

Evidence for Old Testament History: From Abraham to Solomon

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 Ur to Solomon. Join us to see the latest archaeological evidence relating to the Old Testament!

Peter S. Williams (www.peterswilliams.com) studied philosophy at Cardiff University (BA), Sheffield University (MA), and the University of East Anglia in Norwich (MPhil). Peter lives in England and is an 'Assistant Professor in Communication and Worldviews' at NLA University College in Norway. His publications include: *A Universe From Someone: Essays on Natural Theology* (Wipf and Stock, 2022); *Apologetics in 3D: Essays on Apologetics and Spirituality* (Wipf & Stock, 2021); *Outgrowing God? A Beginner's Guide to Richard Dawkins and the God Debate* (Wipf & Stock, 2020); *Getting at Jesus: A Comprehensive Critique of Neo-Atheist Nonsense About the Jesus of History* (Wipf & Stock, 2019) and *A Faithful Guide to Philosophy: A Christian Introduction to the Love of Wisdom* (Wipf & Stock, 2019).

#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. Topic 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. Topic II: History, Archaeology, & the Minimalist vs. Maximalist Debate

Dr Michael S. Heiser: “For those unfamiliar with the ‘minimalist’ vs. ‘maximalist’ debate over biblical archaeology, the former basically believed the OT has little or no historical value, as it was entirely written during or after the exile [i.e. 6th century B.C]. Maximalists, on the other hand, disagree, but on what I’d call a continuum of optimism about the biblical text as a historical source.” - <http://drmsh.com/archaeology-and-the-old-testament-minimalism-and-maximalism/>

#2: Abraham

[Introducing the geography of the ancient near east and the historical sweep of the Old Testament. Placing Abraham in historical context.]

- I. Topic I: Introducing the Geography & History of the Old Testament
- II. Topic II: Abraham
- III. Topic III: Joseph

#3: Exodus to the Promised Land

[The historicity of the Exodus story, from Egypt to the Promised Land]

- I. Topic I: Exodus
- II. Topic II: Entering the Promised Land

#4: From Samson to Solomon

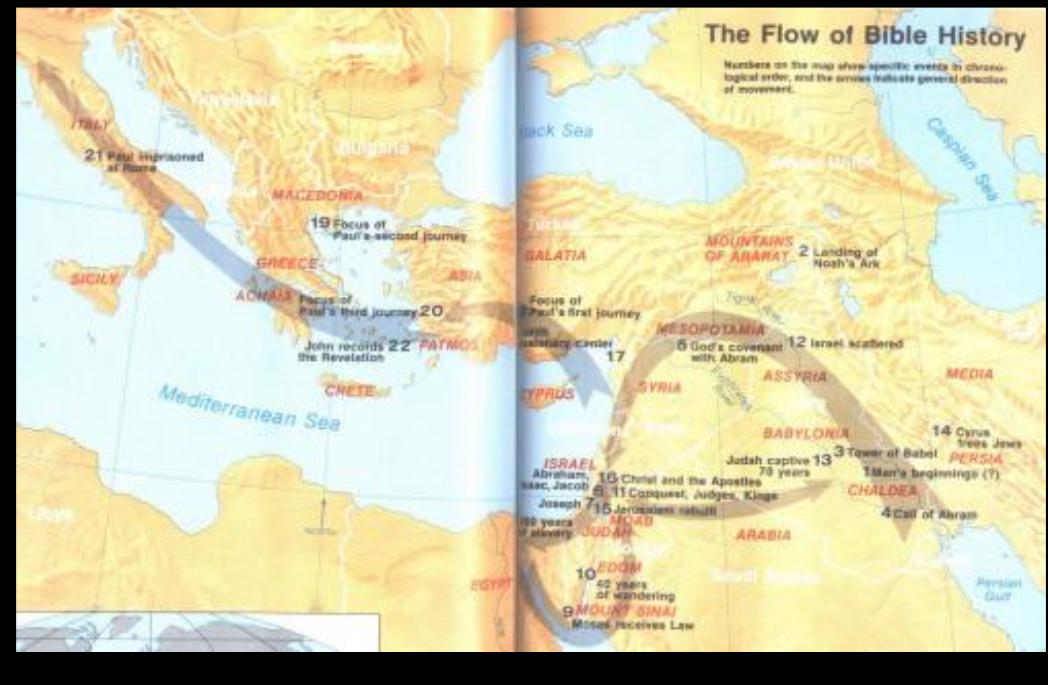
[Looking at major figures from the early history of Israel.]

