

# Encountering Jesus

Saturday, January 13, 2018 | Featuring Dr. Wave Nunnally

**Session 2 - Other Lenses Through Which to Look  
to Better Understand Your Bible**

## I. The Bible Through the Lenses of Literature, History, Language, Geography, Archeology, and even Geology!

### 1. *The Bible Through the Lens of “Literature”*

#### **Mark 14:30**

And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before the cock crows twice, shall three times deny Me.”

#### **Josephus History of the Jewish War 4:582**

In Jerusalem, the night was divided into watches of three hours each.

#### **Mishnah Bava Kama 7:7**

No one is allowed to raise roosters in Jerusalem on account of concern regarding the holy things.

#### **Mishnah Sukkah 5:4**

At cock-crow (*kri'at Ha-Gever*), they blew a sustained, then a quavering, then another sustained blast...

#### **Babylonian Talmud Yoma 22b**

What is *kri'at ha-gever*? Rav said, “The call of a man.” The teaching that is in accordance with Rav: “What does Gebini the Temple Crier call out? ‘Arise, you priests, for your service, O Levites to your platform, O Israel, for your post!’ And his voice could be heard for 5 to 7 miles. It once happened that King Agrippa [AD 41-44] who was coming along traveling heard his voice from 5 to 7 miles away, and when he came home, he sent gifts to him.”



**ANCIENT ROAD SIGN**  
*"PLACE OF BLOWING"*

**TEMPLE MOUNT**  
*EVIDENCE OF*  
*HISTORICAL ACCOUNT*



**MODEL OF THE CITY OF**  
**JERUSALEM,**  
**DURING JESUS'S TIMES**



**Mark 14:30**

And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before the **cock crows** twice, shall three times deny Me."

**2. The Bible Through the Lens of "History"**

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down **the barrier of the dividing wall**, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity...so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

**1 Maccabees 9:54**

In the one hundred and fifty-third year, in the second month, Alcimus gave orders to tear down the wall of the inner court of the sanctuary. He tore down the work of the prophets!

**Philo Embassy to Gaius 212**

Still more abounding and peculiar is the zeal of them all for the temple, and the strongest proof of this is that death without appeal is the sentence against those of other races who penetrate into its inner confines. For the outer [courts] are open to everyone wherever they come from.



**Josephus** *History of the Jewish War* 5:193-194

Proceeding across [the Court of the Gentiles] toward the second court of the temple, one found it surrounded by a stone **barrier**, three cubits high and of exquisite workmanship. In this at regular intervals stood slabs giving warning, some in Greek, others in Latin characters, of the law of purification, that no foreigner was permitted to enter the holy place, for so the second enclosure of the temple was called.



**THE HOLY PLACE**

**Inscriptions** (Discovered by Charles Clermont - Ganneau in 1871)

“No foreigner is to enter within the fence/railing around the sanctuary and the enclosure. Whoever is caught, on himself shall be put the blame for the death which will ensue.”



4 ISCRIZIONE CHE PROIBISCE L'ACCESSO AGLI STRANIERI NEL TEMPIO DI GERUSALEMME  
COSTANTINOPOLI

**Acts 21: 28, 31; 22:22**

...Men of Israel, help! This is the man who...brought Greeks into the temple [*hieron*], and has defiled this holy place....And...they were seeking to kill him...and they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!”

**3. The Bible Through the Lens of “Language”...**

**Matthew 15:3-6**

“And He answered and said to them, ‘And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, “Honor your father and mother”.....But you say, “Whoever shall say to his father or mother, ‘**Anything of mine you might have been helped by** has been **given to God**,’ he is not to honor his father or his mother.” And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.”

**Mark 7:11**“...anything of mine you might have been helped by is *korban*.”

**Matthew 27:6**

The same word appears here with the same meaning: the chief priests agree that they cannot donate Judas’ blood-money as *korban* (here in Matthew the Hebrew word is actually written out here in Greek letters) to the temple treasury.

