

BIBLE and SPADE

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A photograph of an elderly man with glasses, wearing a light-colored bucket hat and a bright blue jacket over a plaid shirt. He is sitting outdoors in a rocky, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation. He is holding a large, rounded, yellowish-brown ceramic jar with two handles. The jar has a slightly weathered appearance. The background shows a rocky hillside with some green bushes and trees.

40th Anniversary

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Contents

The Life and Legacy of Dr. David Livingston <i>Scott Lanser</i>	65
Dave's Very First Dig <i>Esther Livingston</i>	72
Our Rich History and the Future of ABR <i>Gary A. Byers</i>	73
Researching Ai <i>Bryant G. Wood</i>	75
"Remember, Archaeology is NOT a Treasure Hunt!" <i>Gordon Franz</i>	79
Researching Jericho <i>Bryant G. Wood</i>	82
The Future is Bright for ABR <i>Scott Lanser</i>	85
A Tribute to Dr. David Livingston <i>Gordon Franz</i>	90
Front cover: Dr. David Livingston examining pottery excavated at one of the digs at Khirbet Nisya. Photo by Michael Luddeni	

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BENEATH THE SURFACE:

An Editorial Comment



The Life and Legacy of Dr. David Livingston

By Scott Lanser

Dr. David Livingston has devoted his life to teaching the Word of God and upholding and defending the Bible. He has been an inspiration to laymen and scholars alike and to all those who love the Bible, the Word of the living God.

As the founder and director of ABR, David was led of God to establish a ministry that would demonstrate the reliability of the Bible and provide an umbrella organization under which like-minded scholars could serve. His passion was fueled by the distortions of critics who declared that whole portions of Old Testament narratives were unhistorical.

In 1979, David began his excavations at Khirbet Nisya in search of the lost city of Ai. The city of Ai was one of the Conquest cities spoken of in the book of Joshua, as the Lord led Israel to conquer the land He had given them. The dig at Nisya would last 24 years, during which time David would earn his Ph.D. from Andrews University in 1989.

Foundational to his work at Ai was his breakthrough research properly establishing that the city of Bethel is located at el-Bireh and not at Beitin. This correction to the work of W.F. Albright clearly fit the biblical data more precisely, and opened the door to the correct identification of the city of Ai.

David pioneered a new model for establishing a dig in Israel, without large foundations or funding sources being the primary underwriters of such excavations. His work in raising teams of diggers who would fund their own way to Israel to participate in the project had never been tried before. Under David's skillful leadership this new model took shape, and in this way the entire dig was funded. Indeed, this approach has been followed by ABR in every subsequent dig. In addition to this model, David worked closely with the Israeli Antiquities Authority to maintain a strong relationship so that trust would be established. That relationship has lasted for over 30 years, and ABR continues to enjoy the fruit of that relationship down to this day. Until David Livingston, no private Christian organization could have conceived of operating its own dig. Thanks to David's visionary leadership and his dogged determination, evangelicals have been given extraordinary opportunities for archaeological excavation in Israel.

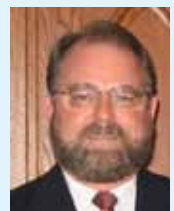
David's leadership of ABR has drawn together a team of scholars who continue his vision to the present day. That vision, focused on dismantling the false conclusions of biblical critics

and re-establishing the proper interpretation of archaeological evidence, continues as a key objective of ABR. ABR scholars also write on any number of different issues that affect the reliability of the Bible. Some areas of focus include Noah's Ark research; issues in the book of Genesis; early man; contemporary issues related to biblical history; the text of the Bible; and a myriad of other topics. Ultimately, David wanted ABR to have an impact not only on the Church but on the general culture as well, as people would hear of the powerful evidences for the reliability of the Bible. What was at stake was the very authority of the Word of God. Through ABR and its team of scholars, the Church of Jesus Christ was receiving important research data that would strengthen its grasp of biblical authority. ABR continues to produce important scholarly and popular works to educate and edify the Body of Christ.

It is important to note the staggering significance of David's legacy. In a day of post-modern skepticism and the retreat among many evangelicals from a clear and unequivocal concept of biblical authority, David's life and ministry has been a corrective force. Indeed, after many years of decline there is a renewed focus and passion among younger evangelicals in search of answers. The skepticism of our age has resulted in the raising of a new generation of believers eager to provide answers to the critics and to those seeking the truth.

We owe Dr. David Livingston a debt of gratitude for leading the way and leaving a legacy for today's scholars and students. David combined the mind of the scholar and the heart of a pastor in the ministry of ABR. May those of us who have received the blessing of his life and legacy pass this blessing along to future generations.

Scott Lanser is Executive Director of ABR with an MA in New Testament Studies from Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield PA. He serves as pastor of New Hope Bible Fellowship in Lancaster PA.



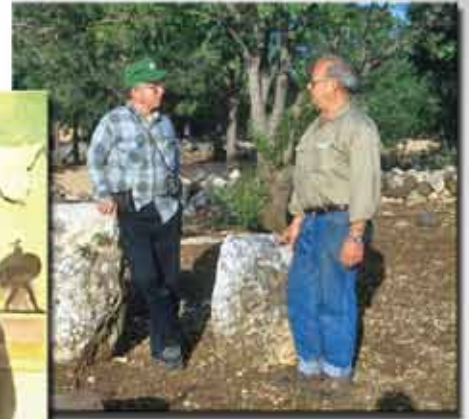
DAVE IN THE FIELD



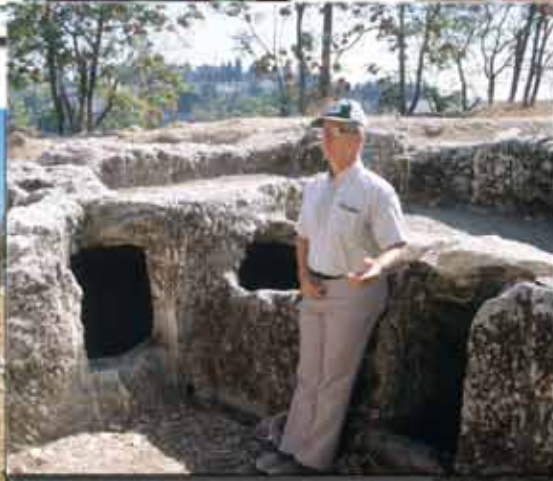
DAVE IN THE FIELD



DAVE IN THE FIELD



DAVE IN THE FIELD



Dave's Gang



Over the Years





Dave's Very First Dig

By Esther Livingston

The following edited excerpt was taken from A History of ABR: Its Founders and Associates (1969–1994), written in 2003 by Esther Livingston, David's wife. It gives a fascinating glimpse of the event God used to first turn David Livingston's attention toward archaeology. The full article can be read on the ABR website.

1965—Kang Nung, Korea. We were missionaries on the east coast city of Kang Nung, next to the Sea of Japan. Dave was president (Hak Jang) of Kwan Dong Teh Hak (Eastern Korea Christian College), situated between the steep, rugged mountains in Kang Won Do and the ocean. It was the garden spot of Korea. We loved it! The mission had given him the responsibility to take a Buddhist college and turn it into a Christian college. This was only accomplished by God's grace, and not without struggles and heartaches. At times we were the only Americans in the area, and Dave would come home from the college and look in the mirror to see if he was Korean or American! But the hardest part was having to send our children, Beth, David and Tommy, to boarding school in Seoul—a sacrifice the mission required of us in order to continue this work.

We loved the students and especially the professors. One favorite was the history professor, Mr. Choi. He spent hours sharing Korean history and taking us on trips around the countryside to see “Old Korea.” We collected books and read about their ancient history, and were fascinated.

One summer afternoon when the children were home on vacation, Dave decided to put up a tether-ball set we had received as a gift from the U.S. While digging the hole for the pole, strange-looking pottery began coming up with each spade of yellow clay.

He stopped, examined it, and finally exclaimed, “Ha! This looks like the pottery that Professor Choi showed us. He said it was VERY old!”

This was a Friday night. On Monday, when he returned to the college, he told Mr. Choi, who was VERY excited and, accompanied by several other professors, came back to our house with Dave to see this hole and the pottery that had come out of it!

