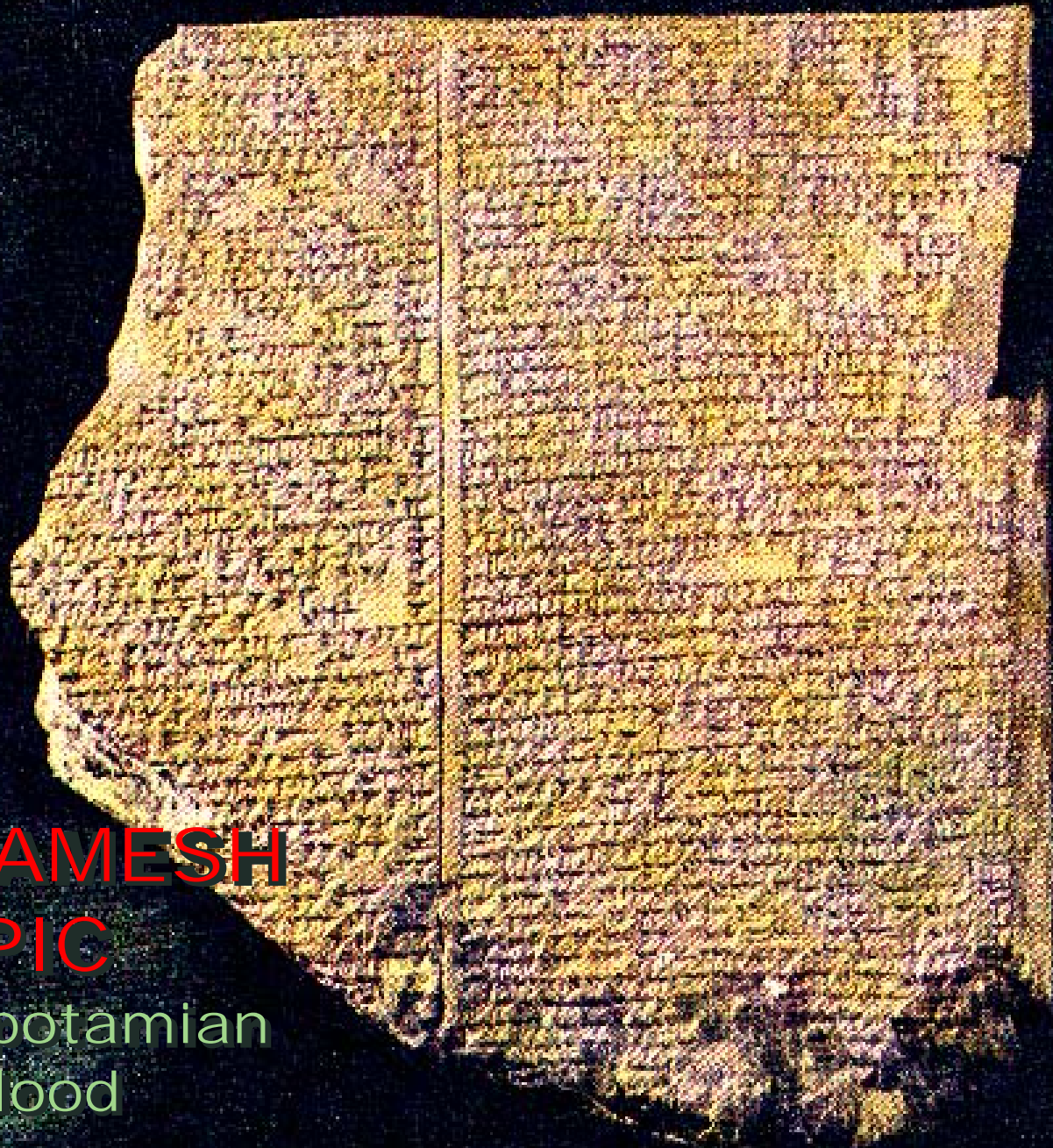
This tablet is one of three which
contained the Epic of Atrahasis, hero
of the Babylonian flood story.

It recounts how the gods, after
several attempts to destroy mankind,
which had been making too much
noise for their comfort, eventually
arranged for a flood to drown the
world. The god of wisdom, Enki,
unwillingly warned his divine
brother, Atrahasis of what was to happen,
thereby enabling him to prepare a
boat in which he, his household and
his animals were saved.

ATRAHASIS EPIC

Babylonian Story of the Flood

1635 B.C.



GILGAMESH

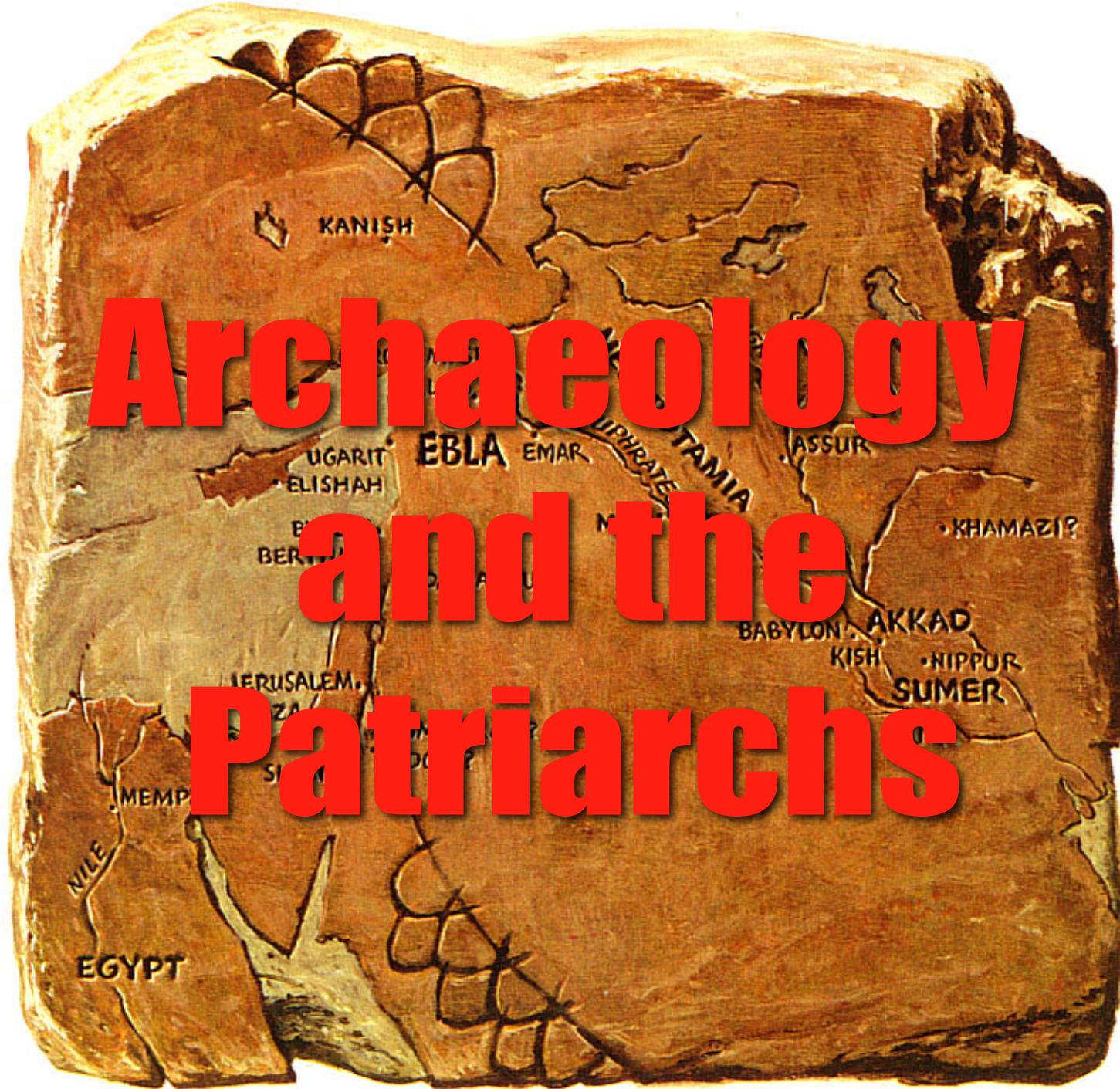
EPIC

Mesopotamian
Flood

ITEM	GENESIS ACCOUNT	GILGAMESH EPIC
Flood divinely planned	Planned by God	Planned at Council of gods Anu, Enlil, Ninurta, Ennugi, Ea, Ishtar
Divine revelation of plan to hero	God wanted to spare Noah because of his righteousness.	Ea warned hero, Utnapishtim, in a dream.
Reason for flood	Sin of man	Noise of man disturbed the gods' rest.
Punishment	Highly ethical and just	Ethically ambiguous and later regretted
Salvation of hero	Included in God's plan	Done secretly
Life saved	8 persons (family), representatives of each animal	Representatives of all living things, beasts, several families, craftsmen, and technicians
Building of boat	Flat-bottomed, rectangular, 300 x 50 x 30 cubits, 3 levels, door, window, pitch coating	Cubical, 120 x 120 x 120 cubits, 7 levels, 9 sections, door, window, pitch coating
Physical causes of flood	More comprehensive: land upheavals, subterranean waters, heavy rains	Rains, winds, breaking of dikes
Duration of flood	40 days, 40 nights	6 days and nights
Landing of boat	Mountains of Ararat	Mount Nisir
Sending of birds	Raven, dove (3 times)	Dove, swallow, raven
Acts of worship	Sacrifice of worship	Sacrifice for appeasement
Blessing of hero	Earthly Covenant	Divinity, immortality

THREE OPTIONS ON BIBLE AND ANCIENT ACCOUNTS

- They were originally Israelite accounts that were borrowed and adapted for the Mesopotamian religion and culture
- They were originally Mesopotamian accounts which were borrowed and adapted by Israelites to fit their religious purposes
- Both the Mesopotamian and Israelite (biblical) accounts came from a common Ancient source.

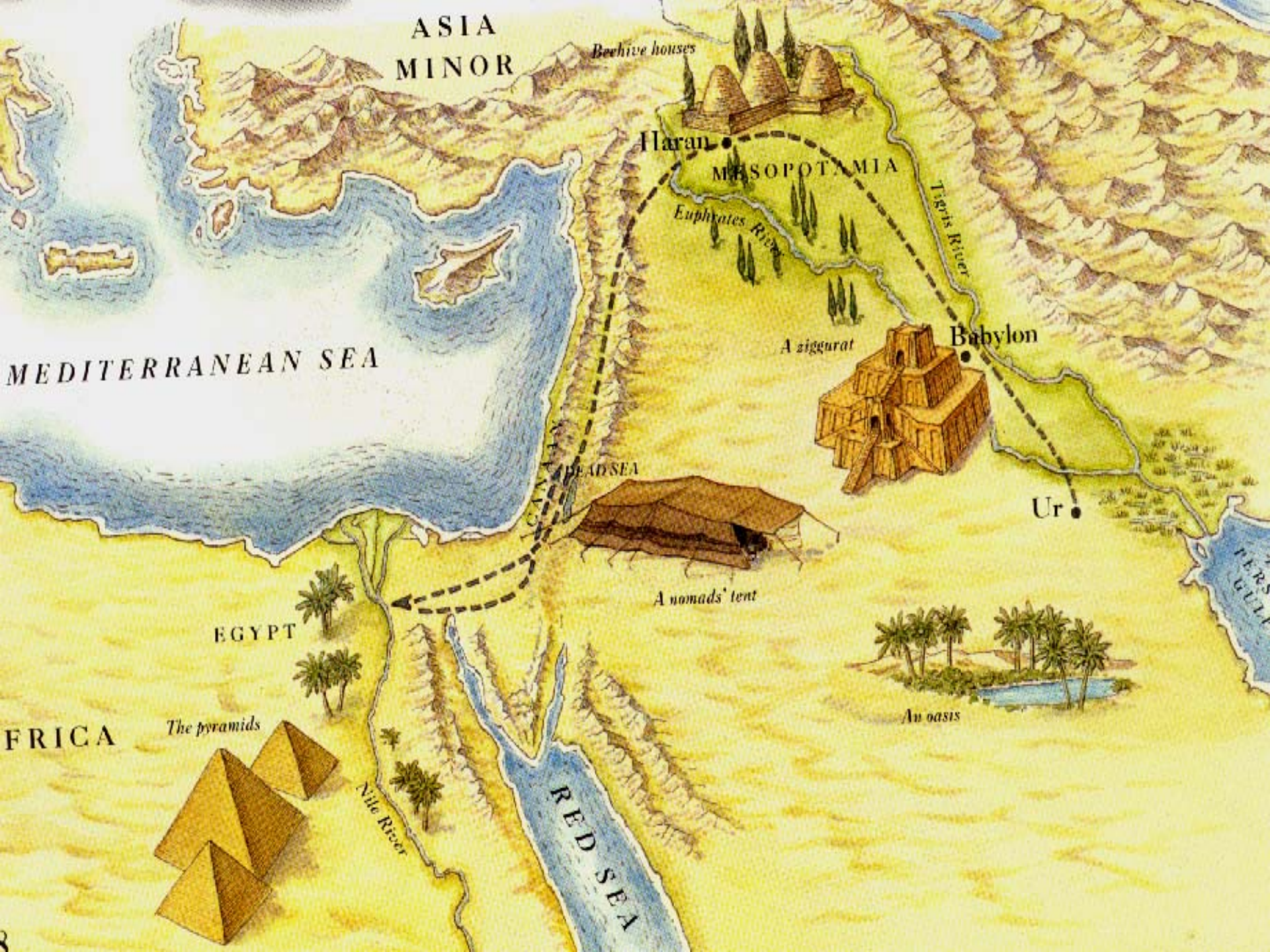


Archaeology and the Patriarchs

Archaeology has shed considerable light on the stories of the Patriarchs in Genesis, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Not that any records of these men have ever been found outside the Bible, but the veil which previously hid their times has been lifted. As a result, we now know more about the type of people they were, where they came from, how they lived, what they believed, where and how they are to be fitted into the histories of the great nations of ancient times than the later Israelites themselves.¹

