

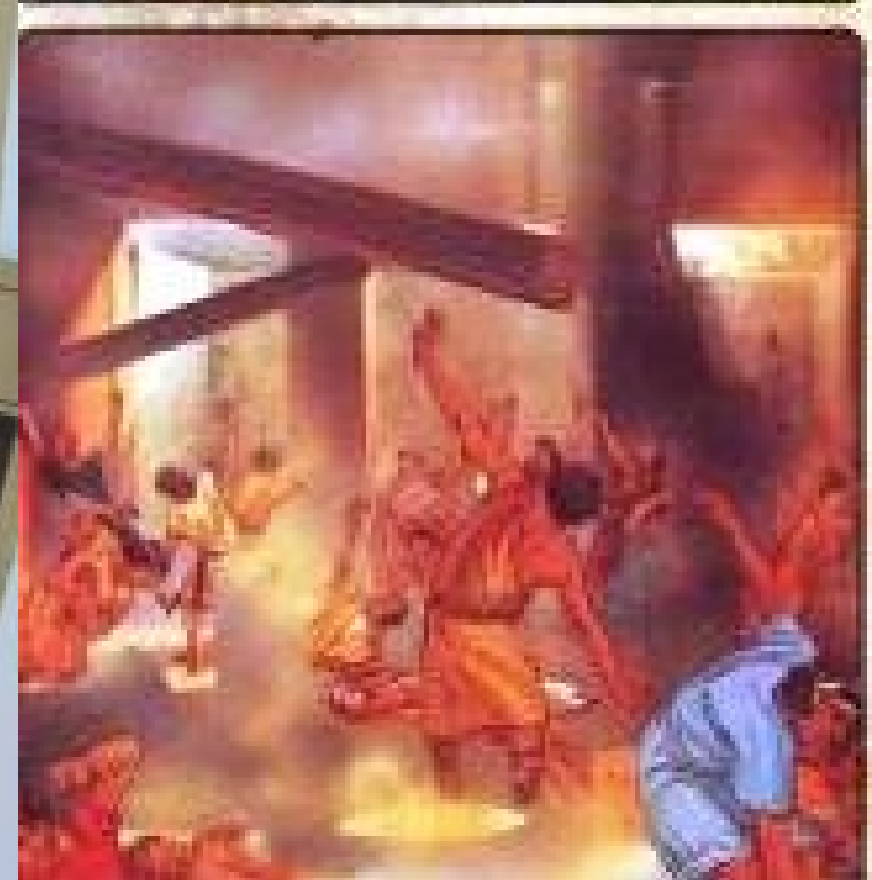
An aerial photograph of the Mt. Ebal inscription site. In the foreground, a large, rectangular stone structure made of rough-hewn stones is visible, surrounded by a field of green grass and scattered rocks. In the middle ground, a few people are standing near the structure. The background consists of rolling green hills with sparse vegetation and several tall communication towers on a distant ridge under a clear sky.

# Mt. Ebal Inscription

An Archaeological “Game Changer”



# שְׁמֹן הַגִּבּוֹר



The Bible For Children

*My high school In  
Jerusalem*





Adam Zartal  
1936-2015

# Deuteronomy 11:29-32 NIV

## *Mountains and Freedom of Choice*

When the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.

## *Location*

*As you know*, these mountains are across the Jordan, westward, toward the (Way of The) setting sun, near the great trees of Moreh...

# Deuteronomy

## 27:1-4 NIV

### *A Memorial on Mt. Ebal*

When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the Lord your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with **plaster**. **Write** on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to enter the land ... And when you have crossed the Jordan, **set up these stones on Mount Ebal**, as I command you today, and coat them with **plaster**.

# Deuteronomy

## 27:5-8 NIV

### *An Altar on Mt. Ebal*

<sup>5</sup> Build there an altar to the LORD your God, an *altar of stones*. Do not use any iron tool on them. <sup>6</sup> Build the altar of the LORD your God with *fieldstones* and offer *burnt offerings* on it to the LORD your God. <sup>7</sup> Sacrifice *fellowship offerings* there, eating them and *rejoicing* in the presence of the LORD your God. <sup>8</sup> And you shall *write* very clearly all the words of this law on these stones you have set up.”

# Deuteronomy

## 27:12-26 NIV

### *The ceremony*

When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people:

Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.

And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:



1 “Cursed is anyone who makes an idol—a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of skilled hands—and sets it up in secret.” --- ***Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”***

2 “Cursed is anyone who dishonors their father or mother.” -- ***Then all ...***

3 “Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbor’s boundary stone.” -- ***Then all ...***

4 “Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road.” -- ***Then all ...***

5 “Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.” -- ***Then all ...***

6 “Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his father’s wife, for he dishonors his father’s bed.” -- ***Then all ...***

7 “Cursed is anyone who has sexual relations with any animal.” -- ***Then all ...***

8 “Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.” -- ***Then all ...***

9 “Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his mother-in-law.” -- ***Then all ...***

10 “Cursed is anyone who kills their neighbor secretly.” -- ***Then all ...***

11 “Cursed is anyone who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.” -- ***Then all ...***

12 “Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out.” -- ***Then all ...***

# Joshua 8:30-35

NIV

## Implementation

30 Then Joshua built **on Mount Ebal** an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, 31 as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of **uncut stones**, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord **burnt** offerings and sacrificed **fellowship** offerings.

32 There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua **wrote** on stones a copy of the law of Moses. 33 All the Israelites, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the **ark of the covenant** of the Lord, facing the Levitical priests who carried it. **Both the foreigners living among them and the native-born were there.** Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel.

# Joshua 8:30-35

NIV

## Implementation

34 Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is **written** in the Book of the Law.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had *commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the **women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.***

Exodus  
20:24-26 NIV

*How to build an Israelite Altar*

24 “Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. 25 *If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.* 26 *And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.*’

The academic view  
of ancient Israel  
“The Minimalistssss”

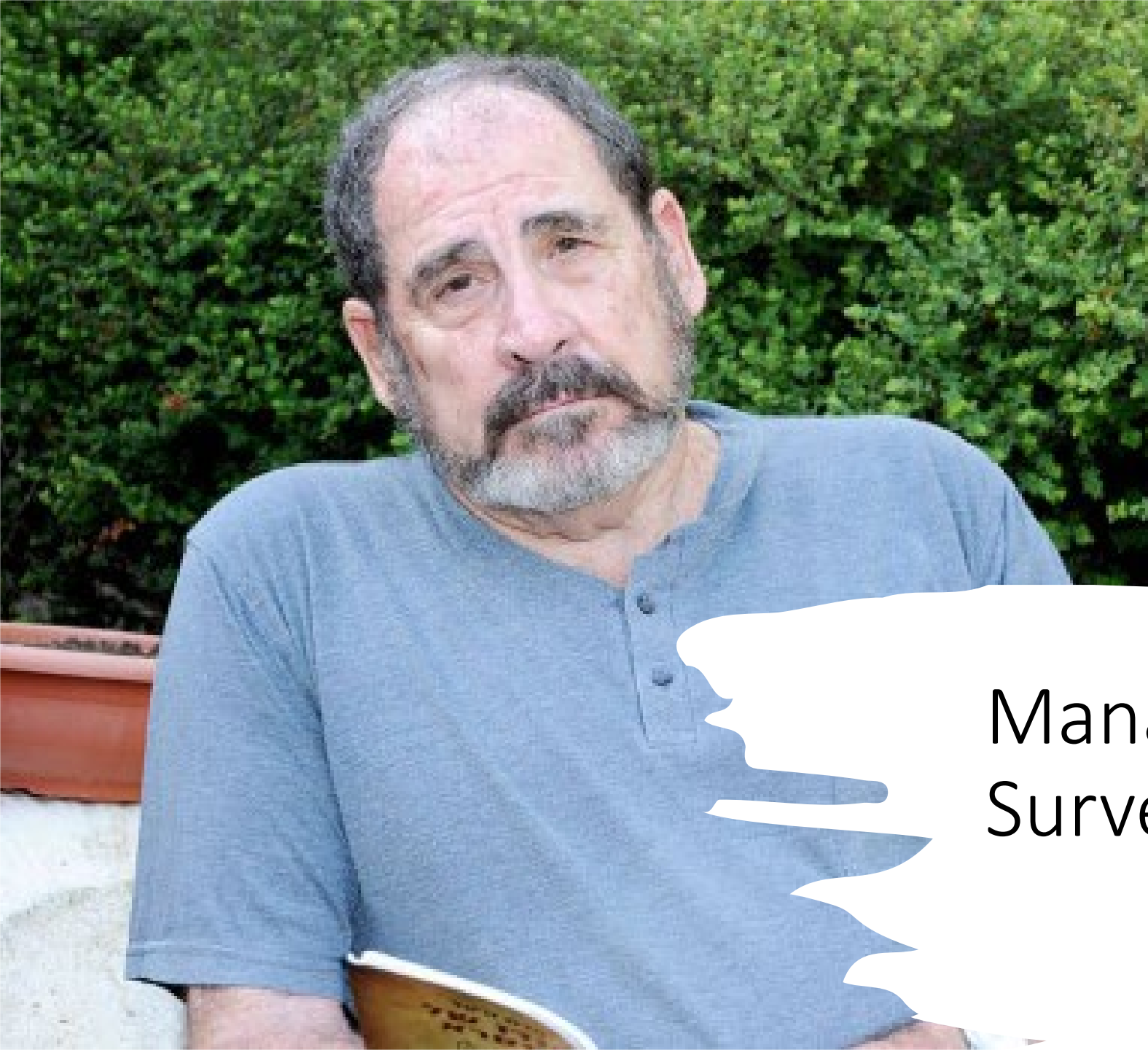
“Historians acknowledge that, after more than two centuries of archaeological research, there is still an absence of evidence for the presence of Israel in Egypt.”

