

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. On-campus and Distance Education programs include Bible Certificate, Vocational Ministry Certificate, 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.

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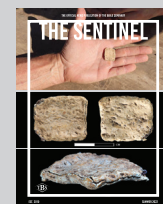
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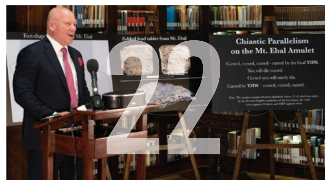


ABOUT THE COVER

The approximately 2 x 2 cm lead tablet discovered in January 2019 by a Mt. Ebal Dump Salvage (MEDS) project team contains ancient Hebrew writing centuries older than any previously discovered Hebrew inscription found in ancient Israel (see "Shaking the Foundations of Doubt" beginning on page 22 for details). Photo credits: Tablet in hand photo by Roi Hadi and close-up photos by Mike Luddeni.

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Rev. Kevin Alvarez (TBS MDIV 2016) pastors a church in Houston, Texas. His wife Yvette (TBS MA 2021) serves as a school teacher.

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BY SHARON HOLMES
TBS Bible Certificate 2018 and
Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture 2022



— My — TBS Journey

A Service Team Prayer Partner Lead at Lakewood Church for ten years and a Telephone Prayer Partner for eight years, I came to TBS as a ASCP Certified Medical Lab Technician with a BS in Biology and AAS in Medical Technology. I have been happily married to my husband, Darrell Holmes, for 35 years and we have three adult children.

I have identified as Christian my entire life and loved God and studying His Word. I did struggle for a season growing up. Following high school, I decided I was missing out, thought I knew everything, and informed God that I wanted to live a little and have fun like my friends. After about three years of basically ignoring Jesus, I learned that I was not as smart as I thought. At 3 AM on January 3, 1983, Jesus made a house call when, in such emotional pain and turmoil that the only thing I could do was call His name, I felt Jesus' loving embrace. It felt as if He took his hand, placed it on the top of my head, reached down to the soles of my feet, and removed all the disappointments, heartbreak, defeat, lust, disobedience, unforgiveness, etc. He cleansed me, explained that "I never left you," and I suddenly had a new walk and talk.

I changed my friends, returned to church, and dove into reading the Word of God. I started taking sermon notes and marking things to ask my pastor or an elder. I found God more interesting than my undergrad studies and my jobs after graduation. My heart longed for more and I sought even greater fulfillment. As I held His unchanging hand, I recognized my deep thirst for knowing God. Although I studied the Bible myself for years, I did not understand much that I read. I had lots of questions, and relished the Holy Spirit's answers through spiritual discernment, books, and other people. I studied my Bible daily for years, and enjoyed studying through the Bible Study Fellowship program, but still was not satisfied. I wanted more.

One day my sister, Rita Adams, asked if I would attend seminary classes with her. She had received a brochure from The Bible Seminary, and I agreed to give


it a try. In my first class, Bible Study Methods taught by Professor Paul Helbig, oh, boy were my eyes opened! I experienced a filling of my spirit and quenching of my thirst like never before. As I continued through the certificate program, I had more and more questions, and ultimately at least three different professors invited me to enroll in the master's program. "You will get more questions answered there," they explained, "and an even deeper understanding of the Word of God." In my last class with Dr. Petrovitch, Bible Panorama, I got a whole new perspective of God and who He really is that ignited a fire in me. However, I was not too interested in going back to school.

Even so, I decided to talk with Dr. Stripling and explain all my reasons for not applying. He countered with more reasons why I should, and I soon realized that this man on a mission did not consider "no" an acceptable answer in my case. I decided to allow God to close the door if He wanted but determined that Dr. Stripling's email confirming my acceptance into the graduate program signified an open door, so I walked through it.



I GOT A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE OF GOD



I was soon blown away by the amount of knowledge conveyed. I found answers to old and new questions. My professors were always approachable, never considered any question dumb, patiently explained things to help my walk in Christ, and taught me how to learn and engage in biblical research and study. I will always have a profound gratitude for all my TBS professors, for their love of teaching and sharing God's Word, for their patience and encouragement, and for leading my mind and spirit to places I could never have imagined. 



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MY HONEST

Attending seminary seems to invite questions from other people about my faith and training. Some have queried me about theology or social justice issues. Others have asked more personal questions such as “What made you want to go to seminary?” or “What do you plan to do when you graduate?” or “Are you going to be a preacher?” For some of my classmates, the answers come easy, especially those who have experienced a very clear calling from the Lord. But not all of us have easy answers to what seems to some like simple questions.

I learned early to craft quick, easy responses to these inquiries, all the while knowing that each could, if allowed, possibly take an hour or more to answer honestly. My

enthusiastic “I’m not really sure!” answers have been unimpressive and perhaps off-putting, but often an efficient means of moving conversations along. Make no mistake, I am perfectly willing to discuss my motivations and plans, but most answers seem way more complex than I think most people realize, and I haven’t wanted people to find themselves trapped in a hours-long answer when they most probably expected a minutes-or-less-long reply.

And isn’t this a regular part of our stories? Short, sugary bites seem way more palatable than heartily gnawing a meaty bone of authentic and substantive what’s and why’s, even though I know full well that is where the most impactful truth is found. Embarrassingly, I have become quite skilled in



I ENROLLED IN SEMINARY BECAUSE I WANTED TO STUDY THE BIBLE UNDER TRUSTED TEACHERS.

I wanted help exploring answers to all kinds of questions. I wanted more than a typical small-group Bible study experience. I wanted to build muscle and strengthen my leadership and teaching skills. I wanted to learn in a community built around a love for truth. I desired understanding deeper and wider than that provided by the average commentary. I longed for deep conversations with other believers fostered by instructors willing to listen and guide us.



I HOPE TO GLORIFY GOD WITH THE KNOWLEDGE I’VE GAINED OVER THE PAST THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS.

I hope to employ my newfound skills in ways that can bring others into the work and purposes of God. I want to share who God is, what He’s done, what He’s doing now, and what He promises to do to save the lost, mend the broken, and restore justice. I want to dig deeper into topics we touched on but did not have time to fully explore. I want to continue studying God and His Church. I want to serve as a vessel the Lord can use to draw the hurting into greater understanding of who they are in Christ Jesus.

I no longer intend to routinely deflect the what’s and why’s generated by my faith and actions. I am more prepared with answers and willing to boldly speak. People desperately need honest responses to their questions about who God is and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I, along with my fellow graduates and students, have access to a treasure trove of the Master’s tools.

ANSWER

BY LINDSEY BENDER


the art of short answers and deflection to avoid grappling with potential misunderstandings.

However, as I approach the finish line of this season, I know that my time of casually dancing around hard questions is over. My amazing educational adventure has clarified a call of duty that includes a willingness to offer thorough responses to those who sincerely seek them. Whether or not the questions are about me or God, honest answers matter. I am under no illusion that I have all the answers, but I certainly have more than I started with. This gift has been so much more than a few years in graduate school. I have explored depths I had no idea even existed, and now I am ready to share.



YES, I AM GOING TO “BE A PREACHER.”

Maybe not a pastor in a pulpit, but a trained servant willing and able to use my voice to let people to know the freedom Jesus offers, what He’s already done for them, and the abundant life His Gospel offers. I will share who Jesus is and is not. I will proclaim His name over illness, addiction, sorrow, bondage, and pain. I will preach His Word and His promises about kindness, love, peace, reconciliation, repentance, restoration, and salvation.

I pray that we use them well, and that the Lord continues to guide our steps, bless our words, and provide us with abundant opportunities to use our training for His glory. 

I WANT TO THANK THE TBS STAFF FOR HELPING ANSWER MY QUESTIONS AND BEING AN ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS.

Thank you

FOR EQUIPPING ME WITH TOOLS TO BE OBEDIENT AND “GO.”

Thank you

FOR PROVIDING SPACE TO GROW, EXPLORE, AND LEARN IN AN ENVIRONMENT STEEPED IN TRUST, LOVE, AND SO MUCH GRACE.

Thank you

FOR HELPING PREPARE ME TO TEACH LESSONS, PREACH MESSAGES, AND ANSWER DEEP QUESTIONS WITH AUTHENTIC ANSWERS, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.



Lindsey completes her Dual Degree Completion journey this summer graduating with both a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and a Master of Arts in Church History and Theology from The Bible Seminary.

Five Guidelines

for Balancing Ministry and Marriage



BY JORDAN AND ANGELA McCLINTON

Twenty years ago this summer, we said “I do” to the “better,” the “worse,” and, unbeknownst to us at the time, to a whole lot of ministry together.

At present, I (Angela) serve as Executive Pastor at the Waters Church in Katy, Texas and as and Director of Development at TBS where I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 2018. I (Jordan) serve as Worship Pastor at The Waters Church, work a full-time corporate job, graduate this summer from TBS with a Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology, and volunteer as an archaeologist with The Associates for Biblical Research. We have three very active daughters who are growing into amazing young adults, and our household includes a menagerie of pets.

Much of our marriage has been spent with both of us in ministry of some kind. We’re often asked what it is like to do ministry together. Our answer: It’s the best! We have the best jobs doing eternal work with our favorite person (each other).

Another question people ask is, “How do you make it work? Isn’t it hard?”

Yes, sometimes, but also so worthwhile. Here are five guidelines we believe have helped us balance our lives and open us up to the Lord’s blessing in our marriage and ministries.



1 Have each other's back

A common guideline for marriage in general, this is of utmost importance for couples deeply involved in serving together. Ministry’s heavy burdens sometimes mean late night meetings, extra weekend responsibilities, or emergency pastoral care. At the drop of the hat, one of us may be called to help with bonus ministry or family responsibilities, and it helps when we accept these moments as opportunities to joyfully serve and unhesitatingly support one another.



2

A “Yes!” to God is worth it

Following God’s direction can sometimes prove unnerving. As a family, we made the decision early on to answer “Yes!” to the best of our ability when God asks. This has required joint trust, especially when our next step has not always seemed sensible by the world’s standards. Two decades in, we are certain that life will always be full of challenges. Given a choice between facing challenges within His will or outside of it, we aim to pick within every time. Despite hard challenges, living out any “Yes!” to God is a remarkable adventure.

3

Celebrate the one left at home

This one is tough to embrace and has taken us awhile to appreciate. With three kids, a good portion of our ministry has meant that when one of us is serving others outside of our home, the other is serving inside. At times, the one “left at home” has felt a bit unfulfilled. But, recognizing that seasons come and go, we believe that the support team at home is just as important as the ministry outside of it. We celebrate – out loud and in front of others – the beauty of investing in our family and serving our household.

4

Allow each to minister within their own power


Allow each other to minister within their own power, publicly fight their own battles, and learn their own mistakes. As a husband and wife, we naturally want to protect and fight for each other when it comes to others hurting our feelings or attacking us. But we have both experienced the detrimental impact when one of us has tried to step in and remedy the other’s situation. The situations typically get worse, and damage relationships with people that we lead. We can learn and grow from making our own mistakes, fighting our own battles, and solving our own problems. We’ve experienced more peace at home and in ministry when we act as each other’s biggest fans rather than as rescuers, coaches, or advisors – especially when advice is not sought!

