

# Ebla - 1964

Tel Mardikh

location



# Ebla tablets

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- ✧ Excavated to the time of Abraham
- ✧ Found a building whose roof had collapsed.
- ✧ Under the roof they found 14K – 20K clay tablets.
- ✧ On one tablet they found 5 cities listed in a particular order!
- ✧ Five trading cities on a very specific route.
- ✧ Herodotus wrote of Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar but not Sodom and Gomorrah.

# God can be trusted!

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- ☞ How would Moses know to put them in that order writing 600 years later?
  - ☞ 1. Great oral tradition
  - ☞ 2. Divine revelation
  - ☞ But where are the ruins? Put all five cities on a plane and you get Sodom and Gomorrah....

# Hittites

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- ☞ Referred to in Genesis 10,15,23,25,27
- ☞ Common belief up until the late 1800's was that they were a myth.

# Ancient Anatolia



# Room 54: British Museum

Treaty w/Rameses



Culture

- ☞ Existed for 1000 years
- ☞ Invented the chariot
- ☞ Ancestors to the Medes (Acts 2:8-10). Medes are ancestors to modern day Kurds!

# Armana tablets

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- ☞ A collection of letters sent from Palestine to Pharaohs Amenhotep III and IV  $\approx$  1400-1367 B.C.
- ☞ During the Joshua period
- ☞ Tablets speak of a hostile group called the “hapiru”, a “stateless” group that is destroying entire cities but at the same time sparing others. (Joshua 9:1-18)
- ☞ Room 56 in the British Museum – “... these people formed the basis of the biblical Hebrews.”
- ☞ Fits time, place, & people.

# God can be trusted!

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- ✧ There has never been one shred of evidence that contradicts the biblical account!
- ✧ Instead, archeology supports the biblical account.
- ✧ If I can trust God with all the details of names, customs, time periods, places, etc., I can trust Him in other areas as well!



# Tiglath Pileсар III



Main Floor Room 8

# Stele



# Biblical account



- ❧ II Kings 15:19,29; I Chronicles 5:26
- ❧ Mentioned 9x in O.T.
- ❧ Also called 'Pul' in the Bible. Nowhere else is he called this. Yet, the stele in room 8 tells us his nickname was... you guessed it!
- ❧ How unbelievably accurate is God's word!

# Sennacherib 704-681 B.C.



Son of Sargon II

Built Nineveh

Oversaw destruction of the Northern Kingdom  
(Israel)