- I. Topic I: Gideon
- II. Topic II: Samson
- III. Topic III: King David
- IV. Topic IV: King Solomon

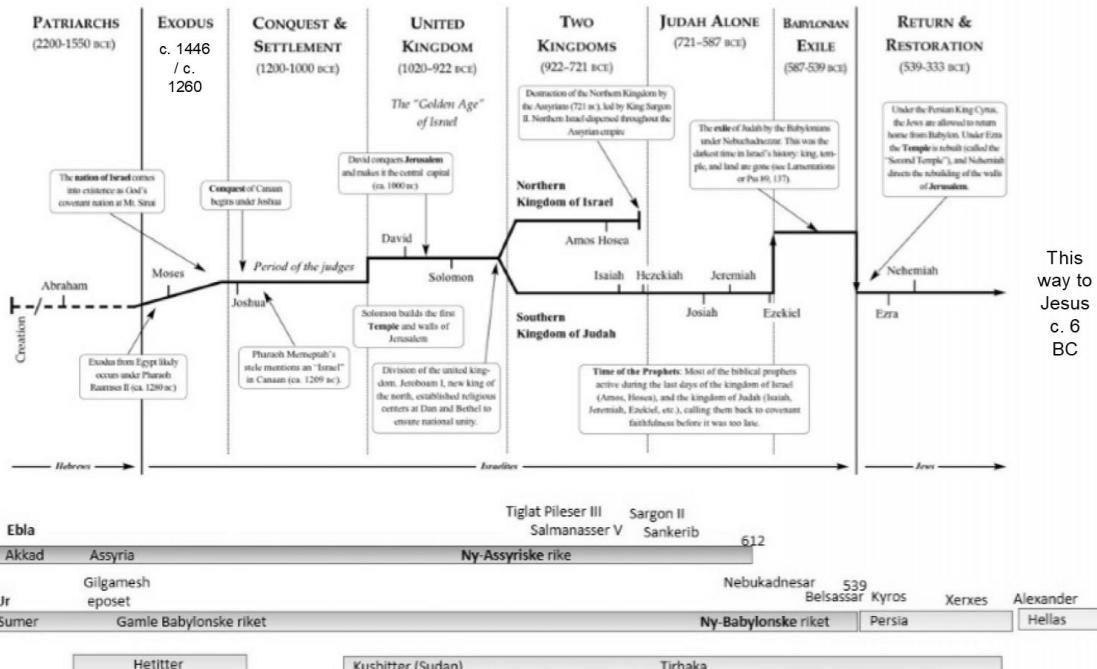
#7: Conclusion

- Extra-biblical evidence cannot prove every historical detail of the Old Testament narratives - and we don't need it to
- Extra-biblical evidence can provide us with sufficient evidence to conclude that 'biblical minimalism' is an unlikely hypothesis
- How far our 'biblical maximalism' goes will depend upon factors besides the extra-biblical evidence alone

Biblical Geography



The Old Testament Story[†]



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>

Christianity & Archaeology

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjh9aRRWF1kYZIVCPc5iCcw

Genesis www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWhQcmE4OsKJWhtnzA65up7t

Exodus www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjbiClsvBzoXW4bFq72c3EJ

King David www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjGWuucoxuxxZbCVnt1cVBsB

King Solomon www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWi3LUPuYOTbI_hCelimepro

Listen

Peter S. Williams, *Outgrowing God? Richard Dawkins & Old Testament History*; <http://podcast.peterswilliams.com/e/outgrowing-god-richard-dawkins-old-testament-history/>

——— *Old Testament Archaeology: Part 1 of 2: From Abraham to David*; (2019)

<http://podcast.peterswilliams.com/e/old-testament-archaeology-part-1-of-2-from-abraham-to-david-gimlekollen-uk-study-tour-2019/>

——— *Old Testament Archaeology: Part 2 of 2: From David to Daniel* (2019)

<http://podcast.peterswilliams.com/e/old-testament-archaeology-part-2-of-2-from-david-to-daniel-gimlekollen-uk-study-tour-2019/>

On-line 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/epn_3_bimson.html](http://biblicalstudies.org.uk/epn_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

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<http://ncse.com/rncse/29/5/yes-noahs-flood-may-have-happened-not-over-whole-earth>

Lorence G. Collins, *Fountains of the Great Deep and Noah's Flood*
www.csun.edu/~vcgeo005/Nr64Fountains.pdf

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_qchZfdAhWFjqQKHfdsClAQFjAAegQIABAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fjanes.scholasticahq.com%2Farticle%2F2398.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0IpINGDuKYAmOUqLpZvm5C

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

J. Daniel Hays, *Reconsidering the Height of Goliath* www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/48/48-4/JETS_48-4_701-714.pdf

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Ralph Hawkins, *The Date of the Exodus-Conquest Is Still an Open Question: A Response to Rodger Young and Bryant Wood'* www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/51/51-2/JETS%2051-2%2020245-266%20Hawkins.pdf

Ralph Hawkins & David Ben-Shlomo, *Khirbet el-Mastarah: An Early Israelite Settlement?*
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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, *The Noachian Flood: Universal or Local?* www.csun.edu/~vcgeo005/Carol%201.pdf

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*
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———. *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?*
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Mark D. Janzen, *Making a Case for the Historicity of Moses* www.equip.org/article/making-a-case-for-the-historicity-of-moses/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=postfity&utm_content=postfity5bf1e

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

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Lawrence Mykytiuk, *53 People in the Bible Confirmed Archaeologically*
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Marina Sohma, 'Does the Ipuwer Papyrus Provide Evidence for the Events of the Exodus?' www.ancientorigins.net/artifacts-ancient-writings/does-ipuwer-papyrus-provide-evidence-events-exodus-006951

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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://transformedbibleblog.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)

Matthew Barrett et al. *Four Views On The Historical Adam* (Zondervan, 2013)

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

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)
- 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)
- 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. *Outgrowing God? An Introduction to Richard Dawkins and the God Debate* (Cascade, 2020)

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- 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)
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- 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)
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