

Devotions with Your Feet

It's not just a tour, it's a journey with eternal benefits.

A Quarterly Newsletter

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"He is not here, He is risen." appears on a sign hanging on the door of the empty tomb near Gordon's Calvary. Reflecting on these words during a recent Easter cantata, we were reminded that while we are unable to reproduce the resurrection, we can demonstrate via archaeology the historicity of this glorious account. Certainly our faith is not dependent upon archaeology, but traveling to biblical lands reminds us of the importance of archaeology in demonstrating the veracity of the Scriptures and testifying to a God who was willing to "dirty his feet" and dwell among us.

In recent days, archaeology once again demonstrated the truthfulness of the Scriptures. We want to highlight a couple of significant discoveries that have come to light within the last year.

• **Findings at the site of Jezreel.** Having been at Jezreel in 2012, we were excited to hear of the new excavations at this Old Testament city. Jezreel was one of the capital cities of the northern kingdom in the Omdide Dynasty 885-814 BC (e.g., Omri, Ahab, and Jehu). This key biblical site found in Israel has been lightly excavated,

despite 7,000 years of valuable historical record. In 2013, both a room and a cistern were found. This room bears a strong architectural similarity to the palace of Ahab and Jezebel at Samaria. It is most likely that the building in question is a part of the buildings erected by Omri and Ahab in Iron Age II.



In addition to this building, a wine press has been found. The account of 1 Kings 21 relays the story of how Queen Jezebel plotted with her husband, King Ahab, to eliminate Naboth and convert his vineyard to a garden for the king's palace.

• **Joshua and the City of Ai.** Most archaeologists locate Joshua's Ai at et-Tell, about 1/2 mile east of the site of Khirbet el-Maqatir.

At et-Tell, there is no indication of an occupation level at the time of Joshua. This has led scholars to reject the historicity of the account of the capture of Ai. In the summer of 2013 a scarab was found that might be the beginning of the end of the controversy. This scarab, according to archaeologists, helps prove that this excavation site could be the location of the Biblical city of Ai, a Canaanite royal city. Previously, pottery had been discovered at the site of Khirbet el-Maqatir that seemed to validate the proposition of Ai, but now the scarab provides even stronger evidence. It enables us to date the site, so now we can narrow the time to the Late Bronze Age, when Pharaoh Amenhotep II was ruling Egypt. This indicates a habitation level at the time of the conquest!



"I know of no finding in archaeology that's properly confirmed which is in opposition to the Scriptures. The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen." ~ Clifford Wilson, former director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology

Upcoming 2014-2015 Tours

We are excited about our upcoming tours for 2014 and 2015. While our tours for 2014 are closed, we would love to have you join us on one of our tours in 2015!



The beautiful Greek coastlines.

☀ Israel Tour ~ May 9-20, 2014
Sponsored by West Bridge Church of Danville, Indiana

In conjunction with Bible Baptist Church of Kokomo, Indiana and Hamilton Hills Baptist Church of Fishers, Indiana, this 12-day tour will focus upon the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Nearly 30 adults are participating in this tour.

☀ Israel Tour ~ June 6-17, 2014
Sponsored by College Park Church of Indianapolis

Due to the popularity of College Park's 2013 Israel tour, the church is hosting another Israel tour in 2014. We are excited to have 42 adults joining us on this journey to the Holy Land!

☀ Israel Tour ~ March 5-15, 2015
Sponsored by Crossroads Bible College

In conjunction with this 11-day tour, Crossroads Bible College will be offering "BI 201 New Testament Backgrounds" in the Fall Semester of 2014. Visit Ancient Tours' website to learn how to enroll in this course and have CBC contribute ALL of your tuition dollars from this three-hour course to the price of your tour!

☀ Retracing the Steps of Paul: A Tour of Turkey and Greece ~ June 2015
Sponsored by College Park Church of Indianapolis



View of the ancient theatre at Ephesus

Sponsored by College Park Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, this tour will retrace the second and third missionary journeys of Paul and will visit all seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3.

☀ Israel Tour ~ July 16-23, 2015

Sponsored by North Avenue Baptist Church of Santa Barbara, California

This 10-day tour will enable you to visit approximately 50 sites, allowing you, not only the opportunity to experience the "typical" tourist spots, but you will also have the joy of seeing much, much more!

☀ Retracing the Steps of Paul: A Tour of Turkey and Greece ~ August 14-25, 2015
Sponsored by Pittsboro Baptist Church of Indiana

After experiencing a wonderful trip to Israel in 2012, Pittsboro Baptist Church of Indiana is hosting another exciting tour as they will retrace the second and third missionary journeys of Paul and will also visit all seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3.

Additional tours are also currently being scheduled for 2015 and 2016. If you are interested in hosting a tour, please feel free to contact us. If you are considering joining us on one of these upcoming journeys, let us encourage you to do so. Come watch the Scriptures turn from black and white to Technicolor!

Blessings to you,
~ Rich and David



Istanbul, once the center of Christianity in the East



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