



**BBBW 5300 Encountering the Biblical World**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Biblical Studies**  
**Tuesday / Thursday 12:30-1:50pm**  
**Flex Option**

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**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Course Description**

A survey is undertaken of a wide range of materials and issues related to the background of the Old and New Testaments, including: archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, economics, social concerns, and the literature of the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world. The course is designed to help students bridge the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the historical eras of the Bible.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course will:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the background of the Bible including: archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, historical and social setting, and the literature of the ancient world to the process of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately.
2. Value the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the biblical period.
3. Be able to identify the physical geographical elements of the land of Israel and the Ancient Near East.
4. Be able to locate the site of significant Biblical events of the Old and New Testaments

### **Course Texts:**

To be read in conjunction with class lectures (see CANVAS)

1. English Bible (*a good translation*)
2. Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., 2002, *Readings from the Ancient Near East*, Baker Book House, (**RANE**)
3. Brisco, Thomas, 1998, *Holman Bible Atlas* by (Broadman & Holman Publishers, (**HBA**))
4. Greer, Jonathan S.; John W. Hilber; and John H. Walton, eds. *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018. (**BSOT**)

### **Supplemental Texts**

1. Hoerth, A. *Archaeology & The Old Testament. (AOT)*, (Baker, 1998), This an optional reading but heavily suggested especially if one has limited knowledge of the biblical world. Note within the reading schedule of this course reading, suggestions are given from this text that corresponds to the topics discussed.
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. Rainey, A. & Notley, S. *The Sacred Bridge*. by (Carta, Jerusalem, 2006), Best atlas out there!
4. Stager, L. & King, P. *Life in Biblical Israel*. by (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)
5. Wright & M. Bird. *The New Testament in Its World*. by N.T. (Zondervan, 2019) - hot off the press!
6. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the Old Testament and Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the New Testament*

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

This course consists of grasping the geographical (geological structure), chronological, historical and cultural settings of the biblical world through (1) the required reading (class textbooks, and workbook extra materials found here that one is required to know); (2) viewing PowerPoint presentations which contain maps and other graphic media to help visualize and comprehend the historical and geographical settings (one can download them all but the student cannot publish materials from them).

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1. Materials for the class are located in the Content section on the NOBTS Canvas. They consist of PowerPoints, Map Quizzes, Exams, and Related Materials (extra maps, study guides for exams, and extra articles for you to enhance your understanding and knowledge), please make use of them.
  2. Each Unit is broken down into a manageable set of Lectures delivered via PowerPoint and video presentations. Lectures are supplemented with outside reading from class texts as assigned in Course Schedule. Do make sure to do the readings best before viewing the Lectures and do take notes adding to the study

guide supplied, for they will be helpful in studying for exams. Consult the Table of Content of each class textbook, for they do correspond to the class lectures, for the class follows a chronological order.

3. Lectures include (expanded from above):
  - 1) PowerPoint presentations one study & work through following a numerical/chronological order. They fall into 2 parts in most cases, consisting of a lecture followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography.
  - 2) Video presentation – they are limited and, in most cases, consist of a summary of the lecture supplying one with the necessary information needed for the course.
  - 3) The Notes and Lectures should be labeled the same; if there are any problems please e-mail me or call.

**If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:**

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [**assignment by professor**] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

**Traditional Classes:** Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

**Course Requirements**

**RESEARCH PROJECT (20%)**

**TWO OPTIONS: RESEARCH PAPER or SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS**

Students have **three options** for the RESEARCH PAPER:

**A). A historical geography topic** of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc.). Research for a region: should include:

- Geological/topographical make-up of the region
- The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper), comprehend how the regions was used, i.e. as defensive, commercial, agricultural, or maybe a combination of all, do some critical homework here
- All major roads (locate both local and international), where did they go and why
- Key cities (explain what is their main importance, include key archaeological excavations)

- All bodies of water
  - Map of the region, locating key cities, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)
- B). Research on a significant Site/City:** which should include:
- Is history and the identification of the biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.)
  - Why it is located where it is,
  - Function in history,
  - Who controlled it,
  - Role it played in the development of the country it is in, and so forth (etc.)
- C). Topical** – a topic relevant to this course; see CANVAS for list of suggested topics. Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant elements of your research, have good interaction with sources (note original firsthand sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eyewitnesses' accounts etc.).

Format - Length 12-15 pages (+ title page and bibliography – these do not count and there is 5pts off for each page short of 12), double-spaced, standard 12 pt. font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian format for which a guide can be found on the Course Menu Bar towards the bottom. Paper needs to be submitted in a Word Document, No PDF's, please!

