



**BBBW5200 –Encountering the Biblical World**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Biblical Studies**  
**Spring 2018, Term 183**  
**Saturdays, 4x Hybrid, 9:00 am -12:50 pm**  
**Class Dates: 1/27 2/24, 3/17, 3/26, 4/21**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Core Value Focus**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is: **Servant Leadership**: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

## **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/Course Objectives**

**Student Learning Outcomes:** At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Recognize the physical elements of the land of Israel and the ancient Near East -- the geography, topography, geology, climate, etc. -- via slide, book and map study.
2. Gain a better understanding of the cultural and historical settings of both the Old and New Testaments via an archaeological and geographical perspective.
3. Examine materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.
4. Probe the interrelationship between geography, politics, economics, cultural mores, and religion in the development of the nation of Israel.
5. Become conversant in the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.

## **Course Texts**

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

1. English Bible (*a good translation*)
2. Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., 2002, *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker (**RANE**)
3. Brisco, Thomas, 1998, *Holman Bible Atlas* by (Broadman & Holman Publishers, (**HBA**))
4. Hoerth, Alfred 1998, *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, (**AOT**) – *Note within the reading schedule of this course, reading suggestions are given from this text that correspond to the topics discussed.*
5. Warner, Dan, *Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook* (Posted on Blackboard)

## **Recommended reading:**

*Archaeology & The Old Testament*. Hoerth, A. (Baker, 1998), (**AOT**) – This an optional reading but heavily suggested. Note within the reading schedule of this course reading, suggestions are given from this text that correspond to the topics discussed.

1. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
2. *Manners and Customs in the Bible*. by Victor M., (Hendrickson)
3. *The Sacred Bridge*. by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., (Carta, Jerusalem, 2006)
4. *Life in Biblical Israel*. by Stager, L. & King, P., (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)

## **Course Requirements and Grading**

Map Quizzes (3)	25% - see class schedule for dates
Discussion Participation	10% - (6 total, see note for format under Unit 1)
Research Paper	25% - by May 8
Midterm Exam	20% - after Unit II
Final Exam	20% - by May 17, no later!

## **Grading Scale**

A - 93-100; B - 85-92; C - 77-84; D - 70-76; F - Below 70

**Map Quizzes** (3 total) – Get to know the world & land of the Bible, see handout “**Regions, Cities to Know**” for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (see also extra detailed maps for you to use found in Course Documents). **You will need to consult** these maps besides class text and other Bible geography books; as noted, I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under Study Helps) for use in both study and personal presentations. (\*\*Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be published w/o written permission from me).

**Quiz 1** = Land of Israel Includes: Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Waters of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help)

**Quiz 2** = Tribes of Israel & OT Cities (Consists of 1 map for Tribes & 1 map for OT cities)

**Quiz 3** = NT World (Mediterranean) of Cities & Kingdoms/Countries (Consists of 1 map for Kingdoms/Countries for Mediterranean world & 1 map for NT cities)

**Exams** – note there are study guides available for both midterm and final. **They are only guides** to help one organize and know what materials will be covered on the exams. Information for the exams come from class notes, power point lectures, and reading **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** Test will include matching (i.e. dates, inscriptions etc.), multiple choice, some fill in the blank, and short essays usually over various topics (i.e. Philistines, Shephelah, David etc.).

**Research Paper** - will be posted on Blackboard (under folder labeled Exams). Students have **two options** to write on:

- 1) Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc.) or a Site/City:

**Research for a region** should include:

- Geological make-up of the region
- The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper)
- All major roads (locate both local and international)
- Key cities (what is their main importance)
- All bodies of water
- Map of the region, locating key cities, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)

**Research for a Site/City** should include:

- 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, what was its function in history,
- Its history, develop who controlled it, the role it played in the development of the country it resided in, etc.

- 2) Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard 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 11-12 pages (title page and bibliography does not count), double-spaced, standard 12 pt. font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian format.

### Grading

- Form & style and Spelling & grammar = 5% - make sure the theme is developed, logical, coherent!
- Research & bibliography = 10% - use first hand sources when possible, textbooks are secondary, by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework!
- Content = 85% - the argument, the key issues, relevant data etc.

NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals (1 ½ source per typed page is the acceptable norm, 10 pages = 7 sources etc.). See Handout: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help!

**Note:** "This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric."

## **RESEARCH PAPER (5 pts off for each day late)**

### **Class Procedure\*\*Read Carefully\*\***

Materials for the class are located in Course Documents on Blackboard they consist of:

- 1) Map Quizzes, Exams, and Related Materials (extra maps, study guides for exams, and extra articles for you to enhance your understanding and knowledge of the topics discussed), please make use of them.
- 2) Workbook – Sections 1-8: which are notes that correspond with the PowerPoint lectures, fill in notes as your work through the PowerPoint slides, add notes from your readings, and follow the Midterm Exam Guide
- 3) Lectures - these are mainly PowerPoint presentations (working on some video presentations) that you need to look at & work through, all are in numerical/chronological order. They consist of a lecture usually followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography, and some videos (usually a summary of the lectures) to give you the necessary information one needs for the course. Notes and Lectures should be labeled the same, if there are any problems please e-mail me or call ASAP.
- 4) There are 4 Sections or Units to work through, one has just about a month to work through each section (except the last Unit, it's shorter), so work at a pace best for you, but assignments need to be taken on time (2 pts reduction for each day late). Each lecture is supplemented with outside reading from class texts as noted in Course Schedule, make sure to read them (best before viewing the Lectures) for they will be needful for exams. And don't forget to check out Related Materials also in Course Documents, several good articles related to some lectures.
- 5) Note the index of each class textbook as they correspond to the class lectures (i.e. PowerPoints mainly), as the class follows a chronological order.