(William Johnstone, The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, 2007)

The academic view  
of ancient Israel  
“The Minimalistsss”

“It is hard to accept, but scholars today are convinced that Israel was not present at Egypt, nor wandered in Sinai; they did not conquer Canaan nor inherited it to the twelve tribes... And the Israelite religion did not adopt monotheism on Mt. Sinai but in the end of the monarchical period...”

(Prof. Z. Herzog, Tel Aviv University)



# Manasseh Hill Country Survey

# Emergency archaeological survey

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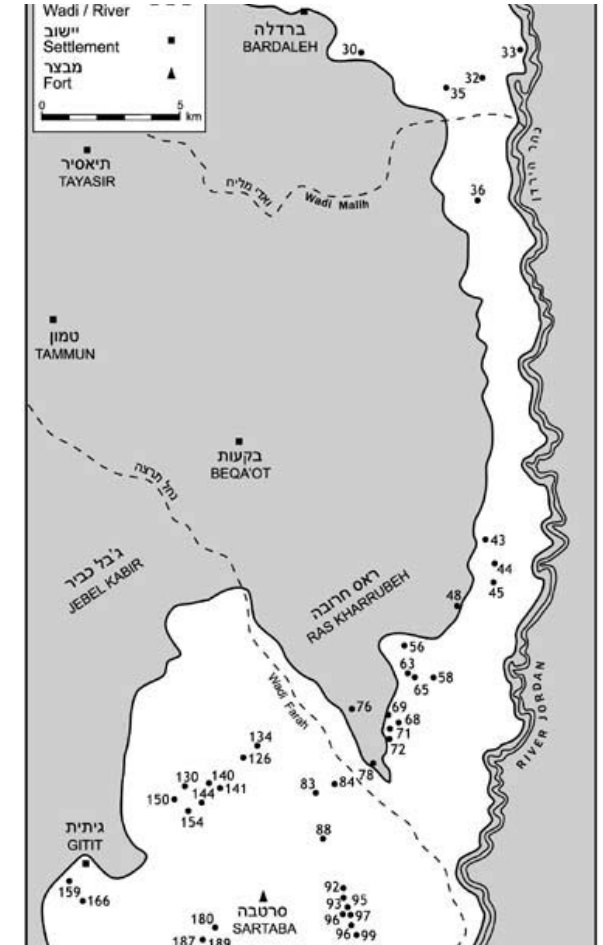
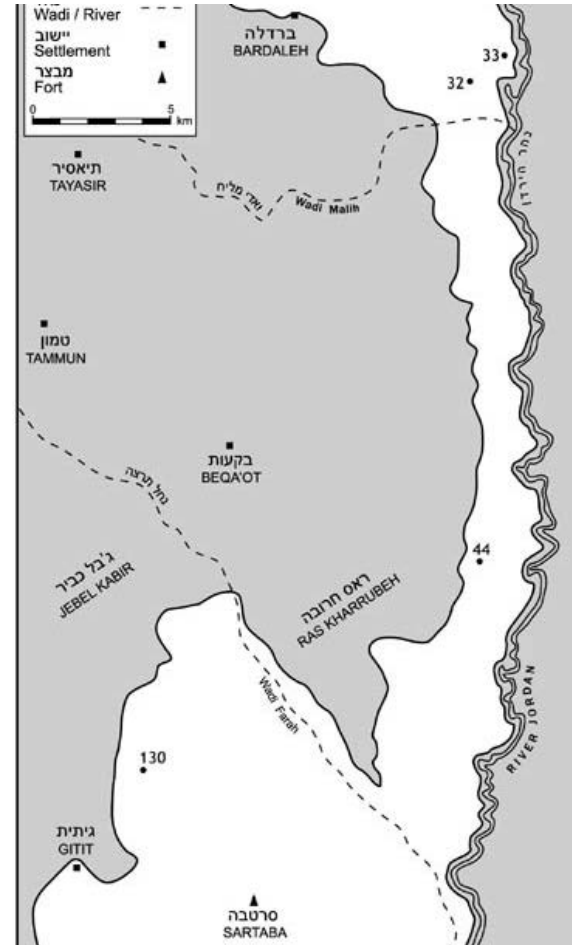
- Jordan Valley
- Central Samaria





# Settlement Influx

- No settlements in the Late Bronze age
- Unexplainable increase in settlements in the Iron age
- Semi nomadic
- East to West expansion