It was pouring rain—and they were dressed in their suits, ties and shiny black shoes (typical dress for professors). Dave gathered up all the Korean umbrellas he could find (heavy brown, oiled paper

over a frame), and they stood in the muck and dug shovel after shovel of pottery-laden dirt out of the hole. Mr. Choi did, indeed, declare that we had found the oldest pottery ever discovered in Korea—Old Stone Age, 3000 years old!

Well—without going into any more detail, you can imagine what happened next. We began “digging-digging-digging” until after a year's time we had uncovered a substantial square, 13 by 23 feet, which we were to discover was an ancient Stone Age subterranean house.

Was God using such a simple thing as the tether-ball to change direction in our lives? For now the beginning of Dave's fascination with archaeology was launched, and there was no stopping it. Out of this excavation came a museum in the college with dozens of Old Stone Age artifacts—perfect stone knives, axes, plates, arrowheads, charred grain, pottery, and much more. He would come home from the college and he, the kids and I (even the dog who insisted on digging holes!) would run out behind the house with our tools and dig, stopping only to eat and go to bed! The next morning our *ajimoni* (helper—cook and housekeeper) would come in to fix breakfast and find old, OLD pottery washed and draining in the sink, and had FITS and exclaim, “Just WHAT do you want BROKEN pots for?!”

There were many problems at the college just then—firing of dishonest professors, changing board members; the mayor and other officials in the community were questioning Dave and his Korean co-workers continually, and even threatening them. He was interrogated by the “Mun Kyo Bu” (Department of Education from Seoul), CIA, CID and several other departments! At times he feared physical retaliation. It was during those most difficult days that we were digging up our Stone Age house. But, we could forget all the troubles in the college with the anticipation of what we would find in our hole. It was as if the Lord gave us “a way to escape” so that we could endure the stress. Interestingly, within a year we finished the project and the problems at the college were over, and from then on everything ran smoothly. We developed good relationships with the city officials—even the provincial governor—entertained them in our home, and became great friends. Those years at the college were difficult, yet some of the most profitable years of our lives.

OUR RICH HISTORY AND THE FUTURE OF ABR 1969 — 2009 —



By Gary A. Byers

For the past forty years, the Associates for Biblical Research has demonstrated how archaeological evidence lines up with the biblical text. From its inception, ABR (as it has come to be known) was founded on the belief that the Bible can be trusted as an accurate source of historical information and that the results of archaeological investigation will line up with what the Bible says.

It all started in the spring of 1966, when David P. Livingston was studying in Jerusalem. He was disturbed when a professor simply accepted that the biblical account of Joshua's capture of the city of Ai and archaeological evidence did not match up. The professor went with the archaeological data, and the Bible was left out.

Ai and Biblical Authority

At issue for Livingston was the assumed disparity between the biblical text and archaeological evidence. The argument went like this. Archaeological evidence for Ai does not fit the biblical description of the site. Archaeologists have identified the correct site for Ai. Therefore, the Bible is wrong in its description of the ancient city.

As a veteran educator and missionary, Livingston understood the far-reaching implications of such thinking. If people really couldn't trust the Bible about the past, how could they honestly trust the Bible for the future—for eternity! Livingston had no doubt the Bible was accurate in its description of both the battle and the city of Ai, so he made a personal commitment to study the evidence for himself.

Consequently, in 1969, he founded the Associates for Biblical Research. The goal was to create an organization of scholars who believed that the Bible spoke authoritatively on history. Together they would roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty, investing the time and resources necessary to do good academic research and solid archaeological excavation—all for the purpose of connecting the dots between archaeological evidence and the biblical text.

ABR and Biblical Archaeology

There were a number of sites from the Exodus and Conquest period of biblical history, beyond the story of Ai, where scholars suggested archaeological evidence and the Bible did not match up. So, over the next forty years, Livingston's research was expanded. ABR sponsored and directed archaeological excavations, surveys and research projects focused on the identification and excavation of the biblical cities of Ai, Bethel, Jericho and Hazor, along with the Exodus route from the Nile Delta through the Sinai Peninsula.

Much of this expanded research was done with the addition of Dr. Bryant G. Wood to the ABR staff.

Yet the mission of ABR goes far beyond the Exodus and Conquest. Over these forty years ABR has sponsored, directed and participated in projects throughout the Middle East addressing all periods of Old and New Testament studies. ABR staff has been and continues working in Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

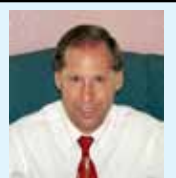
ABR and Biblical Authority

While to many it may sound like a vacation in the sun or exciting Indiana Jones-type adventures, ABR's work in biblical archaeology is serious business and hard work. We frequently go against the tide of modern critical scholarship. The energy and resources necessary to plan, sponsor and direct archaeological digs in the Middle East are significant. Processing, analyzing, researching and publishing results of an excavation after returning home are almost as daunting. But this is ABR's commitment, because we have seen over and over again how evidence from the ground dovetails with what the Bible says—and we understand the need to get that message to the Church and our culture today.

Admittedly, here at ABR we have done a better job at sponsoring and directing archaeological excavations and research projects than we have done getting this information, in an engaging and meaningful manner, to those who would benefit from it. Moving into the next forty years, there is much enthusiasm at ABR as we help develop the next generation of biblical archaeologists who trust the Bible as accurate history. New technologies will allow us to explore and understand the biblical world in whole new ways, as well as help us get this important information to the world.

All of us here at the Associates for Biblical Research are excited about the results of our research and the proclamation of that information to those who are interested and looking for answers. The Bible has changed our own lives, and the results of our archaeological research these past forty years have encouraged our faith-walks. For the next forty years, we are committed to continuing this research and to proclaiming that the Bible can be trusted in the history it presents, and that its message can change your life, now and forever.

Gary A. Byers, MA, is Spiritual Life Director at Helping Up Missions, Baltimore, and President of the Board of Directors of the Associates for Biblical Research.





ABR file photo

The ABR Board of Directors:

Back row: Gary Byers, Mark Flanagan, Rex Geissler, Curt Martin, Bill Geating

Front row: Walter Pasedag, Dr. David Livingston, Don Felker, Ron Zuck, Bob Cooperman

Little did I anticipate when I attended Art School in San Francisco in 1951 that someday, 30 years later, I would be drawing ancient pottery in Pennsylvania. The Lord has mysterious ways of guiding our lives so we can best serve Him when and where He desires.

I met David Livingston, founder of ABR, in 1956 when I was pastoring my first church near Pittsburgh, PA. At that time the Livingstons were missionaries in Korea. My church was supporting them as one of their missionary families. Approximately 25 years later, we discovered that we lived only 6 miles from one another in the Willow Grove area of Pennsylvania. I was pastoring my third church by this time. David was in the infant stages of organizing the ministry of what would be called ABR.

One day, Dr. Livingston was fumbling around with some broken pottery that he had brought back from one of his first archaeological digs in Israel. I was looking over his shoulder and it occurred to me that I could help him out, considering my early training in art. I began to take home some of the broken pottery to draw a couple of days each week.

At this time I had been pastoring my third church for a period of 20 years. Within a very short time I felt the Lord leading me to resign from my church and begin working with David Livingston on a full-time basis. I resigned from my church in the year 1985 and took up pencil and pen to draw ancient pottery full time.

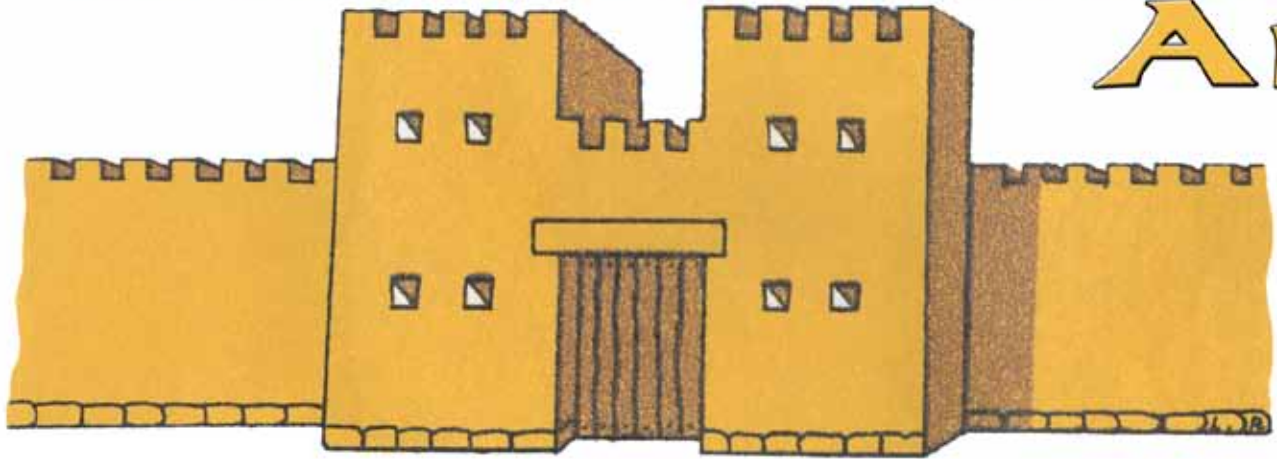
The Lord has directed my life full circle...35 years ago I was planning to enter the career of a commercial artist. The Lord detoured my life to pastor three churches, and now I am back in the profession of drawing broken pottery from the land of Israel. I have participated in three archaeological digs myself.

