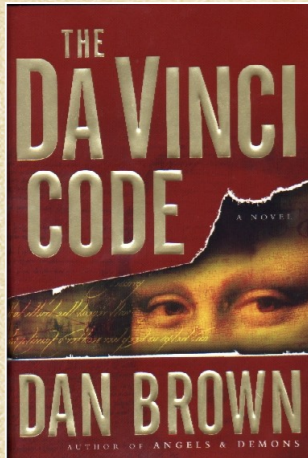


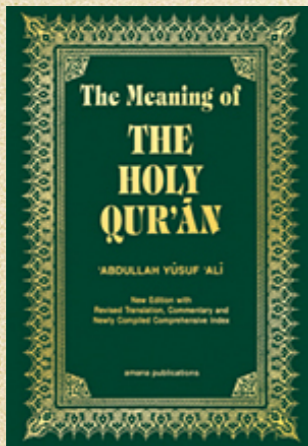
Reliability of the Bible



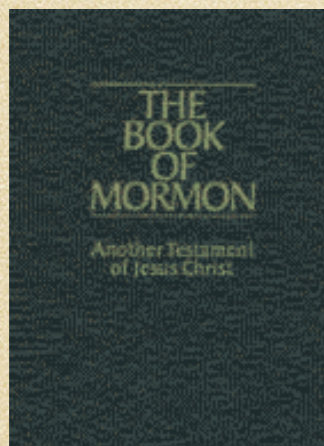
Challenges to Bible



- More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament.



- The Qur'an and the Bible contradict because the Bible has been corrupted.



- The Bible is true, in so far as it it correctly translated.

Tests for Reliability



- Internal Test: what the document claims for itself.



- External Test: how the document aligns itself with facts, dates, persons from its world.



- Bibliographic Test: the transmission from the original document to the manuscripts we possess today.

Internal Test

Biblical Claims

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16

Biblical Claims

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

2 Peter 2:1

Biblical Claims

“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.”

Luke 16:17

Unity Argument

- Over 40 authors, locations, and topics.
- Written on three different continents.
- Written under many different circumstances.
- Written over a 1500 year period.



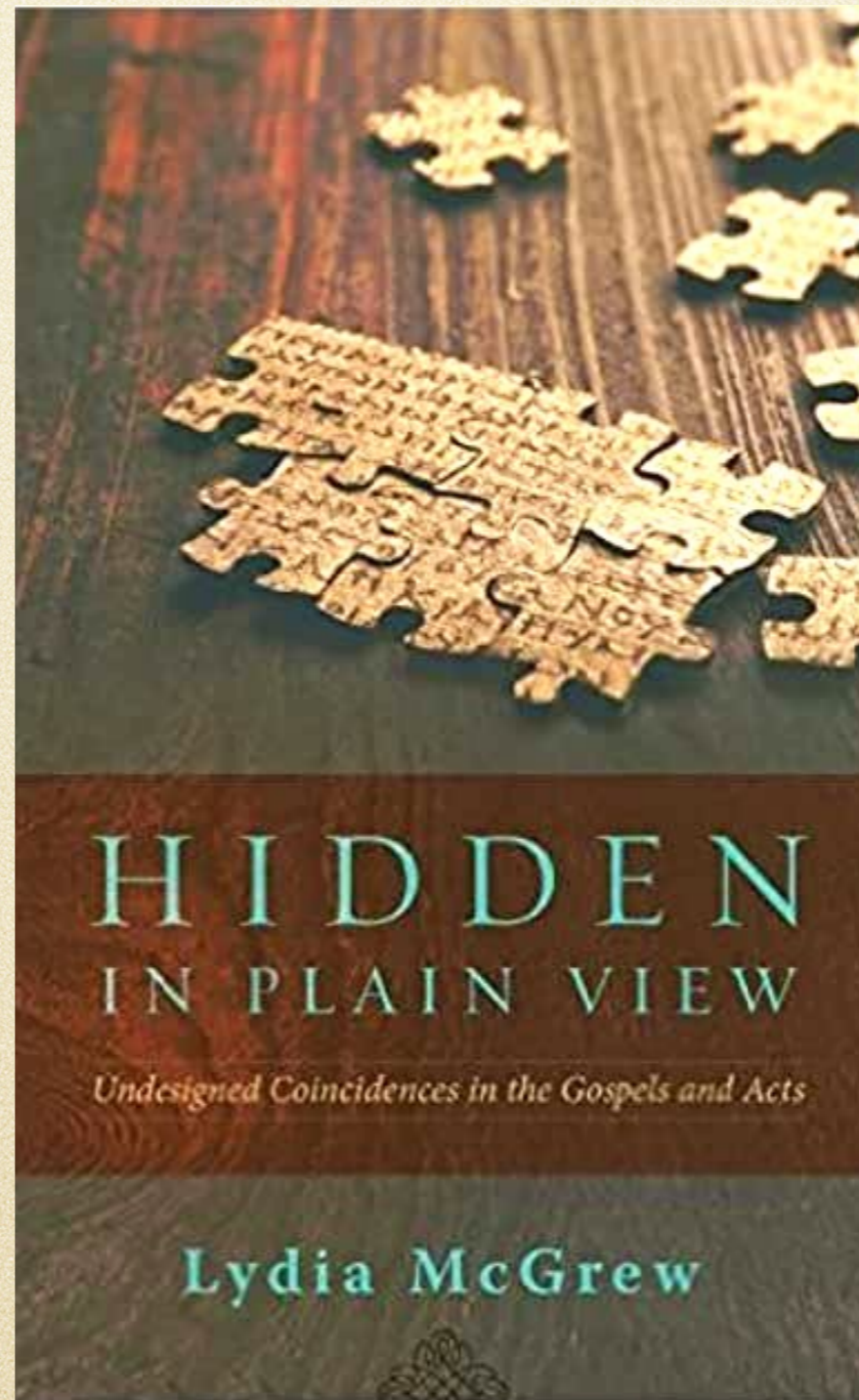
Consistency

- Consistency of theme:
 - One problem: sin
 - One solution: Jesus
- Consistency in theology
- Consistency on controversial issues

Undesigned Coincidences



Undesigned Coincidences



Luke 9:34-36

As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. **And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.**

Mark 9:9

And as they were coming down the mountain,
**he charged them to tell no one what they had
seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the
dead.**

External Test

Archaeology

“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Bible.”

