



BBBW5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Biblical Studies

Spring 2021

Th 600-750pm

Dr. R. Dennis Cole

Professor of Old Testament Hebrew and Archaeology

Office: Dodd Faculty Building #201 Phone: 504-282-4455 xt 3248

Email: rdcole@nobts.edu

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:

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

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

Textbooks

Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History by Thomas Brisco. (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2014) **HBA**

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

English Bible (preferably NASB, NKJV, NRSV, TNIV, ESV, HCSB)

Course Evaluation:

Sectional Tests (3)	20%	each	TAKEN ONLINE ON BLACKBOARD
Project	20%		
Map Quizzes (5)	20%	total	TAKEN ONLINE ON BLACKBOARD

Students will be enrolled in the Blackboard section of this course, which is listed as TM-BBBW5200DC.

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.

COURSE PROJECT

Due Date: Friday, MAY 8 11:59pm

Option One — Research Paper (Length 10-12 pages, dbl space, 12 pt font)

Research the history, archaeology, and identification of one of the following sites in Israel:

Megiddo	Debir	Sharuhén	Emmaus	Gilgal
Beersheba	Ai & Bethel	Gerar	Cana of Galilee	Ashdod
Ebenezer	Gath	Ekron	Ziklag	Gezer
Jericho	Beth Shean	Jezreel	Hebron	Kh. Qumran
Nazareth	Taanach	Herodian	Beth Shemesh	Aphek/Antipatris
Shechem	Hazor	Magdala	Bethsaida	Acco/Ptolemais

Or other site of interest to the student – please consult with professor here.

The following elements should be researched in order to complete the project:

Suggested Tel Identification(s) - History

Biblical Data

Historical Data (non-biblical records)

Geographical and Topographical Data

Archaeological Data

Option Two — 10 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 with biblical passage, theme, and a brief description of how this illustration would be used in the presentation setting. (estimated 1 to 1.5 pg per sermon illustration = ~250-350 words ea.).

Online Research through our Library

See the following URL for resources in online research:

<http://www.nobts.edu/Library/Default.html>

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

Note: The RUBRIC for grading/evaluation of this project is posted in the “Course Documents” section of Blackboard for this course.

MAP ASSIGNMENTS: GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL & THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

MAP I QUIZ #1 DUE FEB 8, 2021 MIDNIGHT

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 FEB 28, MIDNIGHT

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

Thebes
Memphis
Ebla
Mari
Haran
Ugarit
Damascus
Ur
Sidon
Arabia
Urartu (Ararat)

Egypt
Babylonia
Assyria
Cyprus
Canaan
Phoenicia
Sinai
Carchemish
Elam
Nineveh
Cyprus

Tyre
Nuzi
Babylon
Sumer
Hittites
Akkad
Persia
Hattusas
Avaris
Aram-Naharaim
Sinai Wilderness

Geographical Features

Tigris River
Euphrates River
Orontes River
Zagros Mts.
Taurus Mts.
Nile River
Habur River
Ararat Mts.
Mt. Seir
Arabah
Shur Wilderness

MAP QUIZ #3 DUE MARCH 28 MIDNIGHT
CHALCOLITHIC BRONZE IRON AGES
CANAAN & ISRAEL

Beth Shean
Megiddo
Tirzah
Shechem
Gezer
Beth Shemesh (Sorek Valley)
Lachish
Dothan
Arad
En Gedi
Bethel
Jezreel
Gath
Zoar
Timnah (Sorek V.)
Acco (Akko, Acre)
Nahariyah
Abila
Dor
Dibon
Azekah

Laish (Dan)
Hazor
Ashkelon
Hamath Gader
Ashdod
Kiriath-jearim
Taanach
Zoar
Hebron
Mareshah
Gerar
Heshbon
En Gedi
Bethlehem
Aroer
Rabbath-Ammon
Gaza
Chinnereth
Debir (Tel Rabud)
Shiloh
Gibeah

Ai
Jerusalem
Mizpah (Mizpeh)
Pella
Abel Beth-Maacah
Yavneh
Bab edh-Dhra
Yarmuth (Jarmuth)
Beersheba
Aphek (E of Joppa)
Succoth (Deir 'Alla)
Ashdod
Lachish
Samaria
Kedesh
Ekron
Gibeon
Joppa
Jericho
Ibleam
Yoqneam (Jokneam)