## **OPTION TWO TEACHING / SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS**

Develop ten sermon/teaching illustrations related to **10** different passages of the Old and New Testaments, utilizing historical and archaeological materials gained from this class and/or your own reading and research. Emphasis could be on geographical factors (Paul's journeys), archaeological artifacts (iconography, wine press, water systems), social setting, etc. Each illustration should be given verbatim (single space), along with the basic sermon outline (3 points) with biblical passage, theme, and a brief description of how this illustration would be used in the presentation setting. (estimate 1 to 1.5 pg per sermon illustration = ~250-350 words ea.).

### Grading Criteria:

- Form & style and Spelling & grammar = 5% - make sure the theme is developed, logical, coherent flow of thought. May need an outline to keep one focused.
- Research & bibliography = 10% - use first-hand sources when possible (sources from the actual period one is dealing with), textbooks are secondary, by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework! Note: 20% of bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals (1 ½ source per typed page is the acceptable norm, 10 pages = 7 sources, etc.).
- Content = 85% - the argument, keep focused on the topic chosen with an eye on the key issues and relevant data, well organized,

See Handout in Canvas: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help in research,

Note the DUE DATES for the Sectional Tests, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas.NOBTS.com](http://Canvas.NOBTS.com) Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Course Policies**

#### 1. Attendance Policy:

**Traditional and NOLA2U Classes:** Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

#### 2. Make-up Work:

- The student is responsible for lecture, work assignment changes, and or quiz/test changes that may occurred during the class period. These are poste via announcements which are mainly posted on BB, so check several times a week.
- Make-up for a missed quiz/exam is not allowed unless the student has made prevision prior to or immediately after the completion date (such as, in the case of hospitalization, death of a family member, etc.) with the professor.
- Late assignments – there is 2pts. per day reduction in grade for each day late, after 5 Days the assignment is not counted.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Sectional Tests (3)	20%	each	TAKEN ONLINE ON CANVAS
Project	20%		Submit online through CANVAS
Map Quizzes (5)	20%	total	TAKEN ONLINE ON CANVAS

## SEE DUE DATES ON COURSE SCHEDULE BELOW

Note the dates for the Sectional tests and the Final Exam. Exceptions must be OK'd by the professor prior to Testing (Final Exam by Registrar). The reading evaluation will come in the form of a question on the final exam as the percentage of the required reading (noted on the course schedule below) you have completed. Each student is to keep a reading log of additional outside reading (beyond the requirements). This log is to be submitted on either the last day of class or at the final exam.

### Online Research through our Library

See the following URL for resources in online research:

<http://www.nobts.edu/Library/Default.html> See Canvas details for Log-In and Password Information.

*Biblical Archaeology Review (BAR)*

*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR)*

*Palestine Exploration Quarterly (PEQ)*

*Biblical Archaeologist (BA), now Near Eastern Archaeology*

*Revue de Qumran (RQ)*

*Israel Exploration Journal (IEJ)*

*Anatolian Studies (AnSt)*

*Archaeology*

*Iraq*

*Levant (LEV)*

*Biblical Illustrator*

*Archaeology Odyssey*

## MAP ASSIGNMENTS: GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL & THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

### MAP I QUIZ #1 **DUE SEPT 7**

Learn the following Geographical Features from *HBA 13 (Map 7)*, and others.

You also may need to consult other Bible maps for some locations.

Hill Country (Judah)	Galilee	Golan Heights
Hill Country (Samaria)	Bashan	Gilead
Sharon Plain	Arabah	Mt. Ebal
Wilderness of Judah	Plain of Philistia (Coastal)	Nahal Lachish
Shephelah (of Judah)	Jezreel Valley (Esdraelon)	Great Sea
Dead Sea	Sea of Chinnereth	Mount Hermon
Mt. Carmel	Mt. Tabor	Hill of Moreh
Mt. Gilboa	Nahal Beersheba	Gerar Brook
Yarkon River	Yarmuk River	Jordan River
Arnon River	Jabbok River	Wadi Zered
Sorek River	Nahal Besor	Kishon River (Brook)
Elah Valley (Nahal)	Ammon	Edom
King's Highway	Way to Beth-Horon	Mt. Gerizim
Moab	Wadi Far'ah	Jabesh River
Way of the Land of the Philistines = Way of the Sea = Via Maris (Roman Name)		

### MAP QUIZ #2— **DUE Sept 24**

Learn the following Cities, Regions (Countries), and Geographical Features

From *HBA: 4 (Map 3)*, *5 (Maps 4)*, *9 (Map 5)*, *11 (Map 6)*, et al.

