Archeology and the Bible

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INTRODUCTION

- The Bible is the inspired word of God. And it is true. And it doesn't need extra-biblical outside sources.
- What archaeology can do is to illustrate, to illuminate.
- When there are records, historical records that mention the same event or the same persons that are mentioned in the Bible, that is very significant.

1 The Patriarchal Period: Nuzi Tablets and Real Places

- The Nuzi archives provide some of the best social scientific evidence for the political, economic, and legal practices in the stories of Abraham and Sarah.
- Boys and girls, when you read in the Bible about a place, it's a real place. And those people were real people, and the things that says happened really happened just as it says.
- Archaeologists are helpful in terms of identifying places that are mentioned in the scripture so that we can see this and visualize in our mind what that place would have looked like.

2 The Time of the Conquest: Jericho and Shechem

Genesis 12:6–7; Deuteronomy 27; Joshua 8

- This is where Abraham was when God first gave that land promise. He was standing right here.
- They have assembled in the very place that God gave the land promise. And they're receiving the land on the basis that we will keep the words of the law.
- Now, again, we don't have to read that to know that it's true. And yet, when you can go to an area like that, it is faith building, isn't it?
- You can see from here Jacob's well, which is one of the most well attested sites in the Bible land, as being authentic.

3 The Hittites: The Bible Was Right All Along

Joshua 1; Romans 1

- It used to be fashionable in scholarly circles to ridicule the Bible because of its so many references to the Hittites.
- Up until 1906, there had been no extra-biblical evidence of this civilization.
- The Bible was right all along. All those times when it was mentioned in the Hittites, it was right all along.
- It's never wise to mock at the word of God.

4 The House of David and Gezer

1 Kings 15; 1 Kings 3

- Until 1993, there was nothing that made reference to David as king or his kingdom outside of the Bible.
- It mentions David, King David, it mentions the house of David, and it mentions also Israel.
- Because they didn't follow through and do what God said, it really set them up for failure.
- These boundary stones are marking off the boundary of the city, the city limit signs, so to speak.

5 Sargon, the Silver Amulet and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Isaiah 20:1; Numbers 6

- In the year that the commander came to Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him, and he fought against Ashdod and captured it.
- The Bible was right all along. When it said Sargon, the Bible was right.
- This silver amulet contains the high priestly prayer of Numbers chapter six.
- What we see is that these people making copies were sure careful. And it just confirmed the accuracy of what we already had.

6 New Testament Time: The Middle Wall of Separation

Acts 21:27–29; Ephesians 2:14–16

- Furthermore, he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.
- No foreigner is to go beyond the balustrade and the plaza of the temple zone. Whoever is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his death, which will follow.
- He himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.
- What he's talking about, that metaphor, is in fact that wall that no Gentile could cross.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you convinced that what we're talking about is real, that God is real, that Jesus is real, that these are matters of importance that you don't want to put on the back burner.**

MY NOTES