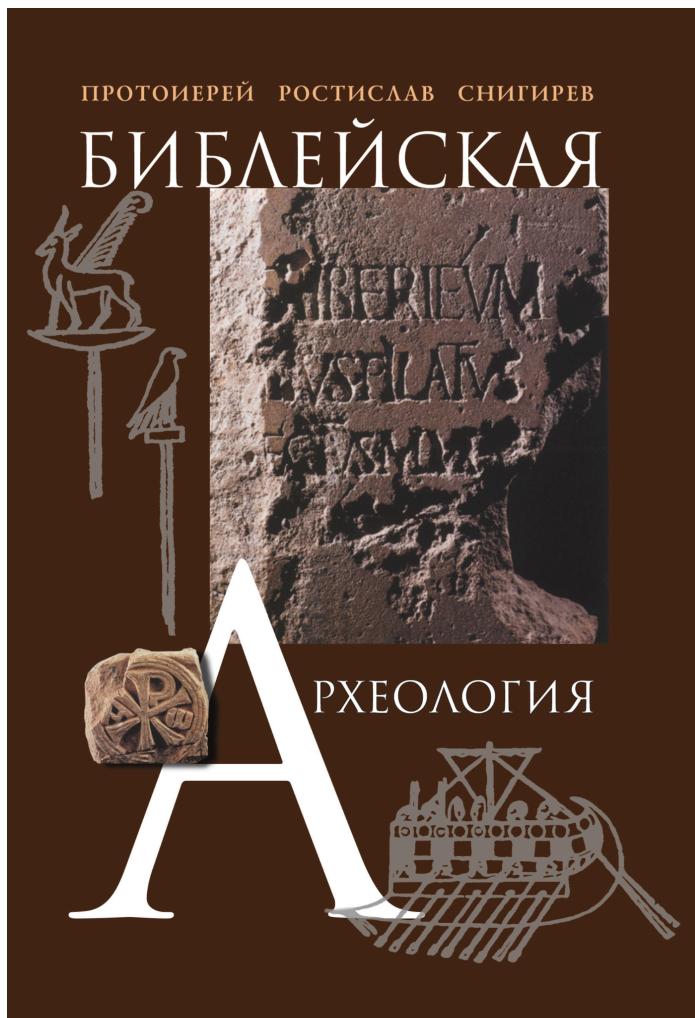


Lesson 8 Can Stones Testify About God?



even stones continue to testify to God's truth.

Introduction

Jesus said, “...if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out” (Luke 19:40, NKJV).

These words remind us that God's works cannot be hidden.

Even when people are silent, **not only creation, but also the stone witnesses of history — cities, structures, and inscriptions — continue to speak** about how God acted in real history.

Biblical archaeology helps us see this truth. The Bible speaks about real history, real people, and real places. Cities, inscriptions, and discoveries show how God acted in the story of His people.

Archaeology does not prove God, but it confirms the reliability of God's Word:

Lesson Goal

To show that biblical archaeology:

- does not oppose faith but serves it;
- helps us better understand the Bible through its historical and geographical context;
- strengthens trust in Scripture and shapes a mature, thoughtful faith.

Historical and Geographical Context

The Bible did not arise in a mythical world, but:

- on real land (Mesopotamia, Canaan, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome);
- in specific time periods (Bronze Age, Iron Age, Hellenistic and Roman eras);
- among real nations, cities, and rulers.

- Abraham left Ur of the Chaldeans
- Moses was raised in Egypt
- David ruled in Jerusalem
- Jesus walked through Galilee and Judea
- Paul traveled across Asia Minor and the Roman Empire

Biblical archaeology studies the remains of this world and helps us see how people lived, thought, and believed.

Main Content

1. What Biblical Archaeology Really Is

Biblical archaeology is a field of study that helps us understand the historical and cultural world of the Bible through physical evidence. It explores the material traces of people and events mentioned in Scripture, helping us grasp biblical history more deeply.

It includes:

- **Ancient cities named in the Bible**
Jericho, Hazor, Samaria, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Capernaum.
Their walls, foundations, gates, and defenses help us understand daily life, construction, warfare, and why these places mattered in Israel's history.
- **Inscriptions, documents, and seals**
Left by kings, officials, priests, and ordinary people. Discoveries such as the seal of King Hezekiah, the Tel Dan inscription, and the Dead Sea Scrolls confirm names, events, and even phrases found in Scripture.
- **Everyday objects and culture**
Pottery, lamps, tools, jewelry, weapons, clothing. These help us better understand Jesus' parables, the imagery of the prophets, the Law of Moses, and daily life in ancient Israel.
- **Roads, palaces, temples, and fortifications**
They reveal the political, economic, and religious realities of biblical times. For example, Hezekiah's Tunnel, mentioned in 2 Kings, still exists and can be visited today.
- **Historical events connected to Scripture**
Conquests, migrations, destructions, periods of prosperity and decline. Archaeology often sheds light on details the Bible mentions briefly.

