




NEW MUSEUM OFFERS AN INTERACTIVE JOURNEY INTO THE BIBLICAL WORLD

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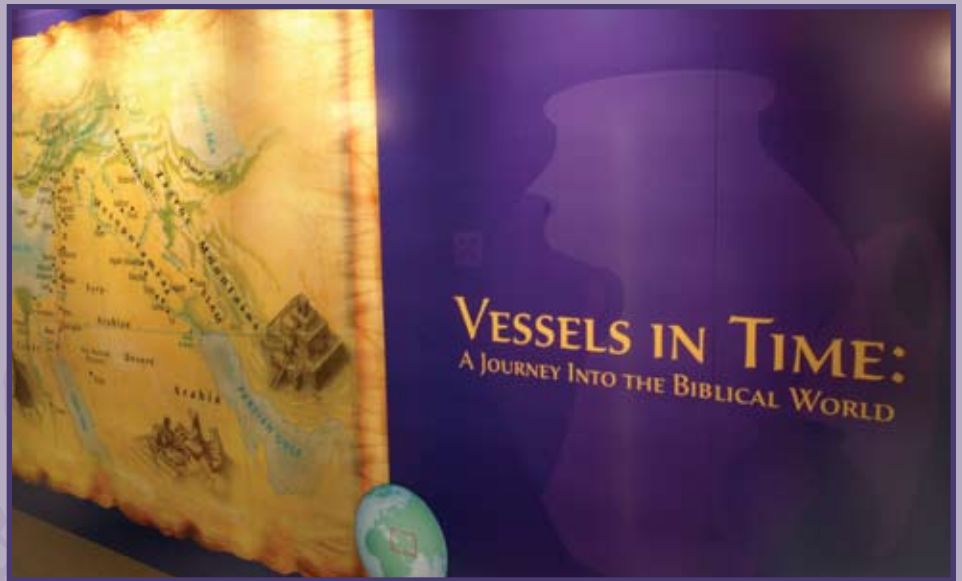
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The grand opening of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum introduces several firsts in the southeastern United States. For the first time one of the largest teaching collections of ancient Near Eastern artifacts in North America is on public exhibit. Dr. William G. Dever, America's foremost Near Eastern archaeologist, placed the collection at Southern Adventist University in January 2000. Over two hundred artifacts and objects are exhibited to the background of a stunning display of over 220

photographs, illustrations, maps, and original artwork that set the objects in context and show how they were used in ancient times.

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It is the first time that a state-of-the-art museum focuses on the ancient Near East – the cradle of civilization – from a biblical perspective. The strength of the collection is the complete sequences of pottery forms from the Early Bronze Age, the time of the patriarchs, all the way through the Byzantine period. That means that through 3,500 years of history the development and changes in lamps, dipper juglets, bowls, and other forms are traced. There are also unique artifacts, such as letters written in cuneiform from Ur in Mesopotamia, a clay brick from Babylon inscribed with Nebuchadnezzar's name, weapons of copper and iron, and even a clay chariot that is over 4,200 years old. Together they connect the visitor tangibly to a world that many have only read about in the Bible.

It is the first time that certain educational opportunities are made available to the public. "Our goal is to make the museum available not only to students on this campus and as a founda-

tion for our B.A. program in archaeology, but to the wider community," said Hasel. "The museum serves the southeastern United States as an important cultural resource that aims to educate and communicate the rich cultural history of the ancient Near East which serves as the foundation for western civilization. Through scheduled lectures and changing exhibits we hope that as many as possible will visit the campus and be introduced to this vital discipline."

Professor William G. Dever stated in his public address at the grand opening, "Over the course of my career I have had the opportunity to consult for many museums around the world. This museum is exceptional because it combines the latest in museum design with a truly educational experience. The visitor will come many times and still learn more with each visit."

Today the dream has become a reality as the public is invited to experience: *Vessels in Time: A Journey into the Biblical World*.

MUSEUM MAKES HEADLINES AND WINS AWARD

The opening of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum brought visitors from around the country and made local and international news. Interviews were scheduled on local radio and television stations and reporters came from leading magazines. *Chattanooga City Scope Magazine* (Spring, 2005) described the exhibit "an informative beginning to an amazing journey." The flagship magazine of the church, the *Adventist Review* (January 27, 2005) pronounced it "a technically strong and accessible exhibit that never loses sight of its goal to make the life ways of the biblical world understandable to contemporary people."