## **Class Discussion**

Each student will participate in the Discussion questions on Blackboard. These are just general questions that highlight key areas that you have read and are looking at in the PowerPoint lectures. Each student will compose a comment and discuss one other students comment. These need to be completed by the time indicated (a 5pt reduction for each day late).

**Lectures include Four Units to Work Through: Time frame consist of:**

- 1. Unit 1 – (Jan 22-Feb 19): Setting the Stage**
- 2. Unit 2 – (Feb 20–March 16): Patriarchs & Exodus**
- 3. Unit 3 – (March 17–April 20): Conquest & Settlement & United & Divided Monarchy**
- 4. Unit 4 – (April 21-May 16): NT Backgrounds: Jesus in the Galilee & Jerusalem**

## **Text's Abbreviations**

AOT = Archaeology & the Old Testament (Hoerth)  
HBA = Holman Bible Atlas, (Brisco)  
RANE = Readings from the Ancient Near East, (Arnold & Beyer)  
WKBK = Course Workbook – Available in Blackboard Course Documents

## **Course Schedule and Outline**

### **UNIT 1: Setting the Stage (Prehistory to Bronze Age)— In the Beginning!**

*Jan 22 – Feb 19, Workbook: Sections 1 & 2-*

1. Introduction  
Reading - AOT Chpt 1
2. Geographical Overview: The Land of the Bible  
Reading: HBA Part I (Ch 1-3, pp. 2-32)
3. In the Beginning: Gen 1-11  
Reading: Gen 1-1; AOT Chpt 9; HBA Ch 4, pp. 33-34; Creation: Ancient Near East, (ANE) Mythology vs. Genesis Creation: RANE #4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 45
4. Rise of Urbanization Early Bronze Age: Egypt and Mesopotamia  
Reading: AOT Chpt 2; HBA pp. 35-40

### **Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:**

#### Discussion Board:

Contribute a comment to Geography/Introduction by Feb 4

NOTE: In this and the following Discussion Board topics, each student is to submit a comment and then follow-up with interactions with two of the other students in the class.

Contribute a comment to Creationism/Beginnings by Feb 12

Map Quiz #1 - (Must be taken by Feb 19)

### **UNIT II: The Bronze Age (3200-1200BC)- World of the Patriarchs & Exodus**

*Feb 20-March 24, Workbook Part 3 & Parts of 4*

1. Middle Bronze Age: World of the Patriarchs  
Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 4, 5, 6; HBA pp.41-51; RANE #14-16, 18, 21-26, 30; Gen 12-50
2. Late Bronze Age: World of Moses - The Political Setting of the Exodus, the Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings  
Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 7, 8 & 10: pp. 201-205; HBA pp. 52-74; RANE #17, 27-29, 31, 32, 55; Exodus 1-20;  
Read: "Sacrifices and Offerings," by A. Rainey from *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*

**Quizzes, Exams and Discussion Lists:**

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to *World of the Patriarchs* by March 11. Remember to interact with at least one other student's comments.

Map Quiz #2: (Must be taken by March 20, midnight)

**Midterm:** Must take exam by March 25, midnight

**UNIT III: Late Bronze Age Continued & Into the Iron Age (1550-586BC)**

***March 25-April 30, Workbook: Section Parts of 4, 5 & 6***

1. Conquest and Settlement - Joshua and Judges  
Reading Assignments: AOT 10 & 11; HBA pp. 89-101; RANE #50; Joshua, Judges
2. Emergence of the Monarchy: From Tribe to Nation: The United Monarchy  
Reading Assignments: AOT 12-14; HBA pp. 102-114; RANE #51, 54, 59; II Sam 1-12, I Kings 1-11
3. Divided Monarchy/Kingdom: Fall of Samaria  
Reading Assignments: AOT 15, 16; HBA pp. 115-141; RANE #39-43, 48; I Kgs 12-2, Kgs 17;
4. Southern Kingdom: Judah  
Reading Assignments: AOT 17-19; HBA pp. 142-157; RANE 56-58, 60-62, 155

**Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:**

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the Joshua & the Conquest by April 3  
Contribute a comment to the Iron Age by April 16

**UNIT IV: New Testament Backgrounds**

***May 1-16, Workbook 7 & 8***

1. Jesus in Galilee  
Reading Assignments: OTA 20; HBA pp. 207-215; Matthew 1-20
2. Jesus in Jerusalem  
Reading Assignments: HBA pp. 216-235; Matthew 21-28; Luke 19-24

### **Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:**

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the NT Backgrounds by May 7.

