

THE OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE SEMINARY

# THE SENTINEL



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## The Sentinel

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## ABOUT US

The Bible Seminary (TBS) is an independent, non-denominational, 501(c)(3) charitable institution of higher education incorporated in Texas in 2010 to offer training for laity and vocational ministry professionals. Programs include Bible Certificate, Licensed Professional, Dual Degree Completion, Master of Arts, and Master of Divinity. TBS exists to glorify God by training Christian believers in a context of biblical community in all 66 books of the Bible so that they can serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God's Spirit.

## ACCREDITATION

In January 2018, TBS completed the application process for the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and attained Applicant Status, defined as an institution which has an application approved by the Applicant Review Committee (ARC) after hosting a successful staff visit and responding positively to the staff report and recommendations. This is not a formal status nor does it ensure eventual accreditation. Questions about Applicant Status may be directed to the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), 15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: 434.525.9539; Email: info@tracs.org.

## AFFILIATION

TBS is an Affiliate institution of The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). As such, it participates in and contributes to collegial and professional development activities of the Association. Affiliate status does not, however, constitute, imply, or presume ABHE accredited status at present or in the future.

## ADMISSIONS

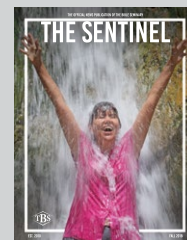
The Bible Seminary admits students of any race, sex, color, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Seminary. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its hiring policies, educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs. For more information, contact Dr. Scott Stripling, Provost, or visit "Admissions" at TheBibleSeminary.org.

## DONATIONS

Donations are charitable and tax deductible as allowed by law. For more information, contact the office or visit "Support" at TheBibleSeminary.org.

The Sentinel is a bi-annual publication distributed free to family and friends of The Bible Seminary. Article ideas, news and photos may be submitted for consideration for publication to info@TheBibleSeminary.org.

## THEBIBLESEMINARY.ORG



## ABOUT THE COVER

Esmeralda Heer, TBS MDiv graduate and Spanish Adjunct Bible Certificate Instructor, standing in the footsteps of David at one of the En Gedi oasis waterfalls. Formerly a hideout from King Saul (1 Samuel 23 and 24), En Gedi is now a nature reserve on the western edge of the Dead Sea near Masada and the Qumran Caves.

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## Leadership

Heidi Arneson ..... Chair  
 Doug Johnson ..... Vice-Chair  
 Steve Wood ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
 George Armistead  
 Robert Button  
 Rebecca Klein  
 Jim Leggett  
 Leonard Merrell  
 Downy Vickery

Dr. K. Lynn Lewis ..... President  
 Dr. Scott Stripling ..... Provost  
 Rick McCalip ..... Vice-President of Finance and Administration  
 Dr. J. Paul Nyquist ..... Dean of Graduate Programs, and full-time faculty  
 Dr. Doug Petrovich ..... Dean of the Bible Certificate Program, and full-time faculty (Adjunct Faculty, see current list online)  
 Dobie Weise ..... Business Manager  
 Coby Jackson ..... Administrative Coordinator/Registrar  
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 David Gamboa ..... Videographer  
 Samantha Rude ..... Marketing and Student Life Coordinator  
 Susan Verzani ..... Accounting Clerk

TBS BOARD

TBS STAFF

# CULTIVATING WORLD

# *Changers*

BY SAMANTHA JACKSON RUDE



Members of Master's Vessel Ministry celebrating with their pastor, Uche Emenike, at his TBS graduation.

Photo by MD Turner Photography

## WHATEVER IS

TRUE  
HONORABLE  
JUST  
PURE  
LOVELY  
COMMENDABLE

IF THERE IS ANY EXCELLENCE, IF THERE IS ANYTHING WORTHY OF PRAISE, THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS. WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND RECEIVED AND HEARD AND SEEN IN ME—PRACTICE THESE THINGS, AND THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU.

*Philippians 9:8-9*

## *The Bible Seminary*

### MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

## OBJECTIVES

- » To equip students with in-depth background and content knowledge of all 66 biblical books.
- » To expose students to the major theological concepts and doctrines.
- » To teach students the major personalities and events of church history.
- » To prepare students for success in ministry and/or doctoral studies.
- » To expose students to a wide array of ministerial duties.
- » To enable students to maintain a healthy balance between family and ministry.
- » To equip students to use the original biblical languages in their preaching and teaching.



**D**esigned to teach all 66 books of the Bible in-depth over a three-year course of study, the rigorous TBS Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program is designed to outfit believers with vital tools for long-term, life-changing ministry. The newest TBS MDiv alumni successfully completed 32 graduate-level courses totaling 96-credit hours.

Summa Cum Laude graduate and Valedictorian, Angela McClinton, treasures her time at TBS. She previously earned a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education at Texas A&M, and a Master's in Library Science from Sam Houston State University. In her TBS graduation speech, McClinton eloquently highlighted a fundamental purpose of TBS: to change the

to fulfill a part of that grand vision. An anointed teacher of the Word of God gifted with incredible skills of communication, when she's not dropping song beats with her husband, Jordan (Worship Pastor at The Waters Church in Katy), or helping make their three girls' dreams come true, Angela serves as the newly-appointed Executive Pastor of The Waters Church. Given the exemplary manner in which she has conducted herself in all aspects of her educational journey, we look with hopeful anticipation towards her future as a capable and called leader in the body of Christ. You, Angela, are a world-changer.

Magna Cum Laude graduate, Uche Emenike, began his seminary journey after his pastor unexpectedly announced from

Ministry, a thriving non-denominational body of believers in Sugar Land, Texas. When his wife, Vivian, poked him in the side and asked, "When were you going to tell me?" Uche answered, "This is first I've heard about it!" After the service, when Uche expressed his surprise and lack of training, he and his pastor prayed for training opportunities, and the very next day they received a postcard in the mail from The Bible Seminary (TBS) announcing the new MDiv program.

Uche enrolled in the very first TBS class in September 2012. During the last six years, he and his wife have had two children, and he has continued to work full-time as a CPA at Odunze & Associates, PC in Houston. A 1988 graduate of the University of Nigeria with Bachelor of Science in Management, Uche is a registered CPA in Nigeria (1998, 2000) and in Texas (2011). Uche has a keen intelligence and a desire for excellence in his understanding and presentation of the Word of God. His respect and reverence for the Lord and the Scriptures have inspired and encouraged countless students to go deeper both intellectually and spiritually in their pursuit of Christ and preparation for ministry. His leadership is filled with

**“ WHEN I DECIDED TO GO TO SEMINARY, I WAS HOPING TO DISCOVER HOW TO BECOME A LIFE-LONG STUDENT OF THE WORD AND HOW TO BEST MINISTER TO OTHERS. I GOT THAT, AND SO MUCH MORE! THROUGH EVERY SINGLE CLASS I TOOK, THE LORD SHOWED ME MORE OF HIMSELF, MORE OF THE HEART OF A PASTOR, AND MORE ABOUT HOW SCHOLARSHIP MUST BE MARRIED TO GENUINE CHRISTIAN LIVING IN ORDER FOR IT TO MAKE AN ETERNAL IMPACT. ”** - Angela McClinton

world for the glory of God. She recounted the vision of reaching “one million souls” for the Gospel, and testified to how God has called her, and each TBS student,

the pulpit on a Sunday morning that he was returning to lead their consortium of ministries in Africa and that Uche would be the new pastor of The Master's Vessel

*The newest alumni*



*Angela McClinton*  
SUMMA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE  
AND VALEDICTORIAN



*Uche Emenike*  
MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE



intellect, integrity and intentionality; he is surely a good shepherd leading a flock

exceptional God-is-love-perspective shape and color her presentation of the Gospel.

Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church, and chairs the Trustees at Mission Bend United Methodist Church. She has also served as a leader in charity and service organizations related to Christian education at Mission Bend Christian Academy, her own cancer diagnoses and treatments, and autism in association with their son, John. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Mickey is leading new generations into the glory of God's Kingdom. She is a truth-seeker sharing the Gospel with conviction and humility and armed with an unshakable confidence in and understanding of the Word of God. You, Mickey, are a world-changer.

“ONE OF THE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT TBS IS THAT WHAT I LEARN ON WEDNESDAY SHOWS UP IN THE PULPIT ON SUNDAY!” — Uche Emerike

of faithful believers. You, Uche, are a world-changer.

Magna Cum Laude graduate, Karen Coolidge, also began her seminary journey with the first class in 2012. Coolidge has lived across the U.S. and ministered across the globe from Indiana to Indonesia seeking to live out John 13:35, “This is how they will know you . . . by your love for one another.” Daughter, wife, mother, sister, and friend, Karen personifies this passionate commitment to love and serve the Lord and others with all she is and all she has, a biblical standard and TBS graduate benchmark. Countless students, faculty, and staff have been deeply moved and blessed by her genuine love and acts of service, including a significant pause in her seminary studies as she journeyed with their family through the leukemia diagnosis of her son and challenging journey of ultimately successful treatment. Her insight into the Word of God, and her

She speaks of Christ in a sincere way that enables people to accept His truth like a warm embrace. Karen is a vital member of the prayer and worship movement and truly possesses a heart like her Father's, willing to leave the 99 and recklessly pursue the one. You, Karen, are a world-changer.

Summa Cum Laude graduate Mickey Ellis is also a vibrant leader of the prayer and worship movement within the West Houston/Katy community. Leading the Freedom and Healing team at the Great Southwest Prayer Center, she has a burning passion for the liberation of God's people from sin, and their invitation into new life. Ellis exercises her seminary training in various avenues of ministry within her home church communities, the city, and as an intercessor for saints throughout the world. Co-founder with her husband, Mike, and Board member of Alta Mesa Services, Oil & Gas Exploration and Production company, Mickey serves on the Board of the

The TBS philosophy of education includes cultivating world-changers by equipping and empowering them with the Word of God to serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission. These MDiv graduates embody TBS's educational and spiritual objectives; have excelled in the classroom, marketplace, and in ministry; and will continue to do so in the future. Our prayer for these graduates is that they would go confidently into their futures as ambassadors of Christ changing the world for God's glory and ushering in the reign of the King. TBS



*Karen Coolidge*  
MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE



*Mickey Ellis*  
SUMMA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE



THE BIBLE SEMINARY CELEBRATES

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# New Graduates

BY KAREN COOLIDGE, 2018 MDiv Graduate of TBS | Photos by MD Turner Photography

Main  
Campus



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The Bible Seminary (TBS) of Katy, Texas celebrated their 2018 Commencement at Katy Community Fellowship on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Officiated by TBS President Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Provost Dr. Scott Stripling, Professor Dr. Doug Petrovich, and Board Chair Heidi Arneson, sixteen graduates received recognition for their achievements.

Twelve students received Bible Certificates following successful completion of the seminary's non-degree Bible Certificate program, including five Spanish language graduates who represent the first-ever TBS/ESB students to complete the course sequence in Spanish. Four students received Master of Divinity (MDiv) degrees and were commissioned following successful completion of the original 96-credit hour graduate program.

TBS offered its first Bible Certificate class in 2008 and incorporated as an independent, non-denominational institution of higher education in 2010. Graduate classes began in September 2012 with twelve pioneering graduate students, the first eight of whom graduated in 2015. Hundreds of students from more than 60 churches have taken at least one TBS class since 2008.

"We rejoice in our 59 total graduates, so far," says President Lewis, "as we continue our mission to graduate at least 5000 persons who each reach at least 200 people and together positively impact more than 1 million lives." Alumni include 45 with Bible Certificates, 13 who earned a MDiv degree, and 1 who earned a Master of Arts (MA) degree.

Beginning with the 2018 academic year, a MDiv degree will only require 84-credit hours, and new MA program majors include Biblical History and Archaeology (60-credit hours), Biblical Languages and Culture (54-credit hours), Biblical Studies (60-credit hours), and Church History and Theology (48-credit hours). The seminary also offers a Dual Degree Completion program for those who have not yet completed a bachelor's degree and a Licensed Professional program for persons interested in core ministry leadership training but not necessarily seeking a graduate degree.

In partnership with local churches and ministries, fall semester classes are currently underway in eight northwest, southwest, and west Houston locations. The main campus is located at 2655 South Mason Road, Katy, TX 77450. 