G. Ernest Wright

¹Quoted from Randall Price, *The Stones Cry Out*, p. 89



ASIA
MINOR

Beehive houses

Haran

MESOPOTAMIA

Euphrates River

Tigris River

A ziggurat

Babylon

Ur

DEAD SEA

A nomads' tent

An oasis

EGYPT

The pyramids

Nile River

RED SEA

AFRICA

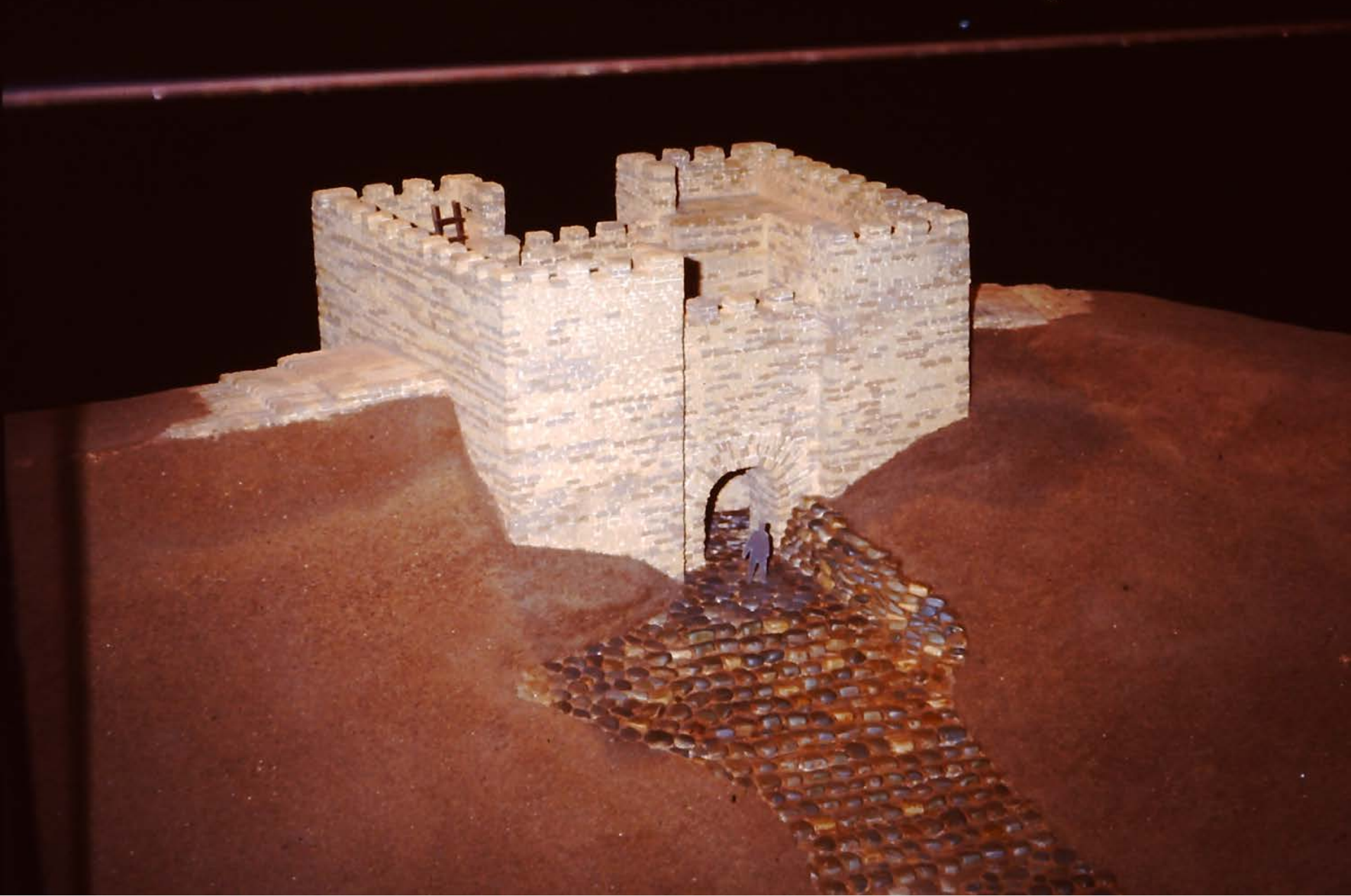
PERSIAN
GULF



Gate of Laish, c. 2000 B.C.

Laish Gate





Replica of Gate of Laish, c. 2000 B.C., ISRAEL MUSEUM



Tombs of the Patriarchs at Hebron



SODOM

TALL EL-HAMMAM



QUR'AN

Surat Hud 11:81 The angels said, "O Lot, indeed we are messengers of your Lord; [therefore], they will never reach you. So set out with your family during a portion of the night and let not any among you look back - except your wife; indeed, she will be struck by that which strikes them. Indeed, their appointment is [for] the morning. Is not the morning near?"

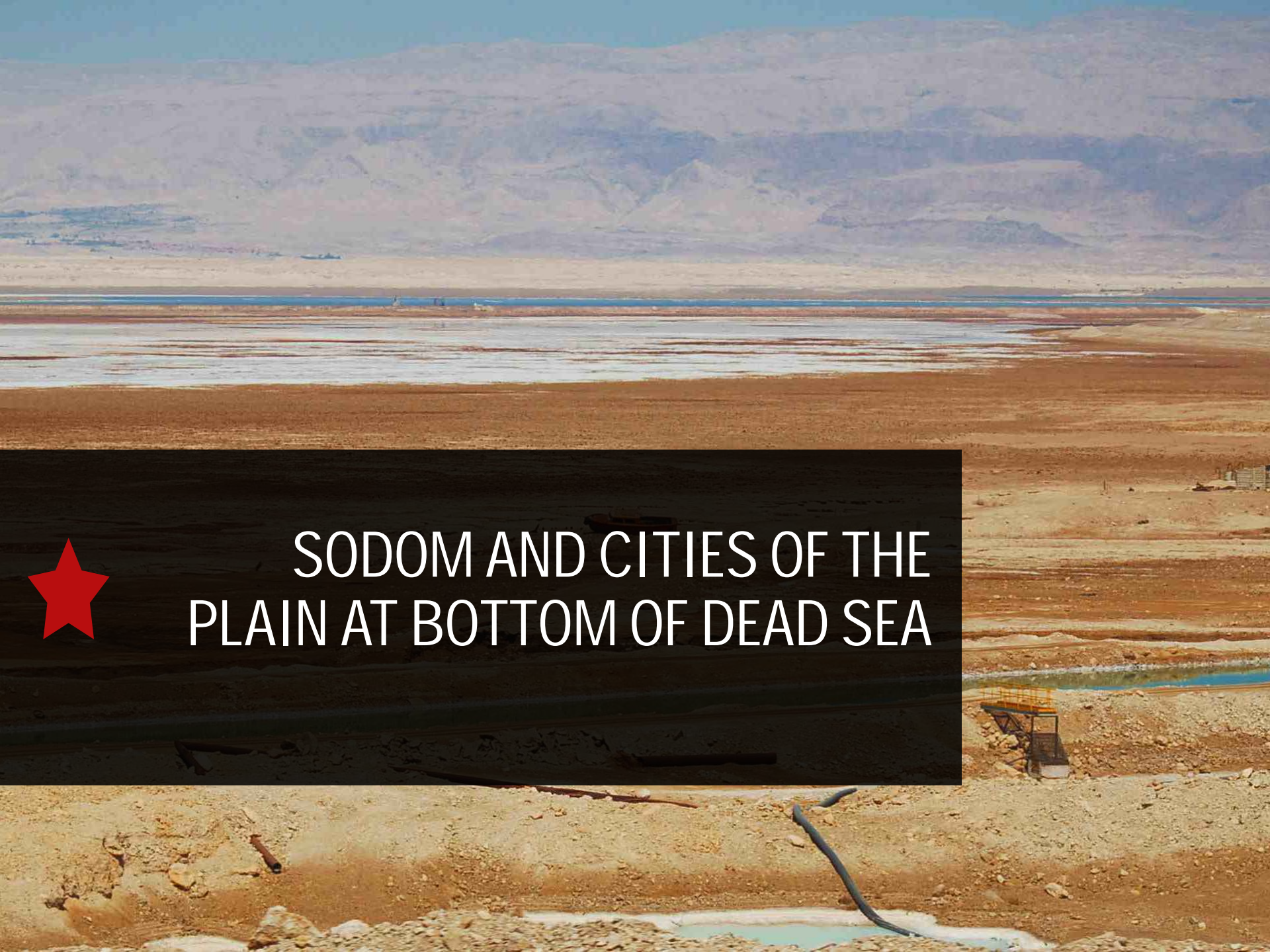
11:83 So when Our command came, We made the highest part [of the city] its lowest and rained upon them stones of layered hard clay, [which were] 11:82 Marked from your Lord. And Allah 's punishment is not from the wrongdoers [very] far.



BIBLE

“**23** The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. **24** Then the Yahweh rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Yahweh out of heaven, **25** and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. **26** But his wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.” (Gen 19:23–26 NAS95)





★ SODOM AND CITIES OF THE
PLAIN AT BOTTOM OF DEAD SEA

SODOM AT BOTTOM OF DEAD SEA



Professor Randall Price at
southern part of the Dead Sea



Location of Sodom near Top part of the Dead Sea

Tall el-Hammam (Sodom)



View from Tall el-Hammam





ANCIENT HATTUSA

HITTITE KINGDOM





Hittite Kingdom ca. 1600 – 1180 B.C.

Hittite Empire Discovered





Lion Gate at Hattusa

The Case of the Hittites

A century ago the Hittites were unknown in any documents outside the Bible and did not exist in the archaeological record. Liberal scholars argued they were a fictitious people invented by the biblical authors.

Hittites are mentioned 47x in the Old Testament

Famous Hittites of the Bible

Abraham bought burial cave from "Ephron the Hittite" (Gen. 23)

One of Esau's wives was the daughter of a Hittite (Gen. 36)

David murdered his soldier "Uriah the Hittite" (2 Sam. 11)

Solomon's wives were from among the Hittites (1 Kgs. 11)

God claimed Israel's "mother" was a "Hittite" (Ezek. 16)

HITTITE SEAL RING

Though previously unmentioned in extra biblical literature, scholars believed the Hittites (from the Indo-European region) were legendary people. However, in 1905 the **Hittite library (10,000 tablets)** was discovered by **Hugo Winckler in Turkey**. The tablets consist of law codes, legends, covenants and myths, giving scholars ample evidence for the belief that the Hittites were a real people as mentioned in Genesis 15:20 (1Kings 10:29; 23). This dome shaped Hittite stamp seal (1400-1200 BC) is with silver ring, decorated with Hittite hieroglyphic characters.



The Hittite capital (Hattusa) was discovered at Boghazkoy, Turkey. Hittite rule extended to Syria and Lebanon and significantly impacted Israel's early history.

Hittite Chronology

1750 - 1500 BC - Old Kingdom
(Capital in Hattusa)

1500 - 1450 BC - Middle Kingdom

1450 - 1180 BC - New Kingdom
(Period of Empire)



Entrance to Capitol of Hittites at Hattusa



Stairs to Palace at Hattusa





Stairs to Second Level, Hattusa



DRAWING OF PALACE AT HATTUSA

Winter at Hattusa



EXIT FOR HITTITE ARMY IN FLANK MANEUVER



EXIT FOR HITTITE ARMY IN FLANK MANEUVER



Yazilikaya



Yazilikaya



Yazilikaya





12 gods at Yazilikaya, Hattusa

Yazilikaya





STATUE OF GODDESS WITH EITHER
BABY OR HEAD BETWEEN LEGS



STATUE OF GODDESS WITH EITHER
BABY OR HEAD BETWEEN LEGS



Lower Hattusa with houses and temple



DATES OF CONTROL

-THERE WERE THREE MAJOR HITTITE DYNASTIES:

-THE OLD KINGDOM LASTED FROM 1750-1500 BC

-THE MIDDLE KINGDOM LASTED FROM 1500-1450 BC

-THE NEW KINGDOM LASTED FROM 1440-1180 BC

-ALL TOGETHER, THE HITTITE CIVILIZATION LASTED FOR 570 YEARS.

DATES OF CONTROL (CONT.)

During the new Hittite kingdom, very good political records were kept, and today, we know who most of the rulers during the time were.

- 1430-1406 Tudhaliya I
- 1410-1386 Arnuwanda I
- 1385-1381 Tudhaliya II
- 1380-1358 *Unknown*
- 1357-1323 Hattushili II
- 1322 Arnuwanda II
- 1321-1297 Murshili II
- 1296-1271 Muwatalli
- 1270-1264 Murshili II
- 1263-1245 Hattushili III
- 1244-1220 Tudhaliya III
- 1219-1218 Arnuwanda III
- 1217-1200 Shuppiluliumall
- circa 1200 BC Destruction Of Hittite Kingdom

MAP

The extent of the new Hittite empire is unknown, but the maximum extent of the middle kingdom is shown in orange and the sphere of influence of the old Hittite kingdom is shown in red. The green coloring shows the area that the Egyptians controlled.



HITTITE ACHIEVEMENTS

- PROBABLY THE MAIN AND MOST IMPORTANT HITTITE ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE DISCOVERY OF THE USE OF IRON.
- THE HITTITES ALSO FORMED THE FIRST EVER PEACE TREATY WITH THE EGYPTIANS.
- THE HITTITE' S HAD A VERY ADVANCED AND COMPLICATED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

LEADERSHIP

- THE HITTITES HAD A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY AS THEIR GOVERNMENT.
- THE LEADERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WERE THE KING, ROYAL FAMILY, PANKUS (ESSENTIALLY THE KINGS SERVANTS AND ADVISORS)
- THE CONSTITUTION PART OF THE GOVERNMENT CONSISTED OF THE HITTITE LAWS.
 - THESE LAWS WERE WRITTEN IN CUNIFORM AND NUMBERED OVER 200.

LEADERSHIP (CONT.)

- UNDER THE HITTITE LAWS, DEATH WAS A VEY RARE PUNISHMENT, UNLIKE LAWS FROM SIMILAR EMPIRES.
- IN THE HITTITE GOVERNMENT, THE KING WAS THE THE SUPREME RULER, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMY, AND THE SUPREME JUDGE.
 - IT WAS BELIEVED THAT AFTER DEATH, HE BECAME A GOD.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- THE HITTITES HAD A FEUDAL SOCIAL SYSTEM.
- THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION WAS DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:
 - SLAVES
 - COMMON PEOPLE
 - ARTISANS
 - FIEF HOLDERS (SOLDIERS)
 - MERCHANTS

RELIGION



- HITTITE RELIGION WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY MESOPOTAMIAN MYTHOLOGY.
- THE HITTITES WERE POLYTHEISTS AND BELIEVED THAT ALL ELEMENTS AND ASPECTS OF LIFE HAD A SPECIFIC GOD.
- THESE GODS WERE WORSHIPED THROUGH IDOLS CALLED HUWASI STONES.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO DECLINE

- THE HITTITES RELIED STRONGLY ON TRADE TO BE ECONOMICALLY STABLE.
- IN 1288 BC, THEY FOUGHT A MASSIVE BATTLE AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS CALLED THE BATTLE OF KADESH OVER CONTROL OF A MAJOR TRADE ROUTE.



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO DECLINE (CONT.)

