

DIG

SIGHT NEWSLETTER



THE FOURTH EXPEDITION TO LACHISH, 2014

The Institute of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University, joined The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to co-direct excavations at Tel Lachish in southern Israel this past June and July. After the capital, Jerusalem, Lachish was the most prominent city of Judah. "We are investigating the continuing expansion of Judah after the time of David," says Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology and co-director of the project. "Very little is known from this early period. After excavating at Khirbet Qeiyafa [biblical Shaarayim, 1 Sam. 17:52], a fortress that dates to the time of Saul and David over the last several years, the next question is, How did the kingdom develop further?"

This was the second season of



Excavation participant, Christy Zinke excavating a Judean pillar-figurine in Area A at Tel Lachish. Photo Credit: The Fourth Expedition to Lachish (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

excavation at Lachish. "In the 2013 season, we had begun to uncover the destruction of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, who invaded Judah in 586 B.C.," said Martin G. Klingbeil, associate director of the Institute of Archaeology and co-director of the project. "It was complete with several vessels from that period."

That area was expanded this summer when over 130 participants worked at Lachish from South America, North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Students and staff came from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University, as well as a number of consortium institutions such as Helderberg College (South Africa), Universidad Adventista de Bolivia, Oakland University (Michigan), and Virginia Commonwealth University. It is one of the two largest excavation projects in Israel.

The goal was to return and expand the area in order to give a wide exposure to the Level II Babylonian destruction. Two more five-meter squares revealed rows of storage jars and other vessels within architectural units from that period. In one corner of the room, a Judean pillar-figurine was found, associated by many scholars with the female goddess Asherah, who is mentioned forty times in the Bible.



Nestor Petruk, square supervisor and epigraphist, holding a Judean pillar-figurine found in Area A. Photo Credit: The Fourth Expedition to Lachish (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

In the upper part of Area A, the earlier 701 B.C. destruction of Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, was uncovered (2 Kgs. 18; Isa. 36-37). Known from previous excavations as Level III, the houses of this period were located immediately outside the palace courtyard. They were built in terraces descending toward the northeast corner of the site. The destruction level was dated by several LMLK jars found on

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Upper left, clockwise: Excavation participant, Keirsta Mackey holding a jar handle stamped with a LMLK stamp seal impression, found in Area A; Southern Adventist University archaeology student, Silvia Menjivar next to a complete, intact storage vessel she excavated in Area A; (left to right) David and Jonathan Klingbeil with project co-director, Michael G. Hasel, looking at a jar handle with a LMLK stamp seal impression; and an end-of-season aerial photo of Area A. Photo Credit: The Fourth Expedition to Lachish (taken by Edward A. Appollis and Michael Dant).

the surface. In previous expeditions over four hundred LMLK storage jar handles were uncovered at Lachish, many dating specifically to King Hezekiah. The term “LMLK” in Hebrew means “for the king.” Two plausible theories for the function of these storage jars exist: (1) that they were used to collect government taxes for the king, and (2) that they contained emergency military rations during the short time leading to the sieges of Sennacherib, king of Assyria. Each house also had a Judean pillar-figurine. This raises interesting questions for the study of religion at Lachish in this period.

The most significant find in Area A from the same period was a series of seal impressions, called *bullae*, squeezed in clay. These were originally placed over string that held together a message written on parchment or papyrus. One *bulla* was found inside a small dipper juglet, and the other two were found while sifting the dirt around the juglet. In the late 1960s, during the excavations of Yohanan Aharoni, another juglet had been found just twenty meters away containing 17 *bullae*. Evidently, the officials living in this area had the practice of keeping the seal impressions in juglets as a kind of return receipt, proving that they had not only

received them, but also had the authority to read the letters. Two of our *bullae* were impressed by the identical seal, and one of them was broken in half and more difficult to read. “These ancient *bullae* are some of the most significant artifacts, because they often contain names of biblical persons and can tell us a great deal about the relationship between various cities,” said Klingbeil.

