

## Archeology of Genesis

March 8, 2014 - GBS

One broadens their understanding of the bible by first reading the bible cover to cover to get the general knowledge of what's in the bible. What's next? Next is to go deeper.

How does one go deep? Thru Archeology. Archeology is a study of the past thru artifacts pulled from the ground. The history of the nations prior to the Greeks were lost in history. The bible contained the history of those nations prior to the deciphering of the cuneiform. The cuneiform that was used for over 3,000 years could not be read prior to the middle 1800s.



Biblical Archeologist E Raymond Capt in his *Biblical Antiquities book 1* speaks about an archeological find that deepened the understanding of the book of Genesis after the decoding of the cuneiform writing occurred.

In 1851 a treasure trove of history was discovered by Archaeologist Austen Henry Layard<sup>2</sup>:

Biblical Antiquities Book I, E. Raymond Capt, ISBN 0-934666-59-8, "The Bible and Archaeology"

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One of the earliest discoveries, and perhaps the most important insofar as shedding light on the Bible, was made by a young Englishman by the name of *Austen Henry Layard*. Excavating a mound on the west bank of the River Tigris, he discovered it to be the site of ancient Ninevah, the most famous capital city of Assyria.



In two small rooms he found stores of clay tablets inscribed all over with curious arrow-shaped writing, which we now call cuneiform.

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There are dowry and marriage contracts, partnership agreements, records of debts, promissory notes, leases of land, houses, slaves, deeds of transfer of all kinds of property and mortgages...

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The Rt Hon **Sir Austen Henry Layard** [GCB](#) (5 March 1817 – 5 July 1894) was an English traveller, archaeologist, cuneiformist, art historian, draughtsman, collector, author, politician and diplomat, best known as the excavator of [Nimrud](#) and of [Niniveh](#), where he uncovered in 1851 the [library of Ashurbanipal](#).



The library of Ashurbanipal contained 30,000 tablets but in 1851 cuneiform was still not fully understood. "Successful completion of its decipherment is dated to 1857"<sup>1</sup>

Biblical Antiquities Book I, E. Raymond Capt, ISBN 0-934666-59-8 "Genesis, Part One" p40

These clay cuneiform tablets were made by the use of a wedge stylus of metal or wood, marking soft clay which later dried hard in the sun, or had been baked in an oven for hardening. These signs were made up of single wedges placed parallel and at various angles to each other. By this means nearly six hundred entirely independent and distinct signs were made by the use of two and thirty wedges.

The Hebrew verb, “to write”, means “to cut in,” a reference to the original method of writing on clay tablets. When Israel had crossed over into Sinai, and immediately after their battle with Amalek, we read in Exodus, chapter 17, verse 14. “And the Lord, said unto Moses, write this for a memorial in a book.” After God had given the covenant to him on Mount Sinai, we read: “And the Lord said unto Moses, write thou these words,” and he wrote upon the tablets the words of the covenant, Exodus, chapter 34, verses 27 and 28.

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Ordinarily, a clay tablet were made of sufficient size to contain all the writing to be inscribed. But in some instances this was only achieved by using a small stylus, thus enabling a larger number of words to be written in the limited space available...

When, however, the lengthy nature of the writing required more than one tablet, it was just as necessary then as it is today to preserve the proper sequence of the pages of the letters or books, especially when a considerable number of tablets were required to complete the series.

This was achieved by the use of “titles, numbering and catch lines.” The title was taken from the first words of the first tablet, and these were repeated at the end of each subsequent tablet, followed by the serial number of that tablet, just as a page is numbered.

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Another literary aid is seen in that many tablets ended with a **colophon**. This was the equivalent of the modern title page. However, on ancient tablets it was placed at the end of the written matter instead of at the beginning, as is now done. This colophon frequently included, among other things, **the name of the scribe who wrote the tablet, and the date when it was written...**

Using the knowledge of how the cuneiform tablets were created E Raymond Capt goes into looking into the bible, He points out that Moses, the compiler of the book of Genesis, left within Genesis telltale signs indicating that the book of Genesis was a compilation of tablets bearing the colophon of who wrote it.

