

# DIG

# SIGHT NEWSLETTER



## THE FOURTH EXPEDITION TO LACHISH, 2014

Southern Adventist University's Institute of Archaeology joined The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to co-direct excavations at Tel Lachish in southern Israel this past June and July. After the capital, Jerusalem, Lachish was the most prominent city of Judah. "We are investigating the continuing expansion of Judah after the time of David," said Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology and co-director of the project. "Very little is known from this early period. After excavating at Khirbet Qeiyafa over the last several years [biblical Shaarayim, 1 Sam. 17:52], a fortress that dates to the time of Saul and David, the next question is, how did the kingdom develop further?"

This was the second season of excavation



Excavation participant Christy Zinke excavating a Judean pillar-figurine in Area A at Tel Lachish. Photo Credit: *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

at Lachish. "In the 2013 season, we had begun to uncover the destruction of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, who invaded Judah in 586 B.C.," said Martin G. Klingbeil, associate director for the Institute of Archaeology and co-director of the project. "It was complete with several vessels from that period."

That area was expanded this summer when more than 130 participants from South America, North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa worked at Lachish. Students and staff came from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University, as well as a number of consortium institutions such as Helderberg College (South Africa), Universidad Adventista de Bolivia, Oakland University (Michigan), and Virginia Commonwealth University. It is one of the two largest excavation projects in Israel.

The goal was to return and expand the area in order to give wide exposure to the Level II Babylonian destruction. Storage jars and other vessels within architectural units from that period were revealed in two more five-meter squares. In one corner of the room, a Judean pillar-figurine was found, associated by many scholars with the female goddess Asherah, who is mentioned 40 times in the Bible.

In the upper part of Area A, the earlier 701 B.C. destruction



Nestor Petruk, square supervisor and epigrapher, holding a Judean pillar-figurine found in Area A. Photo Credit: *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

of Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, was uncovered (2 Kgs. 18; Isa. 36-37). Known from previous excavations as Level III, the houses of this period were located immediately outside the palace courtyard. They were built in terraces descending toward the northeast corner of the site. The destruction level was dated by several LMLK jars found on the surface. In previous expeditions more than 400 LMLK storage

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Upper left, clockwise: Excavation participant Keirsta Mackey holding a jar handle stamped with a LMLK stamp seal impression, found in Area A; Southern Adventist University archaeology student Silvia Menjivar next to a complete, intact storage vessel she excavated in Area A; (left to right) David and Jonathan Klingbeil looking at a jar handle with a LMLK stamp seal impression held by project co-director, Michael G. Hasel; and an end-of-season aerial photo of Area A. Photo Credit: *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* (taken by Edward A. Appollis and Michael Dant).

jar handles were uncovered at Lachish, many dating specifically to King Hezekiah. The term “LMLK” in Hebrew means “for the king.” Two plausible theories exist for the function of these storage jars: (1) they were used to collect government taxes for the king, and (2) they contained emergency military rations during the short time leading to the sieges of Sennacherib, king of Assyria. Each house also had a Judean pillar-figurine. This raises interesting questions for the study of religion at Lachish in this period.

The most significant find in Area A from the same period was a series of seal impressions, called bullae, squeezed in clay. These were originally placed over string that held together a message written on parchment or papyrus. One bulla was found inside a small dipper juglet, and the other two were found while sifting the dirt around the juglet. In the late 1960s, during the excavations of Yohanan Aharoni, another juglet had been found just 20 meters away containing 17 bullae. Evidently, the officials living in this area had the practice of keeping the seal impressions in juglets as a kind of return receipt, proving that they had not only received them, but also had authority to read the letters. Two of our bullae were impressed by the identical seal, and one of them was broken in half and more difficult to read. “These ancient bullae are some of the most significant artifacts, because they often contain names of biblical persons and can tell us a great deal about the relationship between various cities,” Klingbeil said.

In Area B, a series of fortifications spanning the Late Bronze through the Iron Ages was exposed. In the western part of the area, a massive destruction dating to the Late Bronze Age was uncovered. Whole storage jars containing burnt grain were found. In one

square, a small, bronze striding figurine lay in a corner. He had a raised hand above his head in striking position and a shield in his other hand. He was identified as Reshef, one of the Canaanite gods mentioned in texts found at Ugarit in Syria. After cleaning, it was revealed that his headdress was covered in silver. A few days later, a pair of gold pendants was also uncovered. This period is well attested from earlier excavations at Tel Lachish. During British excavations in the 1930s, Fosse Temple was found at the base of this site, and Tel Aviv University discovered another temple north of the palace-fort. These buildings date to the early period of the judges before Israel had a king.

