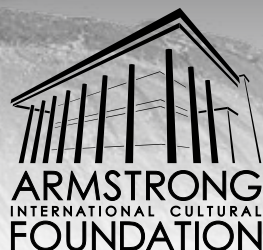


SEALS OF JEREMIAH'S CAPTORS DISCOVERED





Dear visitor,

Welcome! We are thrilled to be able to share these precious artifacts, and the remarkable history of ancient Israel.

Biblical history is a fascinating and important subject. These relics bring to life the magnificence of ancient Israel under King Solomon, the heartache of Judah's captivity and Jerusalem's destruction, and the impressive faith and courage of the Prophet Jeremiah. We encourage you to take as much time as you need to let this history—and the lessons it imparts—sink in.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Eilat Mazar for her vital contributions to this exhibit. Were it not for the tireless efforts of Dr. Mazar and her late grandfather, Professor Benjamin Mazar, many of these artifacts, including the bullae, would lay undiscovered in the soils of Jerusalem.

We treasure our long history with the Mazar family and consider it a tremendous blessing to have been by her and her grandfather's side these past 44 years. We stand ready, spade in hand, to support Dr. Mazar as she continues to uncover the secrets of ancient Jerusalem.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Flurry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GERALD FLURRY
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN
ARMSTRONG INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION



MINOR

Iconium
Konieh

Kiz Hissar

ISSUS

MPHYLLIA
Side

CHICIA
Tarsus

Anfioc

TAURUS
AMANUS MT.
NOBAH
Carchemish
Berea
Aleppo

CHITTIM
CYPRUS
Salamis
Larnaca
Etna

GREAT
SEA

Gebal

Riblah
Ain
Aphek

ARAM
Hamath
Hazar-eman
Kurye rein

GREAT SEA

Berothah
ZIDON
Zarephath
Tyre

PHOENICIA

Rehob
Ruheibeh
Haran
Horan el Awamid

Accho
Mt. Carmel
Dor

Dan
Kedesh

ARGOB
BASHAN

Joppa

JERUSALEM

Gaza

Heshbon

JUDAH
Hebron
Beer-Sheba
Rehoboth
Shur
Zephath
Mt. Hor
Bozrahe

Kirharaseth

MOAB

Nebaloth

Nile
Port Said
Sin
Wilderness of Shur
Wilderness of Paran
Ezion Geber
Marah
Gulf of Suez
Elim
Jebel Tih
Taberah

PETRAEA
EDOM
Elath

ARABIA

Wady Sihan

c. 1447 B.C.

Israelite exodus
from Egypt.



1407 B.C.

Israelites enter
Promised Land.

United Kingdom

King David ruled Israel from the city of Hebron for 7½ years (circa 1007 B.C.). Although the Israelites had entered Canaan more than 400 years prior, one city remained unconquered: Jerusalem. Situated right in the middle of Israel, the city was so well fortified that the Jebusites who lived there boasted that “the blind and the lame” could defend it.

King David hated that the enemy dwelt in the heart of Israel and offered to reward the man who conquered the city. One of his nephews, Joab, infiltrated Jerusalem through a water duct connected to the Gihon

ASCENSION The coronation
of David as king of Israel. ▼



Julius Schnorr/Stockphoto

1365 B.C.

Joshua dies, period of judges begins.



1090 B.C.

The Prophet Samuel
born to Hannah.

1050 B.C.

Saul made king.

1000 B.C.

King David conquers
Jerusalem, makes
it his capital.

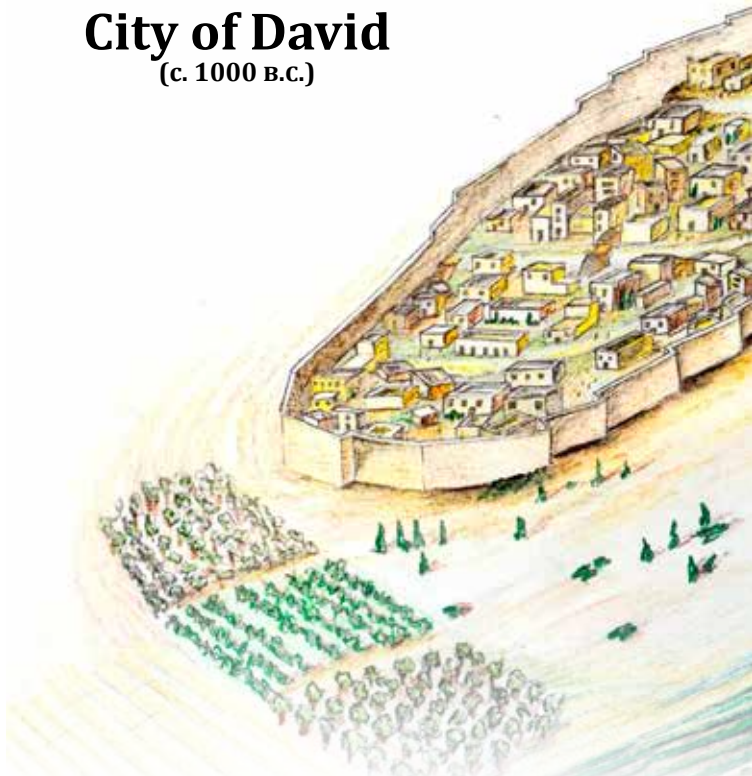
Spring. He and his men unlocked the city gates, and David's army at last conquered the Jebusite stronghold.

David adopted the city as his new capital, naming it the City of David. He also called it Zion, after its majestic appearance and resemblance to the fortress of God in the heavens. King David

David's Palace

City of David

(c. 1000 B.C.)



971 B.C.

Solomon crowned
king of Israel.