Dr. William Albright



Archaeology

“Archeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine.”

Millar Burrows



Archaeology

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

Nelson Glueck



Hittites

- Prehistory – ca. 1900 B.C.
- A little over a century ago, the existence of the Hittites was doubted or denied because the only record of them was in the Old Testament.
- In fact, they were proclaimed legendary by biblical “Higher Criticism.”



Hittites

- A late 19th century discovery led to further digs resulting in the finding of five temples, a fortified citadel, sculptures, and tablets, all belonging to the Hittite empire.
- This was “one of the most outstanding achievements in Near Eastern archaeology.”



Hittites

“Evidence includes many monuments, the ancient Hittite capital of Hattusa (much larger than Jericho), hundreds of clay tablets, and even a peace treaty with Egypt.”



Caananites

The Amarna Tablets: Discovered at the Egyptian site of el-Amarna in 1887, there are letters from officials in Palestine and Syria to Pharaoh Akhnaton (1387-1366 B.C.) who were concerned about attacking Habiru.

King David

Critics once held that David and Saul were mythological figures devised to explain the Israelite monarchy, and to provide a theological basis for the idea of a divine government with David (good king) and Saul (bad king).

King David


In 1993 a stone monument fragment was discovered near the border of Israel and Syria. It mentions the “House of David” and implies a victory by Ben-Hadad, king of Damascus (1 Kings. 15:20).

Megiddo




Meggido

October 30, 2017



DISCOVERING NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Another Find of Biblical Proportions



BREAKPOINT

00:00 [Progress Bar] 00:00 [Speaker Icon]

Meggido

- Norma Franklin (University of Haifa) and Jennie Ebeling (University of Evansville) led excavation in the Jezreel Valley - Meggido.
- They found several wine presses and olive presses, including the largest ancient winepress ever found.
- According to *Biblical Archaeology Review*, they found Naboth's vineyard by using the details in 1 Kings 21 that provides an account of the plot by Jezebel to kill Naboth when King Ahab coveted his vineyard.