The major question posed by *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* concerns what happened following the establishment of kingship in Judah. In order to answer this question, excavations must reach Levels IV and V. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, is said to have refortified the city of Lachish (2 Chron. 11:5-12). Levels IV and V remain largely unknown, except for a few small exposed areas. “Finding and documenting Levels IV and V in a larger exposure will give us the missing link to the earlier history of Judah in the region,” Hasel said. “The expedition is poised to reach Level IV in Area A next year, and we are looking forward to that!”

The project will continue June 17 through July 31, 2015, as more secrets from this ancient city buried beneath the sands of time are uncovered. *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* invites you to join a growing number of institutions that, in mutual teamwork, are trying to uncover the answers to some of these research questions. For more information, visit [southern.edu/lachish](http://southern.edu/lachish). 🖋️

## MUSEUM CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a banquet dinner, followed by a special lecture by William G. Dever, Ph.D., on November 2 at Southern Adventist University. Named after the first Seventh-day Adventist to obtain a doctorate in archaeology, the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum opened in November 2004 with the establishment of the permanent exhibition, “Vessels in Time: A Journey into the Biblical World,” which showcases artifacts spanning the ancient Near East from the Early Bronze Age through the Byzantine period. During the last 10 years, the museum has produced two temporary exhibitions, “Faces of Power: Coins of the Biblical World” and “The Battle Over King David: Excavating the Fortress of Elah,” receiving the Tennessee Association of Museums’ “Award of Excellence” in 2008 and 2013, respectively.

The celebration highlighted key milestones over the last decade within the Institute of Archaeology, with particular focus upon the museum. Among the museum’s milestones are the acquisition of the William G. Dever Near Eastern Collection (the heart of the museum’s permanent exhibition), the museum’s opening in November 2004, the establishment a museum docent program, and two award-winning temporary exhibitions.



Museum docent Rita Vital being honored at the dinner banquet for her long-standing support of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and faithful docenting since the opening of the museum. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

In addition to a historical overview of the museum's accomplishments, the William G. Dever Research Library was also noted during the banquet dinner by underscoring the unwavering support and generosity of Ken and Cheryl Mathews toward the Institute of Archaeology in general, and the development of the William G. Dever Research Library in particular. Several docents, serving since the inception of the museum, were also honored. Among those were Hugo Christiansen, James and John Durichek, Rita Vital, and Reika Wygal. Other honorees noted during the dinner were Ward and Julia Swarner for their long-standing support of the Institute of Archaeology—including the use of their coin collection for the museum's first temporary exhibition, "Faces of Power: Coins of the Biblical World."

In addition to the museum and the Dever Research Library, the Institute of Archaeology's present excavation project at Tel Lachish, and past participation in the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project, were highlighted with the announcement of *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2—Excavation Report 2009–2013: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas B, C, D, E)*. This second volume on the excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa, authored by Yosef Garfinkel, Saar Ganor, and Michael G. Hasel (edited by Martin G. Klingbeil) is the second of eight total volumes to be published over the next several years. Containing