5

Allow co-working to make you better spouses

Top leadership books encourage spiritual leaders to assume positive intent, listen more than speaking, and empower others with adequate and proper support. Working in ministry together provides us with opportunities to put these practices into place with the same amount of respect and care that we would give any other ministry leader. We realize our familiarity with each other can lead to assumptions or open the door to giving our worst to each other at the end of long days. Realizing that our spouse deserves equal, if not more, respect and gentleness from each other has helped us become better co-workers and spouses.

One of our biggest blessings has been The Bible Seminary.

I (Angela) started my journey at TBS in 2014 and (I) Jordan in 2018. TBS embraced each of us as individuals with our own unique calling and paths, but the professors and leadership also encouraged us to honor one another and our mutual calling over our individual ones. TBS has nurtured us individually AND encouraged and supported our family. We are so grateful for the training TBS provided that has helped make us better ministry partners and spouses! 



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Answering the Call

BY RHONDA WARD
TBS Bible Certificate 2016

Have you wondered ABOUT YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE AND ASKED GOD TO CLEARLY REVEAL HIS WILL? "DEAR LORD, PLEASE JUST LAY OUT A STEP-BY-STEP PLAN!" *we pray* SO WE CAN AVOID MESSING UP AND *fulfill* WHAT HE INTENDS. THEN WE WORK TO DISCERN HIS VOICE, INTERPRET CALLINGS (OR LEADINGS), AND *act in faith*.



When we perceive a clear purpose, it is easier to reflect on our God-given gifts

and passions, learn what needs to be learned, and prepare for service. That's when life can really make sense – when the Holy Spirit puts wind in our sail. Frederick Buechner suggests calling is the intersection between deep gladness and the world's deep hunger, and that calling involves both looking inward and looking outward.

For me, looking inward was easy. I retired from teaching in 2021 after 38 years of service to Katy ISD. When I enrolled in TBS in 2011, I couldn't articulate an answer when family and friends asked "Why?" I just knew there was something about studying God's Word that seemed essential to my way forward and that the Holy Spirit insistently directed me to TBS. What I couldn't explain a decade ago, though, now makes sense, as faith generally does when looking backward, like when the book of Hebrews sweeps through Israel's history to clarify the past and illuminate the present.

Looking outward was harder for me. What would I do with a seminary education? I didn't plan on serving as a pastor in a church, but I wasn't sure about other options. I just knew I needed to prepare for something, but I couldn't explain what or why.


But clarity has come. While speaking at a Bible study for elderly adults recently, some asked why I've continued my studies. Even after earning a Bible Certificate from TBS, I continue to retake certificate classes, audit graduate classes, and even repeat some of those! "Why?" they asked. "What are you going to do? What's your goal?"

That day, for the first time, I knew. I paused, connected with each inquisitive set of eyes, and explained, "It was for this moment, and any other moment the Lord gives me, to be ready and able to accurately and faithfully teach God's Word."

As I continue to lead expository Bible studies, teach spiritual formation, and write curriculum, I grow in confidence and skill. I spent my career teaching, and constant study helps keep my heart, mind, and soul in shape to be ready and available whenever and wherever God

entrusts me to serve His purpose.

My profession included supervising the development of curriculum and helping teachers grow in the art and science of their craft. Now, I am helping Sunday School teachers and others learn and grow in confidence for the classes they teach by offering resources and coaching on content and instructional delivery.

I believe we need more lay servants prepared to teach all 66 books of the Bible. After all, how can we bear the image of Jesus if we don't know how Jesus lived? Knowing what Jesus taught to the people there and then, how He taught, and why He taught, can help us teach the Word of God more accurately and faithfully to people here and now. In doing so, we can help people grow closer to God, more deeply understand Jesus, experience the redeeming and transformational power of the Holy Spirit in their own lives, and prepare to better serve the Lord and others in His name. I look forward to continued studies at TBS and finding the intersection of my gladness, the world's deep hunger, and living out the Lord's calling in my life. 



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Heart of a

MISSIONARY

“ You are either a missionary or a mission field, nothing in between. ”
Dr. Steven Mills

TBS Adjunct Professor and Louisiana native Dr. Steven Mills and his wife, Kath, accepted Christ in a living room in Seattle, Washington in 1976. Their newfound faith freed them from old habits as they surrendered their flesh to the works of Jesus and led them into a life and career making disciples and planting churches around the world.

With no real biblical background other than conviction from a sermon they heard, they decided to attend International Bible College because they thought it would help them be better parents whenever they decided to start a family. Steve joined a Tuesday night prayer team that prayed for three years for workers to go to Africa while he worked as a Missions Pastor at a church in San Antonio, Texas. Partly in answer to their own prayers, Steve spent 6 months in Uganda in 1984, then moved his family to Haiti for eight months, and then to Kenya for 17 years (where his son still lives and works with his family). From 2002 to 2015, they worked with Global 12 Project traveling to over 50 nations holding mission conferences, working with church missions programs and small groups, and conducting leadership training and overseeing church planting, primarily throughout north and west Africa. From 2015 to 2020,

they lived in Kuwait City, Kuwait where Steve served as Senior Pastor of Crossroad International Church. He currently serves as Vision International University's Vice President of International Operations and Africa Regional Director for Surge Project. Overseer of more than 30,000 church plants in twelve different world zones, he currently administers a network of 6,000 churches and 100+ Bible schools in Africa, as well as Bible schools in more than 150 nations.

A firm believer that church planting is the best way to fulfill the Great Commission, Dr. Mills has been teaching at TBS both on campus and online while on location from wherever he is serving around the world. Following the Apostle Paul's New Testament example, Dr. Mills emphasizes that building churches occurs through mentoring and nurturing disciples, and students have benefited from watching him put his words into practice. For example, while reading and learning about church planting and disciple-making during spring semester, they joined their professor and others online while he engaged in those very activities in Ghana and Liberia.

For more information about learning missions alongside experienced missionaries, check out the TBS Master of Arts in Biblical Studies with a concentration in Missions (see p. 12). **TBS**



ON MISSION

Ananias
HOUSE

BY SHELLI ALANIZ
TBS MDiv student



Women's
LEADERSHIP
TRAINING

When I first met my sisters from across the ocean in person, despite only interacting via Zoom up until that point, it was like connecting with family after a long separation. We experienced instant rapport with the forty women we trained and who lived throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Recently, after completing similar training with women in Armenia, one remarked, "This must be what heaven feels like. Different nations all coming together because of Jesus."

We currently train in person twice a year in some undisclosed country within the Middle East, and the training involves three primary components. First, we focus on discipleship and share how to study the Bible, teach others, and grow in their relationship with God. Second, we focus on trauma healing where our team of counselors works to help identify heart wounds and how to navigate grief and lament for their own inner healing. Finally, we focus on leadership to help them understand their own gifts, what being a woman and a leader means in their communities, how to build a ministry team, and how the Kingdom supersedes culture in all things. We aim to create godly, competent, and confident leaders within each region, and after five years of training, they will be prepared to replicate the ministry by launching the program in their own countries.

As the women focus on living inside God's Kingdom's culture, they have learned to deeply depend on God for direction and provision. They have also learned how much they need one another to navigate their faith, especially since some live in countries with extreme persecution of Christians and others face difficult economic hardships. After one translator shared her experience battling cancer in a struggling economy, I asked how I could pray for her. "Please pray Ephesians 3:14-19 over me," she asked. "I don't expect circumstances to change, but I do need God to strengthen me from within to endure what is before me, that I might reflect Him well."


For this reason I BEND MY KNEES BEFORE THE FATHER, FROM WHOM EVERY FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH DERIVES ITS NAME, THAT HE WOULD GRANT YOU, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY, TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER SELF, SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS AND THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE WIDTH AND LENGTH AND HEIGHT AND DEPTH, AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST WHICH SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE, THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED TO ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

*- Ephesians
3:14-19*



American Team preparing for 2022 Leadership training in Yerevan, Armenia (L-R, Front): Anna Hasselbring, Manar Matti, Jamal Zakhary, Barbara Neumann, Amanda Reichle, and Tammy Volz. (Back): Julia Johnson, Tonya Riggle, Shelli Alaniz, Becca Coley, and Vanessa Phillips.

Moments like these seem like one of a million that have impacted me through this experience. I have been challenged to seek something beyond the pursuit of comfort that so often populates my Western prayers. I have learned that the more I spend time with these sisters, the more God moves profoundly amid hardship as He molds and shapes us as we yield to Him in difficult circumstances. I have experienced a unifying of the Church – across oceans, countries,

churches, and cultures, and our work has only just begun! I have learned that through answering “Yes!” to God’s call, He shares our journey, moment by moment, step by step. He goes before us, prepares the way, and opens doors we cannot imagine as we accept the adventurous commission to follow Him, no matter what. Our staff is small but our passion to make a difference for the Kingdom is great. Life is too short to do anything less. 



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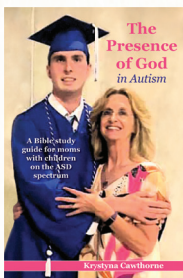
Nehemiah
Press

Logo image includes a gold cup with Tree of Life motif found in the region of ancient Persia, now modern-day Iran, possibly one of the type of cups in use during the time of Nehemiah and King Artaxerxes I in 445 BC.

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IN FIRST 3 PROJECTS!

Book Highlight

A Bible study guide written by a mom of a child with autism as a resource for ASD families, particularly moms and those who wish to minister to them. Each chapter explores a verse or short passage of Scripture, offers personal applications related to the ASD journey, aims to help address some common feelings of isolation, and seeks to point to Jesus Christ and the assurance of His constant presence in this turbulent but beautiful life journey. Available to order in Kindle or Paperback online.



For more information, visit

NEHEMIAHPRESS.COM


In approximately 445 BC, a group from Judah's capital city of Jerusalem arrived at the royal citadel in Persia's capital city of Susa, one of the oldest cities in the world and located near modern day Shush, Khuzestan, Iran. Nehemiah, cupbearer to King Artaxerxes I and brother of one of the men, questioned them. Dismayed by their report about the troubles faced by the remaining survivors in Jerusalem and the disgraceful condition of the city's walls and gates, Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed. He confessed his own sins, the sins of his family and people, reminded God of His promises to regather His dispersed exiles, and prayed for the Lord's blessings of success and favor.

When the king noticed Nehemiah's unusually downcast demeanor and asked what was wrong, Nehemiah explained and asked the king for permission to return and rebuild the holy city, as well as requested protection and provisions for the journey and task. King Artaxerxes I granted Nehemiah's requests and appointed him Governor of Judah. Nehemiah then traveled to Jerusalem, inspected the city and the walls, determined needs, organized teams, fought opposition, addressed challenges, secured promises, shared blessings, avoided temptation and distractions, continually prayed for strength, and honored the Lord and others with his dedication, faithful leadership, and hard work.

