

Dr. Jeffrey Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 26, Highlights of the Horn Archeological Museum Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 26, Highlights to the Horn Archeological Museum, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Jeffrey Hudon's lecture on biblical archaeology, session 26, features a tour of the Sigmund H. Horn Archaeological Museum. The lecture highlights three key artifacts: a 19th-century model of Jerusalem, providing topographical context for biblical sites; a replica of the Black Obelisk, illustrating Shalmaneser III's campaign and the depiction of Jehu, king of Israel; and a replica of the Mesha Stele, an independent corroboration of biblical events involving the Moabite king Mesha. Hudon uses these artifacts to connect biblical narratives with archaeological discoveries, emphasizing the significance of these objects for understanding the historical and geographical backdrop of the Bible. The lecture concludes with a discussion of the gates and quarters of Jerusalem as depicted in the model.

2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 26 – 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_Session26.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_Ses26.pdf", which is a transcript of a lecture by Dr. Jeffrey Hudon on Biblical Archaeology, focusing on highlights from the Sigmund H. Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews University.

Briefing Document: Highlights from the Sigmund H. Horn Archaeological Museum

Introduction:

This document summarizes the key information presented in Dr. Jeffrey Hudon's lecture on Biblical Archaeology, Session 26, which showcases artifacts from the Sigmund H. Horn Archaeological Museum. The lecture focuses primarily on a model of Jerusalem from around 1880, the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III, and the Mesha Stele, examining their historical and biblical significance.

I. 1880 Model of Jerusalem:

- **Purpose and Context:** The model, constructed around 1880, served as a visual aid to understand Jerusalem's topography and layout. Travel to the Holy Land was difficult and expensive in the 19th century, and photography was still developing, so models like this were crucial for education and public exhibition at events.
- **Quote:** *"During the 19th century, travel to the Holy Land was an endeavor practiced by the very rich and the very adventurous. It was a very dangerous, expensive, and arduous journey that often resulted in injury or death... early in the 19th century and before, there were no photographs to look at to get an idea of what the terrain and places looked like."*
- **Dating:** The model is dated to around 1880 because it does not include landmarks built in the 1890s and later.
- **Topographical Features:** The model depicts the Mount of Olives, Mount Scopus, the Hinnom Valley, the Kidron Valley, and the Tyropoeon (Central) Valley. Dr. Hudon emphasizes that the valleys were much deeper in antiquity due to accumulated debris.
- **Quote:** *"I point out, too, that all these valleys were much deeper in antiquity. Again, thousands of years of use and debris building up have lifted the surface of these valleys."*

- **Vulnerability:** Jerusalem was most vulnerable to attack from the north as there was no valley to act as a natural defense in that direction.
- **Key Sites (1880):** Kidron Valley: Site of the Garden of Gethsemane, early tombs on the Mount of Olives, and the Arab village of Silwan (biblical Shiloah).
- Southeastern Hill (City of David): Original settlement of Jerusalem due to the Gihon Spring. Includes remains from the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages.
- Western Hill: (erroneously called Mount Zion today) Contains the tomb of David and the site of the upper room. The house of Caiaphas was discovered in the 1970s in this area. Evidence of Old Testament walls (8th century BC) has been discovered through excavations.
- Herod's Palace: Located in the area of the Armenian Quarter, poorly preserved, and potentially a site for Pilate's presentation of Jesus.
- Pools: Includes the Pool of Bethesda and the Birkat Sultan.
- Jewish Settlements outside the walls: such as Mishkanot Sha'an Anim and Yemen Moshe were among the first built outside the walls.
- Citadel (Tower of David): Includes remains of Herodian towers (Meriamne, Hippicus, and Phasaël).
- **City Quarters:** Armenian Quarter
- Christian Quarter (including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher)
- Muslim Quarter (including the Temple Mount - Haram al-Sharif)
- Jewish Quarter (Rebuilt after 1967 when Israel reclaimed the Old City).
- **Temple Mount:** Herod expanded the platform over the Tyropoeon Valley.
- Features the Dome of the Rock (3rd holiest site in Islam) and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- Location of Solomon's and the second temple (underneath the Dome of the Rock).
- Site of the Royal Stoa during the Second Temple Period.
- **Gates:** Existing gates: Damascus Gate, Herod's (Flower) Gate, Jaffa Gate, Zion Gate, Dung Gate
- Biblical Gates: Not identified except for one along the Ophel.