In Area B, a series of fortifications spanning the Late Bronze through the Iron Ages was exposed. In the western part of the area, a massive destruction dating to the Late Bronze Age was uncovered. Whole storage jars containing burnt grain were found. In one square, a small, bronze striding figurine lay in a corner. He had a raised hand above his head in striking position and a shield in his other hand. He was identified as Reshef, one of the Canaanite gods mentioned in texts found at Ugarit in Syria. After cleaning, it was revealed that his headdress was covered in silver. A few days later, a pair of gold pendants was also uncovered. This period is well attested from earlier excavations at Tel Lachish. During the British excavations in the 1930s, the Fosse Temple was found at the base of the site, and Tel Aviv University discovered another temple

north of the palace-fort. These buildings date to the early period of the judges before Israel had a king.

The major question posed by *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* is what happened following the establishment of kingship in Judah. In order to answer this question, excavations must reach Levels IV and V. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, is said to have refortified the city of Lachish (2 Chron. 11:5-12). Levels IV and V remain largely unknown, except for a few small exposed areas. “Finding and documenting Levels IV and V in a larger exposure will give us the missing link to the earlier history of Judah in the region,” says Hasel. “The expedition is poised to reach Level IV in Area A next year, and we are looking forward to that!”

This next summer the project will continue from June 17 through July 31, 2015, as more secrets of this ancient city lay buried beneath the sands of time are uncovered. *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* invites you to join a growing number of institutions that, in mutual teamwork, are trying to uncover the answers to some of these research questions. For more information, see our official website: southern.edu/lachish. 🍷

OLSEN RECEIVES ARCHAEOLOGY AWARD

The Excellence in Archaeology Award was presented this year to Cherie Lynn Olsen. The award is presented to students based on a number of factors: (1) academic achievement, (2) fieldwork skills, and (3) overall assessment of the ability and drive to succeed. Olsen graduated in May with three majors, theology, archaeology-Near Eastern, and archaeology-Classical Studies. In addition to these accomplishments, she graduated as a Southern Scholar with her research project “Early Museum Establishment and Exhibition Philosophy.” During her last two years at Southern, she worked as an assistant to the curator in the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, where she also served as a docent over the last four years.

“Through her fieldwork at Khirbet Qeiyafa, her classwork, and museum responsibilities, Cherie Lynn consistently demonstrated excellence in her chosen vocation,” said Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology. “She always exhibited a positive and vibrant attitude in her work.”

This past summer she served as a square supervisor during *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* 2014 season. Her husband, Thomas Olsen, an M.S. student in computer science at Southern, served as IT manager during the excavation project this past summer. They met during the 2011 season at Khirbet Qeiyafa. Cherie Lynn has

applied to several graduate schools and is pursuing her passion of combining research of the ancient world with biblical studies. The Institute of Archaeology wishes her the best of success in all of her future endeavors. 🍷



Cherie Lynn, at Tel Lachish this past summer, holding an oil lamp. Photo Credit: The Fourth Expedition to Lachish (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

WINTER SEMESTER MUSEUM LECTURES

TALL JALUL: A LEVITICAL CITY OF REFUGE IN JORDAN?

On February 11, Dr. Randall Younker, Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Archaeology at Andrews University, visited Southern Adventist University as part of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series. In his presentation, Younker spoke on the most recent findings from the excavations he has been conducting in Jordan for a number of years.

Andrews University began archaeological work in the 1960s, spearheaded by Siegfried H. Horn. As it was difficult to conduct archaeological excavation in Israel at that time, Horn asked a number of leading scholars to choose a Jordanian site which could potentially make the greatest contribution to the story of the Exodus and the Israelite conquest. Heshbon was the one site suggested by scholars. Consequently, archaeologists began digging at Heshbon in 1968; however, no evidence for biblical Heshbon was found.