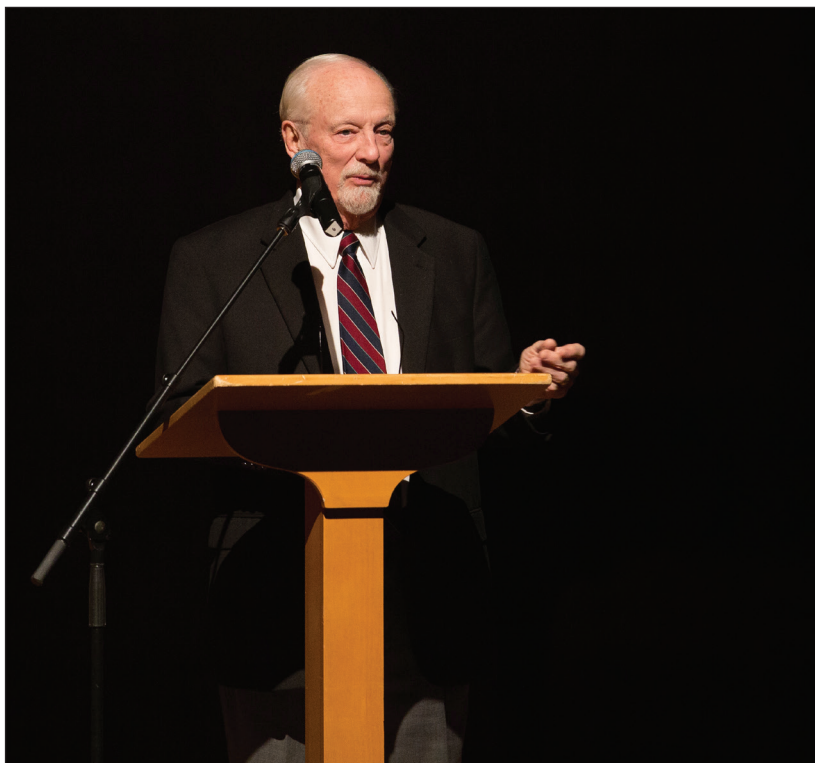


Volker Henning, associate vice president to Academic Administration at Southern Adventist University speaking with Dever after his evening lecture in Ackerman Auditorium on November 2. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

articles and analyses from 40 contributors, *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2* serves as a testament to the expeditious and scientific nature of the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project as a whole. As part of the evening festivities, two copies of this volume were presented. First, Dever and Pamela Gaber were presented a copy along with heartfelt appreciation for Dever's continuous support of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern. Second, Dorothy and Burton Keppler were presented a copy for their support through the endowment established in their name that made the publication of this monumental volume possible.

Following the banquet dinner, Dever, professor emeritus of Near Eastern archaeology and anthropology at the University of Arizona, ended the evening with a lecture, titled, "The Lives of Ordinary People in Ancient Israel." His talk surveyed the various aspects of everyday life from religion to social organization to recreational activities. Prior to his presentation, Dever fittingly and succinctly summarized his sentiments on the occasion of his fourth visit to Southern. Prefacing his lecture with his concern about where the discipline of Near Eastern archaeology is heading, Dever posed the question, "So what about the future?" After briefly pausing, Dever continued, "And then I come down here [Southern], and feel much better...much better. And that's because the program is flourishing."

The Institute of Archaeology—composed of excavations and publications, the museum, and the Dever Research Library—has been blessed over the years thanks to the support provided by staff, supporters, and participants each year. Future plans for the museum, as announced during the banquet dinner, involve a new temporary exhibition, "A World in Miniature: Creation, Cosmos, and Ecology on Seals from Biblical Times." This exhibition, set to run from November 17, 2015 through May 5, 2017, will be the museum's third temporary exhibition. ✍️



Professor William G. Dever speaking in Ackerman Auditorium at Southern Adventist University after the banquet dinner on November 2. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

# **Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2**

## **Excavation Report 2009-2013: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas B, C, D, E)**

**Yosef Garfinkel, Saar Ganor, and Michael G. Hasel**

**Edited by: Martin G. Klingbeil**



Institute of Archaeology  
Southern Adventist University



Israel Exploration  
Society



Institute of Archaeology  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

This final report analyzes the stratigraphy and architecture of four excavation areas at Khirbet Qeiyafa covering the 2009–2013 excavation seasons: Areas B, C, D, and E. Khirbet Qeiyafa presents, for the first time in the archaeology of the southern Levant, an Iron Age IIA fortified city in Judah, dated to ca. 1000 BCE, the time of King David. This data has far-reaching implications for the archaeology and history, as well as the biblical traditions relating to the rise of the biblical Kingdom of Judah.