You may also need to consult other Bible maps for some locations

Cities, Regions/Countries			Geographical Features
Thebes	Egypt	Tyre	Tigris River
Memphis	Babylonia	Nuzi	Euphrates River
Ebla	Assyria	Babylon	Orontes River
Mari	Cyprus	Sumer	Zagros Mts.
Haran	Canaan	Hittites	Taurus Mts.
Ugarit	Phoenicia	Akkad	Nile River
Damascus	Sinai	Persia	Habur River
Ur	Carchemish	Hattusas	Ararat Mts.
Sidon	Elam	Avaris	Mt. Seir
Arabia	Nineveh	Aram-Naharaim	Arabah
Urartu (Ararat)	Cyprus	Sinai Wilderness	Shur Wilderness

**MAP QUIZ #3 DUE OCT 15 OLD TESTAMENT  
CHALCOLITHIC / BRONZE / IRON AGES OF CANAAN & ISRAEL**

Beth Shean	Laish (Dan)	Ai
Megiddo	Hazor	Jerusalem
Tirzah	Ashkelon	Mizpah (Mizpeh)
Shechem	Hamath Gader	Pella
Gezer	Ashdod	Abel Beth-Maacah
Beth Shemesh (Sorek Valley)	Kiriath-jearim	Yavneh
Lachish	Taanach	Bab edh-Dhra
Dothan	Zoar	Yarmuth (Jarmuth)
Arad	Hebron	Beersheba
En Gedi	Mareshah	Aphek (E of Joppa)
Bethel	Gerar	Succoth (Deir 'Alla)
Jezreel	Heshbon	Ashdod
Gath	En Gedi	Lachish
Zoar	Bethlehem	Samaria
Timnah (Sorek V.)	Aroer	Kedesh
Acco (Akko, Acre)	Rabbath-Ammon	Ekron
Nahariyah	Gaza	Gibeon
Abila	Chinnereth	Joppa
Dor	Debir (Tel Rabud)	Jericho
Dibon	Shiloh	Ibleam
Azekah	Gibeah	Yoqneam (Jokneam)

**MAP QUIZ #4 DUE NOV 12  
NEW TESTAMENT ISRAEL - PALESTINE  
HELLENISTIC-HASMONEAN-ROMAN BYZANTINE**

Abila (nr Yarmuk River)	Machaerus	Tiberias
Jamnia	Scythopolis (Beth Shean)	Mt. Gerizim
Tyre	Antipatris	Caesarea Philippi (Panaes)
Ptolemais (Acco)	Gamla	Jericho
Sepphoris	Azotus (Ashdod)	Kh. Qumran
Ascalon (Ashkelon)	En Gedi	Aelia Capitolina
Gadara	Bethlehem	Herodium (Herodian)
Caesarea Maritima	Joppa	Nazareth
Pella	Modin	Jerusalem
Gerasa	Bethsaida	Sychar
Masada	Sebaste (Samaria)	Philadelphia (R.-Ammon)
Capernaum	Magdala	Chorazin

**MAP QUIZ #5 DUE NOV 30**  
**NEW TESTAMENT - MEDITERRANEAN WORLD**

Regions & Islands

Italy  
Cyrenaica  
Cilicia  
Galatia  
Achaia  
Macedonia  
Cappadocia  
Malta  
Crete  
Africa  
Aegyptica  
Sicily  
Syria

Cities

Alexandria	Cyrene	Paphos
Fair Havens	Tarsus	Antioch (Syria, Orontes)
Ephesus	Smyrna	Philadelphia
Sardis	Pergamum	Thyatira
Salamis	Colossae	Laodicea
Philippi	Thessalonika	Iconium
Corinth	Miletus	Ostia
Syracuse	Troas	Rome
Athens	Carthage	Antioch (Pisidia)
Petra	Damascus	Berea

