

PREMISE 1

The Bible Is A Reliable Source For Near East History

Open-Book Review

Use ThinkCube to answer the following questions. The purpose isn't to test your memory, but to help you review and reinforce the most important ideas from this premise.

1. What discovery provided archaeological evidence for the biblical “House of David”?

- A. The Tel Dan Stele
- B. The Cyrus Cylinder
- C. The Dead Sea Scrolls
- D. The Rosetta Stone

2. What discovery helped confirm that the Hittites were a real ancient civilization?

- A. The Hittite capital and thousands of clay tablets were uncovered in Turkey
- B. A Roman coin was found in Jerusalem
- C. A shipwreck was found near Malta
- D. A Greek temple was uncovered in Athens

3. Why is Sir William Ramsay important to the historical study of Acts?

- A. His archaeological research led him to regard Luke as a highly accurate historian
- B. He discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls
- C. He wrote the book of Acts
- D. He was the Roman governor mentioned by Luke

4. What overall point does the ThinkCube make from archaeological discoveries involving biblical cities and details?

- A. Archaeology repeatedly supports the Bible as a valuable historical source
- B. Archaeology has shown most biblical cities were fictional
- C. Only New Testament locations have been verified
- D. The Bible contains too few details to investigate historically

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says: “The Bible is a religious book, not a reliable source of history.” What could you ask about the many biblical cities, rulers, and historical details that archaeology has independently confirmed?

2. Put it in your own words: Why does archaeological confirmation of small historical details strengthen confidence in the Bible's larger historical record?

PREMISE 2

Many People In The Bible Have Been Historically Confirmed

1. What kind of evidence has confirmed the existence of many people named in the Bible?

- A. Inscriptions, seals, tablets, coins, and other ancient records
- B. Modern photographs
- C. Medieval novels
- D. Oral traditions recorded only recently

2. Which archaeological discovery contains a reference to the “House of David”?

- A. The Tel Dan Stele
- B. The Gallio Inscription
- C. The Pilate Stone
- D. The Siloam Inscription

3. Which New Testament official was confirmed by an inscription discovered at Caesarea Maritima?

- A. Pontius Pilate
- B. Peter
- C. John the Baptist
- D. Nicodemus

4. What does the historical confirmation of many biblical kings, officials, and rulers demonstrate?

- A. The Bible describes real people who fit the historical settings in which it places them
- B. Every person in the Bible has already been archaeologically verified
- C. Archaeology can prove every spiritual claim in Scripture
- D. Only kings can be historically verified

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says: “Many of the people in the Bible were probably invented characters.” What could you ask about the biblical figures whose names have been found in inscriptions, seals, coins, and other ancient records?

2. Put it in your own words: Why does confirming real people named in the Bible add to its historical credibility?

PREMISE 3

Locations And Events In The Bible Have Been Confirmed

1. Why are many biblical historical claims open to archaeological investigation?

- A. The Bible gives specific names of cities, rulers, buildings, customs, and events
- B. The Bible avoids mentioning real locations
- C. Every biblical event happened underground
- D. Archaeology can investigate only written documents

2. Which discovery matches the pool described in John 5?

- A. The Pool of Bethesda
- B. Hezekiah's Tunnel
- C. The Dead Sea Scroll caves
- D. The Temple of Artemis

3. What do the Lachish Reliefs depict?

- A. The Assyrian siege of Lachish
- B. The construction of Noah's ark
- C. The birth of Jesus
- D. Paul's shipwreck

4. What is the ThinkCube's main conclusion from discoveries involving places such as Nazareth, Capernaum, the Pool of Siloam, and Philippi?

- A. The New Testament is rooted in real geographical and historical settings
- B. The locations were invented centuries later
- C. Only Jerusalem has been archaeologically confirmed
- D. Archaeology contradicts the geographical details of the New Testament

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says: “The Bible is mostly stories that cannot be checked against history.” What could you ask about the specific cities, buildings, inscriptions, and events that archaeologists have been able to investigate?
2. Put it in your own words: Why is it important that the Bible repeatedly places its stories in real locations and historical settings that can be checked?