

# Pool of Gibeon

## 11th Century BC

### 2 Samuel 2:13

*“And Jo'ab the son of Zeru'iah, and the servants of David, went out and met them at the **pool of Gibeon**...”*



Biblical Archaeology Review 6:2, March/April 1980  
**How Water Tunnels Worked**



Jar handles inscribed with the word “Gibeon” were found in the debris of the water shaft. Written from right to left in 7th century B.C. Hebrew script, many of the inscriptions on the handles have next to the word “Gibeon” the phrase, “the enclosed vineyard” and the name of the owner of the vineyard. The discovery of an extensive wine production and storage complex at Gibeon confirmed that the Gibeonites stored wine in the jars to which the inscribed handles were once attached.

Biblical Archaeology Review 21:3, May/June 1995  
**10 Great Finds**

# Bethlehem Seal Impression

## 7th Century BC



A bulla containing for the first time in any ancient archaeological context the name of the city of Bethlehem

### 1 Samuel 17:58

*"Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him.*

*David said, "I am the son of your servant **Jesse of Bethlehem.**"*

Biblical Archaeology Review 38:5,  
September/October 2012

Strata: "Bethlehem" from IAA Dig Found by  
Archaeologist IAA Arrested



# King Saul at Elah Valley?

1 Samuel 13:1, 17:2

*“**Saul** was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty two years over Israel. ...*



*And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the **Valley of Elah**, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines."*



Biblical Archaeology Review 43:1, January/February 2017  
**Rejected! Qeiyafa's Unlikely Second Gate**

## Tel Qeiyafa Inscription

*“The men and the chiefs/officers have established a **king**” [Most likely **Saul**]*

Biblical Archaeology Review 38:3, May/June 2012  
**Ancient Inscription Refers to Birth of Israelite Monarchy**

# "Goliath" Inscribed on Philistine Pottery 1000-850 BC

1 Samuel 17:4

*"A champion named **Goliath**, who was from **Gath**, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span."*



Biblical Archaeology Review 32:2, March/ April 2006  
*Strata: New Finds*

Two names scratched onto a small sherd of pottery are all that appear in the oldest Philistine inscription ever found. Though the names are Philistine – the one on the right may be the equivalent of Goliath – the letters themselves are Semitic, thus demonstrating that the Philistines (a sea-faring people from the Aegean) absorbed aspects of Semitic culture once they settled on the coast of modern Israel.



# Khirbet Qeiyafa Fortress



What was the ancient name of Khirbet Qeiyafa? We suggest that it was the Biblical site of Sha'arayim, mentioned twice as located in the Valley of Elah, twice connected with David and specifically as part of the David and Goliath story in 1 Samuel 17:52. The name Sha'arayim means "two gates," and indeed Khirbet Qeiyafa had two gates, a phenomenon not found in any other small city of this period.

Biblical Archaeology Review 39:6, November/December 2013  
*An Ending and a Beginning*



# The Eshtemoa Silver Hoard

## 10<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Century BC

1 Samuel 30:26-28

*“When David reached Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah [and] to his friends, saying, ‘This is a present for you from our spoil of the enemies of the Lord.’ [He sent the spoil to the elders] in Bethel, Ramoth-negeb, and Jattir; in Aroer, Siphmoth, and Eshtemoa ... all the places where David and his men had roamed”*

The style of the script and the shape of the vessels date the jars to the late 10<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. — after the reign of David.