# Emergency Archaeological Survey

## Ancient Israelite Worshiping Sites



Yafit



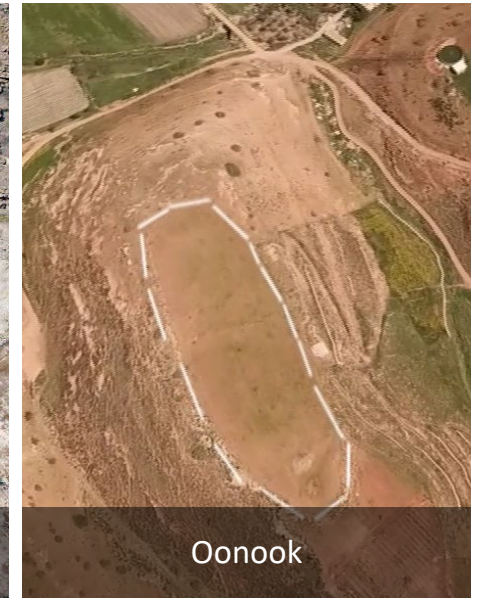
Mt. Ebal



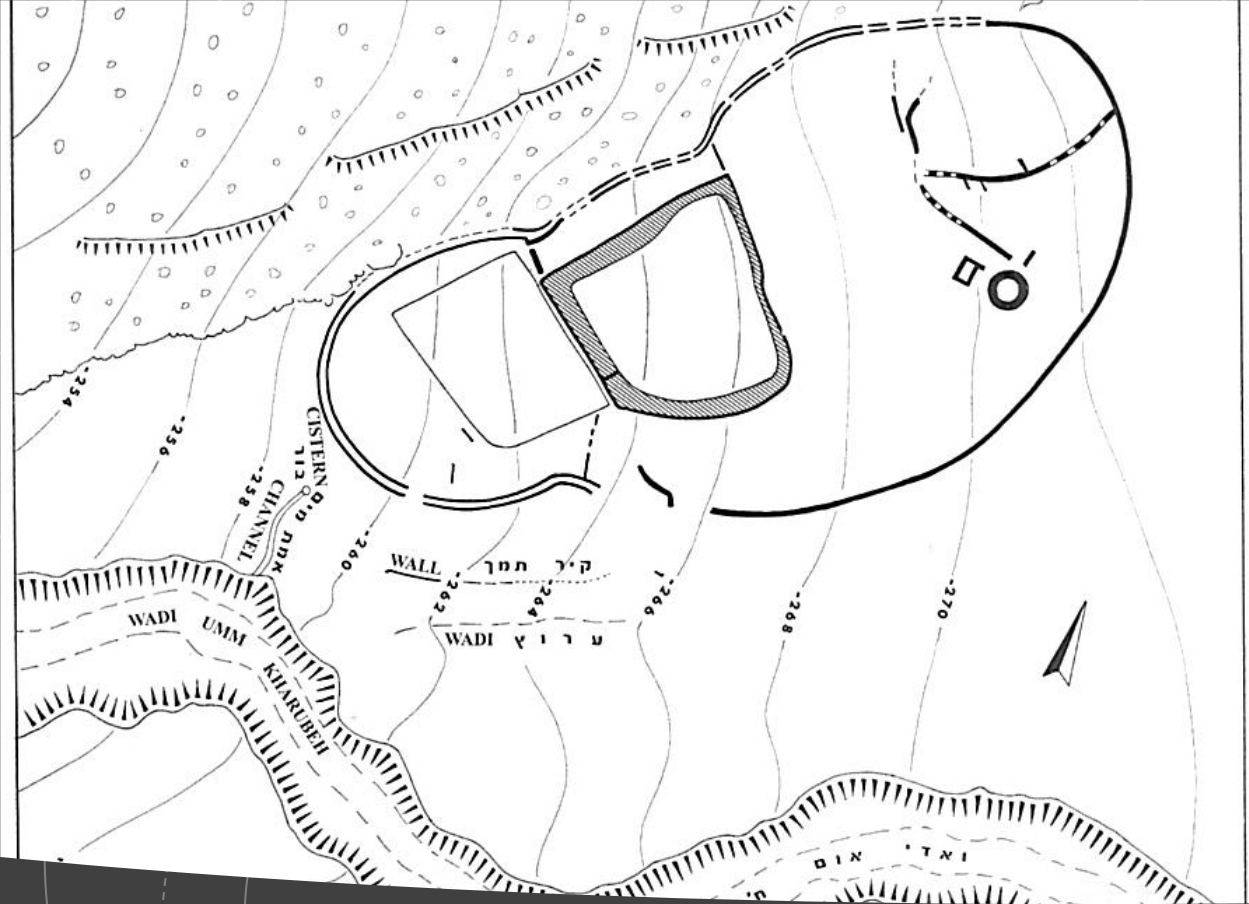
Rimonim



Argaman



Oonook



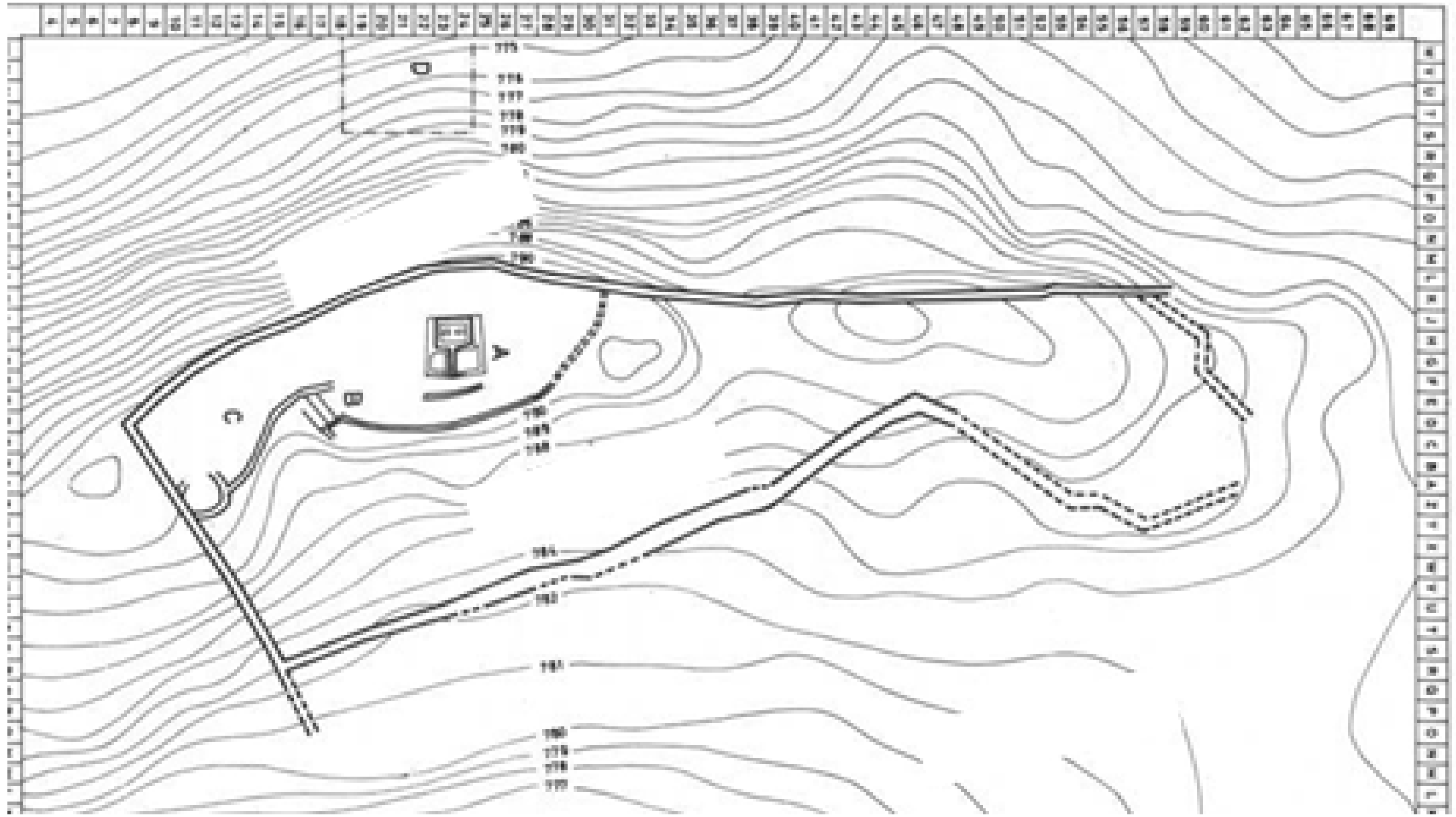
# Foot Structures - Gilgals



Mt. Ebal Foot Structure



# Sketch of the enclosure and inner divisions





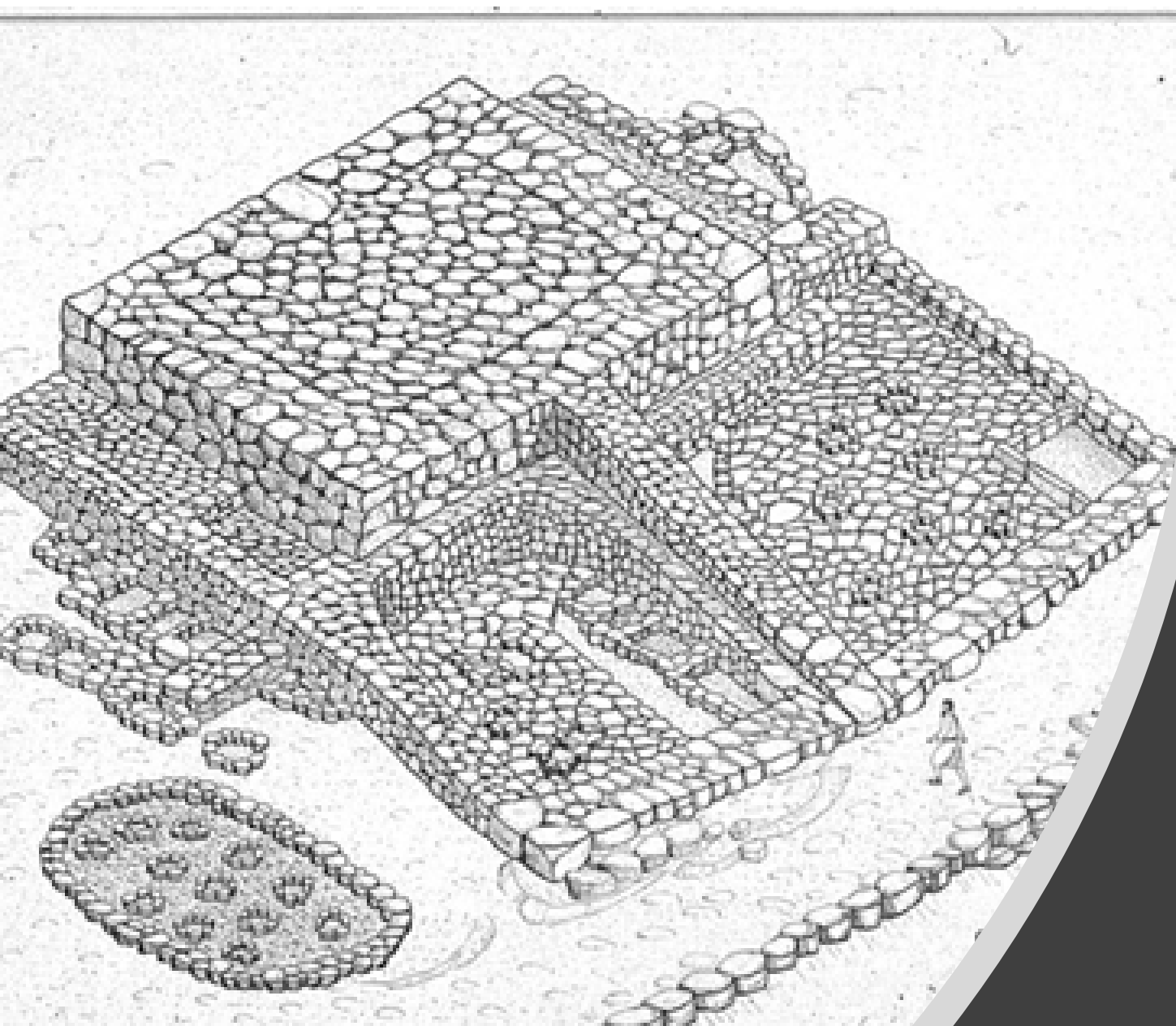