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*Order Form*

**Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2**

**Excavation Report 2009-2013**

Yosef Garfinkel, Saar Ganor, and Michael G. Hasel

Edited by: Martin G. Klingbeil

674 pages, 21 x 31 cm, hard cover. 601 color illustrations and maps, 154 tables. ISBN 978-965-221-096-8  
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The Institute of Archaeology at Southern Adventist University is pleased to announce the publication of *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2—Excavation Report 2009-2013: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas B, C, D, E)*.<sup>1</sup> After more than two years of work on the second volume of the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavation reports, the completion and publication of this volume was officially announced in connection with the American School of Oriental Research annual meetings in San Diego, California last month. The volume contains contributions by 40 archaeologists and scholars from around the world and brings together the results of five years of excavations conducted at Khirbet Qeiyafa, biblical Sha'arayim, by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in collaboration with Southern Adventist University. The volume contains 704 pages (674 plus preliminary pages and appendices), 601 color illustrations and maps, and 154 tables. Section titles of the volume include "Part I: Introduction" (predominately covering methodological issues), "Part II: The Excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa" (the excavation results of Areas B, C, D, and E), "Part III Dating Aspects" (radiometric dating and other chronologic methods that clarify the stratigraphy of the site), "Part IV: Detailed Field Observations (bringing together the square supervisors' reports), and "Appendices" (lists of loci).

The publication of such a significant and technical volume by both Southern Adventist University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem represents a milestone in the excavation, teaching, and research activities of the Institute of Archaeology while also demonstrating a commitment to making the results of the yearly activities in the field available to the wider academic and public communities. Archaeological excavation projects have at times

been notorious for procrastinating publication responsibilities. In fact, it is not uncommon to have a gap of 10 to 20 years between the completion of fieldwork and the first of the final publication volumes. Through the combined efforts of excavators, authors, and editing team, it was possible to publish this volume only one year after the completion of excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa in 2013.

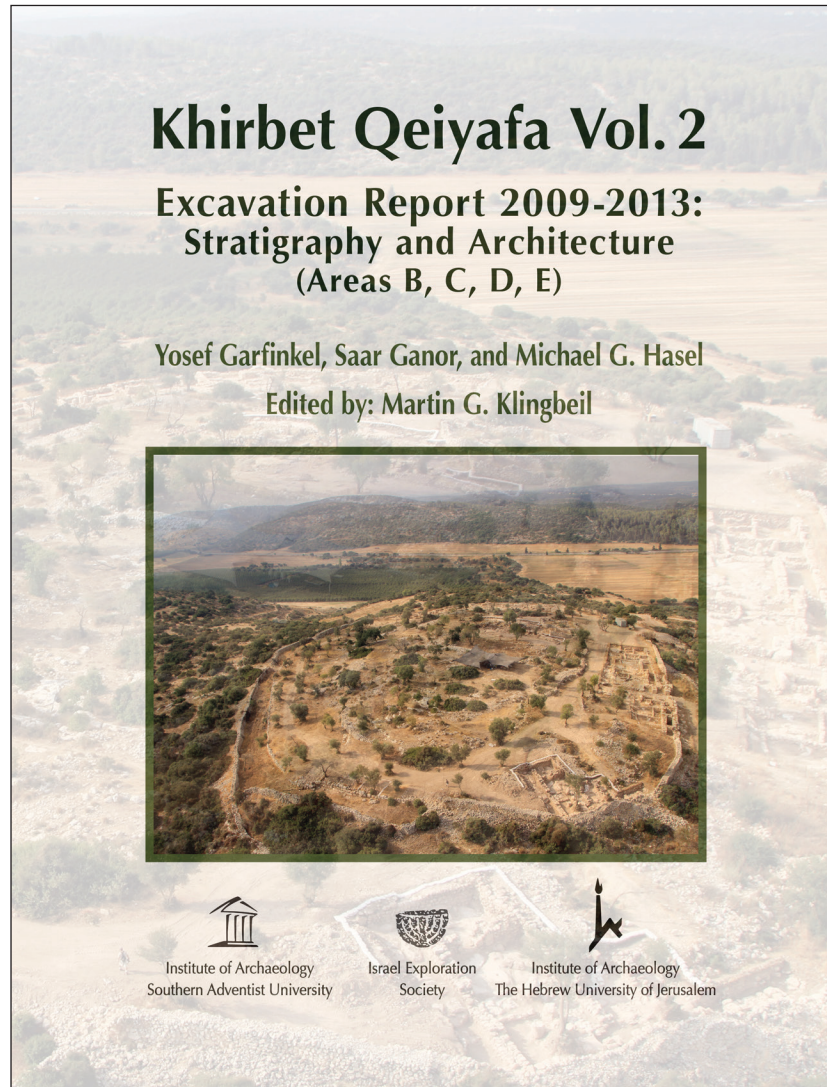
While *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2* will probably be the most extensive volume, another six volumes are planned, completing the series: *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 3—Excavation Report: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas A, F, W) and the Settlement History*; *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 4—*