Study Maps and Blank Maps are found in the Content section of CANVAS

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- AUG 16 Introduction to Course & to Biblical Archaeology**  
The Birth of a Discipline; Development of Methodology  
*HBA: 29-32*
- 18 Archaeology & Biblical Studies** *BSOT:39-46*  
Science & Art: Two Fields Converging and Diverging
- 23 Geographical Overview of Israel – Palestine** *BSOT:5-38*  
Least Among the Nations ≠ “ Well-Watered Land  
*HBA: 12-24*
- 25 Geographical Overview of Egypt & Mesopotamia**  
“The Gift of the Nile” and the Territorial Origins of the Patriarchs  
*HBA: 3-11* Read also articles on the Geography of Egypt and Mesopotamia
- 30 Beginnings of Civilization: Neolithic and Chalcolithic Periods**  
Agricultural Revolution and the Advent of Religious Cultures in the ANE  
*HBA: 33-35*
- Sept 1 Early Bronze Age in Egypt & Mesopotamia: Urbanization & Social Structures**  
The Age of the Pyramids and the Great Sumerian City-States  
*HBA: 35-40* Gen 1-11 Read online articles on the Early Bronze Age

**SEPT 7 MAP QUIZ #1 DUE midnight**

- 6 Literary Traditions: Religious, Political--Historical, Economic**  
Emergence of Writing Systems and the Development of Literary Traditions
- 8 Genesis vs. ANE Creation Mythology** Read Genesis 1-3  
Comparisons and Contrasts; Modern Approaches to Earth Beginnings  
*RANE #4-6, 8-9, 12-13* *BSOT:91-125*
- 13 Sacrificial Systems in the Ancient Near East** *BSOT:333-390*  
Worship Systems in the ANE Read Leviticus 1-27  
Read: *ZPEB 5:194-211* “Sacrifice and Offerings” \*\*\* copy on CANVAS
- 15 The Israelite Holy Days Calendar** Read handout + *BSOT:456-467*  
“Calendar(s)” in *ZPEB* and *ABD* \*\*\*  
\*\*\**ZPEB = Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*  
\*\*\**ABD = Anchor Bible Dictionary*
- 20 Middle Bronze Age in the ANE: Setting of the Biblical Patriarchs**  
The Flourishing of Urban Canaanite Culture  
The Hyksos in Egypt *BSOT:187-193*  
*HBA: 41-51* Genesis 12-50 *RANE #14-16, 18, 21-26, 30*
- 22 Patriarchal Customs and Religious Practices**  
“Our forefathers were wandering Aramaeans

**SEPT 24 MAP QUIZ #2 DUE midnight**

- 27 **The Political Setting of the Exodus from Egypt**  
 “There arose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph” *BSOT:194-200, 253-271*  
*HBA: 52-62 Exodus 1-11 RANE #17, 27-29, 31-32, 55*
- 29 **The Exodus from Egypt and the Journey to Sinai**  
 From the Sea to Mountain Majesty  
*HBA: 63-74 Exodus 12-21*

**OCT 1 SECTIONAL TEST #1**  
**DUE BY SATURDAY Night 1159p**

**OCT 3-9 FALL BREAK**

- 11 **Conquest and Settlement of the Promised Land**  
 Biblical, Archaeological, and Historical data *BSOT: 201-207*  
*HBA: 75-88 Numbers 1,9-26,31-35; Joshua 1-24 RANE #50*
- 13 **The Period of the Judges of Israel**  
 “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes  
*HBA: 89-96 Judges 1-21 BSOT: 438-454*

**OCT 15 MAP QUIZ #3 DUE BY SATURDAY Night 1159p**

- 18 **The Emergence of the Israelite Monarchy: Samuel, Saul, & David**  
 “We will have a king over us that we may be like all the nations  
*HBA: 97-102 1 Samuel 1-31 BSOT:208-215; 272-278*
- 20 **The United Monarchy**  
 Glorious Kingdom but Seeds of Discontent  
*HBA: 102-114 2 Samuel 1-12, 1 Kings 1-11 RANE #51-54, 599*
- 25 **Divided Kingdom Period To the Fall of Samaria** *BSOT:216-229; 279-98*  
 “Thus the king did evil in the eyes of the LORD more than all the kings before...”  
*HBA: 115-141 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 RANE #39-43, 56-58*

**OCT 31 (Monday) SECTIONAL TEST #2 DUE**

- NOV 1 **The Judahite Kingdom 2 Kings 18-25 From Hope to Despair**  
*HBA: 142-157 BSOT:299-319*
- 3 **Restoration & Prospects for the Kingdom**  
 “Now in the first year of King Cyrus . . . *BSOT:230-243*  
*HBA: 158-173 2 Chronicles 36 - Ezra & Nehemiah*
- 8 **Late Persian & Hellenistic Periods Transformation**  
 Temple State, Land Grants, & the Fragmentation of Jewish Religious Life  
*BSOT: 244-252; 320-332*

