

The Seven Wonders of the Bible

Historical Consistency - Part 6

Outline

Introduction

Historical Accuracy of the Bible

1. Egypt
2. David and Goliath
3. The Taylor Prism
4. Pool of Siloam
5. House of Peter

Introduction: The State House bell, now known as the Liberty Bell, it rang in the tower of the Pennsylvania State House since 1751. The sounding of this bell was a symbolic call for freedom, liberty and equality. The words that were inscribed on the liberty bell goes like this [“Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof. Lev. XXV X.”](#)

Even before the Pilgrims arrived on these shores they gathered below the deck of the Mayflower and signed the Mayflower Compact which revealed their intent: "for the glory of God."

[In 1632 when Maryland was chartered as a colony, they wrote, "We are motivated with the pious zeal for extending the Christian religion."](#)

President George Washington, the father of this great nation said, "It would be impossible to govern rightly without God and the Bible."

Andrew Jackson, the 7th President said, "The Bible is the rock upon which our Republic rest."

For the history of the world is but His-Story.

1. Egypt: Old Testament figures who are easily identified by secular historical sources.

Shishak, pharaoh of Egypt, is mentioned in 1 Kings 11:40 "Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon."

There are numerous inscriptions and historical records for this pharaoh. The record of his campaign against Palestine (dated as 924 B.C.) is inscribed on the exterior south wall of the temple of Amun at Karnak in Thebes, and it conforms to the biblical account. There is no doubt about bible's authenticity.

Hophra, another pharaoh of Egypt, is mentioned in Jeremiah 44:30 "This is what the Lord says: 'I am going to deliver Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hands of his enemies who want to kill him, just as I gave Zedekiah king

of Judah into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who wanted to kill him.’ ”

A stele naming the Egyptian Pharaoh Wahibre (Hophra in Hebrew and Apries in Greek)

History confirms that he was indeed the pharaoh of Egypt during the time of the prophet Jeremiah and King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Hophra's defeat by Nebuchadnezzar in 572 B.C. and subsequent replacement by a general named Ahmes are confirmed in Babylonian records.

R.D. Wilson who wrote “A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament” pointed out that the names of 29 Kings from ten nations (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and more) are mentioned not only in the Bible but are also found on monuments of their own time. Every single name is transliterated in the Old Testament exactly as it appears on the archaeological artifact – syllable for syllable, consonant for consonant.

Making of Bricks with Straw in Egyptian Hieroglyphics - “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.” – Exodus 5:7

Biblical Archaeology Review, March/April 2014 **With & Without Straw: How Israelite Slaves Made Bricks SLAVING AWAY.** Nubian and Semitic slaves

mix water and mud to create mudbricks while a seated Egyptian official (upper right) oversees their work. This painting comes from Rekhmire's tomb in Thebes and depicts the process of manufacturing mudbricks. After the mud compound has been thoroughly mixed, it is poured into molds and then dried. Another slave is pictured measuring a wall (bottom, second figure from right).

2. David & Goliath: [NBC NEWS May8, 2012 - 3,000-year-old artifacts reveal history behind biblical David and Goliath.](#)

An archaeological dig near Goliath's biblical hometown has yielded evidence of Judean religious practices 3,000 years ago, pointing up fresh historical connections to the stories of King David and King Solomon.

"There was something here quite military and quite aggressive, It was not a peaceful village."

[ABC NEWS, August 2, 2009 - Experts dig up dirt on David and Goliath -](#)
[I would say a Goliath-like people for sure existed here. You have evidence of an inscription which shows us two Goliath-like names at that time."](#)

The Tell es-Safi dig is one of the biggest excavations of its kind in the Holy Land. In recent years it has yielded a rich deposit of evidence that proves the Philistines lived there from prehistoric times and fought with the

Israelites. Professor Mayer says at the very least, it provides an important cultural background for the story of Goliath.