When and where did the radio ministry come into the picture? During the time I pastored three churches, I had a radio and telephone ministry that would prepare me for the ministry of "The Stones Cry Out." I was used to the concept of speaking on the radio. I also worked as an announcer for several years for the Christian Station WDAC in Lancaster, PA.

Dr. Clifford Wilson, who lives in Australia, began the actual radio ministry. Today he is the principle speaker on the radio. He prepares the master programs and then sends them to me in the States. I duplicate a copy from the masters and then send them out to different stations here in the United States.

- Rev. Gene Fackler
ABR Staff Artist and Radio Coordinator

RESEARCHING Ai



Leen Ritmeyer

By Bryant G. Wood

After the Israelites defeated Jericho in the southern Jordan Valley, they then attacked the fortress of Ai in the highlands (Jos 7–8). Both of these sites have produced archaeological findings that have seemed to be in conflict with the Bible. Scholars have been quick to point out that these discrepancies lead to the conclusion that there was no Conquest as described in the book of Joshua. But is the problem with the Bible or with the interpretations of the archaeologists? After reviewing the archaeological findings at both Jericho and Ai, I believe the problem is faulty interpretation of the archaeological evidence,

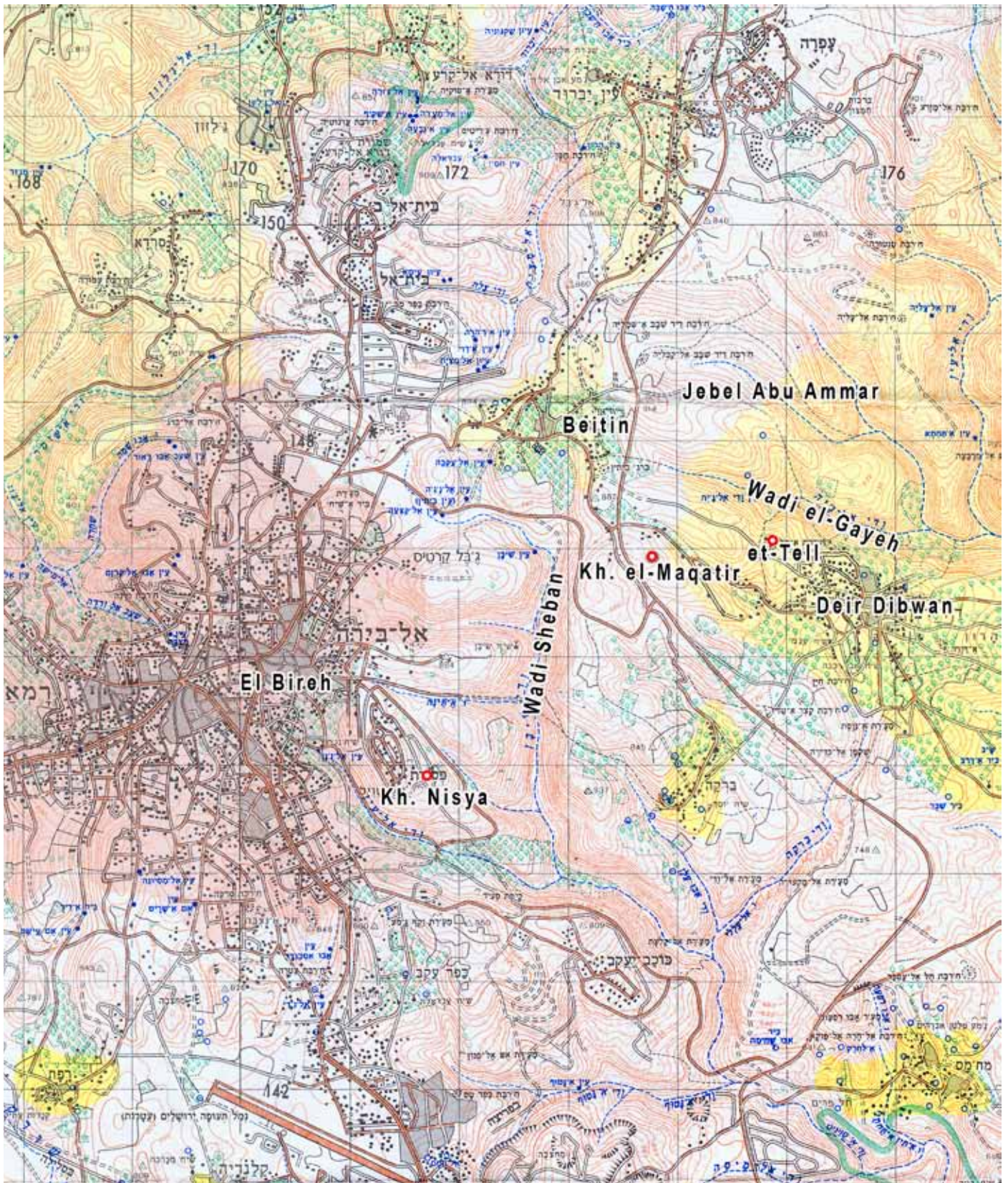
not the biblical record. As discussed in my next article, the difficulty with Jericho is that Kathleen Kenyon was wrong in her dating of the destruction level. With regard to Ai, the dilemma arises from the fact that the site has been incorrectly located. For an in-depth review of the misguided research on the location of Ai, see my recent article in *Critical Issues in Early Israelite History* (2008).

Scholars had come to the conclusion, largely through the influence of W.F. Albright (1924), that Joshua's Ai should be located at et-Tell, about 9 mi (15 km) north of Jerusalem. Et-



Michael Luddeni

Kh. el-Maqatir, looking south-southeast. The Hasmonean fortress can be seen on the left side of the photo and the Bronze Age fortress in the center.



Survey of Israel

The geography of Kh. el-Maqtir, which meets the geographical requirements for Joshua's Ai: near Beth-aven (=Beitin, Jos 7:2), east of Bethel (=El Bireh, Jos 7:2), Wadi Sheban is a good candidate for the ambush site between Bethel and Ai (Jos 8:9, 12), Jebel Abu Ammar north of Kh. el-Maqtir is the highest hill in the region and could have been the command center of the main army (Jos 8:1), Wadi el-Gayeh would be the shallow valley north of Ai where Joshua spent the night (Jos 8:13–14), and Kh. el-Maqtir is near Bethel (Jos 12:9).



Michael Luddeni

Et-Tell, looking south. Most biblical scholars believe et-Tell to be the site of Joshua's Ai. It cannot be, however, for the following reasons: there was no occupation at the time of the Conquest, there is no candidate for Beth-aven in the vicinity (Jos 7:2), it lacks a shallow valley on the north side where Joshua and the diversionary force could have camped (Jos 8:13–14), and at 27 acres it is much larger than Gibeon when it should be smaller (Jos 10:2).

Tell, however, does not meet the biblical requirements for Ai, the most obvious disagreement being that there was no occupation at the time of the Conquest. David Livingston founded ABR in 1969 to investigate this problem. In 1979 he launched the excavation of Kh. Nisya, 2.4 mi (3.8 km) southwest of et-Tell, which he believed to be a promising candidate for Joshua's Ai (2003). In 1985, a year before becoming a staff member of ABR, I participated in the excavation of Kh. Nisya. I was also part of the dig teams of 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993 and 1994. In 1995 I initiated work at Kh. el-Maqatir, which I considered to be a more likely candidate for Joshua's Ai. It is located 0.6 mi (1 km) west of et-Tell and 1.7 mi (2.8 km) northeast of Kh. Nisya.