On March 22, the museum received an award of excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums. The award reads: "2004 Commendation Presented to the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum in recognition of superlative achievement for the Permanent Exhibition – *Vessels in Time: A Journey into the Biblical World*."

Dr. Ron Clouzet, Dean of the School of Religion, accepted the award on behalf of the museum. Helen Durichek, Associate Vice-President of Financial Administration, and Ruthie Gray, Director of Marketing and University Relations also attended the event which was held in Clarksville, Tennessee. The association presents awards

as part of its annual convention. "This is a high honor for our museum to be recognized by this group of peers," stated Gray in a news release.

The museum maintains active membership in the Tennessee Association of Museums and the American Association of Museums.



EXCAVATING HAZOR, LARGEST BIBLICAL SITE IN ISRAEL

Walking in the footsteps of Solomon and Ahab is one thing, but to uncover one of their ancient cities adds a new perspective to the expression to reach out and touch the past. This past summer, for the second season students and faculty participated excavated in Israel from, June 20-August 3. It has been our goal to work in Israel for several years. Collaborating with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the largest Old Testament site in Israel was a thrilling experience and brought far-reaching rewards for training archaeology students at Southern Adventist University, said Dr. Michael G. Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology.

The ancient site of Hazor served as the head of all those kingdoms according to the account in Joshua 11 which relates the destruction of the city and its king Jabin. A cuneiform tablet written in ancient Akkadian records that the king of the city was 'Ibni-Adu. The first part of the name is the equivalent to Jabin. The biblical description of "head of all those kingdoms" (Josh 11:10) fits the huge 200-acre site of the Canaanite period which was strategically part of a vast international trade network spanning to Mari and across to ancient Babylon. The city of Hazor is 10-20 times the size of any other contemporary city in Canaan and was by far the most important city of the second millennium BC in Israel, according to Amnon Ben-Tor the director of Hazor Excavations. Students working in this period uncovered enormous mud brick walls spanning 4-5 meter across and the remains of a palace. The Canaanite palace was completely destroyed in a conflagration reaching 1300 degrees C. Mudbricks and pottery were found melted.

Within the palace several statues were found in previous seasons with the heads and hands removed reminiscent of practices at other sites where gods were disabled after the defeat of a city.

Other students focused on the later Iron Age city. In front of the massive six-entry way gate dated to Solomon (1 Kgs 9:15), the city was expanded later under king Ahab. Here efforts

were made to clear away the Iron Age remains and continue to expand the huge biding or fortification system. Chris Chadwick, a senior archaeology major, worked for the full six-week season trying to get to the floor of the huge structure mud brick wall structure. Finally we reached the floor where the important pottery would reveal the date of the building. Currently it would seem that the date of the building was Middle Bronze, but we will have to wait until next season to be sure." One of the highlight small finds of the season was a jar stopper with two Egyptian seal impressions.

Students were engaged in each facet of the work which included early mornings out at the site, pottery washing, processing artifacts, and recording. The field school included lectures on Monday and Wednesday, tours on the weekends to other excavation sites throughout Israel, and pertinent reading. "It was difficult work," said Anna Lee Beagle, sophomore archaeology major, "But it was well worth it. What an incredible experience to see biblical history uncovered before your very eyes!" Plans are being laid for continued work at this leading biblical site in Israel.

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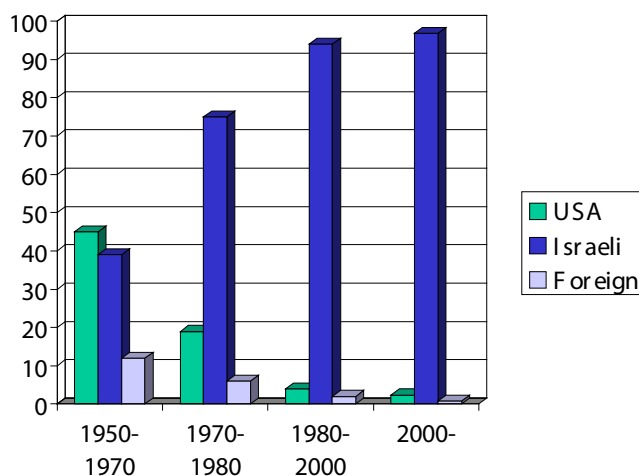


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WHERE IS ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE LANDS OF THE BIBLE HEADING TODAY?