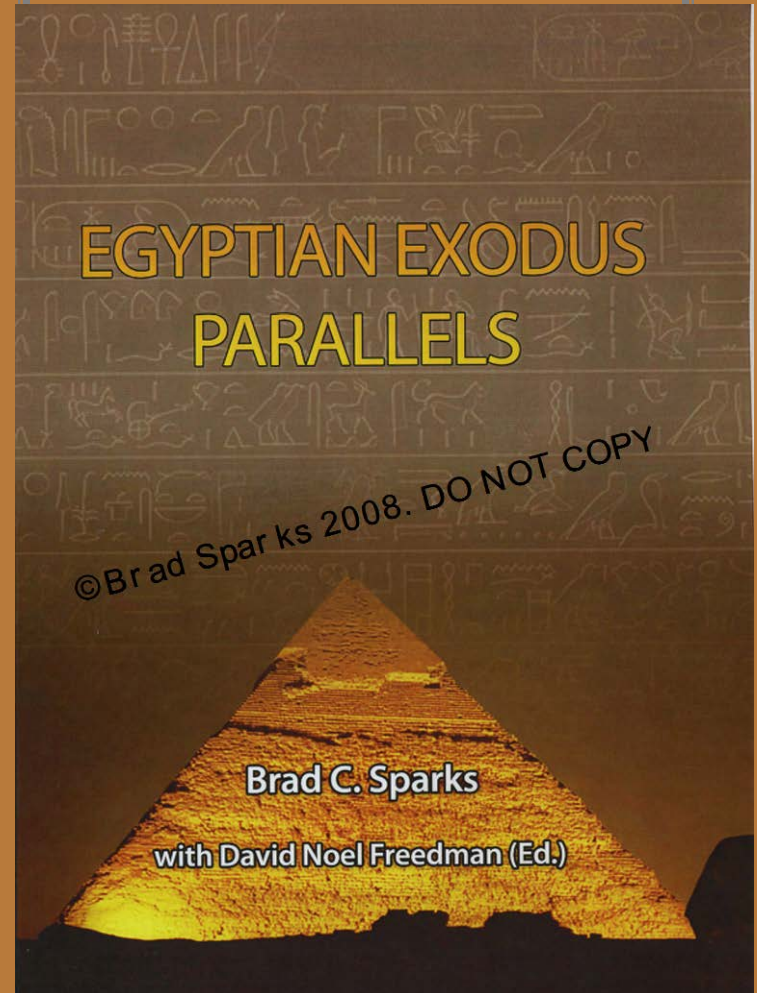
- THE BATTLE ENDED IN A TRUCE, BUT IT WEAKENED THE HITTITE ARMY AND LEFT THEIR EMPIRE' S EASTERN BORDER VULNERABLE
- AROUND THIS TIME, THE HITTITE EMPIRE WAS ALSO WEAKENED BY CIVIL WAR.
- THE ASSYRIANS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVADE AND CONQUER MOST OF THE HITTITE LANDS.



ANCIENT EGYPT



EXODUS FROM EGYPT



EGYPTIAN EXODUS PARALLELS

©Brad Sparks 2008. DO NOT COPY

Brad C. Sparks

with David Noel Freedman (Ed.)

Siloam Inscription



אֲנִי הָיִיתִי מְבַרְכֵי אֶת הָעָם
וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁרָאֵל יִשְׁרָאֵל
וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁרָאֵל יִשְׁרָאֵל
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וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁרָאֵל יִשְׁרָאֵל

Siloam Inscription

EXODUS FROM EGYPT

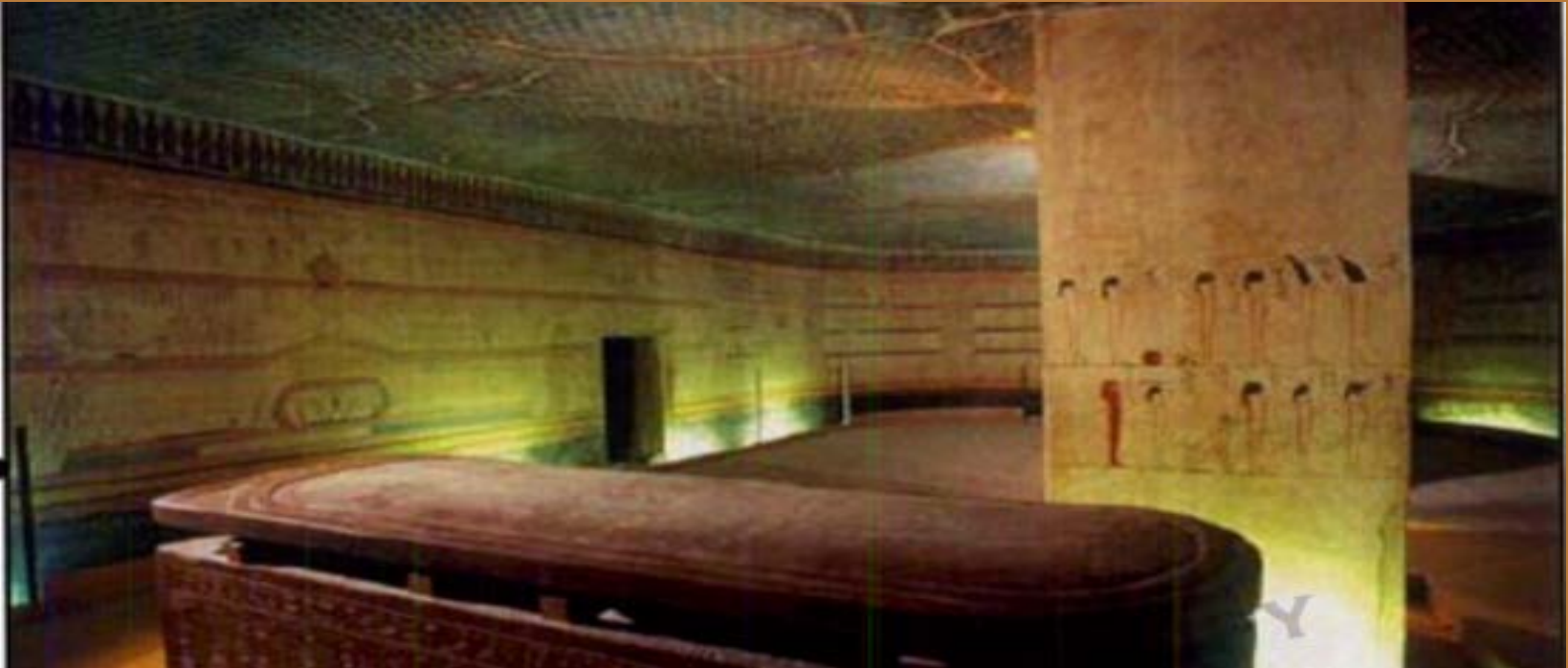
Quantitative Methods in the Humanities
and Social Sciences

Thomas E. Levy
Thomas Schneider
William H.C. Propp *Editors*

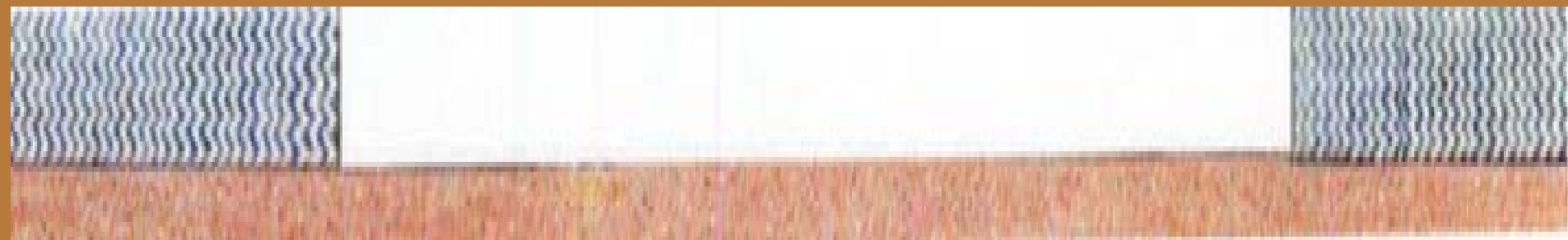
Israel's Exodus in Transdisciplinary Perspective

Text, Archaeology, Culture, and Geoscience

EXODUS FROM EGYPT



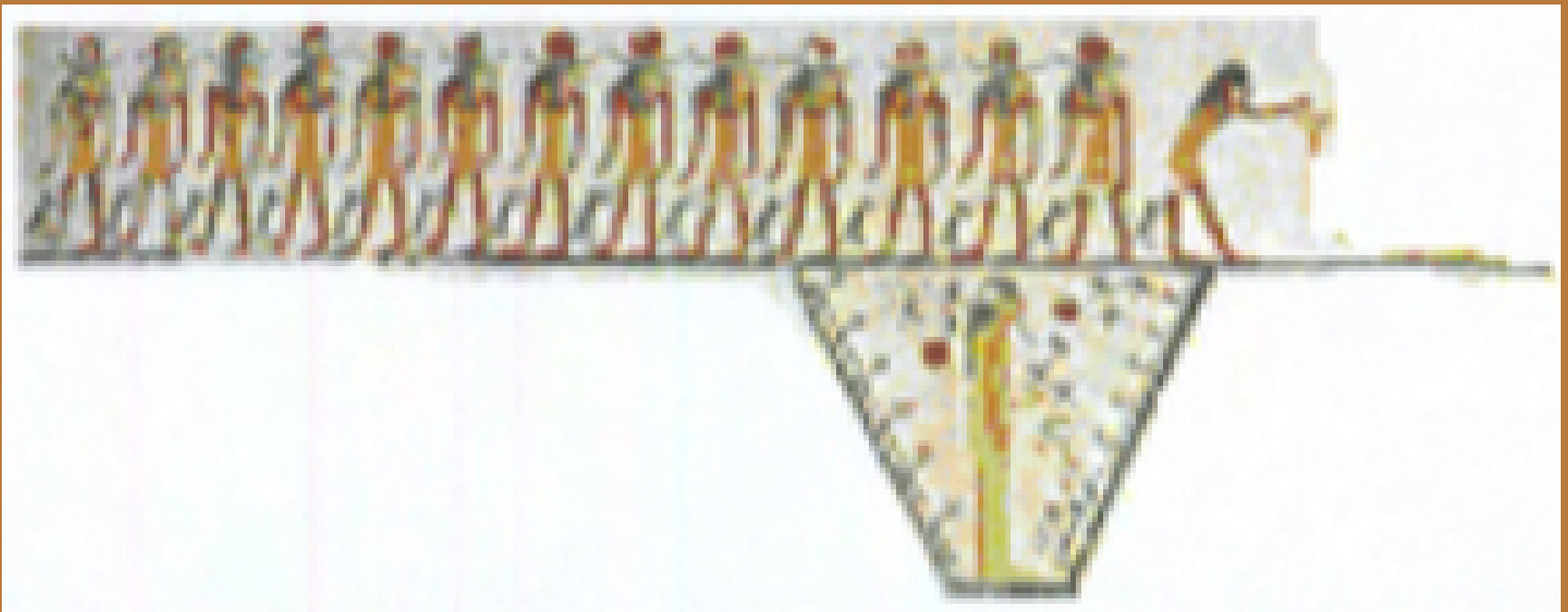
EXODUS FROM EGYPT



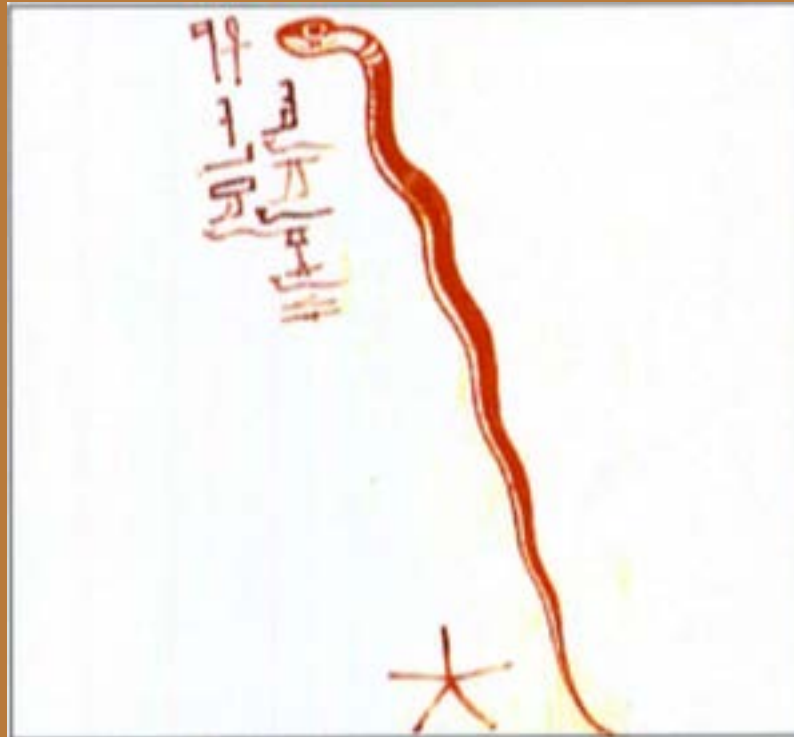
EXODUS FROM EGYPT



EXODUS FROM EGYPT



EXODUS FROM EGYPT





An aerial photograph of an archaeological site, possibly a fortified settlement or city, with a red title overlay. The site is surrounded by a wall and contains several buildings and structures. The surrounding area is a mix of green and brown vegetation.

Archaeology and the Monarchy

TELL BETH SHEAN



TELL MEGIDDO



Doubt of David and Solomon's Existence

To many people it seems remarkable that David and Solomon still remain unknown outside the Old Testament literary sources derived directly from it. No extra-Biblical inscription, either from Palestine or from a neighboring country, has yet been found to contain a reference to them.

Dame Kathleen Kenyon

Quandary that David and Solomon Are Not Mentioned Outside the Old Testament

. . . the greatest leaders of ancient Israel—David and Solomon . . . we rarely view . . . in this very real light. They are claimed as part of the heritage of three major faiths. The age in which they governed held profound consequences for the future. Yet somehow they have been seen unidimensionally within the restricted confines of institutionalized ‘sacredness,’ which has tended to strip them of whatever mortality and humanity they surely possessed. David and Solomon were real men—not myths or legends. . . .”

