

# What on Earth is going on?

## Seminar handout 1b

### Why can we trust the Bible – what has archaeology got to say?

*Definition of archaeology (Cambridge Dictionary): the study of the buildings, graves, tools, and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society*

	Archaeological item(s)	Bible references(s)	Notes
1	<b>Dead Sea Scrolls:</b> over 225 copies of biblical books found in 1946 that date up to 1,200 years earlier	Fragments from every book of the Old Testament except Esther.	
2	<b>Gateway to Hattusha</b> (Hittite Capital c. 1600 bce)	Gen 23:10, Ex 13:5, Deut 20:17, Josh 11:3, 1 Sam 26:6, 1 King 10:29, 2 Chron 1:17, Neh 9:8, Ez 16:3	
3	<b>Stone reliefs from Sargon's Palace</b> (Assyrian King c. 2330 bce)	Isaiah 20:1	
4	<b>Sennacherib's prism:</b> record of his siege of Jerusalem (reigned 705–681 bce)	2 Kings 18, 2 Kings 19, 2 Chron 37, Isaiah 36, Isaiah 37	
5	<b>Shishak, King of Egypt</b> c. 925 bce	1 Kings 11:40, 14:25 2 Chron 12:2-9 2 Sam 8:7	
6	<b>Black Obelisk of Shalmanezer III, King of Assyria</b> (reigned 858–824 bce)	2 Kings 17:3-5 2 Kings 18:9	

7	<b>Pilate inscription on carved limestone</b> (Roman prefect/governor of Judaea who presided over trial of Jesus 26–36 ce)	Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23 John 18, 19	
8	<b>Thessalonian Politarch Inscription</b> on marble building block from Roman gateway (2nd century ce)	Acts 17	
9	<b>Gallio Inscription</b> (letter written by Roman Emperor Claudius to Gallio, Proconsul of Achaia (c. 52 ce)	Acts 18	

## To think about

Do archaeological discoveries confirm people/places mentioned in the Bible?

Has archaeology ever disproved the Bible as inaccurate?

Can Biblical archaeology give you confidence that the Bible is an accurate historical record?

Can we trust what else the Bible has to say?

## Questions that arise...

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