

REVEALING THE BIBLE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY



UNVEILING *the* Kings of ISRAEL

DAVID DOWN

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UNVEILING *the Rings* of ISRAEL

UNVEILING THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

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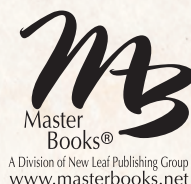
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▲ Assyrian stone carving of Ashurbanipal killing a lion with a spear, demonstrating his strength and prowess.

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Modern-Day Israel

- International Boundary
- Armistice Line, 1949
- District Boundary
- ★ National Capital
- ⊙ District Center
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Other Road

0 50 Km
0 50 Miles



INTRODUCTION

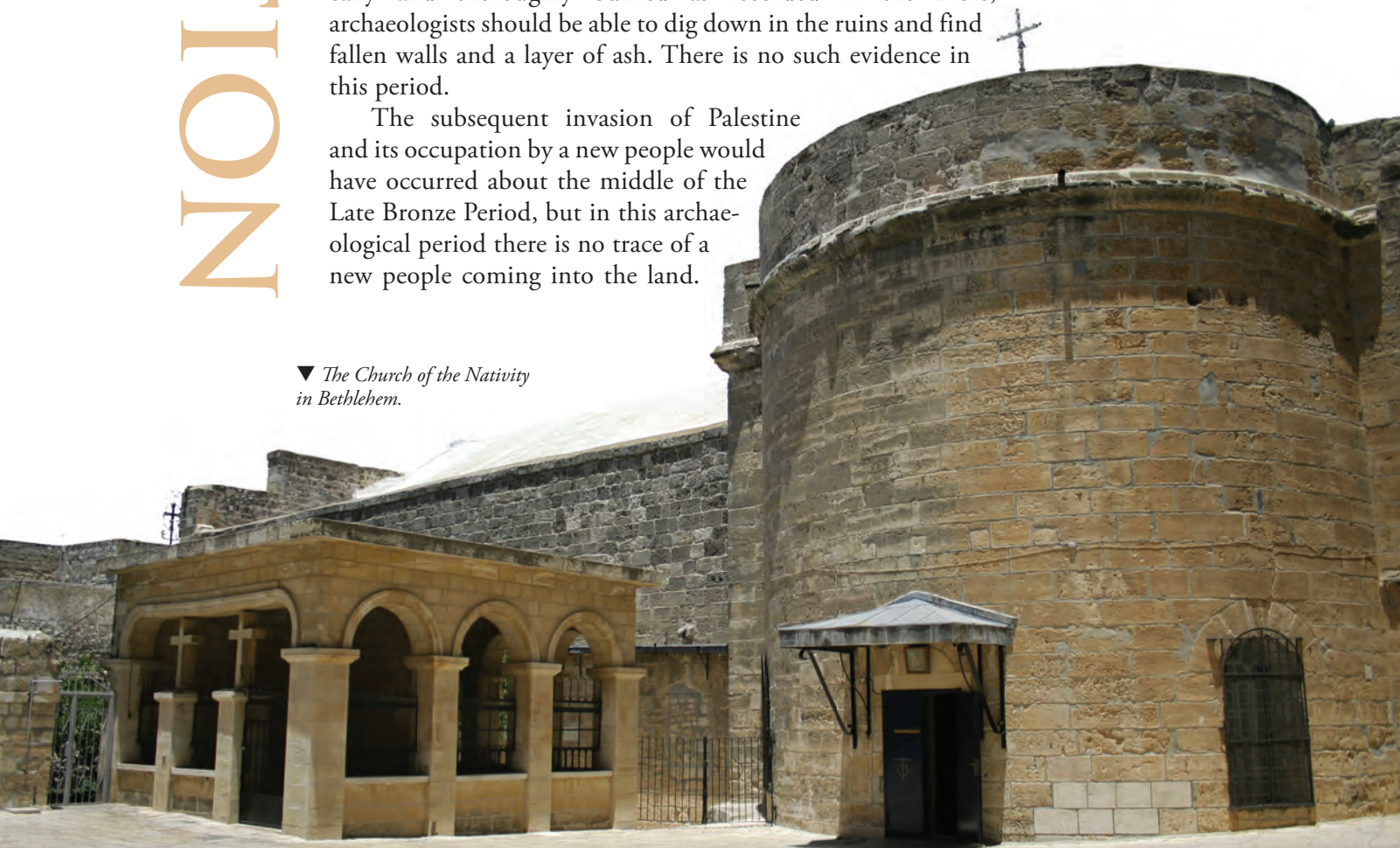
THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE FACES A CRISIS. ITS HISTORICAL reliability is being challenged. Reputable archaeologists have written articles in magazines, and have appeared in television documentaries claiming that there is no evidence for the records of the Israelites leaving Egypt in the Exodus, for the conquest of Jericho and the invasion of Palestine by the incoming Israelites. They further point out that there is no archaeological evidence to support the Bible record of the reigns of David and Solomon, and that the Bible passages telling of the power and affluence of these kings are either totally wrong or greatly exaggerated. Based on the chronology usually ascribed to the history of Egypt, and the archaeological ages in Palestine, one might believe these are correct claims.