I "discovered" Kh. el-Maqatir while perusing a report on an Israeli survey in the area where Ai should be located. Pottery published from one of the sites, an unnamed site numbered 85, appeared possibly to be from the Late Bronze I period (ca. 1500–1400 BC), the time of the Conquest (Finkelstein and Magen 1993: 82). Site 85 was described as "Piles of stones cleared from fields; some walls protruding from them" (Finkelstein and Magen 1993: 22*). Adjacent to it, 55 yd (50 m) to the east was site 84, identified as a "Small ruin; traces of buildings; cisterns" (Finkelstein and Magen 1993: 22*) named Kh. el-Mukatir or Kh. el-Maqatir (Finkelstein and Magen 1993: 81). Subsequent investigation by ABR has revealed that site 84

is a Hasmonean fortress (second–first centuries BC), while site 85 is the west half of an earlier fortress dating to the time of Joshua. In collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority, we settled upon Kh. el-Maqatir as the official name of the site. In seven seasons of excavation, 1995–2000 and 2009, we have uncovered evidence that indicates the earlier fortress meets the archaeological requirements for Joshua's Ai.

When we conducted test probes at Kh. el-Maqatir in 1995, just to the east of the "piles of stones" reported in the Israeli survey, we discovered a gate socket stone on the surface and could see the outline of the west half of a gate belonging to the earlier fortress. Excavations since 1995 have clarified the piles of stones. A north-south line immediately to the west of the gate turned out to be covering the west wall of the Hasmonean fortress, a massive 16 ft (5 m) wide. Extending west from the Hasmonean wall is an east-west line of stones from the north wall of the earlier fortress, some 13 ft (4 m) in width. During the 2009 season we exposed the best-preserved-to-date segment of the early fortress wall, unmarked by a pile of stones, on the west side of the site, 12 ft (3.7 m) wide at its base and 4 ft (1.2 m) high. In addition to the outer walls of the fortress, we are slowly recovering the plan of a building complex just inside the gate, perhaps the administrative center of the fortress.



Randy Cook

Aerial view of the gate and north wall of the early fortress at Kh. el-Maqatir, looking east. The “piles of stones” reported in the Israeli survey of the site are seen covering the west wall of the Hasmonean fortress (center) and the north wall of the earlier fortress believed to date to the time of Joshua (lower right). Just to the east of the Hasmonean wall is the west chamber of the earlier fortress (center right). At the top of the photo can be seen unexcavated ruins of interior buildings of the Hasmonean fortress.

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Bryant G. Wood, ABR Director of Research, is principal archaeologist and director of ABR’s excavation at Khirbet el-Maqatir. He has a MS in Nuclear Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a MA in Biblical History from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology from the University of Toronto.



“REMEMBER, ARCHAEOLOGY IS NOT A TREASURE HUNT!”

By Gordon Franz

Michael Luddeni

Introduction

Monday morning, July 30, 1979, is as clear in my mind as if it were yesterday. It was about 6AM when I arrived at the excavations below the St. Andrew's Scottish Presbyterian Church, a site that would later be known as Ketef Hinnom, “the shoulder of Hinnom.”

The director of the excavation, Gabriel Barkay, known to his students and friends as Goby, asked me, “Gordon, how energetic are you?” I replied, smiling, “As energetic as could be.” “Good,” he said, “I want you to clean out that cave over there with three junior high Israeli students.” I was up to the challenge. As I headed for the cave, Goby confided, “By the way, the cave might be loaded. But remember, archaeology is NOT a treasure hunt.” Thus began one of the most interesting weeks of my life.

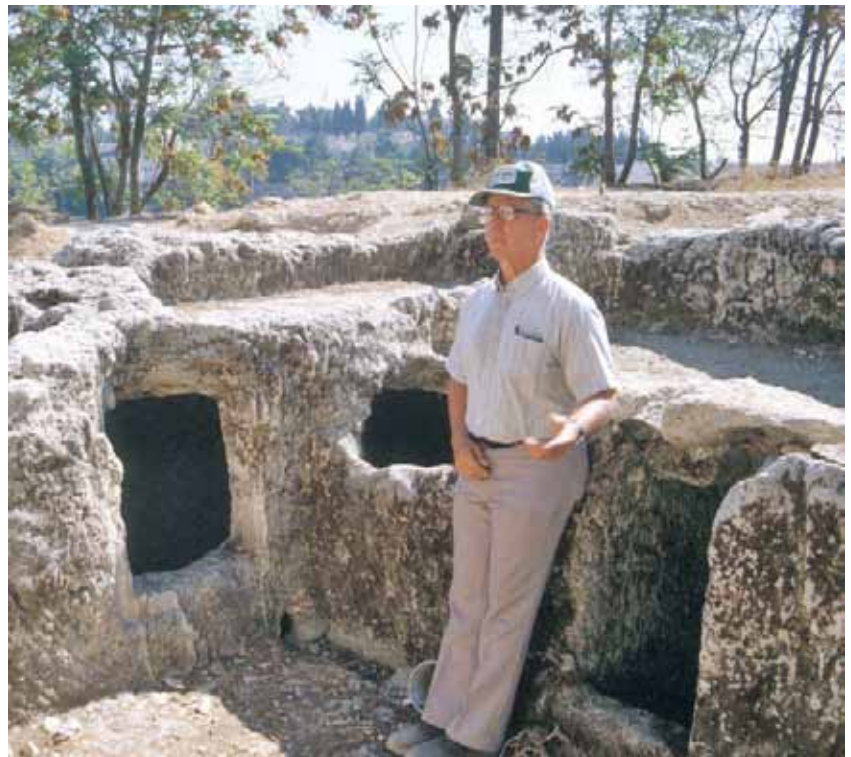
This was one of the first archaeological excavations I ever worked on, and now I was an area supervisor of three junior high Israeli students. I was about to receive a crash course with on-the-job training in Methodology of Archaeological Excavations 101, also known as How to Excavate a Burial Cave When You Don't Know What You Are Doing. Fortunately, I was a quick learner and Goby was a great teacher.

The Burial Cave

The ceiling of the repository, the place where the bones and any burial gifts for the dead were deposited after the flesh had decayed, had collapsed, which suggested to Goby that there

might be a sealed layer underneath with archaeological artifacts.

Goby instructed me to divide the cave into six quadrants and excavate one or two at a time. Goby stressed the importance of measuring all the objects that were found from their lowest point. I am glad I listened to him, because years later it would prove very important in the dating of the amulets found later.



Michael Luddeni

Dr. David Livingston at the burial caves at St. Andrew's Scottish Presbyterian Church.



Gabriel Barkay

Silver scroll amulet before unrolling.

During one of our breaks the first morning, Goby said to me, “Gordon, I want you to find me an inscription. If you do, I’ll give you a party.” I laughed because I knew from his Archaeology of Jerusalem classes that inscriptions in Jerusalem are very rare. Nevertheless, I half-jokingly said, “I’ll find you an inscription on the last day and in the last square.” Little did I know how prophetic that statement would be!

By Tuesday afternoon we had realized just how important this cave was, so we replaced the junior high students with adults from the Institute for Holy Land Studies. About mid-morning on Saturday, Judy Hadley, an archaeology student at Wheaton College (now a professor at Villanova University), brushed aside some dirt to reveal a rolled-up piece of silver. I described it in my journal as a “silver roll” and recorded it as Object 31 from Area D, located at a level of 74 in (188 cm), and then drew it on my plan. It was given basket number 481. Later, it would be called Ketef Hinnom Amulet I. Goby suspected it might have an inscription on it, but it first had to be cleaned and unrolled, and that would take time. We finished cleaning out the dirt from the cave at 1AM Sunday morning. It had been a 19-hour marathon day!

Sunday and Monday we continued sifting the material that was excavated after dark on Saturday. A second silver roll came up in the sifting during one of the afternoons. It would become known as Ketef Hinnom Amulet II.

Monday, in one of the last buckets to be sifted, a seal was discovered. Using his son’s Play-Doh, Goby made an impression of the seal and it revealed the name “Paltah.” Unbeknownst to us, this was only the first inscription.

A summary of the excavation has been published in preliminary form, but not a final excavation report (Franz 1986; Barkay 1994).

Opening the Scrolls

The two silver amulets were given an initial cleaning at the labs of Tel Aviv University. Three years after their discovery, the

delicate job of opening them was entrusted to Joseph “Dodo” Shenhav of the Israel Museum. Under his able direction, the amulets were successfully unrolled during the fall of 1982 (Rasovsky, Bigelajzen and Shenhav 1992: 192–94).

