

**“If these [disciples] keep silent,  
the stones will cry out.”**

**Luke 19:40**





Welcome to my world.





Welcome to **HIS** world.



# What is biblical archaeology?

- It is the study of everything that remains of the cultures and environments in biblical lands.
- It is **not** a treasure hunt.
- It **is** a way to know the world of the Bible, what the authors of Scripture assumed you knew.



# Joshua knew about archaeology.

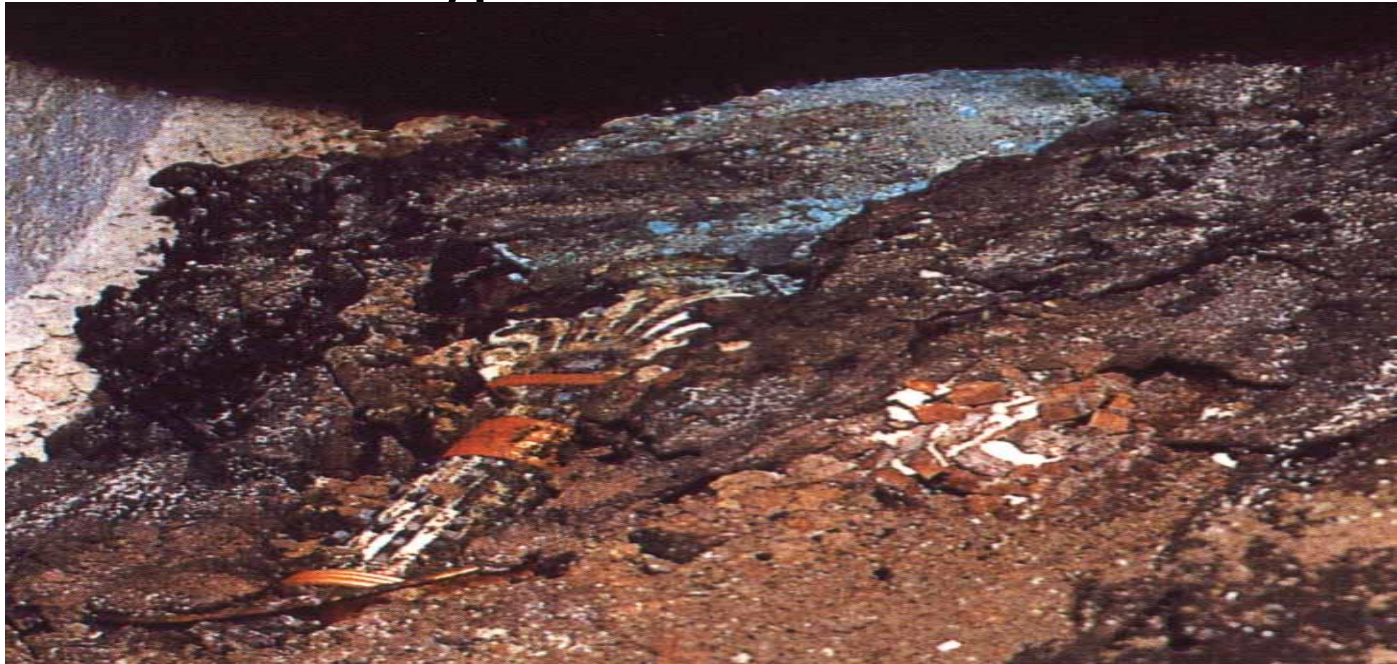
“Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built on mounds except Hazor, which Joshua burned.”

Joshua 11:13



# Jesus knew about archaeology.

- “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that **field**.” Matthew 13:44







# A = Apologetics

- Archaeology can be helpful in demonstrating the reliability of the Bible and our faith.
- Archaeological finds can not only confirm the people, places and events mentioned in Scripture, it can add details.
- An example would be Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem. (2 Kings 20:20)



“Now the rest of the acts of  
Hezekiah and all his might, and  
how he made the pool and the  
conduit and brought water into the  
city [of Jerusalem]....”