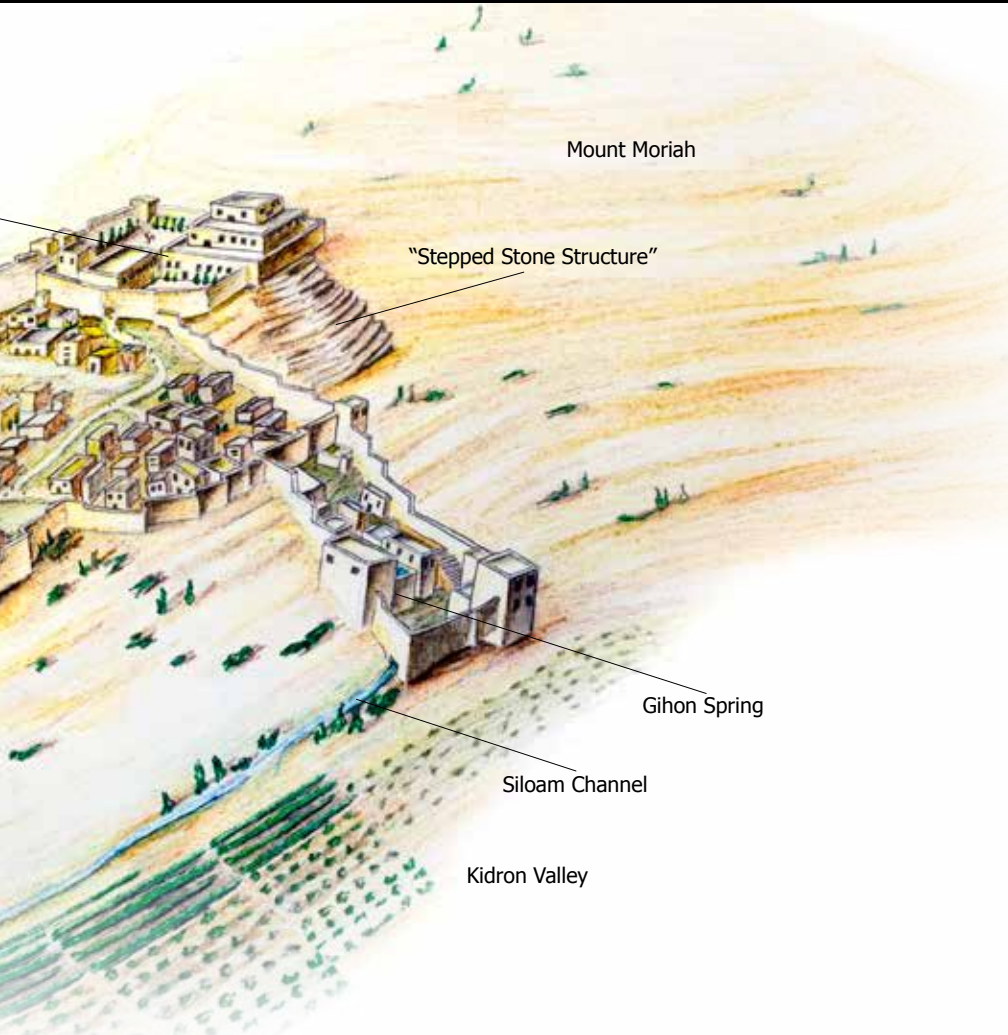
967 B.C.

Construction begins
on Solomon's temple
(First Temple).



augmented the city walls and constructed his palace next to the northern wall. With his capital secure, the king purged Israel of its remaining enemies and secured its expanded borders with well-buttressed cities. By the end of David's reign, Israel was a formidable power and a kingdom at peace.

2 Samuel 5



960 B.C.

Solomon
dedicates temple.

928 B.C.

Nation divides into two
kingdoms: Israel and Judah.



Solomon's Jerusalem

King David was on his deathbed when he orchestrated the coronation of his son, Solomon, by Zadok the priest beside the Gihon Spring. King Solomon continued his father's policy of expansion and ruled over a period of unparalleled peace, prosperity and cultural enlightenment in Israel.

Solomon enlarged Jerusalem further, constructing his own magnificent palace and erecting another wall to protect the new buildings. Solomon stretched Israel's borders north to the Euphrates River, east beyond the Jordan River, and south to the "brook of Egypt." During Solomon's reign, Israel was a rich, powerful and advanced kingdom. His extreme wealth included a well-equipped army, a stable of the finest horses, a menagerie of exotic animals, copper mines in Edom and a "navy of ships."

But Solomon's greatest triumph was the construction of the temple, a project initiated and extensively prepared for by his father, King David. The First Temple took seven years to build and was constructed with the aid of the Phoenicians, an industrious, seafaring people; legions of expert craftsmen; and tens of thousands of laborers. It was made from the finest materials, including thousands of tons of gold, silver, brass, precious stones, cedars of Lebanon and other fine woods, luxurious fabrics and even ivory from Africa.

The First Temple was dedicated around

Jerusalem During Solomon's Reign (c. 950 B.C.)

"Stepped Stone Structure" —



721-718 B.C.

Northern kingdom of Israel goes into Assyrian captivity.

705-702 B.C.

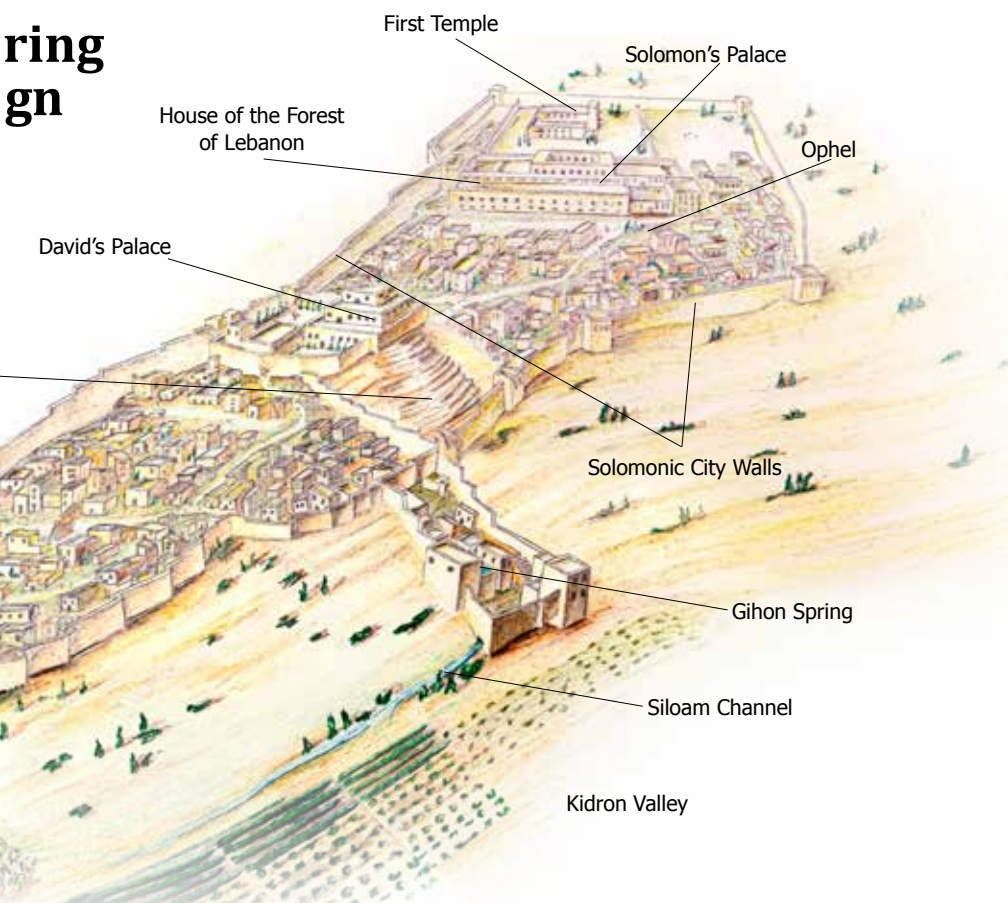
Hezekiah fortifies Jerusalem against Assyrian siege.

