

Hope Channel presents

DISCOVERIES '08

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By Mark Finley

Amazing Discoveries in the Lost Cities of the Dead

Jerusalem is one of the most fascinating cities in the world. It is the center of three great world religions – Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The Western Wall is the holiest shrine in the Jewish world. It is the portion of the wall that Herod built around the second temple in 20 B.C. The Muslim's Dome of the Rock is built on Mt. Moriah, the former site of the Jewish temple complex. It was built at the end of the 7th century. It took all the taxes of the caliph of Egypt's province for seven years to finance this magnificent building. Jerusalem was also the center of Jesus' activities. It was in this city that he taught, worked miracles, was tried and crucified. Here He rose from the dead.

Jerusalem, the city of peace, has become the city of conflict. Through the millennia, it has been attacked by the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Egyptians, the Romans, the Turks, and a host of others. Many people believe earth's last great conflict – Armageddon will erupt in Jerusalem. They are convinced the Arab-Israeli conflict will explode into World War III.

What does the future hold? Where can we find reliable answers? How can we face the future with greater confidence?

Fulfilled Bible prophecy verifies the truthfulness of God's word and gives us confidence that the future is in His hands.

In **Isaiah 46:9, 10** God declares that He is the only one who can declare the end from the beginning and reveal from ancient times things that are not yet done. One of the unique characteristics of God is His ability to predict the future.

Here are some of the Bible's amazing predictions, along with some archeological finds which confirm the truthfulness of God's word.

Predictions/Discoveries/Facts Regarding Egypt

With its fascinating pyramids, fantastic treasures, awesome monuments, ancient temples, and luxurious cities, Egypt was one of the most amazing empires in all the world's history. For example, the Great Pyramid Cheops at Giza towered over 480 feet and spread over thirteen acres. The Pyramids at Giza required over 2.5 million blocks of stone. Some blocks weighed 1.5 - 3 tons each. It took 120,000 workers twenty years to build the Pyramids. For 500 years the magnificent city of Memphis was Egypt's capital. Today, Memphis is no more. It has been destroyed. The temples of Egypt have been plundered and the empire's wealth is gone. Ezekiel's prophecies regarding Egypt in **Ezekiel 30:13** and **32:12, 15** have been precisely fulfilled. The Rosetta Stone discovered by Napoleon's armies in 1799 helped to unlock the secrets of the hieroglyphics and reveal the great battles between Ramesses II, King of Egypt and Hatusilli of the Hittites, exactly as the Bible described.

Predictions/Discoveries/Facts Regarding Tyre

Tyre was a coastal city in southern Lebanon. It grew in importance until she was the “Mistress of the Sea” and a commercial center of the world. It was a thriving city which stretched 20 miles along the shore. Ships from throughout the Mediterranean anchored in her harbor and merchants bartered in her streets. Ezekiel’s predictions were fulfilled exactly (see Ezekiel 26:4, 5; 28:19, and 26:12-14).

1. Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city.
2. Other nations came against it.
3. Tyre became bare like the top of a rock.
4. Fishermen spread their nets over the site.
5. The ruins of old Tyre were cast in the water and the city was never rebuilt.

Predictions/Discoveries/Facts Regarding Jerusalem

The Israeli prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah predicted Nebuchadnezzar’s (the King of Babylon) attack on Jerusalem (Jeremiah 27:6 and 32:29).

The Lachish Letters, discovered from 1932 – 1938, twenty four miles north of Beersheba, describe the attack of Nebuchadnezzar on Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

The David Stele, unearthed at Tel Dan in 1993 in northern Israel, confirms **1 Samuel 16:23** that David was indeed King of Israel.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered by an Arab shepherd boy Mohammed El Dahib, in 1948 have proven to be one of the most significant finds of all times. These scrolls contain every Bible book of the Old Testament in whole or part. They date back to 125-150 years before Christ and could easily be dated to the same time of Old Testament manuscripts Jesus quoted from. They are remarkably accurate in their transmission. There are no major variants between the manuscripts of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bibles we use today.

