

FOUNDATION FOR BIBLICAL AUTHORITY & AUTHENTICITY

Dr. Scott Stripling serves as Provost and Director of the Archaeology Institute at The Bible Seminary in Katy, Texas. Dr. Stripling is the Director of Excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) at Ancient Shiloh (2017 to present). He did his graduate studies at the University of Texas (M.A.), Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (M.A.), and Veritas International University (Ph.D.). Scott and Janet, his wife of thirty-nine years, have four grown children and four grandchildren.

People who don't know much about the Bible make inaccurate statements about the Bible. They claim falsely archaeology contradicts the Bible and archaeologists have proven it didn't happen the way the Bible said it happened.

In archeology, the Bible is considered guilty until proven innocent – it is his job to defend its truth with archeological discoveries. He often deals with two groups of people.

Those who are hostile to the Bible.

Those who have never read the Bible.

“The Bible talks about real people, real places, and real events. The fact is you can trust the Bible.”

The Bible talks about real people.

Archaeological evidence has been found verifying the existence of Pontius Pilot, King David, Herod the Great, King Agrippa, James brother of Jesus, and Jesus.

There's no longer any debate about a historical Jesus. Many literary and geological sources can prove the existence of Jesus – that he lived and died. But only the Holy Spirit can prove to you that he died in your place.

The Bible talks about real places.

Dr. Stripling has had the privilege to excavate real places Shechem, Jerusalem, Ai, Mount Ebal, and Shiloh by Mount Gerizim. Each of these digs has helped in documenting the reality of these places and the people who lived there in the time of the Bible.

Topography and geography do not change. If the Bible mentions a river, it exists; if it mentions a city; there is evidence that it was there.

The Bible talks about real events.

Archaeological findings document Joshua's altar on Mount Ebal.

A curse tablet was found with text written in proto-alphabetic Hebrew, the earliest morphing of Egyptian hieroglyphics into an alphabetic script.

“You are cursed by the God YHW, Cursed.
You will die, Cursed – Cursed, you will surely die.
Cursed you are by YHW – Cursed.”

The dating of this tablet to the Late Bronze Age – the 14th to 13th century – places it as the earliest tablet by one or two centuries. Its existence proves that the Bible was written at the time it purports to have been written.

Excavation of the walls of Jericho documents how the walls fell during the events recorded in Joshua 6:20. This affirms the truth of the story as well as illuminates the text to show that “the [wall of Jericho] was the Israelite's greatest obstacle, but when they did it God's way, it became their destiny.”

The Word of God can be trusted historically, it can be trusted for eternity.

Questions to Consider

1. If the information in the Bible is true, does the God of the Bible hold a moral claim on your life?
2. Do the Bible's narratives tell about real people, places, and events, or should the narratives be read as mythology?
3. Does archaeology expose flaws in the claims made by biblical writers?