As an alternate candidate for Heshbon, Horn chose Jalul. Tall Jalul is the largest archaeological site in central Transjordan—located just south of Amman, the capital of Jordan, and east of the Dead Sea. Jalul is seven kilometers to the east of Tall Heshbon, the location of Horn's previous excavations. After surveying the site, potsherds at Jalul proved to fit the right time period for biblical Heshbon. Andrews University was granted permission to excavate in 1992, with the goal of locating materials from around 1400 B.C. According to the biblical account, this is the time period when the Israelites would have occupied Heshbon.

Recently, Younker has taken a look at the Arabic meaning of "Jalul"—the root being Jela, referencing moving from one's home for another place; and Joullan refers



Dr. Randall Younker presenting on recent findings from the Andrews University archaeological excavation project at Tall Jalul, in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel at Southern Adventist University. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

to a person who has arrived at the place of refuge. Typically, Joullan refers to a man who had to leave his home for another place because of a problem (e.g., he killed someone and must find refuge elsewhere).

In Numbers 35, God called Moses to institute 48 Levitical cities. Six of these cities were to be cities of refuge, safe places for someone to flee when they had killed someone. Three of the six cities were to be east of the Jordan River (in Transjordan), and three cities were to be to the west (in Canaan). These fortified cities were meant to protect the tribes and unite the area at large. Bezer is one of the cities in the Transjordan region, with biblical references in Deuteronomy 4:43, Joshua 20:8, Joshua 21:36, 1 Chronicles 6:78, and 1 Chronicles 7:37. The location of Tall Jalul aligns closely with the biblical geography for Bezer. According to the Bible, Bezer was in territory allotted to the tribes of Reuben—and later overtaken by the tribe of Gad (or Gadites). Mesha claims to have captured Bezer from the Gadites.

Egyptologist Kenneth Kitchen references an inscription that mentions

the land of Moab. In addition to Moab, Kitchen identifies three towns, one of which holds characteristics similar to Jalul. This inscription depicts imagery of people taken captive by the Egyptians, and above the Egyptians is a depiction of a city that has been overlaid with Egyptian hieroglyphs. Here the word "Moab" is clearly visible. In addition, there is a reference to "Butarati" as a town that Pharaoh's army captured. While Kitchen identified Butarati with another site, Edward Lipinski argues that the name "Bezer" is actually an ancient Btrt (Butartu) in Egyptian, or "fenced place." Lipinski further asserts that Bezer is equivalent to Jalul. As Ramesses attacked fortified cities, Lipinski argues that this particular depiction refers to Bezer. If correct, Andrews University not only has an identification for Tall Jalul, but there is also a depiction of what it may have looked like as the biblical refuge city of Bezer. Younker plans to continue excavating and researching the site, while testing the new identification of Jalul as the biblical city of Bezer. ✍️

WINTER SEMESTER MUSEUM LECTURES

OSSUARIES AND THE BURIALS OF JESUS AND JAMES

The relatively recent discoveries of the so-called “Talpiot Tomb” and the “James Ossuary” have been objects of discussion and debate in the field of Near Eastern archaeology. The “Talpiot Tomb,” originally discovered by archaeologists in the 1980s, contains several ossuaries with the names “Jesus,” “Mary,” and other familiar biblical names. This tomb has gained newfound attention due to popular media and the sensational claims of a 2007 documentary by James Cameron and journalist/filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici titled “The Lost Tomb of Jesus”. These claims directly contradict the Gospel accounts of the life, death, and burial of the Son of God—and ultimately deny His resurrection. The so-called “James Ossuary” made headlines upon its first exhibition after being transported from Israel, bearing the inscription, “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.” Antiquities collector and owner, Oded Golan was brought to trial for the supposed forgery of the latter segment of the inscription, “brother of Jesus.” But do these discoveries contain an element of truth? To whom did these ossuaries, or bone depositories, really belong? And what would this imply? Dr. Jodi Magness of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill addressed all these questions and more in her March 11 lecture at Southern Adventist University. By relating her expertise on Jewish burial practices of the time period, she effectively shed light on this subject, giving a clearer picture of

the ancient world in the time of Christ.

