

Important Finds in Archaeology

*Dr. H. Wayne House
M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

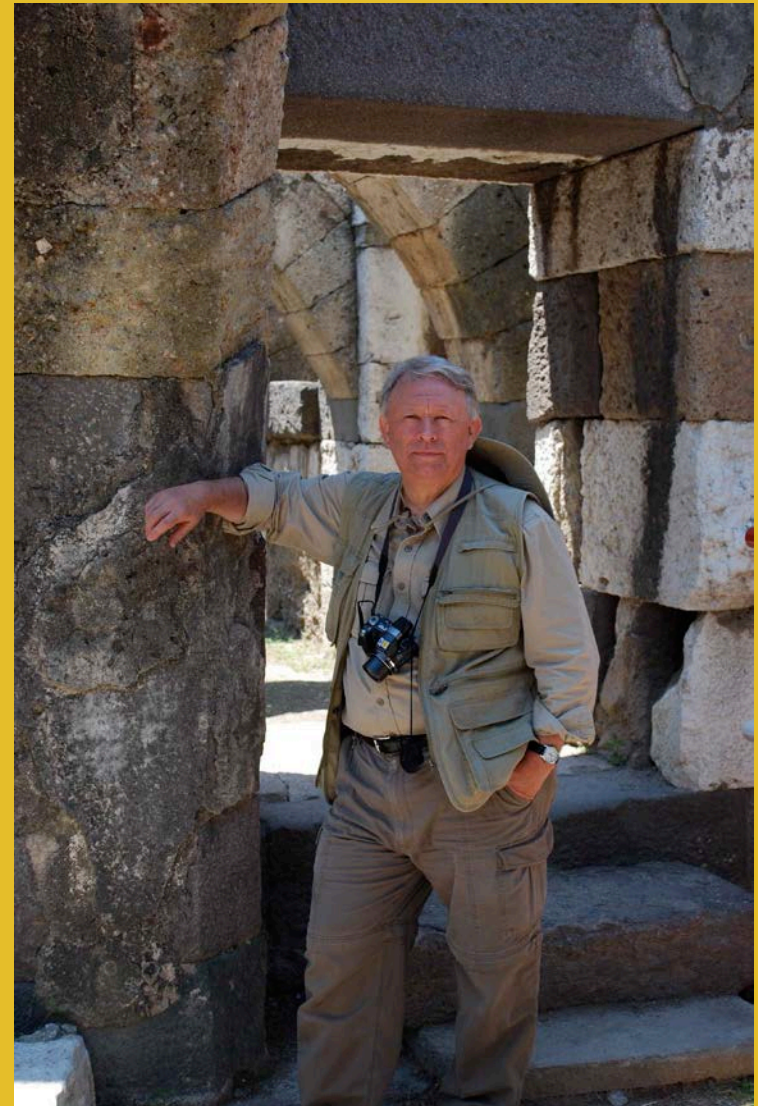
Archaeology and the Bible

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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
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House**

*Some
Important
Biblical Sites*

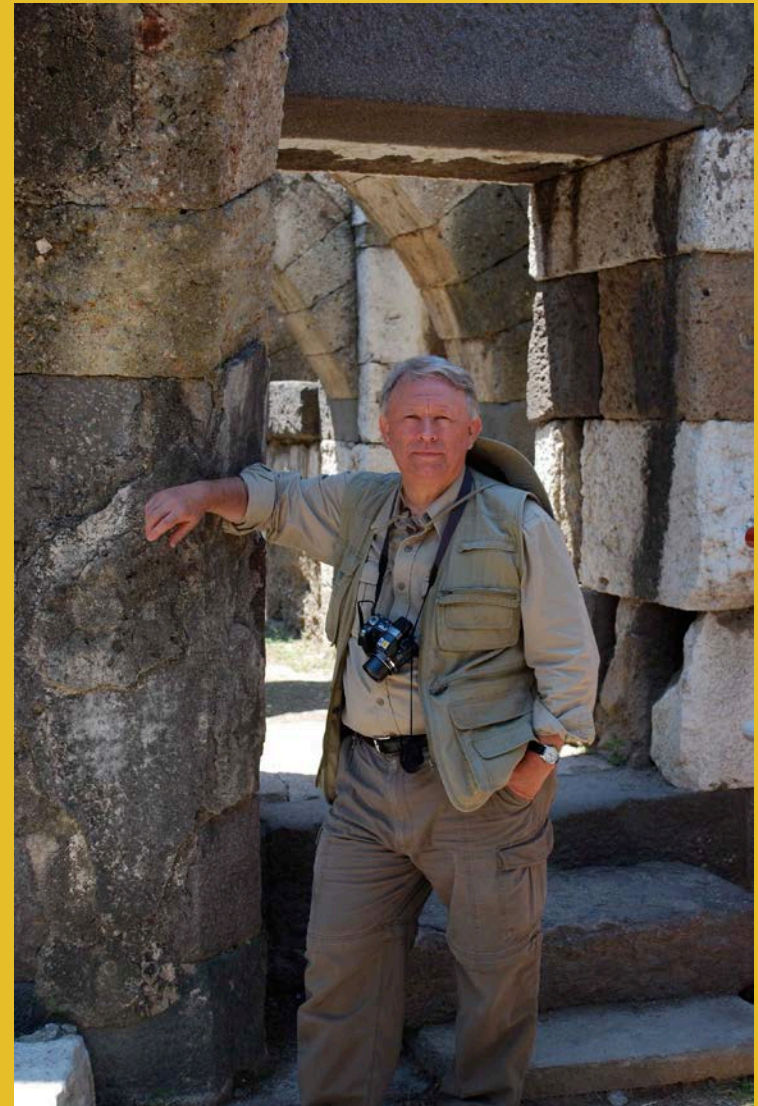


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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
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**Dr. H. Wayne
House**