701 B.C.

Sennacherib attacks Judah, Jerusalem miraculously delivered.

960 B.C. It was the most magnificent edifice ever constructed and a testament to Solomon's unrivaled power. "So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom." Under Solomon, the city of Jerusalem, with the temple as its crown jewel, attracted visitors from around the world. Beholding this magnificent scene was such an inspiring experience, it caused the Queen of Sheba to faint. **1 Kings 1, 10**

ring gn



686 B.C.

Wicked Manasseh becomes king over Judah, promotes idolatry.



c. 645 B.C.

Jeremiah born in Anathoth.

1 GIHON SPRING As Jerusalem's only reliable water source, the Gihon Spring is arguably its most important feature. The Hebrew word Gihon means "to gush forth." The flow of water from the Gihon varies depending on the time of year and the volume of precipitation.

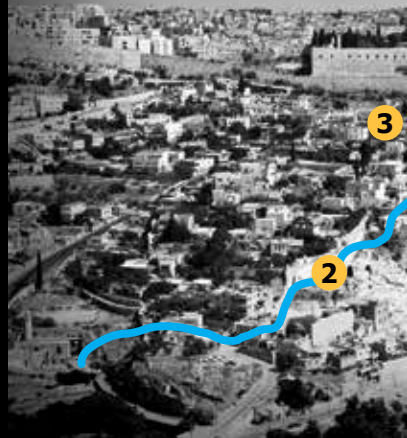
The Gihon has also played a prominent role in Israel's history. For example, the coronation of King Solomon took place beside the spring. "So Zadok the priest ... went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon." (1 Kings 1:38-39)

2 HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL Prior to the reign of King Hezekiah in the eighth century B.C., water from the Gihon Spring flowed unimpeded into the Kidron Valley. This waterway was called the Siloam Channel. The location of the Siloam Channel outside the city walls made it strategically vulnerable. Should Israel be attacked, the enemy could easily cut off Jerusalem's water supply while watering its own army and cavalry.

This problem was solved in the late eighth century B.C. when the Assyrians invaded Judah. Alarmed by the possibility of the Assyrians taking the Gihon, King Hezekiah directed his engineers to construct a channel diverting the water flowing in the Siloam Channel to a reservoir inside the city walls at the south side of the City of David (2 Kings 20:20). Hezekiah's workers carved a 1,700-foot tunnel beneath the City of David.

The construction of Hezekiah's tunnel (through solid rock and

Key City of



640 B.C.

Josiah made king, purges paganism from Judah.



627 B.C.

Prophet Jeremiah begins 40-year work warning Judah.

at a perfect gradient) is one of ancient Judah's most remarkable accomplishments, and a testament to its advanced mathematical and engineering abilities.

3 PALACE OF DAVID First unearthed by Dr. Eilat Mazar in 2005, the ancient palace of King David occupies the slope just north of the City of David, the former Jebusite city. Archaeologically, it is known as the Large Stone Structure. To this point, only about 20 percent of David's palace has been excavated. Yet already, massive walls are visible, one of which is more than 20 feet wide. The Jucal (Jehucal) and Gedaliah bullae were discovered inside the walls of the palace of David.

David Sites



4 NEHEMIAH'S WALL A large stone tower stands adjacent to the eastern wall of King David's palace. Until recently, archaeologists believed the tower was built during the Hasmonean dynasty in the first or second century B.C. Over the years, this tower has degenerated and showed signs that it may collapse. In the summer of 2007,

Dr. Mazar and her team were assigned the task of repairing the tower.

What started as a simple assignment quickly became a six-week excavation-and resulted in some fascinating discoveries. Under the tower, Dr. Mazar's team discovered the bones of two large dogs, and under those bones, a rich assemblage of pottery and finds from the Persian period-the sixth and fifth centuries B.C.

This means that the tower was constructed during the middle of the Persian period-the exact time that the Bible records Nehemiah built his famous wall around Jerusalem (Nehemiah 3-6).

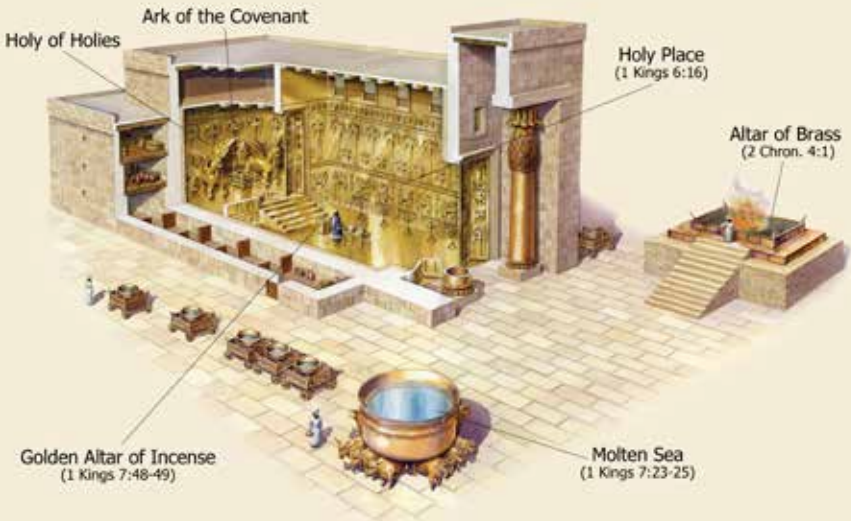


609 B.C.

Righteous King
Josiah killed in
battle with Egypt.

604 B.C.

Babylonians begin first
siege of Jerusalem, make
Judah a vassal.



FIRST TEMPLE

Crossway ESV Bible Atlas

- The temple faced east and was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet tall. 100,000 talents of gold were used in its construction. By today's value, that would be worth around \$300 billion.
- 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep were offered for sacrifice during the dedication of the temple.
- The "molten sea," a large basin used by priests for washing and cleansing, held 12,000 gallons of water, the equivalent of roughly 300 bathtubs.
- The inner sanctuary of the temple, called the holy of holies, housed Israel's most prized possession, the ark of the covenant. The ark was a symbol of God's presence in Israel. It held a golden pot of manna, the rod of Aaron and the two tablets of the Ten Commandments.
- Two golden cherubim stood in the holy of holies, one on each side of the ark. These symbols of divine protection were each 15 feet tall and had wingspans of 15 feet.
- The high priest could only enter the holy of holies once a year, on the sacred Day of Atonement.

598 B.C.

Second siege of Jerusalem,
King Jehoachin taken captive,
Zedekiah made king.

589 B.C.

Judean princes
Gedaliah and Jehucal
persecute Jeremiah
(Jeremiah 38).



The Divided Kingdom



King Solomon died around 931 B.C. after reigning for 40 years. He was succeeded by his son Rehoboam. Israel's new king levied painfully steep taxes, and the people revolted. Rehoboam maintained rule over the kingdom of Judah in the south, with Jerusalem as its capital. In the north, the kingdom of Israel—comprised of 10 of the tribes of Israel—made Jeroboam its king and established Samaria as its capital.

