WP-06 HISTORY

Archaeology Corroborates the Biblical Record

STATEMENT

Archaeology repeatedly confirms the people, places and events described in the Bible, including many once dismissed by critics as fictional.

Read time **2 min** Sources & resources **4** Series **History**

01 ABSTRACT

The Bible makes thousands of specific, checkable claims about kings, cities, customs and geography. Archaeology cannot prove a spiritual claim, but it can test whether the historical setting is accurate. A text that gets verifiable details right earns credibility on the rest. This paper lists representative discoveries and addresses areas where evidence is still debated.

02 EVIDENCE

OBSERVATION	DATA & SOURCE	CONFIDENCE
Tel Dan Stele (1993)	A 9th-century BC inscription that mentions the “House of David,” the first reference to King David outside the Bible. Critics had argued David was legendary.	HIGH
Merneptah Stele (c. 1208 BC)	An Egyptian victory monument naming “Israel” as a people in Canaan.	HIGH
Hezekiah’s Tunnel & Siloam Inscription	The water tunnel described in 2 Kings 20:20 still exists under Jerusalem, with an 8th-century BC inscription describing its construction.	HIGH
Sennacherib’s Prism	The Assyrian king’s own record of his campaign against Judah names Hezekiah and describes besieging Jerusalem without claiming its capture, matching 2 Kings 18–19.	HIGH
Cyrus Cylinder	Records Cyrus the Great’s policy of returning exiled peoples to their homelands, consistent with Ezra 1.	HIGH
Pilate Stone (1961)	An inscription at Caesarea naming Pontius Pilate as prefect of Judea.	HIGH
Caiaphas Ossuary (1990)	A burial box inscribed with the name of the high priest who presided at Jesus’ trial.	MODERATE
Pools of Siloam & Bethesda	Both pools described in John’s Gospel were excavated, including Bethesda’s five porches (John 5:2), once thought to be invented.	HIGH

High = directly measured or widely accepted across worldviews. **Moderate** = well-supported, with recognized scholarly debate. **Interpretive** = consistent with the text, but depends on how the passage is read.

03 OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

OBJECTION

There is no direct archaeological evidence for the Exodus.

RESPONSE

Absence of evidence for a nomadic people in a desert is expected; nomads leave little behind. Dating debates (for example at Jericho, where Kenyon and Wood disagree) remain open. Not having found something is different from finding evidence against it.

OBJECTION

The Bible was written later to fit the history.

RESPONSE

Many confirmations involve obscure details such as officials' names, titles and local customs that a much later writer would be unlikely to know.

OBJECTION

Archaeology only confirms places, not miracles.

RESPONSE

Correct. Archaeology establishes reliability as a historical source. A source that is accurate where it can be checked deserves a fair hearing where it can't.

04 CONCLUSION

Thousands of finds fit the biblical picture. Rabbi and archaeologist Nelson Glueck stated that no archaeological discovery had ever controverted a biblical reference. Where questions remain, they are gaps in the record, not contradictions of it.

05 FURTHER RESOURCES

VIDEO **Archaeology and the Bible, Part 1** Dr. Michael Hasel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nBrZL2jQz8

VIDEO **Top Biblical Archaeology Discoveries** DLM Christian Lifestyle
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvQFe5uDWxk

VIDEO **Significant Biblical Archaeology Discoveries** Destinations of History
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wntG3FoN1H8

VIDEO **The BEST FACTS: Archaeologically Accurate** GCA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kpmcUjK-UA&list=PL59Qh4Scw7PebBz1Q-ixu5G7RPxCLWMt1&index=7