*Some
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in Israel*

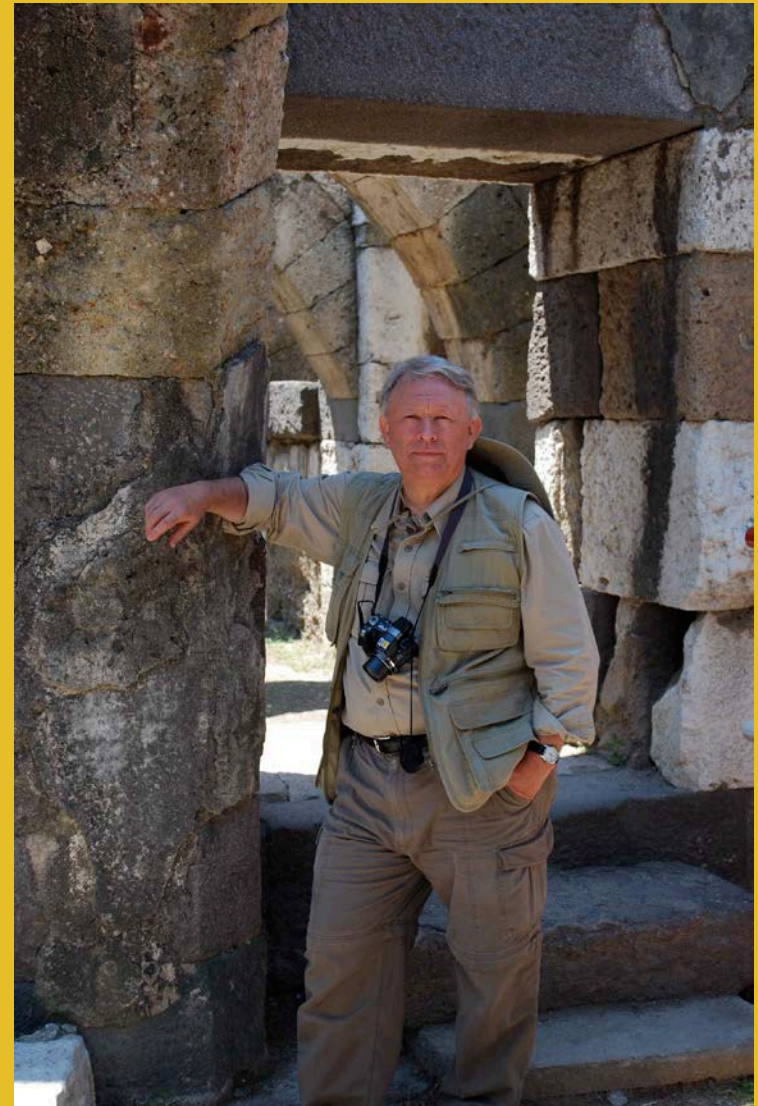


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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
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**Dr. H. Wayne
House**

*Arad, in the
Negev (Israel)*



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Aerial of Arad from the Northeast



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

View of Negev from Arad Fortress



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

View of Arad Fortress



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Entrance to Arad



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Entrance to Arad



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Entrance to Arad from Inside Fortress



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Inside the Arad Fortress



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Distinguished Professor of
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Israelite Temple at Arad



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

View of Altar in Temple of Arad Fortress



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Inside the Temple from the Holy of Holies



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Distinguished Professor of
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Holy of Holies



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Pan of Negev from Arad Fortress



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Distinguished Professor of
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Lower Arad from the Fortress



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

View of Negev from Arad Fortress



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*The Location of
the Casting Out of
the Demons
(Mark 5:1-20;
Matt 28:28f; Luke
8:26)*



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture

The Location of the Casting Out of the Demons

Mark 5:1-20 Country of the Gerasens; Proclamed in the Decapolis (Scythopolis; Pella, Hippos, **Gadara**, Raphana, Dion, Canatha, **Gerasa**, Philadelphia, Damascus)

Matt 8:28 Other side (of lake Kennerit) in country of the Gadarenes

Luke 8:26 Country of the Gerasenes, opposite Galilee



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Gadara (Umm Qais) 21.1 km from the Galilee



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Road to Damascus to the Right



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Road to Damascus, Over the hill from the Sea of Galilee



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Ruins of Buildings



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Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

Ruins of Buildings



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Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret) in Background, 21.1 km from Umm Qais



