The Stones Cry Out
Biblical Archaeology (Archeology)

Chapter 1: The Adventure of Archaeology
- Biblical Archaeology is accelerating
- Examples of recent discoveries
- Hidden Chamber next to King Tut's Tomb
- Rameses II Firstborns
- Coast of Alexandria harbor
- Syrian Kingdom Tikunani Prism, 3500 years old
  "Habiru" soldiers
- King Tut 1332 BC – 1323 BC

The Way it was
- 18th Century names were shrouded in mystery
- Little physical evidence
- Bible names and places
- Works such as Josephus, Talmud, Herodotus were known
- Works required classical training
- Imagination and faith bible readers relied on

Unearthing the Past
- Bible Archeology has refuted "Higher Criticism"
- "Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and brought increased recognition of the value of the Bible as a source of history"
  Professor William Foxwell Albright
- Over 25,000 Archeological sites linked to the Old Testament
What is Biblical Archaeology?

- Archaic. Past, “First Things”
- Logos: “Study of”, logic,
- 1607 Archeology first appears in English
- “Knowledge”.ancient Israel...from the beginning it was linked to the bible
- Latter applied to artifacts as opposed to written documents

Birth of Biblical Archaeology

- First Archaeologist were grave robbers
- Many tombs were robbed before discovery
- Europeans carried home souvenirs
- Fortune hunters
- Some started recording, etching, bringing news
- 1st Scientific Archeology under Napoleon
  Bonaparte 1798

History made Tangible

- For many the world of the Bible was mythology
- People were not aware of its history
- Archeology allows us to see the original context
- Help our faith grow
  1. Facts support scripture
  2. Confirms reality of people
  3. Evidence outside of scripture

Chapter 2: Digging for Answers
The Story in Stone

Information today is easily available
100,000 Archeological relics in Israel (Online)
www.antiquities.org.il
Discoveries since 1948

The Power of the written word

- The written word reveals volumes to those trained to hear
- Epigraphers “Written upon”
- Inscriptions “To write upon”
- Leather, Paper, Stone, Clay, pottery and Metal

The Power of the written word

- Best preserved are found on clay and stone material
- Monuments, buildings, victory
- Range in from huge to small
- Inscriptions on clay for diplomatic communications
The Power of the written word

- Clay, inexpensive, durable...record keeping
- Cuneiform, connected wedges on clay
- Cuneiform alphabet

The Power of the written word

- Potsherds
- Ostraca, when contain writing
- Poorman's postcard, Ink, charcoal, gum arabic and water
- Lachish letters, pleading for help..

The Value of Archaeology to the Bible

- The Bible was written to particular time, historical, cultural, religious context
- Assist in understanding original context
  1. Confirming
  2. Correcting
  3. Clarifying
  4. Completing the Witness

Confirming the Word of the Bible

- Confirm: To give new assurance of the validity
- Adds to the assurance of the Holy Spirit
- Even those who are reluctant are forced to agree..
  - 1979—Silver Scrolls
  - Numbers 6:24-26
  - Prior to 605 BC
  - Confirms Scripture
Correcting Our Wording of the Bible

- Text as it was originally written
- We have manuscript copies of the Autograph
- Variations in words
- Archaeology confirms Greek and Hebrew words
  - Baal, Ashtoreth,

Clarifying the world of the Bible

- Archeology gives understanding the past world
- Prior to archeology there was an incorrect view
- We can no estimate populations
- Town plans, architecture, type of weapons, etc.

Clarifying the world of the Bible

- “Let the dead bury their own dead” Matthew 8:22
- Archeology reveals 2 burials
  - 1. Within the family cave
  - 2. After flesh decomposed. Collection of box into Ossuary
- Ossilegium (Secondary burial)

Complementing the Witness of the Bible

- 66 Books, 3 continents, 4000-years of history
- Bible focuses on some aspects of history
- Not all is covered in the Bible (Example)
  - King Omri (885-874 BC)
  - Built up Samaria, 8 verses
  - 1 Kings 16:21-28, Wicked King
- Archaeology provides background

Limitations of Archaeology

- The Text of Scripture is superior to Archeology
- Archeology is limited
- Small portion is found
- Confined to the realm of material
- Archaeology gives us:
  - Pottery, buildings, fortifications, plans of cities, interpretation
Limitations of Archaeology

1. Only a fraction of what is made or what is written survives
   - Library at Alexandria was burned
   - 1,000,000 volumes lost
   - 7th Century AD
   - No Archive has been found in Israel

2. Only a fraction of the available archaeological sites have been surveyed
   - Tel: Unnatural mound created from repeated construction
   - Thousand not surveyed yet
   - Populations, other issues

3. Only a fraction of surveyed sites have been excavated
   - Private funding, Volunteers, 2% surveyed

4. Only a fraction of an actual site is examined
   - Takes time and money to examine sites

5. Only a fraction of what is excavated is eventually reported
   - Example:
     - 40-year delay to release photos of the Dead Sea Scroll from Cave 4
     - 30-years for Kathleen Kenyon final report on Jericho to be published
Limitations of Archaeology

- Only a fraction of what is excavated is eventually reported.
- Example:
  - 500,000 Cuneiform texts lying in Museum Vaults
- Sites are pillaged and sold on the black market.