(L-R, front) Dr. Linda Pattillo, Adjunct Faculty; Dr. Scott Stripling, Provost; Dr. Doug Petrovich, Faculty; Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, President; Nestor Martinez, Bible Certificate graduate.  
 (L-R, back) Esmeralda Heer, Adjunct Faculty; Rosalina Jimenez, Bible Certificate graduate; Malena Magallon, Bible Certificate graduate; Carolina Martinez, Bible Certificate graduate; Mickey Ellis, M.Div. graduate; Uche Emenike, M.Div. graduate; Karen Coolidge, M.Div. graduate; Monica Ochoa, Bible Certificate graduate; Heidi Arneson, TBS Board Chair; and Angela McClinton, M. Div. graduate.  
 Other Bible Certificate graduates not shown include Tharon Bogany, Shamra Boggs, Sheila Dailey, Chinedu Emegwa, Darla Kerkemeyer, Barby Martinez, and Stephanie Stinebower.



(L-R, front) Mickey Ellis, Summa Cum Laude; Uchechukwu C. Emenike, Magna Cum Laude; Angela Nicole McClinton, Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian; and Karen Wallace Coolidge, Magna Cum Laude.  
 (L-R, back) Esmeralda Heer, Adjunct Professor; Dr. Scott Stripling, Provost; Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, President; Dr. Doug Petrovich, Professor of Biblical History and Exegesis; and Dr. Linda Pattillo, Adjunct Professor.



# FROM THE PROVOST



Many TBS administrators, faculty, students and family members participated in the 2018 Shiloh Dig and Tour.

In celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation last year, many were reminded once again of the movement's foundational tenet, *sola Scriptura* (Latin meaning, "only the Scriptures"). For centuries, believers worldwide have studied these sacred texts as a means of seeking to know the mind and Spirit, ways and will of the Lord, and for personal and societal renewal. For TBS, *sola Scriptura* is more than a motto; it encapsulates the heart of our mission.

The TBS administration, board, faculty, staff, and students embrace a common passion to extend the Kingdom of God through high quality theological education. Allow me to explain why proper training holds such a critical role in fulfilling The Great commission. Nearly 3425 years ago (1406 B.C.) Moses instructed the nation of Israel as they were about to enter the promised land to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). In the preceding two

verses, Moses twice employed the Hebrew verb *shema* that translates into English as "hear." The plenary meaning of this verb is to "listen with the intent to obey." God never intended for his people to merely gain an academic understanding of Him, rather He expected them to predispose themselves to obedience.

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus amplified the original intent of this commandment by adding the mind. He instructed the teacher of the Law who sought to test him regarding eternal life to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). Fully developing our intellectual capacity to know God and make him known to others creates a clear path to obeying this imperative of Jesus.

Enter TBS. Through a rigorous academic program grounded in passionately living out our faith in a community of like-minded disciples, we maximize our long-term productivity in the Kingdom of God.

Nothing could be more vital. We embrace the vision of training 5,000 disciples who each reach at least 200 people for Christ. Plainly stated, we seek a harvest of 1,000,000 souls as our part of *missio dei*.

In spite of the massive challenges presented a year ago by Hurricane Harvey, we enrolled a record number of students in the Fall 2017 semester – 40 in graduate courses and another 120 in Bible Certificate courses – a 100% increase over Fall 2016. Enrollment in the current Fall 2018 semester is just below last year's highwater mark, but a cohort of new students are already slated to join the TBS family this spring. For all of this, we are extremely grateful and optimistic. As we prove faithful in cultivating what we have, we trust that the Lord of the harvest will provide us with even more students in future semesters.

The past year has proved exciting in many ways. We applied to the Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools (TRACS) in July 2017 and received Application approval in January



2018, clearing the way for this year's self-study journey toward Candidate and eventually Accredited status.

We launched a new course last Fall, *Bible Panorama*, a 14-week study of all 66 books of the Bible that now serves as the foundational course for ALL certificate and graduate programs, and 100 students have already completed this course!

We received certification from the Veterans Administration in September 2017 that will allow eligible veterans and their families to receive V.A. educational funding toward studies for a TBS graduate degree.

We conducted an extensive overall graduate program review and reorganized the graduate programs effective May 2018. Changes included reducing the required hours to earn a Master of Divinity graduate degree from 96 to 84-credit hours, and dividing the Master of Arts into four separate degrees: Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (60-credit hours), Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Cultures (54-credit hours), Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (60-credit hours), and Master of Arts in Church History and Theology (48-credit hours). The Licensed Professional non-degree program expanded to include 9 core courses totaling 18 non-credit hours to correspond to the number of hours required for an area studies major in higher education.


We added Dr. Douglas Petrovich to our full-time faculty in 2017. An archaeologist, epigrapher, and Egyptologist that stands at the forefront of scholarship on the Hebrew

Bible, Dr. Petrovich appeared in one of the most popular 2017 Netflix documentaries, "Is Genesis History?" that featured over a dozen scientists and scholars explaining how the world intersects with the history recorded in Genesis. His groundbreaking research on the reading of ancient inscriptions of the earliest alphabetic script led to the publication of *The World's Oldest Alphabet: Hebrew as the Language of the Proto-Consonantal Script*.

Additional adjunct professors added during the past year include Dr. Craig Evans, preeminent New Testament scholar, author of more than 70 books, and headliner of the 2018 movie, "Fragments of Truth," an original Faithlife film; Dr. Ryan Lokkesmoe, church planter, pastor, and New Testament scholar; Dr. Brian Peterson, author, Old Testament Hebrew scholar, and staff member of the Associates for Biblical Research; Dr. Anjeanette Roberts, a scientist in molecular and cell biology and a research scholar at *Reasons to Believe*; along with Dr. Sergio Estrada, Dr. Phil Pattillo, and Dr. Charles Savelle. New adjunct instructors include Brian Brunke, Aisha, Davis, Dan Enright, Saji John, Daniel Lopez, and Angela McClinton. The TBS teaching team also includes pastors, chaplains, ministry leaders, missionaries, and other professionals who pour into the lives of students such as the four who received Master of Divinity degrees and ten who received Bible Certificates (including our first Spanish program graduates) in August.

In January 2019, TBS will welcome our second full-time faculty member, Dr. Paul Nyquist, recent President of Moody Bible Institute and a dynamic Christian leader with worldwide contacts and influence.

Our teaching mission includes groundbreaking work involving administration, faculty, and students that continue to help prove that the Bible is a reliable historical document. In association with the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR), I serve as the Director of Excavations at Ancient Shiloh in Israel. Including TBS President Lewis, twelve TBS faculty, students, and family members participated this summer in conducting first-hand biblical research at Shiloh. This work at Shiloh garnered worldwide attention evidenced by a wave of media attention, including interviews on Fox News and CBN's 700 Club. Following the dig, fifteen additional members of the TBS community joined us for a 9-day tour of Israel. If you would like to join us this coming May-June 2019, space is limited, so act quickly to reserve your spot on either the tour, the dig, or both. In preparation, we are offering the graduate course "ANE 501: Ancient Near Eastern Cultures" this spring at the main campus and the Bible Certificate course, "Holy Land: Tour Prep" at Sugar Land Family Church.

Thank you for your involvement in TBS, your passion for the Lord and His Word, and your prayerful and financial support. Sola dei Gloria! 

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## TBS FACULTY AND STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2018 SHILOH DIG IN ISRAEL

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(L - R) Dr. Brian Peterson, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Dr. Scott Stripling, and Dr. Charles Savelle



(L-R, standing) Nury Leon, Dr. Stripling, Dr. Lewis, Uche Emenike, Durwin Kicker, Destry Jackson, and Tommy Chamberlin; (L-R, kneeling) Esmeralda Heer and Abril Jimenez





# The Bible Seminary EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## BIBLE CERTIFICATE (BC)



This program is designed to help nurture a biblically literate populace via comprehensive, strategic Bible-based studies. The CORE curriculum consists of 7 courses (8-credit hours) designed to help students internalize the worldwide impact of Judeo-Christian history and culture by strategically covering all 66 books of the Bible, teaching how to study scripture, and mentoring the practice of studying specific passages and engaging in personal spiritual formation. ELECTIVE options (2-credit hours) offer students a wide range of Bible-based experiences and opportunities to reinforce applied learning and skills. Most courses are also eligible for CEU credit through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). This program is offered in both English and Spanish.

This program is designed to offer core, graduate-level education for ministry leadership. This program is not a substitute for a degree program, denominational path toward ordination, or state licensure, but does provide foundational educational experiences and studies beneficial for anyone serving or who wants to serve in Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry leadership.



## (LP) LICENSED PROFESSIONAL

## DUAL DEGREE COMPLETION (DDC)



This program allows students with an Associate's degree, coursework toward an unfinished undergraduate degree, and life experiences that may count toward college credit to enroll in The Bible Seminary on a degree track resulting in both a bachelor's and master's degree. Students who successfully complete this program will have earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS), and either a companion Master of Arts (MA) or a Master of Divinity (M Div) degree. The Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies is customized for each student to incorporate previous college coursework (such as a 60-credit hour Associate degree), prior learning assessments, additional college studies, and TBS core graduate courses that can serve as dual bachelor/master credits.

This curriculum integrates an in-depth study of the Bible with basic historical, theological and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for ministry in the 21st century. All MA programs include a sequence of CORE and ELECTIVE 3-credit hour courses designed to summarily cover all 66 books of the Bible over a 2-year course of study offered during two standard semesters per year, with additional in-depth studies of numerous biblical books. Available Master of Arts majors are listed to the right.



## (MA) MASTER OF ARTS

- Church History & Theology (MACHT) .....48-credit hours
- Biblical Languages & Culture (MABLC) .....54-credit hours
- Biblical Studies (MABS) .....60-credit hours
- Biblical History & Archaeology (MABHA) .....60-credit hours

## MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV)



This curriculum integrates an in-depth study of the Bible with the standard historical, theological and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for ministry in the 21st century. The program includes 28 courses (84-credit hours) designed to teach all 66 books of the Bible over a 3-year course of study. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will receive a Master of Divinity degree. The program is available for FULL-TIME students (registered for 9 or more credit hours per semester) and PART-TIME students. Auditing may be available for some courses on a limited basis.



# The Bible Seminary

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMPARISON



- Core
- Elective
- LP = Licensed Professional
- MA = Master of Arts in Church History and Theology (CHT), Biblical Languages and Culture (BLC), Biblical Studies (BS), and Biblical History and Archaeology (BHA)
- MDiv = Master of Divinity

\* LP = 2-credit-hours per course, and MA & MDiv = 3-credit hours per course

COURSES*	LP	CHT	BLC	BS	BHA	MDiv
<b>HERMENEUTICS</b>						
BSM 501: Bible Study Methods – Esther, Obadiah, Mark	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>LANGUAGES AND CULTURE</b>						
ANE 501: Ancient Near Eastern Cultures – Ezra 4-6, Daniel 2-7			●	○	●	○
GRK 501: Greek Language I – Jude, 2 & 3 John			●	○	●	●
GRK 502: Greek Language II – 1 Peter			●	○	●	●
GRK 503: Greek Exegesis – Gospel of Luke			○	○		●
HEB 501: Hebrew Language and Culture I – Jonah, Nahum			●	○	●	●
HEB 502: Hebrew Language and Culture II – Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi			●	○	●	●
HEB 503: Hebrew Exegesis – Habakkuk			○	○		●
<b>HISTORY AND THEOLOGY</b>						
THE 501: Theology I – Genesis	●	●	●	●	●	●
THE 502: Theology II – Romans, Hebrews		●	○	●		●
THE 503: Theology III – 1 & 2 Corinthians; 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus		●	○	●		●
THE 504: Theology IV – Joel, Daniel, II Peter, Revelation		●	○	●		●
THE 510: Church History I – Acts	●	●	●	●	●	●
THE 511: Church History II – (Holy Land Study Tour option)		●	●	●		○
THE 520: Biblical Archaeology – Judges		○	○	○	●	●
THE 525: Ancient Near East History and Archaeology					●	
<b>MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM</b>						
APO 501: Apologetics – Proverbs, James, 1 John		○	○	●		●
MIS 501: Missions I – <i>Perspectives on the World Christian Movement</i>	○	○	○	○	○	○
MIS 502: Missions II (Anthropology) – Hosea, Amos, Micah, Zephaniah	○	○	○	○	○	●
MIS 503: Discipleship, Evangelism, & Church Planting – Deuteronomy, Galatians	○	○	○	○	○	●
<b>PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</b>						
PAS 501: Pastor-Shepherd I – Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations	●	●	●	●	●	●
PAS 502: Pastor-Shepherd II – Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon				○		●
PAS 511: Pastor-Leader I – Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings	●	●	●	●	●	●
PAS 512: Pastor-Leader II – Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah				○		●
<b>PREACHING AND TEACHING</b>						
PRE 501: Expository Preaching/Teaching I – Isaiah	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRE 502: Expository Preaching/Teaching II – 1 & 2 Thessalonians				○		●
PRA 501: Prayer & Worship I – Leviticus, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Psalms		●	○	●		●
<b>SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND MINISTRY</b>						
SFM 500: Spiritual Formation & Ministry – <i>Bible Panorama</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●
SFM 501: Spiritual Formation & Ministry I – Exodus, Numbers, Matthew	○	●	●	●	○	●
SFM 505: Spiritual Formation & Ministry V – Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes	○	○	○	○		●
SFM 506: Spiritual Formation & Ministry VI – Ezekiel, Gospel of John	○	○	○	○		●
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY</b>						
ARC 501: Archaeology Theory and Methodology					●	
ARC 510: Ceramic Analysis					●	
ARC 520: Excavation Practicum & Field School I					●	
ARC 521: Excavation Practicum & Field School II					●	
<b>CAPSTONE</b>						
CAP 590: Capstone		●	●	●	●	●
CORE (●) required =	7	14	15	15	19	28
ELECTIVES (○) required =	2	2	3	5	1	0
Total Classes required =	9	16	18	20	20	28
Total Credit-hours* =	18	48	54	60	60	84