Did the Talpiot Tomb really belong to Jesus and His family? Magness says no. First of all, the claims that were made were not based on any archaeological evidence—nor were the filmmakers themselves by any means trained archaeologists. Magness then provided context by describing the common styles of burial indicative of the time period, as well as the culture. Although her primary goal was not to affirm the biblical text, Magness appealed to historical details



Dr. Jodi Magness lecturing in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel at Southern Adventist University. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

within the Gospel accounts as primary forms of evidence. Scholars generally agree that the Gospel of Mark, likely the first to have been written, was penned within several decades after the crucifixion of Jesus—leaving little room for outlandish interpretations. Why would a story circulate about Jesus and Joseph of Arimathea in such a relatively short time after the events took place if the “Talpiot Tomb” was the alleged historically known site of Christ’s burial? Magness logically

concluded that the details recorded in the Bible are the most accurate depiction of what likely happened after Calvary nearly 2,000 years ago.

But what about the “James Ossuary?” Although the trial lasted for years, the inscription could not be conclusively demonstrated to be a forgery. Does this mean that this truly was the ossuary of James, the half-brother of Jesus? Again, Magness expressed her well-founded doubts. It is worth mentioning that names like “Jesus,” “James,” and “Joseph” were very common among first-century Jewish society in Palestine. Therefore, bearing this in mind, the real question is, Which James? The answer lies in a simple cultural study of burial practices involving ossuaries in Israel. When a prominent member of Jewish society died, they were first buried in a tomb until only their bones remained. At a later time, the bones would be collected and placed within a stone ossuary, then placed in a burial niche. This practice was reserved for the elite of society, as demonstrated by priestly families in Jerusalem. James in his own writings (particularly in Chapter 5 of his epistle) condemns a rich and lavish lifestyle. Magness brought to the attention of her audience the considerable unlikelihood of James living an ascetic

lifestyle only to be buried in such an extravagant manner. Additionally, the first-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus records a historical account of the death of James. He writes that James was pushed off a cliff and then stoned to death—recounting that his tombstone “is there to this day.” Magness confirmed this was a common practice concerning death by stoning and serves as the most likely scenario surrounding the events of James’s death. ✍️

REMOVING THE BALK

An important moment in any archaeological excavation is the removal of the “balk”—the stratified dirt “wall” that separates various squares from each other. It is like joining the puzzle pieces together and creating a bigger picture. One can then gain access to the whole architectural structure and broaden the interpretative perspective. This process can serve as a good metaphor for what the Institute of Archaeology initiated this year for the first time as an integral part of its excavation program.

But before I describe our initiative, let me track back in time. My first excavation experience was in 1998 as square supervisor at Tall al 'Umayri in Jordan. During that time, I was working at the Universidad Adventista de Bolivia (Bolivian Adventist University) in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and my monthly salary as an associate professor of Old Testament amounted to \$250—not exactly the type of income that allows you to travel to Israel and participate for six weeks in an excavation project. Nevertheless, the dream was there, and I was looking for ways to make it possible. However, it only turned into reality once I received a generous grant from one of the sponsoring institutions of the dig. What I took back with me to my university after this experience was not just personal satisfaction, but a wealth of newly acquired knowledge, some pottery and objects that had been graciously released by the object registrar of the project, and the enthusiasm to further the study of biblical archaeology at my institution. The objects became part of a display in the university library and opened up a whole new world to my students and colleagues, bringing the Bible one step closer to their home in the Bolivian Andes.

Based on these experiences and the desire to make archaeology more accessible to Adventist professors and students around the world, we have introduced the concept of consortium institutions as part of our policies for the *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish*. Per definition, a consortium institution is



Dr. Klingbeil (horizontal) and his square volunteers during the 1998 excavations at Tall al 'Umayri. Photo credit: Martin G. Klingbeil.