II. The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III:

- **Discovery:** Found in 1846 by Henry Austin Laird at Nimrud (ancient Kala).
- **Date:** Erected by Shalmaneser III around 841 BC to commemorate his campaign to the Levant.
- **Biblical Significance:** The second register shows Jehu, King of Israel, bowing before Shalmaneser III, a contemporary depiction of a biblical king from an Assyrian monument.
- *Quote: "And this king is identified in the text below as Jehu son of Omri, King of Israel... This is a first mention and certainly first physical depiction of a king of Israel from a contemporary monument."*
- **Historical Context:** Jehu overthrew the Omri dynasty and became a vassal of Assyria.
- **Assyrian Atrocities:** Dr. Hudon notes that Shalmaneser III is probably mentioned in Hosea 11 as Shalman, who defeated and destroyed Beit Arbel and committed horrible atrocities typical of Assyrian kings.
- **Confirmation of Biblical Text:** The obelisk confirms the biblical text describing Jehu and his actions.

III. The Mesha Stele (Moabite Stele):

- **Discovery:** Found in 1868 by Frederick Klein in Dhiban, Jordan.
- **Destruction and Reconstruction:** The stele was shattered by Bedouins, but fragments were collected by Charles Clermont-Gounod, and a paper squeeze taken before its destruction helped reconstruct about two-thirds of the inscription.
- *Quote: "somebody got the bright idea that maybe these Europeans wanted to buy it because there might be something valuable like gold inside. And so they heated up this stela, again made out of basalt and got it red hot and then poured cold water over it and shattered the entire stela into pieces."*
- **Content:** The stele is a Moabite record of King Mesha's revolt against Israel in the 9th century BC, around the time of Elijah and Elisha. It recounts his successes in conquering Israelite towns.

- **Biblical Connections:** Mesha is mentioned in 2 Kings 3.
- The stele mentions the divine name Yahweh, the tribe of Gad, and toponyms mentioned in the Bible.
- The stele is an independent confirmation of the biblical account of the war.
- **West Semitic Language:** The Moabite language is similar to Hebrew.
- **"House of David":** Andre Le Maire recognized the phrase "House of David" in the inscription in 1994.
- **Ongoing Research:** The Mesha Stele continues to be a subject of study, and new interpretations are still being published.

Conclusion:

Dr. Hudon's lecture effectively demonstrates how archaeological artifacts, like the model of Jerusalem, the Black Obelisk, and the Mesha Stele, provide crucial insights into the historical and biblical contexts of the Old Testament and New Testament periods. The model provides a visual depiction of Jerusalem's layout in the late 19th century, and the stelae provide independent evidence supporting biblical narratives. These objects, carefully preserved and studied, offer a tangible connection to the ancient world.

4. Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 26, Highlights of the Horn Archaeological Museum

Biblical Archaeology: Jerusalem and Ancient Near East Artifacts Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Why was the Jerusalem model from the 1880s created and what purpose did it serve?
2. What are the significant topographical features surrounding Jerusalem, and how were these important for the city's defense?
3. Why is the Gihon Spring so important to the history of Jerusalem, and what area of the city did it help to establish?
4. What is the "Western Hill" and what are some of the significant historical sites located there?
5. Describe the four quarters of Jerusalem, both in the 1880s and as they exist today.
6. How did Herod the Great alter the Temple Mount, and what significant structures are located there?
7. What is the significance of the Black Obelisk, and who is depicted bowing before Shalmaneser III?
8. How was the Mesha Stele discovered, and what actions led to its destruction?
9. What does the Mesha Stele recount about Mesha, King of Moab, and his conflict with Israel?
10. What are the different ways that both the Black Obelisk and Mesha Stele are significant to the study of biblical archaeology?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The Jerusalem model was created because travel to the Holy Land in the 19th century was difficult and dangerous. The model allowed people to visualize the terrain and layout of Jerusalem, which was not easily accessible, and served to educate the public at large events.

