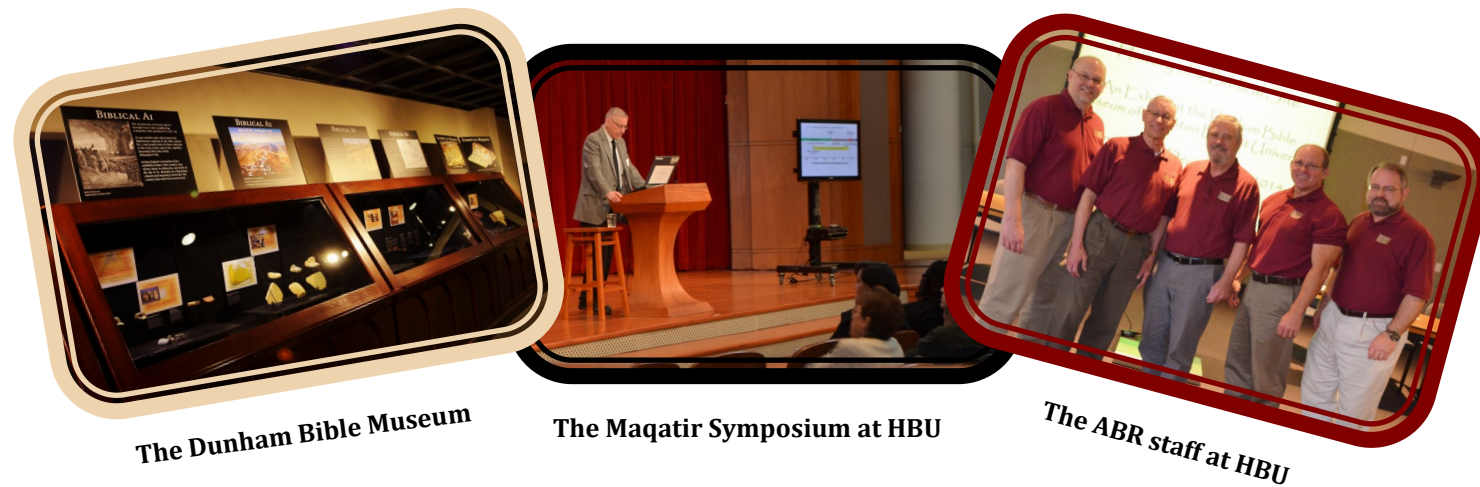


Dear ABR Friends and Ministry Partners,

Many exciting and important developments have occurred surrounding the ministry of ABR in 2013 and 2014. My report to you today reviews these developments and the wonderful way that God has expanded the ministry activities and outreach of ABR. I am happy to report continued growth in all key areas of our work: Digs and Tours, Educational ministries, Financial Support, Product Development, and Staffing.

The growth and advancement of these ministry activities and strategic initiatives reflect God's hand upon ABR and we are grateful for all of His blessings. They also reflect the expanding base of support and interest in the work and ministry of ABR by our many friends across the U.S. and around the world. Many are discovering the powerful role that biblical archaeology plays in apologetic outreach ministry and evangelism. There is a renewed interest today in ancient history, and especially biblical history. Sadly, many settle for dubious presentations of history as displayed in the seemingly endless speculative programming of *The History Channel* and *Discovery* to *National Geographic* and even *The Military Channel*. Ironically, this may actually be helping to fuel the search for genuine and legitimate research, the kind of research that ABR provides. The reality is that ABR is becoming the go-to ministry for answering the critical questions concerning biblical history...especially questions rooted in our skeptical post-modern culture.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the growth the Lord has brought to ABR, and for the amazing developments of this past year! In the pages that follow I have provided several of these highlights, as well as a peek at two of the exciting new opportunities the Lord has set before us in 2014! All of these things have been made possible by the grace of God and by your partnership of prayer and financial support!