*Excavation Report: Art and Cult, and Epigraphy*; *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 5—Excavation Report: The Coins*; *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 6—Excavation Report: The Iron Age Pottery*; *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 7—Excavation Report: The Stone Tools*; and *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 8—Excavation Report: Various Find Categories*

Southern Adventist University will be involved in the editing of *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 4* (with publication envisaged for 2016) and contribute to the other volumes, which will be edited by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

An endeavor of this magnitude is only made possible by working together as a team and through generous funding from donors who understand the importance of scientific publications. Research without publication remains a futile exercise. A big "thank you" goes to the community for their support of the teaching and research of biblical archaeology at Southern! Please see the

*Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2* flyer in this newsletter for a view of the cover, table of contents, and ordering information. ✍



Front cover of *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2*.

<sup>1</sup>Full citation: Garfinkel, Yosef, Saar Ganor, and Michael G. Hasel. *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2—Excavation Report 2009–2013: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas B, C, D, E)*. Edited by Martin G. Klingbeil. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society and Khirbet Qeiyafa Expedition, 2014.

## REMOVING THE BALK

An important moment in any archaeological excavation is the removal of “balk,” the stratified dirt “wall” that separates various squares from each other. It is like joining the puzzle pieces together and creating a bigger picture. One can then gain access to the whole architectural structure and broaden the interpretative perspective. This process can serve as a good metaphor for what the Institute of Archaeology initiated this year for the first time as an integral part of its excavation program.

But before I describe our initiative, let me track back in time. My first excavation experience was in 1998 as square supervisor at Tall al 'Umayri in Jordan. During that time, I was working at the Universidad Adventista de Bolivia (Bolivian Adventist University) in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and my monthly salary as an associate professor of Old Testament amounted to \$250—not exactly the type of income that allows you to travel to Israel and participate for six weeks in an excavation project. Nevertheless, the dream was there. I was looking for ways to make it possible; however, it only turned into reality once I received a generous grant from one of the sponsoring institutions of the dig. What I took back with me to my university after this experience was not just personal satisfaction, but a wealth of newly acquired knowledge, some pottery and objects that had been graciously released by the object registrar of the project, and the enthusiasm to further the study of biblical archaeology at my institution. The objects became part of a display in the university library and opened up a whole new world to my students and colleagues, bringing the Bible one step closer to their home in the Bolivian Andes.

Based on these experiences, and the desire to make archaeology more accessible to Adventist professors and students around the world, we have introduced the concept of consortium institutions as part of our policies for the *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish*. Per definition, a consortium institution is a Seventh-day Adventist accredited university or college that agrees to the requirements



Klingbeil (horizontal) and his square volunteers during the 1998 excavations at Tall al 'Umayri. Photo credit: Martin G. Klingbeil.



Left to right: Professor Michael Sokupa (Helderberg College, South Africa), Professor Teofilo Correra (Bolivian Adventist University), and Ademar Chavez Callejas (one of the two Bolivian Adventist University students) at Tel Lachish this past season. Photo Credit: *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* (taken by Edward A. Appollis).

specified by the directors of *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* and that will send professors and students as volunteers to be trained in archaeological fieldwork. Following a process of application to the directors, these institutions will be listed as consortium members in all scientific publications (e.g., articles, final field reports, department reports) and will receive recognition on all research applications and associations (including grant applications and scientific affiliations such as the American Schools of Oriental Research, National Academy of Sciences, National Endowment for the Humanities, etc.). Beyond this, there are further benefits that a consortium institution receives from sponsoring the excavation (such as, curriculum integration, representation, visibility, etc.).

However, conducting an excavation is a costly and logistically complex task, and it is exactly here where we want to provide an opportunity to “take down the balk.” A categorization system has been implemented which adjusts the contributions of a consortium institution in accordance with the economic reality of the country in which the institution operates, making the dream of excavating in Israel for professors and students much more accessible. The financial shortfall that this implies for the overall excavation budget is envisaged to be made up by grant donations. Our hope is that the constituency that has generously supported our excavation projects in the past will share in making this dream of training Adventist professors and students from around the world in archaeological fieldwork an ongoing reality.