**NOV 10 In the Days of Herod & Rome**  
**HBA: 174-201 Read Dead Sea Scrolls handouts**

**NOV 12 MAP QUIZ #4 DUE SATURDAY - MIDNIGHT**

**NOV 15 Jesus in Galilee: Cultural & Geographical Setting**  
“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”  
**HBA: 207-235 Matthew 1-20**  
**Jesus in Jerusalem: Cultural & Geographical Setting**  
“My House shall be called a House of Prayer”  
**HBA: 223-235 Matthew 16-2**

**NOV 20—26 THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**NOV 29 LAST DAY OF CLASS**

**The Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

“This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews

**Matthew 21-28; Luke 19-24**

**The Greco-Roman World and the Expansion of Christianity**

“So being sent by the Holy Spirit they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus”

**HBA: 236-276 Acts 1-28**

**NOV 30 MAP QUIZ #5 DUE BY WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 11:59pm**

**DECEMBER 1 \*\*PAPERS & PROJECTS DUE\*\* MIDNIGHT THURSDAY**

**DECEMBER 6 FINAL EXAM ONLINE DUE 11:59 PM TUESDAY**

**\*\*\*Graduating Seniors must take the Final Exam by 5:00 PM\*\*\***

### Selected Bibliography

#### Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, etc.

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Craig Evans & Stanley Porter., eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

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### **Atlases**

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- Bahat, Dan, with Rubenstein, Chaim T. Trans. Shlomo Ketko. *The Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990
- Bimson, J.J. et.al., *New Bible Atlas*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985.
- Cleave, Richard. Pictorial Archive: ANE History; *Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.
- Frank, Harry Thomas (ed.) *Atlas of the Bible Lands*. Maplewood, NJ: Hammond 1977
- Laney, J. Carl. *Baker's Concise Bible Atlas*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988
- May, Herbert G., ed. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1974.
- Rasmussen, C. *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Rainey, Anson F. *Teaching History & Historical Geography of Bible Lands: A Syllabus*. Jerusalem: Carta. Tyndale Reprint, 2015.
- Rainey, A. and Steven Notley, *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World***. Enhanced edition. Jerusalem: Carta, 2015. Orig. 2005.
- Wright, Paul H. *Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas*. Torrance, CA; Rose Publishing; Jerusalem: Carta, 2012

### **Historical Geography**

- Abel, Felix M. *Géographie de la Palestine*. Tome II. *Géographie Politique les Villes*. 3d ed. Paris: Librairie Lecoffre, 1967.
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- Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.
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## A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

### I. SURVEYS AND PILGRIMAGES

- A. **Helena**-mother of Constantine identified sites such as in Bethlehem with the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.
- B. **Origen** (c.230-254) ("We have visited the places to learn by inquiry of the footsteps of Jesus and of his disciples and of the prophets.") + other C2-C3 AD church fathers note local traditions.
- C. **Eusebius** (c.325) - *Chronicle* of early searching for Holy places in Palestine --also in his *Onomasticon* (4th section of research on biblical geography, 1 - 3 are lost) lists alphabetically sites in Palestine w/ annotations.
- D. **Jerome** (c.385-420) Finished translation of Latin Vulgate at Bethlehem Church of Nativity and revised Eusebius' *Onomasticon*. Letters also mention sites.
- E. **Crusaders** - identified numerous sites and built churches on scores of them.

\*\*\* Some suggest that Thomas Jefferson may have been the first to carry out a form of scientific excavation, when in 1784 he dug a trench through an Indian mound on his Virginia property, noting layers (or strata) of bones and burial artifacts.

### II. EMERGENCE OF EGYPTIAN AND MESOPOTAMIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Beginnings of Methodological Excavation and Language Decipherment

#### A. EGYPT

18th Century

- 1. **Giovanni Belzoni** - plundered Egyptian tombs such as Abu Simbel, damaging many "unprofitable" items such as numerous mummies "to rob the Egyptians of their papyri" -- yet was considered somewhat scientific for his day.
- 2. **Napoleon** - 1790 took 175 scholars (architects, artists, historians, etc.) to Egypt with his army. 1799 - Rosetta stone found by artillery officers. Confiscated by the British. Opened hieroglyphics, with Demotic and Greek.
- 3. **Jean Francois Champollion** (Prof. of History and Oriental Languages at Grenoble at age 19) succeeded in deciphering the hieroglyphics. Published results.