The chronological information in the Bible indicates that the Exodus would have occurred about 1445 BC. By the standard chronology of Egypt this would have been during the eighteenth dynasty of Egypt. This was a period of unparalleled power and prosperity. The movements of the Pharaohs and their armies are faithfully recorded. There is no trace of Israelite slave labor during this dynasty. There is no indication of a disaster striking the powerful Egyptian army at this time.

By the Bible chronology, the destruction of Jericho would have occurred about 1405 BC. At this time there is no evidence of fallen walls or a burnt city. If Jericho had been systematically and thoroughly burned as recorded in the Bible, archaeologists should be able to dig down in the ruins and find fallen walls and a layer of ash. There is no such evidence in this period.

The subsequent invasion of Palestine and its occupation by a new people would have occurred about the middle of the Late Bronze Period, but in this archaeological period there is no trace of a new people coming into the land.

▼ *The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.*



If Israel occupied Palestine at this time, archaeologists should be able to find evidence of new pottery styles, ornaments of Egyptian origin, and different burial practices. Such evidence is entirely lacking.

Bible chronology would place David on the throne of Israel about 1010 BC. By archaeological reckoning this would be at the beginning of the Iron Age II Period. Archaeologists digging down into the ruins of biblical cities should be able to find strong walls, stone towers, ornate pottery, and expensive ornaments. Again, this evidence is lacking. In fact the Iron Age II period is one of abject poverty.

So what conclusions should we draw from all this? We are obliged to conclude that the historical records of the Bible are totally unreliable or that the usually accepted chronology is drastically misdated. The history of the kings of Israel as recorded in this book is based on the claim that the usually accepted chronology of Egypt and the archaeological strata in Israel have been grossly

misdated. They need to be redated in some places by up to six hundred years. When this is done a remarkable synchronism can be found between the Bible records and the archaeological evidence. In dynasty twelve in Egypt there is evidence for the existence of large numbers of Semitic slaves who suddenly disappeared. In Israel at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Period there is evidence of a new people arriving and settling down all over the country. Archaeologists found walls in Jericho that had tilted over and a thick layer of ash that extended all over the stricken city. During the ensuing Middle Bronze Period there is abundant evidence of prosperity and power.

Archaeologists who cling to the traditional chronology challenge revisionists with fiddling with the dates, but an examination of the evidence upon which the traditional chronology is based reveals alarming inconsistencies. The traditional dates of Egyptian history have been largely based on the records of an Egyptian priest by the name of Manetho who left a list of dynasties and kings and their

Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, the most important Jewish religious site with al-Aqsa mosque (right) and Dome of the Rock (left) in the background. ▼



lengths of reign. But Manetho lived in the third century BC after the dynasties of Egypt had come to an end. No one can be sure that his records are reliable. There is also the problem that his records do not exist anymore. We only know what he wrote because they were quoted by later historians but how can we be sure they quoted him correctly? We know that in some cases at least they did not quote him correctly because in several cases their records do not agree with each other.