# NEW DEAN OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

## Dr. J. Paul Nyquist



The Nyquist Family (L-R): Carson, and daughter; Millie (his wife, Maggie, and newborn son, Wes, are not pictured); Taylor's wife, Jenny, their daughter, Cami, and Taylor; Cora (daughter of Carson and Maggie); Natalie, and her son, Ethan; Owen (son of Sawyer and Karen); Paul and Cheryl; Sawyer with sons Haddon and Elias, and his wife, Karen.


The Bible Seminary is thrilled to announce the hiring of Dr. J. Paul Nyquist as the new TBS Dean of Graduate Programs, and Professor of Biblical Preaching, Leadership, and Theology effective January 1, 2019. A seasoned Christian ministry leader with Chief Executive Officer experience in two diverse ministries and expertise in local church ministry, international missions, and education, Dr. Nyquist served as President and CEO of Moody Bible Institute from 2009-18, President and CEO of Avant Ministries from

2001-09, Senior Pastor of First Federated Church from 1996-2001, Senior Pastor of Evangelical Bible Church from 1983-96, and served as adjunct faculty at Grace University in Omaha, Nebraska and Western Seminary in Phoenix, Arizona, among others.

He has served on the boards of The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), Cairn University, Avant Ministries, and Cross Global-Link. His publications include "Is Justice Possible? The Elusive Pursuit of What is Right" (Moody Publishers, 2017), "Prepare: Living Your

Faith in an Increasingly Hostile World" (Moody Publishers, 2015), "The Post-Church Christian" (Moody Publishers, 2013), and "There is NO Time" (Avant Ministries, 2005).

Paul earned a Bachelor of Science Architecture Studies from the University of Nebraska (1976), a ThM in Systematic Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary (1981), and a PhD in Systematic Theology Dallas Theological Seminary (1984).

He and his wife, Cheryl, have four children – Natalie, Taylor, Carson, and Sawyer – and eight grandchildren. 



# THE WORLD OF JESUS

How Art, Archaeology and Artifacts  
Illuminate the First Century



**Over 60 artifacts from the world of the New Testament on display!**

- Sept. 27-29 University of Pikeville | Pikeville, Kentucky
- Oct. 5 -Nov. 3 Pike County Library | Pikeville, Kentucky
- Nov. 17 - Dec. 31 The Bible Seminary | Katy, Texas *hosted at Grace Fellowship*
- Jan. 7 - Feb. 25 Windwood Presbyterian Church | Houston, Texas

Guided tours available in Kentucky by Exhibit Director Tommy Chamberlin and Co-Director Abigail Leavitt. Guided tours available in Texas with Archaeologist Scott Stripling.

For more information on the exhibit in Kentucky, email [exhibit@upike.edu](mailto:exhibit@upike.edu). For more information on the exhibit in Texas, email [scott.stripling@thebibleseminary.org](mailto:scott.stripling@thebibleseminary.org).





# MASTER OF ARTS IN Biblical History and Archaeology

Photos by K. Lynn Lewis



For more information, visit  
**TheBibleSeminary.org**  
Academics  
Master of Arts  
Biblical History and Archaeology

Since the Bible Seminary (TBS) announced the official launch of a new Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA) in May 2018, seven inaugural students have enrolled in this dynamic program, with others set to join in time for the spring 2019 semester. Along with local foundational and experiential studies in archaeology, hermeneutics, languages and culture, history and theology, leadership, preaching and teaching, and spiritual formation, archaeology students gain active field practicum experience through participation in archaeological digs like the Tel Shiloh excavation.

According to TBS graduate student Durwin Kicker, “Combining archaeology at Shiloh with studies at TBS brings textual insight that I never knew was possible.” Pastor of First Baptist Church in Marshfield, Missouri since 1997, a trustee at Southwest Baptist University, and a veteran of several previous dig seasons at Khirbet el-Maqatir and Shiloh, Kicker worked as a Square Supervisor at the Tel Shiloh excavations this past summer.

TBS scheduled two fall events to celebrate the new program. First, The Jeremiah Johnston Show on Faith Radio aired live from TBS on Saturday October 20, 2018. Dr. Johnston, President of the Christian Thinkers Society and frequent contributor to Fox News, chose TBS in order to reinforce his topic – the relationship between the archaeological data and the biblical text. The live audience of TBS students, faculty, staff, and alumni asked questions to a panel of scholars consisting of renowned Jerusalem archaeologist Eli Shukron, prolific author and TBS Adjunct

Professor, Dr. Craig Evans, and Tel Shiloh Excavation Director and TBS Provost, Dr. Stripling. The show also aired nationally and internationally on the radio and online.

“Thousands of listeners and viewers learned from top scholars that the biblical text is reliable and, more often than many people are aware, strongly supported by archaeology,” noted Dr. Stripling. “They also learned that TBS is an exciting place to come to prepare for a career in archaeology.”

Second, TBS is hosting The World of Jesus archaeological exhibit in Texas during the 2018-19 academic year. TBS archaeology student, Tommy Chamberlin, President of the University of Pikeville Alumni Association, built the mobile exhibit to help expose a national audience to both UPike and biblical archaeology. So far, the exhibit has opened to rave reviews in Kentucky and Pennsylvania. It includes over 60 actual artifacts from the land of the Bible that illuminate the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. Grace Fellowship in Katy, Texas will host the exhibit on their campus for six weeks starting in mid-November, and Windwood Presbyterian Church in northwest Houston will host the exhibit in January 2019.

Through friends like Jeremiah Johnston, Craig Evans, Eli Shukron, and Tommy Chamberlin and partners like the University of Pikeville, Grace Fellowship, and Windwood, TBS is able to deepen its local roots and expand its global impact. The pioneering MABHA students, Shiloh Excavations, locally hosted radio program event, and the traveling exhibit serve as harbingers of great things ahead. 





Dozens of articles, radio and television programs highlighted the 2018 Shiloh excavation, including a July 16, 2018 700 Club segment that featured Dr. Stripling and incoming TBS archaeology student, Abigail Leavitt, shown here with the Middle East Bureau news team Middle East Bureau Chief Chris Mitchell.

CBN Middle East Bureau Chief Chris Mitchell interviewing TBS Provost and Tel Shiloh Excavation Director, Dr. Scott Stripling on location in Israel. The “back end” story “behind” this interview is that Dr. Stripling moved a large stone just a few minutes before the CBN team arrived and split his shorts from Dan to Beersheba (Holy Land lingo meaning “as far one can go from one end to other”). Undaunted and with nothing else to change into, Dr. Stripling breezily conducted the interview and the CBN team chose discrete angles from which to capture video footage.



TBS president, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, oversees the Tel Shiloh photography and videography and produced three videos with original music viewable under “About Us – Videos” at [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org): *What A Dig Needs* (2 min) – a brief introduction to tools used at an archaeological dig; *What A Dig Does* (6 min) – an introduction to what people actually do on an archaeological dig; and *What A Dig Means* (6 min) – a summary of reasons to conduct biblically based archaeological digs. Dig and tour photos are available on Facebook pages for the Associates for Biblical Research and The Bible Seminary.



Nearly 30 TBS family and friends participated in the 2018 Holy Land Study Tour and/or Tel Shiloh Excavations. The four-week excavation team included more than 230 volunteers from at least 15 countries, 30 U.S. states, and 11 institutions – Danish Society for Biblical Archaeology, Emmaus Bible College, Lee University, Mid-Atlantic Christian University, Southwest Baptist University, The Bible Seminary, The Crown College of the Bible, University of Northwestern, University of Pikeville, Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, and Yale University. Additional individuals and visitors from Dallas Theological Seminary, Wycliffe Bible Translators, other organizations also participated.



# Digging the Bible

BY BRENT HOEFLING & TOMMY CHAMBERLIN | Photos by K. Lynn Lewis

**“But return to My place that was at Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at first. See what I did to it because of the evil of My people Israel.”**

*- Jeremiah 7:12*

When Joshua and the Israelites finished the conquest that started with Jericho, and then Ai, Joshua established the first capital of Israel at Shiloh in a central location in his home tribe of Ephraim’s territory and gave the Tabernacle Moses commissioned in the wilderness a permanent home.

In recent years, Shiloh has been in the news due to archaeological excavations at the site by the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) under the direction of archaeologist Dr. Scott Stripling, Director of Shiloh Excavations and Provost of The Bible Seminary. In the summer of 2018, the Church of God of Prophecy (COGOP) was well represented on the excavation by two volunteers, Brent Hoefling, Pastor of the Wake Village COGOP, and Tommy Chamberlin, long-time COGOP member from Prestonsburg, Kentucky. Pastor Hoefling worked as a volunteer on the site where he dug, sifted, and explored the history of Shiloh. He was one of the rare volunteers to find an intact artifact when he discovered an intact oil lamp from the Iron Age II period (circa 980 BC to 586 BC – period of the biblical kings).

Thinking of his time at Shiloh Pastor Hoefling had these thoughts, “Volunteering at the excavation at Shiloh was an experience that I will always remember. It wasn’t only about the important artifacts that we uncovered, but about the people. I met new friends and worked alongside some ‘old friends’ that I have never met in real life. These old friends have long since passed away – the people of Joshua’s day and from the time of the Judges who lived, played, worked, ate, drank, and had relationships at Shiloh. The whole time I was there, I was overwhelmed with how real the biblical account was to me. Digging was more about the people, not just the stuff we found.”

Brother Chamberlin volunteered his second season at the site and worked as an assistant square supervisor, helping supervise volunteers’ work and documenting their discoveries. His square enjoyed revealing a section of the large Middle Bronze fortification that surrounded Shiloh during the Tabernacle period.

Though the tabernacle was located at Shiloh for over 300 years, the excavations are not a search for the golden Ark of the Covenant. There is, however, a goal to find the location where the tabernacle may have stood in antiquity. Unfortunately, the question of the tabernacle’s exact location on the site may never be determined. The challenge of finding a specific location is difficult because the tabernacle’s




design was initially a temporary, mobile tent-like facility. The tabernacle would have begun to show signs of wear and aging in the sun and weather at Shiloh. Ancient Jewish literature and hints in the biblical text explain that over time, the tabernacle may have become a permanent installation with stone walls. If the tabernacle later became a more permanent structure, its foundation, and architecture may still be discoverable.

Archaeology in ancient Shiloh is important because it provides foundational truth relative to the accuracy and historicity of God's Word, our Bible. Some worldviews teach that the biblical entry of the Israelites and subsequent conquering of Canaan is not supported by the archaeological and historical record. Essentially, this worldview teaches that the Bible is not true. What are believers to do with these assertions? Does it matter that this kind of information is being taught not only in secular academic realms but also in many Christian seminaries across America?