Since the dawn of archaeological research in the ancient Near East in 1798, no other discipline has provided more new data and insights on the people, places, and events of biblical history. This ranges from uncovering the ancient gates of Babylon and discovering Nebuchadnezzar's name on thousands of bricks to excavations in Egypt where it was found that Shishak did campaign against Judah and Israel as commemorated in his reliefs at Karnak. Persepolis revealed a sophisticated palace of wealth and culture unsurpassed in the first millennium. Archaeology, by seeking to understand ancient cultures and life-ways through a study of these material remains, brings us face to face with the past and ultimately leads us to realize how we have become what we are today.

American archaeologists focusing on the ancient Near East played a major role in the development of archaeology in that part of the world, often out of their devotion to the Bible. The 1950s and 1960s experienced the heyday of the biblical archaeology movement. Scholars were trained at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and Chicago as well as seminaries where a strong emphasis was placed on biblical scholarship along side archaeological research. Led by such influential thinkers as William F. Albright, Nelson Glueck, and G. Ernest Wright, American institutions led the way in archaeological excavations in Israel. They were engaged in uncovering the monumental gates of Solomon and excavating major biblical cities like Megiddo, Shechem, and Gibeon, and Gibeah. As the graph shows from 1950-1970, in two decades, there were nearly



45 sponsored excavations by American teams from such diverse institutions as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Drew-McCormick, Concordia Lutheran, and other religious institutions. It was in this vein that William F. Albright wrote in 1964, "America is in process of becoming the academic center of research in this field."

But in the 1970s the general demise of what had traditionally been hailed as biblical archaeology caused several seminaries and other institutions to lessen support for the discipline. Several professorial positions closed and others were not filled after retirements. In the last fifteen years the postmodern agenda in biblical scholarship has been assailing the historical core of the Bible.

Dr. Dever in a recent book argues vehemently against these postmodern trends, not in an attempt to rescue the Bible, but as an archaeologist sifting through all the available data archaeology has produced over the last 200 years. He writes in his recent book *What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It?* (Eerdmans, 2001): "The revisionists tend to distort or even ignore what many now see as the primary source for writing the history of ancient Israel, namely modern archaeology."

All of this has had a major impact on archaeological funding and research in the Middle East. American influence in Near Eastern archaeology has waned. Last year, after three years of conflict in Iraq, only one American sponsored excavation remained in Israel. Israelis now dominate a discipline which Americans and other foreign interests played such a major part in establishing. Southern Adventist University, is poised with these new resources to make a lasting contribution to the questions that are driving biblical scholarship today. To quote Dever again, "If Biblical circles do not undergird Biblical archaeology, who will?"



HASEL IN CYPRUS AS FULBRIGHT SENIOR SCHOLAR

From January to August, 2005, Dr. Michael G. Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Curator of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum spent his sabbatical in the Republic of Cyprus. Hasel was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant from the U.S. Department of State. His project was to conduct research and write a book entitled: *The Name Equation: Designating Eastern Mediterranean Peoples, Places, and Polities in New Kingdom Egypt at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) in Nicosia.*

The results of the study will have significant implications for defining how the Egyptians described and defined peoples and places such

as the Hittites, Canaan, the Philistines, Moab, Israel, and Alasiya (Cyprus) as well as specific cities within those territories. Until the 1970s the identification of a majority of these designations enjoyed wide acceptance among Near Eastern philologists, historians, and archaeologists. In recent years the scholarly consensus has changed. Many questions have been raised. Were these intended as ethnic, sociocultural, or geographical designations?

Can we be certain that the authors of these texts knew what they were recording? How accurate were they and how can their information be correlated with the archaeological data? The answers to these questions have a direct bearing on the accuracy of geographical descriptions found in the Old Testament.

The Fulbright grant also allowed for research in neighboring countries including Egypt

(American Research Center in Egypt), Germany (Institute of Archaeology, University of Munich), and an invitation to be a lecturer and consultant at the Institute of Archaeology, Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel.