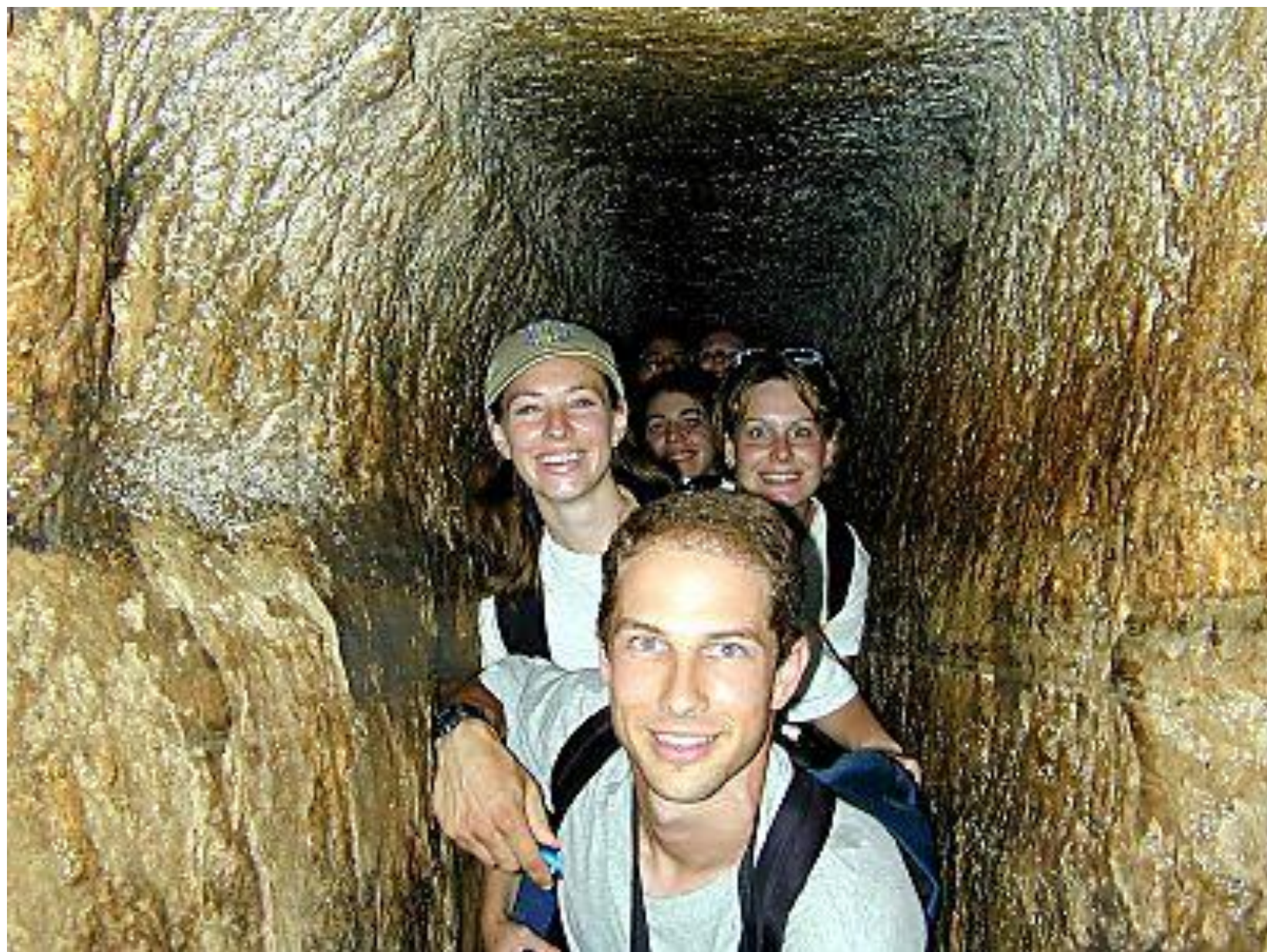




The inscription from inside  
Hezekiah's tunnel (701 B.C.)  
recording how the tunnel was dug  
from both ends toward the middle.





