**In what ways have the discoveries of archaeology verified the reliability of the Bible?**

http://www.christiananswers.net/goldbar1.gif

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | See this page in: [Dutch (Nederlands)](http://www.christiananswers.net/dutch/q-abr/abr-a008-dut.html), [Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia)](http://www.christiananswers.net/indonesian/q-abr/abr-a008i.html), [Italian (Italiano)](http://www.christiananswers.net/italian/q-abr/abr-a008i.html), [Portuguese (Português)](http://www.christiananswers.net/portuguese/q-abr/abr-a008.html), [Spanish (Español)](http://www.christiananswers.net/spanish/q-abr/abr-a008s.html), [Swedish (Svenska)](http://www.christiananswers.net/swedish/q-abr/abr-a008s.html)  Over the years there have been many criticisms leveled against the [Bible](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/home.html) concerning its [historical reliability](http://www.christiananswers.net/menu-at1.html). These criticisms are usually based on a lack of evidence from outside sources to confirm the Biblical record. Since the [Bible](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/bible.html) is a [religious](http://www.christiananswers.net/menu-ar1.html) book, many scholars take the position that it is biased and cannot be trusted unless we have corroborating evidence from extra-Biblical sources. In other words, the Bible is guilty until proven innocent, and a lack of outside evidence places the Biblical account in doubt.  This standard is far different from that applied to other ancient documents, even though many, if not most, have a religious element. They are considered to be accurate, unless there is evidence to show that they are not. Although it is not possible to verify every incident in the [Bible](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/bible.html), the discoveries of [archaeology](http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html) since the mid-1800s have demonstrated the reliability and plausibility of the Bible narrative.  Here are some examples:   * Clay Tablet, Ebla. Photo copyrighted.The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern [Syria](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/syria.html) in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the [Patriarchs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/patriarch.html) to be viable. Documents written on [clay](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/clay.html) [tablets](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tablet.html) from around 2300 B.C. demonstrate that personal and place names in the Patriarchal accounts are genuine. The name “[Canaan](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/canaan.html)” was in use in Ebla, a name critics once said was not used at that time and was used incorrectly in the early chapters of the Bible. The word *tehom* (“the deep”) in [Genesis 1:2](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/gen1.html#2) was said to be a late word demonstrating the late writing of the creation story. “Tehom” was part of the vocabulary at Ebla, in use some 800 years before [Moses](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/moses.html). Ancient customs reflected in the stories of the [Patriarchs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/patriarch.html) have also been found in [clay](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/clay.html) [tablets](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tablet.html) from Nuzi and Mari. * The [Hittites](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/hittites.html) were once thought to be a Biblical legend, until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, [Turkey](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/turkey.html). * Many thought the Biblical references to [Solomon's](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html) wealth were greatly exaggerated. Recovered records from the past show that wealth in antiquity was concentrated with the [king](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/king.html) and [Solomon's](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html) prosperity was entirely feasible. * It was once claimed there was no [Assyrian](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html) [king](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/king.html) named [Sargon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sargon.html) as recorded in [Isaiah 20:1](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa20.html#1), because this name was not known in any other record. Then, Sargon's [palace](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/palace.html) was discovered in Khorsabad, Iraq. The very event mentioned in [Isaiah 20](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa20.html), his capture of [Ashdod](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ashdod.html), was recorded on the palace walls. What is more, fragments of a stela memorializing the victory were found at Ashdod itself. * Another [king](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/king.html) who was in doubt was [Belshazzar](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/belshazzar.html), king of [Babylon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/babylonkingdomof.html), named in [Daniel 5](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/dan5.html). The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. [Tablets](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tablet.html) were found showing that [Belshazzar](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/belshazzar.html) was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent in Babylon. Thus, Belshazzar could offer to make [Daniel](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/daniel.html) “third highest ruler in the kingdom” ([Dan. 5:16](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/dan5.html#16)) for reading the [handwriting](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/handwriting.html) on the wall, the highest available position. Here we see the “eye-witness” nature of the Biblical record, as is so often brought out by the discoveries of archaeology. |