Throughout the centuries, the prophecies of the Bible and the archeological discoveries of scripture prove the reliability and accuracy of God’s world.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

THE BIBLE SAYS

- Isaiah 46:9, 10** God alone can tell the end from the beginning.
- Ezekiel 30:13** God's predictions that the images of Noph - Memphis (Egypt's capital) would be destroyed.
- Ezekiel 32:12** God's prediction that the wealth of Egypt would be plundered.
- Ezekiel 32:15** God's prediction that the Kingdom of Egypt would become desolate.
- Ezekiel 26:4** God's prediction that the city of Tyre would be destroyed.
- Ezekiel 26:5** God's prediction Tyre's costal shore would be used as a place For spreading fishermen's nets.
- Ezekiel 28:19 & Ezekiel 26:12-14** God's prediction that Tyre would never be rebuilt.
- Jeremiah 27:6 & Jeremiah 32:29** God's prediction that Jerusalem would fall to Nebuchadnezzar.
- 1 Samuel 16:13** Samuel anoints David King of Israel.
- Isaiah 40:8** The word of God stands forever.
- 2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture is inspired by God.
- 2 Peter 1:21** Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away.

A Thought for Today

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Quick Quiz

Our heavenly Father has *so much* He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward - a series of "lessons from heaven." May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God's Word, the Bible - our textbook, for this seminar - offers **Learning Unlimited!**

#1 - Amazing Discoveries in the Lost Cities of the Dead

1. Who does the Bible speak of as "**the king of Assyria**" - though scoffers ridiculed that idea since he was mentioned nowhere else in history, until the archaeologist's spade unearthed his **capital city** and **magnificent palace** at Khorsabad?
A. Nebuchadnezzar C. Napoleon E. Sargon
B. Cyrus D. Belshazzar

To check your answer, see Isaiah 20:1.

2. Who was the **Persian general** that attacked and conquered **Babylon** in 539 B.C.?
A. Nebuchadnezzar C. Napoleon E. Sargon
B. Cyrus D. Belshazzar

To check your answer, see Isaiah 44:28 - 45:1-2.

3. The **symbol** which Bible writer Daniel uses to depict **Babylon** was that of a _____ with eagle's wings, exactly as archeologists found depicted on the ruined walls of that capital city.

To check your answer, see Daniel 7:4.

4. The **existence** of which ancient kingdom did scholars **doubt** for centuries - even though it was often mentioned in holy Scripture - until God led Champollion to unlock the Rosetta Stone's secret and to **decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics**?
A. Assyria C. Egypt E. Petra (the Edomites)
B. Babylon D. the Hittites

To check your answer, see Judges 1:26 and 2 Samuel 11:3 & 17.

5. God told the prophet Daniel to shut or seal his prophetic book until "the _____."

To check your answer, see Daniel 12:4.

6. T Careful copying of holy Scripture by the Essene community, and the later discovery of the Dead
 F Sea Scrolls at Qumran, are evidences of God's **providential preservation** of His Word.

To check your answer, see Isaiah 40:8 and Mark 13:31.

7. **Which ancient kingdom** did God say would continue, but only as "a **base** (or **lowly**) kingdom often ruled "by the hand of **strangers** (or **foreigners**)"?

- A. Assyria C. Egypt E. Petra (the Edomites)
B. Babylon D. the Hittites

To check your answer, see Ezekiel 29:14-15 and 30:12.

8. Which mighty ruler boasted of building "this great Babylon...for the honor of my majesty?"

- A. Nebuchadnezzar C. Napoleon E. Sargon
B. Cyrus D. Belshazzar

To check your answer, see Daniel 4:28-30.

9. This same great monarch (from question 7 above) later came to "**praise** and **extol** and **honor** the _____, all whose works are truth...."

To check your answer, see Daniel 4:37.

10. Which ancient mighty kingdom did God say would not only be **destroyed** but also **not rebuilt** or **even inhabited** - *forever*?

- A. Assyria C. Egypt E. Petra (the Edomites)
B. Babylon D. the Hittites

To check your answer, see Jeremiah 51:8, 29, 37 and Isaiah 13:19-20.

11. What did God declare about His **divine foreknowledge**?

To check your answer, see Isaiah 46:9-10.

12. How did God **use** and **display** His divine foreknowledge in the case of **Cyrus**?

To check your answer, see Isaiah 44:28 - 45:1-6 & 13.