"There is an accusation some make that if you happen to believe what you are reading in the Bible, it disqualifies you as a scientist," explains Dr. Stripling, commenting on the state of affairs in the world of academia concerning belief in the accuracy of the Bible. "In Israel, most archaeologists are secular atheists that do not accept the Bible as a historical text. That puts me outside of the mainstream of Israeli archaeology, but that is precisely where I want to be. Minimalists say that you cannot trust the Bible. Maximalists, like me, maintain that the Bible is a reliable historical document."

Stripling sees a direct correspondence between the archaeological data and the biblical text.

"We are not dealing with some sort of detached mythology. We find in the material culture exactly what we would expect from a straight-forward reading of the biblical text. We call this 'verisimilitude'."

Archaeology in and of itself is not going to prove the Bible, especially when it comes to faith and salvation. However, archaeology can illuminate the scriptures and help us to understand them more clearly and accurately. The COGOP's two representatives at Shiloh this year considered it a privilege to "dig the Bible" and look forward to returning to Shiloh in future years. Toward that end, Pastor Hoefling and Chamberlin, both archaeology students at The Bible Seminary, want to invite their wider church family to consider participating in the excavations at Shiloh. 

Tommy Chamberlin serves as President of the University of Pikeville Alumni Association and Director of Biblical Archaeology exhibits at the University of Pikeville. He also works as Chief Assistant County Attorney for the Pike County Attorney's Office in Pikeville, Kentucky.



## Veri-si-mil-i-tude

from the Latin words

“**vērī**” (truth) and “**similitūdō**” (similar)



TBS graduate student, Brent Hoefling serves as Pastor at Wake Village Church of God of Prophecy in Texarkana, Texas. He made one of the most exciting finds of the 2018 summer excavation – an intact Iron Age oil lamp from the same time period that David wrote Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

For more information visit [DigShiloh.org](http://DigShiloh.org)



# THE “PROBLEM” OF AI IN JOSHUA 7-8

SOLVED AFTER NEARLY FORTY YEARS OF EXCAVATION IN THE WEST BANK OF ISRAEL

BY SCOTT STRIPLING & MARK HASSLER

After conquering Jericho, Joshua and the Israelites destroyed Ai, the second stronghold of the conquest (Jos 7–8). Everyone agrees on the location of Jericho, but the location of Ai continues to puzzle researchers. The issue garners attention because of its profound implications for biblical studies.

The debate over the location of Ai intertwines with the excavation of Jericho. Kathleen Kenyon excavated Jericho from 1952 to 1956. She concluded that the archaeological evidence at Jericho contradicts the biblical account. In 1961, Joseph Callaway studied with Kenyon in London and three years later, on behalf of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, began excavations at et-Tell, 10 mi (16 km) north of Jerusalem (the City of David). Et-Tell had long prevailed as the leading candidate for Ai because of the endorsement by W. F. Albright, the father of biblical archaeology and one of Callaway’s mentors. When Callaway ceased excavations in 1972, he concluded that et-Tell sat unoccupied at the time of the biblical conquest. Together, the interpretations of Kenyon, Callaway, and Albright eroded the evangelical belief in the inerrancy of Scripture.

In response to this erosion, David Livingston formed the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) in order to investigate the “problem” of Ai. In a personal letter dated February 23, 1970, Albright assured Livingston that Ai belongs at et-Tell:

“You can take it from me, and from Callaway and others, that there just isn’t any other possibility for Ai than et-Tell and that Bethel can only have been modern Beitin. Since 1921 we have examined and reexamined the whole countryside, and

there just isn’t any archaeologically viable identification.”<sup>1</sup>

Undeterred, Livingston began excavations at Khirbet Nisya, his candidate for the Ai of Joshua 7–8. He excavated there from 1979 to 2002, during which time he completed his doctor of philosophy degree at Andrews University. The findings at Khirbet Nisya illuminated the background of the Old and New Testaments, but a positive correlation with Ai proved allusive.

In 1994, ABR colleague Bryant Wood identified Khirbet el-Maqatir as another candidate for Ai, and the following year he launched excavations at the new site, 0.6 mi (1 km) west of et-Tell, and 10 mi (16 km) north of Jerusalem. Excavations continued at Khirbet el-Maqatir through 2016, with the final three years under the direction of Scott Stripling. Thus, from Livingston to Wood to Stripling, ABR has conducted excavations in search of Ai for nearly 40 years, 37 to be precise.

Various lines of reasoning allow for the possibility that the fortress of Ai in Joshua’s day stood at Khirbet el-Maqatir. For one, local tradition in the 1800s equated the sites.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, a monastery from the Byzantine Age once graced the locale. The placement of the monastery seems deliberate in that monasteries often memorialized biblical events. Unfortunately, the excavation did not yield any mosaics or other clues as to what the monastery may have memorialized. Regardless, the geographical and archaeological indicators in Joshua 7–8 correspond to the evidence unearthed at Khirbet el-Maqatir. This study summarizes the correspondences and proposes a viable solution to the “problem” of Ai.



Photo by Michael Luddeni

One of two gate socket stones found in 2016.  
(L-R) Bryant Wood, Mark Hassler, and Scott Stripling.

1. W. F. Albright to David Livingston, February 23, 1970, in *Khirbet Nisya: The Search for Biblical Ai, 1979-2002; Excavation of the Site with Related Studies in Biblical Archaeology*, by David Livingston (Manheim, PA: Associates for Biblical Research, 2003), 263.
2. Edward Robinson and Eli Smith, *Biblical Researches in Palestine and the Adjacent Regions: A Journal of Travels in the Years 1838 and 1852*, 3rd ed., vol. 1 (London: Murray, 1867), 448; E. Sellin, “Mittheilungen von meiner Palästina-reise 1899,” *Mittheilungen und Nachrichten des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins* 6 (1900): 1; Bryant G. Wood, “From Ramesses to Shiloh: Archaeological Discoveries Bearing on the Exodus–Judges Period,” in *Giving the Sense: Understanding and Using Old Testament Historical Texts*, ed. David M. Howard Jr. and Michael A. Grisanti (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2003), 266.
3. Bryant G. Wood, “The Search for Joshua’s Ai,” in *Critical Issues in Early Israelite History*, ed. Richard S. Hess, Gerald A. Klingbeil, and Paul J. Ray Jr. (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2008), 237–38.
4. *Ibid.*, 228.
5. Livingston, *Khirbet Nisya*, 177; Wood, “Joshua’s Ai,” 221.
6. Rupert L. Chapman III, “Annotated Index to Eusebius’ Onomasticon,” in *The Onomasticon by Eusebius of Caesarea: Palestine in the Fourth Century A.D.*, trans. G. S. P. Freeman-Grenville, indexed by Rupert L. Chapman III, ed. Joan E. Taylor (Jerusalem: Carta, 2003), 131.



## STRATEGIC LOCATION

When Joshua entered Cisjordan, he set into motion a brilliant military strategy: divide and conquer. The decision of where to divide the land was not arbitrary. It appears that he divided the land at a logical and strategic location—the Wadi el-Gāyeh, a west-east drainage, 10 mi (16 km) north of Jerusalem. The wadi formed a natural and political boundary between the southern territory governed by the city-state of Jerusalem and the central territory governed by the city-state of Shechem.<sup>3</sup> Even after the conquest, the wadi functioned as the border between Benjamin and Ephraim (Jos 18:12–13). As Wood suggests, the military outpost there, visible from Jerusalem, guarded the northern border for the league of Amorites in the south (cf. 7:7; 10:1–6). On the north side of the wadi, just 1 mi (1.5 km) away, stood a fortress at Beitin, probably the southern border fortress for the Shechem league, says Wood. Khirbet el-Maqtar and et-Tell both sit near the southern embankment of the Wadi el-Gāyeh.

## NEAR AND EAST OF AN AMBUSH SITE

Prior to the battle, Joshua positioned his troops at an ambush site “not...very far from the fortress” (Jos 8:4). In 2015, three members of the ABR excavation team ran from the lip of the Wadi Sheban to the fortress gate at Khirbet el-Maqtar in only five minutes, while carrying backpacks.

The ambush site rested “behind” or “west” (‘ahar) of the fortress (vv. 2, 4, 14), that is, “between Bethel and Ai, west of Ai” (vv. 9, 12). The Wadi Sheban runs between el-Bireh and Khirbet el-Maqtar. This deep ravine could easily conceal numerous troops from watchers at Khirbet el-Maqtar or el-Bireh. Et-Tell, however, lacks an ambush site on the west. Israelite troops could have hidden behind the hill to the northwest, but the allies of Ai at Bethel (Beitin in this model) could have spotted them easily and blown their cover.

# GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS FOR THE SITE

**The book of Joshua provides specific geographical indicators for the location of Ai. The geographical indicators appear as follows:**

## NEAR BETH-AUEN

Joshua locates Ai “near [‘im] Beth-Aven” (Jos 7:2). The preposition ‘im designates general proximity, whereas the synonym ‘et (near) signals immediate proximity. The most suitable locale for Beth-Aven is Beitin,<sup>4</sup> a site often identified as Bethel. Khirbet el-Maqtar sits 1 mi (1.5 km) southeast of Beitin. Scholars who place Bethel at Beitin and Ai at et-Tell have yet to propose a feasible location for Beth-Aven. A feasible location must yield evidence of habitation at the time of the conquest.

## NEAR AND EAST OF BETHEL

The list of conquered rulers in Joshua 12 places Ai “near Bethel” (v. 9). The men of Bethel aided the men of Ai in their pursuit of the Israelites, a fact that confirms the proximity of the sites (8:17). Livingston and others situate Bethel at el-Bireh rather than the usual site of Beitin.<sup>5</sup> A distance of 2.2 mi (3.5 km) separates Khirbet el-Maqtar and el-Bireh.

The Bethel equals Beitin formula has its drawbacks, two of which shall receive brief mention. First, the equation of Bethel and Beitin contradicts the idea that the fortress at Bethel served the Shechem alliance. If Bethel constituted el-Bireh, no contradiction exists because el-Bireh lies south of the Wadi el-Gāyeh, positioning it with the southern alliance. Second, the equation contradicts the work of Eusebius. As Rupert Chapman points out, “Eusebius’ statement that Gibeon was four miles west of Bethel is wholly incompatible with the currently accepted identification of Bethel with Beitin.”<sup>6</sup>

The fortress of Ai stood “east of Bethel” (Jos 7:2). The leading candidates for Ai, Khirbet el-Maqtar and et-Tell, both lie east of the leading candidates for Bethel, el-Bireh and Beitin.

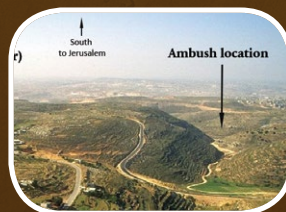
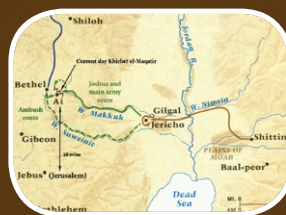
## SOUTH OF A VALLEY AND RIDGE

Joshua stationed soldiers “north of Ai” (Jos 8:11). And the very next statement explains, “There was a valley between him and Ai.” Khirbet el-Maqtar sits near the southern slope of a west-east valley, the Wadi el-Gāyeh. If the commander of Ai could see Joshua and his men in the valley, as verse 14 might imply, then the valley lacked depth. The bottom of Wadi el-Gāyeh is readily visible from Khirbet el-Maqtar.

The presence of a valley infers the existence of a ridge. Approximately 0.9 mi (1.4 km) north of Khirbet el-Maqtar, beyond the Wadi el-Gāyeh, stands Jebel Abu Ammar, the highest elevation in the area. It provides excellent visibility and a west-east ridgeline.

The geography and topography of Khirbet el-Maqtar meets the criteria revealed in Joshua 7–8. The discussion now shifts to the archaeological indicators.

See large images and maps on pp. 22–23



## INHABITED DURING THE CONQUEST

When the Israelites ascended into the central hill country, they encountered the inhabitants of Ai (Jos 8:1). The encounter transpired in approximately 1406 BC, a date derived from the Bible itself (cf. 1 Kgs 6:1). This dating reflects the 15th century exodus-conquest model (the “biblical” model) rather than the 13th century model.