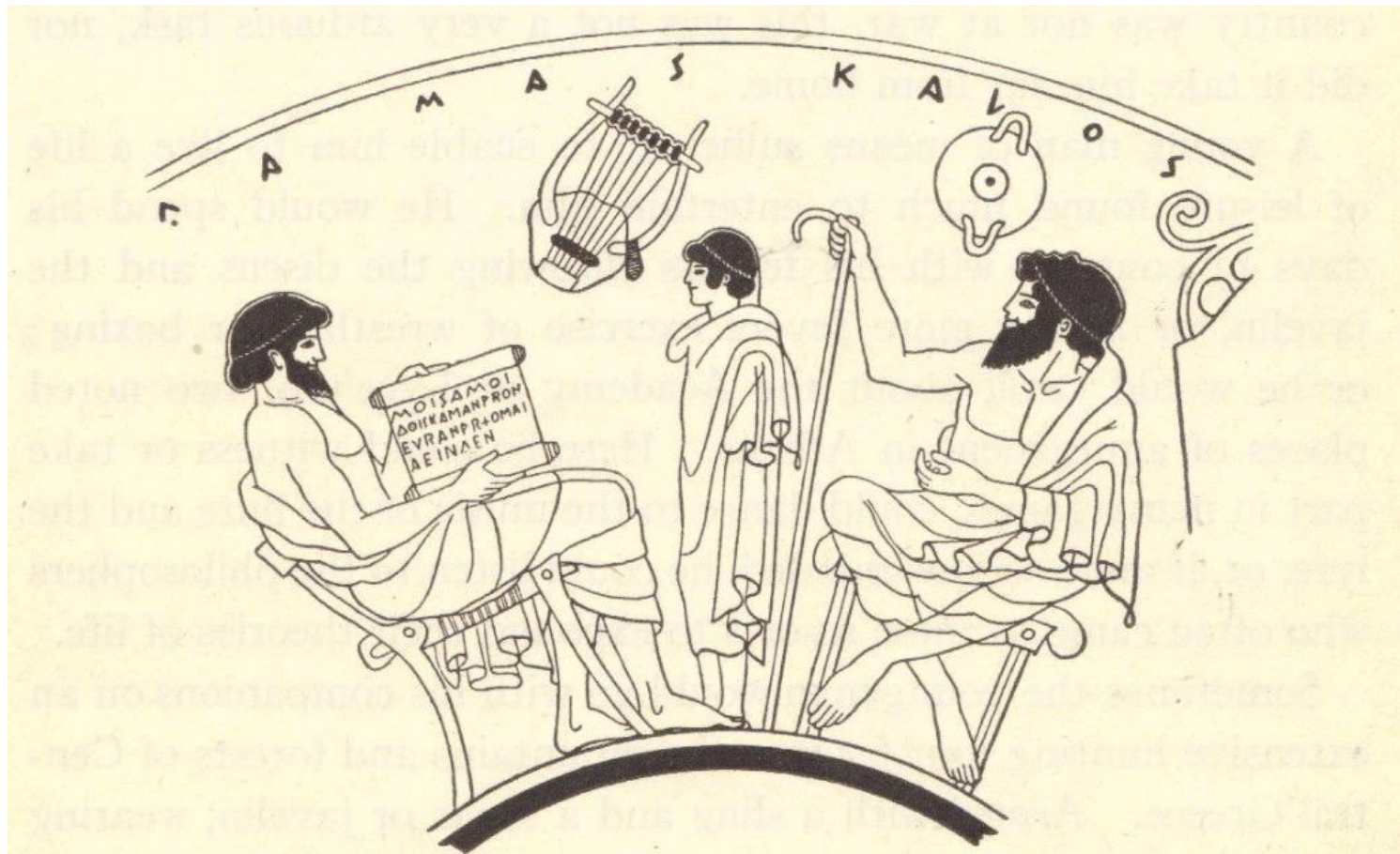




# B = Bible translation clarifications

- Galatians 3:24
- “Therefore the Law has become our ***pedagogue*** to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.”
- But what exactly is a pedagogue (literally *child leader*)
- “strict tutor” (Phillips)
- “custodian” (RSV)
- “tutor” (NASB)
- “schoolmaster” (KJ)

# We now have pictures of pedagogues on pottery.



GREEK SCHOOL TEACHER, PUPIL, AND PEDAGOGUE

From an ancient Greek vase painting. The teacher is instructing the pupil from a parchment roll. Between them, hanging on the wall, is shown a lyre.