⚠ An Important Theological Note

Archaeology does not replace the Bible and does not stand above it.

It is not a source of revelation — it helps us better understand what God has already revealed in His Word.

Archaeology is like a flashlight that illuminates the biblical text, but the light itself comes from Scripture:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105, NKJV)

Biblical archaeology does not create truth; it helps us see it more clearly, deeply, and vividly. It shows that faith is rooted in reality — in real land, real time, and real history where God acted and still acts.

2. Why God Allowed Physical Evidence to Remain

God revealed Himself not only through words, but through actions in real history. He did not act in a mythical space or speak abstractly. His revelation was always connected to a specific time, place, and people. That is why traces of His work remain in the earth.

God allowed physical evidence to remain because:

- **He acts within history, not outside of it.**

God's work is not legend or philosophy. It includes real events: the Exodus, the conquest of Canaan, the reign of David, the destruction of Jerusalem, the incarnation of Christ.

- **He made covenants with real people.**

Abraham, Moses, and David were historical individuals whose lives left traces in land and culture.

- **He gave laws that shaped society.**

The Law of Moses addressed temples, cities, daily life, and festivals — all with physical expression.

- **He judged and restored nations.**

Burn layers, destroyed cities, rebuilt walls reflect both God's judgment and mercy, just as the prophets proclaimed.

- **He entered real places and personal stories.**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived in Nazareth, walked through Galilee, taught in Capernaum, and died in Jerusalem — all real, researched locations.

📜 When we find evidence such as:

- Hezekiah's Tunnel — confirming Jerusalem's preparation for the Assyrian siege;
- seals of Judean kings — names matching Scripture;
- ancient cities like Megiddo, Lachish, Hazor, Jericho;
- ancient manuscripts — showing the remarkable preservation of the biblical text;

we see a powerful truth:

- 👉 God acted in the real world, not in legend.
- 👉 His actions left visible traces.
- 👉 These traces strengthen our confidence that Scripture is reliable and true.

Material evidence is not an argument to win debates, but a quiet, steady voice of history confirming:

God spoke. God acts. God left traces of His work on the earth.

3. How Archaeology Helps Us Understand the Bible Better

Archaeology does more than confirm facts — it helps us see Scripture through the eyes of the people who lived then. When we understand geography, culture, architecture, and daily life, many biblical texts become clearer and deeper.

Example 1: Cities

Jericho

Seeing its excavated:

- double walls,
- destruction layers,
- city structure

helps us grasp how extraordinary God's victory in Joshua 6 truly was.

Megiddo

Located at major trade routes:

- constantly fortified,
- fought over by kingdoms,
- strategically crucial.

This explains why it became a symbol of the final spiritual battle — Armageddon (Revelation 16:16).

Jerusalem in David's time

Discoveries of:

- the City of David,
- fortifications of the Siloam hill,
- royal structures

help us visualize David's kingdom and read his psalms with greater depth.

Example 2: Daily Life

The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8–9)

First-century houses were:

- small,
- dimly lit,
- with dirt floors.

That explains why the woman lit a lamp, searched carefully, and rejoiced so deeply.

The Cornerstone (Psalm 118:22; Ephesians 2:20)

Ancient architecture shows:

- the cornerstone determined the stability of the whole building.
That's why Christ is the cornerstone — everything rests on Him.

A Lamp on a Stand (Luke 8:16)

Ancient oil lamps were small and dim.

Hiding one made no sense — its purpose was to give light.

Jesus' words become more tangible and powerful.

Key Takeaway

Archaeology helps us:

- read the Bible in its true context,
- understand how the original audience heard God's Word,
- see Scripture as real, not abstract.

It makes the Bible not distant and ancient, but alive, real, and deeply meaningful.

Practical Applications

♦ Faith with Roots

God worked in real history.

Study Scripture together with history and geography.

♦ A Mind for God's Glory

God gave us reason to seek truth.

Do not fear questions — search Scripture and history.

♦ A Living Bible

The Bible becomes closer when its world becomes visible.

Imagine the places and people you read about.

Homework

◆ **Practical Task**

Choose one biblical figure (Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, or Paul) and:

- find related locations on a map;
 - identify the historical period and people involved.
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Conclusion

Biblical archaeology does not make the Bible true — the Bible already is true.
But archaeology helps us:

- see the depth of God's work,
- understand Scripture more accurately,
- pass faith to the next generation honestly and confidently.

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables..."

(2 Peter 1:16, NKJV)