ABR's work at Khirbet el-Maqatir was honored by being selected for an exclusive exhibit at the Dunham Bible Museum of the Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas. The exhibit highlights the extraordinary discoveries the ABR team has made at this site since 1995. Led by Dr. Bryant Wood, ABR's head of research, Khirbet el-Maqatir is a strong candidate for the biblical city of Ai. In conjunction with the opening of the exhibit a symposium was held on February 8 with presentations by Dr. Wood, Dr. Leen Ritmeyer of Ritmeyer Archaeological Design, Dr. Eugene Merrill, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Scott Stripling, Director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavation. The highlight of the 2013 excavation was the astounding discovery of a 15th century Egyptian scarab (see below)



As if these developments were not enough, the Lord has opened two extraordinary doors of ministry for us in 2014. ABR has been invited to participate in the National Conference on Christian Apologetics, October 10 and 11, in Charlotte, North Carolina, where some 3,000 participants will have the opportunity to hear of the work of ABR. As I have spoken to conference organizers they have repeatedly affirmed the need to have ABR's expertise in archaeology to fill a huge gap in their apologetic program. We are grateful to serve this important need at the conference.

In addition to the NCCA, ABR has been invited to give presentations at two large conferences in Asia: in Taipei, Taiwan and Hong Kong, also in October. Please pray for the staff of ABR as we prepare for these exciting opportunities.



The ABR staff from left to right: Gordon Franz, Rick Lanser, Scott Lanser, Henry Smith, Scott Stripling, Bryant Wood, Michelle Santiago, and Gary Byers. Missing: staff photographer Michael Luddeni

As the Director of ABR I want you to know that your prayers and financial support matter. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity toward ABR. As we move into the final quarter of this fiscal year, we would like to raise an additional \$50,000 in donations so that we can accomplish the following projects in the months ahead:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| \$20,000 | • Pay for the first 2 installments of the ABR curriculum project |
| \$20,000 | • Major redesign of ABR's online bookstore and website |
| \$9,000 | • Provide the financial resources for ABR to design and publish the first 3 booklets of a new booklet series |
| \$1,000 | • Purchase a new computer and software for the ABR office |

Please let us know if you have any questions about these needs or how you can partner with us in supporting the effort to raise these needed funds. I have attached a return envelope for your use if you would choose to help us at this time.

Finally, let me thank you once again for your part in helping ABR reach its goals in fulfilling God's calling. I praise God for you. As we move forward in sharing the love of Christ and as we reason with skeptics, it will only be possible because of you!