# So...

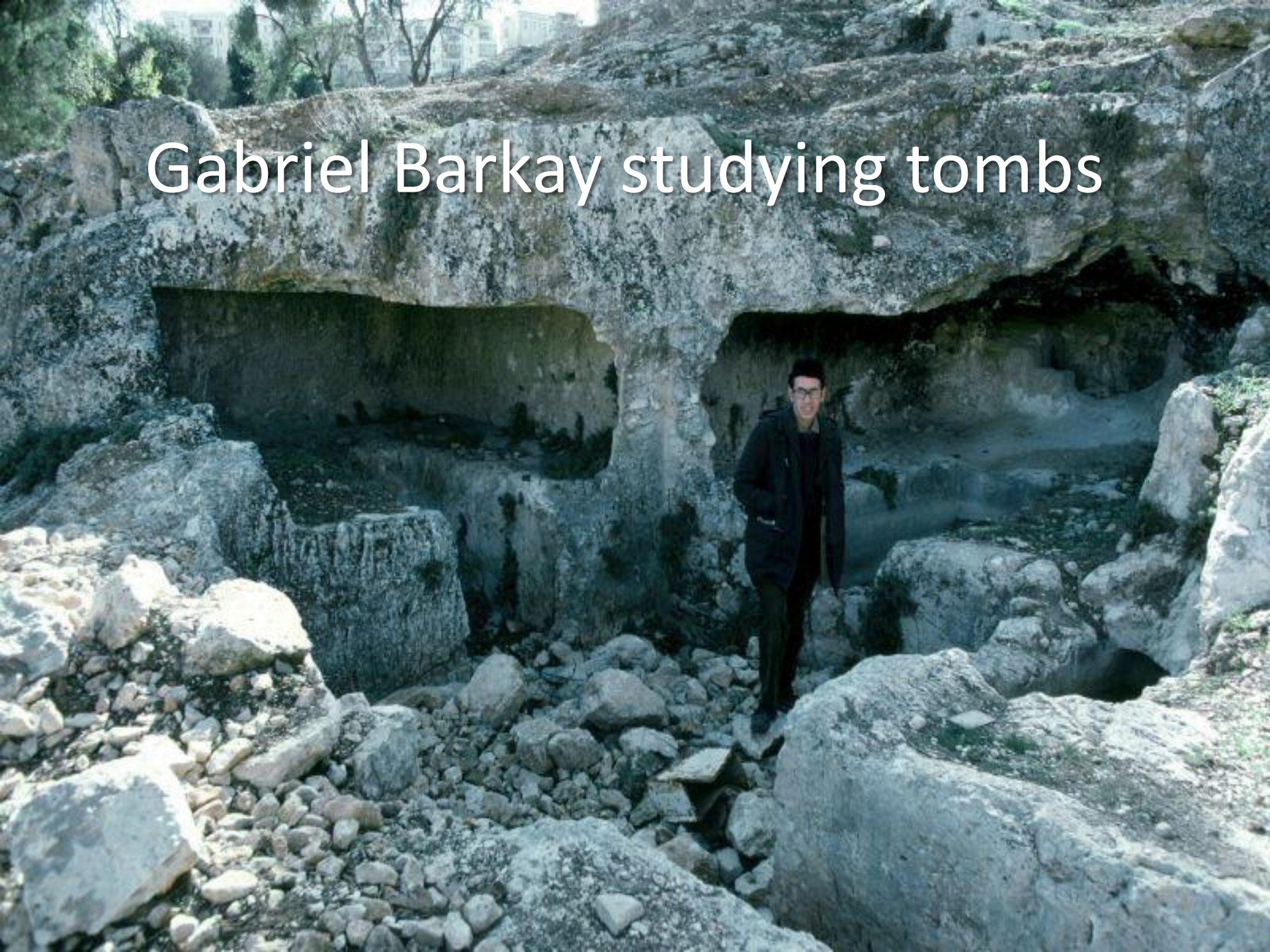
- The Law leads us to the teacher (Christ) so we can be justified.
- The Law is not the teacher.
- Its job is to get us to the teacher
- willingly
- or by force.

# C = Context

- Becoming familiar with the world in which the biblical events took place.
- “Seeing” in three dimensions.
- An example would be small silver “scrolls” from a Jerusalem tomb dating to about 560 B.C.



