

Handout #1 – An Introduction to Biblical Archeology

a. The Bible and Archeology

While all the other religions and faiths "contain" histories, our faith seems to be "based" on history.

- Insights Into History/Chronology
- Insights Into Culture/Customs/Manners
- Insights Into Languages/Meanings

b. Archeological Tools

Surveys

Analysis

Dating Methods

Relative Dating Techniques

- Pottery Dating
- Cultural Affiliation
- Fluorine Dating
- Patination
- Pollen Analysis
- Rate Of Accumulation

Absolute Dating Techniques

- Archeomagnetism
- Astronomical Dating
- Dendrochronology
- Electron Spin Resonance
- Fission Track
- Opacity Stimulation Luminescence
- Oxidizable Carbon Ratio
- Racemization
- Thermoluminescence
- Radio-Carbon Dating

c. Some Significant Confirmed Biblical Structures:

- Gibeon pool (at el-Jib)
- Hezekiah's tunnel under Jerusalem/Jericho's walls.
- Lachish siege ramp of Sennacherib
- Pool of Siloam (unearthed in 2004)
- Second Temple pre-Herodian Walls
- Second Temple (confirmed by Western/Wailing wall constructed by Herod the Great)
- Shechem temple
- Gezer Walls and City Gate
- [Nehemiah]'s wall.

Discussion Questions:

1. Could Christianity/Judaism be a valid religion if the historical accounts turned out to be mere sacred stories? What if some accounts turned out to be historical and others not?

2. Biblical archeology uses scientific methods and theory; do you see a conflict in relying on science when it comes to faith issues? Should faith and science not be separated?