After lying in ruins for nearly 150 years, the Lord answered Nehemiah's prayers by granting their team success and favor as they rebuilt the city's walls

in an amazingly short period of 52 days. In celebration, the people asked Ezra, the teacher of the law, to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses and read it aloud to everyone old enough to understand. As Ezra stood on a high wooden platform and read, other trained leaders helped explain to the crowds what they were hearing. The leaders also encouraged everyone to celebrate; led in repentance, worship, and prayer; and helped people put God's Word into practice.

Nehemiah Press helps cupbearers of the King by offering access to provisions – people, on-demand publishing platforms, resources, and tools – so they, too, can accomplish amazing things. Key staff, volunteers, and industry professionals work together to enable select content creators to produce and publish quality resources, market their works, and manage printing, shipping, and financial transactions. In keeping with the spirit of Nehemiah and God's call and promises, we pray for the Lord to grant success and favor to each of our endeavors.

The three projects completed to-date include the *Joshua, Judges, and Jesus: A Walk Through Biblical History 3J Museum guide* written by Scott Stripling and Jordan McClinton (see p. 20), *The Presence of God in Autism: A Bible study guide for moms with children on the ASD spectrum* written by Krystyna Cawthorne (see "Book Highlight" at left), and *The El-Burnat (A) Structure(s): Joshua's Altar?* written by Abigail Leavitt (see pp. 18-19). 

HOW I Wrote a Book



It all started during my second semester at The Bible Seminary (TBS). I had to write a research paper for class, and for some reason, I was having a really hard time choosing a topic.

At the time, I was acting as a research assistant for my academic advisor, Dr. Stripling. He asked me to look something up for him in Adam Zertal's preliminary publication on the Mount Ebal excavation. I found the information that Dr. Stripling needed, but something else caught my eye, and I kept reading. Then, I started looking up other articles and books about the site on Mount Ebal.

It didn't take long before I was sure of two things. One, the site on Mount Ebal was really cool and definitely seemed to have a connection with Joshua's altar, and two, there wasn't enough information available for me to write a good research paper about it.

I set the topic aside and kept searching for something that would work for my research paper. But try as I might, I couldn't find a workable topic. I finally went to my professor and explained the situation. I had found a topic that I was really excited about, but there just wasn't enough data to write a good paper about it. He encouraged me to go for it. "Dig into the topic," he advised me. "You'll be surprised at how much you might find."

It turned out he was right. By the time I assembled my research, I realized that I was going to have a hard time narrowing it down to fit the page limit for the assignment. The topic was a lot bigger than I had ever imagined. It was big enough to be a master's thesis.

From that point on, every time I had to choose a topic for a class project, I tried to pick something that was somehow related to Joshua's altar at Mount Ebal. For my Biblical

Archaeology class, I wrote about 'Einun pottery, which plays into the dating of the site at Mount Ebal. For my Prayer and Worship class, I wrote about Old Testament altars and sacrifices (see image comparing biblical altars on next page). I couldn't figure out how to relate my Church History class to the topic of Mount Ebal, so I gave up and wrote about curse tablets instead. As it turned out, curse tablets are not so very unrelated to Mount Ebal after all.


I wrote my thesis over Christmas break the winter before I graduated. I even spent Christmas day writing. It was time consuming, but it went remarkably smoothly since I had already done so much of the research. I pulled together information that I had learned from every one of my classes at TBS.

And then it was done. I submitted it and defended it. The grade was pass/fail. I passed. After that, there was some

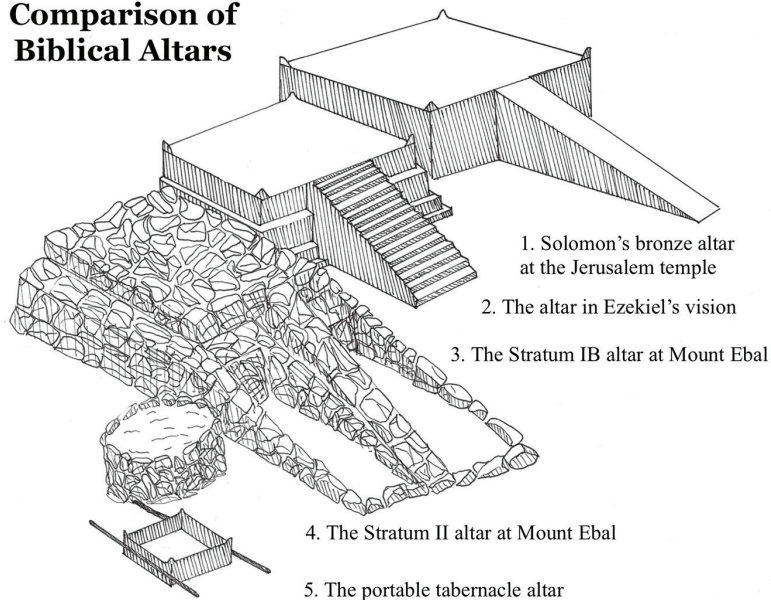
talk of including my thesis as a chapter in a book about the exodus and conquest. The book plans fell through, and I got busy with PhD work.

Then, a few months ago, TBS started a publishing branch, Nehemiah Press (NehemiahPress.com). They contacted me and asked if I would be interested in publishing my thesis as a book. I thought that sounded like a good

idea. I edited my thesis and made some updates. Once I submitted it, things moved rapidly. After numerous emails back and forth, and several rounds of editing, I finally signed the documents to allow it to go to press.

The next day, I got a text message from one of my TBS classmates. “Btw” was all the text said, followed by a screenshot of my book for sale on Amazon. 

Comparison of Biblical Altars



© 2022 Abigail Leavitt

Excerpt from the Foreword by Dr. Scott Stripling

Abigail Leavitt's thesis for her Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology is an important research document that advances scholarly understanding of two altars on Mt. Ebal. Abigail has worked with me since 2009. She started as a volunteer, then worked her way through the excavation hierarchy as an Assistant Square Supervisor, Square Supervisor, Objects Registrar, and Assistant Director of Excavations. Upon completion of her thesis, written under my supervision, Ariel University matriculated Abigail into their PhD program, where she is now researching the transition between the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age in the Highlands of Israel.

The late Professor Adam Zertal excavated a large rectangular altar and a smaller round altar underneath it, at its perfect geometric center. The rectangular altar resembles the later Second Temple period altar and has therefore received much attention from scholars such as Ralph Hawkins (2012) who wrote his dissertation on the cultic remains at Mt. Ebal. Most researchers ignore the smaller (2 × 2 m) round altar and focus on the larger (ca. 9 × 7 m) rectangular altar, even though Zertal (2017, 46) viewed the round altar as the “primogenial ritual site on Mt. Ebal.” Abigail clearly demonstrates the importance of this round altar... (and)... posits that the round altar fits better in the Late Bronze Age IB/IIA horizon, near the beginning of the fourteenth century B.C....

Laymen and scholars alike will benefit from this present work. It should occupy a prominent spot in libraries around the world. No study of the history of settlement in the Highlands of Israel will be complete without it.

And that is the story of how I wrote a book.

Available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle versions.

The El-Burnat (A) Structure(s): Joshua's Altar?



Abigail Leavitt
Foreword by Scott Stripling

3J MUSEUM



for more information about
 registering your group for a visit • watching the 3J Virtual Tour online • getting 3J merchandise

visit

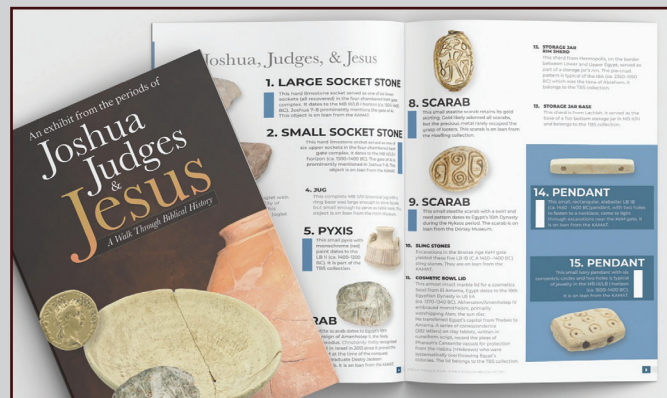
»»» THEBIBLESEMINARY.EDU/3j «««

Israel has long been a destination for tourists and Bible enthusiasts, but the recent worldwide health crisis inhibited people from traveling to travel to the Land of the Bible for a couple of years. So, TBS brought pieces of Israel – and the Bible – to Katy, Texas with the *Joshua, Judges, and Jesus – A Walk Through Biblical History* exhibit. Open on the TBS campus from March through December 2022, over 1200 people from across the U.S. visited during the first two months.

Featuring 170 artifacts from the Land of the Bible, many of which were excavated by archaeologist Dr. Scott Stripling and TBS students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology program. Dr. Stripling, TBS Provost and Vice-President of Donor Relations, has served as the Director of Excavations at several biblical sites, including Khirbet el-Maqatir (biblical Ai and possibly Ephraim) and Shiloh, Israel's first capitol.

Free and open most Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., pre-registration online is preferred.

Guided tours lasting approximately an hour for groups of five or more are available by appointment.



A 56-page, full-color museum guidebook with information about each object, as well as archaeological articles and more. Available in print or digital formats for \$10.



Available in Youth (\$15) and Adult (\$22) sizes.

I CAST MY CARES ON YOU

BY PATRICK WISE

A native of Leicester, United Kingdom, Patrick lives and works in Katy, Texas as Assistant Manager of Pearl & Vine Restaurant, serves on the worship team at The Waters Church, and serves as a Docent at the 3J Museum. He and his wife, Amy, have two children, Ashlynn and Garrick.



One of two songs and a poem written for a Spring semester final class project, the inspiration for this song derives from Habakkuk 3:17-19, 1 Peter 5:7, and various words of Jesus.

CHORUS

*I cast my cares on you.
My worries are prayers to you.
In the face of these giants, your words my reliance,
I cast my cares on you, for you care for me.*

VERSE ONE

*Even when the fields are bare,
Even when the seas aren't fair,
In the dead of night, your words my delight,
So, I cast my cares on you.*

*Even when the trees don't sprout,
Even when I am down and out,
When the barns are all empty, or I don't feel you with me,
I cast my cares on you, 'cause you care for me.*

CHORUS

VERSE TWO

*Even when the figs don't bloom,
And when the night brings gloom,
When I can't find my voice, in you I rejoice!
I cast my cares on you, yes, you care for me!*

BRIDGE

*I'll rejoice in the God of my salvation.
I'll be glad and be strong in my King.
I'll kneel down, prepare for battle,
O My God, He is listening.*

*You are my strength and redemption.
Your Word it is faithful and true.
I can walk on the heights, stand in the light,
O, how I need you!*

*I cast my cares on you.
My burdens are shared by you.
In the face of these giants, your words my reliance,
When I can't find my voice, in you I rejoice.
In the dead of the night, your words my delight,
When my heart is filled with fear, you said you are near,
So, I cast my cares on you, for you care for me.*

Shaking the Foundations of Doubt

BY K. LYNN LEWIS

Evidence continues to emerge that shows remarkable alignment with biblical texts



Numerous people and publications discount the historical reliability of the Bible, often based on decades old assertions that cast doubt on the veracity of Scripture. The refrain, “There is no evidence...” commonly precedes

skepticism about stories in the book of Genesis, Hebrews in Egypt, the Exodus, the Israelite Conquest, and more.