[Daily Mail UK, October 31, 2008 'Proof' David slew Goliath found as Israeli archaeologists unearth 'oldest ever Hebrew text'](#)

[The History Channel few years ago did in fact run this experiment of David bringing down Goliath. You can watch the video in History Channel or YouTube.](#)

For this experiment the History Channel team brought in the Balearic Slinger Champion Luis Pons Livermore to the Holy Land to the place where this event might have taken place. They erected a 9 foot Goliath that had at the area of the forehead a load cell, which is a device that would measure the amount of impact. It was only 4.9 square inches, representing the area of Goliath's forehead that was not covered by his armor.

According to trauma surgeon Dr. Mike Edwards, the force necessary to kill a human being from blunt force trauma is anything over 3,000 Newtons or 3 kilo Newtons. This force, spread over the area of 30 square millimeters would cause a shockwave. It would cause the brain to shake causing irreversibly tissue damage.

So Mr. Livermore was asked to take a stone from this particular region as described in the Bible to see if this story was possible at all.

I Samuel 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

The sling, though a weapon of a poor person, was incredibly effective and very often underestimated. A hand sling made of braided hemp would have been the most likely sling used by David because it gives superior accuracy to the staff sling. The stones would have had to be smooth and oval to improve the aerodynamic nature of the projectile.

When he took the shot, not only did he hit the load cell with impressive accuracy, but the load cell measured the force to be 3.62 kilo Newtons. This was more than enough force to kill Goliath!

3. The Taylor Prism is in the British Museum. It was found at Nineveh and contains the military campaigns of Sennacherib (705–681 B.C.), king of Assyria. The best-known passage describes Sennacherib's unsuccessful siege of Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah, as recorded in 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 36 and 37.

2 Kings 19: 35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

The Assyrian account tacitly agrees with the biblical account by making no claim that Jerusalem was taken. The six-sided hexagonal clay prism says, “[Hezekiah] made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage.” According to 2 Kings 19:35 and 36, Sennacherib was unable to capture Jerusalem because “And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand. . . . So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.”

Psalm 91:7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

4. Pool of Siloam - [Los Angeles Times, August 9, 2005: Biblical Pool Uncovered in Jerusalem](#)

John 9:11 He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Workers repairing a sewage pipe in the Old City of Jerusalem have discovered the biblical Pool of Siloam, a freshwater reservoir that was a major gathering place for ancient Jews making religious pilgrimages to the city and the reputed site where Jesus cured a man blind from birth, according to the Gospel of John.

The pool was fed by the now famous Hezekiah’s Tunnel and is “a much grander affair” than archeologists previously believed, with three tiers of stone stairs allowing easy access to the water.

New Testament scholar James H. Charlesworth of the Princeton Theological Seminary, “Scholars have said that there wasn’t a Pool of Siloam and that John was using a religious conceit to illustrate a point. Now we have found the Pool of Siloam ... exactly where John said it was. A Gospel that was thought to be ‘pure theology is now shown to be grounded in history.”

5. The House of Peter: The Home of Jesus in Capernaum? Biblical Archaeology, October 13, 2022

For much of his adult life, the home of Jesus was in Capernaum, a small fishing village on the Sea of Galilee. It was here that Jesus began his ministry in the town synagogue.

Mark 1:21 Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.

He recruited his first disciples Simon and Andrew (Mark 1:16–20) and became renowned for his power to heal the sick and infirm (Mark 3:1–5).

Italian excavators working in Capernaum may have actually uncovered the remnants of the humble house of Peter that Jesus called home while in Capernaum. Buried beneath the remains of an octagonal Byzantine church, excavators found the ruins of a rather mundane dwelling dating to the first century B.C.

The Smithsonian Department of Anthropology is reported to have said this about the Bible (referring to history, not spiritual teachings.)

“Much of the Bible, in particular the historical books of the old testament, are as accurate historical documents as any that we have from antiquity and are in fact more accurate than many of the Egyptian, Mesopotamian, or Greek histories...This is not to say that names of all peoples and places mentioned can be identified today, or that every event as reported in the historical books happened exactly as stated.”

Isaiah 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.