# Main Floor Room 10



**Sennacherib**



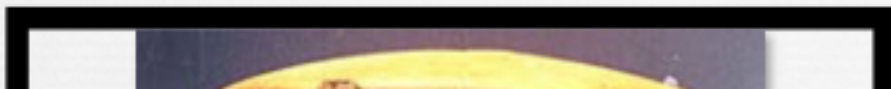
**Israelites from Lachish**

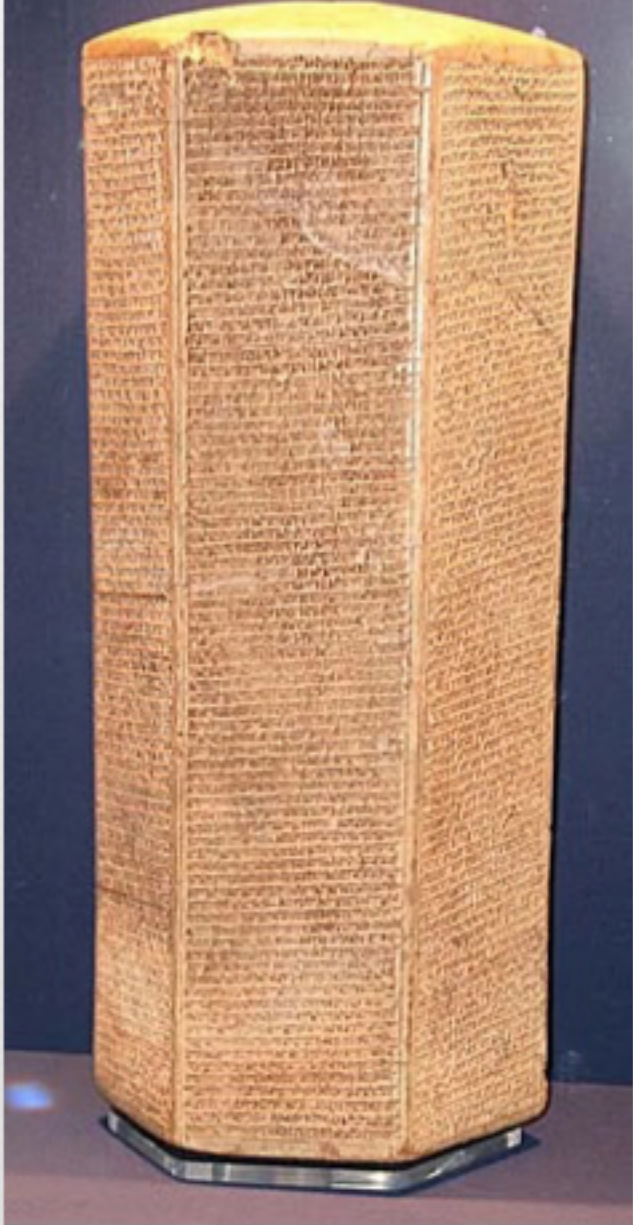


# King Hezekiah



- ❧ Historians doubted his existence
- ❧ He was a righteous King
- ❧ He was delivered TWICE from Sennacherib!
- ❧ II Kings 18-19





Taylor prism



**Hezekiah on prism by NAME!**

*Parallels between prism and Bible*

**Hezekiah rebelled**

**Fortified towns of Judah fell**

**Lachish falls**

**Hezekiah shut up in Jerusalem**

**Hezekiah pays 30 talents of gold tribute**

**Jerusalem did NOT fall.**

**God enters time and space!**

# God enters time and space!

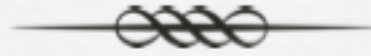


- ✧ Taylor prism states Sennacherib goes home after Lachish. (see II Kings 19:7)
- ✧ See II Kings 19:9 – Who is this Tirhakah? He was attacking Assyrians so they had to withdraw from Jerusalem.
- ✧ Sennacherib defeats Tirhakah and returns to Jerusalem only to mysteriously go back to Nineveh. Shortly after, he is murdered by his two sons, but why? (Babylonian chronicles as well as Isa. 37:36-38 and II Ki. 19:35,36)

**Tirhakah**



# Tirhakah



# Rosetta Stone



**Unlocked the mystery of hieroglyphics.**

**Now we understand who Tirhakah was, a great Cushite King, controlling N. Africa**

**We can also explain to historians why his kingdom declined so quickly.**



# Babylonian Period 606-539 B.C.



## Upper floor room 55

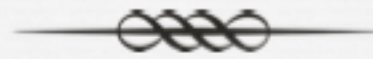
Historians believe whoever wrote Daniel redacted the information from 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. because of the mention of Greek and Roman kingdoms that did not exist in the Babylonian period.

Herodotus does not mention Belshazzar even though he is only about 100 years later.

How does someone in 500 B.C. speak to things 300 years in the future?

# Daniel

# Daniel



- ☞ Mentions Belshazzar in chapter 5
- ☞ Belshazzar not mentioned in other literature
- ☞ See Daniel 5:16,29
- ☞ Why 3<sup>rd</sup> in the kingdom?

Historical evidence

# Historical Evidence



**Barrel Cylinder – a prayer  
by Nabonidus for his son**



**Nabonidus Chronicle**



# Persian Period 550-530 B.C.



During the time of Ezra/Nehemiah

Great declaration of Cyrus telling the Jews they could return home.

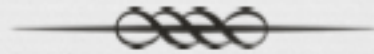
Isaiah mentions Cyrus 150 years before this period!

See Daniel 6:28





Cyrus cylinder - 1859



**Biblical account confirmed!**

# The New Testament



When was it written?

Is it reliable?

Has it been corrupted?



# #1 When was it written?



**Why don't we have the originals?**

**Technology – no parchment or vellum in 1<sup>st</sup>  
century**

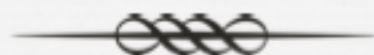
**People used them!**

**Internal evidence**



- ❧ Acts 18:12 Gallio was Proconsul
- ❧ Pliny writing in 1<sup>st</sup> century knows about Gallio but never calls him Proconsul. Therefore historians thought the Acts material was redacted.
- ❧ Delphi inscription: Gallio was Proconsul for one year in A.D. 52! Luke got it right!

**Excluded events**



☞ Deaths:

☞ James – 62

☞ Paul – 64

☞ Peter – 65

Insurrection of the Jews – 66

Destruction of Jerusalem - 70

**Why aren't these events included?**



- ❧ Acts was written before the events happened!
- ❧ What are the implications for this?
- ❧ Since Acts was written before 62, Luke must have written his gospel prior to that since he is the author of Acts. Paul would have written all his letters. Matthew and Mark do not describe the destruction of Jerusalem as an event that has happened or the deaths of important figures, we can conclude they were written prior to 62. All of this 20-30 years after the death of Christ!

# New Testament



#2 Is it reliable?