19th Century

- 1. **Col. Richard W. H. Vyse** - used gunpowder to enter a pyramid in 1837.
- 2. **A.F.F. Mariette** (Fr)-collected manuscripts from Memphis, Gizeh sphinx, Tanis, Thebes. First to insist Egyptian authorities control excavation. Few still resorting to the use of gunpowder.
- 3. **Karl R. Lepsius** (Prussia) discovered Proto-Dynastic and Early Dynastic tombs and mastabas in Egypt, as well as Ptolemaic inscriptions.
- 4. **Gaston C.C. Maspero** (Fr) excavated pyramids & tombs of Pepi I, II, et al.
- 5. **Sir Flinders Petrie** - With British novelist Amelia Ann Stanford Edwards founded British School of Archaeology in Egypt (Egyptian Exploration Society). Appalled at

the "excavation" methodology of his predecessors, Petrie developed more scientific approach (see below). Excavated Tel el-Hesi in SW Palestine in 1890. Moved to Palestine in 1926 BC due to difficulties in Egypt. Buried in Israel at Ecole Biblique.

## B. MESOPOTAMIA AND ANATOLIA

17th - 18th Centuries

1. Cuneiform texts made their way to Europe (Br, Ger, Fr, Den, It) via diplomats, doctors, et al travelers, beginning in 1621.
  2. Decipherment of cuneiform ("wedge-shaped" from Latin cuneus) was gradual and slow. **George F. Grotefend** (a high school classics teacher, who was knowledgeable in Sanskrit and Pahlevi-desc. from Old Persian) deciphered some Old Persian names from inscriptions from Persepolis, which had been suggested as the capital of the ancient Achaemenid Empire. Yet cuneiform was far from translated. Persian modified cuneiform contained about 41 known symbols. Its cuneiform ancestors were such as Sumerian with 900+ pictographs which later became cuneiform representations; Old Babylonian (Semitic) of Hammurabi (c.1750 BC) with 600-700 signs; to Middle Babylonian with 350+; Elamite with 113 c.2500 BC; to 98 Neo-Assyrian of 700 BC. **Sir Charles Rawlinson** copied the Behistun inscription from the cliffs and worked on the basic decipherment from 1835 to 1851.
- \* **Note:** It is estimated that only about 20% of the more than 500,000 cuneiform tablets have yet been translated. e.g.- Donald J. Wiseman published some of the important Babylonian Chronicles (9 tablets) in 1956 and Esarhaddon's treaties (1958), 80 years after they were brought to the British Museum. Thousands of others remain untouched after 100+ years.

19th Century

1. **C.J. Rich** - early 19th century. Excavated small tells near Baghdad and Kirkuk-Mosul.
2. **P.E. Botta** (Fr) - continued excavations at Mosul. Began at Nineveh.
3. **Sir Austen H. Layard** (Br) - Nineveh--Sennacherib's palace and Ashurbanipal's Palace and library (25,000 tablets). Nimrud--palaces of Ashurnasirpal, Shalmaneser II, Adadnirari, Esarhaddon (1845, 1852-53, 1878-82).
4. 1840-1850 - race between French and British to secure the most material national and personal museums. Untrained men plundered sites for whole pottery, solid objects, clay tablets, etc. Many damaged and lost, e.g.- Assyrian gate portal lost in Euphrates River.
5. **Hormuzd Rassam** and **Sir Henry C. Rawlinson** continued work for England. Rawlinson is known especially for his work in copying the Behistun inscription which led to the decipherment of cuneiform scripts (1837-).
6. **Victor Place** succeeded Botta in 1851, resumed excavation at Khorsabad palace of Sargon II.
7. **W. K. Loftus** excavated at Erech (Uruk, Warka) 1850, 1953-54) & later Larsa.
8. **Heinrich Schliemann** (Ger pastor) identified the mound of Hissarlik as Troy using Iliad as source text. Began digging 1870-72. With Wilhelm Dörpfeld (architect) published the first archaeological report, citing nine strata in the mound.
9. **E. de Sarzec** at Lagash. Rassam resumed work at Nineveh and Babylon.

20th Century

1. **Robert Koldewey** excavated at Babylon 1899-1917 (Iraq). Others continued work at Susa, Elam Lagash.

