

Evidence for Old Testament History: From Abraham's Ur to Daniel in Babylon

Are the historical narratives of the Old Testament a bunch of myths and legends concocted by Jews writing during the Babylonian exile, as 'sceptics' like Richard Dawkins say? What is the evidence for the historicity of history according to the Old Testament? This seminar will focus on presenting the internal and external evidence as it relates to the sweep of biblical history from Abraham's Ur to Daniel's Babylon. There will be practical applications for church teaching & preaching. Join us to see the latest archaeological evidence relating to the Old Testament!

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Talk #1: Richard Dawkins & Old Testament History

In his latest book, atheist Richard Dawkins levels four main criticisms against the historicity of the Old Testament. Are these criticisms sound? No. What are 'history' and 'archaeology', and what can archaeology contribute to our knowledge of Old Testament history?

I. Richard Dawkins & OT history

- A. Asserts: "biblical scholars don't take [the Old Testament] seriously as history." (48)
- B. Asserts that this or that OT story makes "an extraordinary claim requiring extraordinary evidence."
- C. Asserts an absence of extra-biblical evidence *for* the historical truth of certain OT stories.
- D. Asserts the existence of extra-biblical evidence *against* the historical truth of certain OT stories.

II. History, Archaeology, & the Minimalist vs. Maximalist Debate

Talk #2: Abraham in Historical Context

This talk introduces the geography of the ancient near east and the historical sweep of the Old Testament. It places Abraham in historical context.

- I. Introducing the Geography & History of the Old Testament

- II. Abraham & Ur

Talk #3: Historicity of the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land

This talk defends the historicity of the Exodus story, from Egypt to the Promised Land.

- I. Exodus

- II. Entering the Promised Land

Talk #4: The History of Israel from Sampson to Solomon

This talk looks at three major figures from the early history of Israel.

- I. Sampson

- II. King David

III. King Solomon

Talk #5: A House Divided: The Old Testament Era of the Divided Kingdom

This talk looks at some fascinating events from the Old Testament era of the divided kingdom.

I. The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III

II. Sennacherib's Invasion

III. Sennacherib & Jerusalem

Talk #6: Historicity of the Exile in Babylon

This talk explores the historicity of the fall of Jerusalem and the subsequent Jewish exile in Babylon, especially as related in the book of Daniel, as well as the prophesied return from exile.

