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Tsiyon News

Tsiyon Messianic Radio Newsletter - Vol 7.22 - 03/11/6012 TAM - 06/01/12 AD

The Blessing and the Burden



**What one nation
in the earth
is like your people,
even like Israel?**

2 Samuel 7:23

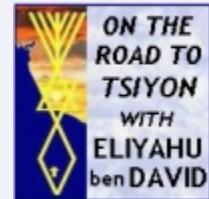
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"Out of Tsiyon,
the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth" Psalm 50:2

Tsiyon News



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June's EBD Crossword Contest

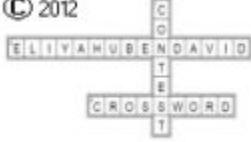
A new crossword puzzle will be posted this weekend on my website blog at eliyahubendavid.com. The winner of May's contest will be announced at that time, and in our next Tsiyon News. Are you the winner? :-)

Earliest Hebrew Inscription Confirms David's Kingdom

Contest!

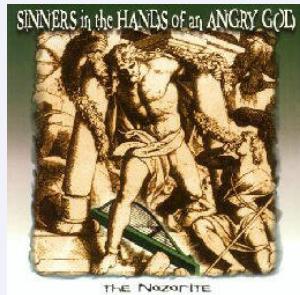
ELIYAHU BEN DAVID

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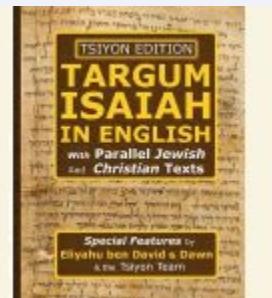


CROSSWORD
CONTEST

Our Theme CD



NEW!



Be Prepared



Pass It On

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please forward.

3,000-year-old Artifacts Confirm David's Kingdom

Condensed from: THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



Two rare 3,000-year-old models of ancient shrines were among artifacts presented by an Israeli arch-aeologist in May, 2012 as finds he said offered new support for the historical veracity of the Bible.

The archaeologist, Yosef Garfinkel of Hebrew Uni-versity, is excavating a site known as *Hirbet Qeiyafa*, located in the Judean hills not far from the modern-day city of Beit Shemesh.

Garfinkel says the central finds presented at a Jerusalem press conference — two model shrines, one of clay and one of stone — echo elements of Temple architecture as described in the Bible and strengthen his claim that the city that stood at the site 3,000 years ago was inhabited by Israelites and was part of the kingdom ruled from Jerusalem by the biblical King David.

Since *Qeiyafa* was first unveiled in 2008, it has become considered one of the most important ongoing excavations in the world of biblical archaeology. Garfinkel says the existence of a fortified city at the site around 1,000 BCE supports the idea that a centralized kingdom existed around that time, as described in the Bible.

Archaeologists are split over whether King David was a historical figure, a point of dispute

that reflects a broader debate over whether the Bible is an accurate record of events. Some scholars believe the text is just that, while others believe it is largely mythical, based perhaps on fragments of fact.

Garfinkel is firmly in the former camp, and sees his finds at the site as supporting the idea that the Bible's account is factually based.

"There is an argument here that is bigger than the dating of any one site," Garfinkel said at the press conference. "In essence, the whole Bible is being judged."



Model shrines of the type found at the site would have been used in ritual practice. One of the models, 8 inches high, is made of clay, and includes a main door and two pillars as well as decorative elements like two lions on the doorstep and three birds perched on the roof. Garfinkel suggested the pillars were suggestive of the ones known as Boaz and Yachin, which the Bible says existed in

Solomon's Temple.

The other shrine, made of limestone and standing 14 inches high, includes stylized roof beams and a recessed doorway, which Garfinkel said could help settle disputes about how best to translate some of the Hebrew words used in the Bible to describe architectural elements of the Temple.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the Qeiyafa finds, he said, is not what has been found but what has not: The diggers have found none of the cultic figurines of animals or people common at other sites, he said, suggesting residents followed a prohibition against idol worship. And the archaeologists at the site have found thousands of bones of sheep, goats and cattle, but none of pigs, suggesting they followed a dietary prohibition on swine.

"The people at the site obeyed two biblical commandments — they didn't eat pig, and they didn't make graven images," he said. This, he said, supported his view that the site was a fortified Israelite city.

The fortified nature of the settlement at *Qeiyafa* is important because members of the "minimalist" school in biblical archaeology, who claim there was no organized kingdom in Judea at the time David was supposed to have existed, have based that conclusion in part on an absence of fortified cities at the time. Building such cities requires centralized administration.

Qeiyafa would seem to show that such cities in fact existed, meaning that there could well have been a centralized kingdom like the one described in the Bible.

The ruins at *Hirbet Qeiyafa* were first noticed in 2003 by Saar Ganor, a ranger with the Israeli Antiquities Authority. He contacted Garfinkel, and digging began in 2007.

The next year, Garfinkel unveiled the first dramatic find from the site – a ceramic shard that some scholars believe contains the oldest example of Hebrew ever found. He suggested the writing supported the case for the Bible's accuracy, because it meant that 3,000 years ago the Israelites could record events and transmit the history that was compiled as the Bible several hundred years later.

The excavation has uncovered a city eight acres in area with two monumental gates and a wall running 770 yards in circumference. Carbon dating of olive pits found at the site show it was active between 1020 and 980 BCE, according to the archaeologists.

From Eliyahu

What is so special about Israel? Many times that question is asked in scorn, but we ask it seriously - as did King David. Indeed, the Scriptures state that Israel is set apart from all the other nations of the world. In our latest program we consider the history of our unique nation, focusing especially on Israel at its zenith to date, that is, during the reign of David and Solomon. What does this have to do with our study on Elijah? Just everything!

Shalom,

Eliyahu ben David
www.tsyon.org

Good News Nugget - GREETINGS TRIBESMEN!!! This is "Wild Man" Dave from the Tsiyon Promo and Media Dept with exciting news for ALL of our partners and friends of *Tsiyon*. Eliyahu has given me this column in the weekly *Tsiyon News* to help equip you to share the *Tsiyon* message. Here you will find a **Good News Nugget** posted each week for you to put to work in Messiah's service.

The latest **Good News Nugget** follows:

Hello there beautiful Tribesmen, I have great news for those who are interested. There are many of you out there who have been chomping at the bit to do something to help get the Tsiyon message out to as many people as possible.

Here is your golden opportunity to shine. I want to encourage you all who are eager to work along with us at Tsiyon. We have a place for you to serve in this glorious work that Yahweh has for each and every one of us.

So here is the bottom line; If you have a computer, and if you have the time, then contact me personally, because we have lots of projects but we don't have enough time or man power to handle them. It's just that simple contact me at help@tsiyon.org Shalom and lets have some fun together. "WILDMAN CRIGGER"

Email me at help@tsiyon.org, so that we can work together in reaching the scattered remnant of Israel and/or for FREE Tsiyon cards.
Shalom, "Wild Man" Dave

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