2. **Hugo Winckler** (Ger) began Hittite excavations at Boghazkoy (1906). Central Asia Minor (Turkey). Germans, Austrians, & Turks have worked at numerous sites in region.
3. **Baron Max von Oppenheim** excavated Tel Halaf, 1911-14, 1929-31. Prehistoric Halafian culture defined, dated to 5th-4th M BC. Comparable material excavated at Samaria by Herzfeld 1912-14, also at Arpachiya, Tepe Gawra, and Tel Billa in Nineveh region.
4. **Sir Leonard Woolley** excavated Ur (1922, 1926-) and Al-'Ubaid (1923-25). 1926 discovered the Royal Tombs of the early Sumerians.
5. **Erich Schmidt** at Persepolis beginning in 1935.

\*\*\* **Note:** The nation of Iraq was established in 1932, and the IRAQ Dept. of Antiquities has continued to excavate throughout Iraq with cooperative efforts of the British, French and American schools of archaeology. Laws limiting the export of archaeological artifacts were enacted as early as 1933.

6. 1949-1961 - excavation to Calah (Assyria).
7. 1965-present – Ebla >>15,000 tablets found in new "Eblaite" language, plus Sumerian and Akkadian. Located in N. Syria, near Aleppo.
8. Note recent excavations at Tel Emar and Tel Leilan.  
Numerous excavations have continued in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Jordan, Egypt.

## C. PALESTINE

19th Century

- a. Surveys by: **Irby and Mangles** (1817-1818)  
\*\* **Edward Robinson** (Amer.) and **Rev. Eli Smith** (Protestant missionary in Beirut, fluent in Arabic) in 1838 journeyed 105 days from Cairo to Beirut via Sinai, recording biblical and geographical data, from which were produced 3 vols. *Biblical Researches in Palestine, Mount Sinai and Arabia Petraea* (1841). Later in 1852 traveled in Galilee and Samaria, compiling additional vols. on those regions and a *Physical Geography of Palestine*.
- b. **Palestine Exploration Fund** founded (1867-1870)  
\*\* **C.R. Conder** and **H.H. Kitchner** - a comprehensive survey under the Palestine Exploration Fund – P.E.F. (1872-1887) - *The Survey of Western Palestine* (1881) and *Survey of Eastern Palestine* (1889).
- c. **Ecole Biblique** founded in 1870's (French) just West of Damascus gate.
- d. **Capt. Charles Warren** began excavating Jerusalem, discovered water shaft to Gihon Spring
- e. **Sir Flinders Petrie** - developed more scientific excavation techniques at Tel el-Hesi: (1890). Noted as first modern scientific excavation in the Holy Land. Stressed: a) stratigraphy, b) ceramic chronology and typology, c) utilized metallurgists and botanists to examine remains.

## III. DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY (1900-1960)

### A. Notable Excavations

## 1. 1900-1910

- a. **R.A.S. Macalister** excavation of Gezer. Bliss & Macalister excavations.
- b. American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and Baghdad founded.
- c. Samaria excavation by Reisner, **Fisher**, and Lyon who further refined excavation techniques.

## 2. 1920-1930

- a. British Palestine Department of Antiquities founded, headed by **John Garstang**.
- b. Beth-Shean (University of Pennsylvania)
- c. Megiddo (University of Chicago)
- d. **W. F. Albright** excavated Tel Beit Mirsim (Johns Hopkins University) who further refined ceramic chronology.
- e. Tel en-Nasbeh (Mizpah) by **W.F. Bade**.
- f. Ophel Hill in Jerusalem (1927) by **J.W. Crowfoot**.
- g. Beth-Shemesh (Rowe, et al.)

## 3. 1930-1940

- a. **Nelson Glueck** (Jewish spy) survey of Transjordan (1933-1946)
- b. Beth Shean, Megiddo and Beit Mirsim continued.
- c. Jericho (British) by **John Garstang**
- d. Lachish (British) by **J. Starkey, L. Harding, O. Tufnell**
- e. Samaria (**K. Kenyon, E.L. Sukenik** - Br.)
- f. Bethel (**James Kelso** and **W.F. Albright**)

## 4. 1947-1950

- a. **E.L. Sukenik** obtains first of Dead Sea Scrolls. **John Trever** of the ASOR office in Jerusalem photographs and authenticates antiquity of them w/ **W.F. Albright**.
- b. Search for caves at Qumran begins. Qumran site excavated. 1951-56 by **Fr. Roland De Vaux**
- c. Tel Qasile by **Benjamin Mazar**, first excavation established by the newly created State of Israel.