First day of the dig  
The site was  
covered by a thick  
layer of stone



A mysterious structure starts showing up after the removal of the exterior stones

- **A double ramp mounted to the construction**





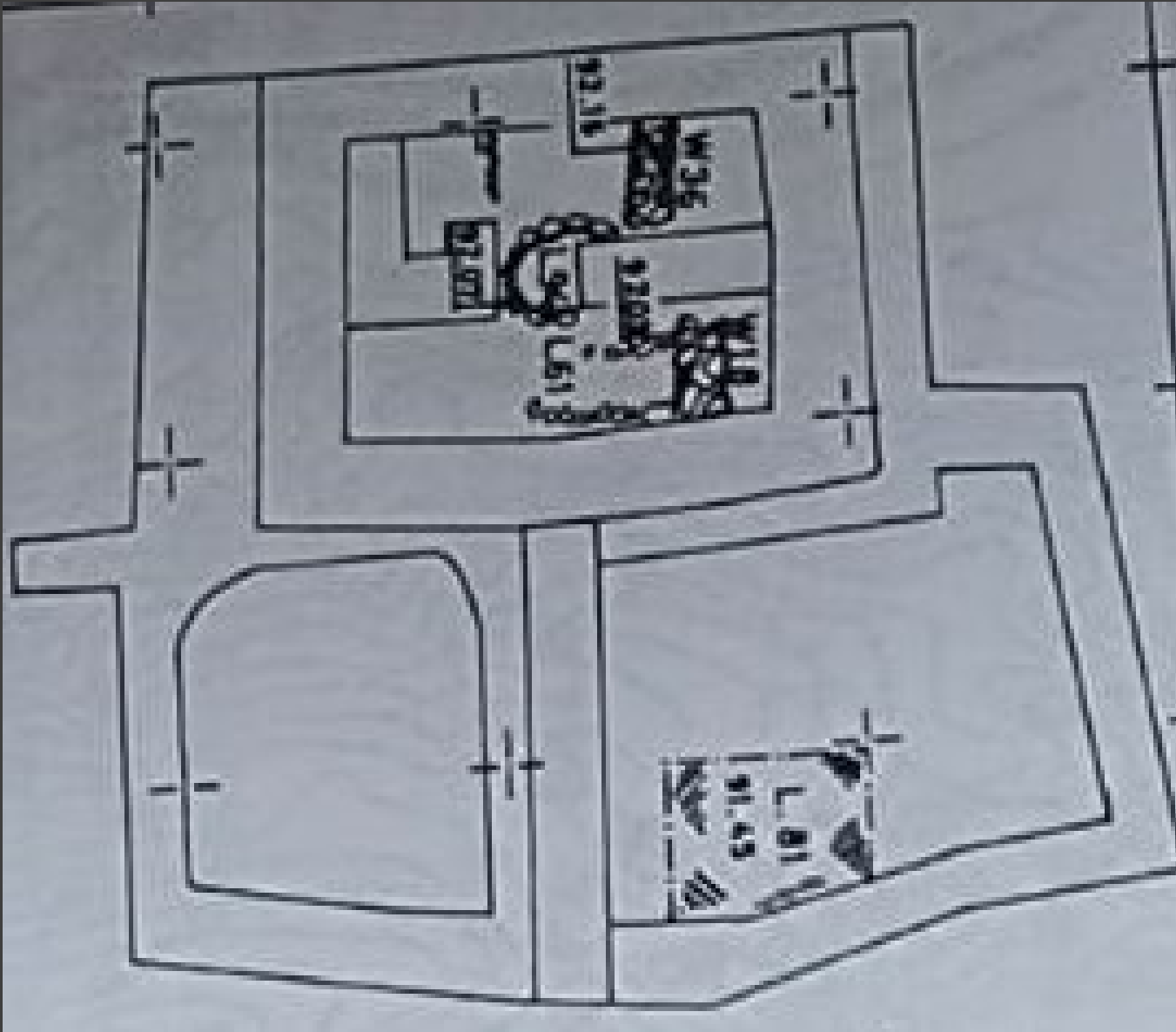
A  
reconstruction  
of the  
structure

זכח, עם השלמה מעטה של אבנים.



The open platform with the ash layer.  
980 charred bones were found in the ash.





