

## **Dr. Jeffrey Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 2, Introduction, History of the Discipline, Part 2 Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 1, Introduction, History of the Discipline, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This lecture excerpt from Dr. Jeffrey Hudon's Biblical Archaeology course surveys the history of the discipline, highlighting both successful and flawed archaeological projects. **Examples of problematic excavations** are contrasted with more rigorous approaches, such as that employed by George Reisner at Samaria. The lecture also discusses the contributions of various prominent archaeologists, including both men and women, and their diverse methodologies. Finally, Dr. Hudon emphasizes the importance of ethical practices in biblical archaeology, advocating for rigorous scholarship and a holistic approach to data analysis. He also addresses the influence of various scholarly viewpoints, such as Minimalist interpretations of the Bible.

**2. 41 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introduction & Languages → Archaeology).**



**Hudon\_BibArch\_Ses  
sion02.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes, ideas, and facts from the provided source, "Hudon\_BibArch\_EN\_Ses02.pdf", with relevant quotes:

#### Briefing Document: History of Biblical Archaeology - Session 2, Part 2

##### Introduction:

This document summarizes key information presented by Dr. Jeffrey Hudon in his lecture, "Introduction and History of the Discipline of Biblical Archaeology, Part 2." The session explores the history of the field, focusing on notable figures, methodologies (both good and bad), and the evolving approaches to archaeological research in the biblical lands. The session also highlights the importance of critical analysis and the need to avoid bias when interpreting archaeological data.

##### Key Themes and Ideas:

##### 1. Early Disasters and Questionable Motivations:

- **Montague Parker's Treasure Hunt:** Driven by a Finnish spiritualist's claims, Parker launched an ill-fated expedition to find Solomon's temple treasure, engaging in reckless excavation and even violating the Dome of the Rock. This example shows how non-scientific motivations and a lack of proper archaeological methodology can lead to disastrous results. "He was a kind of elite British young man who wanted some adventure and was drawn into Juvelius and his nonsense."
- **R.A.S. McAllister's Poor Practices:** McAllister's excavation at Gezer is described as "a disaster" due to his poor record-keeping and destructive methods, "He would dig a huge trench and backfill to the side and then dig another trench and backfill in the trench he had just excavated and basically turn over the entire mound." This highlights the importance of careful excavation and documentation.
- These two examples show very clearly that, as Dr Hudon stated, "not all archaeologists are good archaeologists."

##### 1. The Emergence of Scientific Archaeology:

- **George Reisner's Rigorous Approach:** Reisner's work at Samaria is presented as a positive example of early scientific archaeology with meticulous record-keeping and recognition of strata. "He was able to recognize different levels of strata, find spots, and took careful elevations. It was a huge success." His efforts stood in stark contrast to those of Parker and McAllister.

- **T.E. Lawrence and Leonard Woolley's Survey Work:** While their work was partially a military reconnaissance mission under the guise of science, their survey of the Sinai Peninsula demonstrated the importance of mapping and recording sites for both military and archaeological purposes. "They were looking for routes through the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt to get up to Palestine. And in case the British Army could invade Palestine, which was under Ottoman control, they wanted to know where to go, where the water sources were, and so on."

#### 1. Key Figures in Biblical Archaeology:

- **William F. Albright:** Presented as a genius with an unparalleled grasp of the Ancient Near East and languages, Albright was a dominant figure in the field. "He had basically, in his intellect, mastered most of the languages of the Ancient Near East, if not all of them, and all the material and all of the studies. He knew it pretty much by heart." His work and his students shaped the discipline for decades.
- **Nelson Glueck:** A romantic figure, a rabbi who also worked for the OSS, surveying and excavating, reflecting a multi-faceted engagement with the area. "And he too, like T.E. Lawrence, was hired by the OSS [Office of Strategic Services], the predecessor of the CIA, to survey the Sinai, survey the Negev, and look for places and routes that the British army could take if they were defeated by Rommel in Egypt and were pushed into Palestine, how to retreat."

#### 1. The Development of Israeli Archaeology:

- **Early Israeli Efforts:** Following the establishment of the State of Israel, Israeli archaeologists, such as Sukenik and his students, began their work, but on a smaller scale than their European and American counterparts. "Jewish research, which we talked about, continued on under Sukenik and his students. And some of the places they excavated, again small scale, nothing like the Europeans and Americans..."
- **Hazor and Masada as Pivotal Sites:** The excavations at Hazor and Masada, led by major figures like Benjamin Mazar and Yigal Yadin, mark a turning point in the development of Israeli archaeology. Masada became particularly significant to the Israeli identity.
- The fact that Masada "was the first to have foreign volunteers come and dig" suggests the global impact that these digs had.