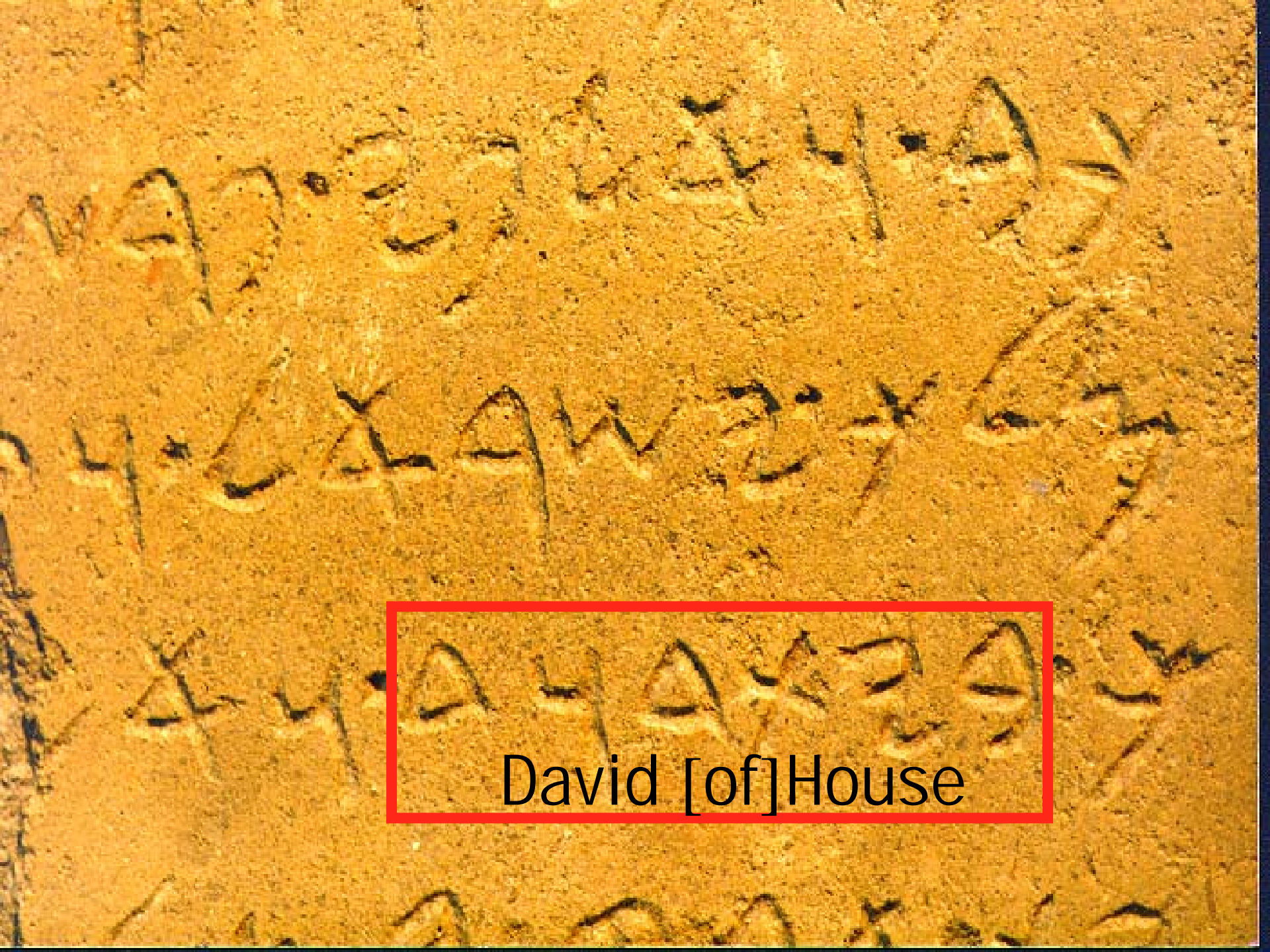
Jerry M. Landay

(quoted from Randall J. Price,
The Stones Cry Out)

HOUSE OF DAVID INSCRIPTION (TEL DAN)



- Found at Tel Dan by Avraham Biran in 1993-1994.



David [of] House

Transcription

Translation

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|--|
| [| מר.ע.] | (1) | ... |
| [| אבי.יסק]. | (2) | ... my father went up |
| [יש. | וישכב.אבי.יהך.אל]. | (3) | ... and my father died, he went to [his fate...Is-] |
| [| ראל.קדם.בארק.אבי]. | (4) | rael formerly in my father's land... |
| [| אנה.וייהך.הרד.קדמי]. | (5) | I [fought against Israel?] and Hadad went in front of me.. |
| [ר. | י.מלכי.ואקתל.מנ]הם. | (6) | ... my king. And I slew of [them X footmen, Y cha-] |
| [| כב.ואלפי.פרש]. | (7) | riots and two thousand horsemen... |
| [מל. | מלך.ישראל.וקתל]ת. | (8) | the king of Israel. And [I] slew [...the kin-] |
| [א. | ך.ביתדוד.ואשם]. | (9) | g of the House of David . And I put... |
| [| ית.ארק.הם.ל] | (10) | their land... |
| [מ. | אחרן.ולה]- | (11) | other...[...ru-] |
| [| לך.על.יש]ראל. | (12) | led over Is[rael...] |
| [| מצר.על]. | (13) | siege upon... |



Avraham Biran points at the words "House of David"

Me with House of David Inscription (Tel Dan)



Heights (highlands) of David



David [Hig]land[ds] (of)







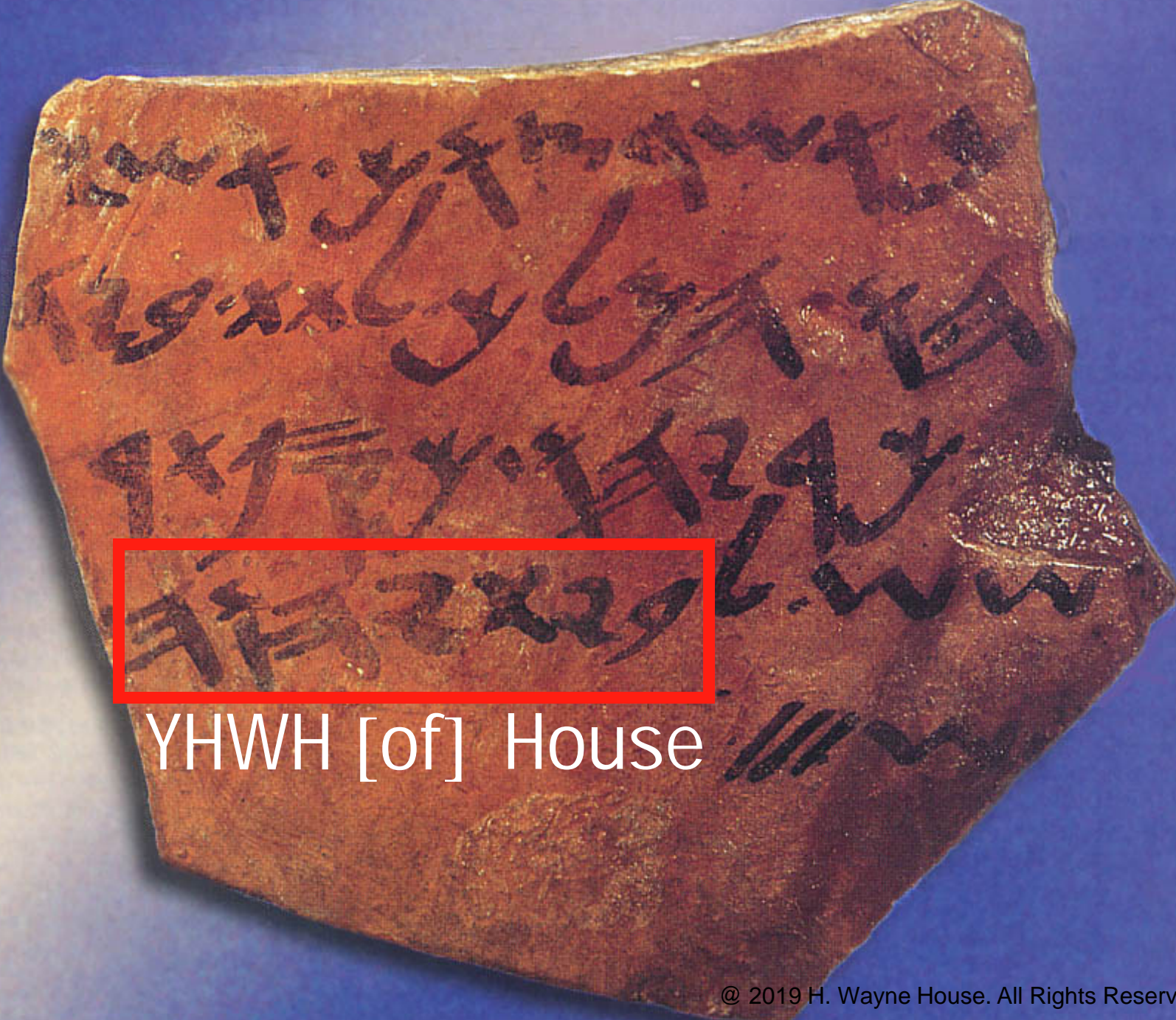
GATH INSCRIPTION

Discovered in 2005 at Tel es-Safi (Gath), this 9th century BC ostraca is the earliest deciphered Philistine inscription ever found. It demonstrates that names similar to “Goliath” were used around the time David slew Goliath in 1 Samuel 17.



- Two names inscribed on the shard were written with Semitic characters.
- They are Philistine names etymologically equivalent to “Goliath” and suggests the reliability of the Philistine name “Goliath.”

Proto-Canaanite Goliath Inscription



YHWH [of] House

YHWH [of] House

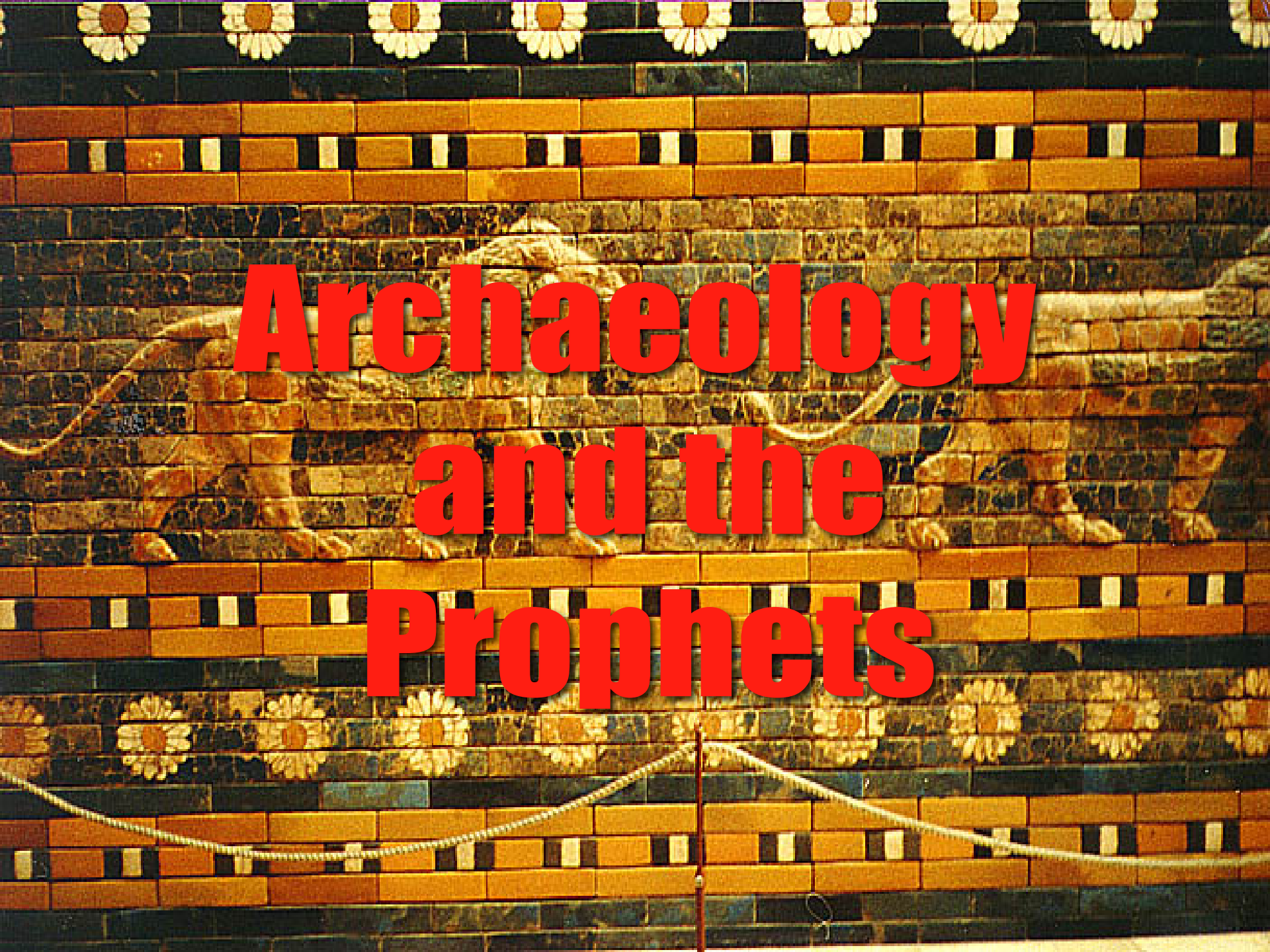
A TEMPLE RECEIPT

Text:

1. K'ŠR ŠWK.ŠY
 2. HW.HMLK.LTT.BYD
 3. [Z]KRYHW.KSP TR
 4. ŠŠ.LBYT **YHWH** .]
 5. Š 3
- House [of] the LORD

Translation:

