

# **A Rational Defense For The Christian Faith**

*By Ted Broadway*

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## **How Archaeology Tends To Support The Historical Accuracy And Veracity Of Holy Writ?**

There are some out there in the world that would assert that the Bible is full of mythical people who really did not exist but were made up by the authors of the Bible. Because of lack of evidence outside of the Scriptures, there are some who believe that King David was a mythical character, who did not really live and reign in about 1000 BC, propped up by Hebrews to allow them to hearken back to and yearn for a mythical “golden age”. As the diggers dig and the archeologists find more data, what is the story now?

Archaeologists have dug up several amazing inscriptions having direct ties to Biblical characters. We now have inscriptions ranging from 1200 to 300 BC that mention up to 40 Biblical characters, among them four mentioned in just one chapter of the Bible, Jeremiah 36. This does not include the many foreigners mentioned in the Scriptures, people like Nebuchadnezzar, Moab, Ammon, Tiglath-Pileser (there’s a name for your next offspring!), Sennacherib (there’s another one) and Shishak of Egypt. The truly ironic thing is that most of these inscriptions were made because Israelites had lost a war.

In the 1990s there were pieces of a stone found in Tel Dan in northern Israel, a city mentioned often in the Bible. David’s name showed up on the stone and the stone was dated at about 850 BC relatively close to David’s time. Before this discovery, David’s name was not found outside of the Bible before the dawn of Christianity. It was also discovered that David’s name appears on the now famous Moabite Stone from about the same period as the Dan inscription. The house of David was only mentioned on the Dan stone because the king of Syria had whupped the Israelites in battle and on the Moabite Stone because the Moabites had drubbed the Israelites in another battle.

It is truly wonderful how helpful archaeology is as a tool for understanding and appreciating the Bible, as well as how archaeology tends to support the historical accuracy and veracity of Holy Writ.

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*Apologetic Primer*