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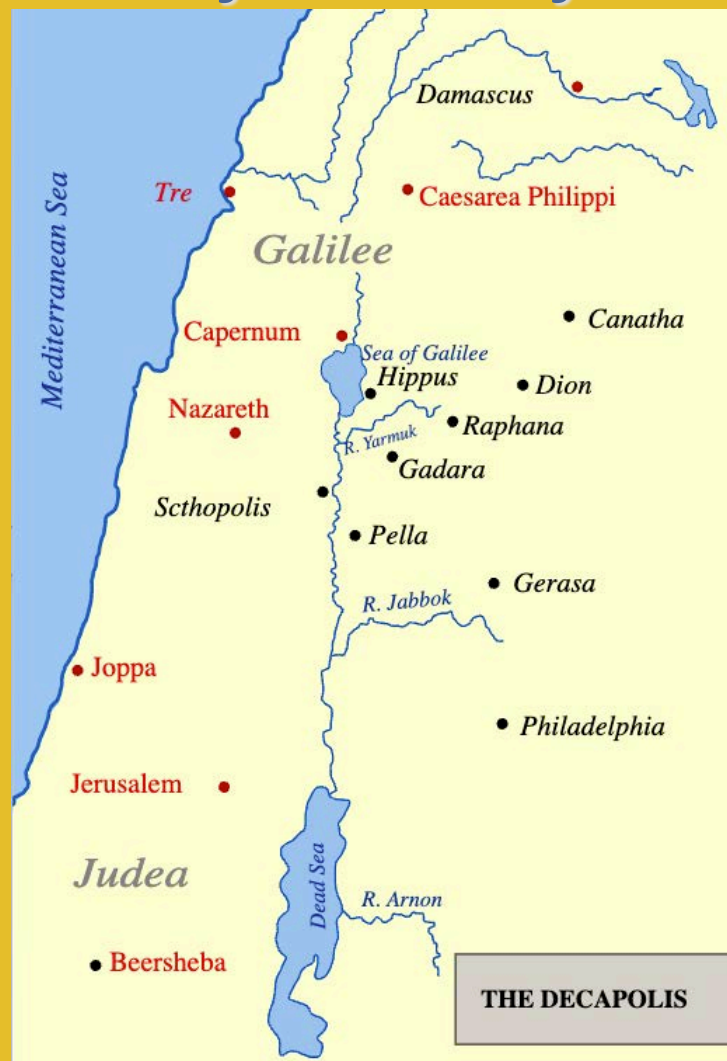
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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
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Theater at Gadara (Umm Qais)



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Gerasa (Jerash) 40 km from Sea of Galilee



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Distinguished Professor of
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Gerasa (Jerash)



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Hadrian Arch — Entrance to Gerasa (Jerash)



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Hippodrome to Gerasa (Jerash)



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Hippodrome at Gerasa (Jerash)



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Distinguished Professor of
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Temple of Zeus, Jerash (Gerasa)



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
Distinguished Professor of
Theology, Law, and Culture*

City Center, Jerash (Gerasa)



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M.A., Th.D., J.D.
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Theology, Law, and Culture*

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Distinguished Professor of
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Road in City of Gerasa (Jerash)



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Nymphaeum, Jerash (Gerasa)



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Stairs to Temple of Aphrodite (Venus), Jerash (Gerasa)



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Temple of Aphrodite (Venus), Jerash (Gerasa)



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Gerasa (Jerash)



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Hear Voices at Gerasa (Jerash)



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Stage of Theater, Jerash (Gerasa)



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Stage of Theater, Jerash (Gerasa)



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Gergesa (Kursi)



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Gergesa (Kursi), East Coast of Sea of Galilee



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Gergesa (Kursi)



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Gergesa (Kursi), East Coast of Sea of Galilee



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Gergesa (Kursi), My wife, Irina, and I in Church



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Gergesa (Kursi), Chapel of the Swine in Background



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Gergesa (Kursi), Chapel of the Swine



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Gergesa (Kursi), Chapel of the Swine



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Gergesa (Kursi), Chapel of the Swine

