



Great Lakes Bible College
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
GS 514
Winter–Spring 2019

Course Description

An interesting textual and visual survey of important discoveries of Biblical archaeology to increase our knowledge of God, the Bible and the history, culture and peoples of the Old and New Testament world in which God acted. Attention will also be given to the history of Biblical archaeology, archaeological vocabulary and methods, principles of interpreting data and the value of archaeology in preaching, teaching, apologetics and personal faith and evangelism.

Course Objectives

Equip students to:

1. Develop a vision of the history of Israel and the major world empires in which God's actions in the events of the Old and New Testament took place.
2. See God's prior work in preparing Mesopotamia, Canaan, Egypt and Greek-Roman world for the coming of Abraham, Israel, Moses, Jesus and the spread of the gospel.
3. Gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and its historical reality.
4. Understand the methods and vocabulary of Biblical archaeology: from its early days to current high-tech tools including the modelling of sites as they appeared when first constructed.
5. Appreciate the process of dating archaeological remains in their proper place in time and space to avoid anachronism (people and events chronologically out of place).
6. Learn a brief overview of the history of Biblical archaeology as a discipline, including interesting examples of the sometimes fortuitous, accidental and dangerous nature of some important discoveries.
7. Appreciate archaeology as a primary source and the work of archaeologists and become familiar with some significant archaeologists and their important discoveries.
8. Inform expository preaching and teaching to bring the Bible alive for their listeners in sermons and Bible classes.
9. Become familiar with important primary and secondary sources and develop research and presentation skills through creating two presentations that will have immediate and long-term application in their ministries.
10. Use archaeology as an effective witness to the reality of God and the truth of His Word in apologetics (defending the faith) and evangelism (sharing the good news).

Textbook

Archaeological Study Bible: A Walk through Biblical History and Culture. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2005.

Faculty Contact Paul Birston paulbirston@shaw.ca (204) 471-7720 (cell/text)

Class Handouts

Available in our online class folder

Archaeological Institute of America. *Introduction to Archaeology: Glossary*. Available at <http://www.archaeological.org/education/glossary>. With additions by instructor.

Borowski, Oded. "Glossary: Tools of the Archaeological Trade." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 21:01 (Jan/Feb 1995): 68-70.

Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. Pages 22b-30.

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991. Pages 20b-34.

Assignments

1. PowerPoint* presentation about one important **Old Testament** archaeological site and how it enhances our understanding of the Bible text and God's actions in history. Twenty-five to thirty-five high quality slides with pictures, drawings, maps, text, etc., plus bibliography and picture credits. Suitable for viewing in church Bible classes and one-on-one discussion with individuals. (*Alternatively, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice (available at <http://www.libreoffice.org/download/libreoffice-fresh/>) or a Word to pdf document in landscape format will be acceptable for students who do not have access to PowerPoint.) (35%)
2. Presentation the same as 1. about one important **New Testament** archaeological site and how it enhances our understanding of the Bible text and God's actions in history. (35%)
3. Brief biographical essay about one important archaeologist and their significant archaeological find(s) that enhance our understanding of a Bible text and/or a significant person in the Bible. Five to ten pages double spaced Times Roman font plus bibliography. (20%)
4. Short quiz on the history of Biblical archaeology and its vocabulary and methods. Based on class notes and handouts (please see above). (10%)

Reference Books & Materials Recommended for Your Home or Church Library

Biblical Archaeology Review. Washington DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1975-present, bi-monthly. All past issues available online with subscription; daily articles available by email subscription: www.biblicalarchaeology.org/magazine/.

Boland, Todd. www.BiblePlaces.com. *Pictorial Library of Bible Lands*.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Third edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Josephus, Flavius. *Complete Works of Josephus*. Translated by William Whiston. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980. (Or any current edition.)

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

Rasmussen, Carl. www.HolyLandPhotos.org.

_____. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Ritmeyer, Leen. *The Quest: Revealing the Temple Mount in Jerusalem*. Jerusalem: Carta, The Lamb Foundation, 2006.

Bibliography

Archaeological Study Bible: A Walk through Biblical History and Culture. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2005.

Biblical Archaeology Review. Washington DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1975-present, bi-monthly. All past issues available online with subscription; daily articles available by email subscription: www.biblicalarchaeology.org/magazine/.

Binder, Donald D. *Into the Temple Courts: The Place of the Synagogues in the Second Temple Period*. Atlanta: The Society of Biblical Literature, 1999. Online edition available at author's website <http://www.pohick.org/sts/index.html>.

Campbell, Edward F., Jr. and David Noel Freedman, eds. *The Biblical Archaeologist Reader Volume IV*. Sheffield: The Almond Press, 1983.

Cline, Eric H. *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Cornfield, Gaalyah and David Noel Freedman, ed. *Archaeology of the Bible Book by Book: An Up-to-date Archaeological Commentary on the Bible, with over 400 Illustrations and Maps*. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Third edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Frank, Henry Thomas Frank. *The Bible, Archaeology and Faith*. Nashville: Abingdon Press: 1971.

Hiebert, Murray D. *100 Reasons to Trust the Old Testament*. Gladstone, MB: The Westbourne Study Centre, 2005.

Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Holden, Joseph M. and Norman Geisler. *The Popular Handbook of Archaeology and the Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2013.

Humble, Bill. *Archaeology and the Bible*. Nashville: Gospel Advocate, 1990.

Josephus, Flavius. *Complete Works of Josephus*. Translated by William Whiston. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980. (Or any current edition.)

Lewis, Jack P. *Archaeology and the Bible*. Way of Life Series. No. 113. Abilene, TX: Biblical Research Press, 1975.

_____. *Early Explorers of Bible Lands*. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2013.

_____. *Historical Backgrounds to Bible People*. Henderson TN: Hester Publications, 1998.

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Petrovich, Douglas. "The Dating of Hazor's Destruction in Joshua 11 by Way of Biblical, Archaeological, and Epigraphical Evidence." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 51:3 (September 2008): 489-512.

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

Rasmussen, Carl. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Ritmeyer, Leen. *The Quest: Revealing the Temple Mount in Jerusalem*. Jerusalem: Carta, The Lamb Foundation, 2006.

_____. "Reconstructing Herod's Temple Mount in Jerusalem." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 15 (Nov/Dec 1989): 23-53.

Ritmeyer, Leen and Kathleen. *Jerusalem in the Year 30 A.D.* Jerusalem: Carta, 2004.

_____. *The Ritual of the Temple in the Time of Christ*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2002.

_____. *Secrets of Jerusalem's Temple Mount*. Updated and enlarged edition. Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 2006.

Roitman, Adolfo. *The Bible in the Shrine of the Book: From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Aleppo Codex*. Jerusalem: The Israel Museum, 2006.

Roller, Duane W. *The Building Program of Herod the Great*. Berkley, CA: University of California Press, 1998.

Rozenberg, Silvia and David Mevorah. *Herod the Great: The King's Final Journey*. Jerusalem: The Israel Museum, 2013.

Strabo. *The Geography of Strabo*. Loeb Classical Library. Translated by Horace Leonard Jones. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1966.
Available at <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0239>

VanderKam, James C. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Volkmar, Fritz. *An Introduction to Biblical Archaeology*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 172. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Vos, Howard Frederic. *Beginnings in Bible Geography*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1973.

Great Lakes Bible College
December 17, 2018

churches of Christ

www.churches-of-christ.net
www.directoryofchurches.net
www.glbc.ca
www.paulbirston.com

Great Lakes Bible College
Paul Birston