Old Testament

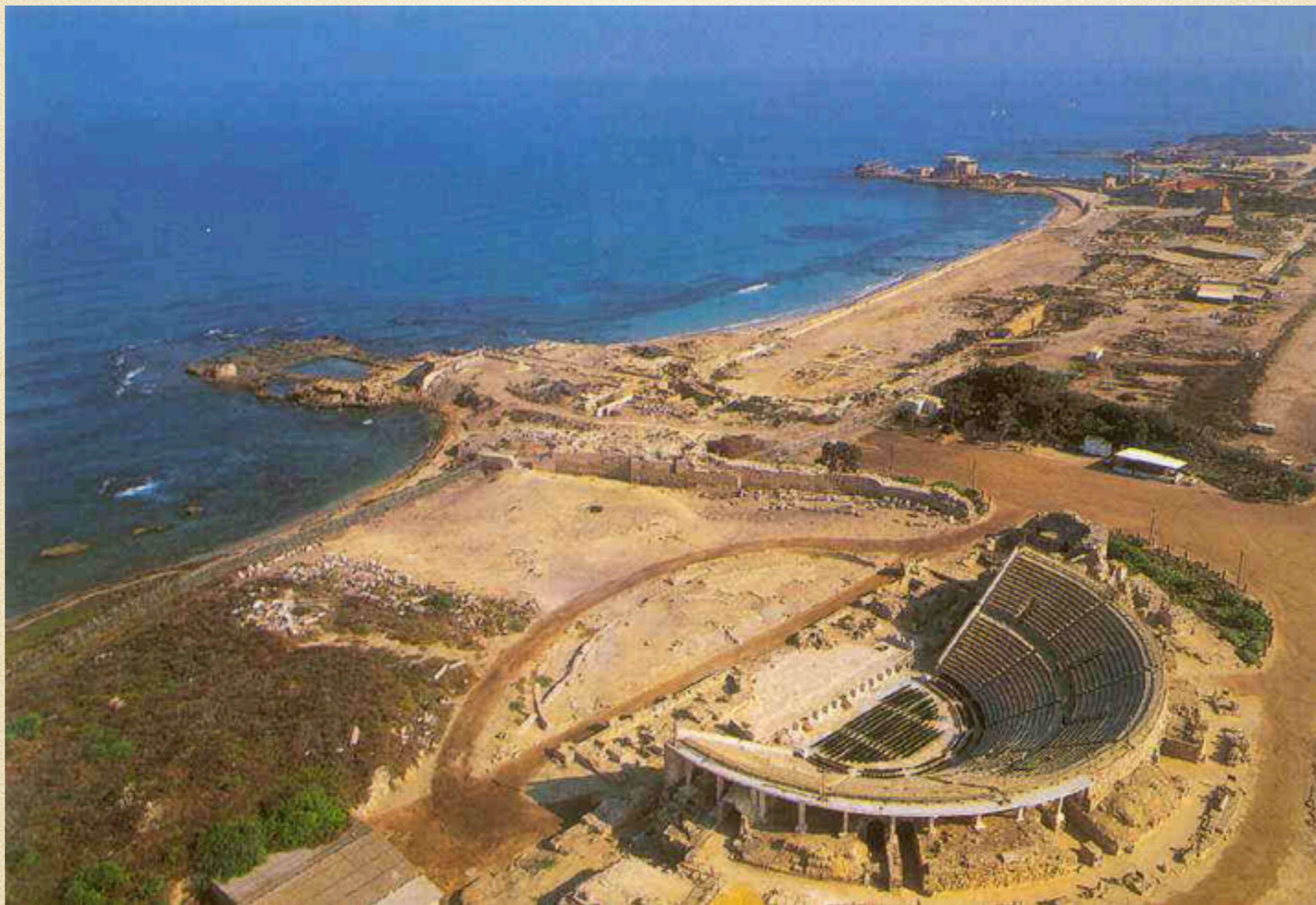
October 13, 2016



Old Testament

- Archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority digging at the biblical city of Tel Lachish discovered an ancient toilet.
- King Hezekiah (2 Kings 10) is commended because he “removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones, and cut down the Asherah poles.”
- It goes on to explain that he “demolished the pillar of Baal, and destroyed the temple of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day.”

Caesarea



Pilate Stone



Capernaum



INTERNATIONAL

Biblical Archaeology's Top 10 Discoveries of 2018

A glimpse at the important excavation work revealed this year.

GORDON GOVIER | DECEMBER 27, 2018 7:00 AM



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON
ARCHAEOLOGY



KERBY ANDERSON

“Yerusalayim” Inscription

Oldest-ever inscription of ‘Jerusalem’ found on pillar

“My heart started to pound, and I was sure everyone could hear it. My hands were trembling so badly I couldn’t properly take a picture,” said Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Danit Levi.



The oldest discovered inscription of “Jerusalem” found to date, unveiled in October 2018. Credit: Danit Levy, Israel Antiquities Authority.

Ninevah

ISIS ACCIDENTALLY CORROBORATES THE BIBLE

March 19, 2018 — 2 Comments



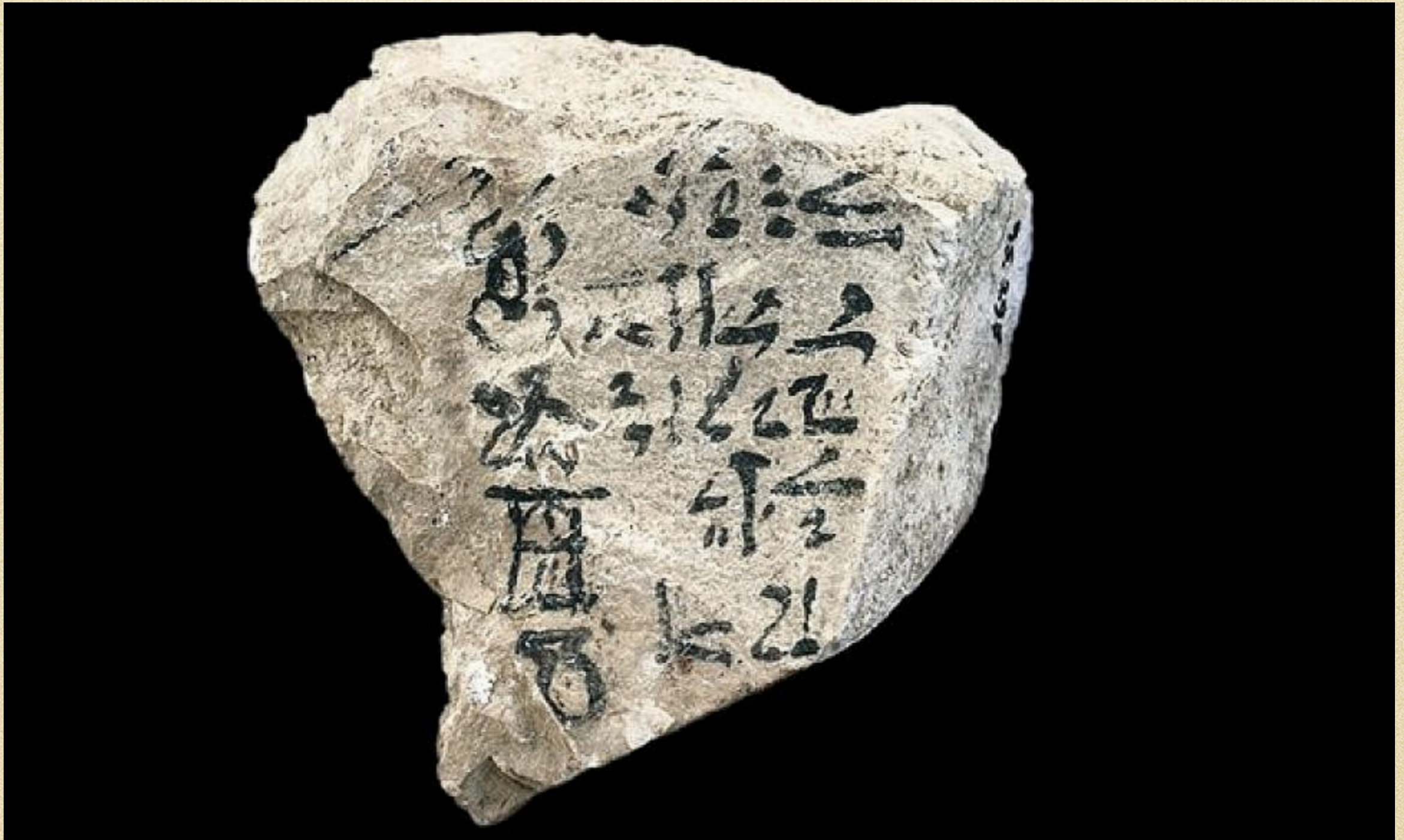
Ninevah

- When the ISIS terrorists destroyed numerous biblical archaeological sites in Iraq, they unearthed evidence that supports the Old Testament accounts.
- They demolished the tomb of Jonah and dug tunnels looking for treasure and artifacts they could sell.
- When archaeologists returned, the digging revealed an untouched Assyrian palace in the city of Nineveh.