MAP QUIZ #4 DUE APRIL 17

NEW TESTAMENT ISRAEL - PALESTINE HELLENISTIC-HASMONEAN-ROMAN BYZANTINE

Abila (nr Yarmuk River)	Machaerus	Tiberias
Jamnia	Scythopolis (Beth Shean)	Mt. Gerizim
Tyre	Antipatris	Caesarea Philippi (Paneas)
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 MAY 3

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

- JAN 21** **Introduction to Course & to Biblical Archaeology**
The Birth of a Discipline; Development of Methodology
HBA: 29-32
Archaeology & Biblical Studies
Science & Art: Two Fields Converging and Diverging **BSOT:39-46**
- 28** **Geographical Overview of Israel – Palestine** **BSOT:5-38**
Least Among the Nations — A Well-Watered Land
HBA: 12-24
Geographical Overview of Egypt & Mesopotamia
“The Gift of the Nile” and the Territorial Origins of the Patriarchs
HBA: 3-11; Read also articles on Geography of Egypt & Mesopotamia
- FEB 4** **Beginnings of Civilization: Neolithic and Chalcolithic Periods**
Agricultural Revolution and the Advent of Religious Cultures in the ANE
HBA: 33-35; Read online articles on the Neolithic and Chalcolithic Periods
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 Early Bronze Age
- 8** **MAP QUIZ #1 DUE midnight**
- 11** **Literary Traditions: Religious, Political--Historical, Economic** **BSOT:91-125**
Emergence of Writing Systems and the Development of Literary Traditions
Genesis vs. ANE Creation Mythology **Read Genesis 1-3**
Comparisons and Contrasts; Modern Approaches to Earth Beginnings
- 16** **MARDI GRAS – NO CLASSES**
- 18** **Sacrificial Systems in the Ancient Near East**
Worship Systems in the ANE Read Leviticus 1-27 **BSOT:333-390**
Read: **ZPEB 5:194-211 “Sacrifice and Offerings” *** copy on Blackboard**
The Israelite Holy Days Calendar Read handout +
“Calendar(s)” in **ZPEB** and **ABD ***** **BSOT:456-467**
*****ZPEB = Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible**
*****ABD = Anchor Bible Dictionary**
- 27** **Middle Bronze Age in the ANE: Setting of the Biblical Patriarchs**
The Flourishing of Urban Canaanite Culture
The Hyksos in Egypt
HBA: 41-51 Genesis 12-50 BSOT:187-193
- FEB 28** **MAP QUIZ #2 DUE midnight**

- MAR 4** **Patriarchal Customs and Religious Practices**

“Our forefathers were wandering Aramaeans
The Political Setting of the Exodus from Egypt
“There arose a Pharaoh who know not Joseph
HBA: 52-62 Exodus 1-11 BSOT: 194-200; 253-271

MAR 6 SECTIONAL TEST #1
DUE BY SATURDAY Night 1159p

- 11 **The Exodus from Egypt and the Journey to Sinai**
From the Sea to Mountain Majesty
HBA: 63-74 Exodus 12-21
Conquest and Settlement of the Promised Land
Biblical, Archaeological, and Historical data
HBA: 75-88 Numbers 1,9-26,31-35; Joshua 1-24 BSOT: 201-207

MAR 14-20 SPRING BREAK

- 25 **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
- 2 **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

MAR 26 MAP QUIZ #3 DUE FRIDAY MIDNIGHT

- APR 1 **Samuel, Saul, & David (cont.) BSOT:208-215; 272-278**
The United Monarchy
Glorious Kingdom but Seeds of Discontent
HBA: 102-114 2 Samuel 1-12, 1 Kings 1-11

APR 7 SECTIONAL TEST #2 DUE WEDNESDAY MIDNIGHT

- 8 **Divided Kingdom Period To the Fall of Samaria BSOT:216-229; 279-298**
“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
The Judahite Kingdom 2 Kings 18-25 From Hope to Despair
HBA: 142-157 BSOT: 299-319
- 15 **Restoration & Prospects for the Kingdom**
“Now in the first year of King Cyrus . . . BSOT: 230-243
HBA: 158-173 2 Chronicles 36 - Ezra & Nehemiah
Late Persian & Hellenistic Periods Transformation
Temple State, Land Grants, & the Fragmentation of Jewish Religious Life
BSOT: 244-252; 320-332