2. Jerusalem is surrounded by the Mount of Olives to the east, the Hinnom Valley to the south and west, and the Kidron Valley to the east. These valleys provided natural defenses, while the north of the city, lacking a similar natural barrier, was the most vulnerable point of attack.
3. The Gihon Spring was the primary water source for Jerusalem for much of its history, attracting settlements to the area. This water source led to the establishment of the oldest part of Jerusalem, the City of David, on the southeastern hill.
4. The "Western Hill," sometimes erroneously called Mount Zion, was part of the walled city and contains historical sites including the tomb of David, the site of the upper room, and the House of Caiaphas. Excavations in the area have revealed towers and wall sections dating back to the Old Testament.
5. The four quarters of Jerusalem are the Armenian, Christian, Muslim, and Jewish. In 1880, these were distinct areas within the walled city. Today, the Jewish Quarter has been rebuilt since its destruction by Jordanians between 1948 and 1967.
6. Herod the Great expanded the Temple Mount into its current trapezoidal shape by building over the Central or Tyropoeon Valley. The Temple Mount houses the Dome of the Rock, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Western Wall.
7. The Black Obelisk depicts Jehu, King of Israel, bowing before Shalmaneser III, King of Assyria. It is a significant contemporary monument, providing physical evidence of a king of Israel from the 9th century BC.
8. The Mesha Stele was discovered by Frederick Klein in 1868 in Dibon, Jordan, but was then intentionally destroyed by Bedouins after rumors arose about its possible monetary value. Fragments were collected, and a paper squeeze of the entire inscription was used to reconstruct the original text.
9. The Mesha Stele recounts King Mesha's revolt against Israel, his success in conquering Israelite towns, and the expansion of Moab to the north. It mentions the divine name of Yahweh being taken from the Israelite's hearth, giving important information concerning religious practice in the 9th century.
10. Both the Black Obelisk and the Mesha Stele are significant as they offer independent, non-biblical evidence for events and figures mentioned in the Bible. The Black Obelisk confirms the existence of Jehu, and the Mesha Stele records

Mesha's revolt and his taking Israelite lands, providing additional detail and perspective.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question in a well-developed essay format.

1. Discuss the significance of the Jerusalem model presented in the lecture as a tool for both understanding the past and illustrating the changes that have occurred in Jerusalem over time. How does it help in understanding the Biblical narratives?
2. Analyze the topographical and geographical features of Jerusalem, and explain how they influenced its historical development and strategic importance.
3. Explore the historical and religious significance of the Temple Mount, detailing its development over time and the various structures that have been built there from the Israelite temples to the Dome of the Rock.
4. Compare and contrast the information provided by the Black Obelisk and the Mesha Stele, explaining how these artifacts contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the political and religious landscape of the Ancient Near East during the Old Testament period.
5. Evaluate the impact of archaeological discoveries on biblical interpretation, using examples from the lecture to illustrate how physical evidence supports or complicates the biblical narrative.

Glossary of Key Terms

Antonia Fortress: Roman fortress built on the northern side of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, traditionally believed to be where Pilate resided during the time of Jesus' trial.

Black Obelisk: A nearly seven-foot tall Assyrian monument from around 841 BC, depicting Jehu, King of Israel, bowing before Shalmaneser III.

Central Valley (Tyropoeon Valley): A valley that once separated the southeastern and western hills of Jerusalem, now mostly filled in; also known as the Valley of the Cheesemakers in Josephus' writings.

City of David: The oldest part of Jerusalem, situated on the southeastern hill, where the original settlement was established due to the presence of the Gihon Spring.

Citadel (Tower of David): A fortified structure in the Old City of Jerusalem that includes towers dating back to the time of Herod the Great.

Dome of the Rock: A Muslim shrine located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, considered the third holiest site in Islam.

Gihon Spring: The primary and only consistent water source for ancient Jerusalem, located in the Kidron Valley near the City of David.

Hinnom Valley (Gey ben Hinnom): A valley that meanders along the western and southern sides of Jerusalem and unites with the Kidron and Tyropoeon Valleys.

Jehu: King of Israel who overthrew the Omri dynasty in 841 BC, depicted on the Black Obelisk bowing before Shalmaneser III.

Jerusalem Model: A plaster model of Jerusalem, constructed around 1880, which depicts the city's topography and layout at the time.

Kidron Valley: A valley that begins north of Jerusalem and continues down the eastern side of the city, eventually emptying into the Dead Sea.

Mesha Stele: A Moabite monument from the 9th century BC, recounting King Mesha's revolt against Israel; mentions the "House of David".

Mount of Olives: A ridge located east of Jerusalem, significant for its historical and religious connections, including the Church of the Ascension and various cemeteries.

Shalmaneser III: King of Assyria (859-824 BC) who is mentioned in the Black Obelisk.

Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif): A trapezoid-shaped platform in Jerusalem, expanded by Herod the Great, housing significant religious sites for Judaism and Islam.

Western Hill: High ground, often erroneously called Mount Zion, that was part of the walled city and includes the site of the upper room, and the House of Caiaphas, among other important historical places.

