



# Biblical archaeology – Episode 1

## Chris Sinkinson

### May 12<sup>th</sup> '19

1. Why do you think archaeological evidence about history reported in the Bible is so important? What did you learn from Chris' talk? What areas would you like to follow up?

2. We heard that ancient Egyptian records focus on triumphs and achievements, and never mention failure or defeat. (This is true in other ancient cultures, too.) Contrast this with the Bible. What examples can you think of from the lives of key biblical characters that show failures as well as successes? Why do you think God inspired people to record real life experiences in the Bible? What can we learn from this?

(see Deuteronomy 6:1-7; 1 Chronicles 16:9-12; 2 Timothy 3:16)

3. Quotes from the talk: "Where the Bible can be tested, it passes the test of history." "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."

Discuss the interplay between facts & faith.

What other evidence do we have (in addition to studying artefacts, architecture & literary texts unearthed by archaeologists) that shows us that we are right to trust what the Bible says?

4. A 'tell' is an artificial hill created by many generations of people living and rebuilding on the same spot. If you were to consider your life like that (layer upon layer of experience), what could others discover about God's activity in and through you by looking at your life? What can you see in your own life of God's faithfulness?

5. We heard about archaeological evidence what shows that King David was a real rather than a mythical figure, as had been previously suggested. (The "House of David" inscription was discovered in 1993 at the site of Tel Dan in northern Israel.\*)

Read Psalm 23, one of King David's songs.

What foundational truths can we discover here about the character & work of God?

Spend time praying together that these truths would strengthen our lives this week.

\* [www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/the-tel-dan-inscription-the-first-historical-evidence-of-the-king-david-bible-story/](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/the-tel-dan-inscription-the-first-historical-evidence-of-the-king-david-bible-story/)

N.B. Episodes 2 & 3 will be on June 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>