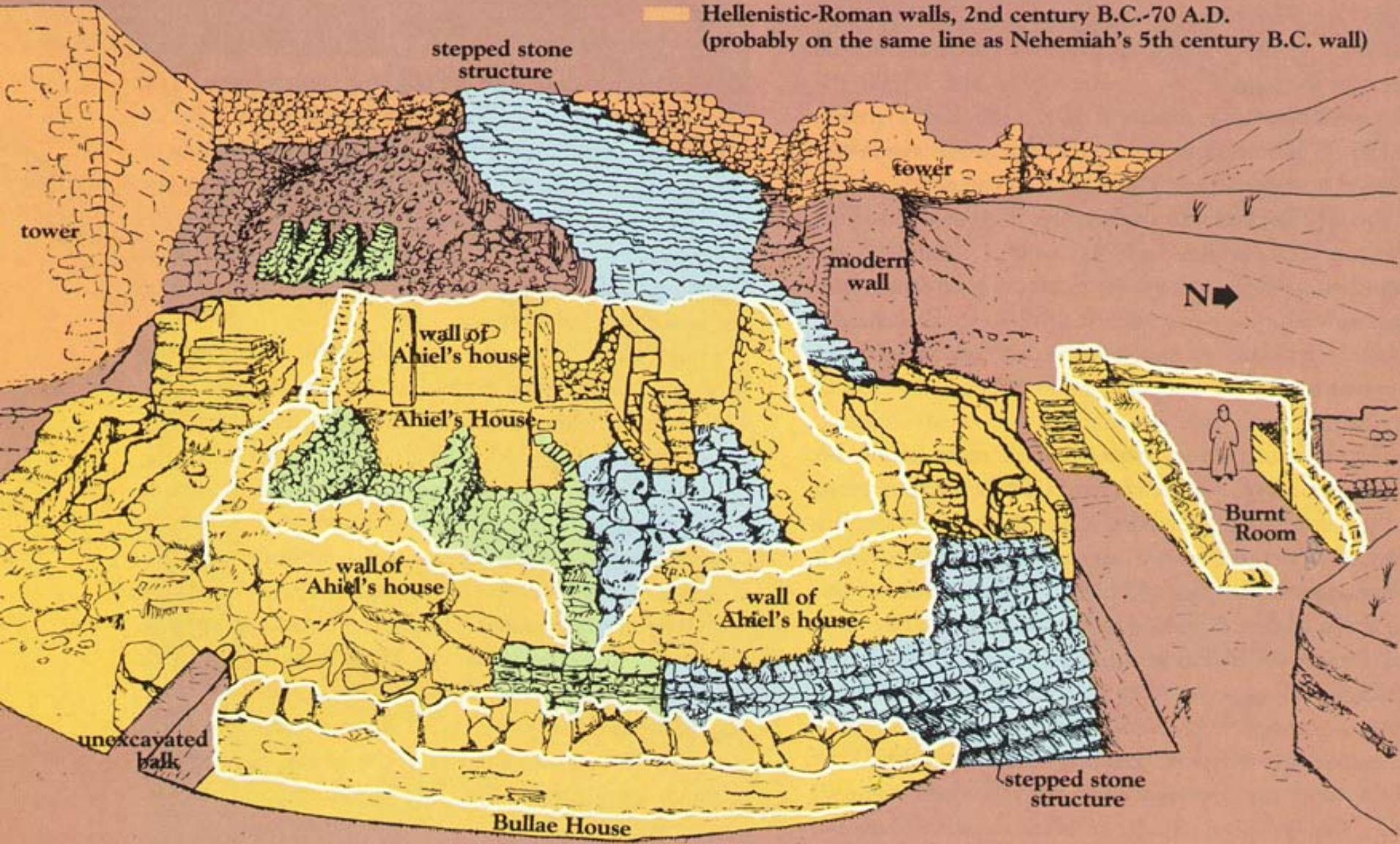
1. Pursuant to the order to you of Ashya-
2. hu the king to give by the hand
3. of [Z]echaryahu silver of Tar-
4. shish to the House (or Temple) of Yahweh
5. Three shekels.

A mosaic wall featuring a central figure, possibly a prophet or saint, surrounded by decorative elements. The top border consists of a row of white daisies on a dark background. Below this is a band of brown and black rectangular tiles with white vertical accents. The central figure is rendered in a mosaic style with various shades of brown, tan, and blue. Below the figure is another band of brown and black tiles with white vertical accents. The bottom border features a row of white daisies on a dark background. A white rope barrier is visible in the foreground, supported by a thin metal post.

Archaeology and the Prophets



- Late Bronze II stone compartments, 14th-13th century B.C.
- Stepped stone structure, 10th-9th century B.C.
- Israelite houses, 7th-6th century B.C.
- Hellenistic-Roman walls, 2nd century B.C.-70 A.D.
(probably on the same line as Nehemiah's 5th century B.C. wall)





SACRED FEMININE

Pool of Shiloach/Siloam

Gihon Spring

ISSUE #6:
PRIORY OF SION

CONCLUSION

Hezekiah's Tunnel



Hezekiah's Tunnel



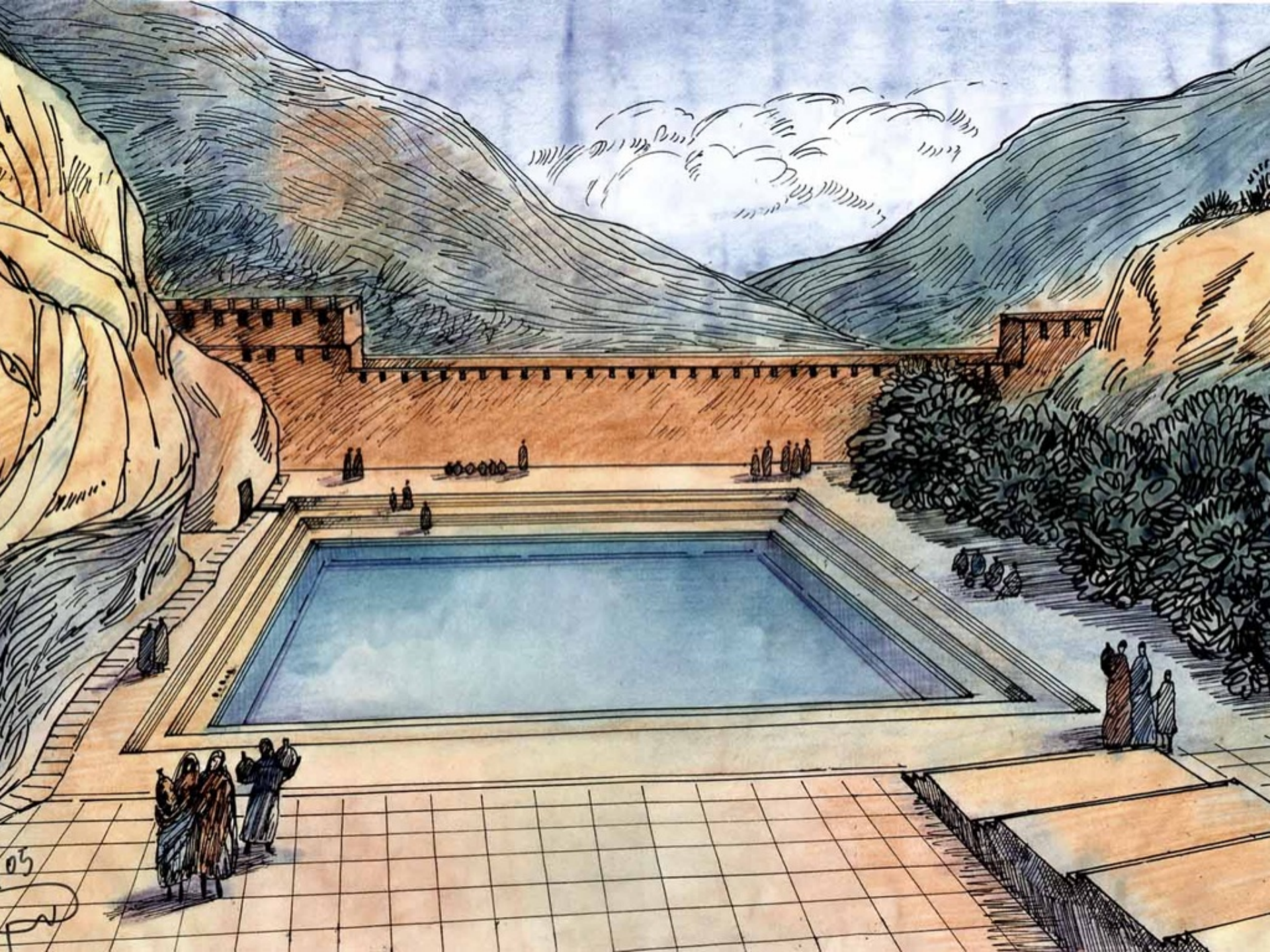
Siloam Inscription



TRANSLATION OF SILOAM INSCRIPTION

“[1] [. . .] the tunnelling; and this was how the tunnelling was completed: As [the labourers employed] [2] their picks, each crew toward the other, and while there were still three cubits remaining, the voices of the men calling out [3] to each other [could be heard], since it got louder on the right [and left]. The day the [4] opening was made, the stonecutters hacked toward each other, pick against pick. [5] And the water flowed from the source to the pool [twelve] hundred cubits, [6] (and) the height of the rock above the stonecutters' heads was one hundred cubits.”

A.H. Sayce, “The Ancient Hebrew Inscription Discovered at the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem,” *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 13 (1881), p.149.







Archaeology and the New Testament

Significant New Testament Archaeological Discoveries

NAME	LANGUAGES	DISCOVERER	LOCATION FOUND	DATE FOUND	SUBJECT	DATE OF ORIGIN	BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE
Dead Sea Scrolls	Hebrew Aramaic Greek	Bedouin shepherds	Judean Desert caves (Qumran)	1947– 1993	Biblical manu- scripts (OT), commentaries, documents	225 B.C.– A.D. 68	Extrabiblical sources for Jewish sects of New Testament period, Messianic con- cept, parallels to doctrines and practices in New Testament, prophecy
John Rylands Papyrus	Greek	Grenfell	Fayum, Egypt	1920	John 18:31-33, 37-38	A.D. 125	Oldest fragment of New Testament manu- script
Oxyrhynchus Papyri	Greek	Grenfell, A.S. Hunt	Okyrhynchus, Egypt	1897– 1900	Papyri documents, census	A.D. 6–104	Showed Koine Greek of New Testament was common language of people, paral- lels to census in Luke and Acts
Pontius Pilate Inscription	Latin	A. Frova	Caesarea Theatre	1961	Commemorative stele to Tiberias Caesar	26–36	Mentions name and title of Roman prefect who sentenced Jesus
Arch of Titus	Latin	—	Southern entrance to Roman Forum	—	Victory of Titus over Jews	A.D. 81	Depicts destruction of Temple predicted by Jesus, which occurred in A.D. 70
Vespasian- Titus Inscription	Latin	B. Mazar	South of Temple Mount	1970	Column of Tenth Legion	A.D. 79	Names of Vespasian, Titus, Silva who ful- filled prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction
Remains of Crucifixion	—	Tzaferis	Givat Ha- mivtar tomb	1968	Heel bone pierced with nail and wood from cross	2 nd Century B.C.– A.D. 70	First physical evidence of crucifixion during time of Jesus
Caiaphas Ossuary	Hebrew	Z. Greenhut	Peace Forest, Jerusalem	1990	Burial bone box of priestly family	A.D. 42–43	First evidence of high priest who presided over trial of Jesus

Herod the Great Ostraca	Latin	E. Netzer	Masada	1996	Wine label	A.D. 73	Name and title of King Herod of the Gospels
Church of Holy Sepulchre excavations	—	Corbo, Kenyon, Broshi	East Jerusalem	4th Century A.D.	Limestone quarry, garden, excavation site, tombs	Second Temple Period	Place of crucifixion and burial tomb of Jesus
Pool of Siloam	—	Bliss, Dickie	Kidron Valley, Jerusalem	1897	Pool at southern end of Hezekiah's tunnel	Second Temple Period	Place of healing miracle in John 9:1-41
Pool of Bethesda	—	White, Fathers	East Jerusalem	1903	Ritual healing site	3rd Century B.C.	Place of healing miracle in John 5:1-15
Erastus Inscription	Latin	American School of Classical Studies (Cadbury)	Corinthian Theatre	1929, 1947	Commemorative monument in pavement	A.D. 50-100	Name and title of city treasurer of Corinth mentioned by Paul in Romans 16:23
Bema Seat (Tribunal)	Latin	Broneer	Corinth	1935, 1937	Speaker's platform	c. A.D. 50	Place where Paul stood before Gallio in Acts 18:12-17
Codex Sinaiticus	Greek	Constantine von Tischendorf	St. Catherine Monastery, Mt. Sinai	1844	Most of Old Testament and all of New Testament	4th Century A.D.	Earliest complete New Testament, important for textual criticism
Nag Hammadi Papyri	Coptic	Two brothers from al-Qasr	North of Luxor, Egypt	1945	Sectarian library of 13 codices	4th-5th Century A.D.	Gnostic texts, Gospel of Thomas with apocryphal Jesus sayings
Soreg Inscription	Greek	Clermont-Ganneau	East Jerusalem	1871, 1935	Warning sign to Gentiles at Temple area	19 B.C.-A.D. 70	Barrier to forbidden area mentioned in accusation against Paul (Acts 21:27-31)
Kinneret Boat	—	Members of Kibbutz Ginossar	Sea of Galilee (Kinneret)	1986	First-century A.D. fishing boat	A.D. 30-70	Background to Gospel accounts describing fishing vessels and practices

Is There Evidence Outside the New Testament for Jesus?

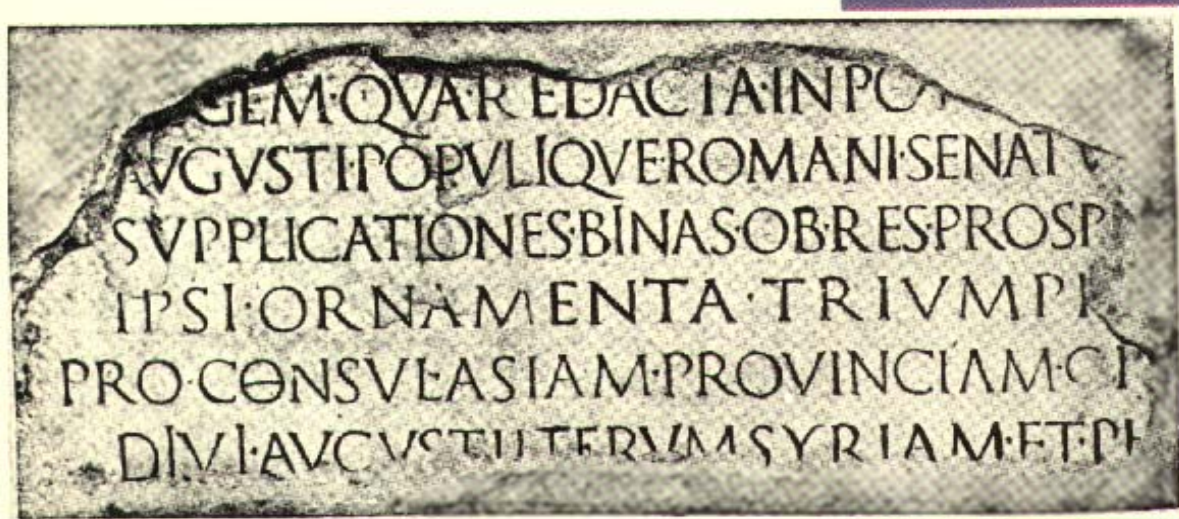
Literary Documents that Confirm the
Gospel Account of Jesus

Archaeological Evidence that Confirms
the Gospel Account of Jesus





Archaeological Evidence for Jesus



AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria).