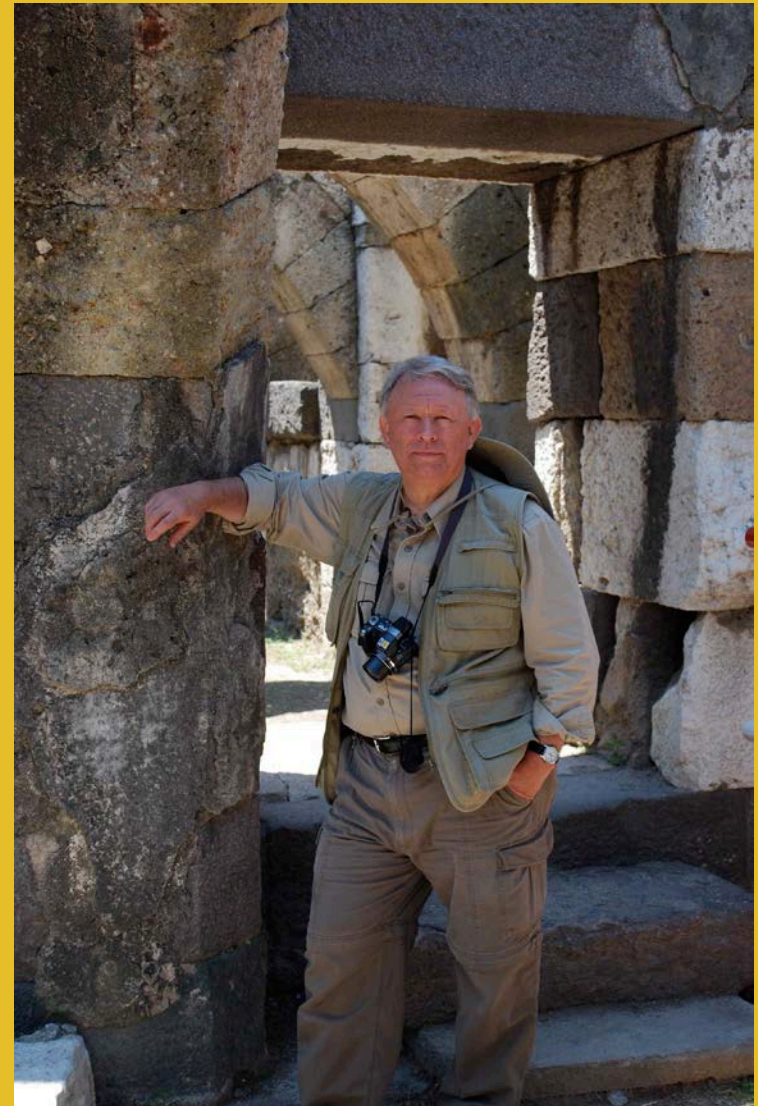


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*Some
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in Turkey*



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Hierapolis (Pamukkale- Cotton Castle)

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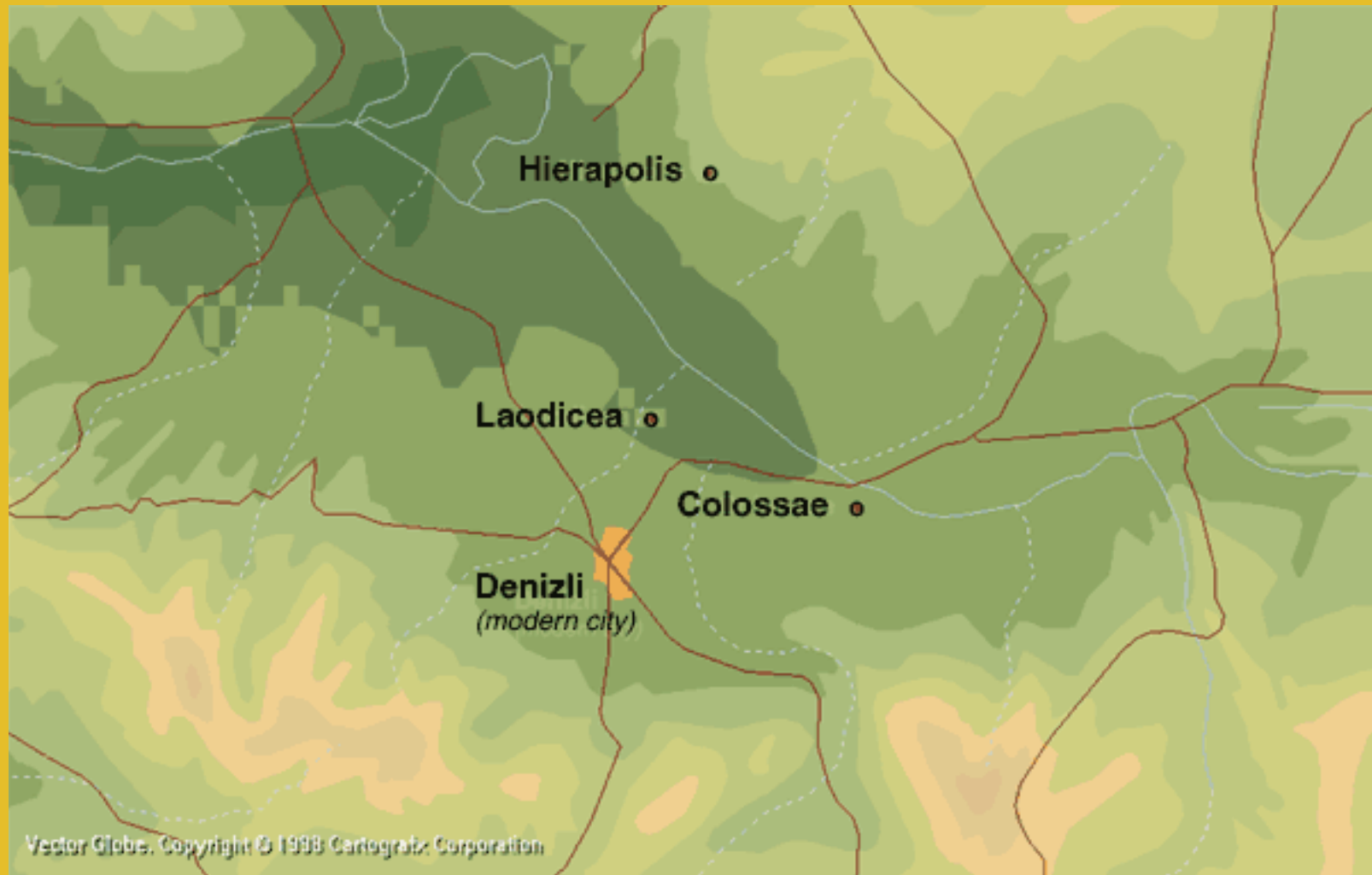
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Ancient Hattusa

Hittite Empire Discovered



The Case of the Hittites

A century ago the Hittites were unknown in any documents outside the Bible and did not exist in the archaeological record. Liberal scholars argued they were a fictitious people invented by the biblical authors.