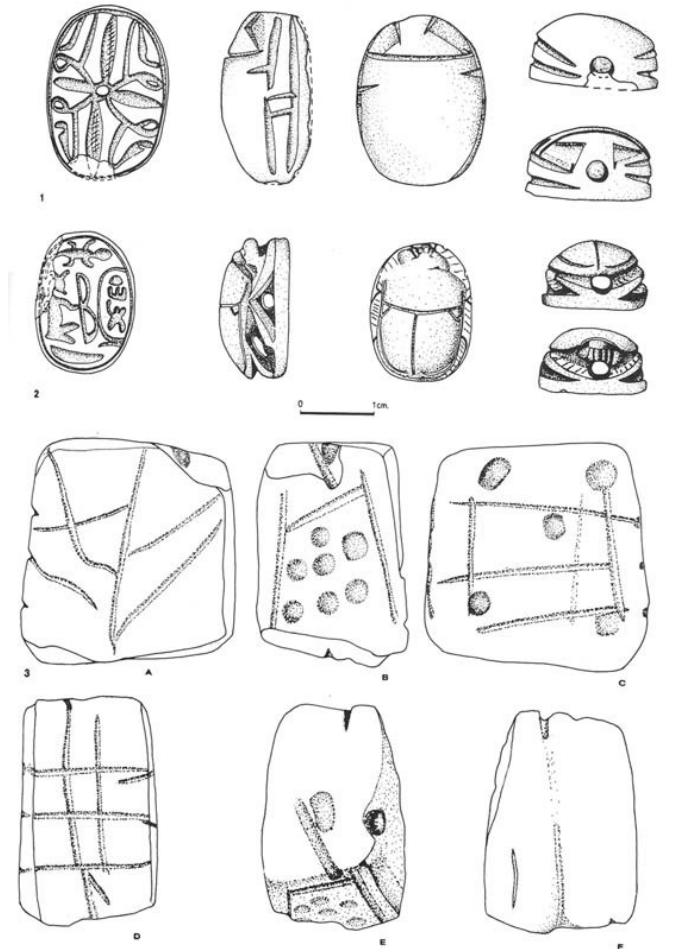
Base or  
Founding  
Altar

Gold and silver earrings from around the altar, designed in ancient Egyptian style.



Egyptian Scarabs dating to  
the reign of Thutmose III  
1479 – 1425 BC

Stone-dice





Pumice  
Chalice



# Plaster

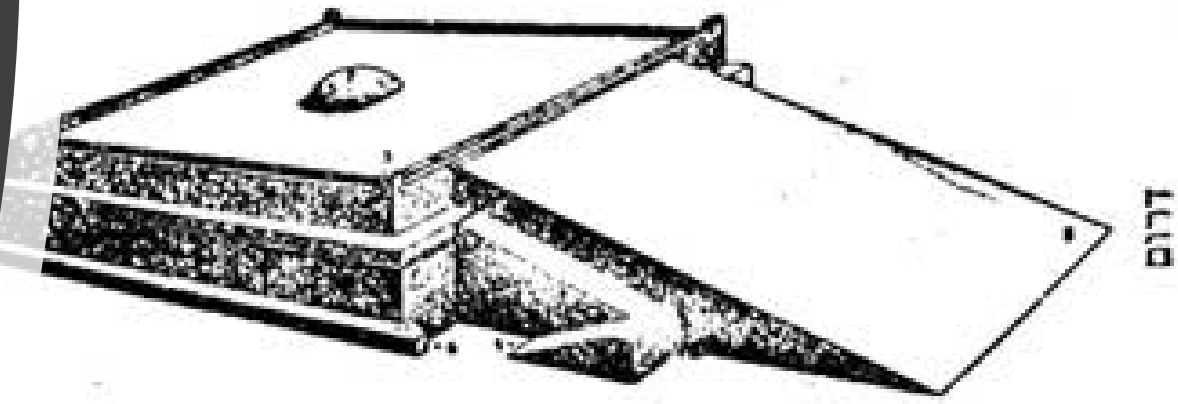
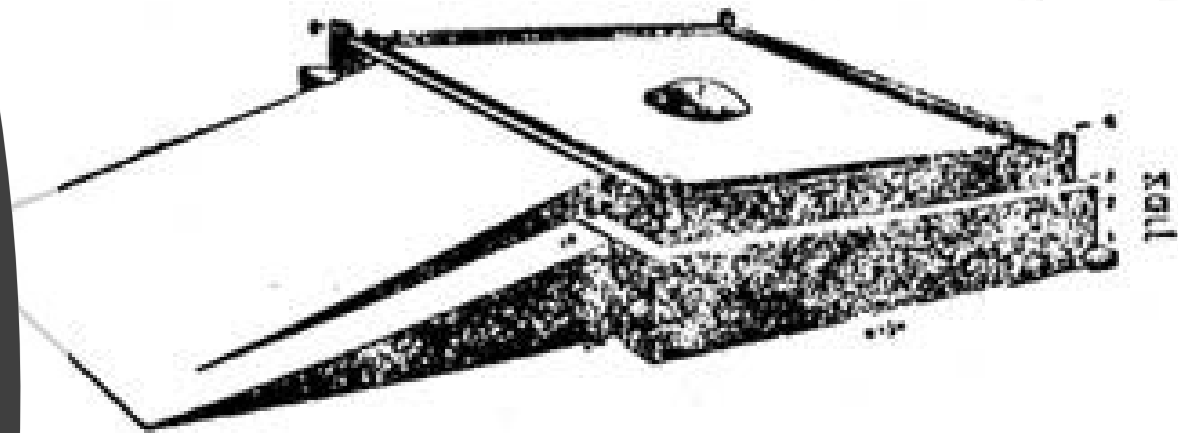
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עֲשָׂרִים וְשִׁמוֹנָה עַל עֲשָׂרִים וְשִׁמוֹנָה. מְקוֹם הַקָּרְנוֹת



- The altar of the Mishnah (Midot 3).
- Second Temple altar In Jerusalem

1. היסוד. 2. חוט הסיקרא. 3. הסובב. 4. קרנות המזבחה. 5. קרן מערבית דרומית (למעלה) שהיתה משמשת לניסוך המים והיין (משנה זבחים, ו, ב.). 6. שני הנקבים בקרן מערבית דרומית. למטה ביסוד, כמין שני חוטמין דקין, שהדמים הנשפכים על יסוד מערבי, ועל יסוד הדרומי יורדין בהן ומתערבין באמת המים שבעזרה, ומשם יוצאים לנחל קדרון (משנה ב' בפרקנו). 7. התפוח (ערימת אסר) באמצע המזבחה (תמיד ב, ב.). 8. הכבש. 9. כבש קטן שעולים בו אל הסובב

Prof. L. Stager,  
the Dean of  
Harvard  
University  
Archaeological  
Dept.:

*“If there is an altar on Mt.Ebal,  
as Zertal claims,  
we – biblical scholars – should  
all go back to kindergarten”.*

# Mt. Ebal Altar

- Discovered in 1980
  - Excavated 1982-1989
  - Final report was not published
  - Oslo accords 1995 – 2019
1. Ignored by the academic world
  2. The altar is rarely visited.
  3. Muslim vandalism of the perimeter wall and the altar itself