Biblical Archaeology Review 13:6,  
November/December 1987

The Mysterious Silver Hoard from Eshtemoa

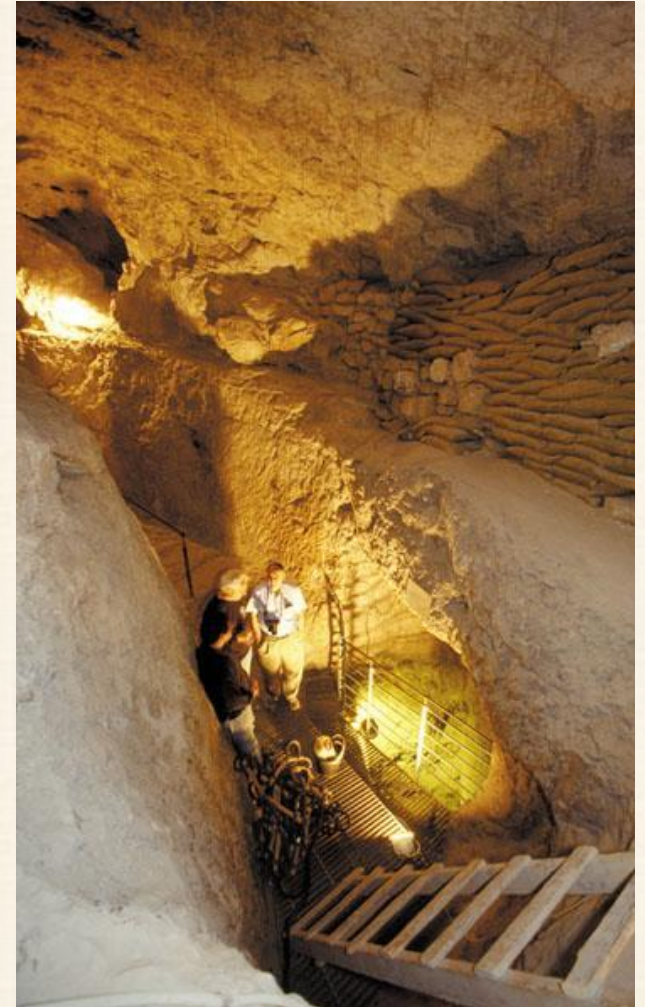


# Jebusite Water Shaft Discovered in the City of David in 1867

## 2 Samuel 5:7-8

*“Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion – which is the City of David. On that day David had said, “Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the **water shaft** to reach those ‘lame and blind’ who are David’s enemies. ”*

That Warren’s Shaft – named for the British explorer and engineer who discovered it in 1867 – is the much-disputed tsinnor was a viable suggestion until the studies conducted by the late Yigal Shiloh in the 1980s proved otherwise. Shiloh concluded – after which it was generally accepted – that the Warren’s Shaft system was not created until the time of the Divided Monarchy, in Iron Age II, long after David’s conquest of the city.



Biblical Archaeology Review 29:5, September/October 2003

**Warren's Shaft**

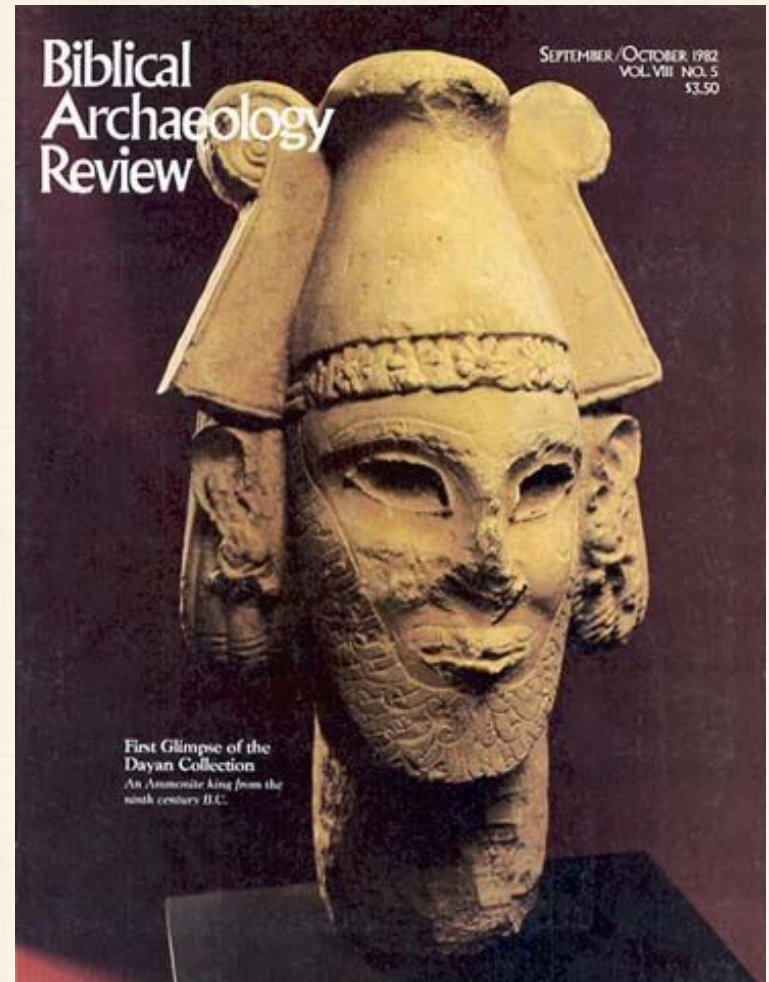


# Head of an Ammonite King

2 Samuel 12:30

*“And he took the **crown** of their (the **Ammonites**) king from his head; the weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David's head.”*

The limestone head, bearing a crown, is said to have been unearthed in the vicinity of Amman, a name which even today preserves its Ammonite origin. The Ammonites lived east of the Jordan during the Israelite Monarchy and often came into conflict with the Israelite.