Hittites are mentioned 47x in the Old Testament

Famous Hittites of the Bible

Abraham bought burial cave from "Ephron the Hittite" (Gen. 23)

One of Esau's wives was the daughter of a Hittite (Gen. 36)

David murdered his soldier "Uriah the Hittite" (2 Sam. 11)

Solomon's wives were from among the Hittites (1 Kgs. 11)

God claimed Israel's "mother" was a "Hittite" (Ezek. 16)

Dates Of Control

- There were three major Hittite dynasties:
 - The Old Kingdom lasted from 1750-1500 BC
 - The Middle Kingdom lasted from 1500-1450 BC
 - The New Kingdom lasted from 1440-1180 BC
- All together, the Hittite civilization lasted for 570 years.

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Dates Of Control

During the new Hittite kingdom, very good political records were kept, and today, we know who most of the rulers during the time were.

- 1430-1406 Tudhaliya I
- 1410-1386 Arnuwanda I
- 1385-1381 Tudhaliya II
- 1380-1358 *Unknown*
- 1357-1323 Hattushili II
- 1322 Arnuwanda II
- 1321-1297 Murshili II
- 1296-1271 Muwatalli
- 1270-1264 Murshili II
- 1263-1245 Hattushili III
- 1244-1220 Tudhaliya III
- 1219-1218 Arnuwanda III
- 1217-1200 Shuppiluliuma II
- circa 1200 BC Destruction Of Hittite Kingdom

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The extent of the new Hittite empire is unknown, but the maximum extent of the middle kingdom is shown in orange and the sphere of influence of the old Hittite kingdom is shown in red. The green coloring shows the area that the Egyptians controlled.



Hittite achievements

- Probably the main and most important Hittite achievement was the discovery of the use of iron.
- The Hittites also formed the first ever peace treaty with the Egyptians.
- The Hittite's had a very advanced and complicated system of government.

Leadership

- The Hittites had a constitutional monarchy as their government.
- The leaders of the government were the king, royal family, pankus (essentially the kings servants and advisors)
- The constitution part of the government consisted of the Hittite laws.
 - These laws were written in Cuniform and numbered over 200.

Leadership Cont'd

- Under the Hittite laws, death was a very rare punishment, unlike laws from similar empires.
- In the Hittite government, the king was the supreme ruler, commander in chief of the army, and the supreme judge.
 - It was believed that after death, he became a god.

Social Structure

- The Hittites had a feudal social system.
- The majority of the population was divided into the following classes:
 - Slaves
 - Common People
 - Artisans
 - Fief Holders (soldiers)
 - Merchants

Religion



- Hittite religion was heavily influenced by Mesopotamian mythology.
- The Hittites were polytheists and believed that all elements and aspects of life had a specific god.
- These gods were worshiped through idols called Huwasi Stones.

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*Dr. H. Wayne House
M.A., Th.D., J.D.
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Contributing Factors To Decline

- The Hittites relied strongly on trade to be economically stable.
- In 1288 BC, they fought a massive battle against the Egyptians called the Battle of Kadesh over control of a major trade route.



Contributing Factors To Decline (cont.)

- The battle ended in a truce, but it weakened the Hittite army and left their empire's eastern border vulnerable
- Around this time, the Hittite empire was also weakened by civil war.
- The Assyrians took advantage of this opportunity to invade and conquer most of the Hittite lands.

Hittite Seal Ring

Though previously unmentioned in extra biblical literature, scholars believed the Hittites (from the Indo-European region) were legendary people. However, in 1905 the **Hittite library (10,000 tablets)** was discovered by **Hugo Winckler in Turkey**. The tablets consist of law codes, legends, covenants and myths, giving scholars ample evidence for the belief that the Hittites were a real people as mentioned in Genesis 15:20 (1Kings 10:29; 23). This dome shaped Hittite stamp seal (1400-1200 BC) is with silver ring, decorated with Hittite hieroglyphic characters.



The Hittite capital (Hattusa) was discovered at Boghazkoy, Turkey. Hittite rule extended to Syria and Lebanon and significantly impacted Israel's early history.

Hittite Chronology

1750 - 1500 BC - Old Kingdom
(Capital in Hattusa)

1500 - 1450 BC - Middle Kingdom

1450 - 1180 BC - New Kingdom
(Period of Empire)