Ninevah

- According to an article in Iraq magazine, they found inscriptions that match the biblical order:
- Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1), Sennacherib (2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles, Isaiah 36-37), Esarhaddon (2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38), and Ashurbanipal (Ezra 4:10).

Semitic Abecedary



Semitic Abecedary

- This inscribed piece of limestone discovered in a tomb along the west bank of the Nile confirms a question liberals have raised about Moses.
- The excavated tomb dates back to 1450 B.C., which is the time of Moses. It verifies that writing was common.
- Exodus 24:4 - "Moses wrote down everything the Lord had said." It shows he wasn't the only one writing in a Semitic script in Egypt at that time.

Western Wall



Robinson's Arch

Beka Weight



Beka Weight

- Very careful shifting helped discover some significant finds: a beka weight.
- Exodus 38:26 explains that the beka was used to measure the half shekel temple tax due from each person.
- This tiny weight (0.2 ounces) was discovered near Robinson's arch (southwest corner - Temple Mount).
- It was used to weigh the temple tax.

Clay Seal



Clay Seal

- A very rare seal impression from 2,700 years ago was discovered in Jerusalem's Western Wall Plaza and unveiled to the public Monday. It was presented to the mayor of Jerusalem.
- It bears the inscription: "Belonging to the governor of the city."
- It supports the biblical record of the existence of a governor of the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago.

Isaiah the Prophet?



Isaiah bulla, a 2,700-year-old clay seal impression which may have belonged to the biblical prophet Isaiah. (Ouria Tadmor/© Eilat Mazar)

Isaiah the Prophet?

- This seal impression appears to say “Isaiah the prophet” but a letter is missing at the end.
- The seal is from a small piece of clay from that time period.
- It was found at the Temple Mount near another seal that says “of King Hezekiah of Judah.” King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah are mentioned together 17 times.

Pontius Pilate

***Pontius Pilate's Name Is
Found on 2,000-Year-Old Ring***



The ring bearing the name of Pontius Pilate was discovered in the late 1960s, one of thousands of artifacts found in the excavation of Herodium, an ancient fortress and palace south of Bethlehem, in the West Bank. Bernat Armangue/Associated Press