Artifacts establish the date of occupation at Khirbet el-Maqatir. The preeminent artifact, an Egyptian scarab (beetle), topped the list of discoveries in biblical archaeology for 2013 according to *Christianity Today* (see scarab image at right). Engraved on the base of the object is a falcon-headed sphinx and two hieroglyphs: ankh (life) and neter (god). The scarab was found inside the fortress, near the gate, 0.8 in (2 cm) above bedrock, in a sealed locus, beneath a concentration of ash and an Early Roman fill, with four diagnostic and refired sherds from LB I (ca. 1485–1400 BC). Refired pottery was initially fired in a kiln, then fired again (refired), say, in a destructive conflagration. The refire turns the pottery white and rock hard. In light of the preliminary research, the glyptic indicators help date the scarab to the Eighteenth Egyptian Dynasty, specifically, the reign of Amenhotep II (ca. 1455–1418 BC).

Another scarab came to light in 2014. Its underside features Egyptian hieroglyphs surrounded by eight sets of concentric circles. The scarab was made locally in Canaan. It is typical of the time of the Hyksos (“foreign rulers” in Egypt) and the early Eighteenth Dynasty prior to the subjugation of Canaan by Thutmose III in ca. 1485 BC. This amulet likewise surfaced from within the fortress, near the gate. It came from a contaminated locus, disturbed by looters, and dates from about 1668 BC to 1485 BC.

Pottery from LB I populates the site. The pottery includes storage jars, small jars, jugs, cooking pots, and pithoi (large storage containers). Late Bronze I sherds lay around and beneath a flagstone pavement by the

gate. Fourteen seasons of excavation have not yielded any pottery that relates to the fortress after LB IB (ca. 1445–1400 BC). By all indications, 250 years passed before the site was resettled.

An infant burial jar emerged in 2009. With it came the bones of a neonate and some Bronze Age offering vessels. The jar rested among a few dilapidated walls. It sat on bedrock beneath 15 in (37 cm) of earth. The mortuary custom of burying infants in jars prevailed in the Middle Bronze and Late Bronze I periods (ca. 1750–1400 BC). The pottery points to a date of about 1500 BC for the burial.

In 2014, a bronze figurine—a decapitated ram’s head—arose from an LB I context, within a few meters of the scarabs and at the same elevation. Decapitated figurines from the Late Bronze Age have also surfaced at Tell el-Qedah (Hazor), another site that the Israelites plundered and burned.<sup>7</sup> The possibility exists that the Israelites severed the ram’s head during their conquest of Canaan.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to the artifacts, the architecture contributes to the dating of the site. Megaliths (large stones) formed structures inside the fortress, both on the east and west sides of the gate. In 2016, workers began to uncover a cluster of fallen cyclopean stones—stones so enormous, the Greeks would say, that only cyclops could have moved them. One of the stones measures a staggering 11.5 × 3.9 × 2.6 ft (3.5 × 1.2 × 0.8 m). The cluster lies at what appears to be the intersection of the southern and eastern walls of the fortress. The use of megaliths and cyclopean stones characterizes construction practices in MB III (ca. 1650–1485 BC).

On the whole, the artifacts and architecture mark the initial, medial, or terminal phases of the fortress at Khirbet el-Maqatir. Based on the finds, one can conclude that the fortress underwent construction toward the end of the Middle Bronze Age, and it fell in LB IB, the time of the Israelite conquest.


## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INDICATORS FOR THE SITE

**Just as the book of Joshua reveals geographical indicators for the location of Ai, it also sets forth archaeological indicators. For a site such as Khirbet el-Maqatir to constitute Joshua’s Ai, it must have these specific archaeological indicators.**



Egyptian scarab  
Photo by Michael Luddeni

## CONCLUSION

The geography and archaeology of Khirbet el-Maqatir accord with the descriptions of Ai in Joshua 7–8. The identification of Khirbet el-Maqatir as the Ai of Joshua’s time resolves the problems of chronology and location that ensued from Callaway’s excavation at et-Tell. Nearly forty years of excavation in the West Bank of Israel by ABR archaeologists has resulted in a viable solution. The solution squares with the biblical data concerning the exodus and conquest. 

Dr. Scott Stripling, *Provost* of The Bible Seminary, is an ABR staff member and director of ABR excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir and Shiloh.

Dr. Mark Hassler, *Associate Professor of Old Testament* at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, is an ABR staff member and a supervisor in the excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir and Shiloh.

7. Amnon Ben-Tor, “The Sad Fate of Statues and the Mutilated Statues of Hazor,” in *Confronting the Past: Archaeological and Historical Essays on Ancient Israel in Honor of William G. Dever*, ed. Seymour Gitin, J. Edward Wright, and J. P. Dessel (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2006), 14.

8. Brian Neil Peterson, “The Kh. el-Maqatir Ram’s Head: Evidence of the Israelite Destruction of Ai?” *Near East Archaeological Society Bulletin* 61 (2016): 53.

9. James L. Kelso, “The Excavation of Bethel” (1934–1960), *AASOR* 39 (Cambridge: American Schools of Oriental Research, 1968), 13, 15.

10. William G. Dever, “Gezer,” in *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, ed. Ephraim Stern (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 2:501.



## PROTECTED BY A FORTIFICATION SYSTEM

Israel's botched attempt to sack Ai resulted in casualties "from the gate as far as the shevarim" (Jos 7:5). When the Israelites finally prevailed, they threw the king's corpse into "the fortress gate" (8:29). A gate presumes the existence of fortified walls.

Khirbet el-Maqatir possessed a fortification system. It had a gate, but only one chamber survived the ravages of time. The gate complex was robbed in antiquity; however, a flagstone pavement and *ḥuwwar* surface remained intact next to the southwestern chamber. The chamber did not show signs of interior benches. In the gate passageway, workers found tiled vats, which are evidence of reuse for industrial purposes in the late Second Temple period. Originally, the gate probably had four chambers, based on the presence of six lower socket stones—two of which were discovered in 2016 (see socket stone image on page 18). The western wall of the fortress was an impressive 13 ft (4 m) in thickness. In the rear of the fortress, diggers began to uncover what looked like a circular tower, but in 1999, excavation in that area ceased because locals erected an agricultural enclosure which encompassed the southwestern portion of the fortress. In the southeast sector, cyclopean stones provided fortification, as mentioned. Fortification systems protected contemporaneous towns in Canaan. Beitin had a small fortress in MB II (ca. 1750–1650 BC). The walls stood 11.4 ft (3.5 m) thick and contained multiple gates. The northwestern gate chamber used paving stones repaired with *ḥuwwar* surface.<sup>9</sup> In MB III, Gezer possessed a southern gate, a large tower, and fortification walls 13 ft (4 m) thick.<sup>10</sup> At Shiloh, the MB III city wall covered 4.2 acres (1.7 ha) and stood 9.8–18 ft (3.0–5.5 m) thick.<sup>11</sup> In the MB III period, Jerusalem benefited from the rectangular-shaped Spring Tower (56 × 52 ft; 17 × 16 m) and city walls 6.6–8.2 ft (2.0–2.5 m) thick.<sup>12</sup>

## ACCESSED BY A NORTHERN GATE

In anticipation of the battle, the Israelite warriors arrived "opposite [*neged*] the fortress, and camped north of Ai" (Jos 8:11). The preposition *neged* can mean "in front of." The front side of the fortress, the side with a gate, probably faced north. The gate at Khirbet el-Maqatir faced north.

## DWARFED BY GIBEON

Joshua portrays Gibeon as larger than Ai: "Gibeon was a metropolis, like one of the royal cities...it was larger than Ai" (10:2). Gibeon epitomized the "metropolises" of Canaan that Moses had warned about (Dt 9:1). Ai, on the other hand, lacked size and notoriety. The size of Ai failed to impress Joshua's scouts: "Do not make all the people ascend. Only two or three elephants of men need to ascend in order to attack Ai. Do not make all the people toil there, because they are few" (v. 3). Further, when the writer of the book of Joshua first mentions Ai, he includes multiple locators to help orient the readers ("Ai, which is near Beth-Aven, east of Bethel," Jos 7:2).

The exact size of Gibeon in LB I remains unknown because the perimeter wall has not been traced. The later Iron Age wall enclosed an area of approximately 15 acres (6 ha). The little fortress of Khirbet el-Maqatir covered only about 2.5 acres (1 ha). By contrast, et-Tell encompassed a full 27.5 acres (11 ha) in approximately 2400 BC.<sup>13</sup> It tripled the size of Jericho, which covered only 9 acres (3.6 ha) including the embankment.

Joshua depicts Ai as small, whereas Moses styles Ai as a well-known landmark (Gn 12:8; 13:3). In light of the disparity, a short distance may have separated Abraham's Ai (et-Tell?) and Joshua's Ai (Khirbet el-Maqatir?). Site names could migrate short distances over time—a well-documented phenomenon.<sup>14</sup>

## CONSUMED BY FIRE

Israel's ambush squad "set the fortress on fire" (Jos 8:19). Indeed, "Joshua burned Ai" (v. 28). Excavation of the fortress revealed numerous ash pockets, burned stones, calcined bedrock, and refired sherds.

## RUINED AND DESOLATE

The Israelites demolished the fortress of Ai and it became a ruin. The account reads, "Joshua burned Ai and made it a ruin forever, a desolation, to this day" (Jos 8:28). In the victory, Joshua buried the ruler of Ai under "a large pile of stones, which remains there today" (v. 29).

At Khirbet el-Maqatir, no one rebuilt the fortress after its demise. In Iron Age I and into Iron Age II, a mere 50 to 70 Israelites inhabited the site, it seems. They used the tumble from the earlier structures to build residences and installations. During the Late Hellenistic and Early Roman periods, a walled town partially overlapped the footprint of the Bronze Age fortress. From the town's northern wall protruded a massive fortification tower, the largest known tower in Israel (98 × 52 ft; 30 × 16 m). The town fell in AD 69, as the pottery and coins attest. It appears that the Romans demolished it as they advanced south toward Jerusalem. In the Byzantine period, a monastery stood on the crest of the hill, approximately 656 ft (200 m) from the old fortress. As of 2017, modern development is overtaking the ancient ruins and threatens their preservation.

Ever since the Bronze Age fortress fell, subsequent builders have obscured its ruins by scavenging the stones for their own construction projects. On the other hand, their work protected the foundations of the fortress from additional damage.

Khirbet el-Maqatir satisfies the archaeological indicators listed above. The archaeological record shows that a small but stout fortress existed at the site from MB III to LB IB. Occupancy ceased because of a conflagration.

11. Israel Finkelstein, "The History and Archaeology of Shiloh from the Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II," in *Shiloh: The Archaeology of a Biblical Site*, ed. Israel Finkelstein, with contributions by Baruch Brandl et al., SMNIA 10 (Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University Press, 1993), 374.

12. Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron, "Jerusalem," by Eilat Mazar et al., in NEAEHL, 5:1801; Yigal Shiloh, "Jerusalem," by Benjamin Mazar et al., in NEAEHL, 2:701.

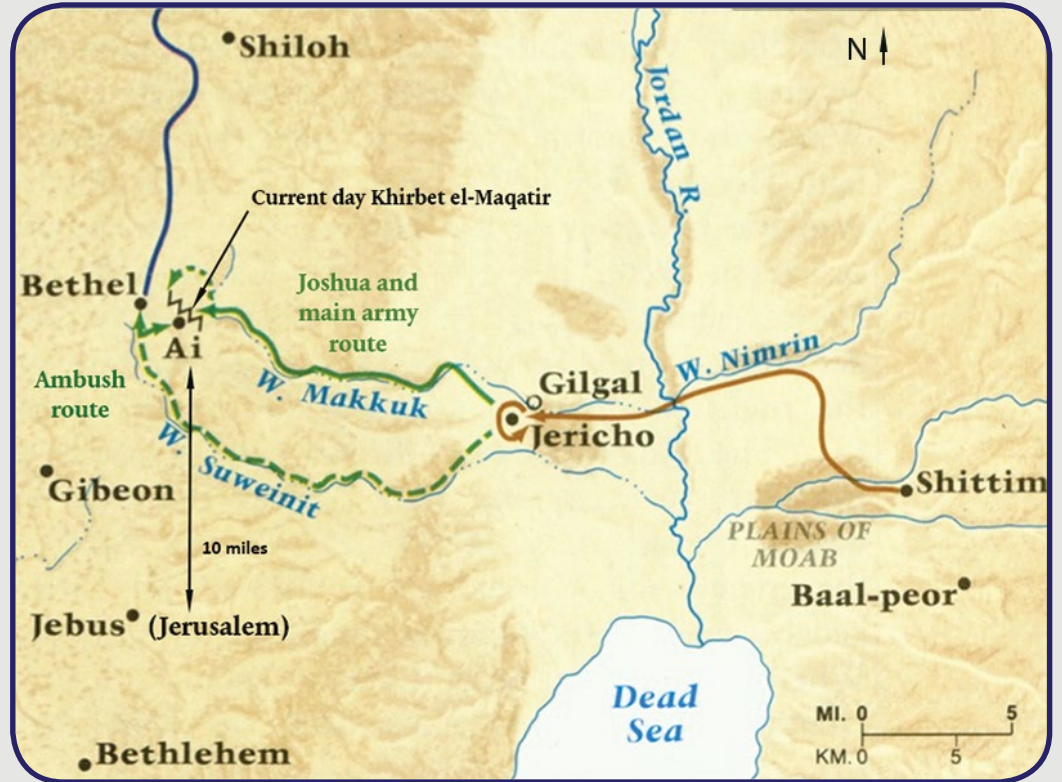
13. Joseph A. Callaway, "Ai," in NEAEHL, 1:39.