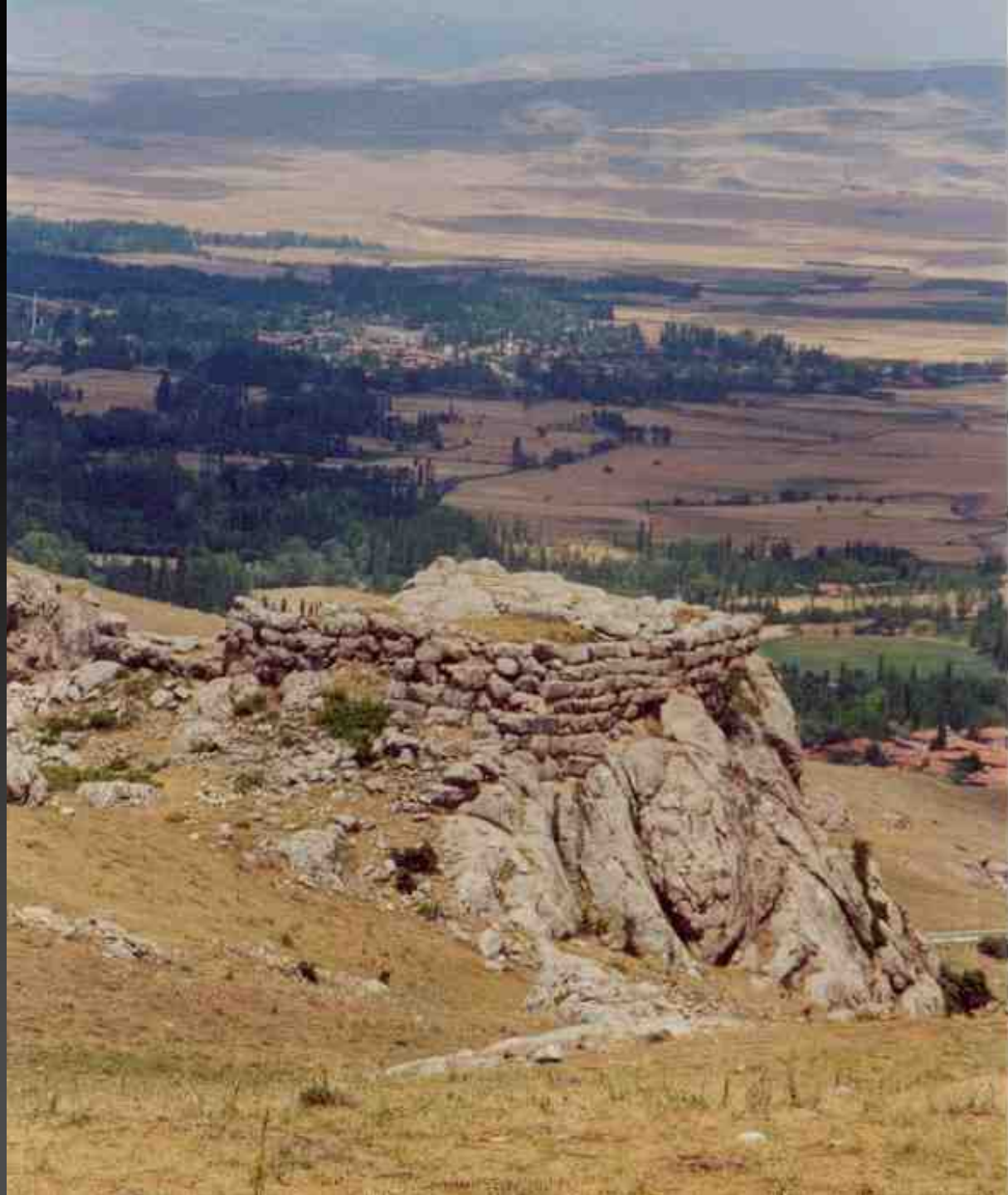
Entrance to Capitol of Hittites at Hattusa