Map Quiz #3 must be taken by May 15, midnight.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Due Date: Post marked on BB by Friday, May 8 by midnight.

**FINAL:** Must take exam by May 16, midnight, Blackboard closes then, and I cannot open it!

### **Disclaimer**

The Professor reserves the right to change and adapt this syllabus as needed, the student will be informed if changes are made.

### **Course Bibliography: General References**

#### **Dictionaries, etc.**

Freedman, David N., ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

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

Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.

Gralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids ed., *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. 1997.

Joel B. Green, et. al. eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.

Master, D., ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2013.

Meyers, Eric M., ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*. 5 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Negev, Avraham, and S. Gibson. *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land*. New York: Continuum, 2001.

Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Ancient Near East in Pictures: Relating to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.

Redford, Donald B. ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. 3 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2001.

Sasson, J.M., ed. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. 2 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson. 2000.

Stern, Ephraim, ed. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. 4 vols. Jerusalem: The Israel Exploration Society, 1993.

#### **Atlases**

Aharoni, Y., et. al *The Macmillan Bible Atlas* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993

Bimson, J.J. et.al., *New Bible Atlas*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985.

Cleave, Richard. *Pictorial Archive: ANE History; Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.  
Rasmussen, C. *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

### **Historical Geography**

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.  
Baly, Dennis. *The Geography of the Bible*. NY: Harper, 1957.  
Bimson, John J. (ed.), *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995.  
DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.  
Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.  
Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

### **Bible Handbooks**

Hoerth, A., G. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.  
Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.  
Matthews, Victor. *Manners and Customs in the Bible*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.  
Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.  
*The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.  
Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.  
Walton, John, et. al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000

### **Archaeology**

Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.  
Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.  
Cline, E.H. *Biblical Archeology: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2009.  
Finegan, J. *The Archaeology of the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992.  
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- Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
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- Meyers, Eric M. *Archaeology, The Rabbis & Early Christianity.* Nashville: Abingdon, 1981.
- Moorey, Roger. *Excavation in Palestine.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
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- Reed, Jonathan L. *Archaeology and the Galilean Jesus: A Re-examination of the Evidence.* Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament: What Archaeology Reveals About the First Christians.* New York: HarperCollins, 2007.
- Routledge, Bruce. *Moab in the Iron Age: Hegemony, Polity, Archaeology.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.
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- Vaughn, Andrew G., and Ann E. Killebrew, eds. *Jerusalem in Bible and Archaeology: The First Temple Period.* Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series 18. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

## **History**

### **Ancient Near East**

- Craigie, Peter. *Ugarit and the Old Testament.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Hallo, W.W. and Simpson, W.K. *The Ancient Near East: A History.* NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.
- Lloyd, Seton. *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: From the Stone Age to the Persian Conquest.* London: Thames & Hudson, 1978.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *History of the Persian Empire.* Chicago: University Press, 1959.
- Yamacuchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible.* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

### **Egypt**

- Kathryn Bard (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt.* New York: Routledge Press, 1999.

- Redford, Donald. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1992.
- Redford, Donald B. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. London: Oxford, 2000.
- Wilson, John A. *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*. Chicago: University Press, 1951.

### **Ancient Palestine**

- Albertz, A *History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament. Volume I: From the beginnings to the End of the Monarchy* (trans. John Bowden; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994)
- Albertz, A *History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period, Volume 2; From the Exile to the Maccabees* (Louisville: Westminster/John Know, 1994)
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- Zevit, Z. 2001. *The Religions of Ancient Israel. A Synthesis of Parallaxic Approaches*. New York: Continuum

### Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize those resources adequately <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize many of the resources <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research
2. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the physical world of the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the process of the physical world of the Bible but did not adequately relate it to Biblical interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the issues related to the Biblical geography but did not utilize them fully in Biblical interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the geography of the Bible

### Application Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not explain them adequately <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not address them fully <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to the process of interpreting the Bible
2. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a valuing of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a general appreciation of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a lack of appreciation for the need of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> rejected the need for bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world

### Communicative Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> fully interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials <input type="checkbox"/> interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing some Biblical background materials but did not relate the meaning fully <input type="checkbox"/> inadequately interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to interpret and communicate the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials
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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 in 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. Many 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 Dorpfeld (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 covered 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 excav. 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 Tsferis**)
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.** Scores of major and minor sites are excavated yearly. See **BAR's** January issues for recent Excavations include such sites as:

Beth Shean (Scythopolis)	Hazor	Tel Haror (=Gerar?)
Tel Halif (En Rimmon)	Jezreel	Bethsaida
Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas)	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	el-Burj	Nebi Samuel
Megiddo	Chinnereth	Tel Rehov
Tel es-Safi (Gath)	Gezer	Tel Zeitah
Tel Qeiyafa (Sha`araim?)	Beth Shemesh	Hippus/Susita
Abel Beth-Maacah	Cana of Galilee	Azek

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