At the time they were written, many of these statements were not necessarily lies, but assertions based on opinions of interpretations of purportedly demonstrable conclusions. For example, when 20th century excavations at Jericho (an

uncontested location) and Ai (a contested location) did not seem to yield evidence matching the biblical stories, widespread doubt about the reliability of the Bible ensued and influenced millions.

However, new evidence, improved archaeological methods, and scientific advances in the decades since – along with reexaminations of old excavations and interpretations of findings – shows remarkable alignment with biblical texts. Archaeological research scheduled for publication this year related to three early Conquest sites have the potential to cause a gigantic tilt in the balance of evidence favoring fact over fiction concerning the historicity of the Bible.

The Mt. Ebal Defixio

The Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) March 2022 announcement of the discovery of a formulaic curse recovered on a small, folded lead tablet called a “defixio” is extremely significant. Found in December 2019 when The Bible Seminary (TBS) Provost and archaeologist Dr. Scott Stripling led a team in wet sifting discarded material from excavations conducted on Mt. Ebal between 1982 and 1989 by archaeologist Adam Zertal (1936-2015). High-tech scans of the tablet revealed ancient Hebrew script

appearing centuries older than any other known texts found in Israel.

According to Deuteronomy 11 and 27, after crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land, the Israelites were instructed to go to Mt. Ebal, build an altar of uncut stones, offer sacrifices, coat stones with plaster, write the words of the Law on them, and conduct a ceremony with six tribes standing on Mt. Gerizim announcing blessings and six tribes standing on Mt. Ebal pronouncing curses. Joshua 8 records the covenant ceremony led by Joshua in obedience to God’s commands.

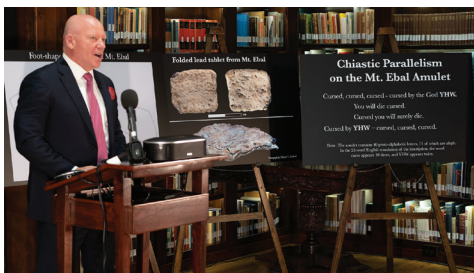
Zertal admitted in his book *A Nation Born*, “My academic background made it difficult for me to accept the idea of Joshua’s altar being a tangible reality... I had argued that the Bible was full of myths.” Yet, when his excavations on Mt. Ebal uncovered a large rectangular altar with an older and smaller round altar centered underneath, along with pieces of plaster with flat surfaces along with other items with cultic significance, Zertal’s perspective

“If this corroborates exactly what is written in that very old part of the Bible, it means that probably other parts are historically correct. The impact is tremendous.”

Adam Zertal

changed. In a 2006 interview with *Smithsonian Magazine* about his Mt. Ebal research and conclusions, he asserted, “If this corroborates exactly what is written in that very old part of the Bible, it means that probably other parts are historically correct. The impact is tremendous.”

Stripling’s team found the defixio among debris from the lower structure Zertal believed was Joshua’s altar. Observing apparent glyptic markings on the outside and knowing that folded tablets often include writing on the inside, he formed a collaboration with four scientists specializing in tomographic scanning from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Ivana Kumpova, Jaroslav



Mt. Ebal Defixio Announced: Dr. Scott Stripling at the press conference held in conjunction with the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) at the Lanier Theological Library in Houston, Texas on 3/24/2022. Numerous members of the press participated live and online from across the U.S. and around the world.

Valach, Daniel Vavrik, and Michal Vopalensky) and two epigraphers who specialize in deciphering ancient texts (Pieter Gert van der Veen of Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and Gershon Galil of the University of Haifa). Since the brittle tablet

could not be opened, the scientists performed thousands of scans to recover potential text. The advanced imaging technology is the same X-ray phase-contrast tomography recently used by researchers to decipher charred papyrus scrolls discovered in 1752 in

Herculaneum near the Roman city of Pompeii and buried since the 79 A.D. eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The Mt. Ebal curse tablet team worked together to identify letters and decipher the proto-alphabetic inscription, which appears to read as follows:

**Cursed, cursed, cursed – cursed by the God YHW. You will die cursed.
Cursed you will surely die. Cursed by YHW – cursed, cursed, cursed.**

According to Stripling, “These types of amulets are well known in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, but Zertal’s excavated pottery dated to the Iron Age I and Late Bronze Age, so logically the tablet derived from one of these earlier periods. Even so, our discovery of a Late Bronze Age inscription stunned me.” This find predates any previously known Hebrew inscription in Israel by at least 200 years.

Almost immediately Galil recognized the formulaic literary structure of the inscription: “From the symmetry, I could tell that it was written as a chiasmic parallelism.” Reading the concealed letters proved tedious, according to van der Veen, “but each day we recovered new letters and words written in a very ancient script.” Daniel Vavrik and his colleagues from Prague ensured the accuracy of the raw data which the team interpreted.

Galil called the discovery “absolutely the most important inscription ever

found in Israel” and explained, “The scribe that wrote this could have written every chapter in the Bible. Now no one can claim that the Bible was written in later periods...because they were able to write it very, very early.”

According to Stripling, “One can no longer argue with a straight face that the biblical text was not written until (centuries later), as many higher critics have done, when here we do clearly have the ability to write the entire text at a much, much earlier date.”

If eyewitnesses were literate and could have written biblical texts in their own lifetime, this could seriously challenge the popular Documentary Hypothesis that has helped cast doubt on the historical reliability of the Bible. In addition to the recently published *The El-Burnat (A) Structure(s): Joshua’s Altar?* by TBS 2021 Valedictorian Abigail Leavitt that provides background research

relevant to the Mt. Ebal defixio, Dr. Stripling is co-writing two academic, peer-reviewed articles scheduled for upcoming publication.



TBS Press Coverage: The “Eric Metaxas Radio Show Archaeologist Scott Stripling on Amulets That May Be Connected to the Mt. Ebal Curse in Deuteronomy” aired on 4/28/2022. The following are just a few of the numerous other news outlets that have covered the Mt. Ebal lead tablet story: ABC27 News, AG News, Aletheia, Biblical Archaeology, CBN News, Christian Headlines, Christianity Daily, ChurchLeaders, Daily Star, Fox 26 Houston, Houston Chronicle, Israel365 News, Jewish Press, Live Science, National Geographic Indonesia, ONE FOR ISRAEL Ministry, OnScript, Patterns of Evidence, PJ Media, Sean McDowell Show, TBN, The Jerusalem Post, The Times of Israel, The Trumpet, The U.S. Sun, UK Mirror, Watchman Newscast, and WORLD.

The Location of Ai

The contested location of this second conquest city may have been solved with archaeological and geographical evidence in a location that does match the biblical accounts. Et-Tell, 10 mi north of Jerusalem, has long prevailed as a leading candidate for Ai, but conclusions that the site was unoccupied at the time of the biblical conquest helped erode belief in the inerrancy of Scripture.

Although assured by archaeologist W.F. Albright that Et-Tell was unquestionably the ancient location of Ai, ABR surveyed additional sites and conducted exploratory excavations in several locations. One site, excavated

for 21 years, is Khirbet el-Maqatir, only 0.6 mi west of current day et-Tell. In addition to local tradition that the fortress of Ai in Joshua’s day stood at Khirbet el-Maqatir, the site has a militarily strategic direct line of sight to Jerusalem as well as nearby ruins of a Byzantine Age monastery that suggest historical veneration of that location. The biblical text offers numerous geographical indicators required to meet the criteria for Ai, including a strategic location near Beth-Aven, near and east of Bethel, near and east of an ambush site, and south of a valley and ridge. Khirbet el-Maqatir unquestionably meets all these criteria.

Archaeological excavations revealed additional indicators that match the biblical text, including evidence the site was inhabited during the Conquest, evidence of a fortification system accessed by a northern gate, a size dwarfed by nearby Gibeon, evidence of conflagration (destruction by burning), and a ruined and desolate location. One reason the site escaped notice for so long is that it is NOT a tell. The visible debris lying out in the open amidst an orchard and sheep pasture concealed an extensive underground cave system, and only when excavating and turning over the stones did gate sockets, pottery, weaponry, two entrances to the cave

system, and other compelling evidence begin to emerge. TBS alum Destry Jackson's (MABHA 2020) find – an Egyptian scarab found in a sealed locus with pottery dating to the Late Bronze I age (ca. 1485-1400 BC) and dated to the Eighteenth Egyptian Dynasty reign of Amenhotep II (ca. 1455-1418 BC) – topped the list of discoveries in biblical archaeology in 2013 according to *Christianity Today*.

“The geography and archaeology of Khirbet el-Maqatir accord with the descriptions of Ai in Joshua 7–8,” says Stripling, Director of Excavations at the site. “The identification of Khirbet el-Maqatir as the Ai of Joshua’s time resolves the problems of chronology and location (and) squares with the biblical data concerning the exodus and conquest.”

The final archaeological report of Khirbet el-Maqatir excavations is scheduled for publication in 2022. For anyone who has questioned the reliability of Scripture because of the “problem of Ai,” looking in the right place – in this case, just a few thousand feet away from a misidentified location – will prove to have significantly helped solve the problem.



Rediscovering Beit She'an: (Left) Early 1900's photo prior to excavations with the ancient tell in the foreground, city buildings near the top, and filled in valley with a noticeably large semi-circular mound; (Middle) Recent photo from the tell revealing emerging ruins of an extensive Roman city from the time of Jesus; (Right) Excavated and restored theatre with tell in the background.

“The identification of Khirbet el-Maqatir as the Ai of Joshua’s time resolves the problems of chronology and location (and) squares with the biblical data concerning the exodus and conquest.” *Dr. Scott Stripling*

Tel Shiloh Excavations

ABR’s consortium led by Stripling have also been excavating since 2017 at Tel Shiloh, where the tabernacle resided for more than 300 years. This excavation is still very much in process and interesting finds continue to bolster scriptural veracity for those willing to consider such a view possible. For example, due east of intriguing structural remains (aligned due east and west and similar in foundation dimensions to the tabernacle) lies an extremely large and ashy debris pit excavated by a previous archaeologist who believes the patriarchal narratives are powerful literary achievements but certainly not historical. He interpreted his finds as evidence of long-time Canaanite, not Jewish, worship, while also noting the absence of certain period markers elsewhere on the site.

