

BIBLICAL DISCOVERIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

By Cynthia Nuara

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

Archaeologists were drawn to the Holy Land to verify the accuracy of the history chronicled in the bible.

Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Psalms 85:11



Albright's Jerusalem excavation site



The Tower of David

British surveyor, Sir William Flinders Petrie, realized that the mounds of earth scattered over the Holy Land contained important discoveries underneath. Indeed, buried cities were found built layer upon layer atop one another over the centuries. Archaeology was turned into a science by W.F. Albright, who was an American archaeologist, biblical scholar, philologist, and expert on ceramics. In 1923 he excavated the Jerusalem site, and you can see the trench he dug in the above photo.

The Tower of David is an ancient fortress in the Old City of Jerusalem, located near the Jaffa Gate entrance. It was built in the second century B.C. The tower has been destroyed and later rebuilt by the Christian, Muslim, Mamluk and Ottoman conquerors of the city. Important archaeological finds are contained here dating back 2,700 years.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS



90% of Dead Sea scrolls were found in this cave.



Isaiah scroll



Psalms scroll

Chiefly because to them (the Jews) were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Romans 3:2-3

The first scrolls were discovered in 1947 by a young Bedouin. The bible tells us that God ordered the Jews to carefully preserve His Word and to disseminate it throughout the world.

THE SEARCH FOR NOAH'S ARK



Aerial view 1949; called "Ararat Anomaly"



Durupinar's site



Drogue stone

Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. Genesis 8:4

Writers in ancient times spoke of Noah's Ark, its location, and the story behind it. Various cultures have adapted the story with their own spin. To read about these ancient writings concerning Noah's Ark, go to the following site: http://www.grmi.org/Richard_Riss/evidences2/08ark.html

According to local reports, heavy rains along with three earthquakes exposed the formation from the mud around it in May 1948. It was first filmed in 1949 during a U.S. Air Force aerial reconnaissance mission. The Durupinar site, 18 miles south of the Greater Mount Ararat summit, was named for Turkish Air Force captain, İlhan Durupinar, who took an aerial photo in 1959 while on a mapping mission for NATO. The drogue stone in the photo is one of many found near the site, thought by its amateur discoverers to be one of the ship's storm anchors. To date, no claim concerning Noah's Ark has been officially accepted.

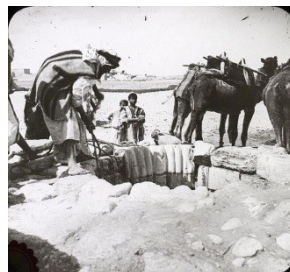
In the photo, the "Ararat Anomaly" is located just above what looks like an eye to me. This is just my observation here, and I'm not trying to read anything into it. But when I view the "anomaly" photo, I can't help but see the large portion of a mangled face, including the hair. When I noticed this, it reminded me of how Jesus was beaten so brutally that he was barely recognizable as human, as was prophesized in the Book of Isaiah in the following verse:

As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man and his form more than the sons of men: Isaiah 52:14

BEERSHEBA



Beersheba archaeological site



Archive photo of "Abraham's Well "



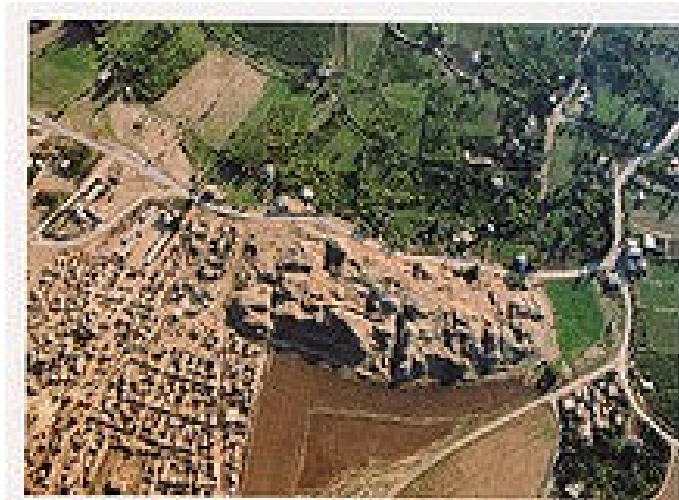
"Isaac's Well " as it looks today

Then he (Abraham) went up from there to Beersheba. And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake." So he built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well. Genesis 26: 23-25

Beersheba, now officially referred to as Tel Be'er Sheva, was established by the Israelites during the 10th century B.C., after it was conquered by King David. The original ruins remain largely intact. The site was most likely chosen because of the abundance of water, as indicated by the wells in the area. According to the Bible, seven wells were dug by Abraham and his son, Isaac, three or four of which have been identified. Excavations began in 1969 by Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology and were completed in 1995. Nine separate layers of settlement have been found dating back to the 4th millennium B.C. Some other events in the history of Beersheba are as follows:

- >Beersheba was the territory of the tribe of Shimon and Judah. (Joshua 15:28 and 19:2)
- >Elijah fled to Beersheba when Jezebel ordered him killed, and was visited by an angel. (1 Kings 19:3)
- >The sons of the prophet Samuel were judges here. (1 Samuel 8:2)
- >Saul, Israel's first king, built a fort here in his campaign against the Amalekites. (1 Samuel 14:48 & 15:2-9)
- >The prophet Amos mentions Beersheba regarding the idolatry there in his day (Amos 5:5 and 8:14)

JOSHUA AND THE BATTLE OF JERICHO



Jericho ruins

The Lord said to Joshua, "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him." Joshua 6:5

While excavating Jericho from 1930 to 1936, Prof. John Garstang wrote the following, "As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city."