King Jeroboam sought to cement his power over the secessionist northern kingdom by drawing the people's hearts away from Jerusalem and the house of David.

He fashioned two golden calves and led his people in worshiping new gods. The northern kingdom's rapid descent into

**GOD SENT A SERIES
OF PROPHETS TO
WARN THE PEOPLE.**

idolatry infuriated God, who sent a series of prophets to warn Israel. When the people refused to repent, God used the warlike Assyrians to punish the nation.

In 721 B.C., the army of Shalmaneser v besieged Israel. Within three years, the Assyrians had conquered the northern kingdom and enslaved the people, transporting them to the Black Sea region and eventually into northern Europe and Scandinavia. "Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only."

Despite these shocking events, by the seventh century B.C. Judah too was slipping into idolatry. Sadly, the people had ignored the tragedy of what had happened to their brothers in the north. Again God sent a series of prophets to warn the people of the inevitable consequences of their idolatrous ways. Among these loyal and courageous prophets was Jeremiah.

1 Kings 12; 2 Kings 17

588 B.C.

Nebuchadnezzar lays
siege on Jerusalem.

586 B.C.

Jerusalem falls, temple
destroyed, King Zedekiah
taken captive.

Divided Monarchies

- Judah (Southern Kingdom)
- Israel (Northern Kingdom)





585 B.C.

After being freed, Jeremiah dwells in Mizpah.

582 B.C.

Jeremiah goes to Egypt, accompanied by Zedekiah's daughters.

Jeremiah



Jeremiah was born around 645 B.C. in Anathoth, a Levitical city about three miles north of Jerusalem. He is unique among Old Testament personalities. The Bible reveals that his calling was so special and important that God set him apart from conception. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee," God told him, "and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

Jeremiah was only about 17 years old and felt unqualified for such a responsibility. He protested, "Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for



Ivan Burmistrov/istockphoto

THOUGH HIS MESSAGE WAS GRIM, THE PROPHET ALSO TOLD THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH THAT THERE WAS A WAY TO ESCAPE.

I am a child." But God comforted the youth, telling him, "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee." The young prophet surrendered to God's will, set out for Jerusalem, and began his 40-year ministry of delivering God's warning to Judah.

Jeremiah 1

JEREMIAH'S WARNING TO JUDAH

Jeremiah began warning during the 13th year of King Josiah's reign, around 627 B.C. His warning intensified during the reigns of Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and particularly that of Judah's last monarch, King Zedekiah. Jeremiah's message was consistent and inescapably clear: He warned that God was raising up the Babylonian Empire to punish Judah for its idolatrous ways.

The third chapter of the book of Jeremiah details the prophet

GEDALIAH, SON OF PASHUR

The Gedaliah bulla, discovered in 2007 in the City of David. ▲



AICF photo

beseeking Judah to learn from the example of the nation of Israel, which had gone into Assyrian captivity around a hundred years earlier. Despite that horrific and fairly recent history, “treacherous ... Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also” (Jeremiah 3:8).

By 604 B.C. Jeremiah had been warning Judah for 23 years. Exasperated but unwavering, he told King Jehoiakim that, since Judah had rejected the warning, God would send “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon ... and will bring [him] against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them ...” (Jeremiah 25:8-9). Jehoiakim did not listen to Jeremiah’s message.

In 597 B.C. Babylon’s King Nebuchadnezzar installed Zedekiah as a puppet king and made him swear an oath of fealty to Babylon (2 Chronicles 36:13).

Initially, Zedekiah was subservient to Babylon and civil to Jeremiah. But in his fourth year as king, Judah’s desire for independence from Babylon waxed strong. Jeremiah warned Zedekiah that Nebuchadnezzar would return and destroy Jerusalem. Though his message was grim, the prophet also told the people of Judah that there was a way to escape. The way to survive, he explained, was to surrender to King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.

On one occasion, Jeremiah told King Zedekiah, if you “bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, [*you shall*] *live*” (Jeremiah 27:12). He repeatedly relayed God’s word that the people could even thrive in Babylonian captivity.

Sadly, Jeremiah’s warning went unheeded by Judah’s rulers, its priests and nobility, and its people. Rather than turning many to safety, Jeremiah’s brave, faith-filled work almost got him killed.

JEREMIAH VS. JUDAH'S NOBILITY

Jeremiah's message was unpopular throughout Judah, but no group was as infuriated by it as the nation's patriotic but faithless elite.

The Judeans were insulted at the prophet's warnings, and some powerful men plotted against him: "Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words" (Jeremiah 18:18).

During Zedekiah's 11-year reign, Judah's nobles and false priests

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE WAS UNPOPULAR THROUGHOUT JUDAH, BUT NO GROUP WAS AS INFURIATED BY IT AS THE NATION'S PATRIOTIC BUT FAITHLESS ELITE.

waged a campaign of slander against Jeremiah to undermine his message and intimidate him into silence. Over the prophet's four decades of warning Judah, Jeremiah was routinely scoffed at and maligned, severely beaten and even imprisoned.

On one occasion a major confrontation occurred between Jeremiah and the "chief governor in the house of the Lord," whose name was Pashur (Jeremiah 20:1). Pashur had Jeremiah beaten and locked in stocks overnight at a humiliating public location. Upon his release the next day, Jeremiah pronounced a curse on Pashur and his household, saying they would go into Babylonian captivity and die there (verse 6).

As Jerusalem's destruction drew nearer, the tension between Jeremiah and the royal officials intensified, culminating as the Babylonian army was besieging the city. This titanic battle between Jeremiah and Judah's officials is recorded in Jeremiah 38.