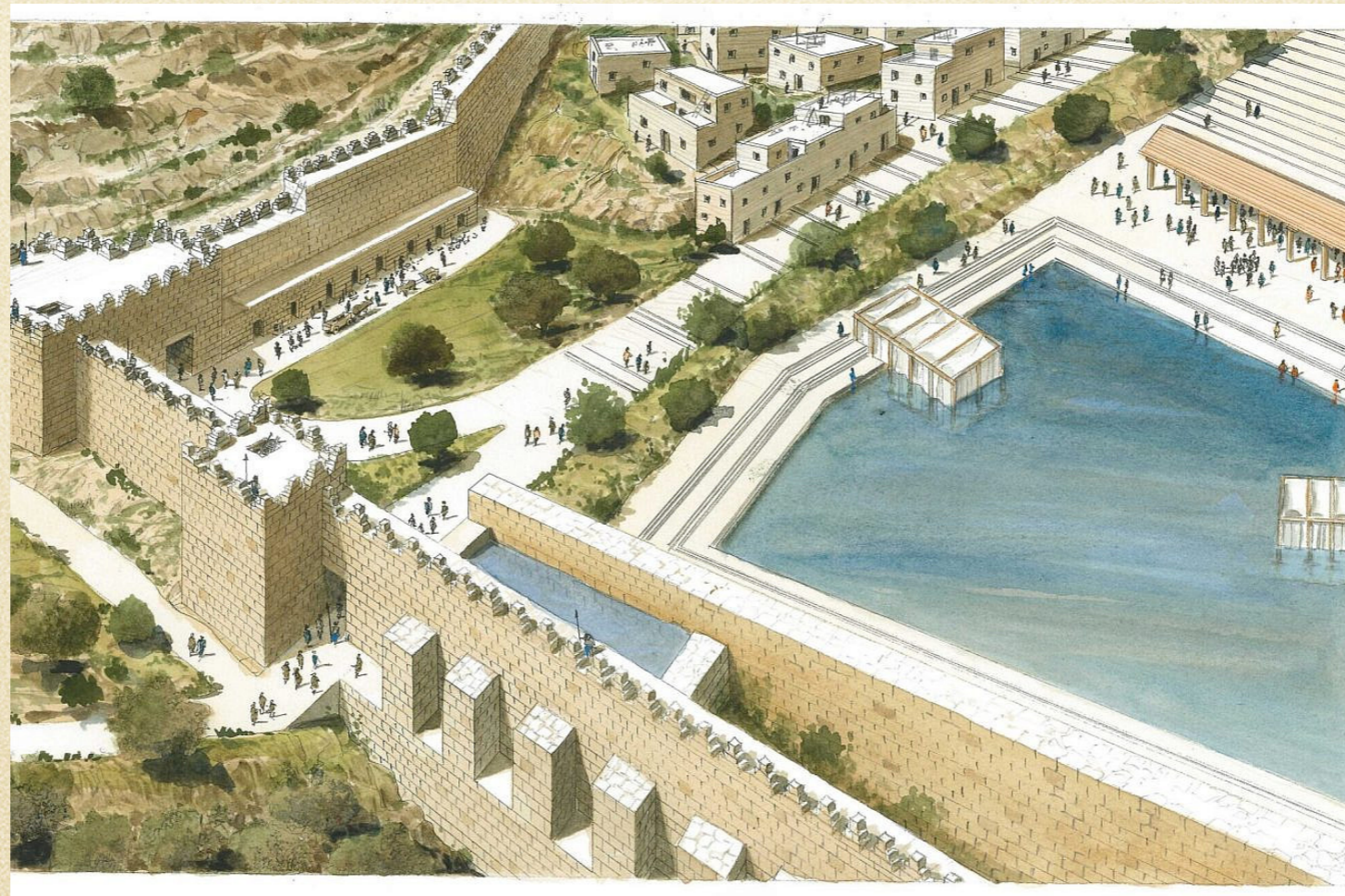
Pontius Pilate

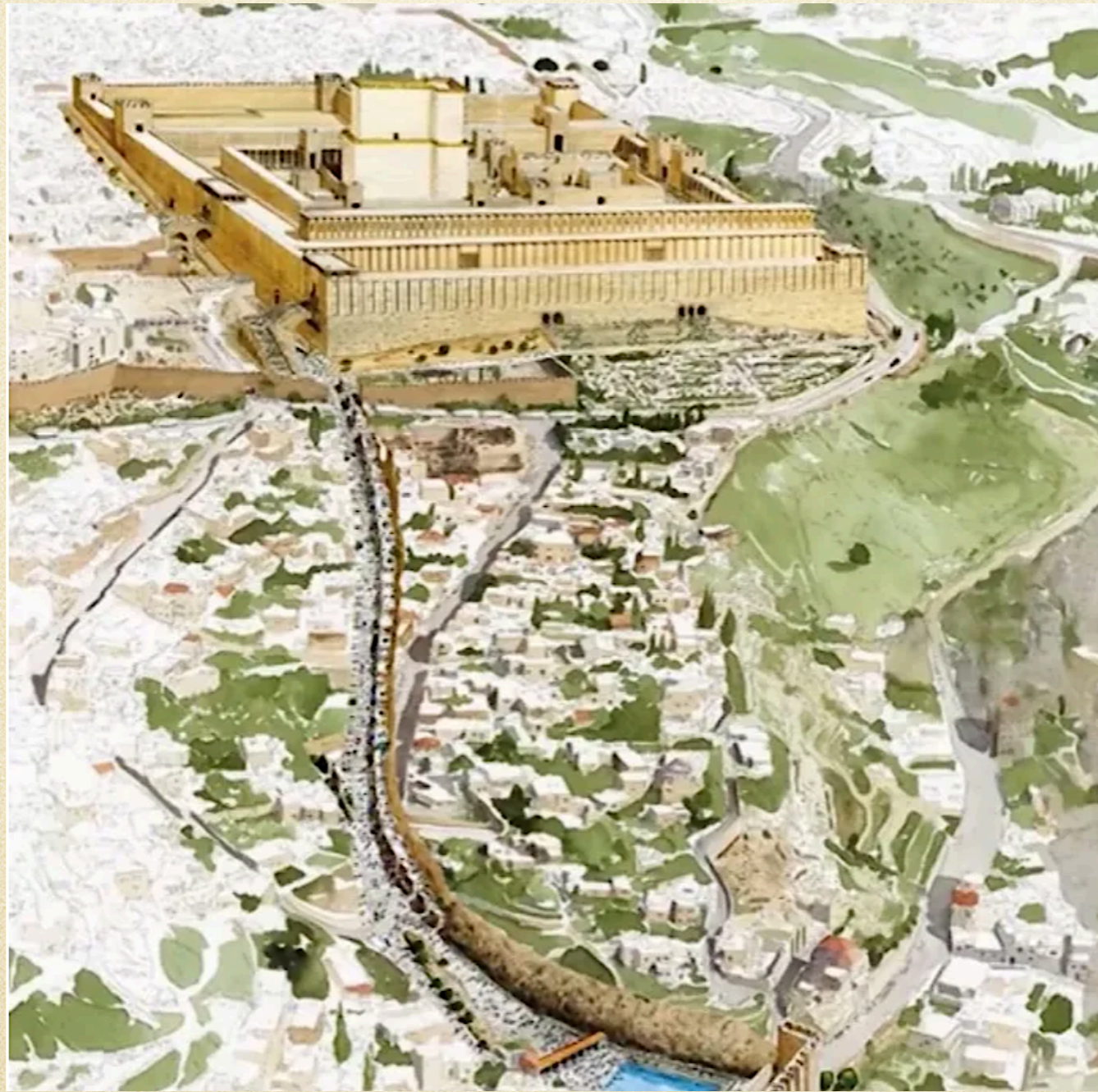
- The name “Pontius Pilate” has turned up before in the archaeological record.
- This ring was found at Herodium, a desert palace outside of Bethlehem.
- The ring was not fancy enough to have been worn by Pilate, so it was used for official communications.

Pontius Pilate



Pool of Siloam





John 9

***The pool of Siloam,
where Jesus healed the
blind man.***



Pool of Siloam



Pool of Siloam



Oldest Name of God

- Dr. Scott Stripling uncovered a Curse Tablet found in Joshua's altar on Mount Ebal. Joshua 8:30 indicates that Joshua built an altar on Mt. Ebal, which is the mount of cursing.
- The ancient Hebrew inscription in proto-alphabetic script consists of 40 letters
- It is centuries older than any known Hebrew inscription from ancient Israel.