14. Wood, "Joshua's Ai," 206.



# REFERENCED

LOCATION MAP



AERIAL VIEW

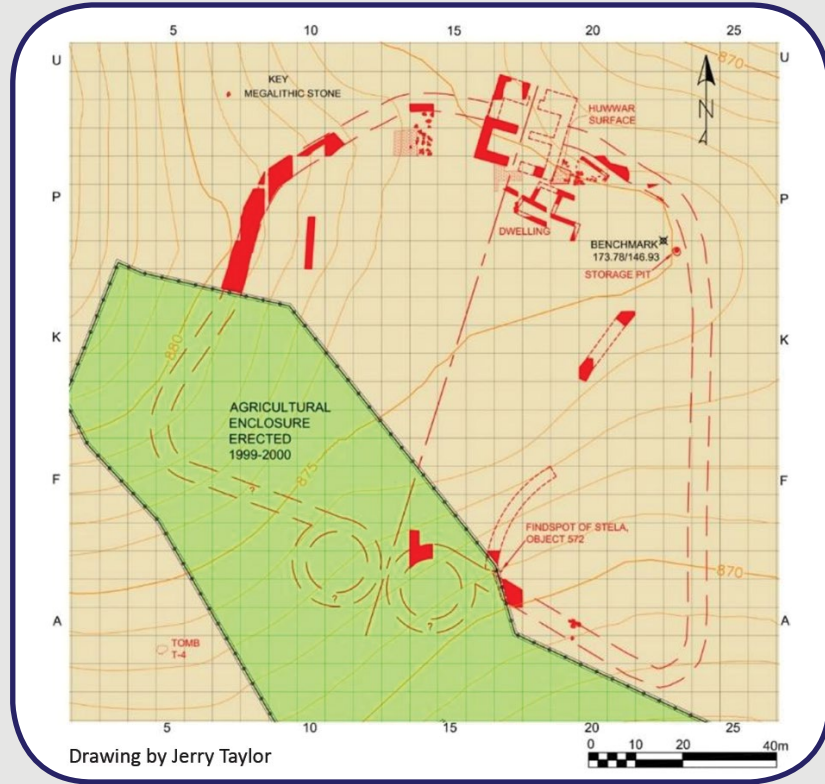


Although some doubt the truth and reliability of the Bible, many locations offer similarly beautiful examples of unique and specific alignments between biblical accounts, archaeological and geographical evidence, and other historical records.

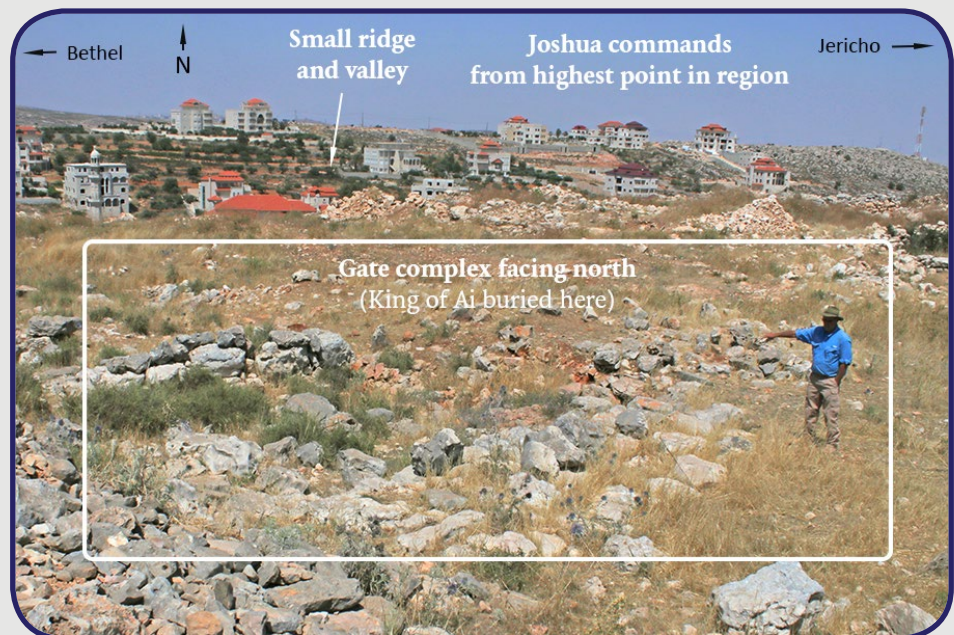


# IMAGES

## SITE MAP



## GATE DETAIL



*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Matthew 6:19-21**



# *Finding the Real Treasure*

BY MICKEY ELLIS, 2018 MDiv Graduate of TBS | Photos by Mickey Ellis

For southerners, summer is a time to escape to cooler spaces – and what better place to go than the mountains! So, our family packed our bags, hopped on a plane, and headed to the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. For six days we hiked alongside creeks and through woods and enjoyed discoveries like the quiet dell hosting a beautiful church established in 1836 and built in 1912. We trekked up hills for spectacular views of the mountains, and even hiked the Appalachian Trail - for about a quarter of a mile!

We also enjoyed rest, relaxation, and reflection. One Sunday we visited a Methodist church in Franklin, North Carolina and had the pleasure of hearing God's word preached by a singing, guitar-playing preacher, and each morning we met with God at our little cabin tucked away in the middle of the woods. I even took time to work on a journal assignment for my Spiritual Formation class from the comfort of an old rocking chair sitting on the front porch and thanking God for showing us just a little bit more of the beautiful creation He provided for our enjoyment.

When we returned from vacation and looked through our pictures, I noticed an ironic contrast

between the beginning and end of our trip.

We spent our first day visiting the Biltmore Estate near Asheville, North Carolina, the largest privately owned residence in the United States at 178,946 square feet, sitting on 8000 acres (down from the 125,000 acres originally purchased). With no expense spared on the house, its elaborate furnishings, and the 75 acres of adjoining gardens and colorful glass sculptures, it is truly magnificent.

We spent the last day of our trip visiting the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte. There stands his childhood home, a roughly 2000 square-foot house, twice moved – once from the dairy farm he grew up on with his parents and four siblings, to another site in Charlotte, and then to the beautiful estate that now depicts his life. Behind the house, surrounded by gardens, stands a beautiful barn – the library that Billy Graham always said was about Jesus Christ and not really about him. The library entrance is at the foot of the cross.

These two treasured estates, both majestic to view, with stories behind them so very different, stirred my thinking about what truly is treasure, and what is not.





*Biltmore Estate*




*Billy Graham Library*

Born into the famous and wealthy Vanderbilt family as one of the sons of the prominent businessman William Henry “Billy” Vanderbilt, George Washington Vanderbilt II was destined to lead a luxurious life marked by lavish displays of wealth. Inheriting his father’s Fifth Avenue palace in New York at age 23, he had lots of wealth and leisure time on his hands and started buying land in North Carolina that would soon become the infamous Biltmore Estate, his summer home. He traveled the world and spent millions of dollars purchasing tapestries, carpets, prints, linens, and decorative objects to furnish the house. His life was spent hosting extravagant parties and adding to his numerous collections of art and books. George Vanderbilt, along with the vast Vanderbilt clan, became known as American royalty. His charitable gifts made to libraries and art societies reflect his passion for literacy, education, and the arts.

Born the first of four children raised on a family dairy farm just outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, Billy Graham, was once turned down for membership in a local youth group for being “too worldly.” He later attended the revival meetings of Mordecai Ham and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at age 16. Following work as a Baptist preacher, evangelist in small organizations, and as a radio personality, Graham felt God wanted him to do more, so he founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) with a mission “to take the message of Christ to all we can by every effective means available to us.” From that

day in 1947 until he was physically unable to continue public evangelism, Graham conducted crusades all over the world. God’s word was spoken through Billy Graham in humble sincerity to millions over the decades. Of himself he admitted, “I am not a great preacher, and I don’t claim to be a great preacher . . . I’m just communicating the gospel in the best way I know how.”

One man raised with material riches and a love for things. Another raised with a strong work ethic and a love for God and others. George Vanderbilt’s legacy is the Biltmore Estate, which is now kept out of bankruptcy partly by the income made through public tours of the estate. By his faithful preaching of the gospel throughout his life, Billy Graham’s legacy is countless sinners coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. One treasured his earthly kingdom. The other treasured the heavenly kingdom.

This semester, as I studied the Book of Matthew in my Spiritual Formation class, I re-read the Sermon on the Mount that has challenged people since Jesus preached it. It is all about living in the kingdom of God, which Jesus said was at-hand, and there is much wisdom still in it for those who will listen, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). 



# AFTER GRADUATION,

(L-R) Néstor Martínez, Abril Jimenez, Esmeralda Heer, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Nury León, and Mónica Ochoa.



“

TODAY, MY LIFE HAS A STRONG FOUNDATION, THE WORD OF GOD. THE STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE LAWS AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE POWERFUL PRESENCE OF JESUS IN OUR LIVES.

*- Malena Magallon*

”

“**W**hy don't you pray about it?” said Dr. Lewis, President of The Bible Seminary (TBS). My heart jumped for joy at that moment three years ago when he asked me to consider starting the Spanish Bible Certificate program. My Master of Divinity studies at TBS affirmed my desire to teach, helped strengthen me through classes and an internship during which I taught Ephesians to a group of friends, and enlightened me as I began to see how God wove within me gifts and talents to serve Him.

Along with direction, help, and encouragement from Professor Paul Helbig

and staff, TBS opened the doors for Bible Certificate classes to the Spanish-speaking population in the fall of 2015. The program started with one class, Methods of Biblical Studies, and twelve students representing eight (8) denominations and three (3) Latin American countries: Colombia, Panama and Mexico. Praying and walking by faith has been the core of this ministry.

Through taking this course, then Bible Panorama, New Testament I, II and III, and Old Testament I and II, students have been exposed to the sixty-six (66) books of the Bible, visited the Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University, attended

a Spanish lecture at Lanier Theological Library, and participated in many other activities that opened their hearts and minds to receive the Word of God and transform their lives forever.

These pioneering students ended their Certificado Bíblico journey visiting Israel together. Five students and their families joined the Associates for Biblical Research and TBS 2018 Holy Land Dig and Tour that offered up to four weeks of digging at Shiloh followed by a nine-day tour. Nury León and Abril Barros, along with her daughter and I, participated in the dig for one week. Three other students, Carolina Martínez, Mónica Ochoa and



# WHAT THEN?

BY ESMERALDA HEER

(L-R) Malena Magallon, Mónica Ochoa, Carolina Martínez, Néstor Martínez, Nury León, Rosalina Jiménez, Ciraida Hernández; (kneeling) and Gissela Nader.




“ NOW THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED A HUGE APPETITE AND DESIRE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE, I KNOW THAT IN THE BIBLE I FIND THE ANSWERS TO ALL MY DOUBTS, FEARS AND PAIN; THE BIBLE IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF MY LIFE. IT IS MY REFUGE, COUNSEL, COMFORT, FORTRESS AND MY GUIDE. ”  
— Carolina Martínez

Néstor Martínez, and some of their families, participated in the tour, highlighted by the baptism of Nury and Monica in the Jordan River who publicly professed their faith in Jesus.

On August 19th, 2018, TBS celebrated commencement at Katy Community Fellowship where five students received the first-ever Spanish language Bible Certificates (ESB). It's amazing to watch God at work in their lives as they have served at home,

taken the Gospel back to their countries of origin, served as new churches open in their own language, and followed the direction of the Holy Spirit.