However, his own analysis of the bones in the favissa (sacred deposit) reveal a preponderance of right-sided sheep and bovine remains, which also correspond with a noticeable drop in pig bones around the time the Israelites would have entered the region. The pit also includes an unusual number of lightly used clay vessels that appear to have been broken when deposited. This evidence matches instructions in Leviticus that include depositing ashes of offerings due east of the altar (perhaps due to prevailing winds blowing west to east?), allocating the breast and right thigh of sacrifices to priests and their sons to eat in the courtyard area of the sanctuary, prohibition against eating pork, and destroying clay pots after one-time use (as opposed to metal

vessels able to be washed and reused without contamination). Like the Mt. Ebal project, the current team is using wet sift technology to sort through debris piles from earlier digs at Shiloh. The finds so far include numerous expected period markers such as datable Egyptian scarabs, pottery, bones, coins, seeds, and other items missed during previous excavations. Even more compelling evidence emerged when the team found three altar horns during excavation of squares in the vicinity of the intriguing structure currently scheduled for excavation during the 2022 summer dig. Visit DigShiloh.org for articles, photos, and videos, including the *Digging for Truth* TV series and episodes of the *Shiloh Network News*.


Right Place, Right Times, Informed Theology

The past few decades have proven that looking in the right place, in the right time periods, and using improved tools and technologies, new excavations and reexaminations of old findings provide increasing evidence that bolsters the historical reliability of Scripture. Not just small objects, but structures such as the Pool of Siloam and the recently opened Pilgrim's Road of ascents tunnel up to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem; remains of fortresses such as Tel Balata (biblical Shechem), tombs such as Herodium, and palaces such as Caesarea Maritima; and cities such as Beit She'an (Roman Scythopolis) have been exposed from

their hiding places underneath sand, soil, and later settlements.

The Bible Seminary's educational initiatives include equipping and training leaders familiar with Scripture, history, and increasing archaeological evidence. Through teaching, as well as publishing articles, books, music, podcasts, research papers, study notes in Bibles, videos, social media and more, TBS is working to improve pathways to faith by paving them with facts. For example, the Joshua's Conquest Seminar scheduled at Parkway Fellowship Church in Richmond, Texas August 5-6, 2022 will be taught by Dr.

Stripling and focus on the internal biblical chronology and external archaeological evidence of the Conquest as presented in the book of Joshua.

Truth can shake foundations of doubt that rest on dismissed, missing, or mismatched data. With only an estimated 5% of the Holy Land excavated – along with increasing evidence that the Bible is factually accurate, historically reliable, and that the Bible's earliest books could have been written by eyewitnesses – ongoing research exposing what else lies beneath will continue to unsettle skeptics and strengthen the faith of believers. 



Amenhotep II Egyptian Scarab: Named the 2013 biblical archaeological find of the year. Photo by Mike Luddeni.



Ai Socket Stone: One of two gate socket stones discovered in 2016 near a gate complex on the north side of Khirbet-el-Maqatir; mostly likely the biblical city of Ai. (L-R) Bryant Wood, Mark Hassler, and Scott Stripling. Photo by Mike Luddeni.



Pool of Siloam: Although referenced in the Bible and elsewhere, skeptics long doubted the existence of this pool until it was discovered by accident in southern Jerusalem while repairing a sewer system in 2004 (see pipes in photo). Excavations revealed a width of 225' and steps on at least three sides. A major portion of the pool is as yet unexcavated due to political issues.



Welcome

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



CLAYTON VAN HUSS *Student Services Coordinator*

Clayton moved from Tennessee to Texas to enroll in the Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology degree program. Born on the island of Okinawa, Japan and raised in communities across the U.S. during his father's military service until they settled in northeast Tennessee, Clayton holds a B.A. in Theatre from East Tennessee State University with a minor in Radio, Television, and Film. He also earned an A.A. in Dramatic Production from The Academy of Arts Christian College located in Taylors, South Carolina. Clayton has worked with Refuge Media to produce several Christian films, including *The Brothers' Christmas*, *1517 The Flame Rekindled*, *Born in a Stable*, and *Goodwill to Men*. In his role as Student Services Coordinator, Clayton helps coordinate and provide support services to students and acts as a liaison between students and faculty.

CLAYTON.VANHUSS@
THEBIBLESEMINARY.EDU



ALLISON TAYLOR *Marketing Director*

Allison volunteered to help market the March 1, 2022 opening of *Joshua, Judges and Jesus 3J* Museum exhibit and coordinate media for the March 24, 2022 the Mount Ebal Lead Tablet press conference. She then joined the TBS team as part-time Marketing Director in April. A part-time student for three years hungry for deeper Biblical knowledge and insights, she is already working hard to help spread the good news about TBS near and far.

A third generation Houstonian with heart for the mountains and a goal of visiting every U.S. National Park (she recently checked off visiting Yellowstone and The Grand Tetons), Allison graduated from Katy High School, Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and Agriculture, and Le Cordon Bleu with a Culinary Arts and Patisserie & Baking Certification. Her diverse background includes work as a professional Pastry Chef and Culinary Instructor as well as two decades in her family owned and operated insurance agency.

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Welcome

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



BEN BASH

Ben serves as Administrative Pastor at Grace Fellowship church in Katy, Texas. He spent more than twenty years as an attorney and HR executive, serving in positions that included Associate Attorney, Corporate Counsel, Senior Counsel, Senior VP of Human Resources, VP Total Rewards, and Assistant General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. He has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Southwestern University, a Juris Doctor from The University of Texas Law School, and a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He and wife, Julianne, have two boys.



CINDY HAYLEY

Cindy is the owner of 4 Winks Photography (newborn and infant photography). Active at The Woodlands UMC where she formerly served on the church's School Board and currently serves on the Church Board, she teaches Sunday School and small groups, including the popular "B90: Bible in 90 Days" course. She is nearing completion of a master's degree from Liberty University and involved in archaeological excavations at Tel Shiloh. She is the mother of four adult children.



Welcome

DR. ISRAEL STEINMETZ



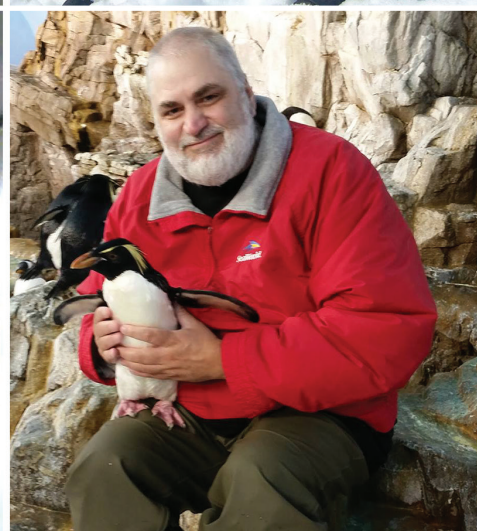
Steinmetz Family (L-R, Front): Gabriel (11), Olivia (10), Paul (7), and Samantha (12). (Back): Israel, Anya (18), Isaiah (15), Clara (4), Anna, and Esther (16).

TBS is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Israel Steinmetz as Dean of Graduate Programs and Associate Professor of Practical Theology effective August 1, 2022. Israel is an author, pastor, and theologian with over twenty-five years of Christian leadership experience in preaching, teaching, writing, and pastoral ministry. He most recently served as a Chaplain based in San Antonio, Texas with the United States Navy. He previously served as co-Director and Dean of Academic Affairs for Artios Christian College; as Co-Director, Dean of Academic Affairs, Curriculum Developer, and Adjunct for LifeSpring School of Ministry; as lead pastor at two churches; and as a Church Administrator. He holds a Bachelor of Pastoral Ministry from Christ for the Nations Institute (2003), a Master of Divinity from Regent University (2006), a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Nazarene Theological Seminary (2012), and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary (2021). He and his wife Anna have been married since 2002 and have eight children.

TBS
2022
FACULTY
of the YEAR



A HISTORY, TRAVEL, AND LIVE MUSIC ENTHUSIAST WHO ESPECIALLY ENJOYS 80'S BAND CONCERTS, DR. LOKEN CURRENTLY LIVES IN TOMBALL, TEXAS WITH HIS WIFE KIM AND AN ARRAY OF ANIMALS.



Dr. Israel Loken

The Bible Seminary annually recognizes a professor who truly exemplifies the love of teaching, who connects meaningfully with students, and who practically and prayerfully illuminates biblical texts, history, and theology to help students grow in faith, knowledge, and leadership skills. We are pleased to announce TBS Adjunct Professor Dr. Israel Loken as 2021-22 Faculty of the Year.

A native of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin where his father worked as general manager of a large Christian radio station prior to moving the family to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to launch another Christian radio station, Dr. Loken remains an avid and lifelong fan of the Green Bay Packers and Villanova Wildcats. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Bible at Lancaster Bible College where he helped lead the Varsity Club and served as Captain of the Men's Intercollegiate Basketball Team. He discovered his love of teaching while hosting a local bible study and went on to earn a Th. M. and Ph. D. in Bible Exposition from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS). During this time, he honed his skill teaching at

Dallas Christian Academy and at DTS, where he has continued as an adjunct professor for the past twenty-three years. He moved to Houston, Texas in 2000 to help launch the undergraduate degree program at the College of Biblical Studies where he has served as Chair of the Bible and Theology Department since 2006.

Author of or contributor to more than twenty journal articles, research papers, and books (including his *Loken Expository Commentary Series*), Dr. Loken focuses on helping students become intimately acquainted with God's Word. He begins every class with prayer, a joke, and a devotional and works to foster a dynamic, interactive learning environment in which students can safely ask questions, get real, and meaningfully absorb information. When complimented on his encyclopedic knowledge, he simply replies that he has just studied longer. His unique manner of teaching ancient history and early church time periods, in particular, seem almost like first-hand accounts. Thank you, Dr. Loken!



THE BIBLE SEMINARY PODCAST
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TO **BLAKE QUIMBY**

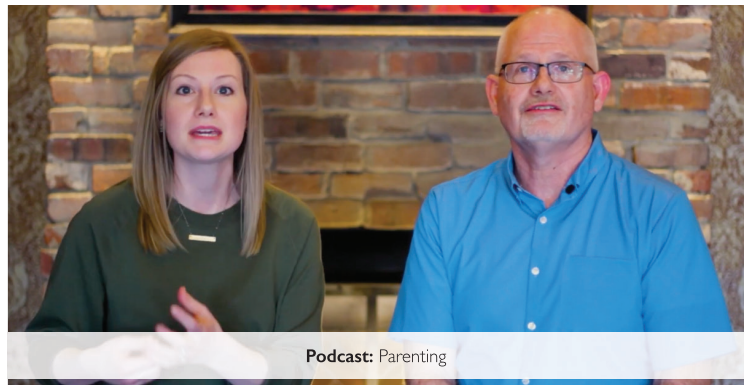
for his excellent leadership and media skills
in producing **more than 75 episodes of**
The Bible Seminary Podcast, "Cultivating Biblical Leaders."

Listen on **Apple Podcasts** or click "Media – Podcast" on **TheBibleSeminary.edu**.