(Luke 2 : 1-2)



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... ΤΟΥ ΚΑΙΟΥ
... ΛΟΓΩΝ
... ΔΕ ΠΟΤΕ ΔΙ-
... ΝΟΜΩΝ ΠΡΟΣ
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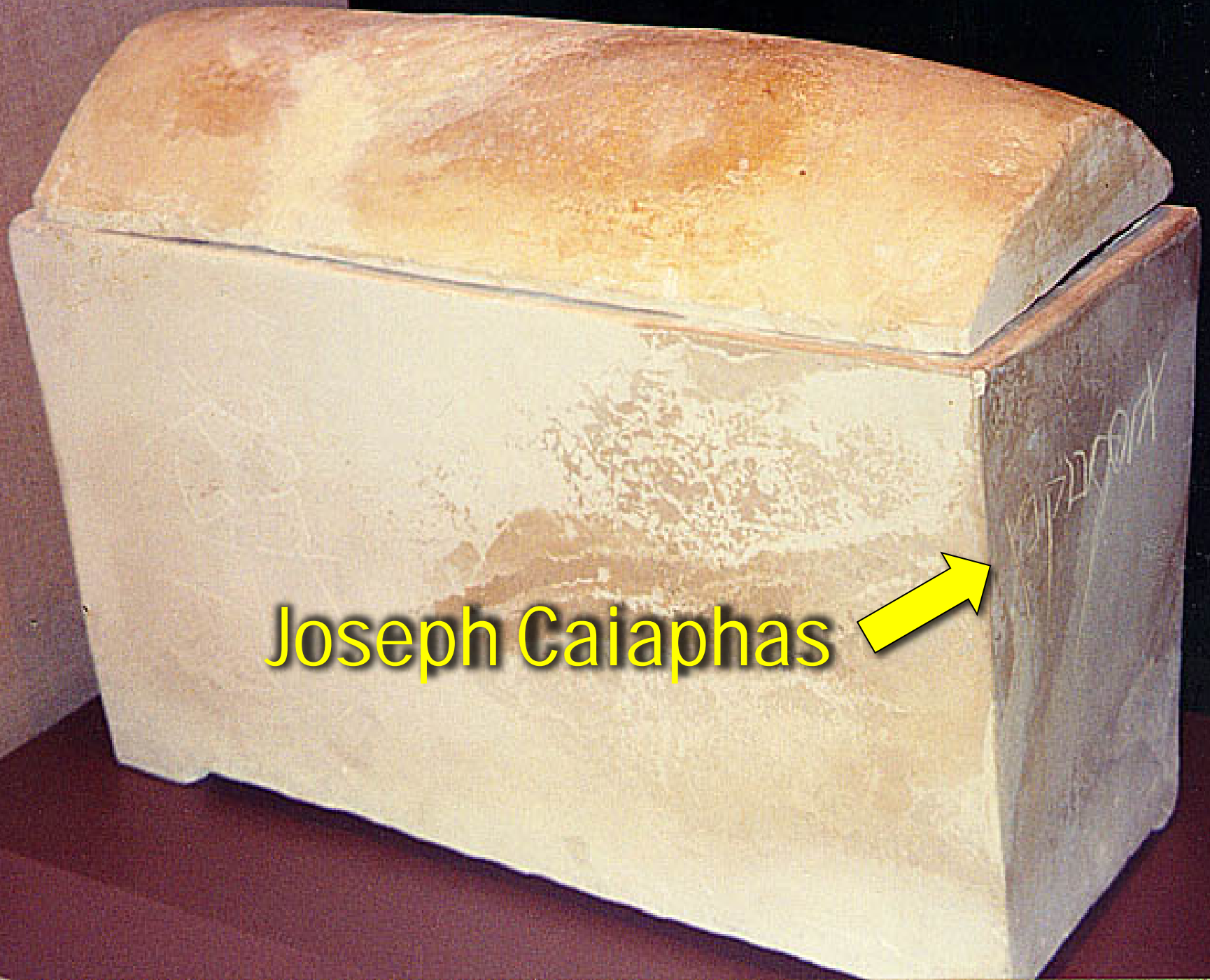
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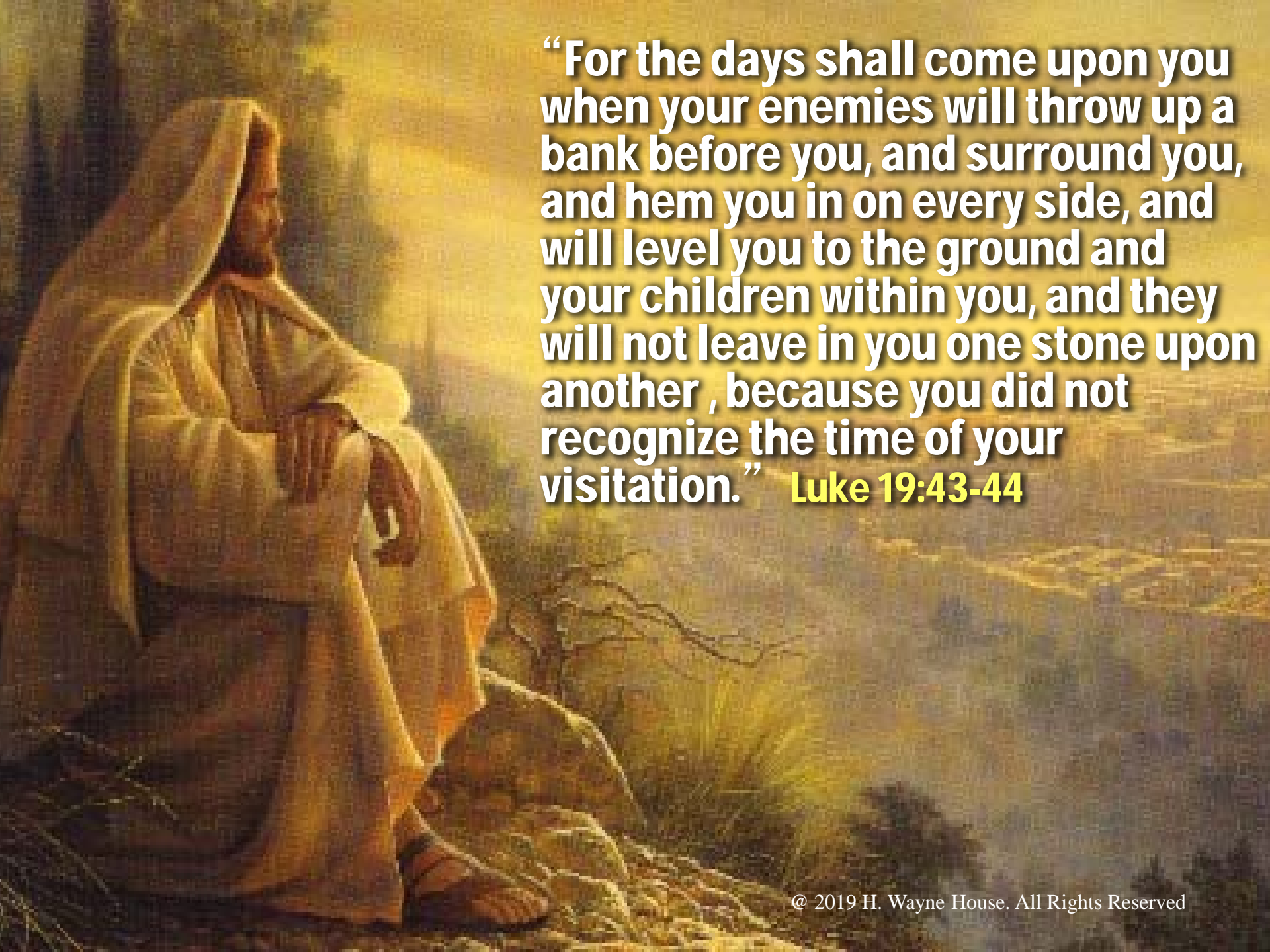