Looking around Hattusa from the top



Looking around Hattusa from the top



Climbing down Hattusa from the top



Exit for Hittite army in flank maneuver



Exit for Hittite army in flank maneuver



Yazilikaya

Yazilikaya



Yazilikaya



Yazilikaya



Yazilikaya





**Statue of goddess with either baby or head
between legs**



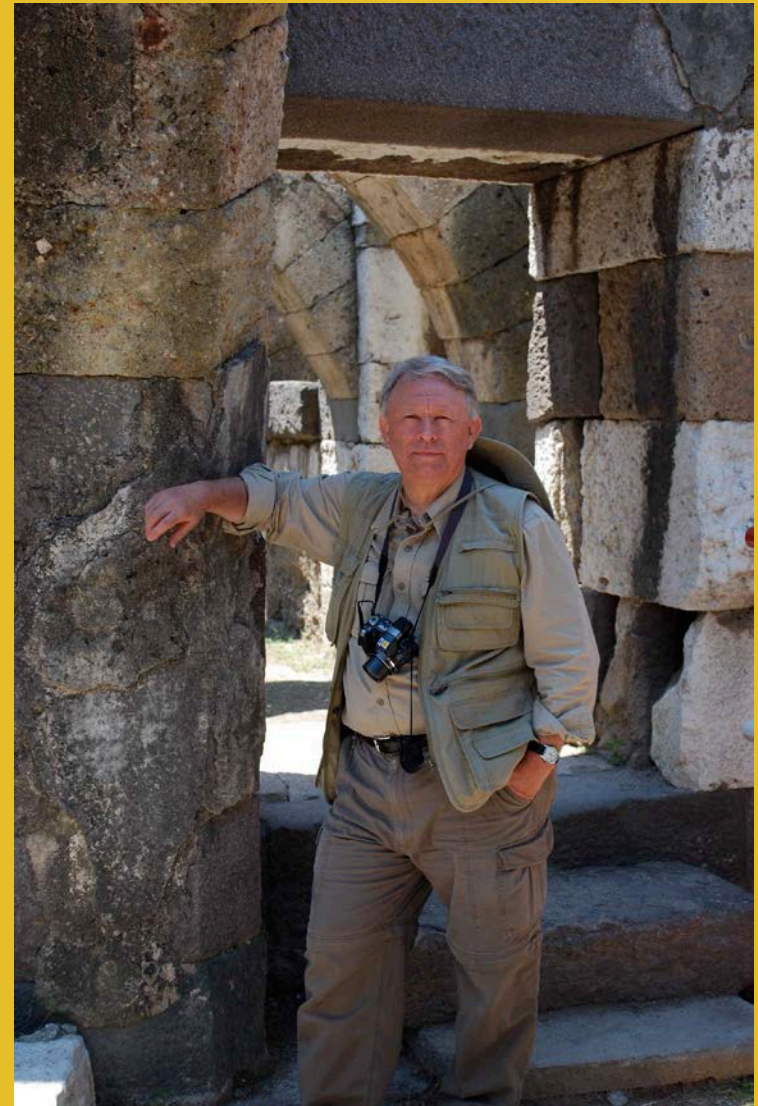
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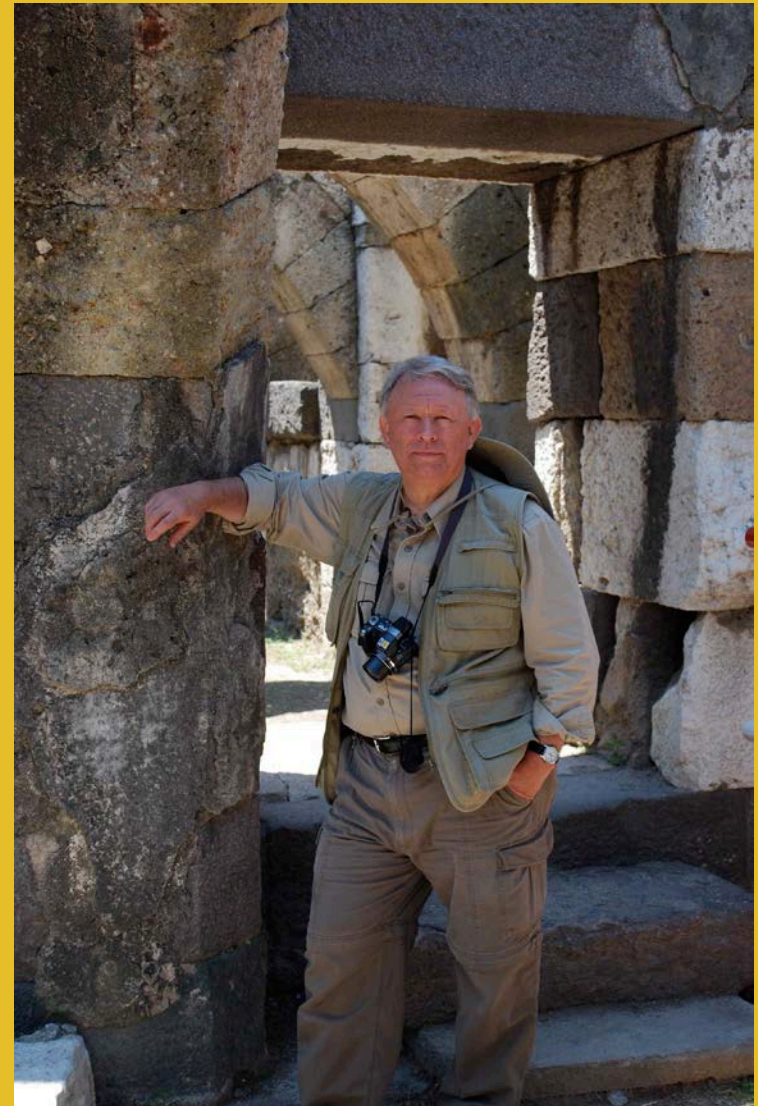


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Sodom





SODOM



Qur'an

Surat Hud 11:81 The angels said, "O Lot, indeed we are messengers of your Lord; [therefore], they will never reach you. So set out with your family during a portion of the night and let not any among you look back - except your wife; indeed, she will be struck by that which strikes them. Indeed, their appointment is [for] the morning. Is not the morning near?"

11:83 So when Our command came, We made the highest part [of the city] its lowest and rained upon them stones of layered hard clay, [which were] 11:82 Marked from your Lord. And Allah 's punishment is not from the wrongdoers [very] far.