APR 17 MAP QUIZ #4 DUE MIDNIGHT

APR 22 In the Days of Herod & Rome
HBA: 174-201 Read Dead Sea Scrolls handouts
Jesus in Galilee: Cultural & Geographical Setting
“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”
HBA: 207-235 Matthew 1-20

29 Jesus in Jerusalem: Cultural & Geographical Setting
“My House shall be called a House of Prayer”
HBA: 223-235 Matthew 16-2
The Death and Resurrection of Jesus
“This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”
Matthew 21-28; Luke 19-24

MAY 3 MAP QUIZ #5 DUE MIDNIGHT

MAY 6 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

MAY 7 **PAPERS & PROJECTS DUE MIDNIGHT FRIDAY**

MAY 14 FINAL EXAM ONLINE DUE 11:59 PM THURSDAY

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

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aharoni, Y. *The Archaeology of the Land of Israel*. Trans. Anson Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982.
- _____. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1979.
- Aharoni, Y. and Avi-Yonah, M. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. NY: Macmillan, 1968, rev. 1977. 3rd Revised Edition, A. Rainey, Z. Safrai, 1991.
- Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.
- Avi-Yonah, Michael. *The Holy Land: From the Persian to the Arab Conquest (536 BC-AD 640)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966.
- Avi-Yonah, Michael and Stern, Ephraim ed. *Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavation in the Holy Land*, 4 vols, Jerusalem: Massada Press, 1975.
- Baez Camargo, Gonzalo. *Archaeological Commentary on the Bible*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1984.
- Baly, Dennis. *The Geography of the Bible*. NY: Harper, 1957.
- Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.
- Biran, Abraham, ed. *Temples and High Places in Biblical Times*. Jerusalem: Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, 1981.
- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.
- Bruce, F.F. *Israel and the Nations*. Grand Rapids: W.B.Eerdmans, 1969. Rev 1998.
- Cleave, Richard. Pictorial Archive: ANE History; *Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.
- Craigie, Peter. *Ugarit and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
- Dothan, Trude. *The Philistines and Their Material Culture*. NY: Yale, 1981.
- Dothan, M. and T. *The Sea Peoples*. Jerusalem: IES, 1992.
- The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*. (rev. ed.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. Rev. 1999.
- Finegan, Jack. *Archaeological History of the Ancient Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1979.
- _____. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Life of Jesus and the Beginning of the Early Church*. Princeton: University Press, 1969,
- _____. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. Boulder, COL Westview Press, 1981.
- Finkelstein, Israel. *The Archaeology of the Israelite Settlement*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1989.
- Gardiner, Sir Alan. *Egypt of the Pharaohs*. Oxford: University Press, 1961.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.
- 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 Acad., 2018.
- Hallo, W.W. and Simpson, W.K. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.
- Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.
- Hoerth, A. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker, 1998.
- Hoerth, A.; G. Mattingly; and E. Yamauchi; eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Hoerth, Alfred and McRay, John and. *Bible Archaeology: An Exploration of the History And Culture of Early Civilizations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Bppks, 2006.
- Hoffmeier, James K. *Ancient Israel in Sinai: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Wilderness Tradition*. Oxford: University Press, 2011.
- _____. *The Archaeology of the Bible*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2008.