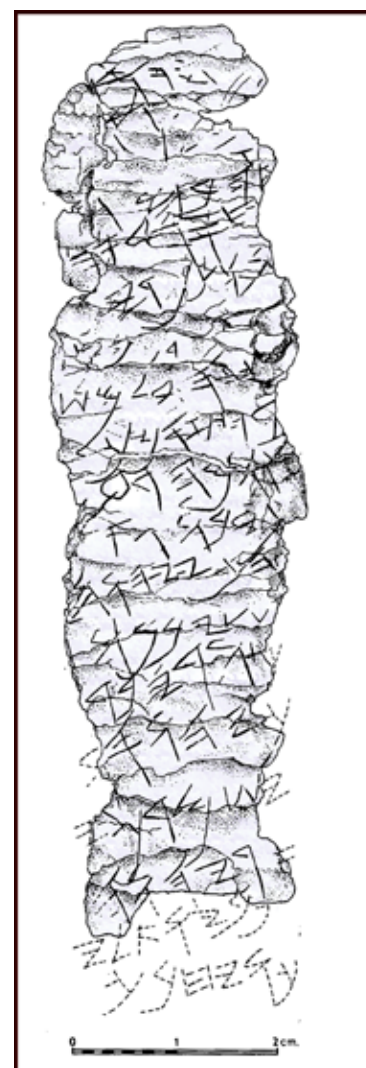
Dr. Yaakov Meshorer, the curator of the numismatics section of the Israel Museum, looked at one of the amulets under a microscope. He recognized the paleo-Hebrew writing. It was the name of the Lord, YHWH. This was the first time the Lord’s name was found in an archaeological context in Jerusalem. Goby entrusted the drawing of the two scrolls to one of his graduate students from the Institute, Bill J. Wilson. He would take the scrolls to the Israel Museum in order to draw each and every line he could see using an electronic microscope, the best in Israel at the time. It was a painstaking job, but Bill did an outstanding job of recovering and drawing 90 percent of the inscription, but it still did not make sense.

The Oldest Biblical Texts

In 1986, the Israel Museum wanted to have a “display of the month” devoted to the excavations at Ketef Hinnom. In preparation for the exhibit, Adi Yardeni of the Israel Museum redrew the amulets. One morning she had a chance conversation with a religious colleague at the museum. She mentioned she was drawing a text with the name of the LORD written three times on it. He replied, “Three times? Maybe it’s the priestly blessing.” When Yardeni returned to her work, she tried to read the passage of Numbers 6:24–26 into the inscription. Much to her amazement, it worked. Thus, the first biblical inscription from the First Temple Period was deciphered (Rabinovich 1986: 16–17).

A Description of the Amulets

The larger amulet, Ketef Hinnom I, was 1.1 in (27.5 mm) wide. When unrolled, the plaque measured 3.8 in (97 mm) long and 1.1 in (27 mm) wide. This amulet was almost pure silver. The metal analysis showed 99 percent silver content and 1 percent copper. These plaques



Gabriel Barkay

Unrolled scroll exposing text.

might be the beaten (hammered) silver brought from Tarshish mentioned in Jeremiah 10:9.

The letters were incised on the plaques. Jeremiah, a contemporary of these amulets, describes how the writing was possibly done: “with a pen of iron, with a point of diamond” (Jer 17:1, NKJV).

The end of the amulet has part of the priestly blessing. The last portion of it, however, was lost when the scroll was unrolled.

The smaller amulet, Ketef Hinnom II, is 0.45 in (11.5 mm) wide and 1.54 in (39.2 mm) long. Unfortunately, the bottom third was missing. The priestly blessing on it says, “The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and give you peace.” The passage in Numbers 6:24–26 upon which it is based has fifteen words in it. The scribe of the amulet left out five words in order to create a shorter blessing. And we thought the Reader’s Digest Bible was a modern invention!

The Dating of the Amulets

The burial cave in which the amulets were found was carved in the mid-seventh century BC. Based on the style of the letters, or paleography, Goby dated the amulets to the late seventh century BC, or very early sixth century BC (Barkay 1992). Several scholars challenged this date and argued that it was much later, during the Hellenistic period. One of the reasons was the existence of the eight Hellenistic pottery pieces in the cave.

The importance of careful records cannot be overestimated. Goby had to go back and look at the journal that I kept and the plan of the burial cave with the objects plotted on them. It was observed that the average depth of the deposits in the repository was 25.6 in (65 cm). The Ketef Hinnom I amulet was found 2.8 in (7 cm) above the floor. This demonstrated that the amulet was one of the earliest objects thrown into the repository. Ketef Hinnom II was found in Area A, the back quadrant. Goby observed that this was also one of the earliest deposits.

On paleographic grounds, these two inscriptions should be dated to the end of the seventh century BC. This fits well with the corresponding archaeological data as well as historical considerations. Clearly these are the two oldest biblical texts found to date; they predate the Dead Sea Scrolls by at least 400 years.

Conclusion for Biblical Studies

There is at least one important implication for biblical studies. According to the critical scholars, Numbers 6:23–27 should be attributed to the so-called “P” source, which is generally dated

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to the Post-Exilic, or Persian Period. It is obvious that we now have two examples of this text that were written prior to the Babylonian captivity. This makes it impossible to assume that the Priestly Benediction was crystallized during the Post-Exilic Period.

A word of caution is in order. These amulets cannot be used to prove when the priestly blessing was originally composed, or even who wrote it. The only thing they can tell us is that at the end of the seventh century BC the priestly blessing existed.

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Thanks for asking me to write a brief piece about the importance of ABR in my life. As a result, I have spent many wonderful moments reflecting. I became acquainted with ABR when I was in Israel doing research in 1984. There, I met Dr. David Livingston who was excavating with a small team. He graciously spent several hours with me, sharing his watermelons and discussing the topography of the area as it pertained to the account in Joshua’s battles at Ai (Josh 7 and 8). Subsequently, I joined ABR and was asked to serve on the Board. I grew to know and appreciate Dr. Bryant Wood who encouraged me to pursue a Ph.D. in archaeology. He ultimately chaired my dissertation committee—no easy task, I can assure you. In addition to Bryant’s own careful research and writing, he tirelessly edited this journal for many years. I learned to value his detailed commitment to this task when I laboriously edited one edition for him.

Bryant’s editing chores is characteristic of the careful and truthful attention to detail that has been the hallmarks of research by ABR’s staff. Their illumination of Scripture through archaeological findings and interpretations is unique. ABR is a rare, but often unrecognized, blessing to the Church. The labor and love of those who serve ABR have provided bedrock support for conservative, evangelical teachers of the Bible. I am delighted to have been a tiny part of ABR, and congratulate it on its fortieth birthday.

- Col (Ret’d) Dr. David Hansen
Former Board President of ABR



Researching Jericho

Michael Luddeni

By Bryant G. Wood

I am often asked, “How did you get started doing research on Jericho? As a boy did you dream of becoming an archaeologist so you could find evidence that would prove the biblical account really happened?” Hardly! When I was growing up in Endicott NY, my goal was to get a well-paying job! I knew little about the Bible, and the only archaeology I had heard about was excavating American Indian sites. I began my adult career as a mechanical engineer, but soon thereafter gained an interest in the Bible and in the archaeological findings that illuminated its pages. That interest resulted in my leaving engineering in 1973 to pursue biblical and archaeological studies. So much for a well-paying job!

But Jericho was still not in the picture. It was not until I was doing research for my Ph.D. thesis in the early 1980s that my attention was drawn to the findings at Jericho. In reviewing all of the published pottery from the Late Bronze Age in Palestine, I came across John Garstang’s pottery from the cemetery and destruction level at Jericho (1933; 1934). Although earlier than the focus of my thesis, I was struck by the amount of pottery he had published that dated to the Late Bronze I period (ca. 1500–1400 BC), the time of the Conquest and the very time period Kathleen Kenyon said was missing from the tell.