Scott Stripling

# Eastern and Western Dumps



# Extraction

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# December 2019

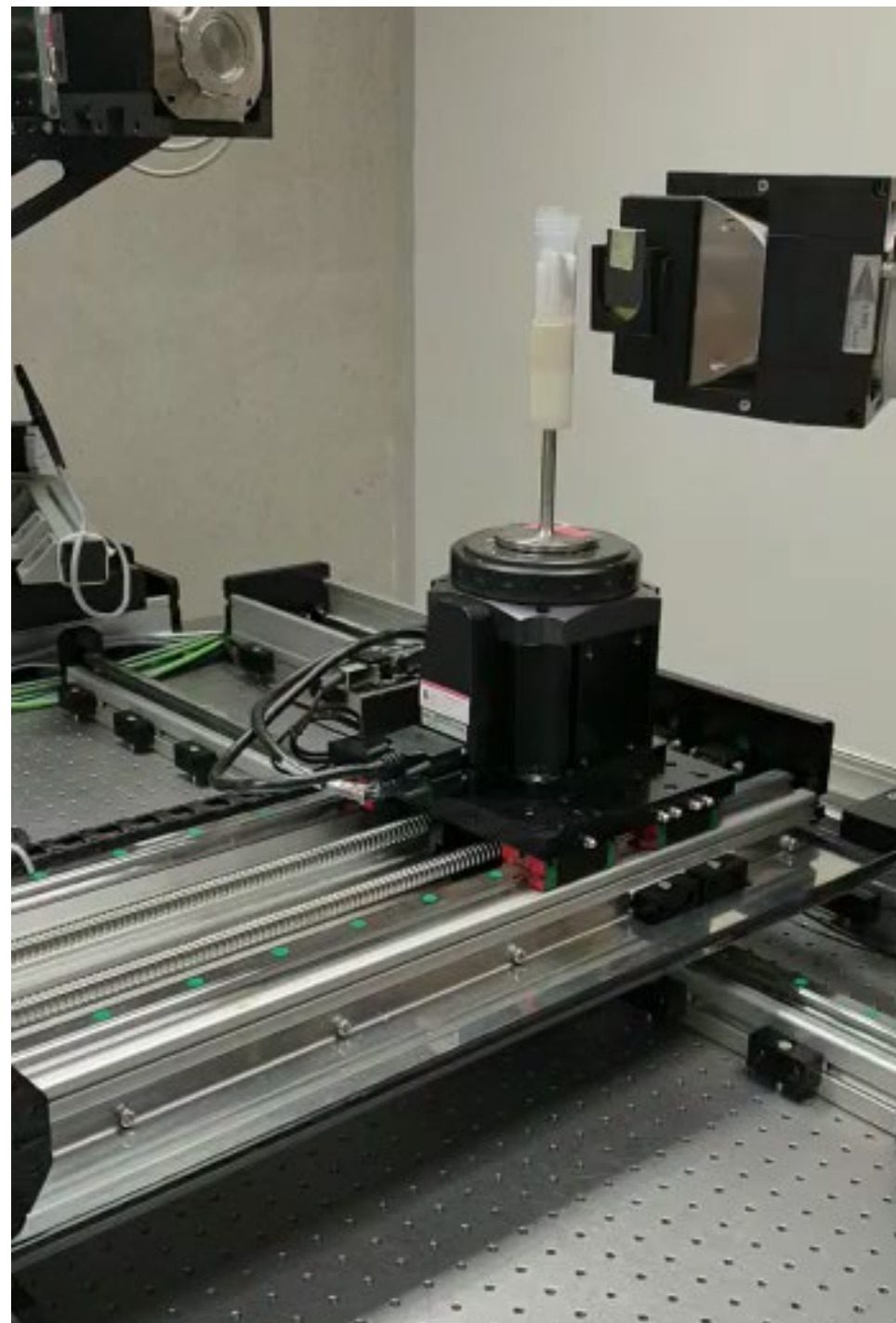
- Wet sifting project by Dr. Scott Stripling
- Zertal did a good job BUT still many findings
- Lead Tablet was found during wet sifting of material from the Eastern Dump.
- Sent to an Israeli university to be analyzed
- Sent to the Academy Of Sciences in Prague for a Tomography check





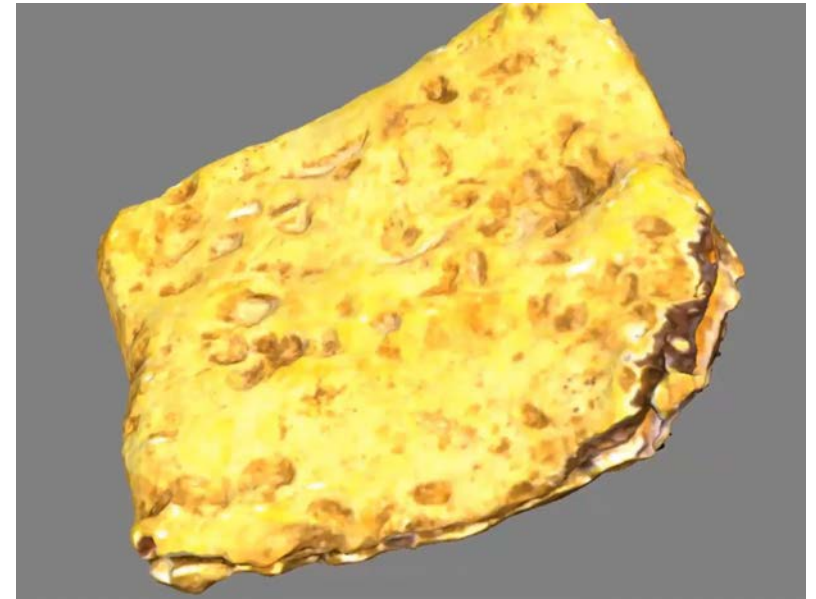
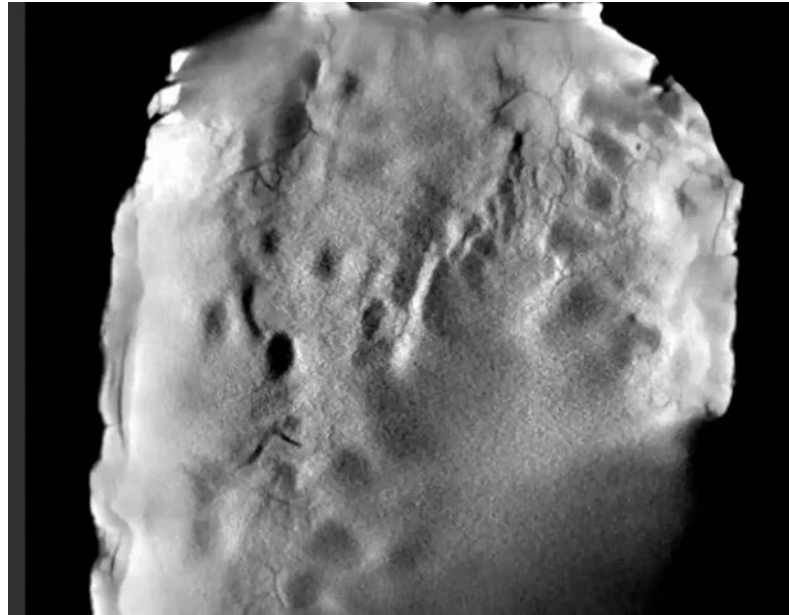
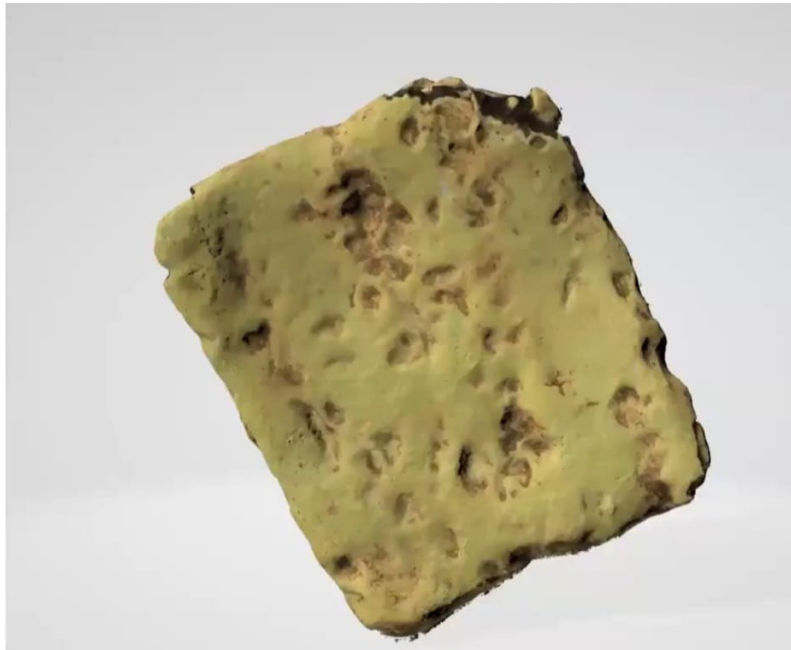


# Tomographic Scan



# Mt. Ebal Lead Tablet

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# Theological Library



## The Ebal Inscription – After Further Analysis

You are cursed by the God **YHW**- Cursed

You will die, cursed

Cursed you will surely die.