Gabriel Barkay studying tombs









# Room for Eight Bodies



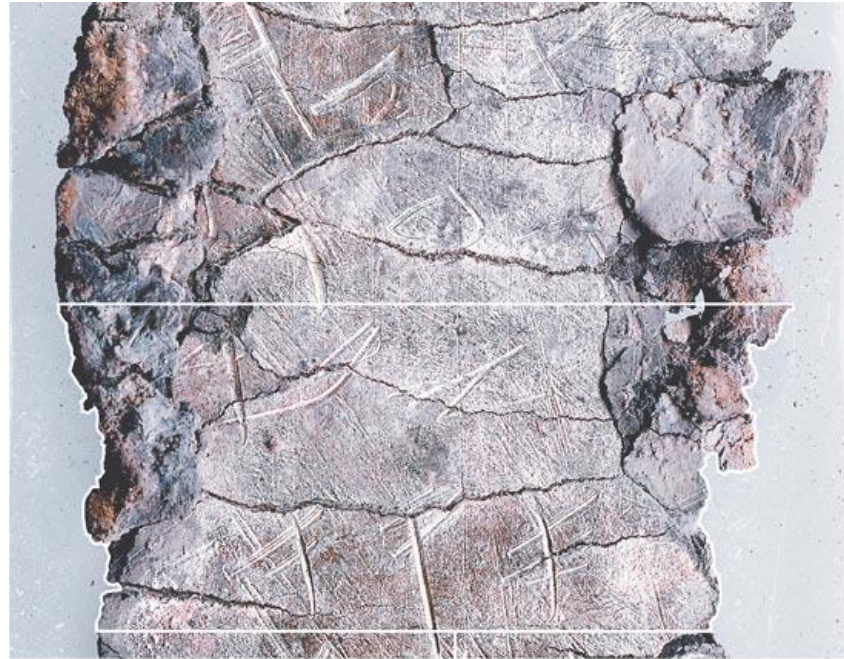


# Items found in the tomb





# The Silver Pendant



## A Benediction Revealed

Writing scratched on two tiny silver scrolls, found in 1979 in Jerusalem, took years to interpret. Special lighting and photography proved that a familiar prayer dates from around 600 B.C.

The start of the benediction on the first two lines, translated literally:

"MAY HE BLESS"

"THE LORD"

The English translation:



Dr. Bruce Zuckerman

*"May the Lord bless you and keep you;  
may the Lord cause his face to shine  
upon you and be gracious to you;  
may the Lord lift up his countenance  
upon you and grant you peace."*

EDGE OF SCROLL

PORTIONS OF CHARACTERS MISSING



**THE TWO SCROLLS AT ACTUAL SIZE**  
They are preserved in plastic.

Some theorize that the scrolls were worn around the neck with a cord, or kept in a pouch.





# The little scrolls were unrolled.

- The covenant name of the LORD (I AM) pronounced Yahweh was listed three times.
- A Jewish student who was orthodox said that this detail made the identification of the inscription easy, a “no-brainer”
- Only one place in the Bible had the “I AM” listed three times in a row.
- Numbers 6:24-26

# And what is the significance?

- These three short sentences in Hebrew were said only once a year.
- After atonement was made on Yom Kippur, the high priest came out of the Holy of Holies to face the people.
- He made a pronouncement on the basis of the finished work of atonement for the sins of the nation.
- His statement (not wish or hope) was,
  - “The LORD blesses you and keeps you.
  - The LORD makes His face to shine upon you and is gracious to you.
  - The LORD lifts up His countenance upon you and gives you wholeness.
  - Amen” (and that can be relied on)



And this pronouncement kept the  
occupant of that grave going

- Through the dark days while most of the people were in exile.
- Through the days with no temple, priests, or sacrifices.

# Today what keeps us going?

- Jesus offered himself as the perfect and final sacrifice.
- He was both the high priest and the sacrifice.
- Have paid for and removed all our sins, he turns to us and says,
- The LORD blesses you and keeps you,
- The LORD makes His face shine upon you and is gracious to you,
- The LORD lifts up His countenance on you,
- And gives you wholeness.



There is more treasure!

Keep digging

# Your Questions?

- Resources for further learning
  - Bibliography
  - Go to Israel or other lands of the Bible “You had to be there.” or “I do not read the Bible the same as I did before I went to Israel.”
- How can I help you today?