#### 1. The Importance of Stratigraphy and Record-Keeping:

- **Layer-by-Layer Excavation:** The University of Chicago's project at Megiddo demonstrates the concept of removing a site layer by layer, though this was an unrealistic dream due to scale.
- **Kathleen Kenyon's Work at Jericho and Jerusalem** Her work showed the usefulness of the trench and stratification approach, but her bias against certain biblical interpretations led to questionable conclusions. "Unfortunately, Kenyon was known as an anti-Semitic...If something was discovered or uncovered that proved her wrong, she would ignore it." This highlights the importance of impartiality in research.
- **Aharoni at Arad:** In contrast with Amiran, Aharoni had poor stratigraphic control in his dig. This demonstrates how difficult this can be.

#### 1. **Surveys and Regional Archaeology:**

- **Value of Surveys:** Archaeological surveys are a cost-effective way to map regions, identify sites, and understand settlement patterns. "Running an archaeological dig is expensive. Excavating a site, a much cheaper way of trying to comprehend what happened at a site is doing a survey, an archaeological survey." These surveys are vital because many of the sites have since been built over.
- **Limitations of Surveys:** While surveys provide a broad overview, they may miss important data that would be found through excavation, and also sherds can be very hard to read. "Survey or surface sherds are often beat up and worn and they're hard to read."

#### 1. **The Role of Women in Archaeology:**

- **Notable Women in the Field:** Dr. Hudson emphasizes the substantial contributions of women archaeologists, mentioning figures like Olga Tufnell, Dorothy Garrod, Ruth Amiran, and others. "Archaeology is a discipline that is very attractive for women. And there has been a lot of very famous women archaeologists."
- **Pioneers and Current Researchers:** The lecture acknowledges the pioneering efforts of women in the field, and the new generation that have continued in their footsteps.

#### 1. **"New Archaeology" and Multidisciplinary Approaches:**

- **Holistic Data Collection:** "New archaeology" emphasizes the importance of collecting all possible data, including bones, seeds, and other organic materials, to gain a comprehensive understanding of a site. "And so, new archaeology is basically the idea of approaching a site holistically, getting all the data we can, and regaining full data."
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** This approach involves specialists from various disciplines (e.g., paleobotany, zooarchaeology) working together on a dig.

#### 1. Archaeology in Transjordan:

- **Pioneering Figures:** The establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan facilitated archaeological research in the region. Siegfried Horn was an early figure.
- **The Madaba Plains Project:** This long-term project, associated with Andrews University, has contributed significantly to understanding the archaeology of central Jordan.
- **Communication Challenges:** Dr. Hudon acknowledges that there have been "issues with communication with the Jordanian authorities".

#### 1. The Challenge of Bias in Interpretation

- **The Importance of Objectivity:** This was a consistent thread through the lecture, that archaeologists need to be aware of their own biases and perspectives when interpreting finds, such as, "if you're reading a report by an archaeologist, know what he or she is, what his or her beliefs are. And where they're coming from, because that will, even if they try not to, that will color their interpretation."
- **William G. Deaver's Critique:** Deaver, a former believer who later became an agnostic, was critical of the term "Biblical Archaeology" and tried to remove it from use. The lecture stresses the importance of critical analysis, regardless of an individual's background or point of view.

#### 1. The Minimalists and Skepticism Towards Scripture

- **The Minimalist View:** Dr Hudon discusses the rise of a group of scholars, dubbed "Minimalists," who are highly skeptical of the Bible's historical accuracy. "And they say things, they have a very skeptical view of scripture and almost to the point of being...anti-Semitic type values..." He advises critical reading of their work, and notes their popularity in media.

- **Israel Finkelstein:** He's cited as an example of a Minimalist that tries to "deconstruct the Bible almost to the point where it's hilarious what he does."

#### 1. **Guiding Principles for Christian Archaeologists**

- **Andrews University Creed:** The session concludes with principles for ethical archaeological practice, emphasizing honesty, thoroughness, and avoiding the imposition of biblical interpretations on the data. "Do not minimize problems or stretch interpretations to explain things away... do not make claims beyond what the data can support...take the history of the Bible seriously, but do not place upon archaeology the burden of proving the Bible."
- **Archaeology as a Destructive Science:** The emphasis on complete and timely publication is due to the fact that it cannot be repeated.

#### **Conclusion:**

This session provides an overview of the history of biblical archaeology, showing the evolution of methodologies and the important figures who have shaped the field. It also emphasizes the need for critical thinking, awareness of bias, and the ethical handling of archaeological data. The lecture stressed the importance of careful and rigorous work, avoiding imposing a personal belief system onto the interpretations of findings.