The colophon of the book of Genesis is the phrase: “These are the Generations of...”. This phrase indicates the end of the tablet(s). The person or scribe writing the tablet would be listed such as Adam in Gen 5:1 ”This is the book of the **generations of Adam...**”

In order to join a tablet written by one scribe to another tablet written by another scribe then a consistent technique was employed. Adam finished his tablet in Gen 5:2. Gen 6:9 shows that Noah is the writer of the next tablet. Noah joins his tablet to Adam’s tablet by placing a genealogy from Adam to him at the beginning of his (Noah’s) tablet. This genealogy from Adam to Noah is found in Gen 5:3–32.

Table 1: Tablet begin – end – scribe - genealogy

Tablet begins	Tablet Ends	These are the Generations .. (Scribe of Tablet)	Tablet connecting by genealogy to prior Tablet	Verse noting place when tablet completed
Gen 1:1	Gen 2:4	Of Heaven and the Earth		
Gen 2:4	Gen 5:2	Of Adam	Gen 2:5-7	
Gen 5:3	Gen 6:9	Of Noah	Gen 5:3–32	
Gen 6:10	Gen 10:1	Sons of Noah	Gen 6:10	
Gen 10:2	Gen 11:10	Of Shem	Gen 10:2–21	
Gen 11:10	Gen 11:27	Of Terah	Gen 11:10-26	
Gen 11:27	Gen 25:7	Abraham	Gen 11:27-31	
Gen 25:8	Gen 25:12	Of Ishmael		
Gen 25:13	Gen 25:19	Of Isaac	Gen 25:13-19	Gen 25:11
Gen 25:19	Gen 36:1	Of Esau	Gen 25:25	
Gen 36:2	Gen 36:9	of Esau		Gen 36:8
Gen 36:10	Gen 37:2	Of Jacob	Gen 35:29	Gen 37:1
Gen 37:2	Gen 50:25	Israel/Joseph	Gen 37:2-3	
Gen 50:26		Joseph?		
Ex 1:1	Num 3:1	Of Aaron and Moses	Ex 1:1 – Ex 2:10	
Num 3:2		Eleazar and Ithamar	Num 3:2 - 4	

### **What’s the significance of this?**

1) The bible is shown to have been recorded by eye witnesses recording what they saw and heard. The book of Genesis is not verbal “hear-say” stories handed down from one generation to another but historical recordings on clay tablets of first hand eye-witness accounts of the events unfolding. Eye witness accounts overturn the JEDP<sup>3</sup> method of looking at Genesis.

2) God ensured that the information that was recorded was in the language and method of that tablet time span. Babylonian words were used when the writer of the tablet was in the Babylon area and Egyptian words show up when another scribe was living in Egypt.

3) The scribe doesn’t record events outside his time view or understanding. Noah records that “And Enoch walked with God, and he was no more seen: for God took him away” – Gen5:24. Where did God take Enoch? Noah doesn’t record where because Noah saw Enoch walk with God and then saw Enoch no more. Enoch didn’t go to heaven since Jesus stated in John3:13...

**Joh 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

*(this would include Elijah also who was taken away someplace which Elisha knew not – 2Kg2:11,16-18)*

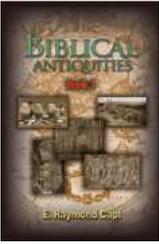
4) The writing on clay tablets using some form of cuneiform script is much difference than the style written in Egypt using Papyrus and Paleo-Hebrew (pre-Babylonian exile) and post-Babylonian Hebrew. Moses compiled the tablets together maybe translating the cuneiform type script of Adam to Jacob to the modern style.

5) the writer of Numbers can be determined in Num3:2 when the sons of Aaron genealogy is given and no other showing that Numbers after 3:2 was written by either/both of Aaron’s sons: Eleazar & Ithamar.

6) The writing techniques of the tablet weren’t known for many millenniums. A book’s age can be roughly determined based of its correct usage of a lost writing style or technique.

Mr Capt describes a writing style of concealing information (hiding) on a tablet:

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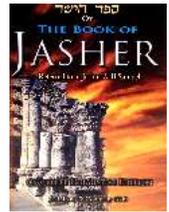


It is interesting to note that many tablets dealing with matters of business, or sometimes personal correspondence matters of business, or **sometimes personal correspondence were kept private by encasing them in a thin layer of clay which served the purpose of an envelope**. On this cover would be the name of the individual addressed, and **the seal of the sender was impressed on the back**. In the case of commercial documents, contracts, bills and inventories, the **"envelope"** served against forgery. Sometimes the contents were duplicated on the cover so that they could be checked, or a dispute could be resolved without having to open the envelope.