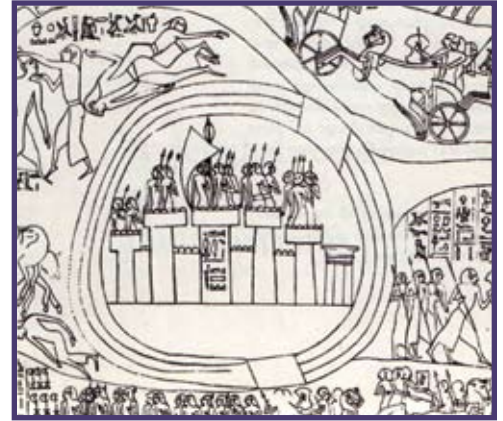
Dr. Hasel presented the preliminary results for the CAARI Lecture Series in Nicosia. After demonstrating that the Egyptians were remarkably accurate in their definition of these peoples and places, he went on to focus specifically on one aspect of his study – the identity of Cyprus in Egyptian texts. Colleagues from Cyprus, Israel, the European continent, and the United States were present as well as representatives from the US Embassy among others.

“Dr. Hasel’s research as the Fulbright Senior Scholar this year has definitively answered the question of the identity of Cyprus for the scholarly community and his work will undoubtedly be referenced for years to come,” said Dr. Thomas Davis, the director of CAARI. “It has been a personal pleasure for myself and the researchers at CAARI to have Dr. Hasel with us.”

Presentations are also planned for the annual meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Philadelphia, the American Oriental Society, and the American Research Center in Egypt. A final publication under the current title of the project is planned in book form.

“The experience to engage in this level of scholarship and interact with colleagues in Cyprus is has been very beneficial professionally and personally,” reflected Dr. Hasel. “Not only have we been able to raise awareness, but we have been able to plan for future collaboration.”

Dr. Thomas Davis, director of CAARI will be the first speaker for the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series on December 1.



Detail from a relief of the City of Kadesh being attacked by Ramses II.



Hasel family with Daniel Hadjittofi, executive director of the Cyprus Fulbright Commission

EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

The Institute of Archaeology is pleased to announce The Burton and Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation and Publication established with the following guidelines (excerpted from the endowment papers):

Archaeological fieldwork will be established by Southern Adventist University in the Middle East for the purpose of enhancing the understanding of the biblical world and the people, places, and events that shaped its history. The endowment may be used specifically for purchasing equipment and tools; renting vehicles or machinery; arranging for necessary excavation specialists and staff; procuring necessary government permits or concessions for excavation; processing and conservation of excavated material; and storage of excavated material pending further analysis.

Publication and dissemination of information are the essential outcome of archaeological excavation and research and must be carefully planned in advance. The endowment has been established to provide funding for quality archaeological publications. All publications receiving financial support from The Burton and Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation and Publication will indicate so in the publication. These publications may specifically fit into three categories:

- 1. Excavation Reports.** Preliminary and final reports of excavations sponsored by Southern Adventist University or other reports of existing excavations that are essential to the understanding of the ancient Near East and its relationship to the Bible.
- 2. Collected/Edited Volumes.** Occasional symposia which focus on specific problem areas relating to archaeological interpretation and its relationship to biblical studies. Scholars from various specialties who are committed to Scripture may be invited to participate in symposia with the understanding that such symposia may have a broader and stronger influence than an individually authored study. The endowment would be used for transportation costs, editing and publication costs, and to ensure that the publication is produced in a timely manner.
- 3. Books and Articles.** Research and publication costs for books and scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals contributing directly to the integration of archaeology and biblical studies.

The Institute of Archaeology expresses its gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Keppler and others who wish to contribute for their foresight in establishing an endowment that will ensure the future success of archaeological research focused on the ancient Near East.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(Committed Funds)



Some of our friends may consider this to be excellent time for a special cash major gift. Recently, congress changed the charitable deduction rules. Cash gifts for any purpose given between August 28 and December 31, 2005, are deductible up to double the normal charitable level. Cash gifts for the rest of 2005 will be generally deductible up to your full income.

For more information contact Carolyn Liers 423.236.2818 or Rob Raney 423.236.2781.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meetings

November 16-19, Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Museum Lecture Series

December 1, Ackerman Auditorium, Dr. Thomas W. Davis, Director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, "The Rise and Fall of Biblical Archaeology: Towards a New Paradigm." Illustrated Lecture.

Museum Lecture Series

February 16, Ackerman Auditorium, Dr. Thomas G. Merry, Captain, USN. "My Experience as Military Commanding Officer Over Babylon and Ur in Modern Iraq." Illustrated Lecture.

Museum Lecture Series

March 16, Dr. Michael G. Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University, "Hazor Excavating the 'Head of All Those Kingdoms'." Illustrated Lecture.



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