I. The Fall of Jerusalem

II. Daniel

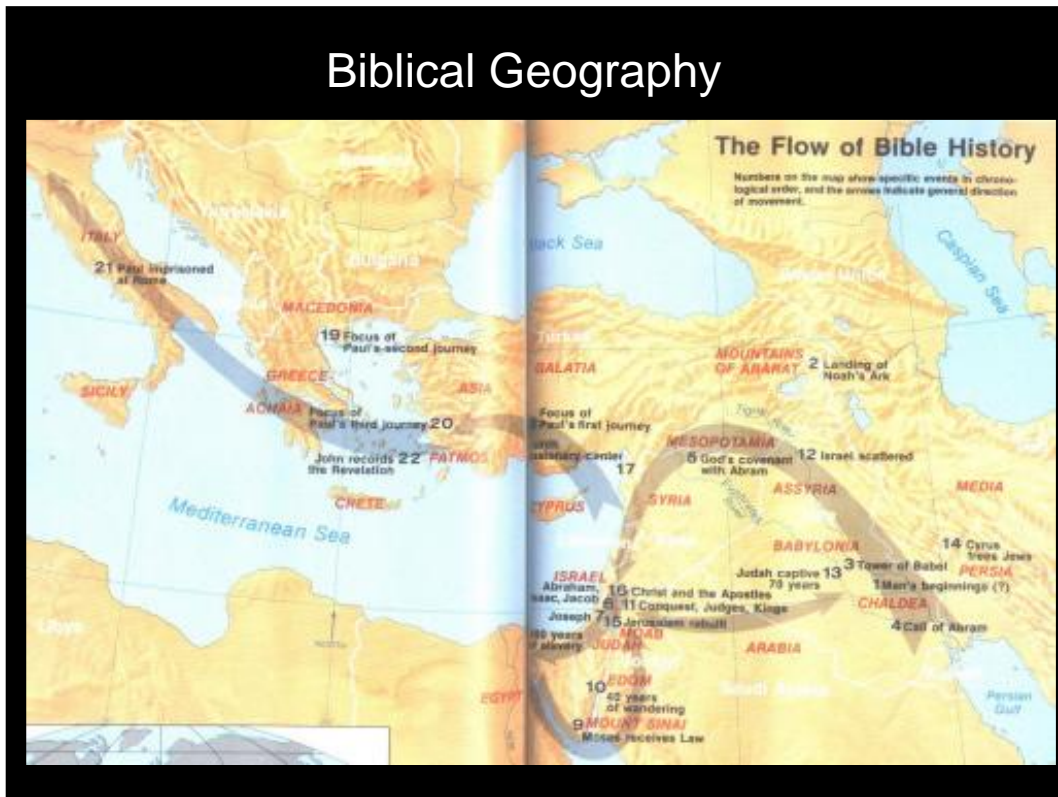
III. Return to the Promised Land

Talk #7: Responding to Dawkins' Doubts about the Old Testament And Some Lessons Learned

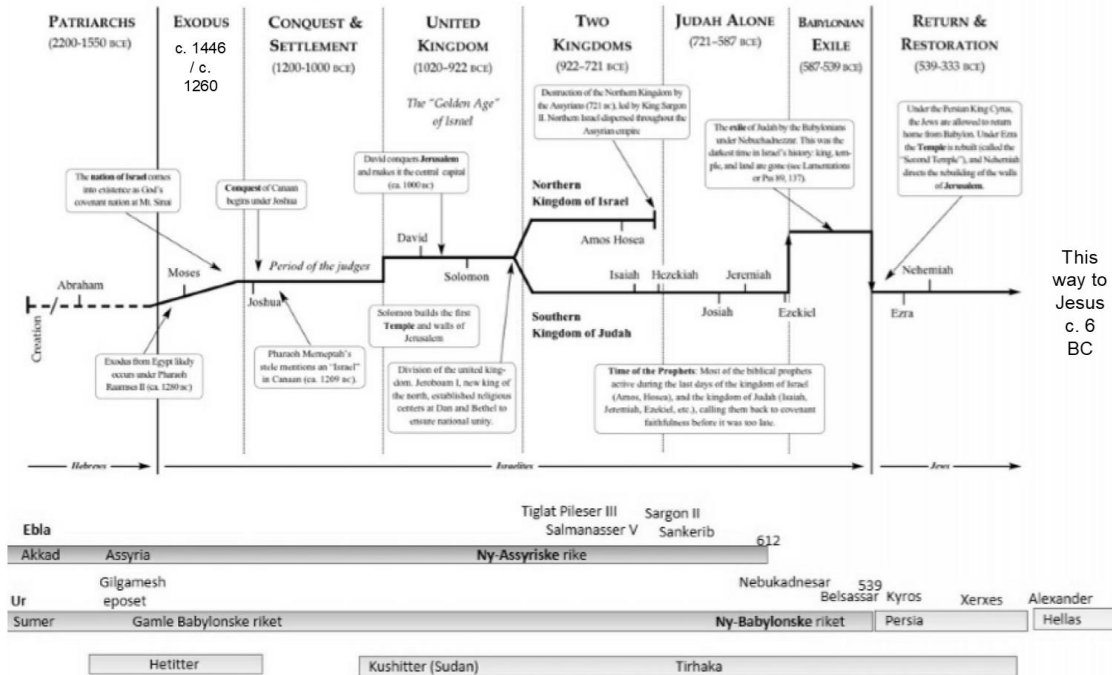
Returning to atheist Richard Dawkins' critique of the Old Testament, we learn some lessons from these talks that we can apply to our teaching and preaching.