Pontius Pilate

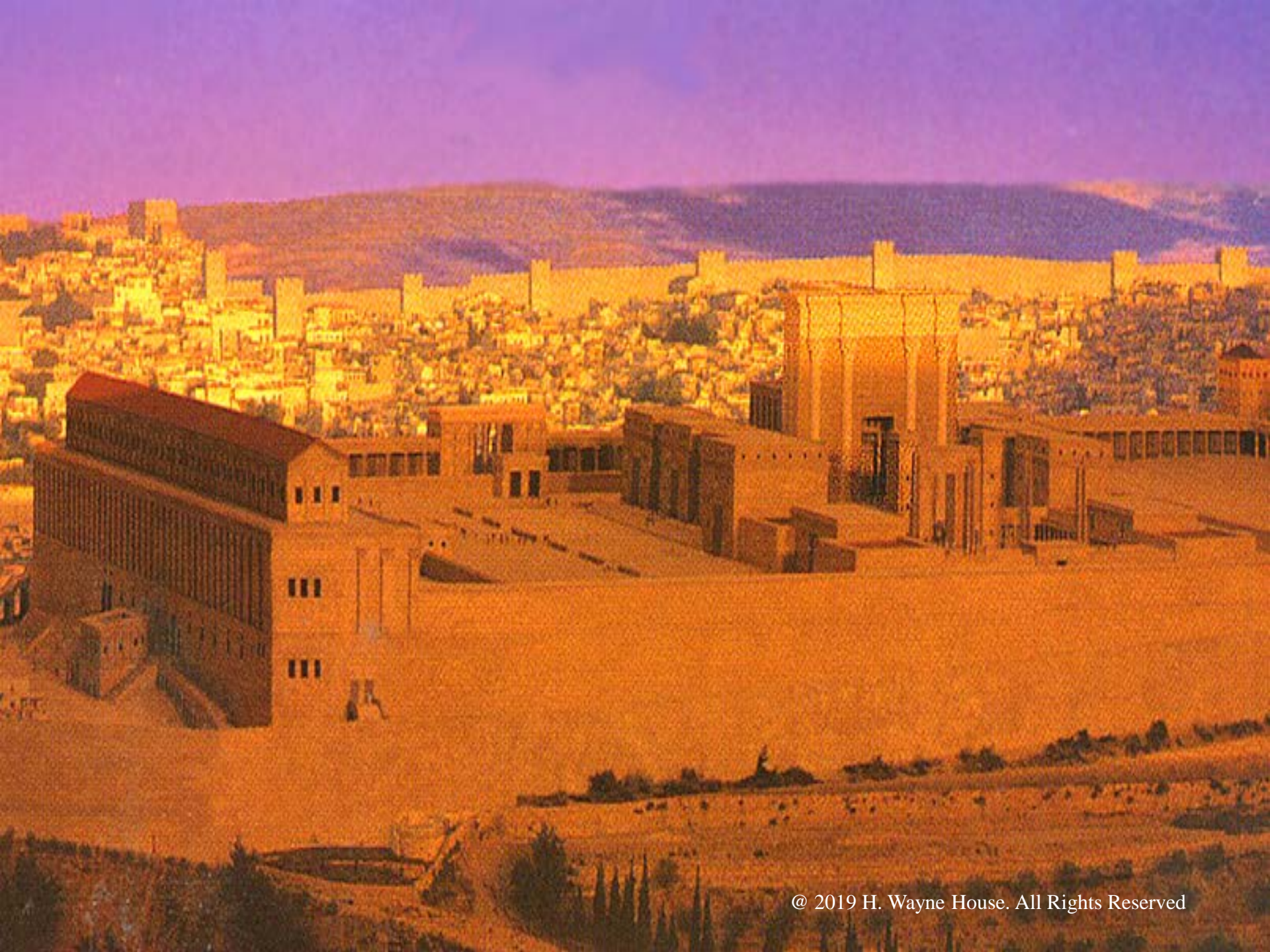




Joseph Caiaphas



“For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.” **Luke 19:43-44**





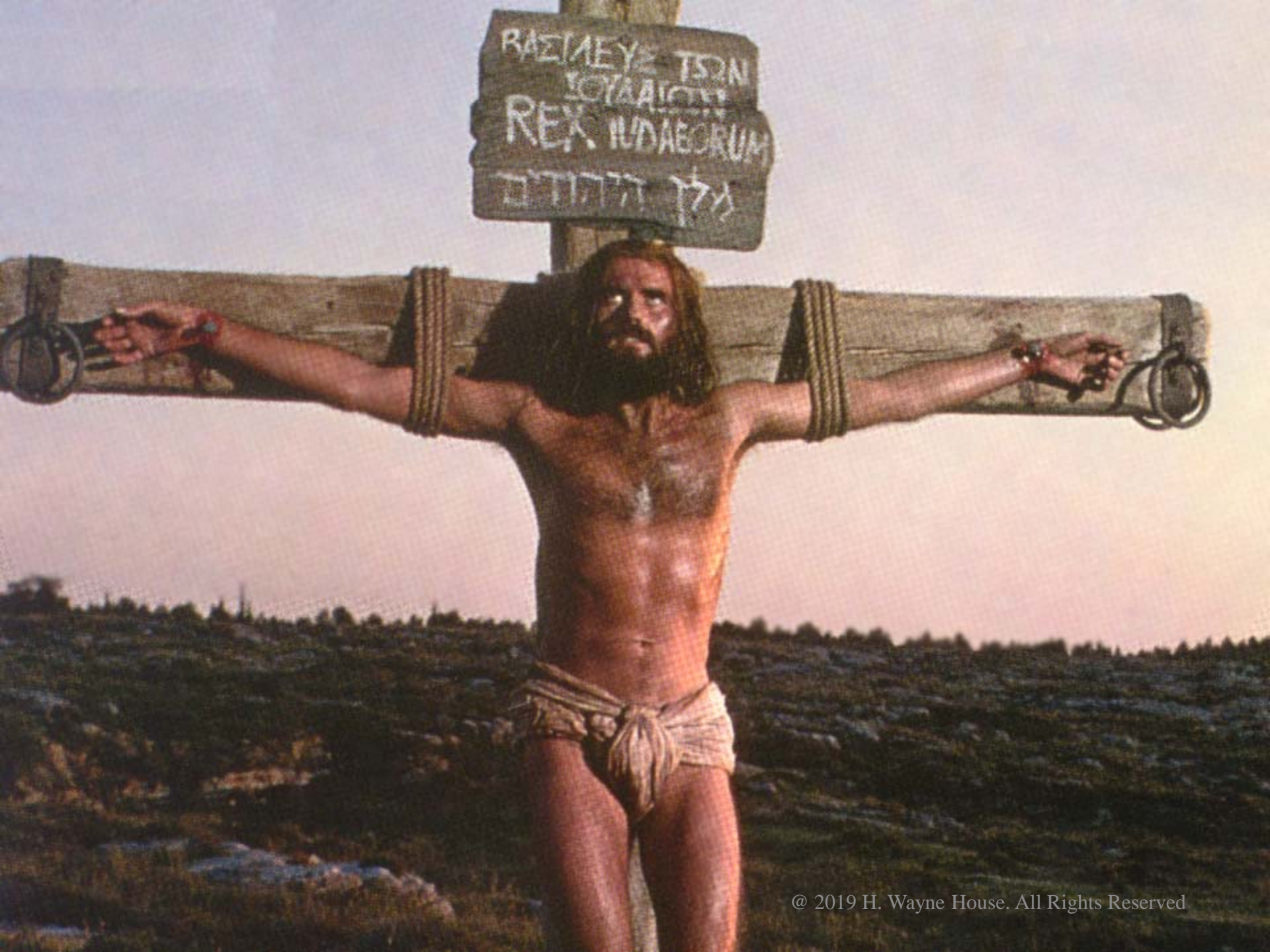


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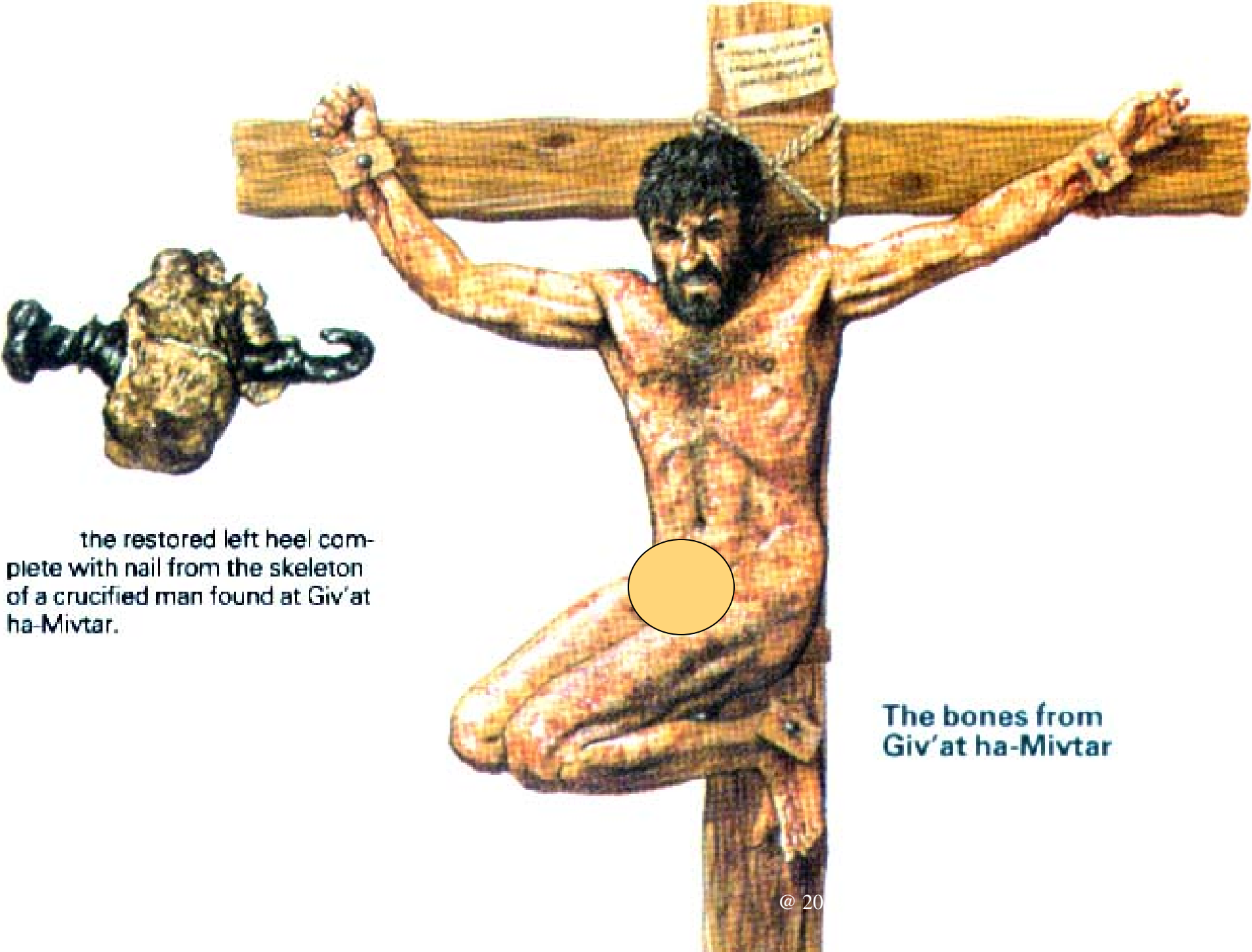








ΡΑΣΤΗΕΥΣ ΤΣΩΝ
ΣΟΥΑΡΙΟΥΣ
ΡΕΧ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΩΡΩΝ
QUITTI ITA

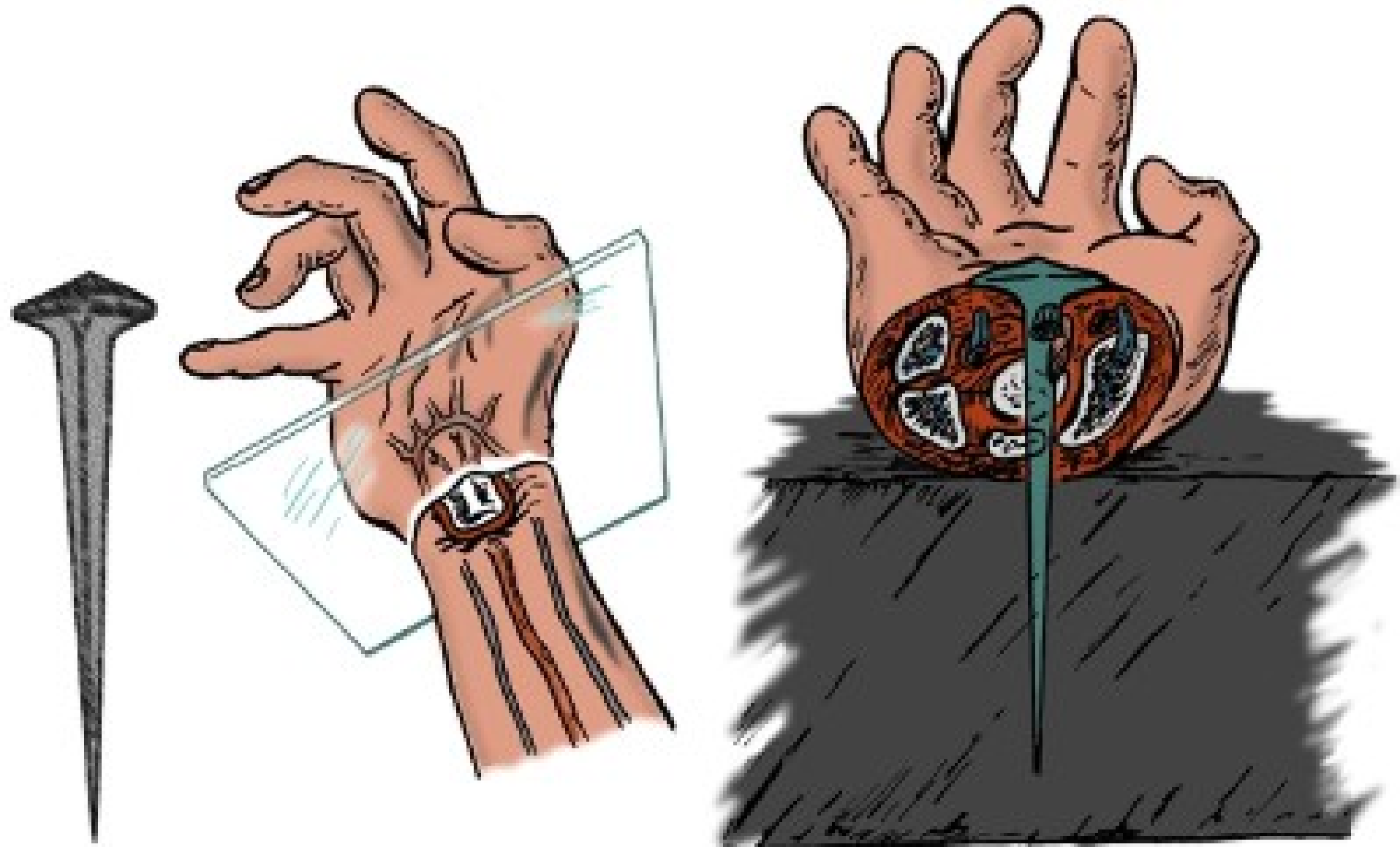


the restored left heel complete with nail from the skeleton of a crucified man found at Giv'at ha-Mivtar.

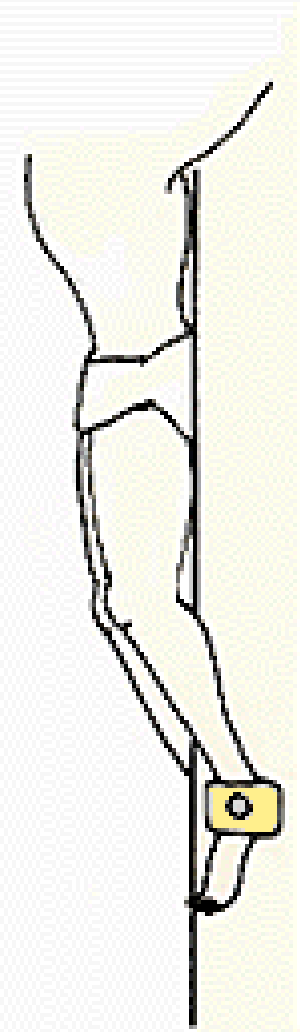
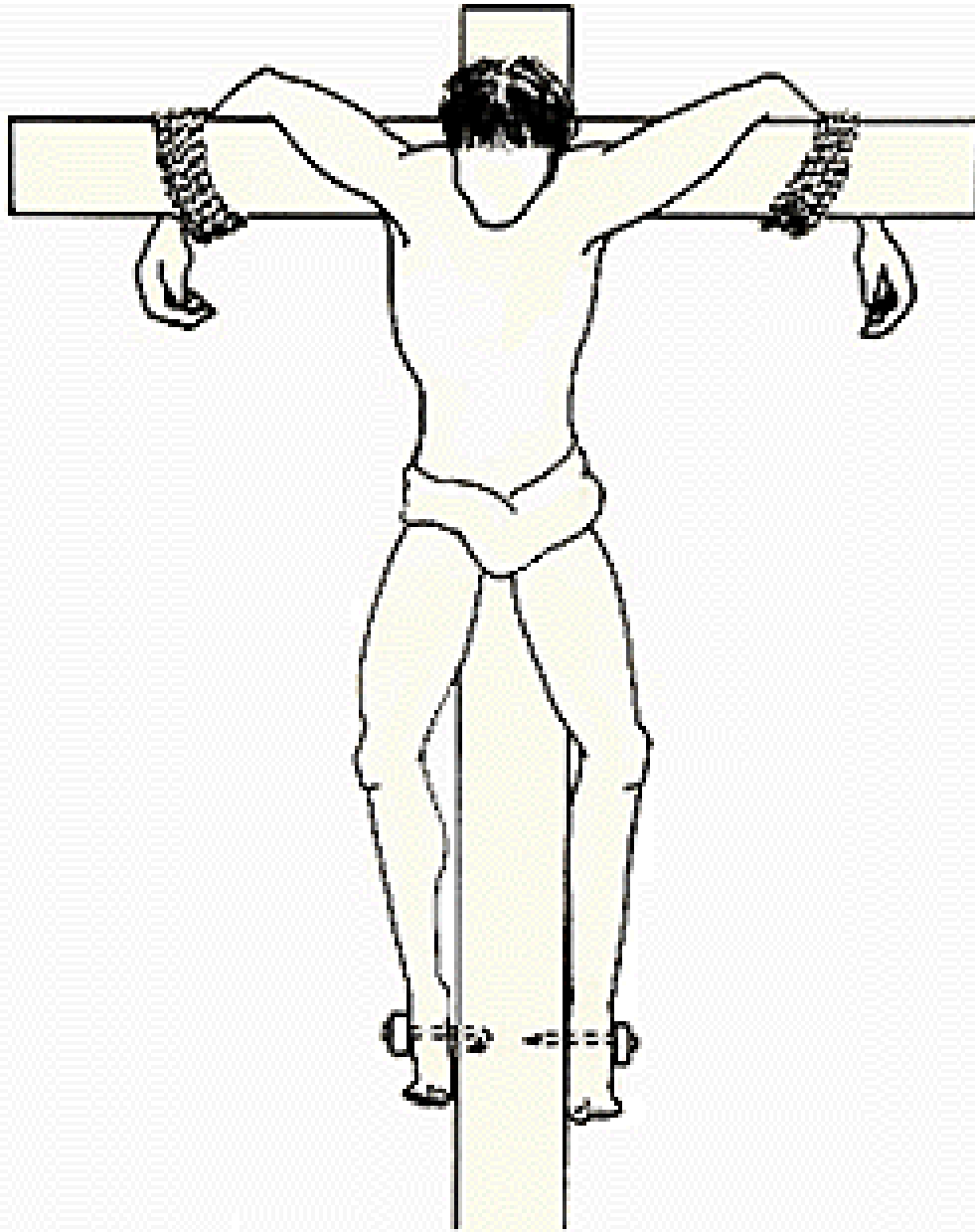
The bones from Giv'at ha-Mivtar