THE FALL OF HAZOR



Ruins of Hazor

And it came to pass, when Jabin, king of Hazor, had heard those things, that he sent to ... the kings that were on the north ... and they went out, they and all their hosts with them, many people, even as the sand that is upon the seashore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many. And when all these kings were met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel. Joshua 11:1–5

In 2012 a scorched palace from the 13th century B.C. was discovered by a team led by Ben-Tor and Sharon Zuckerman. They found storerooms with 3,400 year old ewers that contained burned crops. The bible tells us in the Book of Joshua that the army of this wicked city was defeated and burned by Joshua. Layers of ash found in Hazor confirm this.

ANCIENT AMULET BLESSING SCROLLS



Amulet Prayer/Blessing Scrolls

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His Face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His Countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Numbers 6:24

In 1979, the team of archaeologist, Gabriel Barkay, discovered these two tiny amulets in a burial tomb at Ketef Hinnom, an archaeological site southwest of the Old City of Jerusalem. The tomb dates to approximately the 7th century B.C. at the end of the Davidic dynasty. They are inscribed with portions of the priestly blessing found in Numbers 6:24. The text below in square brackets represents informed deduction.

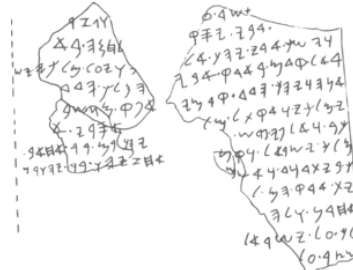
[Top lines broken] ...] YHW ...[... the grea[t ... who keeps] the covenant and [G]raciousness towards those who love [him] and (alt: [hi]m;) those who keep [his commandments]. the Eternal? [...]. [the?] blessing more than any [sna]re and more than Evil. For redemption is in him. For YHWH is our restorer [and] rock. May YHWH bles[s] you and [may he] keep you. [May] YHWH make [his face] shine ... [Bottom line(s) broken.]

*YHWH is the proper name of God in the Hebrew Bible, which has also been transcribed as "Yahweh" or Yehowah." ("Jehovah" is the latinization of the Hebrew word).

THE HOUSE OF DAVID INSCRIPTION - Tel Dan (David) Stele



Tel Dan (David) Stele



Inscription on Tel Dan (David) Stele

The LORD then raised up an adversary against Solomon (the son of David): Hadad the Edomite, who was of the royal line in Edom. 1 Kings 11:14

As Solomon (the son of David) aged, he married women from the nations forbidden by God; and he began to follow their false gods. The Lord chastised him for this in an effort to make him see the error of his ways, as described in 1 Kings Chapter 11.

The discovery of the Tel Dan (David) Stele was made in 1993 and 1994 during excavations in northern Israel. The inscription tells of a war waged by the author against his enemies, the kings of Israel and the "House of David." A partial inscription on the stone is below.

[... ...] and cut [...] [...] my father went up [against him when] he fought at [...] And my father lay down, he went to his [ancestors]. And the king of I [s-]rael entered previously in my father's land. [And] Hadad made me king. And Hadad went in front of me, [and] I departed from [the] seven [...-] s of my kingdom, and I slew [seve]nty kin[gs], who harnessed thou[sands of cha-]riots and thousands of horsemen (or: horses). [I killed Jeho]ram son of [Ahab] king of Israel, and [I] killed [Ahaz]iahu son of [Jehoram kin-]g of the House of David. And I set [their towns into ruins and turned] their land into [desolation ...] other [... and Jehu ru-]led over Is[rael ... and I laid] siege upon [...] [6]

OLDEST REPRESENTATION OF THE TOWER OF BABEL



Base of ziggurat at Borsippa in 1916



Tower of Babel Stele

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off building the city.

Genesis 11: 1-8

BORSIPPA SITE IDENTIFIED WITH THE TOWER OF BABEL

About 140 years ago German archaeologists discovered for the first time that Babylon and the ancient tower of Babel was not a myth. When they examined the ruins of the tower, they knew that this was it because the natives called it Borsippa, "The Tongue Tower." In both Jewish and Arab cultures, this site is identified with the Tower of Babel. When the archaeologists found an inscription, they realized that King Nebuchadnezzar had rebuilt the base of the tower 2,600 years ago. This inscription from Nebuchadnezzar said,

"The tower, the eternal house which I founded and built, I have completed its magnificence with silver, gold and other metals, stone, enameled bricks, fir and pine. The first which is the house of the earth's base, the most ancient monument of Babylon; I built and finished it. I have highly exalted its head with bricks covered with copper. We say for the other, that is, this edifice, the house of the seven lights of the earth, the most ancient monument of Borsippa (the tongue tower). A former king built it, but he did not complete its head. Since a remote time, people had abandoned it, without order expressing their words."