Biblical Archaeology Review 8:5, September/October 1982  
**The Dayan Saga – The Man and His Archaeological Collection**



# Hazael, King of Aram

## 848–805 BC



Hazael  
Public Domain - Art

### 1 Kings 19:15

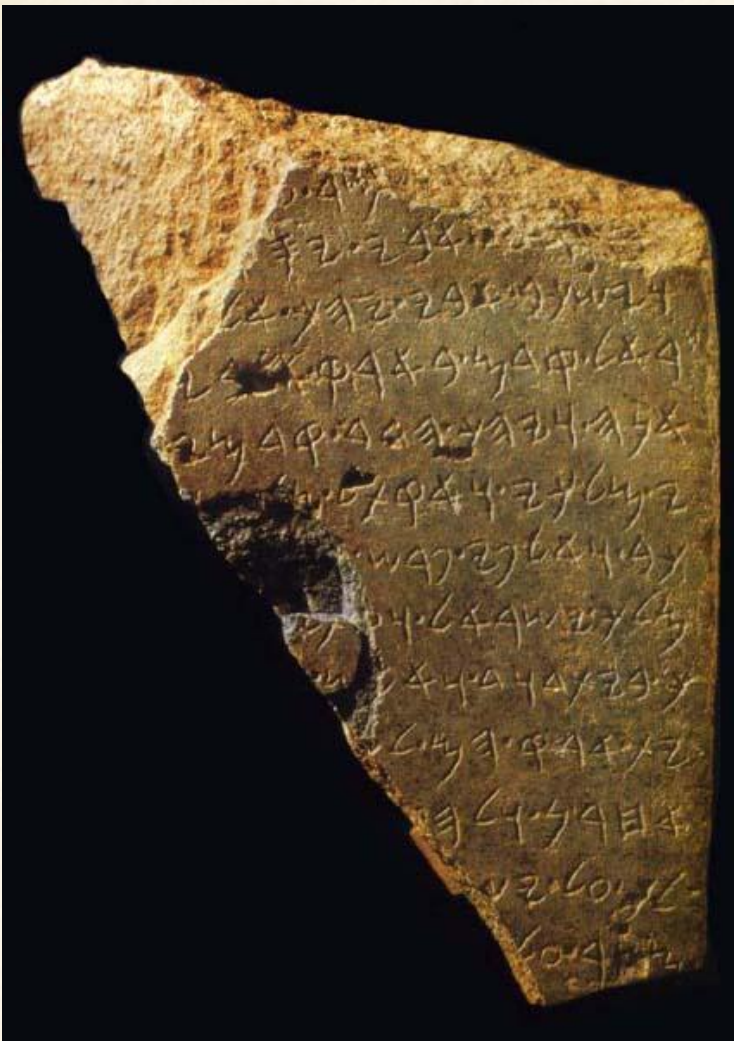
*"The LORD said to him [Prophet Elisha], 'Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint **Hazael king over Aram.**'"*

### The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III

*"I crossed the Euphrates for the twenty-first time. I marched against the towns of **Hazael of Damascus.**"*



# The Tel Dan Stele



## Translation

- (1) ...
- (2) ... my father went up
- (3) ... and my father died, he went to [his fate ... ls-]
- (4) rael formerly in my father's land...
- (5) I [fought against Israel?] and Hadad went in front of me ...
- (6) ... my king. And I slew of [them X footmen, Y cha-]
- (7) riots and two thousand horsemen...
- (8) the king of Israel. And [I] slew [... the kin-]
- (9) g of the House of David. And I put...
- (10) their land...
- (11) other... [ ... ru-]
- (12) led over ls[rael ...]
- (13) siege upon ...

Biblical Archaeology Review 20:2, March/April 1994

“David” Found at Dan

See also:

Biblical Archaeology Review 20:4, July/August 1994

Biblical Archaeology Review 20:6, November/December 1994

“House of David” Built on Sand: The Sins of the Biblical Maximizers    The “House of David” and the House of the Deconstructionists