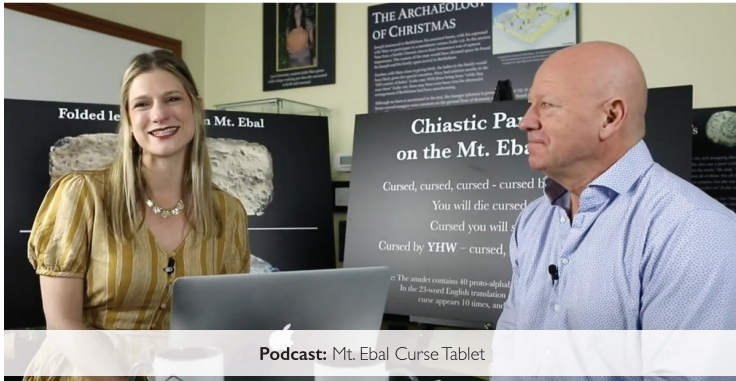




Podcast: 3J Museum



Podcast: Parenting



Podcast: Mt. Ebal Curse Tablet



Podcast: The Presence of God in Autism



Podcast: Elijah Rising



Podcast: Date the Pottery



Podcast: Faith Lessons



Podcast: Shiloh Network News



Podcast: A Life of Faith with Dr. Jim Leggett



Podcast: World of Jesus Artifacts

The Bible Seminary 2022 GRADUATES



DEGREE GRADUATE



LINDSEY BENDER

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (BA)
MASTER OF ARTS IN CHURCH HISTORY AND THEOLOGY (MA)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Lindsey and her husband, Jake, live in Bullard, Texas with their two incredible children, Sam and Liv. Formerly residents of Katy, Lindsey heard about the Dual Degree Completion program and discovered that credits she had already earned in pursuit of a Dental Hygiene degree could meet some of the general education and elective requirements for an undergraduate degree in Christian studies. Since enrolling at TBS in January 2019, she has taught at Grace Fellowship's UpWord women's Bible study and helped co-write curriculum for the thriving ministry. She has a passion for spiritual revival and want to contribute toward helping others become more biblical literate (see "An Honest Answer" on pp. 6-7). She is grateful for the endurance and support of her husband and kids during her time at TBS, as well as her extended family and friends for their prayers and encouragement. She is especially grateful for her professors, as well as the seminary ladies who unwaveringly uplifted, prayed over, cried with, loved-on, and wholeheartedly came alongside her during the last three and half years.

I WILL TREASURE BOTH THIS LEADERSHIP AND THESE FRIENDSHIPS FOR THE REST OF MY EARTHLY LIFE!

- Lindsey Bender



DEGREE GRADUATE



SHARON HOLMES

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURE

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Sharon and her husband, Darrell, reside in Fulshear, Texas, have been married for 35 years, and have three adult children: Sharae, Danae, and Darrell, Jr. Sharon, who completed the TBS Bible Certificate program in 2018, has a B.S. in Biology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, an Associate of Applied Science in Medical Technology from Tarleton State University, and is an American Society for Clinical Pathology Certified Medical Lab Technician. She has served as a Service Team Prayer Partner at Lakewood Church for ten years and as Team Lead for a year, as well as a Telephone Prayer Partner for eight years.

Class of
»» 2022 ««

The Bible Seminary 2022 GRADUATES



DEGREE GRADUATE



JORDAN McCLINTON

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Jordan and his wife, Angela (also a TBS grad) live in Katy, Texas with their three daughters. Co-director of the Joshua, Judges, and Jesus (3J) Museum exhibit, an excavation Square Supervisor at Tel Shiloh with the Associates for Biblical Research, and Associate Pastor at The Waters Church in Katy, Jordan earned his B.S. in Computer Information Systems from the University of Houston. He has worked in numerous corporate roles over the past 20 years, including his current role as Project Manager at EBUSINESS STRATEGIES, a strategic consulting services firm providing Corporate Real Estate and Workplace Management services.

Jordan ≡ ≡ ≡

- » **CO-DIRECTOR OF THE JOSHUA, JUDGES, AND JESUS (3J) MUSEUM EXHIBIT**
- » **AN EXCAVATION SQUARE SUPERVISOR AT TELSHILOH WITH THE ASSOCIATES FOR BIBLICAL RESEARCH**
- » **ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT THE WATERS CHURCH IN KATY**



DEGREE GRADUATE



GEORGIA STRONG

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (BACS)
MASTER OF ARTS IN CHURCH HISTORY AND THEOLOGY (MACTH)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

A native Texan who has lived, worked, and worshipped God in Katy for 45 years, Georgia and her husband, Ken, raised a blended family of six children and enjoyed ministering to other families together before he went home to heaven in 2019. Broker and owner of the Georgia Strong Realty Group, she is passionate about life and people and loves teaching and mentoring women through Bible studies, weekend retreats, and prolife maternity homes and programs. She counts her children and grandchildren as her richest blessings on earth, but above all these she writes, "I seek to know God intimately, love Him deeply and serve Him wholeheartedly for all my remaining days. TBS has allowed me to do that through world-class professors and support staff along with incredible and supportive classmates. My journey has not been easy, but as a lifelong learner, I have loved every step of the way. Thank you, TBS and all its supporters for making this possible. Thank you, my sweet children and grandchildren, for all your support and encouragement and thank you, Father, for your love that never ends and your mercies that are new each and every morning.

"I seek to know God intimately." - GEORGIA STRONG

The Bible Seminary 2022 GRADUATES



DEGREE GRADUATE



ADAM SCHWING

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHURCH HISTORY AND THEOLOGY

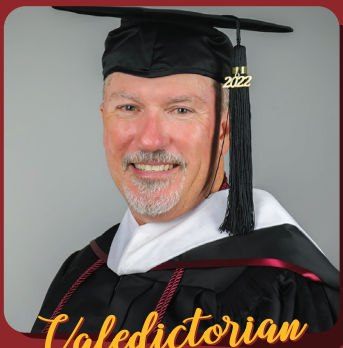
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Adam grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in education. He felt God's calling and became involved in youth ministry before beginning his journey through seminary. God moved Adam to Katy, Texas where he served as a Youth Pastor and met and married the love of his life, Angel. After seven years as Youth Pastor, God moved him into bi-vocational leadership in education and ministry. Adam and Angel planted Celebrate Life Church of the Nazarene in Katy twelve years ago, where he serves as Senior Pastor, and Adam also serves as an Instructor in the Bible Department at Houston Christian High School.

He felt
God's calling



DEGREE GRADUATE



GARY URIE

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Gary holds B.A. in History from the University of Houston and an M.A. in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary and plans to continue his studies pursuing a doctorate Biblical History and Archaeology at Veritas International University. Prior to enrolling at TBS, Gary served in the Houston Police Department for 32 years as a Robbery Detective and held the rank of Sergeant. He currently lives in Temple, Texas and attends Temple Bible Church where he co-teaches a Bible study. A lifelong student of history with a special passion for biblical history and archaeology, he currently serves at Tel Shiloh as an Assistant Square Supervisor and on the Media Team as drone pilot and photographer. He also photographed the objects for the *Joshua, Judges, and Jesus: A Walk Through Biblical History* (3J) museum catalog.

HE CURRENTLY SERVES AT TEL SHILOH AS AN ASSISTANT SQUARE SUPERVISOR AND ON THE MEDIA TEAM AS DRONE PILOT AND PHOTOGRAPHER.

2022 TEL SHILOH EXCAVATIONS

Archaeological team members returned to Tel Shiloh for the 2022 excavation season after missing 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2022 consortium led by TBS in association with the Associates for Biblical Research involved fourteen colleges and universities and more than 200 participants, including 15 TBS leaders, faculty, students (who earned between 3 and 9 degree credit hours), and family members. Excavation highlights included the following:

Monumental Building

We continued to expose a large East/West oriented structure from the time of Eli and Samuel that appears to closely match the dimensions of the tabernacle.

City Gate

We excavated a monumental entrance to the city from the north. Since the Bible mentions Shiloh's gate, which has not been found until now, this is of particular interest.

Bone Deposit

We excavated a section of a favissa (sacred deposit) which contained over 7,000 bones and abundant pottery from the time of Joshua. We anticipate that many of these bones will match the sacrificial requirements dictated in Leviticus 7 (primarily from cattle, goats, or sheep and a majority from the right side of the animal, since these were the portions given to priests for consumption). We also found two rare gold stars in this area.

According to Gary Urie, "Digging at Shiloh was a tremendous learning experience and a great way to finish my degree at TBS."

"Being back at Shiloh after 3 years felt like arriving home again," noted Jordan McClinton. "My experience this season digging in what could be the remains of the Israelite sacrificial system, was humbling to say the least."

"The dig was everything I expected it would be and more," Patrick Wise recalled. "What I didn't expect was the friends I made, the encouragement I received, and the amazing food we ate. Jordan's square was the first square at Shiloh to find gold. In a Roman pottery dump I was able to find broken stone vessels and the only bronze coin from our square! God is good!"

