



## DOES ARCHAEOLOGY SUPPORT THE BIBLE?

*What Discoveries Reveal About Scripture and History.*

Based on *Written and Read – Season 1, Episode 8*

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### INTRODUCTION

When people think about the Bible, one question comes up again and again:

#### **Does archaeology support the Bible?**

In other words, do discoveries from places like Israel, Egypt, and the ancient Near East confirm what Scripture says?

It's an important question.

Because the Bible presents itself not as myth, but as history.

Luke writes:

“Those things which are most surely believed... delivered... by eyewitnesses.” (Luke 1:1–3)

So archaeology is not creating the story.

It is examining the same world the Bible describes.

### WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology is the study of ancient civilizations through physical remains.

This includes:

- Buildings
- Inscriptions
- Pottery
- Tools
- Coins

These discoveries help historians understand how people lived, where they lived, and what their world looked like.

And that connects directly to Scripture.

“This thing was not done in a corner.” (Acts 26:26)

The events of the Bible happened in real places, in public settings, among real people.

Archaeology helps us see that world more clearly.

## NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

Let’s look at a few examples where archaeology connects directly to the New Testament.

### **The Pilate Stone**

One of the most important discoveries is the **Pilate Stone**, found in Caesarea.

This inscription names **Pontius Pilate**, the Roman governor who ordered the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Gospels record:

“Then delivered he him... to be crucified...” (John 19:16–18)

The Pilate Stone confirms that this man was a real historical figure serving in that exact role.

### **First-Century Synagogues**

Archaeologists have also uncovered synagogues from the first century.

These match the setting described in passages like Luke 4, where Jesus stood and read from Scripture.

This shows that the environment described in the New Testament is historically accurate.

## OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

Archaeology also provides important connections to the Old Testament.

### **The Tel Dan Stele**

This inscription refers to the “**House of David.**”

For years, some claimed David was only a legend.

But this discovery confirms that David was recognized as the founder of a real royal dynasty.

### **The Cyrus Cylinder**

This artifact records the policy of **King Cyrus of Persia**, allowing displaced people to return to their homelands.

This aligns directly with the Bible:

Ezra 1 records that Cyrus allowed the Jewish people to return and rebuild the temple.

This shows that the Bible fits within the broader historical record of the ancient world.

## WHAT ARCHAEOLOGY SHOWS US

When we look at these discoveries together, a pattern emerges.

Archaeology consistently confirms:

- The existence of people mentioned in the Bible
- The locations described in Scripture
- The cultural practices of the time

The Bible does not read like a disconnected story.

It fits within real history.

## IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS

At the same time, it is important to understand what archaeology can and cannot do.

### **1. Archaeology Is Limited**

It depends on what has been discovered.

There are still many places that have not been excavated and many artifacts that have been lost.

A lack of evidence is not evidence that something did not happen.

### **2. Archaeology Cannot Prove Miracles**

Archaeology deals with physical evidence.

But miracles involve the supernatural work of God.

“One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass...” (Matthew 5:18)

The truth of Scripture is not limited to what can be dug up from the ground.

## THE RIGHT CONCLUSION

So how should we answer the question?

### **Does archaeology support the Bible?**

Yes—archaeology consistently confirms the historical setting of Scripture.

But we must be clear about something:

**The authority of the Bible does not come from archaeology.**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Timothy 3:16)

That is the foundation.

Archaeology may illuminate the Bible.

But the Bible stands on the authority of God Himself.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

This question affects how we read Scripture.

If the Bible were disconnected from history, it would be easy to dismiss.

But that is not what we find.

Instead, we see that:

- The people were real
- The places were real
- The events unfolded in real history

That gives us confidence.

Not just in the setting of Scripture, but in its message.

## CONCLUSION

Archaeology does not replace the Bible.

It does not prove every detail.

But it consistently supports the world the Bible describes.

When you open your Bible, you are not reading uncertain history.

You are reading the preserved Word of God, rooted in real events and real places.

And that should give you confidence.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In the next study, we'll continue exploring the reliability of the Bible and the evidence that supports our trust in it.