Oldest Name of God

Folded lead tablet from Mt. Ebal



CM



Photograph by Michael C. Luddeni

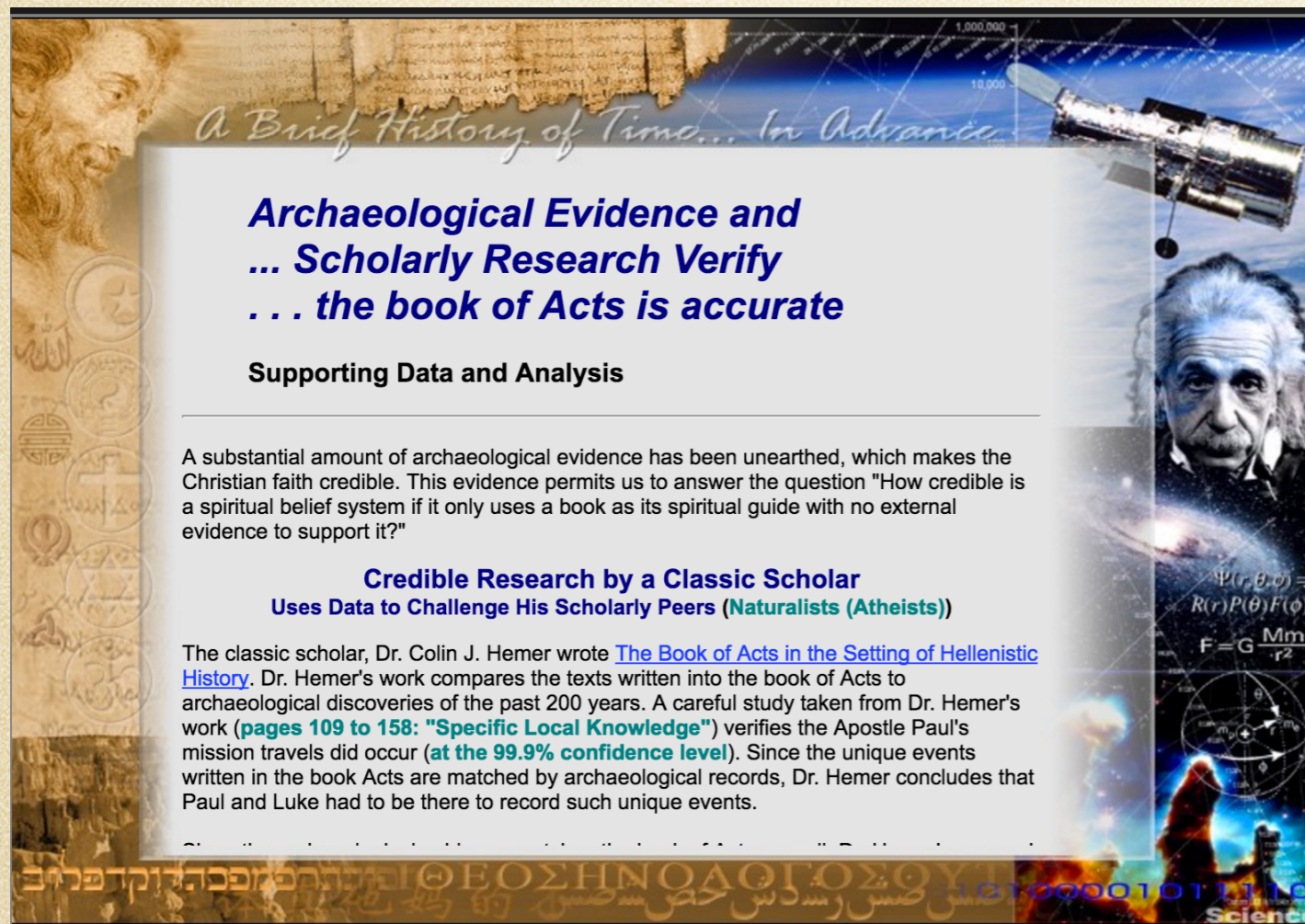
Four Conclusions

- Earliest recorded Divine name in Israel.
- Hundreds of years earlier than any extant Hebrew text that we have.
- Supports the earlier date of the Exodus.
- Challenges the Documentary Hypothesis (Moses didn't write Torah). We have both El and Yaweh in the same inscription.

Accuracy of Luke

- Luke's accuracy as a historian has been repeatedly challenged—and repeatedly vindicated.
- Luke 3:1 declares that Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene (c. A.D. 27). Liberal scholars argued that Luke was wrong.
- But archaeology found an inscription (c. A.D. 14-37) which names Lysanias tetrarch in Abila.

Accuracy of Luke



A Brief History of Time... In Advance

Archaeological Evidence and ... Scholarly Research Verify ... the book of Acts is accurate

Supporting Data and Analysis

A substantial amount of archaeological evidence has been unearthed, which makes the Christian faith credible. This evidence permits us to answer the question "How credible is a spiritual belief system if it only uses a book as its spiritual guide with no external evidence to support it?"

**Credible Research by a Classic Scholar
Uses Data to Challenge His Scholarly Peers (Naturalists (Atheists))**

The classic scholar, Dr. Colin J. Hemer wrote [The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History](#). Dr. Hemer's work compares the texts written into the book of Acts to archaeological discoveries of the past 200 years. A careful study taken from Dr. Hemer's work (pages 109 to 158: "Specific Local Knowledge") verifies the Apostle Paul's mission travels did occur (at the 99.9% confidence level). Since the unique events written in the book Acts are matched by archaeological records, Dr. Hemer concludes that Paul and Luke had to be there to record such unique events.

