



# King Solomon's Cities: Text, Archaeology and Polemics

## Who are the (Biblical) Archaeologists in your Neighborhood?

**Eshtori HaParhi 1280-1355**, Spain and France to Israel. Author of the book Kaftor vaPerach, one of the first writers to study geography, topography and places in Eretz Yisrael in a scientific manner.

**Sir William Flinders Petrie 1853-1942**, England, Egypt, Israel. One of the first Egyptologists, discovered the Merneptah stele, first to understand the significance of stratigraphy and pottery in dating sites. His wife Hilda worked with him and was involved with the study of writing at Serabit al Khadem in Sinai.

**William Foxwell Albright 1891-1971**, United States. Directed the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, excavated many important Biblical sites like Tel el Ful, Bet El as well as sites in the Sinai and Jordan. Many of his students became prominent archaeologists. Followed Biblical chronology and the evidence of the Bible.

**Yigal Yadin 1917-1984** Israel. Son of the prominent archaeologist Eliezer Sukienik. Commander in the War of Independence, Israel's second Chief of Staff. After his army service, he became an archaeologist and excavated at Masada, Hatzor, Megiddo, found the Bar Kokhba letters. Used the Bible as a guide to his archaeology.

**Israel Finkelstein 1949-**, Israel. Professor at Tel Aviv University, excavated at Shilo, Megiddo and other sites. A proponent of "low chronology," that the Iron Age started later than is generally accepted. Says the stories of David and Solomon are written centuries after they are said to happen and reflect a later reality.

**Eilat Mazar 1956- 2021**, Israel. Part of a prominent Israeli archaeological dynasty (granddaughter of Benjamin Mazar and cousin of Ami Mazar). She dug at Akhziv, City of David and in the Ophel. She sees the Bible as a guide to her discoveries and says she has found Solomon's Wall of Jerusalem and David's palace.[gg](http://www.ynet.com)

## Solomon's Cities

"And this is the account of the levy which King Solomon raised to build the house of the Lord and his own house and Millo and the **wall of Jerusalem** and Hazor and Megiddo and Gezer." (Kings I 9:15)

## An Expensive Wedding Present

"Pharaoh King of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer and burnt it with fire. . . and given it for a portion unto his daughter, Solomon's wife." (Kings I 9:16)

## **No Longer United**

When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered the king:  
“We have no portion in David,

No share in Jesse’s son!

To your tents, O Israel!

Now look to your own House, O David.”

So the Israelites returned to their homes. But Rehoboam continued to reign over the Israelites who lived in the towns of Judah. King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the forced labor, but all Israel pelted him to death with stones. Thereupon King Rehoboam hurriedly mounted his chariot and fled to Jerusalem. Thus Israel revolted against the House of David, as is still the case. When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent messengers and summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the House of David. (Kings I 12: 16-20)

## **And No Longer One Temple**

Jeroboam said to himself, “Now the kingdom may well return to the House of David. If these people still go up to offer sacrifices at the House of the LORD in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will turn back to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me and go back to King Rehoboam of Judah.” So the king took counsel and made two golden calves. He said the people,<sup>d</sup> “You have been going up to Jerusalem long enough. This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!” He set up one in Bethel and placed the other in Dan. That proved to be a cause of guilt, for the people went to worship [the calf at Bethel and] the one at Dan. He also made cult places and appointed priests from the ranks of the people who were not of Levite descent. He stationed at Bethel the priests of the shrines that he had appointed to sacrifice to the calves that he had made. And Jeroboam established a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month; in imitation of the festival in Judah, he established one at Bethel, and he ascended the altar [there]. On the fifteenth day of the eighth month—the month in which he had contrived of his own mind to establish a festival for the Israelites—Jeroboam ascended the altar that he had made in Bethel. (Kings I 12:26-33)