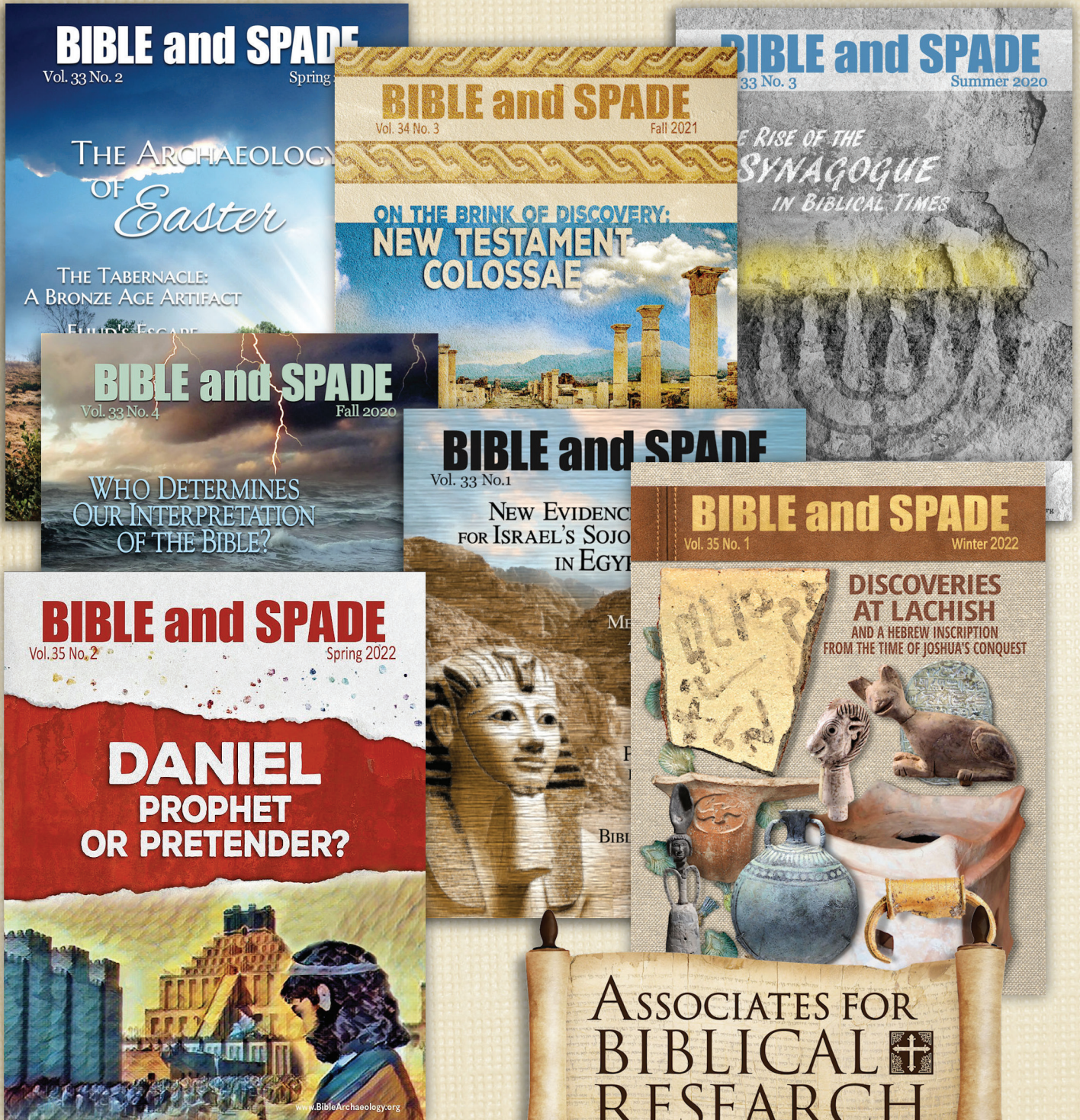
Richard James writes, "My time in Shiloh, Israel was truly an experience that I will remember for a lifetime. The work is real, requires significant effort (essentially triple checking every scoop of dirt), and is a true honor. To be able to slow down, watch the sun rise in Israel while digging in 2700-year old earth steps away from where the Ark of the Covenant resided for some years after the Exodus and assist experts in piecing history together was truly remarkable!"



Shiloh 2022 TBS Team Members (Week 4, L-R): Patrick Wise, Volunteer; Abigail Leavitt, Assistant Director of Excavations; Richard James, Volunteer; Clayton Van Huss, Media Team; Scott Stripling, Director of Excavations; Jordan McClinton, Square Supervisor; Charles Savelle, Square Supervisor; Tommy Chamberlin, Square Supervisor; Gary Urie, Photographer and Assistant Square Supervisor. Not shown: Cindy Hayley, Volunteer; Dan and Kathy Lawless, Volunteers; and Shelly Neese, Media Team. The TBS stateside team included K. Lynn Lewis, Director of Photography and Blake Quimby, Media Team.

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FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

MOVING FORWARD

Dr. K. Lynn Lewis

NEW & EXCITING

DISTANCE EDUCATION

TBS formally received approval in 2021 to offer Distance Education, making all degrees officially available both on campus and online. We joined the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), a private nonprofit consortium of state regulators and education leaders, accreditors, the U.S. Department of Education, and institutions that help coordinate distance education programs across the country. Almost every class and seminar is offered via a hybrid format, meaning students may attend live in person on campus, live online, or recorded online. Students nationwide and even residing in other countries are taking TBS courses and seminars online and enrolled in degree programs.

DEGREE OPTIONS

TBS added four new Master of Arts concentrations starting with the Spring 2022 semester, increasing the MA degree options from four to nine.

NEHEMIAH PRESS

TBS officially launched Nehemiah Press (Nehemiah Press.com) in January 2022, which has already published three titles (see p. 17).

3J MUSEUM

Opened March 1, 2022 in Suite 250 on the Katy campus, the free exhibit displays approximately 170 artifacts excavated in Israel and corresponding to the times of Joshua, Judges and Jesus (see p. 20).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS, TEL SHILOH EXCAVATIONS, HOLY LAND TOURS, AND FILMING

Our March 24, 2022 press conference about the Mt. Ebal lead tablet has attracted worldwide attention (see pp. 22-23). Our Tel Shiloh excavation team finally returned to Israel in May and June after a nearly three-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Led by TBS Provost Scott Stripling, the dig was once again the largest excavation in the Middle East with over 150 registered participants from around the world, including students and leaders from a consortium of fourteen colleges and universities. Participating TBS family members toured the Holy Land the week prior to the dig, during which time (see photo above, L-R) Dr. Stripling, Kevin Sorbo, and Dr. Craig Evans worked together on a new full-length documentary about the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle produced by Geshar Media and scheduled for release in early 2023.

NEW SEMINARS

Expanded programming options are available to churches and other organizations to host on their own campuses (see p. 41).

STUDENTS NATIONWIDE AND EVEN RESIDING IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE TAKING TBS COURSES AND SEMINARS ONLINE AND ENROLLED IN DEGREE PROGRAMS.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

According to the American Worldview Inventory 2022 conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, most American pastors do NOT possess a biblical worldview. Among survey participants, more than 60% discount the inerrancy, authenticity, and authority of the Bible. They also disavow historically self-evident truths grounded in natural law, especially in issues related to abortion, human sexuality, and racism.

AMERICA'S CHURCH LEADERS HAVE BECOME WOLVES DISGUISED AS SHEPHERDS. OUR PASTORS AND CHRISTIAN FACULTY, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SALT AND LIGHT TO A DYING CULTURE AND DARK WORLD, ARE NOW LITTLE MORE THAN PALLID MILK TOAST TO A NATION IN DESPERATE NEED OF THE STRONG DRINK OF THE GOSPEL. - "AMERICA'S CHURCH LEADERS NOW WOLVES IN SHEPHERD'S CLOTHING," EVERETT PIPER, 5/12/2022, THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

Although the survey results are shocking, they are not surprising. I once sat at a year-end ministry event with a group of full-time ministers who boasted about not believing in the God central to historical Christianity. They did not believe the Jesus depicted in the Gospels was a real person, or that the resurrection was a historical event, or that the Bible was factually accurate or the authoritative Word of God. They asserted that any god who would sacrifice his innocent son for the sins of others was guilty of the worst form of child abuse imaginable and certainly not worthy of worship. The idea that people in general were considered sinners and required divine sacrifice and atonement deeply offended them. They explained that resurrection was obviously a mental concept: eternal life simply meant that someone remembered you and continued to embody your spirit (aka a collective spirit of god), sort of like the idea of Santa Claus. When I asked why they wanted to work in full-time ministry, they explained their pity for the misinformed masses and their longing to lead in positions where they could help people.

In contrast, consider the Apostle Paul's message to the Ephesian elders who met him in Miletus toward the end of his third missionary journey (recorded in Acts 20:20-31). "You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house," he told them. "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus...I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!"

At TBS, rather than complain about the vast negative societal ramifications perpetrated by leaders who DO NOT

The Percentage of Christian Pastors That Possess a Biblical Worldview	
Pastoral Position	Percent with a Biblical Worldview
All Christian Pastors	37%
Senior/Lead Pastor	41
Associate/Assistant Pastor	28
Teaching Pastor	13
Children's/Youth Pastor	12
Executive Pastor	4

Source: American Worldview Inventory 2022, Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University; N=1,000 Christian pastors; conducted February-March 2022. Note: the "All Christian Pastors" statistic is a weighted average of all five pastoral positions based on the proportion of pastors represented by each of the positions in churches nationwide.

hold a Christian worldview, we are actively working to train leaders that DO. Much of our work is aimed at helping nurture a biblically literate populace via comprehensive, strategic, Bible-based training. Faculty integrate studies of the Bible with instruction in historical, theological, and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for life and ministry. We offer experiential education through classroom instruction, study tours, hands-on training, and community-based training alongside seasoned professionals. We publish resource articles, books, a magazine, podcasts, social posts, videos, and websites so that people can hear truth, study facts, engage in fruitful conversations, experience the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit, honor the Lord in every area of their lives, and positively influence their church, family, and society.

FUNDING

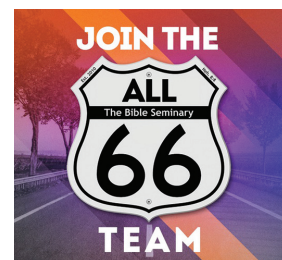
Donations fund 80+% of general TBS operations. We are exceedingly grateful for the businesses, churches, foundations, and individuals who have helped make all the above exciting activities and more possible. An ongoing challenge is that, after the receiving the largest amount of annual income ever in TBS history during our previous fiscal year, our 2021-22 fiscal year income dropped significantly. Our candid communications elicited concern from one student, to whom I responded in part as follows:

SINCE OUR INCEPTION TWELVE YEARS AGO, TBS HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPEN ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL STATUS AND SHARED INFORMATION FREELY AND REGULARLY IN OUR PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS. LIKE MOST NON-PROFITS, THE BALANCE IN OUR ACCOUNTS VARIES THROUGHOUT EACH YEAR WITH SOMEWHAT PREDICTABLE SWINGS DEPENDING ON THE SEASON OF THE YEAR. SOMETIMES OUR ACCOUNTS OVERFLOW ABUNDANTLY, AND SOMETIMES THEY GET LOW. WHEN THEY ARE HIGH, WE REJOICE AND THANK EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED. WHEN THEY GET LOW, WE STILL REJOICE AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GIVE. NO MATTER WHAT, WE REGULARLY OFFER AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR STATUS SO OUR TBS FAMILY MEMBERS WILL HAVE THE SAME INFORMATION WE HAVE. MANY EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN GIVING AND LOVE TBS BUT CAN GET DISTRACTED WITH THE FAST PACE OF LIFE, SO THEY TEND TO RESPOND WHEN PROVIDED UPDATES AND ENCOURAGED TO GIVE. A NUMBER HAVE EXPRESSED THAT THEY APPRECIATE THE REMINDERS AND LOVE THAT WE ARE OPEN ABOUT SHARING ACCURATE, UP-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORTS. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY YEAR THE LORD BLESSES SOMEONE ABUNDANTLY WHO THEN DECIDES TO SHARE WITH TBS. IT IS A SCARY ADVENTURE SOMETIMES, TRUSTING THE LORD IN AND FOR ALL THINGS (SOMETIMES SEEMINGLY UP UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT), BUT ALSO VERY EXCITING! I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE HAVE NO EXPECTATION OF CLOSING AND THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONFERRING DEGREES AS PROMISED. WE EXPECT TO HAVE ONE OF OUR HIGHEST ENROLLMENTS EVER THIS FALL SEMESTER AND EXPECT THAT TREND TO CONTINUE IN THE COMING YEARS. ALSO, THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING THROUGH YOUR TUITION AND FEES SINCE THIS HELPS REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FUNDRAISING...MANY PEOPLE ON OUR EMAIL AND MAILING LIST ARE NOT STUDENTS, BUT FRIENDS OF THE SEMINARY WHO ALREADY DO OR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING. EVERYONE GETS THE SAME INFO, AND WE LET THE LORD SORT EVERYTHING ELSE OUT.