Science

The Book of Acts
in the Setting of
Hellenistic
History

Hemer, Colin J.

Accuracy of Luke

- Classical scholar and historian Colin Hemer chronicles Luke's accuracy in the book of Acts.
- With painstaking detail, Hemer identifies 84 facts in the last 16 chapters of the Book of Acts that have been confirmed by historical and archaeological research.
- Includes nautical details, names of gods, designation of magistrates, and proper names and titles.

Erastus

- In the book of Acts, Paul calls attention to a person named Erastus who was a “city treasurer.”
- He would have been one of the few Christians who were among the social elite at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:26). But there was no historical evidence of someone named Erastus in Corinth.
- Acts 19:22 - “And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.”

Erastus

- During the 1929 archaeological excavation of the area near the theater, a plaza was located that contained a stone inscription bearing the name of Erastus and indicating that he was a public official.



Apocrypha

Background

- The apocryphal books were written between 250 B.C. and the time of Christ.
- They include such books as: Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon, Esdras, Tobit, Ecclesiasticus, Judith, Bel and the Dragon.
- Were written not in Hebrew but in Greek, during the “period of silence” from the time of Malachi.

Background

- Roman Catholicism recognizes these fifteen books as authoritative in addition to the sixty-six books of Scripture.
- The Council of Trent in 1546 officially decreed the authority of tradition as well as Scripture.

Background

- The Jewish OT canon consisted of twenty-four books that match the thirty-nine books of the Jewish and Protestant Bibles of today.
- The Jewish historian Josephus lists twenty-two books (Ruth appended to Judges and Lamentations to Jeremiah).

Testimony of Jesus

- Jesus never quotes from the Apocrypha.
- Jesus talks about the Law and the Prophets.
- But Jesus does quote from nearly every one of the twenty-four Old Testament books.
- Jesus places the limits of inspired history from the martyrs Abel to Zechariah (Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51; 2 Chronicles 24:20-21).

New Testament Writers

- No New Testament writer ever quotes from the Apocrypha.
- There are 260 quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament.
- The writers do allude to and even cite pagan poets whose books were not considered inspired Scripture (see Acts 17:28).

Other History

- Jerome (Latin Vulgate) rejected the Apocrypha.
- Council of Jamnia (AD 90) discussed Esther and Song of Solomon but not the Apocrypha.
- 2 Maccabees 12:45-46 - “prayer for the dead” so that “they may be loosed from sins.”
- Historical inaccuracy - Tobit was supposedly alive when Assyrians conquered Israel.

Bibliographic Test

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Dead Sea scrolls discovered in 1949 (200 BC - AD 100).
- The oldest Old Testament manuscripts we had before the Dead Sea scrolls was dated to be AD 900.



Dead Sea Scrolls

“There can be no reasonable doubt that the Qumran manuscripts came from the century before Christ and the first century A.D. Thus, they are one thousand years older than the Masoretic manuscripts of the tenth century.”



Dead Sea Scrolls

Isaiah 53

Of 166 words, only 17 letters are in question.

10 are spelling differences

4 are minor stylistic changes

3 are the Hebrew word for "light"



Josephus

“We have given practical proof of our reverence for our own Scriptures. For, although such long ages have now passed, no one has ventured either to add, or to remove, or to alter a syllable; and it is an instinct with every Jew... to regard them as the decrees of God, to abide by them, and, if need be, cheerfully to die for them.”

Bibliographic Test

The Bible is far superior to any ancient historical book in its manuscript evidence:

- Superior with respect to time
- Superior in the number of manuscripts.

Bible & Literature

Work	Earliest Copy
Plato	1,200 yrs.
Thucydides, <i>History</i>	1,300 yrs.
Caesar, <i>Gallic Wars</i>	1,000 yrs.
Tacitus, <i>Annals</i>	1,000 yrs.
Herodotus, <i>History</i>	1,350 yrs.
Homer, <i>Iliad</i>	500 yrs.

Bible & Literature

New Testament—authored between A.D. 40-100

Earliest Fragment	A.D. 125
Earliest Book	A.D. 200
Most of NT	A.D. 250
Complete NT (<i>Codex Sinaiticus</i>)	A.D. 325