The how and why knowledge of tablets, which were lost for thousands of years and now rediscovered, can help determine the authenticity of books referenced in the bible. The book of Jasher is mentioned in Joshua 10:13 & 2 Sam 1:18.

**2Sa 1:18** And he bade them teach the children of Judah **the song of the bow**: behold, it is written in the **book of Jasher**.

**Jos 10:13** And **the sun stood still, and the moon stayed**, until the nation had avenged themselves of their enemies. Is not this written in the **book of Jasher**? And the sun stayed in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.



Many people throw out Jasher just by a passed down prejudice without knowing what is contained inside (judging a book by its cover). At the very least those people should confirm if the book of Jasher contains the information that the bible passage said should be present. This should be verification 101.

There are several different versions of the book of Jasher that one can buy. The one I have contains "the song of the bow" in Jasher LXXXIX:1-22 and the sun and moon standing still in Jasher LXXXVIII:63-65 giving a little more authority that at least this Jasher has the basic, minimum level information which the bible says should be in Jasher. If another version doesn't have this then that version is false because it doesn't meet the minimum standards.

The book of Jasher also records how the people recorded their transactions of property and title. Abraham bought the cave to bury Sarah his wife in Gen23:16. He recorded the transaction in a book with four witnesses - Jasher XXIV:7,9. The writing style of the time: clay tablets.

**Gen 23:16** Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had **named in the hearing of the Hittites**, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

Jasher XXIV:7,9 (p65)

7. And Ephron and all his brethren heard this, and Abraham weighed to Ephron four hundred shekels of silver in the hands of all his brethren; and Abraham **wrote this transaction, and he wrote and testified it with four witnesses**.

9. And Abraham took the book of the purchase, and placed it in his treasures, and these are the words that Abraham wrote in the book, namely:

Esau sells his birthright in Gen 25:30-33 which is also described in Jasher XXVII:12-14 where Jacob records the transaction in a book with witnesses.

**Gen 25:30** And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!"  
(Therefore his name was called Edom.)

**Gen 25:31** Jacob said, "**Sell me your birthright now**."

Gen 25:32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"

Gen 25:33 Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.

Jasher XXVII:12-14 (p72)

12. And he said unto his brother Jacob, Behold I shall die this day, and wherefore then do I want the birthright? And Jacob acted wisely with Esau in this matter, and Esau sold his birthright to Jacob, for it was so brought about by the Lord.

13. And Esau's portion in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham had bought from the children of Heth for the possession of a burial ground, Esau also sold to Jacob, and Jacob bought all this from his brother Esau for value given,

14. And Jacob wrote the whole of this in a book, and he testified the same with witnesses, and he sealed it, and the book remained in the hands of Jacob.

In Gen 35:29 Isaac dies. In Jasher XLVII:25,26,29 Jacob presents all of Isaac's possessions in front of Esau or the title of the land and ask Esau to choose which one he wanted. Esau chose Isaacs possessions and Jacob got the cave and title, law and history books. Jacob recorded all things in a book with witnesses.

Jasher XLVII:25,26,29 (p139)

25. Jacob also took from his brother Esau the cave of Machpelah, which is in Hebron, which Abraham had bought from Ephron for a possession of a burial place for him and his seed for ever.

26. And Jacob wrote all these things in the book of purchase, and he signed it, and he testified all this with four faithful witnesses.

29. And Jacob took the book of purchase and the signature, the command and the statues and the revealed book, and he placed them in an earthen vessel in order that they should remain for a long time, and he delivered them into the hands of his children



The most compelling instance of Jasher showing information a forger could not have known at the time is found in Jasher LVI:53-57 which Esau stands up to Joseph when he returned to bury Jacob (Israel) in the cave where Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca were buried – Gen50:11-13. In Jasher, Esau denies that he sold the cave to Jacob. Joseph tells Naphtali to go back to Egypt and bring back “the sealed record and open record”

Gen 50:11 When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.

Gen 50:12 Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them,

Gen 50:13 for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place..

Jasher LVI:53-57 (p174)

53. And Esau answered, saying, Thou speakest falsely and utterest lies, for I sold not anything belonging to me in all this land, as thou sayest, neither did my brother Jacob buy aught belonging to me in this land.