We expected that achieving accreditation would help open doors to more foundation grants since many only give to accredited schools. Even so, a fourth foundation recently specifically rejected TBS based on our covenantal documents. Three stated very clearly that they would consider a grant request ONLY if TBS agreed to change our doctrinal stance on homosexuality. These very large foundations that give away multiple millions of dollars per year consider TBS foolhardy for, in their view, inexplicably leaving so much money on the table due to our obviously misinformed convictions.


For individuals, churches, businesses, foundations, or other groups who do share The Bible Seminary's biblically-based, Christ-centered, mission-focused vision and values, we invite support through any of the following ways:

- 1 Help stabilize TBS revenue flow by joining our "All 66 Team" and provide regularly scheduled donations (usually monthly or quarterly). We love intermittent, surprise gifts, too, but dependable monthly income that matches or exceeds our regular monthly expenses seems like the most prudent and respectable way to operate the ministry the Lord has entrusted to us.
- 2 Give any amount or frequency donation toward general operations, helping start and build an endowment, scholarships, or other area.
- 3 Introduce TBS to any person or organization that might consider investing in truly higher education.



FACILITIES

TBS has leased our current campus location for more than ten years. Like Moses when God encouraged him to use what he had in his hand (Exodus 4), TBS has been maximizing our ministry using every bit of the 3700 sq ft of space that we have on hand. But we are experiencing increasing space challenges. These include only one main campus Distance Education-equipped classroom (we converted former Classroom 250 into the 3J Museum), maxed out library space, no student lounge space, constrained office space, a small museum space (but lots more exhibits available to display), limited production studio space, and lack of a typical "campus" environment.

We invite your input as we seek to envision productive community. What could/should future TBS look like? Campus? Culture? Programs? Email me at Lynn.Lewis@TheBibleSeminary.edu to offer your ideas and suggestions as we work together to discern and plan the future of The Bible Seminary. 

Thank you!



FROM THE **PROVOST**

PROVOST'S PEN

Dr. Scott Stripling

These are exciting times **AT TBS!**

You may have noticed the worldwide attention over the past few months resulting from a find during one of our archaeological projects prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. In December 2019, then TBS students Abigail Leavitt, Jordan McClinton, Gary Urie, Jacob Figueroa, and others joined me on an expedition to wet sift dump piles deposited by Adam Zertal's excavations at Mount

Ebal (1982–1989). Zertal believed he had found Joshua's original altar on Mount Ebal, but he lacked the cutting-edge technology which we have today to recover small finds. Through the wet-sifting process, we recovered a small, folded lead tablet, known as a defixio or curse tablet that seemed of potentially immense importance, particularly since the Bible (Deut 11, Deut 27, and Josh 8) refers to Mt. Ebal

as the place of the curse. Through tomographic scans, we were able to see the tablet's interior and decipher what appears to be a formulaic curse that included the letters YHW, the name of Israel's God, twice. Additional text appears on the tablet's exterior. The style of writing, known as proto-alphabetic script, predates paleo-Hebrew and is the oldest verifiable Hebrew writing ever found in Israel.

IN MARCH

In association with our excavation consortium co-leader, The Associates for Biblical Research, we held a press conference at the Lanier Theology Library in Houston, Texas announcing the preliminary results of our research (see pp. 22-23).

IN MAY

Nehemiah Press published Abigail's academic Capstone project, *The El-Burnat Structure(s): Joshua's Altar?* that provides background information on Mount Ebal and Joshua's altar (see pp. 18-19).

IN DECEMBER

My peer-reviewed article, co-authored by a collaborative team of international scholars, is tentatively scheduled to appear in *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*. Abigail and I are additionally preparing a separate publication of the entire Mt. Ebal expedition.

Academically,
**OUR SUMMER LINEUP
INCLUDES THE
FOLLOWING FIVE
GRADUATE COURSES**

ARC 510

Ceramic Analysis

On location in Israel where eleven TBS students and graduates joined me for Season 4 of the Associates for Biblical Research's Tel Shiloh excavation during May and June, along with fourteen other colleges, universities, and institutions. With 135 registered volunteers and staff, we were again the largest excavation in Israel this year. I serve as the Director of Excavations and TBS alum Abigail Leavitt serves as Assistant Director.

ARC 520

Excavation Practicums

ARC 521

Excavation Practicums

MIS 503

A missionary training course incorporating a mission trip into the curriculum.

SFM 505

A graduate course teaching spiritual formation and career placement.


Upcoming academic offerings also include four seminars as part of a new elective option called ELE 501, which allows students to “build your own course” through completing 4–6 modules, such as approved seminars and service-learning projects. Anyone can attend these seminars for personal growth or for modular credit. We call this concept “stackability,” particularly where a seminar/module is incorporated into a course which in turn is part of a certificate or degree program (see sidebar for upcoming summer and fall seminars).

On August 1, we welcome Israel Steinmetz as our new Dean of Graduate Faculty and Associate Professor of Practical Theology. Dr. Steinmetz brings a strong academic and ministry background to TBS. He and his wife Anna have eight children, and we look forward to Israel joining the TBS family (see p. 28).

Our 2022 Commencement scheduled for August 14 will celebrate the conferring of eight degrees on six students: Lindsey Bender, Sharon Holmes, Jordan McClinton, Adam Schwing, Georgia Strong, and Gary Urie, Valedictorian. When I look into their eyes, I see mighty men and women equipped to take the gospel to the world. These servant-leaders are ready, willing, and able to engage an increasingly secular culture with the transformational message of the cross (see pp. 32-34).

I am also pleased to announce a new TBS/KSBJ radio partnership. KSBJ strongly supported the opening of our 3J Museum exhibit in March, and we have been flooded (in a good way!) with visitors since we opened. This fall, we are tentatively scheduled to launch a new podcast for KSBJ called “Then & There – Here & Now.” KSBJ’s Hope on Demand platform offers direct access to their huge audience and is a massive Kingdom win. We will help their listeners develop a biblical worldview and their listeners will learn about TBS and our mission to empower believers to reach the world for Christ.

Finally, my TBS title and role(s) changed slightly this year. Along with continuing as Provost, I now serve as Vice-President of Donor Relations to help cultivate relationships with major donors and facilitate major gifts. With the addition of Dr. Steinmetz as Academic Dean, I can begin delegating many of my current administrative duties. Along with President Lewis and Development Director Angela McClinton, I look forward to continuing to share TBS adventures and opportunities with those who desire to invest in multi-generational Kingdom enterprises.

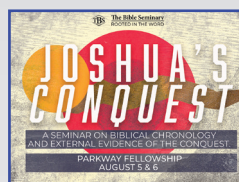
As a result of these structural enhancements and a significant increase in earned media, I anticipate record enrollment at TBS in this academic year. Thank you for your partnership! 



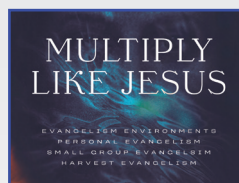
2022 SUMMER and FALL SEMINARS



Seminar embedded within the SFM 505 course and taught by Dr. K. Lynn Lewis at TBS on Jul 16, 23, 30, and Aug 13.



Seminar taught by Dr. Scott Stripling at Parkway Fellowship on Aug 5 and 6. This seminar is an example of our vision to provide exciting and inspirational academic opportunities, continuing education, congregational enrichment, and staff development to churches and other organizations to offer to their own communities in their own facilities.



Seminar designed to empower Christians to help others become Christians will be taught by Dr. Ralph Neighbour at TBS on Sep 21, 24, 28, and Oct 1. Dr. Neighbour is one of the founders of the modern small group movement.



Workplace seminar offering key leadership and management insights beneficial for bosses and employees taught by Dr. K. Lynn Lewis at TBS on Oct 11, 12, 18, and 19.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OFFERING THESE OR OTHER SEMINARS AT YOUR CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE TBS OFFICE



FROM THE **BOARD CHAIR**

EXPANDING REACH

Adam Peters


God continues to expand the reach of TBS while our mission and values remain fixed and firmly rooted in His Word. This past year, as we have emerged from a challenging two-year long pandemic, many individuals and institutions have reflected on our priorities and our operational approach.

The pandemic challenged our ways of connecting people while serving as a reminder that our need to connect with people is core to how God created us. People are rethinking what is important in life, rethinking how they want to spend the next years of their lives, and many are leaving the workforce in droves in what has been called “the Great Resignation.” The exponential expansion of content affords seemingly unlimited access to information and unlimited options with which to fill our minds. Remote learning options – dramatically expanded during the pandemic and more and more consistently integrated into traditional classroom instruction – have fast-tracked changing how people learn. These shifts are real and can create anxiety and uncertainty for people providing new opportunities for God to transform hearts through Jesus Christ.

TBS has embraced these challenges wholeheartedly while continuing to hold fast to its mission “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.”

Our strategic responses include gaining official approval to offer Distance Education, integrating advanced remote learning technologies into the classroom, and introducing a new publication arm, Nehemiah Press, which aims to “help develop, produce, and distribute resources profitable for making disciples, teaching, and training in righteousness to help inform and nurture faith and equip people for good works that glorify God and serve others in Jesus’ name.” Astoundingly, Nehemiah Press has already completed three print publications, plus podcasts and videos, and more projects are forthcoming (see p. 17 for details).

TBS has expanded its reach through the *Joshua, Judges and Jesus* (3J) museum creating opportunities for 1200+ seminary campus visitors in the first few months after opening. TBS also expanded degree offerings by creating four new concentrations within the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies to better equip students for ministry in areas of Biblical Leadership, Christian Education, Missions, and Media Production (see pp. 5, 10, 12, and 16).

Thank you for your prayers and vital financial support that enables TBS to live out its mission for God’s glory. We rejoice in our partnership with the Lord in opening doors for the expansion of His Kingdom through the activities of TBS leaders, students, and alumni highlighted throughout this magazine, our monthly newsletters, and social media. Your support helps make all these exciting things possible, and we are extremely grateful! 

TBS MISSION: 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.

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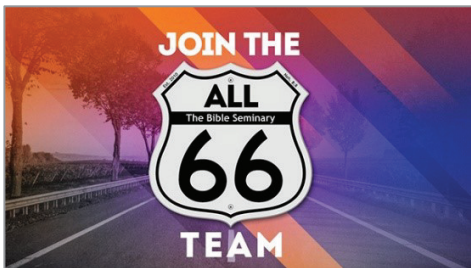
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Core Values

“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; integrated with the curriculum, in classroom settings, meetings, and continual 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 church universal (the body of Christ) is God's plan (Matthew 16:18), comprised of local churches (Acts 20:28; Romans 16:3-5; Acts 5:42), we will have a symbiotic relationship of service, training and education 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.