If you choose to follow God's plan for your life, living by faith means saying "YES!" to opportunities even when they seem insurmountable. He will hold you in His hand and give you tools to overcome obstacles during amazing journeys of incredible adventure! 





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dr. K. Lynn Lewis*



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF TBS FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE THIS ADVENTURE POSSIBLE SO FAR, AND LOOK FORWARD TO *a blessed, fruitful and temporally/eternally* POSITIVELY IMPACTFUL FUTURE IN EVERY CHURCH, MINISTRY, HOME, HAMLET, AND HAVEN CONNECTED TO A MEMBER OF THE TBS FAMILY.


THE JOURNEY TOWARD ACCREDITATION

The Bible Seminary (TBS) is currently engaged in the process of seeking accreditation with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting association.

In January 2018, following submission of an extensive application and supporting materials in July 2017, TBS attained TRACS Applicant Status, defined as an institution which has an application approved by the Applicant Review Committee after hosting a successful staff visit and responding positively to the staff report and recommendations. This is not a formal status nor does it ensure eventual accreditation. Questions about Applicant Status may be directed to the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), 15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: 434-525-9539; Email: [info@tracs.org](mailto:info@tracs.org).

TBS hosted a representative from TRACS in March and then initiated a six-month internal self-study involving TBS administration, Board members, faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The 169-page “TBS Self-Study Report” with 188 supporting documents totaling more than 1000 pages sent to TRACS in October 2018 included an Introduction (stated purpose of the self-study, history of TBS, relationship with TRACS, and response to previous TRACS team visit report) and detailed narratives covering two major areas in 16 categories divided into 215 individual sections. Category reports included under the area of “Foundational Standards” addressed TBS Biblical Foundations (4 categories), Purpose and Objectives (3 categories), Philosophy of Education (1 category), and Ethical Values and Standards (4 categories). The “Operational Standards” area included Operational Authority (3 categories), Organizational Structure (19 categories), Publications and Policies (43 categories), Educational Programs (74 categories), Faculty (11 categories), Student Services (12 categories), Financial Operations (8 categories), Institutional Assessment (15 categories), Institutional Research and Planning (5 categories), Library and Learning Resources (7 categories), Facilities and Equipment (2 categories), and Health and Security (4 categories).

The outline at right summarizes the history of The Bible Seminary’s association with the TRACS included in the report.

TBS submitted the report to TRACS in October (available under “My TBS – Docs – Institutional Assessment” at [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org)); plans to host a TRACS visiting team on campus at TBS November 27-30, 2018; plans to submit a final report to the TRACS Commission in February 2019; and then appear before the TRACS Commission in April 2019 to request Candidate status, which would then allow TBS to enter the next phase in the journey toward seeking Accredited status. 



## APRIL 18, 2013

Introduction to the existence and advantages of TRACS by Dr. Al Letting, former TRACS VP of Institutional Compliance, to TBS President, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, at a Houston, Texas meeting of regional seminary leaders.

## SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

TBS Board of Trustees votes to pursue accreditation through TRACS and appoints a committee to assist with the process.

## OCTOBER 1, 2013

Initial email contact with TRACS leadership indicating interest in exploring TRACS accreditation.

## OCTOBER 2, 2013

TRACS Dr. Ron Cannon responds by email and phone to TBS.

## OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1, 2013

First TBS attendance at a TRACS Annual Conference, including an Application Orientation meeting on October 31, 2013 at the 2013 TRACS Conference in San Diego, California between TRACS representative, Dr. Ron Cannon, and TBS President, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis.

## APRIL 6, 2015

TBS submits initial application, Institutional Eligibility Requirements (IER's), and application fee to TRACS.

## JULY 15, 2015

TRACS elects to defer the TBS application due to concerns about the financial stability of TBS based on audited financial records showing a recent historical downward trend in net assets. TBS launched the seminary in 2010 utilizing a business model of raising start-up capital to help fund the entrepreneurial endeavors necessary for establishment and growth without incurring debt. The 2010 campaign netted approximately \$1.1 million within twelve months, and then the finances followed an anticipated multi-year net downward trend before net assets began to ascend. The TRACS review of the TBS application interpreted the previous multiple year records of downward trends as a sign that TBS would run out of money within two years. TRACS preferred that TBS show a consecutive 3-year record of increasing net assets before proceeding.

## JULY 24, 2017

TBS resubmits the updated Application and supporting materials after successfully completing three-year audited records of increasing net assets.

## AUGUST 25, 2017

TRACS requests additional information following an official review of the application and supporting materials. The review included an analysis of TBS compliance with IER 7 (finances) and six additional comments.

## JANUARY 8, 2018

TBS submits to TRACS all of the additional information requested.

## JANUARY 24, 2018

TBS receives official Notification of Approval from TRACS to proceed toward application for Candidacy.

## MARCH 7-9, 2018

TRACS representative Dr. John Harbison visits TBS leaders in Katy, Texas and follows up with a Staff Visit Report on March 12, 2018.

## MARCH – NOVEMBER 2018

TBS conducts self-study, prepares extensive report approved by the Board on Sept. 23, and prepares for Nov. 27-30 TRACS Team Site Visit.



### *Overview of Accreditation According to the U.S. Department of Education*

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

Accreditors, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.

Institutions and/or programs that request an accreditor's evaluation and that meet an accreditor's criteria are then "accredited."

In the United States, institutions of higher education are permitted to operate with considerable independence and autonomy . . . as a consequence, American educational institutions can vary widely in the character and quality of their programs. To ensure a basic level of quality, the practice of accreditation arose in the United States as a means of conducting nongovernmental, peer evaluation of educational institutions and programs.

### *Some Important Functions of Accreditation*

1. Assess the quality of academic programs at institutions of higher education
2. Create a culture of continuous improvement of academic quality at colleges and universities and stimulate a general raising of standards among educational institutions
3. Involve faculty and staff comprehensively in institutional evaluation and planning
4. Establish criteria for professional certification and licensure and for upgrading courses offering such preparation

### *Primary Accrediting Activities*

**Standards:** The accreditor, in collaboration with educational institutions and/or programs, establishes standards.

**Self-study:** The institution or program seeking accreditation prepares an in-depth self-evaluation report that measures its performance against the standards established by the accreditor.

**On-site evaluation:** A team of peers selected by the accreditor reviews the institution or program on-site to determine first-hand if the applicant meets the established standards.

**Decision and publication:** Upon being satisfied that the applicant meets its standards, the accreditor grants accreditation or preaccreditation status and lists the institution or program in an official publication.

**Monitoring:** The accreditor monitors each accredited institution or program throughout the period of accreditation granted to verify that it continues to meet the accreditor's standards.

**Reevaluation:** The accreditor periodically reevaluates each institution or program that it lists to ascertain whether continuation of its accredited or preaccredited status is warranted.

### *Types of Accreditation*

There are two basic types of educational accreditation, one referred to as "institutional" and the other referred to as "specialized" or "programmatic." Institutional accreditation applies to an entire institution, indicating that each of an institution's parts is contributing to the achievement of the institution's objectives. The regional and national accreditors perform institutional accreditation.

Excerpts from "Overview of Accreditation in the United States," U.S. Department of Education, Ed.gov, 9/14/2018.



# THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

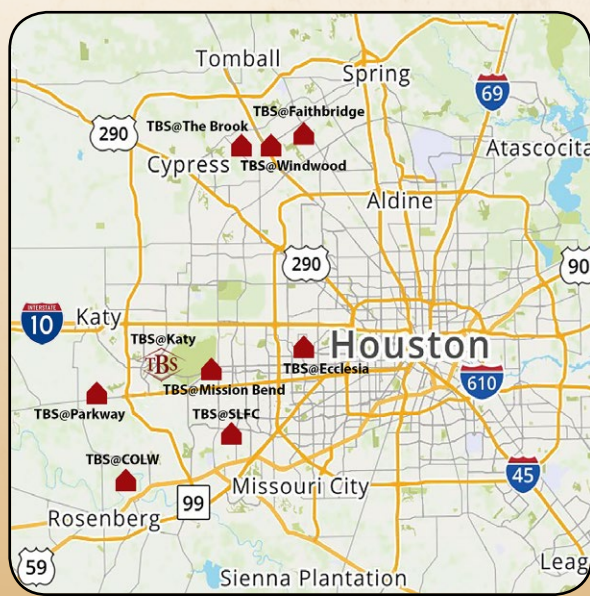
*and your community is our classroom*

BY DR. K. LYNN LEWIS, PRESIDENT

The Bible Seminary (TBS) model of education includes courses that bring visiting professional ministry leaders into classroom sessions on the TBS main campus, a somewhat normative educational practice. TBS also offers class sessions that consist of site visits to churches and ministries throughout the region, as well as some courses held almost entirely off-site, effectively engaging students in a semester of sequential field trips.

For example, Preaching and Teaching II (PRE 502) involves site visits to ten different churches of varying denominational affiliations, sizes, styles, etc. Students hear the story of each church and denomination and personal testimonies from their leaders, sharing of their perspectives on message preparation and delivery, and

gain valuable feedback from those professionals during classroom preaching/teaching lab experiences on the day of the visit. Similarly, Church Planting and Evangelism (MIS 503) students visit church plants and leaders at different stages in their lifecycle, and Prayer and Worship I (PRA 501) students visit different churches to interact with prayer and worship leaders. The net result is that Master of Divinity students may visit as many as 30-35 regional ministries and receive educational instruction from 70+ ministry professionals during their degree program (not including the Holy Land Study Tour). Instructors include chaplains, church staff, full-time and part-time faculty, cemetery and funeral home directors, CPA's, missionaries, non-profit ministry leaders, pastors, prayer directors, radio personnel, retreat center executives, worship leaders, and more.






## ALONG THE WAY, TBS LEADERS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING VARIOUS RATIONALE FOR A NON-TRADITIONAL CAMPUS MODEL BASED ON CLASSROOMS IN REGIONAL PROXIMITY AREAS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- » TBS formed out of Bible Certificate classes hosted successfully in a local church.
- » TBS students have received certificate and degree credit taking “Perspectives on the World Christian Movement” courses hosted by various churches annually in a program model that offers classes taught by instructors from around the world in churches in regional locations in communities around the world.
- » Houston, Texas is an extremely large metropolitan area that encompasses approximately 10,000 square miles in a 10-county metro area with as much as a two-hour driving radius from one side to the other.
- » Observed student interest and enrollment commitment seemed to drop significantly if students had to drive more than 30 to 45 minutes one-way to attend class.
- » TBS faculty live throughout the Houston-metro region. What if these qualified faculty could have additional opportunities to teach TBS courses closer to their own homes, even in their own local communities and churches?
- » What if TBS offered classes in strategic proximity locations with overlapping 30-minute drive radiuses throughout the region with hosts that had classroom space, willing students, and supportive administrators?
- » What if host churches and ministries viewed the opportunity to offer seminary-level education to their own community as a ministry opportunity and offered the use of their facilities at no-cost?
- » TBS generally requires a minimum number of students to “make” a class, and faculty are retained with the awareness that classes can be cancelled if not enough students enroll. If a class does not make, the class is cancelled and faculty receive no compensation.
- » If TBS expends no funds for off-site facilities, and classes must have a minimum number of students to “make,” TBS only expends funds for a class if enough students enroll to make the class and pay the professor.
- » Many schools have encountered financial woes due to large building and grounds costs, too many faculty and staff and not enough students at times, and economic troughs that negatively impact institutional income. When asked by the TBS President, “What keeps you awake at night?” one college President answered, “Grass. We have 45 acres and 17 buildings and we spend at least \$1,000,000 a year just cutting the grass whether we have any students or not.” What would an educational model look like that utilized existing facilities at no cost and willing ministries who wanted to partner with TBS to offer strategic, comprehensive training in all 66 books of the Bible, and certificate and degree opportunities to people in partnership with other ministries in their own regional locations?
- » What if TBS could invest donor and program income primarily into people and programs, not buildings and grounds, especially when adequate facilities and qualified, trained educational professionals are already locally available?
- » What if TBS viewed the world as our campus, and regional communities as our classrooms?

Beginning in 2014 with the institution’s founding church next door, TBS has expanded to multiple regional locations, identifying remote instructional locations as “TBS@XXXX” where “XXXX” equals the physical location identifier. Among the twelve current and past remote instructional locations, denominational church affiliations include Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Non-denominational, Pentecostal, and Presbyterian.