Based on his analysis of the pottery, Garstang strongly maintained that the city was destroyed at the end of Late Bronze I at the hands of the Israelites (1934: 107–10; 1937: 1219, 1220; Garstang and Garstang 1948: 121–27). Kenyon, on the other

hand, based on her analysis of Garstang’s work and her own excavations in the 1950s, claimed that Jericho was unoccupied at this time (1951: 113, 115, 117, 122; 1956: 194; 1957: 256–63; 1967a: 270–73; 1967b: 75; 1973: 544–45; 1978: 38; 1979: 182; 1982: 993–94; 1993: 680). Because Kenyon was highly regarded for her expertise in field archaeology, her conclusions were uncritically accepted over those of Garstang, and are still held by most Old Testament scholars to the present day.

Upon completing my Ph.D. in 1985, the year before I joined the staff of ABR, I further pursued the matter of Kenyon’s dating of Jericho and soon discovered that she had erred, and that Garstang’s date is the preferred one (Wood 1990: 51–53). I presented the results of my research at three archaeological conferences in 1987. Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, the largest circulation magazine on biblical archaeology, happened to hear one of the presentations and invited me to write an article on the subject for his magazine. This appeared in 1990 and resulted in my Jericho research being spread around the world (Cornell 1990; Lemonick 1990; Wilford 1990; Horn 1991: 69).

The battle for Jericho is still not over. It remains for me to publish a critique of Kenyon’s theories and an in-depth study of the pottery from the various expeditions, to demonstrate that Kenyon’s conclusions were incorrect and that Garstang’s analysis is the correct interpretation for the dating of the destruction of Jericho.



Michael Luddeni

The ruins of ancient Jericho, looking east toward the Jordan River. The low-lying area at the north end of the mound is the dump from Garstang's 1930s excavation. The total area of the city, including the fortification rampart, was about 9 acres, with a circumference of about ½ mile. Thus, the Israelites easily could have walked around the city seven times in one day (Jos 6:15).



Michael Luddeni

Dr. Wood and the crew from SourceFlix filming at the outer stone retaining wall of Jericho for the DVD *Jericho Unearthed*. The Israelites walked around this wall for seven days and then the mud brick fortification walls of the city collapsed to the base of the wall.

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I regard ABR to be one of the most strategically important organizations in the Evangelical community generally, and in the Biblical Archaeological community in particular. Its scientific and biblical contributions to our generation have been reliable, powerful and God-honoring. Few professional organizations take biblical history seriously these days, and their religious sentiments are, therefore, reduced to speculation, supposition and, at times, skepticism. It is refreshing to see a group of scholars that are competent in field archaeology, skilled in biblical interpretation and committed to practical Christian values. It has been my honor to have dug with them and contributed to the *Bible and Spade* magazine. I want to do everything I can to make ABR better known and to enlarge its outreach to the American evangelical church and beyond.

- Dr. John Davis
President/Professor Emeritus
Grace Theological Seminary

Bryant G. Wood, ABR Director of Research, is principal archaeologist and director of ABR's excavation at Khirbet el-Maqatir. He has a MS in Nuclear Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a MA in Biblical History from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology from the University of Toronto.



The Future is Bright for ABR!

By Scott Lanser

The Associates for Biblical Research is known for archaeological fieldwork and painstaking biblical research. The work produced by ABR is widely used by Bible students, archaeologists, professors and teachers, some of whom believe the Bible to be the Word of God and some who do not. The one thing everyone can count on from ABR is extensive and careful analysis of scientific and biblical evidence.

This commitment to detailed scholarship is coupled with an equally important commitment to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. Indeed, ABR is devoted to upholding the reliability of the Bible and to communicating the evidence that affirms the historical accounts of Scripture. As we look to the future, ABR will continue its commitment to these all-important objectives.

ABR is also committed to aggressively promoting the authority of the Bible. The Bible is increasingly under attack in a culture immersed in skepticism and cynicism. The witness of Christians becomes almost hollow in the minds of many non-

Christian people as they hear believers share their testimonies. For many, the presentation of the Gospel is no different than hearing someone say they believe in the historical reality of fairy tales. No matter how passionately we may tell someone what Christ has done for us, it falls upon deaf ears because so many people simply do not believe that the accounts of Christ's life in the Bible are true, let alone the accounts in Genesis and the rest of the Old Testament. How can they believe our message of the saving work of Christ, if they do not believe the scriptural record of what Christ has done? The Bible has been under attack in every period of history since the days of the apostles, and in our day the battle continues, only the weapons are different. Today's attacks use the so-called "assured conclusions of science" to portray the biblical accounts as factually incorrect and as an unreliable source of scientific and historical information. These attacks are aimed squarely at the authority of the Bible. We must, and we will, respond to these arguments.



The ABR Staff:

Michelle Santiago, Rick Lanser, Bryant Wood, Henry Smith, Gordon Franz, Scott Lanser.

ABR file photo

It is imperative for us to engage the Christian universities and colleges, pastors and church leaders and forcefully argue for biblical authority. Those whom God has entrusted to teach our young people the truth of the Word of God MUST renew their commitment to the absolute authority of Scripture. How dreadful it will be on the Day of Judgment for anyone standing in a position of Christian leadership who has led young people to stumble, teaching them that the Bible cannot be trusted. We will all stand before the Lord one day and give an account of our lives, and we want to be on the Lord's side when it comes to this issue. ABR is committed to speaking the word of correction and rebuke to those who teach under the banner of Christ and the apostles, but who openly mislead the people of God. More than ever, ABR wants to challenge Christian leaders, pastors and teachers to prepare themselves adequately to answer the great questions of our day and to support the authority of Scripture.

We are living in a day when wild and unsubstantiated ideas are put forth as facts. One can run down a litany of such ideas, from the insinuations found in *The Da Vinci Code* to the bizarre assertions concerning the so-called Jesus Family Tomb. Even more troubling and difficult for the Church to respond to is the speed in which these ideas are spread via the Internet and popular media. It is incumbent upon us to not only respond with strong and clear arguments, but with speed and creativity to disseminate accurate information to the Church and the culture at large.

We will also respond to those who, claiming authority as amateur archaeologists, have foisted upon people bogus and unsubstantiated claims. Sadly, these individuals are often professing Christians who make false claims and draw false inferences to promote their dubious ideas. Christians who wish to speak in the rarified world of archaeology must possess the adequate training and skill required to interpret the artifacts and material culture they uncover. Archaeology is a scientific endeavor and must be practiced with scientific rigor, not in the spirit of Indiana Jones or as a quest marked by wild speculation in identifying relics as proofs of the Bible. The great tragedy in all of this is that the very goal such treasure-hunters have, to show support for the Bible, ends up doing the complete opposite and undermines the credibility of valid archaeological work and the proper interpretation of what is discovered. Indeed, believers end up in a much worse position in seeking to use archaeology as a support to the Word of God, since unbelievers are given cause to scoff at such unscientific and "mystical" approaches to the science of archaeology. In contrast, ABR is involved in valid archaeological endeavors, and will continue to operate with the highest level of integrity and with complete devotion to the Word of God.

ABR has a rich history of teaching and presenting the results of our cutting-edge research that illumines the Scriptures and enlightens the Church of Jesus Christ. In the months and years ahead, ABR will expand its teaching ministries by more aggressively taking on the distortions of the Bible by secularist archaeologists. We will show the philosophical biases of those who hide behind a cloak of supposed objectivity and reveal their true motives, which are not to present accurate historical data but intentionally skewed data that is then used to undermine and attack the Bible. ABR will continue its efforts in performing original fieldwork and research that brings important affirmations to the biblical record.

Our overarching goal is to serve the Church of Jesus Christ by bringing practical and informative research that will answer the questions of those seeking the truth. We want to make our articles and information more suited for our general audience. We want to speak more practically to the lives of God's people.

Today, ABR stands in an important place as an apologetic ministry. As our young people continue to spiral down into the trap of post-modernism, ABR will work to help them to know that the Bible is completely reliable, and that God did indeed speak in the pages of Scripture. Students and people of all ages are looking for answers to their questions, and we are committed to providing the answers.

These are exciting days at ABR. We look forward to all that God will do through this ministry in the months and years ahead!

Scott Lanser is Executive Director of ABR with an MA in New Testament Studies from Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield PA. He serves as pastor of New Hope Bible Fellowship in Lancaster PA.



If it's a fact, you'd better believe. That's what ABR is about. Archaeological and historical research to uncover and publish facts can restore and bolster confidence in the trustworthiness of the Bible.

But one fact I find it hard to believe: have forty years passed since I agreed to serve on the original Board of Directors of the "Associates for Biblical Research"?! To the best of my recall, it was Dr. Jay E. Adams, "Mr. Counselor," who suggested that name to the founder, David Livingston.