Alternative View of Crucifixion



Alternative View of Crucifixion



What We Have Learned from The Yohanan Skeleton

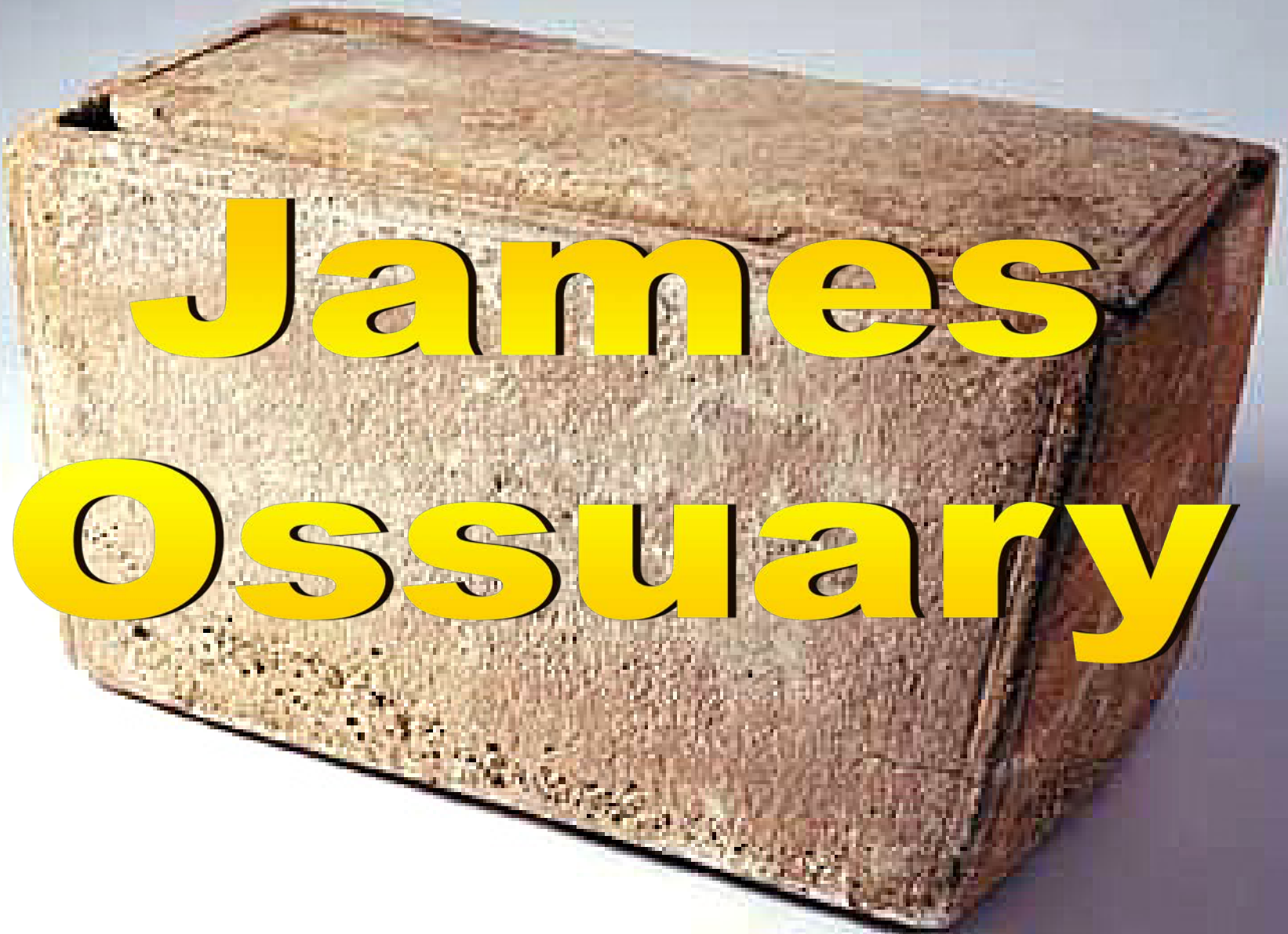
- The two heel bones were joined by a single spike.
- The leg bones were crushed by a violent blow that would have made it impossible for the victim to continue raising himself up to breathe. This quickened death.
- John did not add this detail to show that Jesus fulfilled prophecy but that it truly happened the way that Scripture predicted and John recorded.



TEMPLE SCROLL

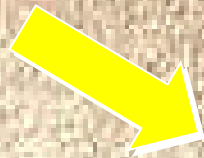
Crucifixion for Seditious

The Temple Scroll in commenting on Deut. 21:22-23 concerning execution by hanging on a tree interprets this as the legal punishment for high treason and relates it to crucifixion. In Jn. 11:49 Caiaphas stated that Jesus claims betrayed the Jewish nation by threatened Roman action against it. Thus, they saw Jesus actions as sedition which legally required the punishment of hanging or crucifixion. Since this was exclusively a Roman form of execution, it was necessary for the Sanhedrin to turn Jesus over to the Roman authorities (Pilate) for judgment.



James Ossuary

Inscription





Jesus



brother of



Joseph

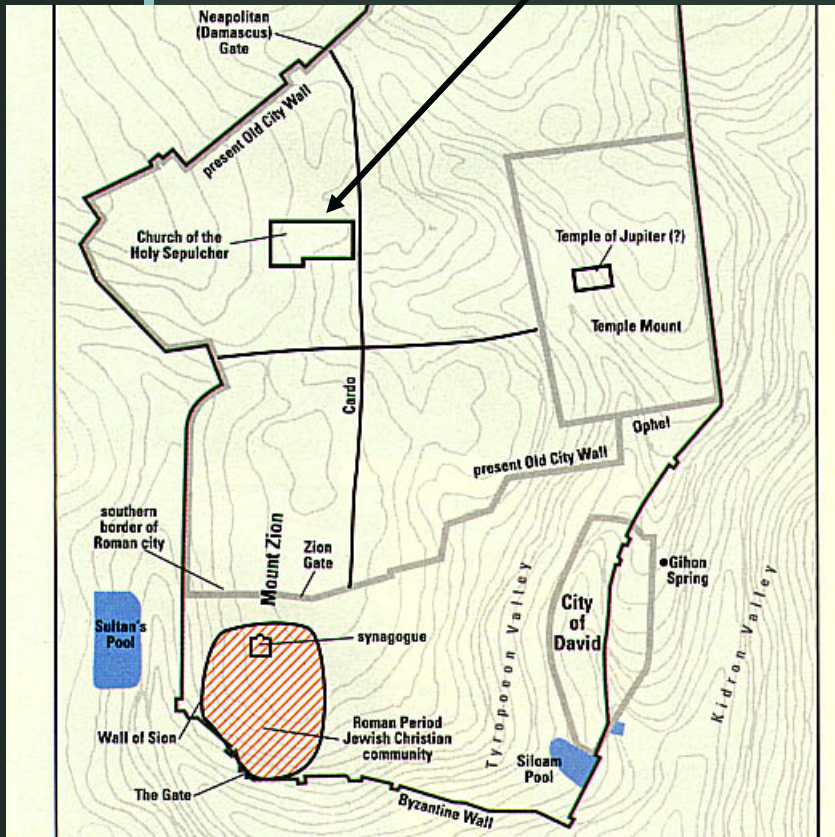


son of

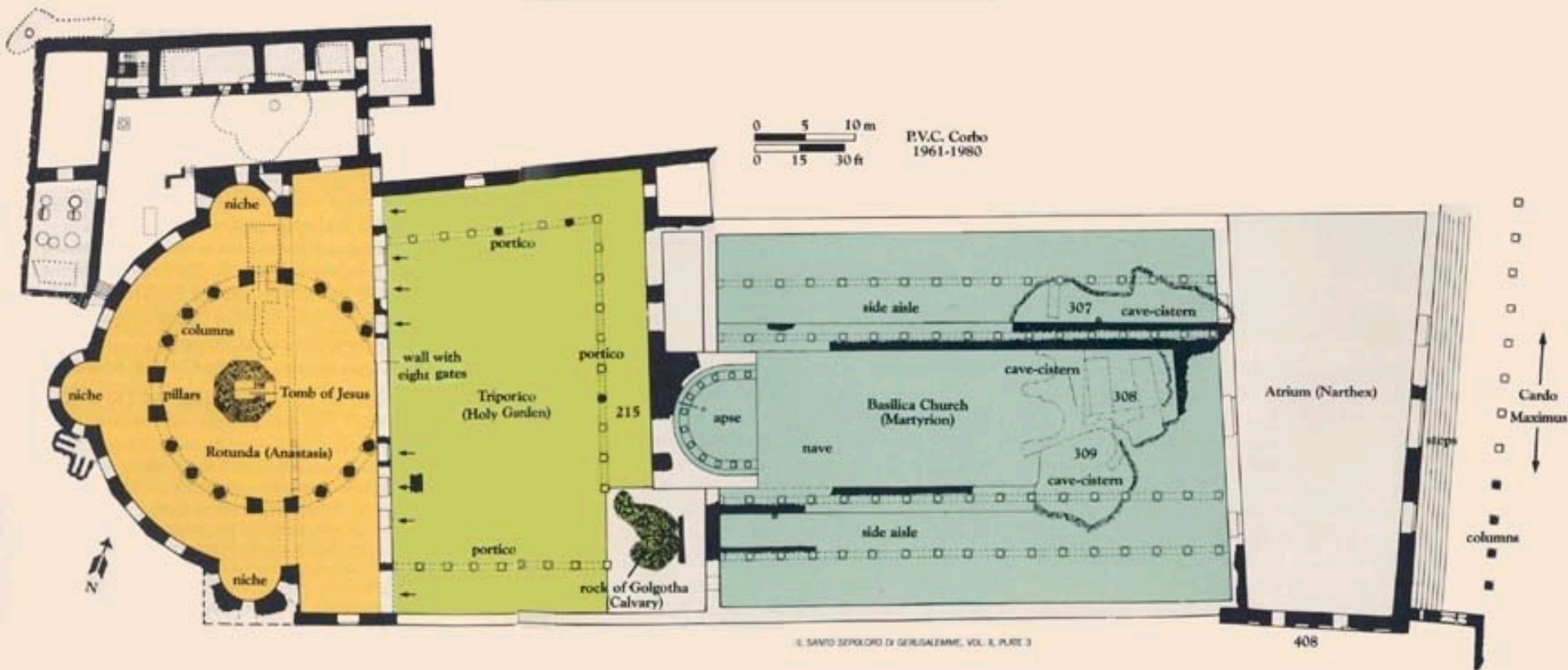


James

Hadrian's Attempt to Erase Memory of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem



Floor Plan of Church of Holy Sepulcher







An aerial illustration of a Roman city. In the center is a large, multi-story building with a tiled roof, likely a church or temple. The city is surrounded by fields, some with rows of crops, and several smaller buildings. The overall scene is depicted in a classic, slightly stylized artistic manner.

Discovery was made of a ship mosaic in lowest floor of the church which read "Lord, I came" (c. A.D. 100)

Roman emperor Hadrian planted a grove for the worship of Adonis to profane the Christian faith (c. A.D. 120)

Church Father Jerome stated that Bethlehem Was already "the most venerated spot in the World" (A.D. 385)

Church Father Eusebius recorded that Helena, mother of emperor Constantine built church to preserve sacred place of birth (c. A.D. 390)

Pre-A.D. 70 Christian Ossuaries

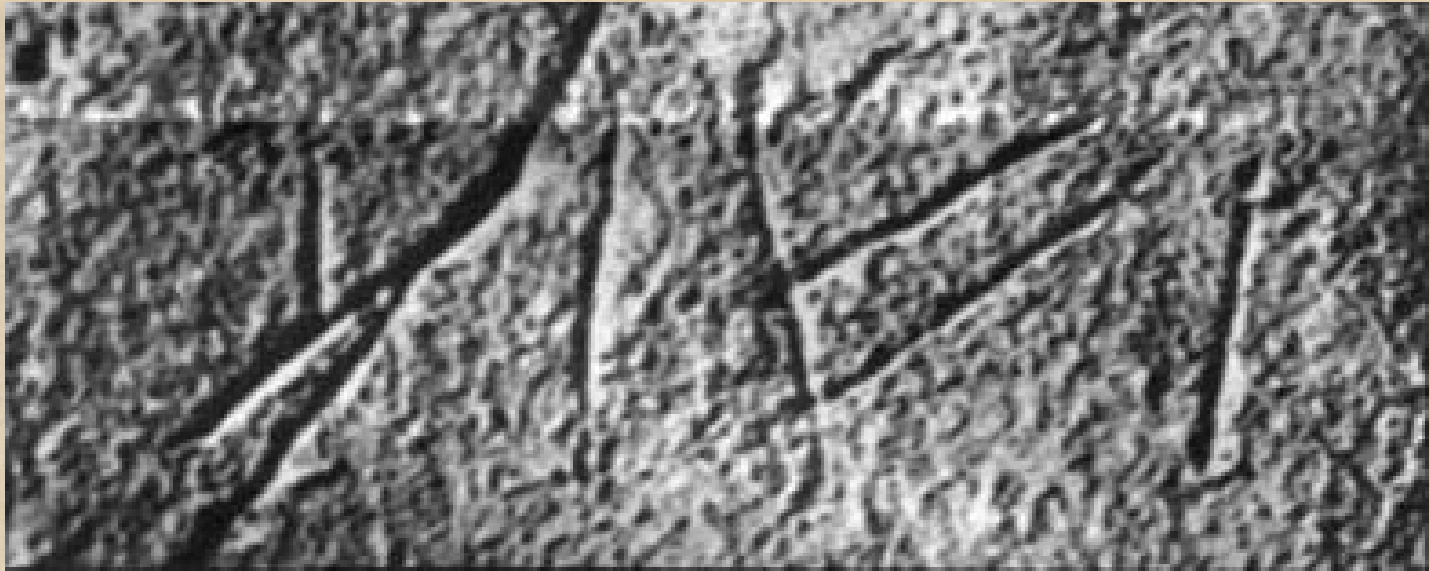


To Jesus the Redeemer



Dedicated to Jesus

Pre-A.D. 70 Christian Ossuaries



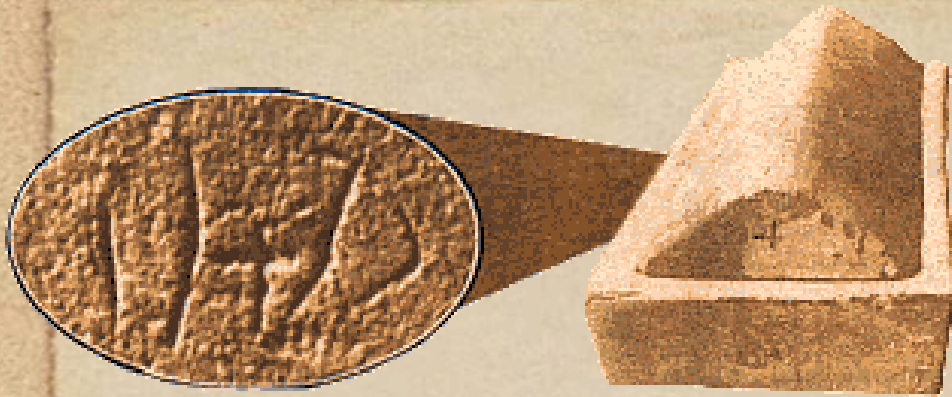
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Dedicated to Jesus

Pre-A.D. 70 Christian Ossuaries



Ossuary Found Near Tomb of Simon Barsabas (Acts 1:21 & 15:22, with dedication "[To] Jesus, the Lord (y'ho, Yahweh). This ossuary is especially important since it dates to A.D. 42, having a coin of King Herod Agrippa I dating to A.D. 41. This acknowledges Jesus Christ as God within ten years of the death and resurrection



Matthaias Ossuary



Headstone with cross



Ossuaries with Crosses

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Amulet of Jesus's Life
Late 1st or early 2nd A.D.



Statute of man inside circle, carried to heaven by 4 angels, with 3 sides of 1st cen. cross

2 shepherds, 2 with hand toward a star, beneath star 2 animals; then Magi with gifts to child in mother's arms

Figure of Christ, 2 kneeling women, one touching hem of His garment, one interceding for daughter. Behind short man in treetop watching Jesus, then palsy man, leper, & demon-possessed man

Amulet of Jesus's Life



Headstone with cross



Altar A.D. 79

