

BT713 BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF BIBLE LANDS

Course:	BT713 Biblical Archaeology and Historical Geography of Bible Lands
Credit:	3 credit hours
Semester:	Spring 2025 Semester Session 2
Date:	March 17 – May 9, 2025
Time:	Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time
Place:	Microsoft Teams
Professors:	Dr. Gary Gromacki and Dr. Wayne House
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the major archaeological discoveries that relate to the Bible. Students will evaluate problems in biblical archaeology and propose some possible solutions to these problems. Students will critique the arguments of biblical minimalists made against the historicity of the Bible. Students will examine the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other ancient manuscripts that relate to the Bible. Students will study the historical geography of Bible lands and learn the historical significance of places mentioned in the Bible.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- 1.State the major biblical archaeological discoveries and their significance to the historical interpretation of the Bible (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9)
2. Analyze the Dead Sea Scrolls and explain their significance for biblical studies (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Assignments 7, 9)

Our mission: "To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview"

3. Critique the arguments given by biblical minimalists against the historicity of Bible events and people (PLOs 3, 4, 5 Assignments 1, 3)

4. Analyze the geography of Bible lands and learn the historical significance of places listed in the Bible (PLOs 2, 3, 4, 5 Assignment 5)

5. Explain how archaeologists dig up a tell and analyze the pottery and other discoveries to determine the approximate age of different levels of the tell (PLOs 3, 4, 5 Assignments 1, 3)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations like NLT and NIV may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have any questions about a particular translation or version.

Archaeological Study Bible. New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (2076 pages) ISBN 13: 978-0310935353 Cost: 24.98 used on Amazon

Price, Randall and H. Wayne House. *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017. (358 pages) ISBN: 978-0-310-28691-2 Cost: \$29.31 new on Amazon

Rasmussen, Carl. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. (267 pages) ISBN: 978-0-310-27050-8 Cost: \$26.84 new on Amazon

Vanderkam, James and Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Harper Collins, 2002. (403 pages) ISBN: 0-06-068464-X Cost: \$55.70 hardcover new on Amazon

REQUIRED: ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE (Accordance, Bible Works, Logos)

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, *a Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1: Read *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (pages 1-200) and answer questions 1-10 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions (200 points)

Assignment #2: Write a Research Paper on one archaeological site or artifact (8 double spaced pages and following Turabian format). See topics in schedule. Each student will work on a different site or artifact. (100 points)

Assignment #3: Read *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (pages 201-358) and answer questions 11-20 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions. (200 points)

Assignment #4: Write a Research Paper on another archaeological site or artifact (8 double spaced pages and following Turabian format). See topics in schedule. Each student will work on a different site or artifact. (100 points)

Assignment #5: Read *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible* and answer questions 21-30 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions (200 points)

Assignment #6: Read *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* and answer questions 31-40 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions (200 points)

Rubric for Grading Research Papers on Archaeological Site or Artifact (100 total points)

Detailed Description of the archaeological site/artifact (30 points)

Pictures of the archaeological artifact/site (10 points)

Map of where the artifact was discovered or map of the archaeological site (10 points)

Story about the discovery including archaeologist who discovered the artifact/site, where it was discovered and how it was discovered (20 points)

Current location of the artifact- if it is in a museum (10 points)

Biblical significance of the artifact/archaeological site (20 points)

GRADING SCALE

960-1000 points	A
940-959 points	A-
920-939 points	B+
880-919 points	B
860-879 points	B-
0-859 points	F

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require accommodations.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL STUDENTS

Attend every class on time. All Ph.D. students are expected to be in every class (either in person or online in Microsoft Teams). Students are expected to let the professor know if they cannot attend class (for any reason).

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's ideas or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he or she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All research papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

SCHEDULE

Week One - Introduction to Biblical Archaeology

Introduction to Archaeology
Definition of Archaeology
The Value of Archaeology to the Bible
The Limits of Archaeology
The Debate in Archaeology: Maximalists vs. Minimalists
The Archaeological Periods
Introduction to Historical Geography of Bible Lands

Week Two – OT Archaeology and Historical Geography

Atrahasis
Enuma Elish
Shabaka Stone
Sumerian Kings List
Pyramids of Giza in Egypt
Ebla and Ebla Tablets
Ur III
Mari and Mari Tablets
Tel Dan
Nuzi and Nuzi Tablets
Ugarit and Ugaritic Tablets
Beersheba
Boghazkoy – Home of the Hittites
The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron

Week Three: OT Archaeology and Historical Geography

Beni-Hasan Tomb Painting
The Walls of Jericho
Ai (Kirbet el maqatir)
Hazor
Amarna Letters
Merenptah stela
Solomon's Gates at Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer
Sheshonq Inscription
High Place of Ahab at Dan
Mesha Inscription (Moabite Stone)
Gezer Calendar
Tel Dan Stele
Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III
The Jehoash Inscription
Relief of Sargon II

Tel Lachish and Lachish reliefs
Taylor Prism (Sennacherib cylinder)
Hezekiah's tunnel and Siloam inscription
Wall Reliefs of Ashurbanipal's palace in Nineveh
Clay bullae (seal) of Baruch
Babylonian Chronicle
Silver Scrolls amulet
Lachish Ostraca
Nabonidius Chronicle
Cyrus Cylinder
Persepolis

Week Four – Qumran and Dead Sea Scrolls

Qumran
Dead Sea Scrolls

Week Five – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of Israel from the Time of Jesus

The Second Temple in Jerusalem
Herod's Palace at Jericho
Herod's Palace at Masada
Caesarea Maritima
The Herodium

Week Six – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of Israel from the Time of Jesus

Sepphoris
Capernaum (Synagogue and House of Peter)
The Galilee Boat
Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem
Chorazin
Caesarea Philippi
Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem
Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany
Ossuary of Caiaphas
Pontius Pilate inscription in Caesarea
Church of the Holy Sepulchre
The Garden Tomb
Heel Bones of Crucifixion Victim
The Nazareth Decree
The Shroud of Turin
James Ossuary

Week Seven – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of the Cities of Paul in Acts

Antioch in Pisidia
Lystra
Philippi
Thessalonica
Berea
Athens
Corinth
Miletus
Rome

Week Eight – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of Patmos and the Cities of Revelation 2-3

Patmos
Ephesus
Smyrna
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Laodicea

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Evans, Craig. *Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

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