## 4. Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 2, Introduction, History of the Discipline, Part 2

### Biblical Archaeology: A Historical Overview

#### Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Describe the motivations and outcome of Captain Montague Parker's expedition to Jerusalem.
2. What were the main flaws in R.A.S. McAllister's excavation methods at Gezer?
3. How did George Reisner's approach to the excavation of Samaria differ from those of his predecessors?
4. What was the stated and actual purpose of T.E. Lawrence and Leonard Woolley's survey of the Sinai Peninsula?
5. What was William F. Albright's major contributions to the field of biblical archaeology and what is an interesting, if unflattering, story associated with him?
6. What were the goals of the University of Chicago's excavation at Megiddo, and why were those goals not fully realized?
7. How did Nelson Glueck combine his religious background with his interest in archaeology?
8. What were Kathleen Kenyon's strengths and weaknesses as an archaeologist, according to the lecture?
9. Explain the main principles of "New Archaeology," and how it differs from earlier methods.
10. Describe the conflict between William Dever and the term "Biblical Archaeology."

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Captain Montague Parker sought to find the treasure of Solomon based on coded messages from a spiritualist, but his expedition was unsuccessful and caused an international incident when he was caught digging under the Dome of the Rock.

2. R.A.S. McAllister used poor methodology, digging huge trenches and backfilling without adequate record-keeping, resulting in the loss of valuable data and confused site plans.
3. George Reisner applied careful elevation measurements, recorded strata, and recognized different levels which provided more accurate archaeological data than the haphazard methods of his predecessors.
4. Officially, Lawrence and Woolley were mapping ancient sites in the Sinai, but their actual task was to identify military routes and water sources for the British Army in case of an invasion of Palestine.
5. Albright was a brilliant linguist and scholar of the Ancient Near East with approximately 1,200 publications, but is also known for excavating a trench through a tumulus which ended up resembling "Albright's Bottom."
6. The University of Chicago aimed to excavate Megiddo down to bedrock, layer by layer, but World War II and financial limitations prevented the project from being fully completed.
7. Nelson Glueck was a Jewish rabbi who became an archaeologist and used his skills to survey areas both east and west of the Jordan River, also serving the OSS during WWII.
8. Kathleen Kenyon was skilled in using trench and stratification techniques, but she was also an agnostic with an anti-Semitic bias, causing her to ignore or reinterpret findings that contradicted her views.
9. "New Archaeology" uses a holistic approach, collecting all types of data, including bones, seeds, and organic material, using multidisciplinary specialists to get a more complete view of a site's culture and history, not just architecture and artifacts.
10. Deaver felt the term "Biblical Archaeology" cheapened the scientific discipline by suggesting a bias toward proving biblical history. He attempted to eliminate the term, which caused Christian colleges to withdraw support from the field.



## Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the archaeological methodologies of two early figures (e.g., McAllister, Reisner) and two modern figures (e.g. Kenyon, Yadin) and assess how their approaches shaped the field of biblical archaeology.
2. Analyze the impact of political and historical events (e.g., World War I, the creation of Israel) on the development of biblical archaeology, citing specific examples from the lecture.
3. Discuss the contributions and challenges faced by female archaeologists in the field, highlighting the work of three individuals mentioned in the lecture.
4. Assess the strengths and limitations of archaeological surveys and excavations in reconstructing past societies, referencing examples from the lecture material.
5. How do individual biases and beliefs influence archaeological interpretation, and what measures can scholars take to mitigate these influences, using examples from the lecture (e.g. Deaver, Minimalists)?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Firman:** A permit or decree, in this context, from the Ottoman Empire allowing archaeological excavation.
- **PEF (Palestine Endowment Fund):** A British organization that sponsored early archaeological explorations in Palestine.
- **Ecole Biblique:** A French biblical and archaeological school located in Jerusalem.
- **Ostraca:** Plural of *ostrakon*; pieces of pottery with writing on them, often used for everyday notes or records.
- **Strata:** Layers of soil or rock that represent different periods of occupation or geological history at an archaeological site.
- **Tumulus:** An artificial mound of earth and stones, often built over a grave; in this context, associated with the kings of Judah.
- **Megiddo:** A significant ancient city, often associated with biblical references; a major archaeological site excavated by the University of Chicago.
- **Necropolis:** A large, ancient cemetery or burial ground.

- **Hasmoneans:** A Jewish royal dynasty that ruled in Judea in the 1st and 2nd centuries BCE, after the Maccabean Revolt.
- **Masada:** An ancient fortress overlooking the Dead Sea where Jewish rebels made their last stand against the Roman army.
- **Sherds:** Broken pieces of pottery, which are crucial for dating archaeological sites.
- **New Archaeology:** A holistic approach to archaeology, incorporating various scientific disciplines and data collection methods.
- **Minimalists:** A group of scholars who hold a highly skeptical view of the historicity of the Old Testament.
- **Tel/Tall:** Arabic and Hebrew for "mound", a common feature of archaeological sites in the Middle East, formed by the accumulation of human occupation over time.
- **Madaba Plains:** A region in central Jordan with numerous archaeological sites; important for its connection to biblical history.
- **Transjordan:** The region east of the Jordan River, corresponding roughly to modern Jordan.