I. Responding to Dawkins' Doubts About the Old Testament

II. Lessons for Teaching and Preaching



The Old Testament Story†



This way to Jesus
c. 6
BC

Suggested Resources:

Websites

Associates For Biblical Research www.biblearchaeology.org/

Biblical Archaeological Review www.bib-arch.org/

British Museum www.britishmuseum.org

Dating the Old Testament www.datingtheoldtestament.com

The Siege of Lachish www.odysseyadventures.ca/articles/lachish_slides/lachish_text.htm

Watch

Dan Hait, 'The Old Testament Told in Only 5 Minutes' <https://youtu.be/I400jhY2DF0>

Dr. Brant Pitre, 'The Resurrection of Jesus and the Sign of Jonah' <https://t.co/2h3JnsxUa6?amp=1>

'Christianity & Archaeology' www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjh9aRRWF1kYZIVCPc5iCcw

'Genesis' www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWhQcmE4OsKJWhntzA65up7t

'Exodus' www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjbiCIsVBzoXW4bFq72c3EJ

'King David' www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjGWuucxuxxZbCVnt1cVBsB

'King Solomon' www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWi3LUPuYOTbI_hCeIimepro

Online Papers

Clyde E. Billington, 'Goliath and the Exodus Giants: How Tall Were They?' www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/50/50-3/JETS_50-3_489-508_Billington.pdf

John J. Bimson, 'Archaeological Data and the Dating of the Patriarchs' https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/eptn_3_bimson.html

Daniel L. Bock, 'Recovering the Voice of Moses: The Genesis of Deuteronomy' *JETS* 44/3 (September 2001), www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/44/44-3/44-3-PP385-408_JETS.pdf

Edward Bridge, 'Who killed the kings? An ancient whodunnit' www.academia.edu/5037210/Who_killed_the_Kings_An_Ancient_Whodunnit_2_Kings_vs_the_Tel-Dan_Inscription

Science Daily, 'Discovery of official clay seals support existence of biblical kings David and Solomon, archaeologists say' www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141216100433.htm

Aaron Demsky, 'On Reading Ancient Inscriptions: The Monumental Aramaic Stele Fragment from Tel Dan' www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKewjr_qchZfdAhWFjqQKHfdsCIAQFjAAegQIABAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fjanes.scholasticahq.com%2Farticle%2F2398.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0IplNGDuKYAmOUqLpZvm5C

Michael Gleghorne, 'The Reliability of Kings and Chronicles' <https://probe.org/the-reliability-of-kings-and-chronicles/>

Ralph Hawkins & David Ben-Shlomo, 'Khirbet el-Mastarah: An Early Israelite Settlement?' www.academia.edu/37366009/Khirbet_el-Mastarah_An_Early_Israelite_Settlement

Martin Heide, 'The Domestication of the Camel: Biological, Archaeological and Inscriptional Evidence from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel and Arabia, and Literary Evidence from the Hebrew Bible' www.academia.edu/2065314/The_Domestication_of_the_Camel_Biological_Archaeological_and_Inscriptional_Evidence_from_Mesopotamia_Egypt_Israel_and_Arabia_and_Literary_Evidence_from_the_Hebrew_Bible_in_Ugarit_Forschungen_42_2010_Münster_Ugarit-Verlag_2011_331_384

Carol A. Hill, 'Making Sense of the Numbers of Genesis' <https://asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/2003/PSCF12-03Hill.pdf>

James K. Hoffmeier, 'Egyptian Religious Influences on the Early Hebrews' www.academia.edu/27020413/Egyptian_Religious_Influences_on_the_Early_Hebrews

———. 'Egyptologists and the Israelite Exodus from Egypt' www.academia.edu/12144234/Egyptologists_and_the_Israelite_Exodus_from_Egypt

———. 'The Evangelical Contribution to Understanding the (Early) History of Ancient Israel in Recent Scholarship' www.ibr-bbr.org/files/bbr/BBR_1997_06_Hoffmeier_EarlyIsrael.pdf

———. 'What Is The Biblical Date For The Exodus? A Response To Bryant Wood' www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/50/50-2/JETS_50-2_225-247_Hoffmeier.pdf

Seigfried H. Horn, 'Did Sennacherib Campaign Once Or Twice Against Hezekiah?' www.andrews.edu/library/car/cardigital/Periodicals/AUSS/1966-1/1966-1-01.pdf

Colin Humphreys, 'Can a Scientist Believe in Miracles?' http://jamesgregory.org.uk/downloads/Colin_Humphreys/lecture/colin_humphreys_lecture.pdf