Manuscript Evidence



- œ We have about 24,000 manuscripts
  - œ 5,664 Greek
  - œ Around 10,000 Latin
  - œ Around 9,284 in other languages
  - œ Around 230 **BEFORE 7<sup>th</sup> cent.**
  - œ John Ryland's, Bodmer, Chester Beatty

Complete Manuscripts



- ❧ Codex Sinaiticus – 330-350 (mid 4<sup>th</sup> century\*)
- ❧ Codex Alexandrinus – 5<sup>th</sup> century
- ❧ Codex Vaticanus – 4<sup>th</sup> century
  
- ❧ \*Vellum did not come around until the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

# Manuscripts



# Vaticanus



# Sinaiticus





# Magdalen Papyrus



Taken from Mt. 26

Specifically v.23,31

Earliest date: 68 A.D.

(carbon dating)

Hotly contested but not refuted



Goober



# Secular Manuscripts

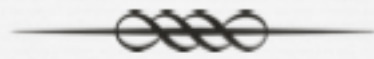


No one questions the authenticity of these documents.

Author	Written	Earliest fragment	Time span	# of manuscripts
<i>Plato</i>	<i>427-347 BC</i>	<i>900 AD</i>	<i>1200</i>	<i>7</i>

<i>Thucydides</i>	<i>460-400 BC</i>	<i>900 AD</i>	<i>1300</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Suetonius</i>	<i>75-160 AD</i>	<i>950 AD</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Caesar</i>	<i>100-44 BC</i>	<i>900 AD</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Tacitus</i>	<i>100 AD</i>	<i>1100 AD</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>Homer (Iliad)</b>	<b>900 BC</b>	<b>400 BC</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>643</b>

# New Testament



- ✧ Written 40-100 A.D.
- ✧ Earliest copy/fragment 125 A.D. (P52) John's gospel
- ✧ Time span: 25-50 years
- ✧ # of Manuscripts: 24,000
- ✧ **NO OTHER PIECE OF LITERATURE CAN MAKE THIS CLAIM!**

## External Evidence





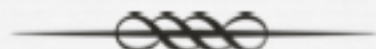
- ❧ Thallus (52 A.D.) - in a debate mentions that at the death of Christ the sun went dark and the earth shook.
- ❧ Tacitus (80-84 A.D.) – talks about the death of Christ in the time of Tiberius under Pontius Pilate in Judea
- ❧ Josephus (90-95 A.D.) – death of Jesus, his brother James, John the Baptist, and Christians who talk about the resurrection (historians say this is a gloss)
- ❧ Pliny (112 A.D.) – Christians sing to Jesus as God.

# New Testament



# #3 Has it been corrupted?

**Accusation**





- ❧ The New Testament has been corrupted.
- ❧ Jesus was “made” God by the “church”
- ❧ The Koran is true but the N.T. has been changed.
- ❧ When? Where?

## Translations








- ❧ 15,000 translations in 11 languages
- ❧ Latin - 10,000 – 150 A.D.
- ❧ Syriac – 350 – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cent.
- ❧ Coptic – 100 – 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ❧ Armenian – 2500 – 5<sup>th</sup>
- ❧ Georgian/Slavic – 4000 – 5<sup>th</sup>
- ❧ Gothic, Ethiopic, Nubian


**All before the Koran existed!**



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- ✧ If we wanted to change the manuscripts, we would have to go back through all 15,000 in these other languages and make consistent changes, without anybody knowing or complaining about it, and there not be one reference to it ever happening!
  - ✧ Not even the Koran itself makes the accusation of a corrupted text. Islam would not make that claim until the 11<sup>th</sup> century in a debate. In fact, the Koran encourages Muslims to look into our scriptures!

## Early church fathers



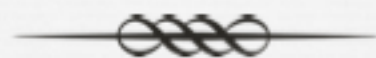
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- ❧ When the gospel was being spread, sectarian groups would spring up because they did not like what orthodox Christianity was teaching. Most of these groups are from the second century (Gnostic, Docetic, Nestorian, etc.).
  - ❧ The early church fathers would confront the error by using scripture!
  - ❧ By writing against these and other heresies they left a record of the N.T. account.

Sir David Dalrymple



- ⌘ Researcher who made a compilation of these scripture quotations.
- ⌘ Found 86,489 of these quotations!

How many pre-date the 4<sup>th</sup> century?



- ⌘ Before Sinaiticus, Alexandrinus, Vaticanus
- ⌘ Before Nicea
- ⌘ Before Chalcedon
- ⌘ 36,289 quotations
- ⌘ Note: there are over 5,000 verses in the N.T.

**We have authority!**



- ⌘ Every verse in the N.T. except for 11 verses that are not 'important' !
- ⌘ All of this 300 years before the Koran even existed!