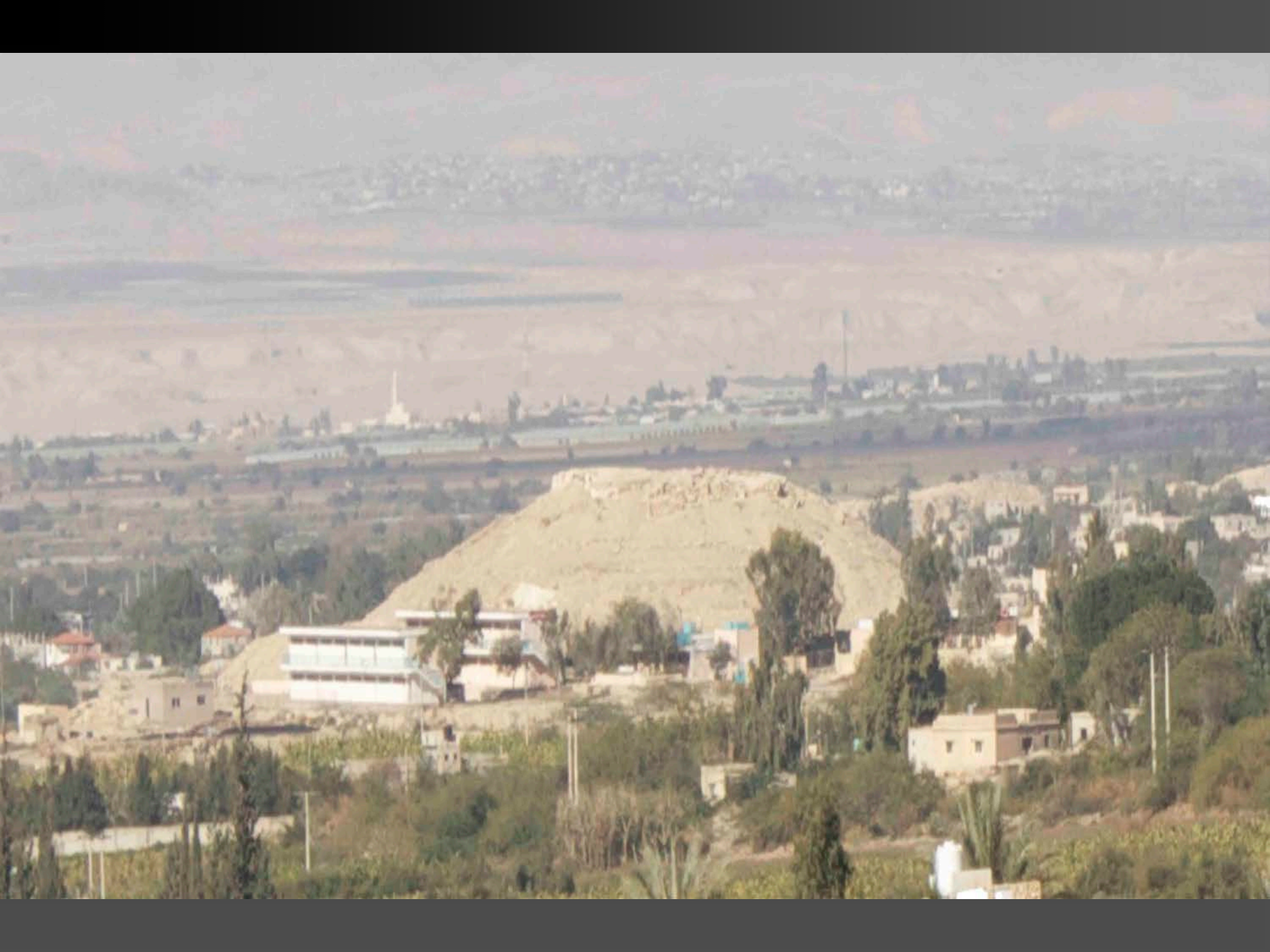
Bible

“**23** The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. **24** Then the Yahweh rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Yahweh out of heaven, **25** and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. **26** But his wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.” (Gen 19:23–26 NAS95)











SODOM AND CITIES OF THE PLAIN AT BOTTOM OF DEAD SEA



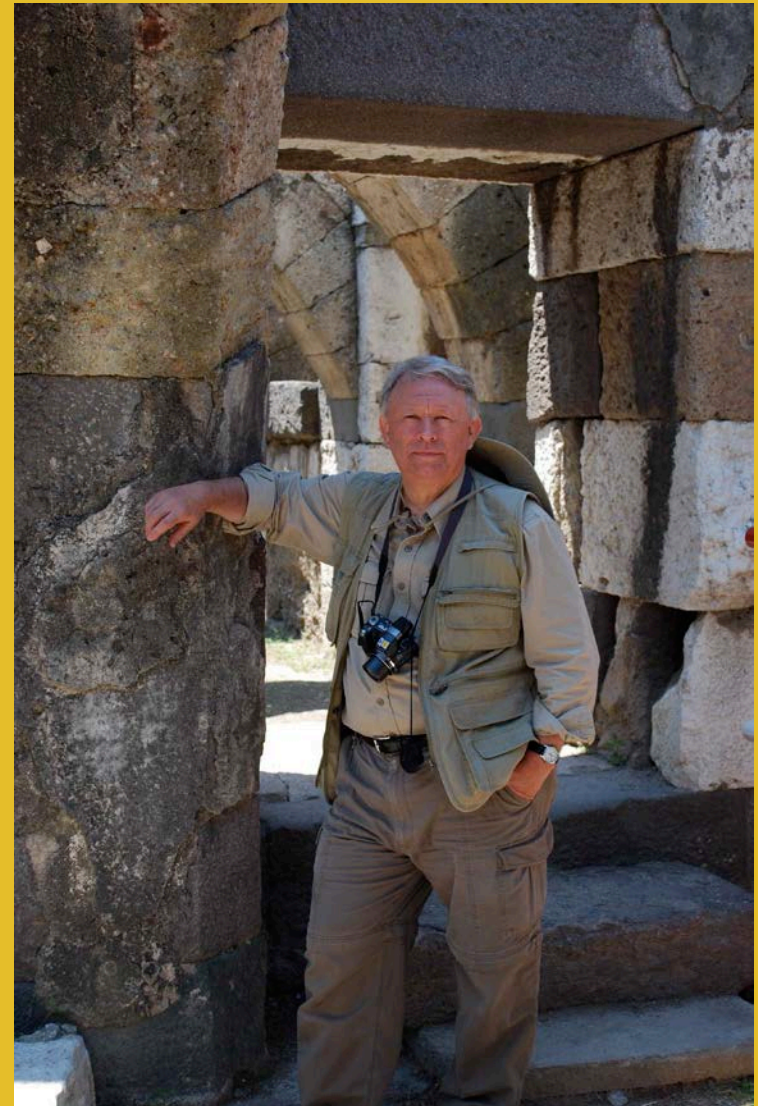
Sodom at bottom of Dead Sea

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Theology, Law, and Culture*

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Petra



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*The
“Treasury” or
Really the
Tomb*



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*“The Ride”
Who is It?*



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