Cursed you are by **YHW** – Cursed

אתה ארור לאל יהו – ארור

תמת ארור, ארור מת תמת

ארור אתה ליהו – ארור

Research | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 12 May 2023](#)

# “You are Cursed by the God YHW:” an early Hebrew inscription from Mt. Ebal

[Scott Stripling](#) , [Gershon Galil](#), [Ivana Kumpova](#), [Jaroslav Valach](#), [Pieter Gert van der Veen](#) & [Daniel Vavrik](#)

*Heritage Science* **11**, Article number: 105 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

**30k** Accesses | **166** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

## Abstract

In December 2019, an expedition on Mt. Ebal to examine the discarded material from Adam Zertal’s 1982–1989 excavation yielded a small, folded lead tablet. The east dump pile, from which the object emerged, contained the discarded matrix from two structures that he interpreted as altars dated to the Late Bronze Age II and Iron Age I. The earlier and smaller round altar lay underneath the geometric center of the later and larger rectangular altar. The

[Download PDF](#)[Download ePub](#)[Sections](#)[Figures](#)[References](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[The archaeological context](#)[Tomographic reading of the interior text](#)[Paleographic analysis of the “Inner B” inscription](#)[The vocabulary](#)[Literary structure of the “Inner B” inscription](#)

כ	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊
𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕
𐤖	𐤗	𐤘	𐤙	𐤚	𐤛	𐤜	𐤝	𐤞	𐤟	𐤠
𐤡	𐤢	𐤣	𐤤	𐤥	𐤦	𐤧	𐤨	𐤩	𐤪	𐤫

Modern Hebrew font

Proto Alphabetic font

Phoenician / Paleo Hebrew font

2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Font

# Ancient Hebrew

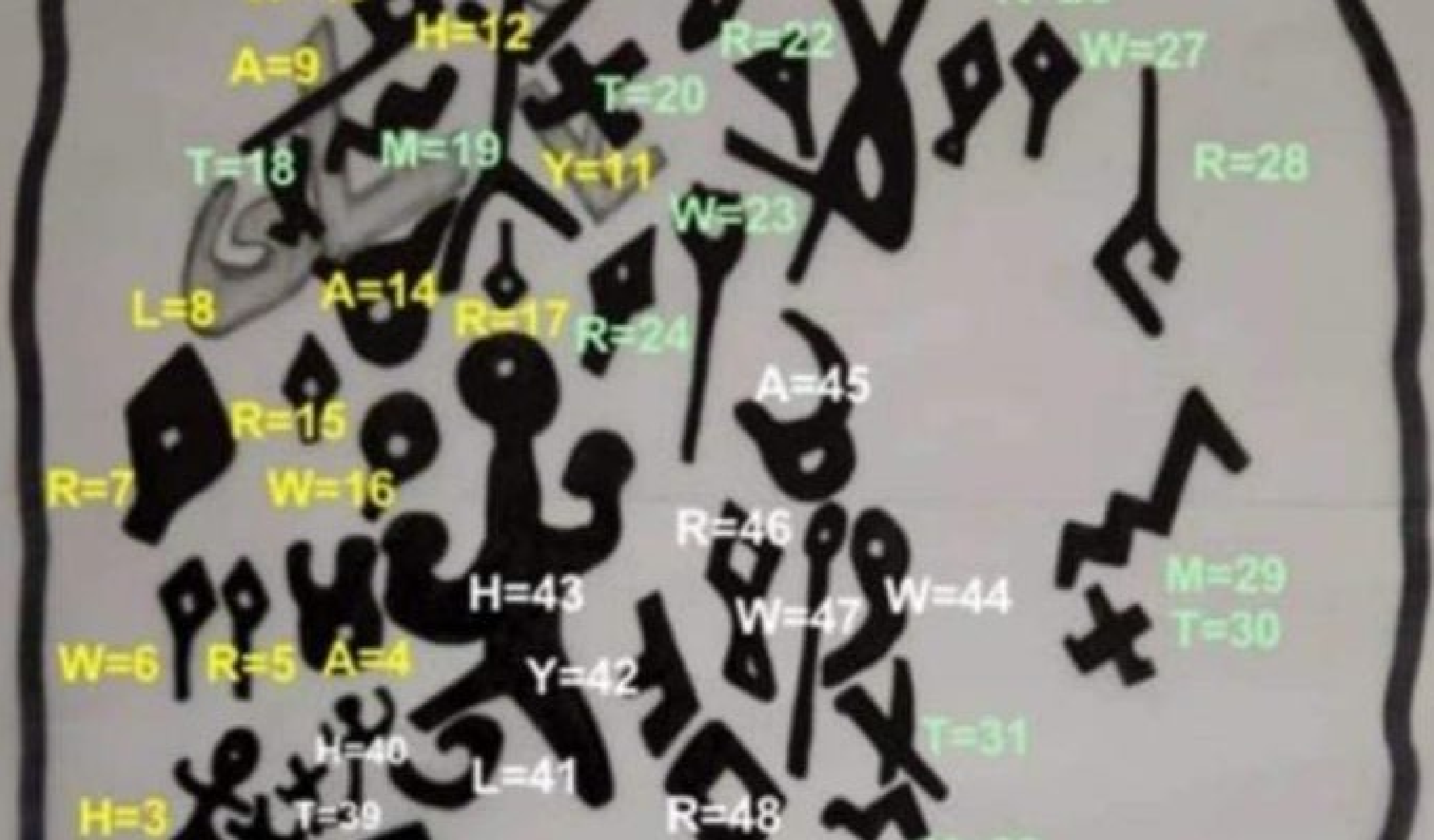
Mt. Ebal Lead  
Tablet  
Inner side

You are cursed by the God  
YHW, Cursed.

You will die, Cursed –  
Cursed, you will surely die.

Cursed you are by YHW –  
Cursed.





A=9

H=12

R=22

W=27

T=18

M=19

T=20

Y=11

W=23

R=28

L=8

A=14

R=17

R=24

A=45

R=7

R=15

W=16

R=46

M=29

T=30

W=6

R=5

A=4

H=43

W=47

W=44

Y=42

T=31

H=3

H=40

L=41

R=48

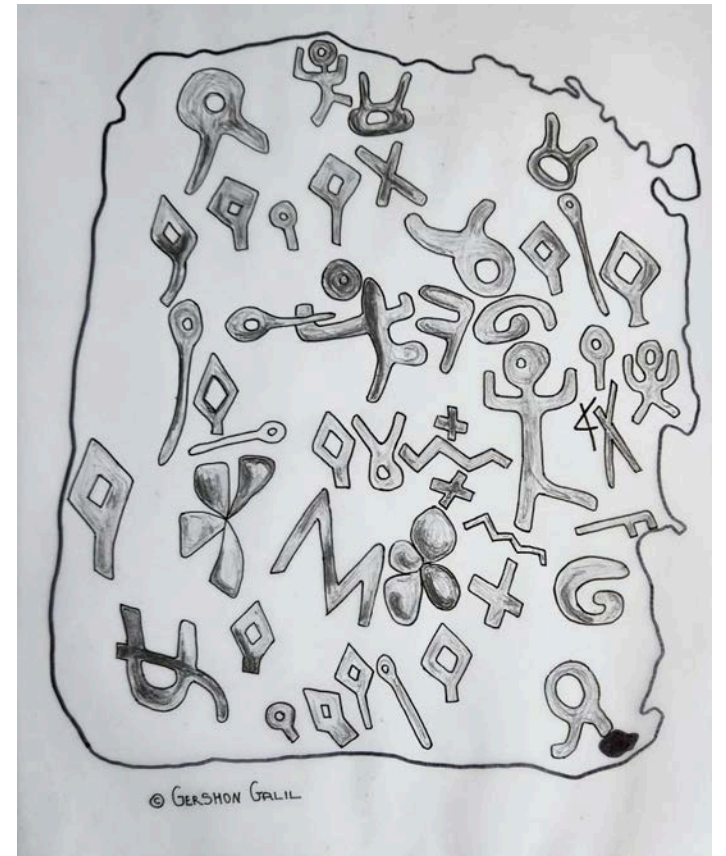


# Mt. Ebal Lead Tablet Outer side

You are cursed by ~~the God~~  
YHW, Cursed.