Dave asked me to join him and some others in that new and worthwhile venture. My wife and I had met Dave and Esther just a few weeks after we were married, when both couples rented apartments at a Child Evangelism Fellowship HQ in North Side Pittsburgh. The Livingstons were brand-new parents at the time.

Our lives continued to parallel: same advanced seminary studies, pastorates in Western Pennsylvania, foreign missions service (them in Korea, us in Ethiopia), and eventually reuniting in the Philadelphia area. It was there ABR got organized. God had designed that we could finally work together, and that was great. Merilyn and I joined the first "Ai dig" at Khirbet Nisya, and several more after that.

Along with many others, our lives have been greatly enriched by involvement in ABR's ministry, and we are pleased and excited to see the work progressing so well today.

- Dr. Milton Fisher
Former ABR Board member
Emeritus Professor of Old Testament,
Reformed Episcopal Theological Seminary

Associates for Biblical Research is headquartered in the Bible Centered Ministries International building



Scott Lanser



Staff Photo 1:
Standing: Gene Fackler, Scott Lanser,
Michelle Santiago, Rick Lanser, Henry Smith
Seated: Dr. David Livingston, Dr. Bryant Wood



Staff Photo 2:
ABR Director.....Scott Lanser
Website/word processing.....Brittany Valentine
Receptionist.....Michelle Santiago
Executive Editor.....Rick Lanser
Director of Development.....Henry Smith

January 22, 1968

Dear Mr. Livingston:

Your postal of 31 December was duly received but I have been very busy since then. I regret to say that we just don't know when funds can be obtained to publish the Bethel volume by Kelso and Swauger (since I had to drop out because I just could not handle the mass of other work under which I am still staggering). I am exceedingly anxious to see it out but the question is where to find the \$15,000.00 or so which would be required to publish.

Cordially, W. F. ALBRIGHT

January 30, 1968

Mr. David Livingston
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Livingston:

Yours of 24 January has been received. I am afraid that the archaeological evidence for Beitin=Bethel would not necessarily be convincing without the Biblical and Patristic evidence, since the latter lines of evidence are so strong and the archaeological data fit extremely well, I don't think that there can be any possible doubt about identification. Archaeological finds prove that Bethel was occupied in the early Patriarchal Age as well as in the latter Patriarchal Age, that it was occupied in the 14th and 13th Centuries B.C., and suffered a violent destruction by fire toward the end of the 13th century. There were then several successive occupations during the time of the Judges (Twelfth - Eleventh centuries) a probable destruction in the 8th century and a third destruction by a fire about the second half of the 6th century/ B. C. There was then a partial reoccupation in the Persian period followed by a more intensive occupation through a series of phases, one of which ended with the Conquest by Bacchides in the 2nd century, B. C. and another of which ended about A.D. 69. The Roman-Byzantine occupations, as well as the occupation in medieval times fits later references very well. In other words, taking archaeological material alone there is no reason whatever to doubt the identification which is proved by the other evidence.

Cordially, W. F. ALBRIGHT

February 8, 1968

Jenkintown, PA. 19046.

Dear Dr. Albright.

I hesitate to trouble you with another letter. I have appreciated, tremendously, your answering me both times already. One area of research which I am sure you have published somewhere, but which I cannot seem to locate is the identification of Bethel from the Biblical sources. You mention that a consideration of the Biblical data is necessary in your January 30, 1968 letter. Dr. Kelso's loan to me of the first chapter of your book on Bethel has provided the particular evidence, but no Biblical evidence. Do you consider this evidence in another chapter? Have you published it elsewhere? Perhaps in a paper at some time? I believe in this point in my research, your investigations in this particular area are now the one thing I am lacking. Of course, I have studied the matter quite a bit myself. But, I am very desirous of comparing my results with yours.

Your outline of the archaeological finds in your latest letter was very fine. I also have now xeroxed most of the reports from various journals. So the archeological data is reasonably complete, at this point. Do not hesitate to answer on a postcard if you can pinpoint the place where I can find your (or a co-worker's) analysis of the biblical data on the location of Bethel. I do not want to take any more of your time than necessary.

Thank you very much. Sincerely, David Livingston

Appendix II Correspondence

Incidentally, there can be no doubt that the name 'Ai means "ruin"; the Hebrew form is ha-ai, "the ruin." Several decades ago I accepted Dussaud's suggestion that the original name of Ai had been Beth-aven, and I have never seen any reason to abandon this view - though it is not certain. The trouble with Callaway's dating of the Iron Age pottery is that his earlier type of collar-rimmed store-jar already appears in exactly the same form in the ruins of the destruction by fire of the last Israelite town of Shiloh, about the middle of the 11th century B. C. It is incredible that the Israelite conquest of the town should date from even later than this date. On the other hand, the Hebrew Bible (supported by the Pesitta) preserves the older reading (against the two main recensions of LXX, that we should read "and there was not a man left in Ai or Bethel that went not out after Israel." I have, therefore, come around, in part, to the view of Vincent, that the Canaanite towns of the area had barricaded themselves behind the old fortifications of Ai. This does not necessarily mean that there was no tradition of the greatness of Ai in earlier times but simply that there was actually a basis for the Israelite tradition about Canaanite occupation of Ai in the time of Joshua. Such a short occupation of a few weeks or so, could scarcely leave any remains behind for archaeologists to discover. You can take it from me, and from Callaway and others, that there just isn't any other possibility for Ai than et-Tell and that Bethel can only have been modern Beitin. Since 1921 we have examined and reexamined the whole countryside, and there just isn't any archaeologically viable identification. Bireh is chiefly of medieval date (as already suggested by the name, which meant "the fortress"); there are some Byzantine remains there but nobody has pointed out anything earlier. There is no object at all in quoting miscellaneous travelers who said something about remains of walls and other surface ruins. Of all the archaeological surveys of the hill-country the best remains the recent examination of all the ruins around Shechem by the members of the American expedition, headed by Wright.

In short, I do beg of you not to publish this material in the form you have; if you have any later scholarly ambitions, they will be seriously damaged and if you have none you are simply taking up space uselessly. You evidently have capacity for work and latent critical qualities, and I do hope you do not waste these valuable assets.

Sincerely, W. F. ALBRIGHT

Dear Livingston,

April 18, 1970

I am mailing you some magazines & material by Prof. Theo. Taylor (on Jewish prayers). It illustrates research work your group could do. In my letter is other illustrative items. This is the postscript of my new book on Paul. Do not use this in any way except to illustrate (gospels & Pauline contrasts). The other article is in anthropology. Master that Bible & let Christ master you.

Cordially, Kelso (transcribed from hand written letter)

Dear Livingston,

Feb. 2, 1971

I had two letters from . . . a former professor of yours. He was greatly distressed as he thought I would think the ideas came from him & he wanted me to know that he had nothing to do with the article. He said your article was a brainstorm. He is answering it in the Westminster Theol. Journal.

If you are looking for condensed material on Moses use Kitchen's article in *Inter-Varsity Bible Dictionary*. Most everything that I have read of Kitchen is good.

The seminary has a new president who will take over in April. He is Kadel, former pres. of Presbyterian College of Florida & head of Southern church's Brd of Education. I have never met him or heard much about him. Remember me to [Milton] Fisher.

Cordially, James L. Kelso

A Tribute to Dr. David Livingston

By Gordon Franz

On May 26, 2005, ABR held its annual banquet at Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA. This night had a special focus honoring the life and ministry of Dr. Livingston, not only for his role in founding ABR, but on his influence in the lives of others. The following article was a message that night presented by Gordon Franz, giving insight into the man who began this ministry.

Tonight we are here to honor Dr. David Livingston. It has been my privilege to know David and his wife Esther for the last 28 years. We first met in January 1977. I was a student at Christian Heritage College in El Cajon, California. One of the three-week modules I had to take in my history major was Biblical Archaeology. Dr. Clifford Wilson was scheduled to teach the class, so I was all excited about taking a class with the famous Dr. Wilson. When I returned to school after the Christmas break, I found out that Dr. Wilson was not going to teach the module, but instead, somebody named David Livingston was. I did not have the foggiest idea who this person was. He wasn't famous, he hadn't written any books, he did not have a radio program... but one thing he had going for him was that he was from the East Coast!