Correctly interpreted the historical records of Egypt and Israel show a remarkable consistency with the Bible records, which we can accept as not only inspiring but also entirely reliable.



Archaeological study at the ruins of Jericho. ►



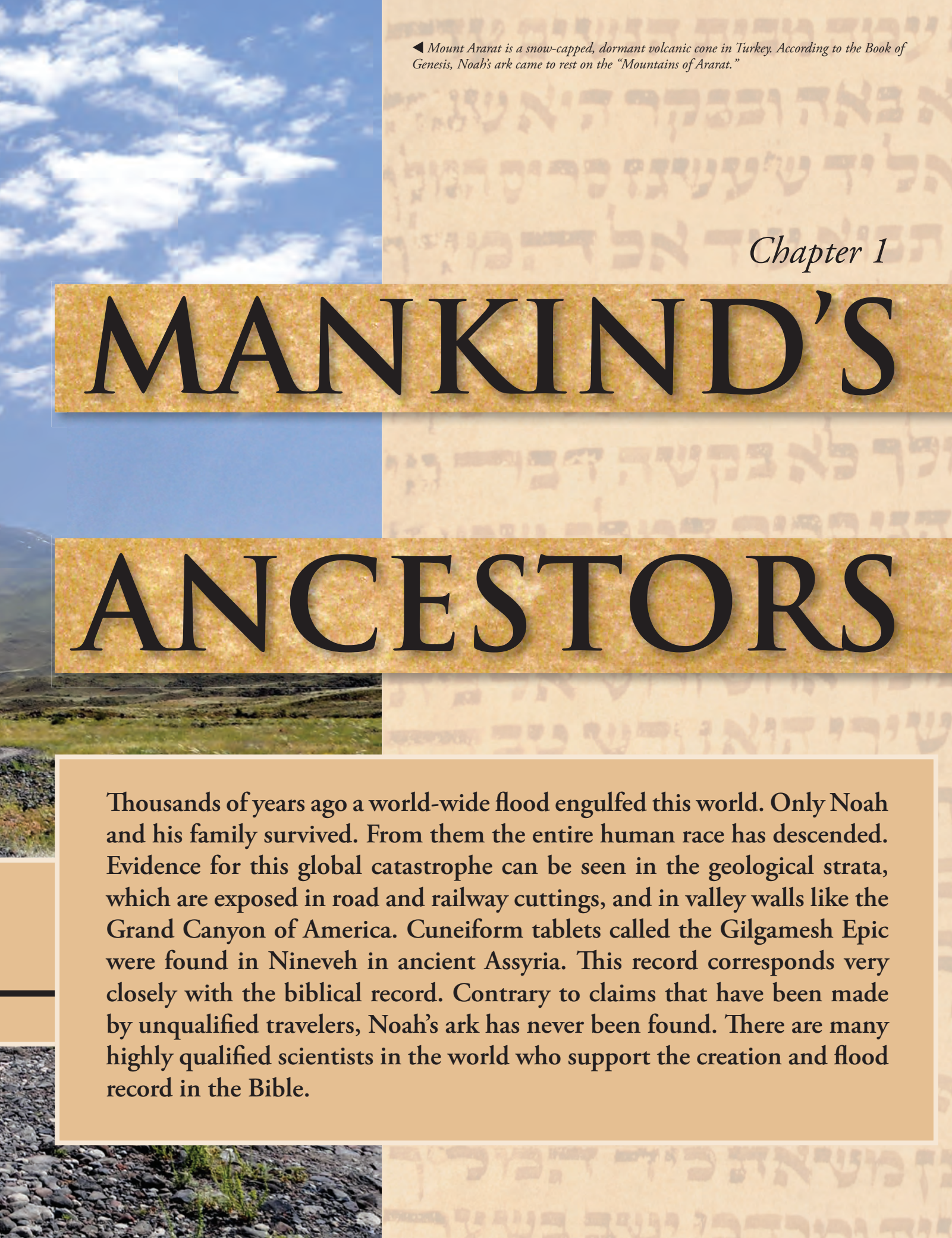


A GLOBAL FLOOD

Evidence and Fossils

Depictions of Noah's ark





◀ Mount Ararat is a snow-capped, dormant volcanic cone in Turkey. According to the Book of Genesis, Noah's ark came to rest on the "Mountains of Ararat."

Chapter 1

MANKIND'S ANCESTORS

Thousands of years ago a world-wide flood engulfed this world. Only Noah and his family survived. From them the entire human race has descended. Evidence for this global catastrophe can be seen in the geological strata, which are exposed in road and railway cuttings, and in valley walls like the Grand Canyon of America. Cuneiform tablets called the Gilgamesh Epic were found in Nineveh in ancient Assyria. This record corresponds very closely with the biblical record. Contrary to claims that have been made by unqualified travelers, Noah's ark has never been found. There are many highly qualified scientists in the world who support the creation and flood record in the Bible.

GENESIS

THE MOST DEVASTATING CATASTROPHE THAT EVER HIT this world was the global deluge recorded in the Book of Genesis in the Bible. “The waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man” (Gen. 7:19–21). Only Noah and his family survived in the huge boat that he had built.

This boat was a remarkable structure. Most translations call it an ark, and artists depict it in the shape of a modern boat, but the Hebrew word from which the word ark is translated literally means “box.” Certainly the ark of the covenant (in which were preserved the Ten Commandments) was an oblong box (Exod. 25:10), and as Noah’s ark did not need to cut through the water or go anywhere, it was probably rectangular in shape. But it was the size that was so staggering: 300 x 50 cubits (about 450 x 75 ft. or 135 x 22 m) (Gen. 6:15) — large enough to accommodate at least two of every kind of land vertebrate that had been created.