Left to right: Professor Michael Sokupa (Helderberg College, South Africa), Professor Teofilo Corraera (Bolivian Adventist University), and Ademar Chavez Callejas (one of the two Bolivian Adventist University students) at Tel Lachish this past season. Photo Credit: The Fourth Expedition to Lachish (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

a Seventh-day Adventist accredited university or college that agrees to the requirements specified by the directors of *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* and that will send professors and students as volunteers to be trained in archaeological fieldwork. Following a process of application to the directors, these institutions will be listed as consortium members in all scientific publications (e.g., articles, final field reports, department reports) and will receive recognition on all research applications and associations (including, grant applications, scientific affiliations such as the American Schools of Oriental Research, National Academy of Sciences, National Endowment for the Humanities, etc.). Beyond this, there are further benefits that a consortium institution receives from sponsoring the excavation (such as, curriculum integration, representation, visibility, etc.).

However, conducting an excavation is a costly and logistically complex task, and it is exactly here where we want to provide an opportunity to “take down the balk.” A categorization system has been implemented which adjusts the contributions of a consortium institution in accordance with the economic reality of the country in which the institution operates, making the dream of excavating in Israel for professors and students much more accessible. The financial shortfall that this implies for the overall excavation budget is envisaged to be made up by grant donations, and our hope is that the constituency that has generously supported our excavation projects in the past will share in this project of making the dream of training Adventist professors and students in archaeological fieldwork on a worldwide basis an ongoing reality.

By the way, we had three participants (one professor and two students) from the Bolivian Adventist University, besides another professor from Helderberg College, South Africa, who accompanied us this past summer at Lachish. ✍️

Martin G. Klingbeil

“AMAZING DISCOVERIES” MEETINGS IN DUBLIN, IRELAND

The emerald green hills of Ireland shown as brightly as ever in the May sunshine during recent meetings held in Dublin. Once again Dr. Mark Finley, assistant to the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology, teamed up to present “Amazing Discoveries of the Bible,” a series highlighting the most recent discoveries in biblical archaeology to people in the Irish capital city. Over 350 people attended the meetings at the Bainbridge Hotel during the five-night series, May 24-30. Other seminar topics during the one-week event included health, finance, and family. Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland strongly supported the event, which was a first of its kind in the

country.

“After lecturing on Jerusalem one night, there was a fascinating discussion with one of the attendees who had lived and completed his medical residency training there,” related Hasel. “His interest in the Bible and history had been sparked by his time in Israel, and He had come specifically to the meetings because of that interest. This demonstrates again the power of archaeology and history to reach out to educated individuals who are searching for answers to some of life’s deepest questions.”

The meetings were part of a larger initiative by the General Conference, entitled “Mission to Cities,” intended to provide helpful resources, training, and hope to the largest population concentrations around the world. ✍

INSTITUTE RECEIVES FUNDING FROM ASI

For the fifth year, the Institute of Archaeology has received funding from ASI International (Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries), a group of dedicated business people who support projects around the world. The announcement was made during its annual meetings August 6-10, 2014, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Over 2,000 people gathered to hear reports of the many projects sponsored in the past and the 37 projects that were sponsored this year by ASI. “We appreciate so much the continued vision of ASI to open people’s minds in a three-dimensional way to the Bible through archaeology,” said Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology. “Their support has made our work possible and opened the opportunity for hundreds of people from around the world to experience the thrill of discovery as they work in Israel.” Both Hasel and Martin G. Klingbeil, co-directors of the excavations at Lachish, attended the meetings at the DeVos

Place Convention Center. “We are grateful for the support that ASI has given to this project,” said Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University.



ASI’s funding of \$25,000 will be used to publish the final report volumes of the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavations, which concluded in 2013. It will also be used to support the new excavations at Lachish co-sponsored by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University. The excavation project at Lachish is dependent on generous donors who support the cutting-edge work that is being done in the field every year. ✍