- _____. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*. RevEd. Oxford: University Press, 1999.
- The Illustrated Bible Dictionary**. NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.
- Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014.
- Kenyon, Kathleen. **Archaeology in the Holy Lands**. NY: Nelson (reprinted), 1960, 1985.
- Kitchen, Kenneth A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Kramer, Samuel Noah, ed. **Mythologies of the Ancient World**. Garden City: Doubleday, 1961.
- Lloyd, Seton. **The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: From the Stone Age to the Persian Conquest**. London: Thames & Hudson, 1978.
- Longman, Tremper III and John Walton. *The Lost World of the Flood: Mythology, Theology, and the Deluge Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2018.
- McRay, John. **Archaeology and the New Testament**. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Mazar, Amihai. **Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.** Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
- Moorey, Roger. **Excavation in Palestine**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
- Negev, Avraham, ed. **Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Lands**. Jerusalem: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1972.
- Olmstead, A.T. **History of the Assyrian Empire**. Chicago: University Press, 1960
- _____. **History of the Persian Empire**. Chicago: University Press, 1959.
- Pfeiffer, Charles, ed. **The Bible Atlas**. (rev. ed.) Nashville: Broadman, 1979.
- Pritchard, James, ed. **Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament**, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.
- _____. **The Ancient Near East**, vols 1 and 2: **Anthology of Texts and Pictures**, 1958, 1975.
- Rainey, Anson and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.
- Redford, Donald. **Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times**. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1992.
- Stiebing, William. **Uncovering the Past: A History of Archaeology**. Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1993.
- Unger, Merrill, **Archaeology of the New Testament**. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962.
- _____. **Archaeology of the Old Testament**. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954.
- Vanderkam, James. **The Dead Sea Scrolls Today**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. **The World of the Bible**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- Vaux, Roland de. **Ancient Israel**. vol. 1: Social Institutions: vol. 2: Religious Institutions. NY: McGraw-Hill, 1961.
- Vermes, Geza. **The Dead Sea Scrolls: Qumran in Perspective**. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977, 1981.
- Walton, John. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.
- _____. *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
- _____. *The Lost World of the Israelite Conquest: Covenant, Retribution, and the Fate of the Canaanites*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017.
- Walton, John and Craig S. Keener. *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible: Bringing to Life the Ancient World of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.
- Walton, John; Victor Matthews; Mark Chavalas. **The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament**. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2000.

Wilson, John A. *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*. Chicago: University Press, 1951.
Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: University Press, 1973.
Wright, G. Ernest. *Biblical Archaeology*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1962, 1974.
Yamauchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land

eds. E. Stern, et al. Simon and Schuster, 1992.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Archaeology in the Near East.

eds. E. Meyers, et al. Oxford, 1997.

Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the New Testament.

Edited by Clinton A. Arnold. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the Old Testament.

Edited by John Walton. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERIODS IN ISRAEL / PALESTINE

?????-10,000	Paleolithic - Mesolithic
10,000-8500	Mesolithic - Natufian (?)
c.8500-4300	Neolithic
4300-3300	Chalcolithic
3300-2300	Early Bronze
{2300-2000}	Intermediate Bronze (EBIV/MBIA)}
2300-1550	Middle Bronze
1550-1200	Late Bronze
1200-1000	Iron I
1000-586	Iron II
586-332	Persian (Iron III)
332-63 (37)	Hellenistic/Hasmonean
63 (37)BC-70AD	Herodian (Roman I)
70-324	Roman
324-640	Byzantine
640-1099	Early Arab/Moslem
1099-1291	Crusader
1291-1917	Late Moslem / Arab (Mamlukes - Turkish)
1917-1948	British Mandate
1948-PRESENT	State of Israel (& Palestine)

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, 1853-54) & 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 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. Khirbet 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. Jerusalem – Jewish Quarter excavations under **Benjamin Mazar et al** begins with South wall of Temple Mount in Jerusalem after 1967 War.
4. Gezer (**G.E. Wright, William Dever** - Hebrew Union College; Univ. Arizona))
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. Present — Scores of major and minor sites are excavated yearly.

For 2020 see **BAR** January/February 2020 issue.

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)	Dor	Yavneh/Jamnia
Jerusalem	Tiberias	Yodefat (Jotapata)
Abel Beth maacah	Dan	Beth Shemesh
Wadi Mujib Project	Abila	Apollonia
Plains of Moab Project	Megiddo	Chinnereth
Nebi Samuel & el-Burj	Tel Rehov	Tel Burna (Libnah)
Tel es-Safi (Gath)	Tel Gezer (3)	Tel Zeitah
Tel Qeiyafa (Sha'araim?)	Pella	Hippus/Susita
Abel Beth-Maacah	Cana of Galilee	Azekah
Lachish	Magdala	Tel Huqoq