## 5. FAQs on Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 2, Introduction, History of the Discipline, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: History and Methodology of Biblical Archaeology

1. **What were some of the early, less successful, approaches to biblical archaeology, and what made them flawed?** Early attempts at biblical archaeology were often marred by flawed methodologies and agendas. Montague Parker's treasure hunt, driven by a spiritualist's claims and a thirst for adventure, involved reckless digging and desecration of holy sites. R.A.S. McAllister's excavations at Gezer suffered from poor record-keeping and a lack of systematic excavation, resulting in a loss of valuable data. These examples highlight the importance of careful planning, meticulous documentation, and a scientifically rigorous approach.
2. **How did George Reisner and T.E. Lawrence contribute to the development of better archaeological practices?** George Reisner, a Harvard professor and Egyptologist, brought a more systematic approach to archaeology. He emphasized careful recording of strata, elevations, and find spots, which were crucial for accurate interpretation. T.E. Lawrence, while known for his military exploits, also contributed to archaeology by conducting surveys with Leonard Woolley in the Sinai Peninsula. Their work mapped sites and routes, demonstrating the value of a wider regional understanding, although their surveys were also tied to military intelligence gathering.
3. **Who was William F. Albright, and what was his significance to biblical archaeology?** William F. Albright was a brilliant biblical scholar, linguist, and archaeologist who mastered the languages and materials of the Ancient Near East. He significantly contributed to the field with his extensive publications and his support for the state of Israel. He advocated for integrating linguistic, literary, and archaeological evidence. His students and their students continue to impact the field, emphasizing the lasting impact of his approach, despite the somewhat comical origin of his most famous dig site's name, "Albright's Bottom".

4. **What is "New Archaeology", and how did it change the field?** New Archaeology emerged in the 1970s and advocated for a more holistic approach to excavation, moving beyond just architecture and artifacts. It stressed the collection of all available data, including bones, seeds, and other organic materials, using techniques like wet sifting and flotation. This multidisciplinary approach, incorporating anthropological perspectives, enabled a fuller reconstruction of daily life and culture at archaeological sites, providing deeper context for understanding a site's history beyond biblical interpretations.
5. **What was Nelson Glueck's role, and how does it demonstrate the intersection of archaeology and other disciplines?** Nelson Glueck, a rabbi and archaeologist, was a student of Albright who also engaged in surveys. Like T.E. Lawrence, he was involved in military intelligence for the OSS, using his archaeological knowledge to identify routes and water sources. His life story exemplifies how archaeological knowledge is intertwined with other fields such as intelligence gathering, biblical studies and cultural engagement, and demonstrates that historical study can be used for a variety of purposes.
6. **What is the significance of survey work in archaeology, and how does it differ from excavation?** Archaeological surveys are crucial for understanding regional settlement patterns without extensive digging. They involve walking over a site, noting topography and installations, and collecting surface artifacts such as pottery sherds. Surveys provide a broad overview of a region, though they may have gaps and limitations compared to excavation data, which goes deeper into a site's history. Surveying can also be more cost effective while giving valuable data that may otherwise be lost if sites are built on or destroyed.
7. **Who are the "Minimalists" in biblical archaeology, and why is it important to be aware of their perspectives?** The "Minimalists" are a group of scholars who have a skeptical view of scripture and who have often deconstructed the historical accuracy of the Bible. These views can range from a healthy and critical approach, to being more agenda driven. It is essential to approach their work critically because, while they sometimes offer important insights, some of their perspectives can be controversial, and some minimalists have even been described as harboring anti-Semitic views. The media often showcases their views, so it is important to understand their approach and that the field of archaeology is subject to a variety of biases.

8. **What are the core principles of archaeological work as presented by Dr. Hudon, and why are they essential?** According to Dr. Hudon, core principles of archaeological work include: avoiding the distortion or "stretching" of interpretations to fit pre-conceived notions; not making claims beyond what the data supports; the importance of timely and complete publication of results, as archaeology is a destructive science; engagement with mainstream scholarship; the inclusion of diverse teams and specialists; and the understanding that while archaeology can sometimes support the Bible's accuracy, it should not be forced to "prove" it. These principles promote rigorous, ethical, and comprehensive research, acknowledging the limitations of archaeological evidence and emphasizing the importance of accurate data and interpretation.