Fall 2018 semester courses are currently under way in eight regional locations: the main campus, six churches, and one school (K-8th grade).

For more information about partnering with TBS and networking with regional ministries and educational professionals to offer certificate and degree opportunities on your campus to your community, please contact The Bible Seminary. 



## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

*Heidi Arneson*



AT TBS WE ARE COMMITTED TO  
*“waiting on the Lord”*  
AND TO THE DISCIPLINE OF  
WHOLEHEARTEDLY DOING GOD’S  
WORK GOD’S WAY!


GOD’S WORK, GOD’S WAY, IN GOD’S TIME

As we race toward the end of the year I am reminded of “waiting on the Lord.” I find nothing takes more faith as exercised by discipline than “waiting on the Lord.” If only I could have the heavenly blueprint downloaded to my laptop! Perhaps you can relate. All works and no faith is not an effective power-filled plan.

From the inception of TBS in 2010, it has been an institutional goal to become accredited. We have faithfully “waited on the Lord” in pursuit of accreditation with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and, at the time of this writing in late 2018, through the hard work and dedication of President Lewis and support of many others, TBS has been approved to pursue Candidate Status with TRACS. This is a victorious milestone in the accreditation journey!

The accreditation process requires long-term focus in the same direction as it takes multiple years and multiple steps. It takes discipline and commitment. Although the cost is high, benefits can also be high. Among other things, benefits include rigorous institutional discipline to work through the process; recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accredited institution; ability to secure a .edu domain; ability to consider foreign students through the U.S. Visa program; ability to apply for and potentially receive grants from foundations that require accreditation prior to even considering financial support; credentials to advertise and/or even be mentioned in various media that only list accredited schools, including magazines, newspapers, road signs, and numerous web sites; and stronger credentials to better support graduates in their pursuit of their careers and prospective additional studies.

Relatively speaking, in the age of educational institutions, TBS is very young. There is much growth ahead through the teaching and training of Truth by world-class professors including, among others, Dr. Craig Evans, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Dr. Ryan Lokkesmoe, Dr. Paul Nyquist, Drs. Linda and Phil Pattillo, Dr. Brian Peterson, Dr. Doug Petrovich, and Dr. Scott Stripling. Their influence on lives will continue to have a global impact on strengthening souls for this life and eternity. Why has this happened? Because people like our administrators, Board, faculty, students, you and me have taken a faith risk by investing time, talent, and treasure. At TBS, we are committed to “waiting on the Lord” and to the discipline of wholeheartedly doing God’s work God’s way!

We give thanks for our progress toward accreditation, for the influential professors and instructors and ministry leaders that help shape and equip students, for those who have invested and continue to invest in helping make TBS a reality, and for the global impact of TBS that builds up souls for the Kingdom of God! 





## FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Rick McCalip*



**“A 500-MEMBER CLUB OF DONORS GIVING AT LEAST \$100 PER MONTH WOULD FORM A STRONG FINANCIAL BASE TOTALING AT LEAST \$600,000 PER YEAR.”**

*- George Armistead, Board Finance Chair*

FINANCIAL UPDATE, AS OF OCTOBER 2018

Enabled by the Lord’s favor and gifts of opportunity, members of the TBS family continue to dive wholeheartedly into loving God and one another, better understanding His Word and will for their lives, and investing their lives in godly service that honors Christ with all they are, all they have, and all they ever hope to be. With generous committed, visionary donors and hard working leaders, students, alumni, and partnering ministries, TBS continues to move full-speed ahead toward accreditation.

As our grand adventure continues, so do the requirements of funding and strengthening the mission. We rejoice in the success of once again ending another fiscal year on May 31, 2018 with some excess of income over expenses as noted in the table below.

YEAR	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019 *
INCOME	649,539	611,129	741,405	871,550
EXPENSES	625,621	551,550	682,295	849,709
NET INCOME	23,918	59,579	59,111	21,841

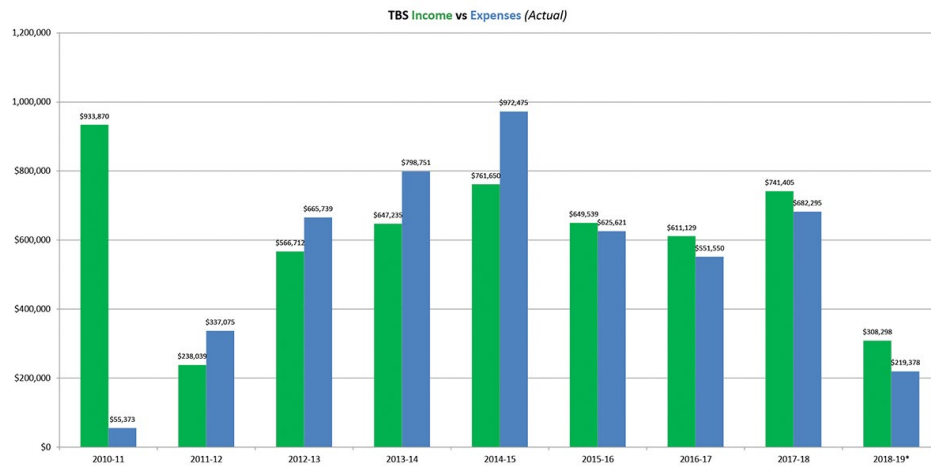
\* BUDGETED

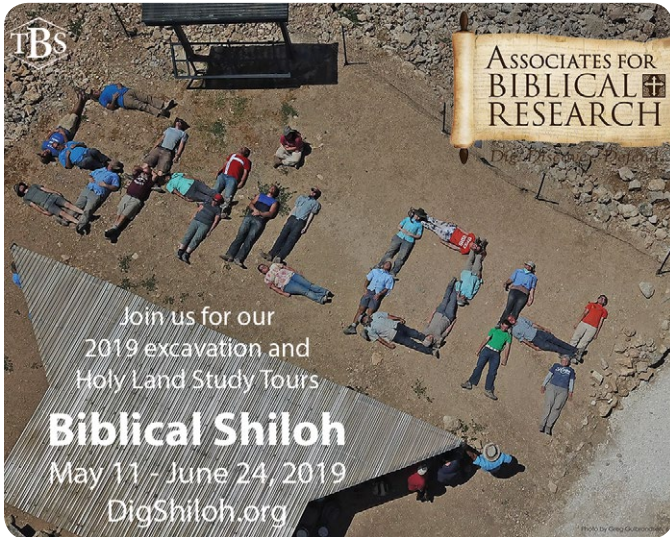
Note that during the last three completed fiscal years TBS met the accreditation target of annually achieving an increase in “net assets.” Also note that the budget for this year is very aggressive, requiring total income from donations, tuition, and fees averaging just over \$72,600 per month. To reach this goal, as well as to begin building an endowment fund, TBS is praying for donors who want to invest in true Higher Education for the training of strong Bible-based, Christ-centered, mission-focused Christian leaders and the glory of the Lord God Almighty.

Additionally, we are also preparing for accreditation from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ecfa.org). This achievement will be a testament to donors of our continuing commitment to financial accountability, transparency, fundraising, and board governance.

### Investments Needed

- MEGA GIFTS .....\$1,000,000+
- MAJOR GIFTS ..... \$100,000+
- LARGE GIFTS ..... \$5,000+
- ADVENTURE CLUB MEMBERS ..... \$100+ PER MONTH
- PIONEER CLUB MEMBERS ..... \$50+ PER MONTH





## 2019 SHILOH EXCAVATIONS AND HOLY LAND STUDY TOURS

*For details, visit* [DIGSHILOH.ORG](http://DIGSHILOH.ORG)

The upcoming 2019 Shiloh Excavations conducted by the Associates for Biblical Research under the direction of Dr. Scott Stripling will be held May 11-June 24, 2019 according to the following schedule:

### **Pre-Dig Tour, led by Dr. Stripling**

May 11-18

### **Four weeks of excavation**

May 19-June 15

### **Post-Dig Tour**

June 16-24

Diggers may join the excavations for any interval of time during the 4 weeks with at least two weeks of participation preferred, but not required. Tour participants who to briefly participate in the dig are welcome to stay for a day or more after the Pre-dig Tour, or come early to participate before the Post-dig tour.

## TBS RECEIVES GOLD STAR STATUS WITH GUIDESTAR

The Bible Seminary was recently recognized for our transparency with a 2018 Gold Seal on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. More than 8 million visitors per year and a network of 200+ partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits. In order to receive the 2018 Gold Seal, TBS shared important information with the public using our profile on [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org). Now our community members and potential donors can find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and progress. We're shining a spotlight on the difference we help make in the world!



SAVE THE DATE

# GO. MOVE. FORWARD.

## THE BIBLE SEMINARY

Friday, February 8, 2019

Event Starts at 6:00 PM

OMNI Hotel at Westside

Keynote Speaker: Matt Carter



# News and Updates

## RADIO PROGRAM HOSTED LIVE ON CAMPUS

*The show is available on the radio,  
via podcast, app, and online at*

**CHRISTIANTHINKERS.COM**

Dr. Jeremiah Johnston hosted his radio program live from The Bible Seminary on Saturday, October 20, 2018 on the topic of "Archaeology and the Bible" with special guests Eli Shukron (Israeli archaeologist who discovered and directed the excavation both the Pool of Siloam and the Jerusalem Pilgrim Road from the Second Temple era), Dr. Craig Evans (New Testament scholar and author of more than 80 books on the Gospels, the Historical Jesus, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and archaeology), and Dr. Scott Stripling (TBS Provost and Director of the Tel Shiloh and Khirbet El-Maqatir excavations). Recently added to the national lineup of the Faith Radio Network, Dr. Johnston's show includes interactive discussions, inspirational teaching, entertaining interviews and extremely practical, yet pointed answers to the most difficult questions people face in the most vulnerable and raw moments of life.



## MEET KATHERINE RUTH STANLEY

Congratulations to TBS MDiv 2015 graduate, Sara Stanley, and her husband, Dane, on the birth of Katherine Ruth Stanley on Sunday, October 28, 2018. With her mom as owner of the Sara Stanley Photography business that focuses on newborn and family photography in the Houston area, the newest member of the TBS and Stanley family will most certainly enjoy a childhood filled with creative photographic adventures!

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2019.**

Visit [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org) and click "Academics – Bible Certificate – Registration" for a schedule of upcoming courses available.



# The Bible Seminary

ROOTED IN THE WORD

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[THEBIBLESEMINARY.ORG](http://THEBIBLESEMINARY.ORG)

## Core Values

“THEY READ FROM THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF GOD MAKING IT CLEAR AND GIVING THE MEANING SO THE PEOPLE COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS BEING READ.” - *Nehemiah 8:8*

### LORDSHIP

» Because He is Lord (Philippians 2:11), we will continually ask Jesus Christ to sit on the throne of the seminary and on the throne of the lives of its faculty, administrators, and students for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### BIBLE

» Because the Bible is the fully true Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16), we will offer and require the study of all 66 books of the Bible before graduation with a degree. We will seek to creatively integrate classical theological disciplines and ministry training by studying books of the Bible (i.e. Church History will begin with the Book of Acts and keep going; Pastoral Leadership will come through the study of the Pastoral Epistles; Systematic Theology will flow out of the study of the Pauline Epistles).

### PRAYER

» Because apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5), we will continually seek to plug into the Vine Jesus Christ through yielding to Him in prayer. We will offer a unique emphasis on prayer including classes on prayer, a school of prayer, prayer faculty, and multiple prayer opportunities in the life of the seminary.

### UNREACHED PEOPLES

» Because the return of Christ awaits the evangelization of all people groups (Matthew 24:14), we will keep our eyes on the unreached peoples of the world and train our students to have a heart for the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) by seeking to reach millions of souls for Jesus Christ.

### LOCAL CHURCH

» Because the local church is God's plan (Matthew 16:18), we will be based in the local church and have a symbiotic relationship of service and training with local churches and parachurch ministries.

### COMMUNITY

» Because we were created for community (Genesis 1:26; Romans 12:5), we will seek to build a campus-based fellowship where the “one anothers” of Scripture are lived out, where authenticity and accountability are practiced, and where integrity is modeled and taught.

### COMPASSION

» Because God has a huge heart for the poor and overlooked (Matthew 25:31-46), we will strive to motivate, equip, and train students to minister to “the least of these” as a lifestyle.