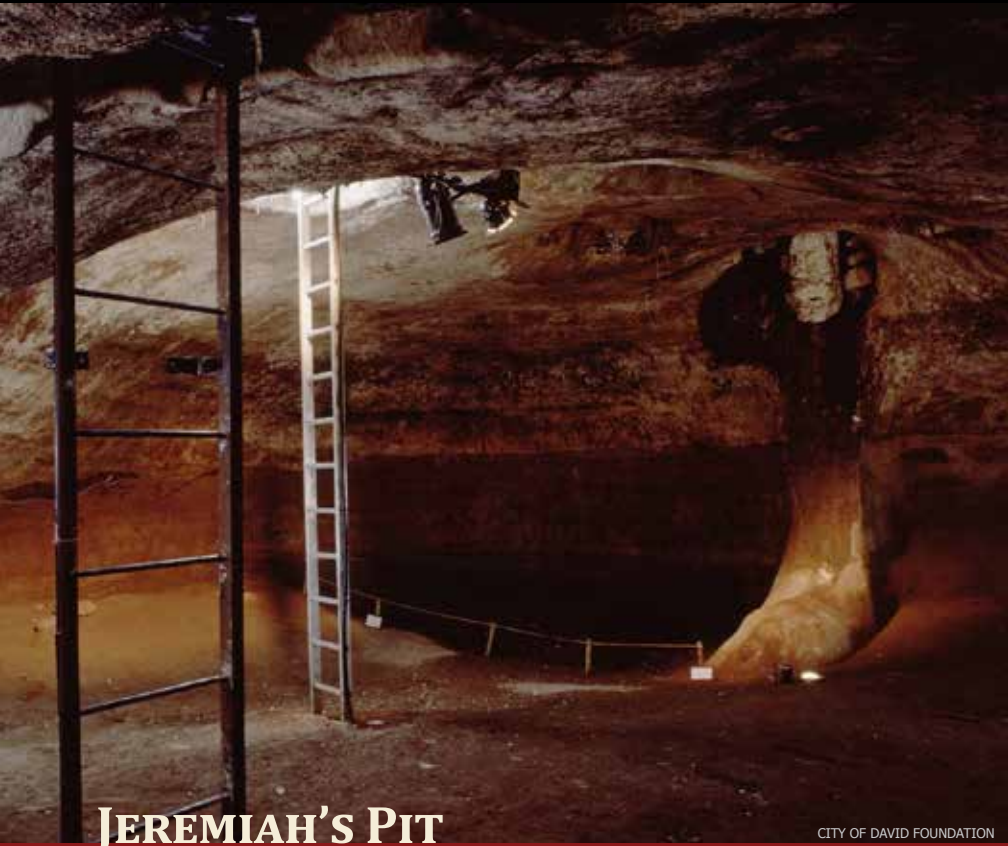
This momentous chapter has been brought to life by Dr. Mazar's landmark discoveries of the Jehucal and Gedaliah bullae.

It describes a cabal of ambitious members of King Zedekiah's court confronting the Prophet Jeremiah. Verse 1 recalls that among this band of tormentors were "Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal (Jehucal) the son of Shelemiah."

Both men were high-ranking officials in Zedekiah's court, which

explains why each had his own distinct seal impression. The implication is that Gedaliah was the son of the same Pashur whose household Jeremiah had cursed in the earlier encounter recorded in Jeremiah 20. If so, Pashur would have passed his hatred of Jeremiah along to his son, giving Gedaliah ample reason to seek the prophet's death.

Jeremiah's message—that only those who surrendered to the Babylonians would live—infuriated the princes. Gedaliah and Jucal, along with their cohorts, yanked Jeremiah before King Zedekiah. They accused him of sedition, saying the prophet's message was discouraging Judah's



JEREMIAH'S PIT

CITY OF DAVID FOUNDATION

Discovered in 1998 in the City of David, this cistern dates to the First Temple period. Some archaeologists believe it is the dungeon into which Judah's princes cast the Prophet Jeremiah. ▲



JUCAL (JEHUCAL), SON OF SHELEMIAH The Jehucal bulla, discovered in 2005 in the palace of King David. ▲

AICF photo

soldiers and other residents: “We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war ...” (verse 4).

Zedekiah, whose habitual compromising had robbed him of all confidence in his power, capitulated. Thus, with the king’s consent, the princes “took ... Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon ... that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire” (verse 6).

This cistern was designed to collect water during the rainy season to be consumed during the dry summers. At this time, though, it was filled not with water but with thick mud and filth. The prophet sunk deep into it, gasping for air as the mud pressed on his aching lungs. By this method, Gedaliah, Jucal and the other princes hoped to end Jeremiah’s life and silence his warnings—without having his blood directly on anyone’s hands.

The clash between Jeremiah and the princes would have ended there, with the prophet suffocating in a hole, were it not for divine intervention.

A eunuch in Zedekiah’s service, an Ethiopian named Ebedmelech, learned of the princes’ actions. Risking his life, this brave man went before Zedekiah and pleaded on Jeremiah’s behalf. With Zedekiah’s approval, Ebedmelech orchestrated a 30-man rescue effort to extricate Jeremiah from the mire. The loyal eunuch and his men gathered old clothes, bound them together to make a rope, and then heaved the starving, filthy, faith-filled prophet from the dungeon.

Jeremiah was returned to the prison in the palace, where he continued to trumpet God’s warning message to Judah in the final months before Jerusalem’s destruction.

A Besieged City

By the late seventh century B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar had defeated his regional competitors, including Assyria and Egypt, and established Babylon as the world-ruling kingdom. According to the Babylonian Chronicle, Nebuchadnezzar conquered “all the kings of Hatti-land,” a region that included the land of Judah.

The Bible and other historical works recall the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem occurring in three stages spread over 19 years.

The first stage occurred in 604 B.C. During this invasion, thousands of Judeans, including the young Prophet Daniel, were captured and taken back to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar made Judah a vassal state and forced King Jehoiakim to pay him tribute. After about three years, Jehoiakim, ignoring repeated warnings from the Prophet Jeremiah, rebelled against his Babylonian overlord.

King Nebuchadnezzar’s swift reaction marked the second phase of Jerusalem’s subjugation. He deployed his army to subdue Judah’s rebellion. King Jehoiakim was killed. His son, Jehoiachin, ruled for only three months before Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, stripped the temple, and deported Judah’s king and 10,000 of its citizens to Babylon. In 597 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar set up Zedekiah as a puppet





Gustave Dore/istockphoto

MISERY Zedekiah's sons are slain and he is blinded and carried away to Babylon. ◀

king and forced him to swear allegiance to Babylon.

King Zedekiah paid homage to Nebuchadnezzar for nine years. But in 588 B.C. he rebelled, causing Babylon's king to return to Jerusalem for the third and final phase of his conquest.

The Babylonian army besieged the city for two years. During this time, food and water were scarce, and many people starved to death. Still, the inhabitants of Jerusalem refused to heed Jeremiah's message. Finally, in 586 B.C. the Babylonian army completed giant earthen ramps to overrun the city walls, and the invaders poured into Jerusalem. Just as Jeremiah had warned, the Babylonians reduced the city to blood-stained rubble. In the process, they destroyed the temple, pillaged its wealth, then torched it.

King Zedekiah tried to escape, but he was captured. Babylonian

soldiers made the king watch as they slaughtered his sons, then they put out his eyes, bound him in chains and carted him off to Babylon to work as a slave. The king of Judah died a miserable death in Babylonian captivity.

2 Kings 24, 2 Chronicles 36, Jeremiah 39

Jeremiah's Miraculous Escape

Jerusalem was decimated. The Babylonians destroyed its walls, leveled the temple, killed thousands, and took Judah's leading citizens captive.

The Prophet Jeremiah was right in the middle of this horrific scene and yet miraculously survived. In fact, the Jewish prophet received tremendous favor from King Nebuchadnezzar, who told the captain of his army to "take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee."

The Babylonian commander did more than just protect Jeremiah: He supplied him with food and money and allowed the prophet and his diminutive entourage to travel where they pleased. Jeremiah went to Mizpah, where he collected King Zedekiah's daughters. He stayed there for a short while, but

was forcibly carried out of Judah and into Egypt by faithless Jews who ignored his warning not to go there.