K.A. Kitchen, 'From the Brickfields of Egypt' https://legacy.tyndalehouse.com/tynbul/Library/TynBull_1976_27_06_Kitchen_BrickfieldsOfEgypt.pdf

Robert J. Littman, Marta Lorenzon & J. Silverstein, 'With & without straw: How Israelite slaves made bricks' www.researchgate.net/publication/287786412_With_without_straw_How_Israelite_slaves_made_bricks

Tremper Longman III, 'Who wrote the book of Genesis?' <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/who-wrote-genesis>

Aren Maeir and Jeffrey Chadwick, 'Regarding Recent Suggestions Redating the Siloam Tunnel' www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/jerusalem/regarding-recent-suggestions-redating-the-siloam-tunnel/

Claude Mariottini, 'Hezekiah and Sennacherib' <https://claudemariottini.com/2009/05/25/hezekiah-and-sennacherib/>

Paul L. Maier, 'Biblical History: The Faulty Criticism of Biblical Historicity' www.equip.org/article/biblical-history-the-faulty-criticism-of-biblical-historicity/

John McRay, 'Archaeology and the Bible' www.4truth.net/site/c.hiKXLbPNLrF/b.2903877/k.7280/Archaeology_and_the_Bible.htm

Allen Millard, 'How Reliable Is Exodus?' http://fontes.lstc.edu/~rklein/Documents/how_reliable_is_exodus.htm

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Lawrence Mykytiuk, '53 People in the Bible Confirmed Archaeologically' www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/50-people-in-the-bible-confirmed-archaeologically/

Craig Olsen, 'How Old was Father Abraham? Re-examining the Patriarchal Lifespans in Light of Archaeology' www.academia.edu/33972456/How_Old_was_Father_Abraham_Re-examining_the_Patriarchal_Lifespans_in_Light_of_Archaeology

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John Roskoski, 'Between the Pillars: Revisiting "Samson and the House of Dagon"' www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2008/07/24/Between-the-Pillars-Revisiting-Samson-and-the-House-of-Dagon.aspx

John H. Skilton, 'The Transmission of the Hebrew Text' www.bible-researcher.com/skilton1.html

Marina Sohma, 'Does the Ipuwer Papyrus Provide Evidence for the Events of the Exodus?' www.ancient-origins.net/artifacts-ancient-writings/does-ipuwer-papyrus-provide-evidence-events-exodus-006951

Ken Spiro, 'Archaeology and Exodus: Part 1' www.aish.com/ci/sam/48938472.html#.WZ_5YtTHrYS.twitter & 'Part 2' www.aish.com/ci/sam/48939077.html#.WZ_5aRCbURg.twitter

Charles K. Telfer, 'Towards a historical reconstruction of Sennacherib's invasion of Judah in 701 B.C.' www.midamerica.edu/uploads/files/pdf/journal/01journal2011telfer.pdf

Peter van der Veen et al., 'Israel in Canaan (Long) Before Pharaoh Merenptah? A Fresh Look at Berlin Statue Pedestal Relief 21687' <https://journals.uair.arizona.edu/index.php/jaei/article/viewFile/83/87>

Jan Verbruggen, '5 Things you Need to Know about Camels and Biblical Accuracy' <https://transformedblogger.westernseminary.edu/2014/02/24/5-things-you-need-to-know-about-camels-and-biblical-accuracy/>

J. Warner Wallace, 'A Brief Sample Of Old Testament Archaeological Corroboration' <https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/a-brief-sample-of-old-testament-archaeological-corroboration/>

Introductory Books

Clive Anderson & Brian Edwards. *Evidence for the Bible* (DayOne, 2014)

Lisette Bassett-Brody. *Etched in Stone: Archaeological Discoveries That Prove the Bible* (WND, 2017)

Charlie H. Campbell. *Archaeological Evidence for The Bible* (Always Be Ready Apologetics Ministry, 2012)

Brian Edwards & Clive Anderson. *Through The British Museum – With the Bible* (DayOne, 2015)

David E. Graves. *The Archaeology of the Old Testament: 115 Discoveries That Support the Reliability of the Bible* (David E. Graves, 2019)

Josh McDowell. *Daniel in The Critic's Den* (Campus Crusade for Christ, 1979)