You will die, Cursed –  
Cursed, you will surely die.

Cursed you are by YHW –  
Cursed.



**The divine name YHW  
from Mt. Ebal  
in proto-alphabetic script**



*Drawing by Gershon Galil*

# Text includes:

48 Letters inside, 46 letters outside, Total of 94 letters

The name YHW appears 4 times

The names YHW and El appear together

Chiastic Parallelism- Expert scribe

Unvowelized AND vowelized Hebrew spelling

The most ancient version of Hebrew font

# Initial conclusions

Israelite religion (YHW)

Israelite ethnicity (Hebrew)

Israelite literacy

Possible strong connection to the ceremony of Blessings and Curses (Mt. Ebal is the mountain identified with the curses)

Late Bronze – Early Iron Age dating of the metal

The Altar and Foot structures are clearly Israelite

# Possible connection to the ceremony

Folded lead tablet is a sign for a legal document

Six cursed on one side and six on the other like the tribes

Total of Twelve “Cursed – Aroor” in total like Deut. 27

High skilled scribe (Craftsmen ship and authorship)

Curse is in the singular just like Deut. 27

Came from inside the altar – Important document



# Writing - Engraving on Metal in the Bible

---



Job 19:24 NIV

*“that they were inscribed with an  
iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock  
forever!”*

# Zechariah 5 NIV

## *The Flying Scroll*

I looked again, and there before me was a flying scroll.

He asked me, "What do you see?"

I answered, "I see a flying scroll, twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide."

And he said to me, "**This is the curse that is going out over the whole land**; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. <sup>4</sup> The Lord Almighty declares, 'I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of anyone who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in that house and destroy it completely, both its timbers and its stones.'"

## *The Woman in a Basket*

Then the angel who was speaking to me came forward and said to me, "Look up and see what is appearing."

I asked, "What is it?"

He replied, "It is a basket." And he added, "This is the iniquity[b] of the people throughout the land."

**Then the cover of lead was raised**, and there in the basket sat a woman! He said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed its **lead cover** down on it.





Make a plate of  
pure gold and  
engrave on it  
as on a  
seal: HOLY TO  
THE LORD.  
Exodus 28:36

ברכת כהנים בשידור חי מהכותל המערבי י"ט ניסן תשפ"ב 20/04/2022



LIVE

THE TR

Kohaneem ! (Priests !)



46:50 / 2:11:02





The divine name YHW  
from Mt. Ebal  
proto-alphabetic script



## The Priestly Blessing

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'"

So they will **put my name on** the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Why is the altar built on  
Mt. Ebal, The Mountain  
of Curses ?

# Ezekiel 33:10 NIV

“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’

**Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!’**

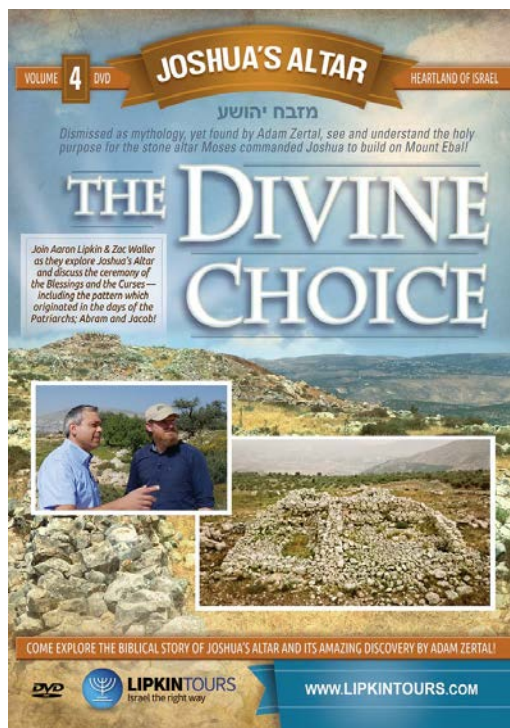




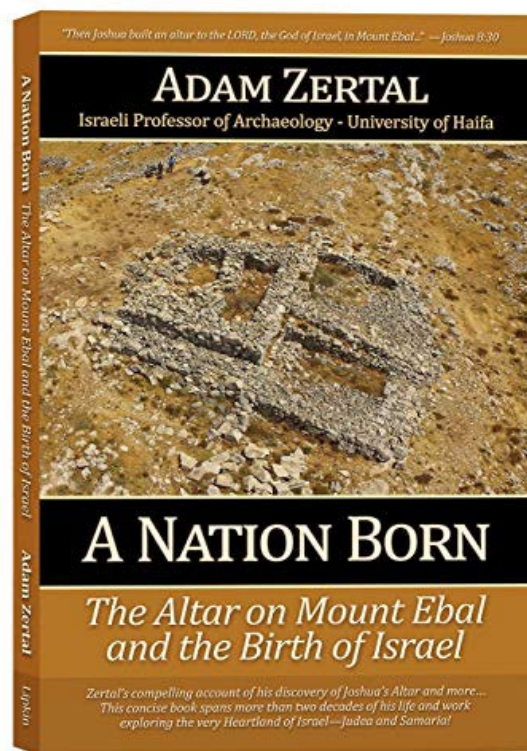
Thank You

# For more information

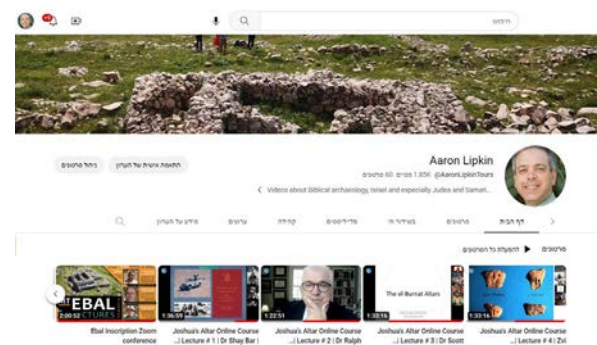
## Video



## Book

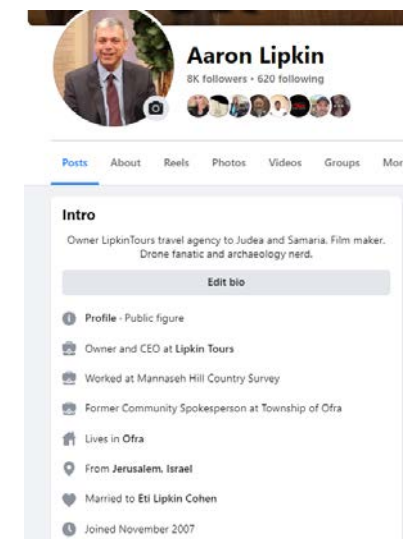


## YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/@AaronLipkinTours>

## Facebook



# AltarOfJoshua.com

## Aaron's Blog



Feasts and Feet - How Archaeology Helps Us Unde...

MAY 28, 2023

This weekend, the Jewish people will celebrate the feast of Shavuot also known as the "Feast of First Fruits". Along with Passover and Sukkot, Shavuot belongs to a unique group...



Joshua's Altar - Defying The Odds

MAY 28, 2023

Sometimes, when you are not looking for something, you will find it. That is in summary what happened on an early spring day in 1980. A mysterious hp of stones...



Mt. Ebal Inscription - Connecting The Dots

MAY 28, 2023

Introduction Between 1982 and 1989, Professor Adam Zertal from the Haifa University conducted an archaeological excavation on the northeastern slopes of Mount Ebal. The excavation revealed two altars dated to...