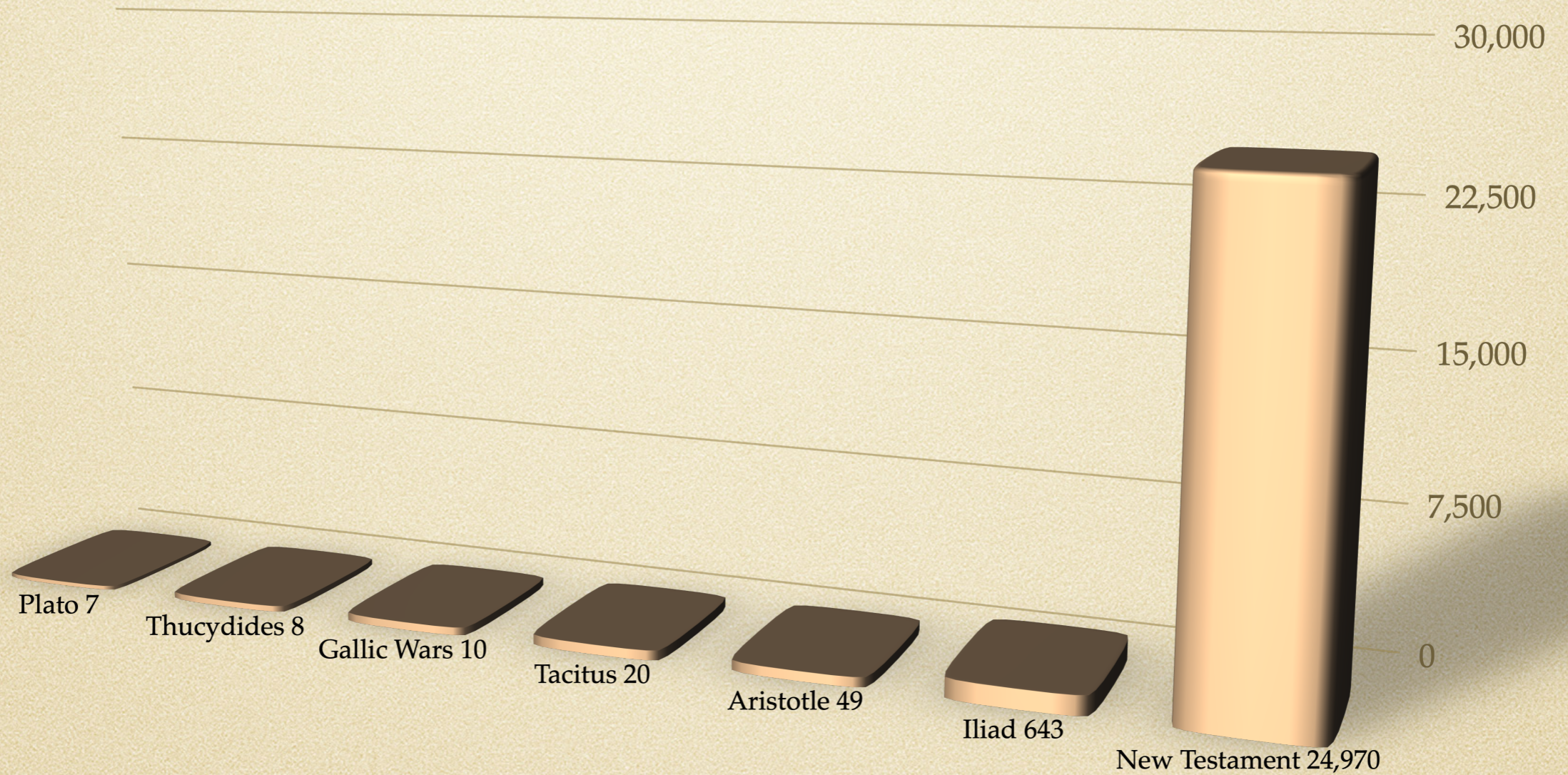
Bible & Literature

<i>Work</i>	<i>Copies</i>
Plato	7
Thucydides, <i>History</i>	8
Caesar, <i>Gallic Wars</i>	10
Tacitus, <i>Annals</i>	20
Homer, <i>Iliad</i>	643

Bible & Literature

Greek manuscripts	5,700
Latin Vulgate	10,000
Other Translations (Coptic, Ethiopian)	9,200
<hr/>	
TOTAL	24,900

Bible & Literature



Bibliographic Test

“There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament.”

F.F. Bruce

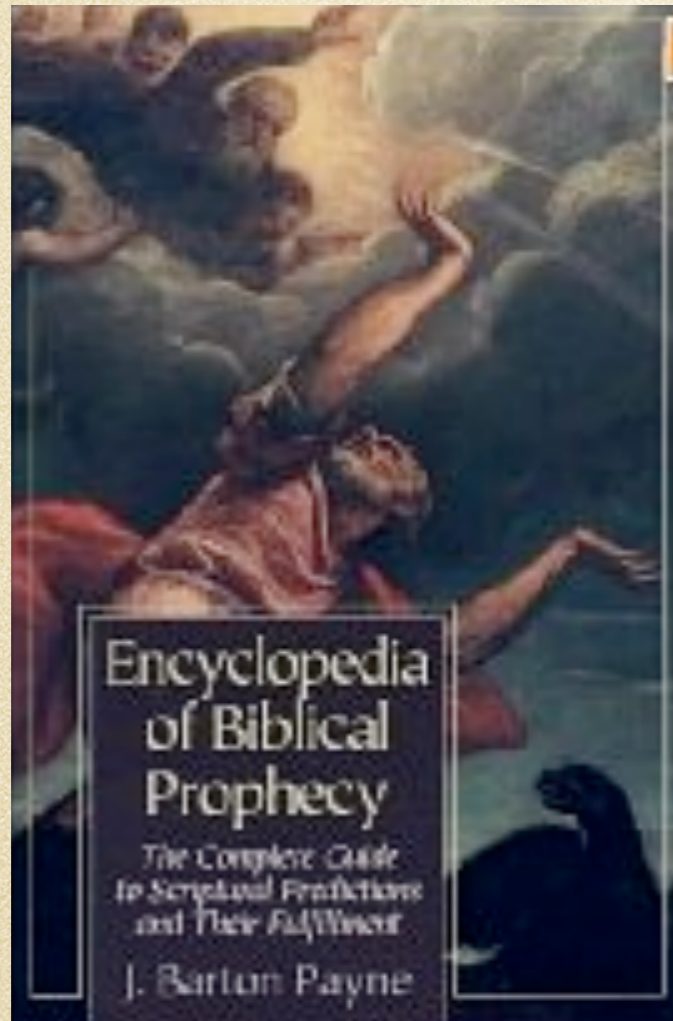
“In no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament.”

Sir Frederic Kenyon

Prophetic Word

- More than one-fourth of the Bible's content was prophetic at the time that it was originally written.
- More than half of these one-thousand-plus prophecies have been fulfilled down to the minutest detail.
- We can be confident the others will be fulfilled.

Prophetic Word



- *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* compiled by J. Barton Payne.
- Lists 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817. These encompass 8,352 verses.