## 5. 1950-1960 -- Israeli Archaeology comes of age

- a. **Nelson Glueck** survey of Negev
- b. Jericho, Jerusalem (**Dame Kathleen Kenyon**)
- c. Shechem (ASOR - **G. Ernest Wright**)
- d. Hazor, **Yigael Yadin** with **Yohanon Aharoni**
- e. Gibeon (**James Pritchard** - University of Pennsylvania)
- f. Dothan (**James Free** - Wheaton College)
- g. Caesarea (**M. Avi-Yonah**; more recently under American consortium-CAHEP)
- h. Ashdod (Moshe Dothan)

## B. Stages of Development in Archaeological Excavation Methods

### 1. Area or Sectional Excavation - Sir Flinders Petrie, Heinrich Schliemann (1870s-1920)

Development of Principles of Stratigraphy and Typology

Beginning utilization of varied scientific disciplines

**2. Reisner-Fisher Method -- Locus to Architecture 1920-1955)**

Excavation of architectural units' rooms, buildings, palaces, defense walls, etc.  
Expansion of utilization of scientific disciplines

**3. Wheeler - Kenyon Method - Balk to Debris Layer (1955-present)**

**Survey** utilizing Israel national grid system, subdivided into sections and squares  
Recent used of subsurface radar to map subterranean structures prior to excavation  
Future use of satellite technology in determination of areas to excavate

**Balk** (wall of earth between squares) preserved on perimeter of **5 X 5-meter square**,  
To preserve stratigraphic sequence and check on previous work

Development of scientific disciplines such as paleobotany, paleozoology, paleography,  
social sciences related to ancient peoples, digital photography in deciphering ancient  
documents, metallurgy, anthropology, chemistry, physics, et al.

**IV. EXPANSION PERIOD: THE SCIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY (1960-present)**

**A. Key Excavations of the 1960s -- 1980s**

1. Arad (Hebrew University – **Aharoni** -Iron Age and **Ruth Amiram** - EB)
2. Ein Gedi (Hebrew University)
3. **Benjamin Mazar** begins South wall of Temple Mount in Jerusalem after 1967 War.
4. Gezer (**G.E. Wright, William Dever** - Hebrew Union College)
5. Deir Allah (Scandinavia)
6. Taanach (ASOR) - **Paul Lapp**
7. Ai (SBTS - **Joseph Callaway**)
8. Heshbon (Andrews University under **Harold Stigers**)
9. Dan (**Avraham Biran** - Tel Aviv University) - continues to present
10. Ashdod (**D.N. Freedman, A. Biran, Moshe Dothan**)
11. Joppa (Israeli)
12. Capernaum (RC-Franciscan fathers, recently w/ **Vassilios Tsiferis**)
13. Tel el-Hesi (ASOR)
14. Caesarea (Drew University and consortium)
15. Khirbet Shema (ASOR - **Eric and Carol Meyers**)
16. Beersheba (**Y. Aharoni** - Tel Aviv University)
17. Aphek/Antipatris (Tel Aviv U.- NOBTS under **M. Kohavi - G. Kelm**)
18. Lachish (**Y. Aharoni, A. Rainey, D. Ussishkin** - Tel Aviv University)
19. Tel Qasile (**B. Mazar, Amihai Mazar**)
20. Timnah--Tel Batash (**A. Mazar--Hebrew Univ, G. Kelm--NOBTS, SWBTS**)

**B. Present** - Scores of major and minor sites are excavated yearly.

For 2022 see **BAR** Jan/Feb 2022 issue, Recent Excavations include such sites as:

Beth Shean (Scythopolis)	Hazor	Tel Haror (=Gerar?)
Tel Halif (En Rimmon)	Jezreel	Bethsaida

Caesarea Philippi (Banias)	Tel Qasile	Sepphoris
Caesarea Maritima	Ashkelon	Mareshah (Marisa)
Tel Hadar (Geshurites?)	Ekron	Qumran caves
Petra (Edomite & Nabatean strata)	Dor	Nahal Beersheba survey
Tel Malhata	Tiberias	Yodefata (Jotapata)
Yarmuth	Dan	Pella
Wadi Mujib Project	Abila	Plains of Moab Project
Apollonia	Tel Hadid	el-Burj
Nebi Samuel	Megiddo	Chinnereth
Tel Rehov	Tel es-Safi (Gath)	Tel Zeitah
Tel Gezer (SWBTS, NOBTS)	Cana of Galilee	Azekah
Tel Qeiyafa (Sha`araim?)	Beth Shemesh	Hippus/Susita
Abel Beth-Maacah	Huqoq	Tel `Araj (NT Bethsaida)
Jerusalem – City of David	Moza	

(+ Many More)