“THE BATTLE OVER KING DAVID” EXHIBITION EXTENDED

The current temporary exhibition, “The Battle Over King David: Excavating the Fortress of Elah,” at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, originally set to end April 30, 2014, has been extended through May 9, 2015. This extension, granted by the Israel Antiquities Authority, will continue serving as a relevant and important feature at Southern Adventist University in two primary ways: First, the exhibit helps underscore the significant research gained from the excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa and the transition to the new excavation

project at Tel Lachish. As research into the Kingdom of Judah continues from Qeiyafa to Lachish, the archaeological findings highlighted in this temporary exhibit will help contextualize the latter years of the kingdom—as shown in part through previous excavations at Lachish. Second, the 2014-2015 Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series will include scholars who will offer insights into the latter years of the Kingdom of Judah and the subsequent Second Temple period. For more information on this special exhibition, visit the Institute of Archaeology website: southern.edu/archaeology; or contact the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum for exhibition hours, group tours, or other information: museum@southern.edu or 423.236.2027. ✍

DIRECTOR'S LETTER: OF WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS



This summer 2014 marked our second season at Tel Lachish, and it brought a level of heightened excitement for two reasons: (1) the discovery of the remains of ancient

military activity in the destructions of Sennacherib (701 B.C.) and Nebuchadnezzar (586 B.C.); and (2) the midst of the modern war between Israel and Gaza that we found escalating around us.

After working in the Middle East for over 25 years and excavating at 10 different sites in Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, this was undoubtedly the richest and most productive season I have experienced in my career. We uncovered more data and unique finds in three weeks than we have in two or three seasons at other sites. We knew Lachish was a rich site from the first three expeditions. After all, it was Judah's second most important city after Jerusalem—a royal city. But every time a new project is begun, there are unknowns. It is a little like finding a needle in a haystack. Will the area chosen to excavate yield the results sought for in the research design? Or will you end up in a period that is completely unrelated to the questions the team is trying to answer? It was not until the last day in 2013 that we discovered the destruction Level II of Nebuchadnezzar in Area A. We knew that we had a promising place to begin the following season. This year not only did we uncover more of that destruction, but we also uncovered the Level III destruction of Sennacherib in the other half of Area A. This saved our team an entire season in working toward our goal of excavating Levels IV and V. More importantly, the houses we excavated were filled with important finds that give us significant new data about these periods.

By the end of the third week, the team was very enthused and focused, but that excitement was tempered by modern evidences of destruction in the news as we began to witness the escalation of violence between Israel and Gaza. The end of that week had found us huddled in bomb shelters at night and wondering whether the rockets coming in from Gaza and the airstrikes of Israeli fighter jets and helicopters were going to continue. On Thursday evening, the directors made the difficult but necessary decision to close the excavation and begin the evacuation process of the volunteers, families, and staff at the excavation. The next few days were filled with countless telephone calls and

internet bookings to ensure that all of our team left in an orderly and timely fashion from Israel to Jordan and then back to the United States. We are thankful that everyone arrived home safely and without incident.

Both the excavation of ancient destructions and the reality of modern conflict reminded us that human history has not changed significantly. Weapons of war have been invented to inflict greater damage than ever before, but the cruelty of war and the loss of innocent life continue to be a constant in society today, as they have been for thousands of years. Science and the human condition have not changed this reality. Peace, lasting peace, on this earth is something that is hoped for and longed for, but is still ephemeral and fleeting. Yet we are reminded with the Psalmist that: "Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple" (Psalm 27:3-4).

How many inhabitants of Lachish recited these words as the armies of Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar surrounded their city? How many lived and died with songs in their hearts? The insights we came home with were more powerful than in past excavations for this reason. We could begin to identify more closely with those ancient inhabitants and understand their expressions of hope within the concept of this new, yet very ancient, reality. ✍

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milton H. ...". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

COLOSSAL KINGS REBUILT IN LUXOR (The Art Newspaper)

Two reconstructed colossal statues of King Amenhotep III, who ruled around 1388 BC to 1348 BC, have been unveiled in Egypt. Both statues are carved from red quartzite and have been erected in their original positions within the pharaoh's funerary temple on Luxor's west bank. Standing 11.5 metres tall, and similar in appearance to the famous Colossi of Memnon, which flank the temple's entrance, one of the statues shows King Amenhotep III seated, wearing . . .