5. FAQs on Hudon, Biblical Archaeology, Session 26, Highlights of the Horn Archaeological Museum, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about Biblical Archaeology and the Horn Archaeological Museum

- 1. Why was the model of Jerusalem in the Horn Archaeological Museum created and what does it reveal about the city?**
2. The plaster model of Jerusalem, estimated to be from around 1880, was created because travel to the Holy Land was difficult, expensive, and dangerous at the time. Photography was just beginning to emerge, so detailed representations of the city were scarce. These models were showcased at symposiums and public events, giving people a visual understanding of Jerusalem's topography. The model provides a snapshot of the city before significant modern development, showing the original lay of the land, including the valleys (Kidron, Tyropoeon, Hinnom) and key geographic features like the Mount of Olives. It also highlights the vulnerability of Jerusalem on its northern side, which lacked a natural defensive valley.
- 3. What is significant about the City of David, and why was it established in that location?**
4. The City of David, located on the southeastern hill, is the oldest part of Jerusalem. It was established there not because of its geography but because of the Gihon Spring, which was the primary and often sole water source for the city throughout its history. The earliest settlements have been traced back to the Chalcolithic and early Bronze periods, with archaeological evidence including a house dating before 2000 BC. The City of David was also the site of important fortifications, including defensive walls from the 8th and 7th centuries BC, as well as the later walls built by Nehemiah during the return from Persia.

5. **What is the historical context of the Western Hill of Jerusalem and its modern misidentification?**
6. The Western Hill, often incorrectly referred to as Mount Zion today, was part of the walled city in antiquity. Its historical significance includes the tomb of David, the site of the upper room, and the house of Caiaphas. This area has yielded archaeological evidence of walls and towers dating back to the Old Testament period, specifically the early 8th century BC, with later modifications and additions. The modern misunderstanding of "Mount Zion" is due to its common association with the name Zion but the actual location of Mount Zion is the Temple Mount.
7. **How did Herod the Great expand the Temple Mount and what are its significant features?**
8. Herod the Great expanded the Temple Mount by constructing the western side of the platform over the Tyropoeon Valley. This expansion created a large, flat area for worshipers coming to the Temple. The Temple Mount includes significant sites like the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim shrine considered the third holiest site in Islam, which is built over the place where Solomon's and the Second Temple stood. Also within the Temple Mount precinct is the Al-Aqsa Mosque. During New Testament times, the Royal Stoa would have been a place where Herod and his guests could view the sacrifices in the temple.
9. **What are the four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem and how did they come about?**
10. The Old City of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters: the Armenian, Christian, Muslim, and Jewish quarters. The Armenian Quarter is southwest of the city extending from Zion Gate to Jaffa Gate. The Christian Quarter adjoins the Armenian Quarter and contains the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The Muslim Quarter is the largest of the four and includes the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, extending from the Damascus Gate to Herod's Gate. The Jewish Quarter abuts the Temple Mount and meets the Armenian Quarter, and was significantly rebuilt after its destruction by the Jordanians between 1948 and 1967. Each quarter has its own distinct history, culture, and religious affiliations.

11. What is the Black Obelisk, and why is it significant to biblical archaeology?

12. The Black Obelisk is a nearly seven-foot tall stele discovered in Nimrud in 1846 by Henry Austin Laird. It was erected by Shalmaneser III around 841 BC to commemorate his military campaigns, including his campaign in the Levant. The obelisk contains cuneiform text and images, including one of King Jehu of Israel bowing before Shalmaneser III. This makes it the earliest physical depiction of a King of Israel in contemporary monumental art. This discovery is of major significance because it provides physical, independent support for Biblical accounts of Jehu's reign and the interaction between Israel and Assyria.

13. What is the Mesha Stela, and what information does it provide about the biblical period?

14. The Mesha Stela, also known as the Moabite Stone, is an inscription dating to the 9th century BC discovered in 1868, and commissioned by the Moabite king Mesha. The stela is a monument that was written in a West Semitic dialect very similar to Hebrew that recounts the revolt of Moab against Israel following the overthrow of the Omri dynasty. It provides an independent account from a non-Israelite perspective, detailing Moab's victories and territorial expansions and also corroborates many places, names, and events found in the Old Testament, including the mention of the Israelite God Yahweh. The Mesha Stela also provides evidence of the "House of David", discovered in the text much later in the 1990's.

15. How does the Horn Archaeological Museum use artifacts like the model of Jerusalem, the Black Obelisk, and the Mesha Stela to enhance our understanding of biblical history?

16. The Horn Archaeological Museum utilizes artifacts to provide a tangible context for biblical narratives. The model of Jerusalem helps visualize the topography and layout of the city in the 19th century, clarifying locations mentioned in the Bible. Artifacts like the Black Obelisk and the Mesha Stela serve as independent confirmations of biblical accounts, showing that the mentioned people, places, and events are not just Biblical stories but historical realities. These artifacts are primary sources that offer valuable insights into ancient cultures, languages, and political landscapes of the biblical world, all of which give us a deeper understanding of Biblical times.