TOWER OF BABEL STELE

The Tower of Babel Stele may be the oldest representation of the Tower of Babel. The inscription on the black stone dates to 604-562 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar II is shown wearing a royal hat. He is holding a staff in his left hand and a scroll with the rebuilding plans for the Tower of Babel (or a foundation nail) in his right hand. To the right of Nebuchadnezzar is the Tower of Babel (notice the stairs).

THE ISHTAR GATE AND NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S INSCRIPTION



Ishtar Gate remains 1930s



Inscription of King Nebuchadnezzar II



One of the dragons at the gate

The king (Nebuchadnezzar) spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30

King Nebuchadnezzar II ordered the Ishtar Gate to be constructed in about 575 B.C. The excavation of this site ran from 1902 to 1914. An excerpt from a building inscription at the gate reads as follows:

"I (Nebuchadnezzar) laid the foundation of the gates down to the ground water level and had them built out of pure blue stone. Upon the walls in the inner room of the gate are bulls and dragons and thus I magnificently adorned them with luxurious splendor for all mankind to behold in awe."

Nebuchadnezzar II was king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, who reigned from 605 B.C. to 562 B.C. The bible tells us that he sent the Jews into exile in Babylon after conquering Judah and Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar also destroyed Jerusalem along with the first Jewish temple.

Daniel 3:25 tells us that Nebuchadnezzar described seeing someone "like the Son of God" in the flames protecting Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

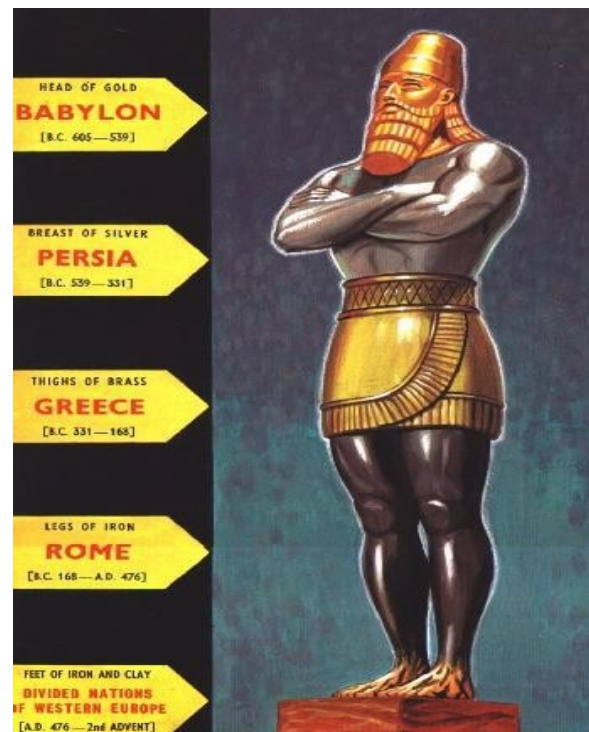
Daniel chapter 4 contains an account of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which Daniel interprets to mean that the king would go insane for seven years because of his pride, and live like a wild animal. This came to pass exactly as Daniel described. After the seven years, the king's sanity was restored, and he praised and honored God. (Daniel 4:34)

To view an interesting article on Nebuchadnezzar's path to God, go to:

<http://bible.org/assets/pdf/FIT%20-%20Neb%20Humbled.pdf>

I'd like to go back to Daniel chapter two and end with a previous dream Daniel interpreted for Nebuchadnezzar, since it relates to our future.

The king dreamed of a huge image made of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay. God revealed to Daniel the meaning of the king's dream - that it stood for the rise and fall of world powers - starting with Nebuchadnezzar's own fall from power, as represented by the golden head.



You can find Daniel's interpretation revealed to him by God in Daniel 2:37-44, which is a foreshadowing of the last days and the Revived Roman Empire. All the evidence points to this happening in our generation.

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Daniel 2: 44

For more information on the Revived Roman Empire of the end times, go to the following article on the Rapture Ready website: http://www.raptureready.com/abc/Roman_Empire.html

When we pray The Lord's Prayer, as Jesus taught us in Matthew 6: 9-13, He is telling us to pray for His return to earth to set up His Kingdom. I can't think of a better way to close.

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Cynthia Nuara

www.facebook.com/propheciesinthebible

Sources

The Holy Bible

Wikipedia/Wikimedia Commons

Breaking Christian News: Oldest Representation of the Tower of Babel Discovered? By Teresa Neuman. Original article by Rossella Lorenzi of Discovery News