Collaborations have already begun! We had three participants (one professor and two students) from the Bolivian Adventist University, besides another professor from Helderberg College, South Africa, who accompanied us this past summer at Lachish. 🍷

Martin G. Klingbeil, D.Litt.  
Associate Director, Institute of Archaeology



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER



There has been a great deal of activity during this past year at the Institute of Archaeology. In November, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. We had the privilege to honor several of our docents, who have volunteered and served tirelessly over much of

that period. William G. Dever and his wife, Pamela Gaber, were here to celebrate the occasion together with many guests. It is difficult to believe that an entire decade has passed.

Last summer marked the second season of our excavations at Tel Lachish, *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish*, involving 61 participants from Southern Adventist University and several international consortium schools including Helderberg College and the Adventist University of Bolivia. Next year we would like to expand our involvement of international institutions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which will give many the opportunity to learn and experience the world of the Bible in a first-hand way. This is an enriching experience for all involved and we look forward to continuing in 2015, from June 17 through July 31. We continue to raise substantial funds to support this international endeavor with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the second most important site in Judah after Jerusalem. Each season, \$150,000 is needed to cover the travel and expenses.

In fulfillment of our responsibilities for work at Khirbet Qeiyafa, we have been working diligently on final publications. Last November, after more than two and half years of hard work, we published *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2—Excavation Report 2009–2013: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas B, C, D, E)*. This scientific volume includes 40 international contributors and contains a total of 704 pages. We are at various stages of completing six more books in this series and appreciate your continued support.

Last November, Martin Klingbeil, D.Litt., and Daniel Perez were in Switzerland to negotiate a loan with the Bibel+Orient Museum of the University of Fribourg for a new museum exhibition, set to open in November 2015. "A World in Miniature: Creation, Cosmos, and Ecology on Seals from Biblical Times" will focus on ancient seals and their images and texts. We will also have an international symposium with leading scholars in November 2015 for the exhibit opening. That group will produce an exhibition catalog with articles on various objects. The cost to cover the design, artwork, graphics production, installation, marketing expenses, and the symposium is \$45,000. The exhibit will be at Southern Adventist University's Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum from November 17, 2015 to May 5, 2017.

We appreciate your continued support of these programs that are designed to build up our understanding of the world of the Bible so that we may pass that knowledge on to others. ✍

Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.  
Director, Institute of Archaeology

## I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Institute of Archaeology (donations will be applied to areas of greatest need)
- Archaeological Excavations Fund
- Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum
- William G. Dever Research Library

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- I'm not prepared to give at this time. However, I would like to commit to a financial gift in the area marked above. Please contact me for payment arrangements.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *THE FOURTH EXPEDITION TO LACHISH*

June 17 - July 31, 2015

Tel Lachish, Israel

For more information, visit: [southern.edu/lachish](http://southern.edu/lachish)

### LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES 2015-2016

Monday, October 12, 2015, 7 p.m.

Topic TBD

Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D. (Southern Adventist University)

Lynn Wood Hall Chapel, Southern Adventist University

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Topic TBD

Thomas Staubli, Th.D., Lic. sc.rel. (Fribourg University)

Lynn Wood Hall Chapel, Southern Adventist University

Monday, February 29, 2016, 7 p.m.

Topic TBD

Speaker TBD

Lynn Wood Hall Chapel, Southern Adventist University

Monday, March 28, 2016, 7 p.m.

Topic TBD

James W. Hardin, Ph.D. (Mississippi State University)

Lynn Wood Hall Chapel, Southern Adventist University

The museum lecture series is free and open to the public. For more information, or to view previous Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series presentations, visit [southern.edu/archaeologylectures](http://southern.edu/archaeologylectures)

### A WORLD IN MINIATURE: CREATION, COSMOS, AND ECOLOGY ON SEALS FROM BIBLICAL TIMES (SPECIAL EXHIBITION)

Grand Opening: November 17, 2015

Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum

Southern Adventist University

### INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: A WORLD IN MINIATURE: CREATION, COSMOS, AND ECOLOGY ON ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SEALS AND IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Monday, November 17, 2015, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Lynn Wood Hall Chapel, Southern Adventist University

### AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH (ASOR) ANNUAL MEETING

November 18 - 21, 2015

Atlanta, Georgia

### SOCIETY FOR BIBLICAL LITERATURE (SBL) ANNUAL MEETING

November 21 - 24, 2015

Atlanta, Georgia

## DIG SIGHT

Executive Editor: Michael G. Hasel    Institute of Archaeology  
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