The school was going through some growth problems at the time. Our small class (if my memory serves me correctly, there were six or seven in the class) met in the periodical room of the library! Dave was very flexible and presented a great class. He exposed us to new information such as the concept of divine kings. He spent a lot of time talking about the Exodus and Conquest. I liked his ideas of the legend of Keret and the fall of the moon city, Jericho. Of course, he also talked about his ideas regarding the location of Bethel and Ai. Most of the material is on his website, www.ancientdays.net.

During the course of the class, we had to do a term paper on an archaeological topic. I chose to do something on the date of the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. When I got my paper back, I received an "A" for my efforts and a note from Dave saying, "You need to study in Israel and solve this problem once and for all." Well, I went to Israel, but I have not solved this problem.

Dave encouraged me to study at the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem. It was during that year that Dave got permission to excavate Khirbet Nisya, which he believed was biblical Ai. I guess I was the right person in the right place at the right time, because I was able to do some of the legwork for him in Jerusalem and Ramallah before the dig in order to get this dig organized.

Dave and ABR had its first season at Kh. Nisya during the summer of 1979. It went well, but I saw the disappointment in

Dave's eyes when there was no Late Bronze or Middle Bronze pottery at the site. After the dig was over and everybody went home, I took some friends up to visit the site and we walked along the spur to the south of the khirbet and I picked up some pottery. Later, I showed it to Rivka Gonen, an Israeli archaeologist who had excavated a Middle Bronze cemetery south of Bethlehem at a place called Efrat during that summer. When she saw the pottery she commented, "Oh, this is just like our Middle Bronze pottery from Efrat." She then proceeded to show me parallels with her pottery. We had Middle Bronze age pottery at Kh. Nisya. A few weeks later, I returned to the States and called Dave to tell him the good news. I did not need the phone to hear Dave, I could hear him yelling and screaming all

"I don't want my children learning this," declared my late husband, Dr. Don DeLancey. He boldly marched into the office of our supervising principal. Don was protesting the strong evolutionary teaching in our public schools in the early seventies. About the same time, we became aware of an organization called the Associates for Biblical Research. ABR could help us refute this false dogma. We attended some of the meetings and met the founder, Dr. David Livingston, and his sweet wife Esther. Dr. Livingston helped us take a strong stand on Scientific Creationism.

Dr. Livingston also directed studies in Israel. 1980 offered one of the most exciting times in our lives, when we participated in our first archaeological dig at King Herod's winter palace in the city of Jericho. Don was invited to serve on the ABR Board of Directors. That entailed going to regular meetings, the wives joining for the fellowship. I often look back on those precious days and remember how the LORD used ABR to encourage us both in our Creation Evangelism ministries. Don served on the board until the LORD called him home. All those years of listening and learning equipped me to continue his teaching ministry after his death.

Congratulations to the founder of this marvelous organization that has been an effective arm against secular humanism and ungodly evolution, and has done exemplary work in Biblical Archaeology.

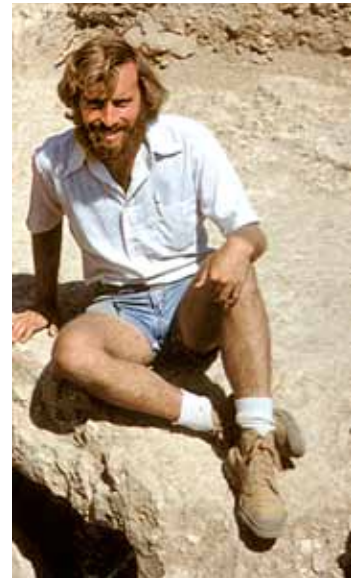
- Margaret DeLancey, RN
Creation Ministry lecturer

the way to New Jersey, he was so excited. And the rest, as they say, is history.

I am reminded of the story of Charles Spurgeon. As a teenager he wanted to know God. He went to a local church on a cold, snowy, wintry day. When he got to the meeting, there was only the preacher and one other person at the service. The preacher could have called off the service because there were only two people in the audience, but he didn't. He preached on John 3, the serpent in the wilderness, and said "Look and live." That morning, Charles Spurgeon looked to the Lord Jesus and trusted Him as his personal Savior and received the free gift of eternal life, the forgiveness of sins, and a home in heaven. One wonders if the preacher realized the impact this young lad would have on the world on that snowy morning.

I've always wondered what went through Dave's mind when he was teaching that class at Christian Heritage College with just a handful of students in front of him in the periodical room of the library. Well, it wasn't snowing outside, and San Diego was

a nice place to be in January! Yet one of those students, looking for direction in his life, went into archaeology as a result of that class. For that class, Dave, I thank you very much.



A very young Gordon Franz.

Gordon Franz

Dr. Bryant Wood and I became firm friends back in 1969. I had been an Area Supervisor at the excavation at Gezer in Israel, headed up by the American Schools of Oriental Research with Hebrew Union College, and the titular leaders were Dr. Bill Dever, Dr. Nelson Glueck, and Dr. George Ernest Wright. I had been an Area Supervisor at that site twice before, and the finds were very satisfying.

At that time (from Australia) I had been in touch with Dr. Bryant Wood, and then he arranged a series of lectures for me in the States as I returned to Australia from Israel and America. It is not surprising that we became firm friends, for we shared very similar interests, particularly in our determination to show the world that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that archaeology substantially demonstrates its accurate history, background material, and theological truth.

Bryant arranged further meetings for me, and before long we had agreed that I would be responsible for the radio program that at first was called "Word of Truth" and later "The Stones Cry Out." We further decided that Bryant would be responsible for the commencement of a journal dealing with the Bible and archaeology. Despite name changes, those two presentations have continued for over 40 years. I have always been responsible for the production of the actual programs, including production costs, and for some years I was actually responsible for payment to the many radio stations.

By now I had settled back in Australia, and as the radio work grew, it became more than difficult to maintain the costs of presenting the program to many American stations. I submitted my resignation to the team, but was delighted when they got back to me and said they would be responsible for the dispatch of the programs to the radio stations in the States, but would I continue to be responsible for the actual production of the programs.

Australia is not like America in financial matters, and the time came when I was seriously embarrassed because accounts had not been paid. This was with an earlier radio outreach that was preparatory to my work with ABR. With a small group we prayed for one week, asking the Lord to tell us what to do within that time. To cut the story short, on the last day I was urgently praying to the Lord that he would give me a message from one of my students, who was speaking at a Sunday night youth service. He finished his rather boring message, reached over and picked up a Bible and then said, "I'm going to close in an unusual way tonight." He put the first Bible down and picked up another one, which happened to be the Berkeley Version. He read from 1 Peter 2:1-10. At various points, as he read, I had a real warming of the Holy Spirit of God believing that we would indeed "never be put to shame" (v.6).

Remember I'm quoting the Berkeley Version, which I had at that time. Later versions changed the word "broadcast" to "publish." This is how that young student read verse 9, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, a people of His acquisition, so that you may BROADCAST the perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." I just about cried as I realized the tremendous importance of that word "broadcast."

Much more could be said, but space has gone. The fact is, we started with one radio program and now I believe it is broadcast on around 220 stations. Though there have been real tests financially, the Lord has used this ministry in a wonderful way, and we give Him praise. God helping us, we want to continue making radio broadcasts all the days of our lives.

- Clifford and Barbara Wilson
Producers of *The Stones Cry Out* radio program

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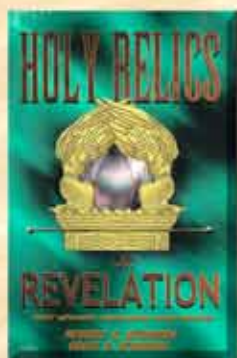
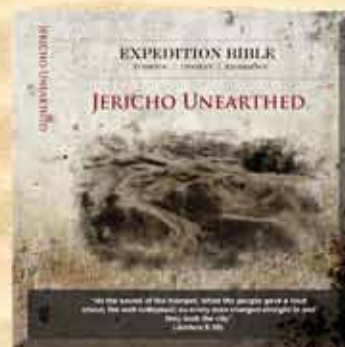
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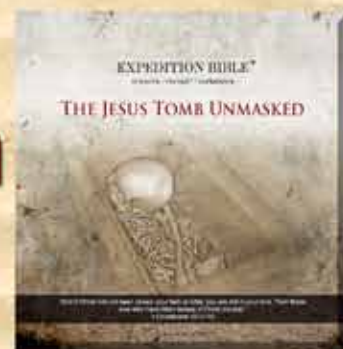
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