FOSSILS AND THE FLOOD

We do not have to look far for evidence that this Flood happened. The geological strata that were laid down after the Flood can be seen in railway and road cuttings through hills. Most geologists would have us believe that these layers of rock gradually accumulated over millions of years, but even a casual observer can see that these strata do not gradually merge into each other, as they would if gradual accumulation had occurred. In most cases there are sharp distinctions between the layers, demonstrating that they were deposited suddenly. No sooner had one layer been deposited than another was dumped on top of it, with no evidence of erosion in those so-called intervening eons.

Moreover, the presence of vast numbers of fossils in these layers provides convincing evidence that life was suddenly obliterated. Fossils are generally not forming today. Animals and fish that die slowly disintegrate. Fossils are usually well preserved, meaning they were suddenly buried. The waters of the Flood eroded and deposited layer upon layer of sand and mud in huge quantities all over the earth, entombing life. These layers soon hardened and turned into rock.

Evolutionists tell us that the strata were laid down over millions of years, burying the fossils as the debris accumulated, starting with the most primitive forms of life and ending with the latest life forms. If that were so, the earliest life forms would all be on the bottom layers and the latest forms on top, with the evolving forms of life ascending in progressive layers. But that is not the way it is.

The earliest fossils found in the rocks are anything but primitive. Every major body plan appeared “suddenly” in what has been called the “Cambrian explosion.” There is no clue to what they could have evolved from. Furthermore, there should be countless transitional forms in the fossil record, but these are missing. And fossils

The Book of Genesis tells how God commanded Noah (a man of righteousness) to build the ark to save himself, his family, and the animals of the world from a worldwide flood that would destroy all life. ▼