Jeffery L. Sheler. *Is The Bible True? How Modern Debates & Discoveries Affirm the Essence of the Scriptures* (HarperCollins, 2000)

Intermediate Books

ESV Archaeology Study Bible (Crossway, 2017)

Ellis R. Brotzman & Eric J. Tully. *Old Testament Textual Criticism*, second edition (Baker, 2016)

Steven Collins & Latayne C. Scott. *Discovering The City of Sodom* (Howard, 2013)

Paul Copan & Douglas Jacoby. *Origins: The Ancient Impact and Modern Implications of Genesis 1-11* (M&J, 2019)

Paul Copan et al, ed.'s. *Dictionary of Christianity and Science* (Zondervan, 2017)

Yosef Garfinkel et al. *In The Footsteps of King David: Revelations from an Ancient Biblical City* (Thames & Hudson, 2018)

Charles Halton ed. *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither? Three Views On the Bible's Earliest Chapters* (Zondervan, 2015)

Carol Hill. *A Worldview Approach to Science and Scripture* (Kregel, 2020)

Trent Horn. *Hard Sayings: A Catholic Approach to Answering Bible Difficulties* (Catholic Answers, 2016)

Colin Humphreys. *The Miracles of Exodus* (Continuum, 2003)

John C. Lennox. *Against the Flow: The Inspiration of Daniel in an Age of Relativism* (Monarch, 2015)

Paul Marston & Roger Foster. *God's Strategy in Human History*, new edition (Wipf and Stock, 2000)

Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Thomas Nelson, 2017)

H. Junia Pokrifka. *Exodus: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition* (Beacon Hill, 2018)

Randall Price & H. Wayne House. *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (Zondervan, 2017)

Matthieu Richelle. *The Bible & Archaeology* (Hendrickson, 2018)

Peter S. Williams. *A Faithful Guide to Philosophy: A Christian Introduction to the Love of Wisdom* (Wipf & Stock, 2019)

Advanced Books

Craig Bartholomew et al. *"Behind" the Text: History and Biblical Interpretation* (Zondervan, 2003)

C.K. Beale, *The Erosion of Inerrancy in Evangelicalism: Responding to New Challenges to Biblical Authority* (Crossway, 2008)

Craig Davis. *Dating the Old Testament* (RJ Communications, 2007)

Clyde E. Fant & Mitchell G. Reddish. *Lost Treasures of the Bible: Understanding the Bible through Archaeological Artifacts in World Museums* (Eerdmans, 2008)

James K. Hoffmeier et al, ed.'s. *"Did I Not Bring Israel Out of Egypt?" Biblical, Archaeological, and Egyptological Perspectives on the Exodus Narratives* (Eisenbrauns, 2016)

James K. Hoffmeier & Dennis R. Magary, ed.'s. *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? A Critical Appraisal of Modern and Postmodern Approaches to Scripture* (Crossway, 2012)

James K. Hoffmeier. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition* (Oxford, 1996)

———. *Ancient Israel in Sinai: The Evidence of the Authenticity of the Wilderness Tradition* (Oxford, 2005)

Alfred J. Hoerth & John McRay. *Bible Archaeology: An Exploration of the History and Culture of Early Civilizations* (Baker, 2006)

David M. Howard Jr. & Michael A. Grisanti, ed.'s. *Giving the Sense: Understanding and Using Old Testament Historical Texts* (Apollos, 2003)

- K.A. Kitchen. *On The Reliability of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2003)
- V. Philips Long *et al.* *Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument, and the Crisis of “Biblical Israel”* (Eerdmans, 2002)
- A.R. Millard *et al.* *Faith, Tradition & History: Old Testament Historiography in Near Eastern Context* (Winona Lake, 1994)
- A.R. Millard & D.J. Wiseman, ed.'s. *Essays On the Patriarchal Narratives* (IVP, 1980),
<https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/blog/essays-patriarchal-narratives/>
- Iain Provine *et al.* *A Biblical History of Israel*, second edition (WJK, 2015)
- John H. Walton. *Genesis: The NIV Application Commentary* (Zondervan, 2001)
- Gordon J. Wenham. *Rethinking Genesis 1-11: Gateway to the Bible* (Cascade, 2015)