Most of the Jews were killed by Babylonian armies in Egypt, but Jeremiah's band, including a daughter of King Zedekiah, escaped back to Judah. Biblical and historic records indicate that Jeremiah embarked from Judah on a journey across the Mediterranean Sea to Spain, then eventually into Ireland.

Among the ancient annals testifying to this history, Irish records say that around 569 B.C., "A wise, holy man from the East came to [Ireland],



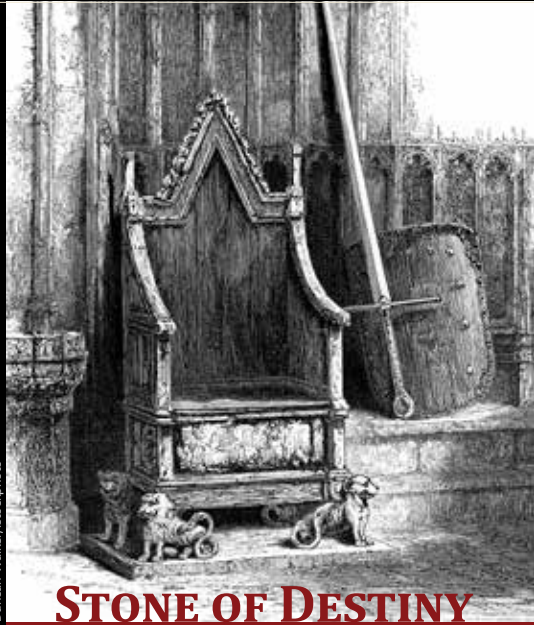
bringing with him his scribe, also a beautiful princess, daughter of a king." Besides the royal daughter, a descendant of King David, ancient records



say that Jeremiah also took to Ireland a harp, an ark, and a stone called *lia-fail*, or "the stone of destiny."

Jeremiah's move to Ireland completed stage one and marked the beginning of stage two in his epic lifelong mission.

Jeremiah 38, 39, 43



Duncan Walker/foto-photo

STONE OF DESTINY

The stone of destiny, stone of Scone, or *lia-fail*, is "the celebrated stone, identified in Irish legend with the stone on which the patriarch Jacob slept when he dreamed of the heavenly ladder. The *lia-fail* was ... brought to Ireland by the Dedannans and set up at Tara as the 'inauguration stone' of the Irish kings; it was subsequently removed to Scone where it became the coronation stone of the Scottish kings, until it was taken by James VI of Scotland to Westminster and placed under the coronation chair in the Abbey, where it has since remained." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th Edition (1911) ▲

1967

June: Herbert Armstrong establishes Worldwide Church of God office in Jerusalem.



1968

Mr. Armstrong visits Knesset, forges "iron bridge" partnership with Israel.

Bullae

- A bulla (plural bullae) is a small piece of clay stamped with a distinct impression. In ancient times a bulla was attached to a cord or string, which was then wrapped around a papyrus scroll.
- Each bulla, or clay seal impression, bore the distinct signature and therefore the authority of the one sealing the document.
- Generally, only royalty, nobility and some high-ranking ministers in government had their own unique seal impression.
- Once the scroll had been wrapped with string it would be sealed with a small glob of moist clay, which was then stamped and left to dry.
- Many of the bullae that have been discovered in Jerusalem were exposed to fire during its destruction by the Babylonians in 587 B.C. This firing helped preserve the clay, causing it to harden further and remain intact and legible more than 2,500 years after their construction.



DR. EILAT MAZAR | ARCHAEOLOGIST

"The exceptional-ity of the discovery is fully appre-

ciated only when holding the two bullae in hand: two small seal impressions inscribed on clay objects only 1 cm across, now laying before our eyes unblemished after having been bur-

ied in rubble of the Babylonian destruction for precisely 2,595 years, the names they bear still clearly legible.

Only on precious rare occasions do archaeologists experience discoveries such as this one, where figures from the annals of history materialize themselves so tangibly."

1968

Ambassador College forms joint archaeological partnership with Prof. Benjamin Mazar and Hebrew University.

1969

First Ambassador College volunteers arrive in Jerusalem, begin excavating at southern wall of Temple Mount.



LE YEHUCHAL BEN SHELEMIYAHU BEN SHAVI



LE GEDALIYAHU BEN PASHHUR

1970

Mr. Armstrong and Professor Mazar visit Japan, meet Japan's Prince Mikasa.

1971

February: Mr. Armstrong meets Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir.



1971

April: Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek visits Mr. Armstrong at the Ambassador campus.

Artifacts



PITHOI

The fragments of this *pithos* (and 11 others) were discovered on the floor of a large royal building in the Ophel. The *pithoi* were crushed and buried when the building was destroyed during the Babylonian takeover in 586 B.C.





1973

Tel Zeror excavation resumes with support from Mr. Armstrong's cultural foundation.



FIGUREHEADS

These figurines are known as column or pillar figurines. This is because their body was made on a pottery wheel, which makes them look like columns, while their head is made from a mold. The large breasts on these figurines indicate that they were fertility idols. In ancient pagan worship, infertile females desperate for "divine intervention" would seek out such idols. The high number of these models discovered in ancient Jerusalem indicates that they served as a common icon.

These figurines were usually covered in white slip (paint) and decorated in black and red, with special detail emphasizing hair, eyes, jewelry and dress. Traces of such color appear on the heads in this exhibit.

1976

August: Mr. Armstrong meets Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Ephraim Katzir.

1978

Excavations at southern wall of Temple Mount end.

1978

December: Mr. Armstrong joins Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Mayor Kollek to celebrate 10-year anniversary of partnership.



LMLK

These seal impressions are known as *lamelech* because of the ancient Hebrew word *lmlk* written on the top of the impression. This word means "belonging to the king." Two of these handles were found in the excavations on the Ophel mound; the third was discovered at Lachish south of Jerusalem.

Below the line of ancient text is a picture of either a four-winged beetle or a two-winged elongated

object. While archaeologists do not know for sure what these pictures mean, they could be royal Judean insignia. The last line of the inscription has one of four cities mentioned. They are Hebron, Ziph, Socoh and Mmst.

The jars these impressions were found on generally had a narrow neck, small base and wide shoulders with four handles equally spaced at the top of the



1979

Ambassador College joins Hebrew University for City of David excavations under Yigal Shiloh.

1981

November: Mr. Armstrong meets President Yitzhak Navon.



vessel. They generally held 12 to 14 gallons. The vessels would have been suitable for any of the three staples of the land, grain, wine or oil.

Thanks mainly to the painstaking excavations at Lachish and Tel Batash, the impressions can be dated to the time surrounding King Hezekiah of Judah and the invasion of the Assyrians under Sennacherib in 701 B.C.

AICF photos, courtesy of Eliat Mazar and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

1983

Mr. Armstrong receives Medal of the Knesset.