# Web Resource

- **Web Sites Related to Biblical Archaeology**
- <http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/index.shtml>
- \*<http://www.BiblePlaces.com> and their blog
- <http://www.BibleArchaeology.org>
- <http://www.bib-arch.org> (also free downloadable e-books)
- <http://www.thebookandthespade.wordpress.com>
- <http://www.israelpalestineguide.wordpress.com> (blog)



# A Happy Ehud Netzer



# Herodium, Herod's Fortress near Bethlehem





# Living in the Shadow of Death



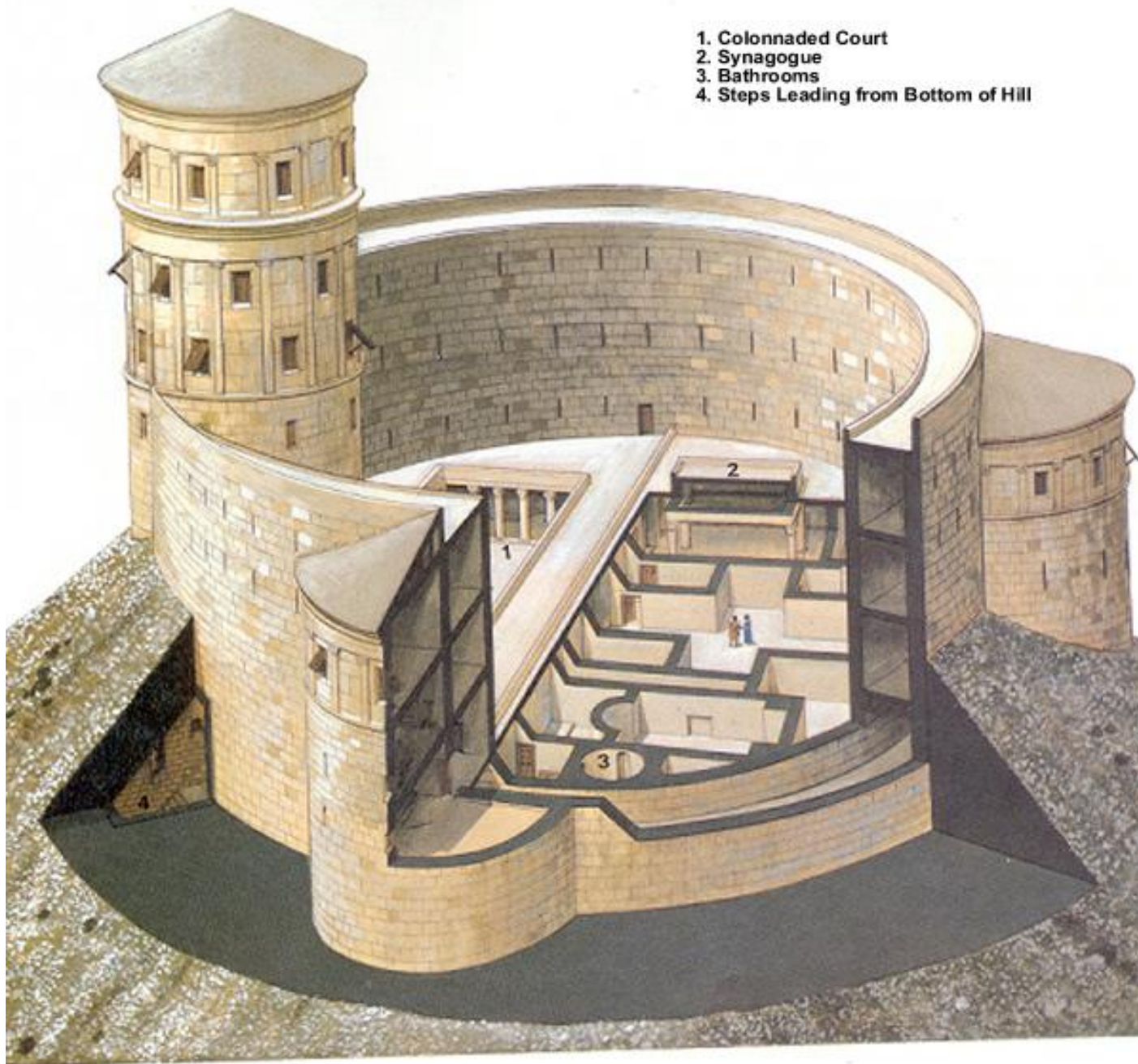


# Fortress in a Mountain





1. Colonnaded Court
2. Synagogue
3. Bathrooms
4. Steps Leading from Bottom of Hill





# Courtyard Garden





# Lower Entertainment Area

Lake with island



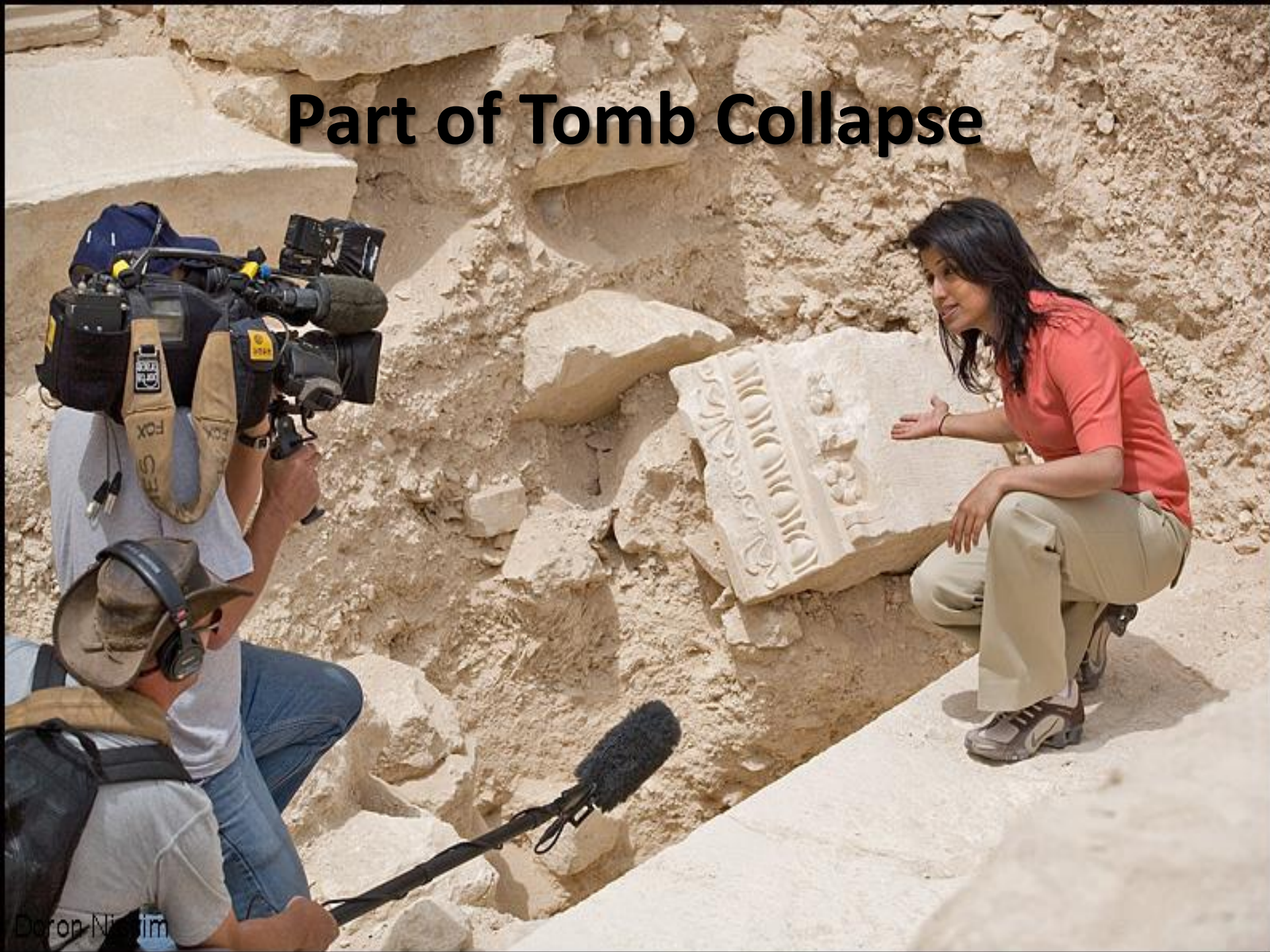


# Platform for Herod's Tomb





# Part of Tomb Collapse







# Remains of Herod's Sarcophagus