[Click here to read more](#)



Photo credit: AFP

ANCIENT BIBLICAL FORTRESS REVEALED IN CITY OF DAVID (Israel Hayom)

After 15 years of what was considered one of the most complicated archeological digs ever conducted in Israel, excavation work on the fortifications of the Gihon Spring -- a large Canaanite structure dating back to 1,800 B.C.E. -- has been unveiled at the City of David National Park outside the Old City of Jerusalem. . . .

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Photo credit: Photo courtesy of City of David

KING DAVID'S CITADEL REPORTEDLY FOUND IN JERUSALEM BY ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGISTS (The Huffington Post)

An Israeli archaeologist says he has found the legendary citadel captured by King David in his conquest of Jerusalem, rekindling a longstanding debate about using the Bible as a field guide to identifying ancient ruins. . . .

[Click here to read more](#)

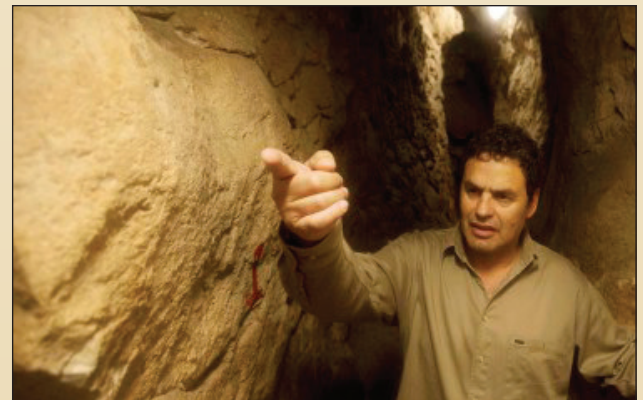


Photo credit: AP Photos/Sebastian Scheiner

MEGIDDO DIG UNEARTHES CACHE OF BURIED CANAANITE TREASURE (Haaretz)

In the summer of 2010, while digging in the area of the ancient palace at Tel Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley, archaeologists from Tel Aviv University found a clay bowl containing a second clay bowl, inside of which was a small clay vessel, like some sort of ancient Russian nesting doll. The innermost vessel, which was packed with compressed dirt, was sent to the Weizmann Institute's archaeology laboratory for a molecular analysis of its contents. . . .

[Click here to read more](#)



Photo credit: Pavel Shrago; the Megiddo Expedition



UPCOMING EVENTS

LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES 2014-2015

Monday, November 17, 2014, 7 p.m.

"Villages and Monasteries in Jerusalem's Hinterland During the Byzantine Period"

Jon Seligman, Ph.D. (Israel Antiquities Authority)
Lynn Wood Chapel, Lynn Wood Hall

Monday, February 9, 2015, 7 p.m.

"Should All of the LMLK Jars Still be Dated to Hezekiah? Yes!"

Andrew G. Vaughn, Ph.D. (American Schools of Oriental Research)
Lynn Wood Chapel, Lynn Wood Hall

Monday, March 30, 2015, 7 p.m.

"Nineveh's Halzi Gate and the Fall of an Empire"

Constance E. C. Gane, Ph.D. (Andrews University)
Lynn Wood Chapel, Lynn Wood Hall

The museum lecture series is free and open to the public. For more information, or to view previous Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series presentations, visit southern.edu/archaeology/lectureseries/Pages/lectureseriesprogram.aspx

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY MUSEUM LECTURE BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM G. DEVER

Sunday, November 2, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Ackerman Auditorium, Southern Adventist University

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH (ASOR) 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

November 18-21, 2014

San Diego, CA

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (SBL) 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

November 22-25, 2014

San Diego, CA

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS (TAM) CONFERENCE

March 18-20, 2015

Jackson, TN

AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS (AAM) ANNUAL MEETING AND MUSEUM EXPO

April 26-29, 2015

Atlanta, GA

THE FOURTH EXPEDITION TO LACHISH

June 17 - July 31, 2015

Tel Lachish, Israel

DIG SIGHT

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