1984

June: Mr. Armstrong meets President Chaim Herzog.

1985

May: Mr. Armstrong meets Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

1985

Joint excavations in City of David end.

An Iron Bridge Partnership

Herbert W. Armstrong met with dozens of heads of state from Asia to Africa to Europe and beyond, but his greatest affection was for one tiny, new country at the heart of the world: Israel.

As a devoted student and teacher of the Bible, Mr. Armstrong cherished both the remarkable history and the glorious future of Jerusalem. Between 1967 and his death in 1986, Mr. Armstrong met with many prime ministers and presidents, including Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Navon, Moshe Dayan, Shimon Peres, Zalman Shazar, Itzhak Shamir, Teddy Kollek, Moshe Kol and Hebrew University Professor Benjamin Mazar.

THE 'BIG DIG'

Following Israel's victory in the 1967 war, Professor Mazar had been placed in charge of Hebrew University's massive new archeological dig near the Temple Mount in 1968. Mr. Armstrong flew to Israel to meet with Mazar and was dazzled by the scope and importance of the excavation.

Soon after, Professor Mazar, joined by Dean of Hebrew University's Humanities Program Josef Aviram, traveled to America to tour Mr. Armstrong's Ambassador College (AC) campuses in California and Texas. Meanwhile, Hebrew University was fielding offers from several major American universities that hoped to collaborate on the project. These offers were rejected, and AC was given a 50/50 joint partnership with Professor Mazar and Hebrew University.

The partnership was formalized on Dec. 1, 1968, at the presidential palace in Jerusalem where Tourism Minister Moshe Kol proposed "an



1986

Ambassador College students appear on the cover of Biblical Archaeology Review.



1986

January 16: Herbert W. Armstrong dies at the age of 93.

iron bridge” between Hebrew University and Ambassador College “that can never be broken.”

Beginning in summer 1969, scores of AC students packed up and flew to Israel to volunteer on the excavation. The “big dig,” as it became known, would continue for 10 years and grant hundreds of Ambassador students the opportunity to touch those ancient stones.

In addition to sending over students who were praised as the excavation’s most enthusiastic laborers, Ambassador College also shouldered half of the cost of excavations from 1968 until the conclusion of the dig in 1976.



As the years passed, the friendship between Professor Mazar and Herbert Armstrong blossomed. The two friends could often be seen walking arm in arm visiting the dig site, or relaxing at Dr. Mazar’s home in Jerusalem. Professor Mazar also visited Ambassador College multiple times. On one occasion, Mr. Armstrong, Josef Aviram and Professor Mazar teamed up to host an archeological exhibit in

Japan, where they met with Prince Mikasa.

Professor Mazar and Mr. Armstrong shared many similar traits. Both were straight-talking and uncompromising. Both believed in the authority of the Bible and in objectively proving the truth, whatever it might be, rather than striving to force it into preconceived beliefs. In fact, Mazar was praised as a pioneer of a research discipline that fused

IRON BRIDGE Ambassador International Cultural Foundation founder Herbert W. Armstrong with close friend Prof. Benjamin Mazar (left); arm in arm with mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kolek (right).

1996

Gerald Flurry revives Mr. Armstrong's humanitarian work, establishes cultural foundation.

2001

Armstrong Foundation contributes to restoration work at Liberty Bell Park in Jerusalem.

2005

Dr. Eilat Mazar discovers King David's palace, discovers Jehucal bulla.



archaeology, geography, and histories described in Jewish Scripture and other ancient Near Eastern sources. He was also noted for accurately reporting details about Jerusalem's impressive Umayyad period under Muslim rule, impressing visiting Arab leaders with his candor.

When Professor Mazar wrapped up his Temple Mount excavation in 1978, Mr. Armstrong continued to support archaeology in the City of David.

When Mr. Armstrong died in January 1986, Professor Mazar wrote, "During the years of our association with him, all of us developed the highest regard for his wonderful personality and qualities. His deep devotion to the ideals of peace and justice in the spirit of the biblical prophets was appreciated by his friends in Israel. His feeling for Israel and Jerusalem was manifested in his true interest in the archaeological excavations near the Temple Mount and in the City of David. His name will always be attached to this most important undertaking carried out in Jerusalem."



RESTORING THE IRON BRIDGE

During Benjamin Mazar's excavations in the shadow of the Temple Mount, a young girl was often seen at his side, rubbing elbows with archaeologists and Ambassador College students. Her name was Eilat Mazar, the professor's granddaughter.

Benjamin Mazar's Temple Mount excavations ended in 1976, but a decade later, a second round of digging began there, this time under the direction of Eilat Mazar.

Meanwhile, back in the United States, the work of Herbert W. Armstrong was also being revived. When Mr. Armstrong died in January 1986, his successors abandoned his legacy, and within 10 years his globe-encompassing, multimillion-dollar humanitarian work was practically dead, and the work in Israel abandoned. But in December 1989, his legacy

2006

Gerald Flurry partners with Dr. Eilat Mazar, first Armstrong College students join dig.

2007

July: Gerald Flurry meets Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski.

2007

Dr. Mazar discovers Nehemiah's wall.

was revived when Gerald Flurry started the Philadelphia Church of God.

In 1996, Mr. Flurry established the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation, a humanitarian organization patterned after Mr. Armstrong's Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. The foundation began supporting humanitarian ventures in Jordan and Israel.

In the summer of 2005, the world of archaeology was rocked when Dr. Eilat Mazar announced that her team had unearthed a huge public building in the ancient City of David which dated to the 10th century



B.C.—the palace of King David!

Gerald Flurry read about Dr. Mazar's landmark discovery with keen interest, and was thrilled to learn that Eilat Mazar was the granddaughter of Professor Benjamin Mazar.

In July 2006, Herbert W. Armstrong College president Stephen Flurry contacted Dr. Mazar. Though many years had passed since she had worked with Mr. Armstrong, her childhood memories flooded back. "Without the support of Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassadors, the Temple Mount excavations would have never become, as it did, the most important and largest excavations in Israel at that time," she recalled.

When Mr. Flurry said that Herbert W. Armstrong College (AC) was eager to provide support to her excavations, Dr. Mazar pounced on the offer. Within months, AC students were living in Jerusalem, and working daily on Dr. Mazar's City of David projects.

Since the fall of 2006, Herbert W. Armstrong College has participated in several key phases of Dr. Mazar's excavation in Jerusalem, and has

CONTINUED SUPPORT Armstrong International Cultural Foundation founder Gerald Flurry, with prominent Israeli archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar (left); Herbert W. Armstrong College alum Brent Nagtegaal searching for artifacts in Jerusalem (right).

2007-2008

Phase three of palace excavation.

2007

December: Dr. Mazar discovers Gedaliah bulla.



2009-2010

HWAC students volunteer on Dr. Mazar's Solomonic wall excavation.

contributed to a string of remarkable discoveries.