54. And Esau spoke these things in order to deceive Joseph with his words, for Esau knew that Joseph was not present in those days when Esau sold all belonging to him in the land of Canaan to Jacob.

55. And Joseph said unto Esau, Surely my father inserted these things with thee in the record of purchase, and testified the record with witnesses, and behold it is with us in Egypt.

56. And Esau answered, saying unto him, Bring the record, all that thou wilt find in the record, all that thou wilt find in the record, so will we do.

57. And Joseph called unto Naphtali his brother, and he said, Hasten quickly, stay not, and run I pray thee to Egypt and bring **all the records; the records; the record of the purchase, the sealed record and the open record**, and also all the first records in which all the transactions of the birth-right are written, fetch thou.



Mr Capt previously mentioned that the:

**“personal correspondence were kept private by encasing them in a thin layer of clay which served the purpose of an envelope”** and

**“the seal of the sender was impressed on the back.”**

**“Sometimes the contents were duplicated on the cover so that they could be checked, or a dispute could be resolved without having to open the envelope”**

This sounds exactly what Joseph was asking Naphtali to go get – the sealed record and the open record. The Pseudo-Jasher (one translated from Hebrew) has been around (according to the “internet”) since 1621 and being translated into English in 1840. If cuneiform wasn’t successfully translated until 1857 – 17 years before knowing what’s on the Assyrian/Babylonian tablets then a forger couldn’t have known to add the practice of sealed and open records. This is especially true if the 1621 version also refers to the sealed and open records – 200+ years prior the discovery of the library.

I believe this gives additional weight pointing to that this particular book of Jasher might be the actual book referenced by the bible by:

- 1) Both scripture verses listed in the bible are located in the book of Jasher.
- 2) The writing style matches the discovery in the unearthed clay tablets of the hidden/open records mentioned in Jasher.

Any book that the bible refers must also not contradict the bible. There are some Jasher versions that contradict the bible but the one I have does not. The book gives more information of the events recorded in the bible.

Archeology gives weight to some books as being valid by its use of long since forgotten knowledge that a modern forger would not have known since that knowledge hadn’t been rediscovered yet. Archeology gives greater insight of the books of the bible such as the 12 different writers of the Torah.

Again, true science confirms the bible and overturns the ‘claims’ of the skeptics attempting to disprove the bible as a collection of stories. Jesus gives the wicked enough rope to hang themselves and sits back and laughs at their pride – Ps2:4

RSV Psalms 2:4 **He who sits in the heavens laughs**; the Lord has them in derision.

Regards,  
David O'Malley

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim  
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 +Rm10:9 +Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

#### 2014 Completed Bible studies

- 1/1/14 – The 3 themes of Christmas
- 1/18/14 -The bible vs. the Churches (G)
- 1/26/14 - Where are all the miracles? (G)
- 2/6/14 - Second round Prophet
- 2/14/14 – In the Beginning...
- 3/8/14 – Archeology of Genesis (G)

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuneiform>

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austen\\_Henry\\_Layard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austen_Henry_Layard)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cresourcei.org/jedp.html>

2Ki 2:11 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And **Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**

2Ki 2:16 And they said to him, "Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. **It may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.**" And he said, "You shall not send."

2Ki 2:17 But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send." They sent therefore fifty men. And for three days they sought him but did not find him.

2Ki 2:18 And they came back to him while he was staying at Jericho, and he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go?'"

#### **Locations of where the tablet was written.**

RSV Genesis 25:11 After the death of Abraham God blessed Isaac his son. **And Isaac dwelt at Beer-lahai-roi.**

RSV Genesis 36:8 So **Esau dwelt in the hill country of Seir;** Esau is Edom.

RSV Genesis 37:1 **JACOB DWELT** in the land of his father's sojournings, **in the land of Canaan.**

#### **Some of the books besides Jasher mentioned in the bible:**

RSV Numbers 21:14 Wherefore it is said in the **Book of the Wars of the Lord**, "Waheb in Suphah, and the valleys of the Arnon,

RSV 1 Chronicles 29:29 Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the **Chronicles of Samuel the seer**, and in the **Chronicles of Nathan the prophet**, and in the **Chronicles of Gad the seer**,

RSV 1 Kings 14:29 Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the **Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?**

RSV 1 Kings 4:32 He also uttered **three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five.**

RSV Titus 1:12 One of themselves, **a prophet of their own**, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."