For the sake of the Gospel,

Scott Lanser

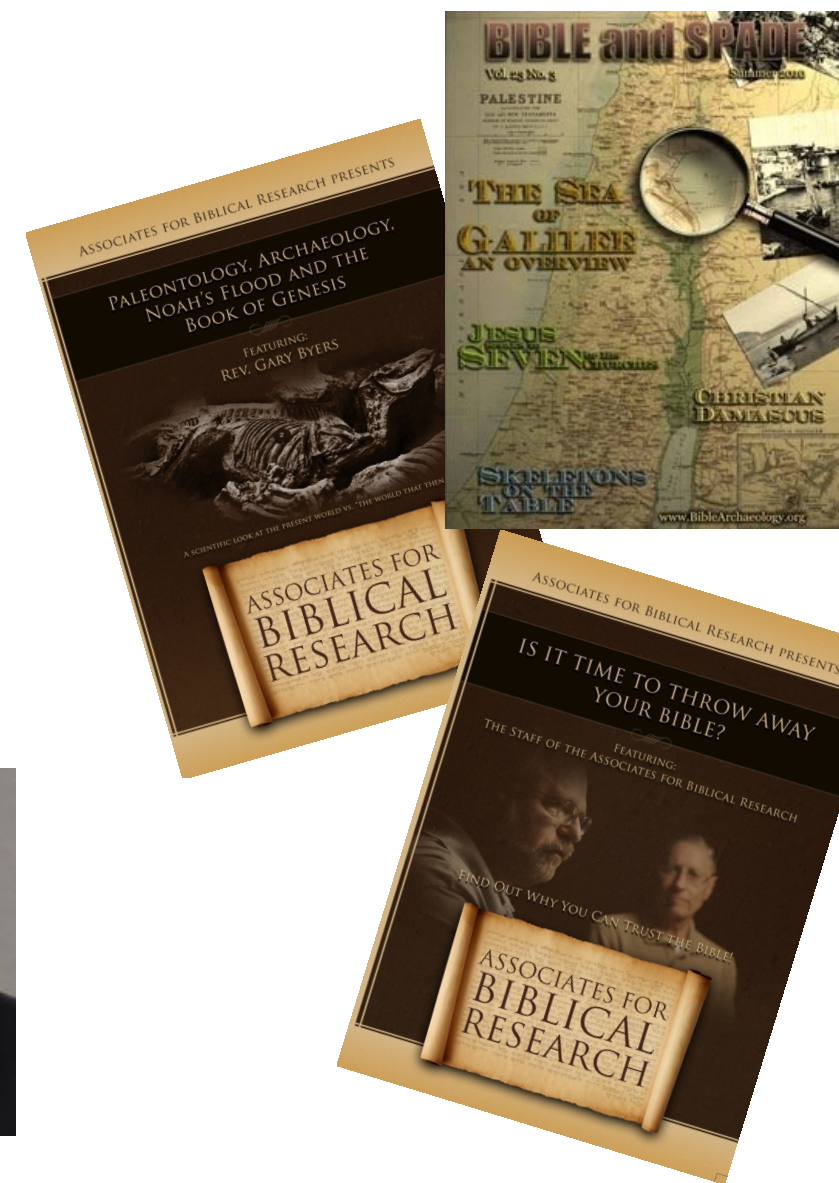
ABR Director

The 2013 dig season at Khirbet el-Maqatir was the most extraordinary since the dig opened in 1995. The evidences for confirming the site as biblical Ai grew dramatically with the discovery of an Egyptian scarab dated to the time of the Conquest of Joshua, beautifully dovetailing into the established biblical chronology. The scarab is yet another important piece in a long list of evidences establishing this site as the biblical city of Ai. In addition, evidences of an olive press operation were discovered which was later used as a hiding place for Jews during the first-century Jewish Revolt from the Romans. Many important coins were discovered from the inter-testamental period and from New Testament times. A third fortress gate socket stone was also uncovered, bringing the total to 3, and with the hope that the forth socket stone might be discovered soon. **In 2014 we will set a new record for diggers participating, as over 60 people will join us on our next excursion into biblical history!**



The Egyptian scarab, discovered at the dig in May, was named by Christianity Today as the #1 archaeological find in 2013. Heralded as an artifact of extreme importance, due to

the confirmation it brings to the dating of the site of Khirbet el-Maqatir, it continues to stir excitement in the world of biblical archaeology. *We are thrilled that God has allowed us to discover this amazing artifact which will likely be another piece in the puzzle displaying and confirming the historical reliability of the Bible.*



ABR Banquets & Seminars

ABR's banquets and seminars have provided the Christian community opportunities to hear some of the finest Christian speakers and scholars in presentations aimed at affirming the authority of Scripture and the life-changing power of our savior, Jesus. In April 2014, Gary Bates of *Creation Ministries International* spoke on how history affirms God's Word...and how archaeology continues to provide profound evidences affirming the Word of God. In addition to our symposium at the Dunham Bible Museum in Houston, the ABR team presented at Faith Theological Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland and at our annual Philadelphia area Bible and Archaeology conference, as well as numerous individual staff and associates presentations across the country.



Josh McDowell
Josh McDowell Ministry



John Morris
President, Institute



Ken Ham
President, Answers in

The ABR team is extremely excited about our new DVD series, improved and expanded *Bible and Spade* magazine, and our soon to be announced series of ABR-produced booklets. We are on the move to share the tremendous research and evidences that will encourage and inform the body of Christ and the world of scholarship. ***A key piece in this effort, is our ongoing development work in creating an archaeological curriculum.*** Designed for multi-faceted use, the curriculum will include games, video segments, and powerful lessons that will guide students in seeing how biblical archaeology affirms the reliability and authority of the Bible!

"Gods work, done God's way, shall never lack God's supply..." - J. Hudson Taylor