In late 2006, AC students were present when Dr. Mazar discovered the eastern wall of David's palace. They were on site in 2007, when continued excavations revealed that a wall previously thought to date to the Hasmonean period was in fact a segment of the wall built by Nehemiah. In 2008, AC students were digging in the City of David when Dr. Mazar discovered the Gedaliah bulla. During the same dig, the team discovered a water tunnel more than 150 feet long that might have been the conduit through which King David's forces crawled to conquer the city in the 10th century. The excavation of the tunnel, Dr. Mazar said, was almost entirely an "Armstrong College enterprise."

In late 2009 and 2010, Herbert W. Armstrong College was with Dr. Mazar again when she unearthed what is believed to be a royal complex built by King Solomon.

Today, Armstrong College and the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation continue to support Dr. Mazar's archaeological adventures. In the summer of 2011, Gerald Flurry visited Jerusalem to meet with Dr. Mazar and explore other opportunities in the eternal city. During the trip, he developed plans to establish an office in Jerusalem.

DR. EILAT MAZAR



Photo courtesy Dr. Eilat Mazar

Dr. Eilat Mazar of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has been excavating ancient Jerusalem for more than 30 years, publishing numerous books and articles on the subject. Between 1981 and 1985, she was a member of the team excavating the City of David under the late Prof. Yigal Shiloh. In 1986–1987, together with her grandfather, Prof. Benjamin Mazar,



GERALD FLURRY
AICF FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

STEPHEN FLURRY
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG COLLEGE PRESIDENT

EXHIBIT STAFF

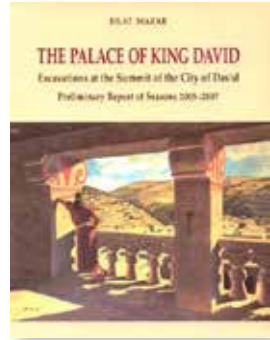
CURATOR: BRAD MACDONALD
ASSISTANT CURATOR: BRENT NAGTEGAAL
GRAPHIC DESIGN: PHILIP NICE, AUBREY MERCADO
SCRIPTS/RESEARCH: JEREMIAH JACQUES
PHOTOGRAPHY: AUBREY MERCADO, WIK HEERMA
INTERACTIVE APP: PATRICK HOGAN
ORIGINAL ARTWORK: KELLIE WEEKS, BROOKE DAVIS
PUBLIC RELATIONS/LIGHTING: SHANE GRANGER
DISPLAY MANAGER: ROGER BRANDON
VIDEO: DWIGHT FALK
BROCHURE: STEVE HERCUS

MANY THANKS

THE CITY OF DAVID FOUNDATION (ELAD)
ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY
JOSEF AVIRAM, ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY
CONTEMPORARY CABINETS
REGAL DISPLAY
HELEN BURTON, B-CREATIVE
ESV BIBLE ATLAS
KAREN YORK, CURATOR,
THE SHERWIN MILLER MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART

she co-directed the Ophel excavations. Since Professor Mazar's death in 1995, she has headed the extensive project of publishing the findings from his 1968–1978 Temple Mount excavations. Between 2005 and 2008, she headed the excavations on the summit of the City of David. Her most recent project, from 2009–2011, was to direct the renewed excavations at the Ophel. ◀

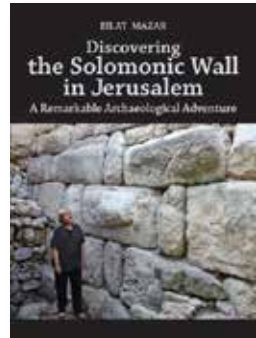
Books available from
Reflections Bookstore
(in the Hall of Administration)
or at Eisenbrauns.com



The Palace of King David

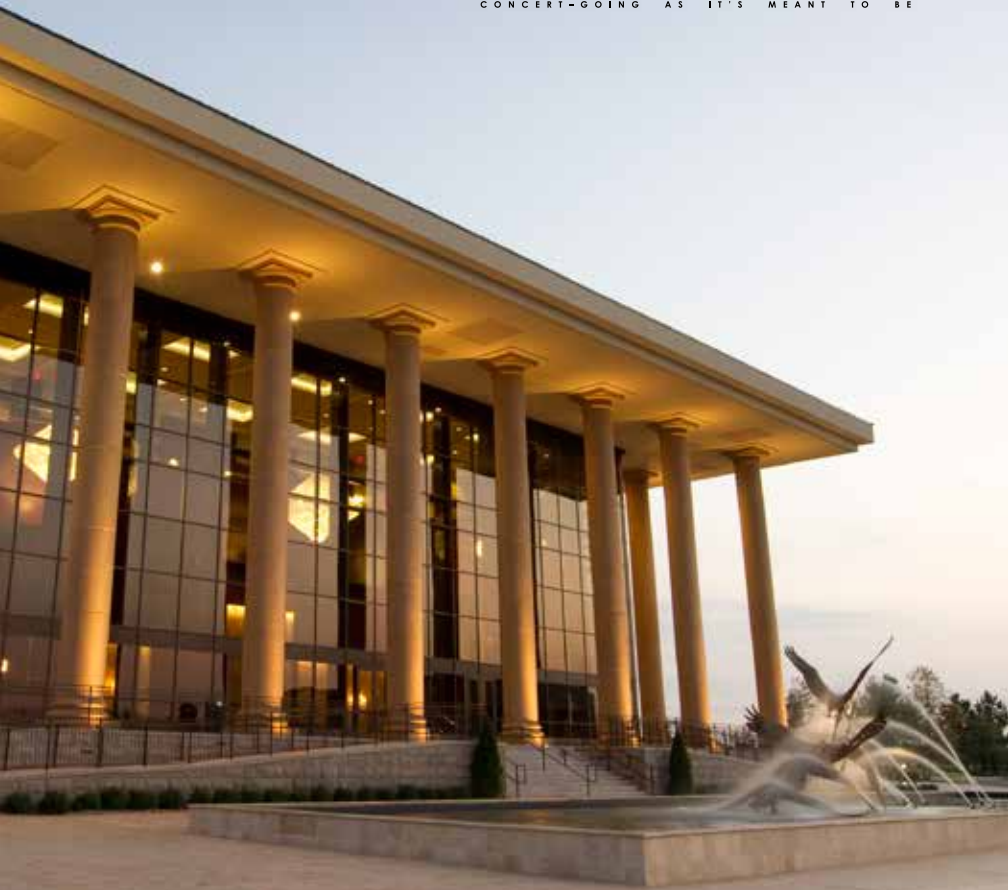
Excavations at the Summit of
the City of David: Preliminary
Report of Seasons 2005-2007

by Eilat Mazar



Discovering the Solomonic Wall in Jerusalem

by Eilat Mazar



SEALS OF JEREMIAH'S CAPTORS
DISCOVERED

JANUARY 16, 2012 - JANUARY 16, 2013
ARMSTRONG AUDITORIUM
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA

ArmstrongAuditorium.org