**Josephus Against Apion 2:206**

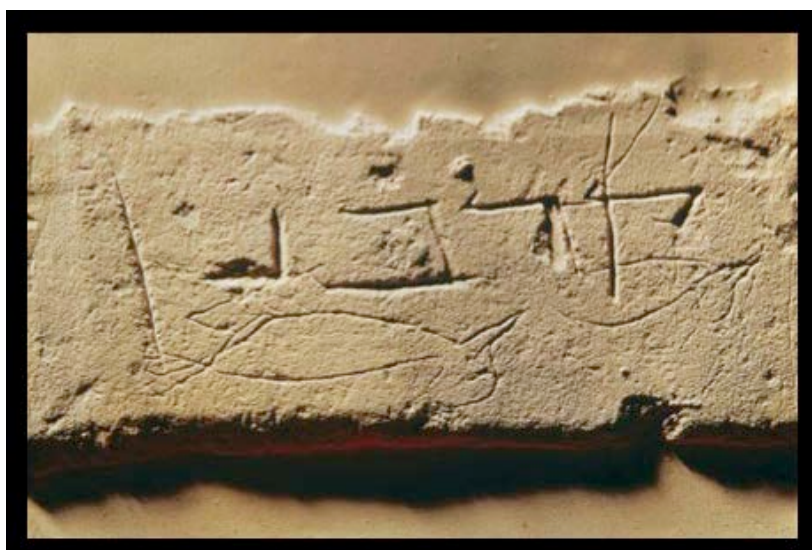
“Honor to parents the Law ranks as second only to honor to God...for the slightest failure in **his duty towards them** — it hands him over to be stoned.”

**Tosefta Kiddushin 1:11**

“What is a commandment pertaining to the son concerning the father? Giving him food to eat and something to drink and clothing him and covering him and taking him out and bringing him in and washing his face and his hands and his feet. All the same are men and women [with respect to their responsibilities toward their parents].”

**Sifra Kedoshim 1:10**

“What is ‘reverence’ and ‘honor’? .....‘honor’ means that he must give [his father] food and drink, clothe him, cover him, and lead him in and out.”



#### KORBAN

*donations to the temple- 2 turtledoves*

### ***4. The Bible Through the Lens of “Geography”***

**Matthew 20:29** and **Mark 10:46** (“Bar-Timaeus”)

“And as **they were going out** from Jericho...”

**Luke 18:35**

“And it came about that **as He was approaching** Jericho...”



ANCIENT JERICO  
FROM JOSHUA/  
OLD TESTAMENT



HERODIAN JERICO - NEW TESTAMENT





## 5. *The Bible Through the Lens of “Archeology”...*

### **Ruth 4:17**

And the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

### **2 Samuel 8:6**

Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the LORD helped David wherever he went...

### **1 Kings 20:34**

Ben-hadad said to him [Ahab], "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore, and you shall make marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria."

### **2 Kings 8:7-19**

Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-Hadad king of Aram was sick, and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here." The king said to Hazael, "Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'" So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels' loads; and he came and stood before him and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'" Then Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You will surely recover,' but the LORD has shown me that he will certainly die." **(First Prophecy)** He fixed his gaze steadily on him until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept. Hazael said, "Why does my lord weep?" Then he answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up."

Then Hazael said, "But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?" And Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you will be king over Aram." **(Second Prophecy)** So he departed from Elisha and returned to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me that you would surely recover." On the following day, he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place. **(1st and 2nd Prophecy Fulfilled)** Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then the king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah became king. He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in

Jerusalem. He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab became his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD. However, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised him to give a lamp to him through his sons always.

### **2 Kings 8:26-29**

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri king of Israel. He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house of Ahab had done, because he was a son-in-law of the house of Ahab. Then he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-Gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram. So King Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Arameans had inflicted on him at Ramah when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel because he was sick;

### **2 Kings 9:14-26**

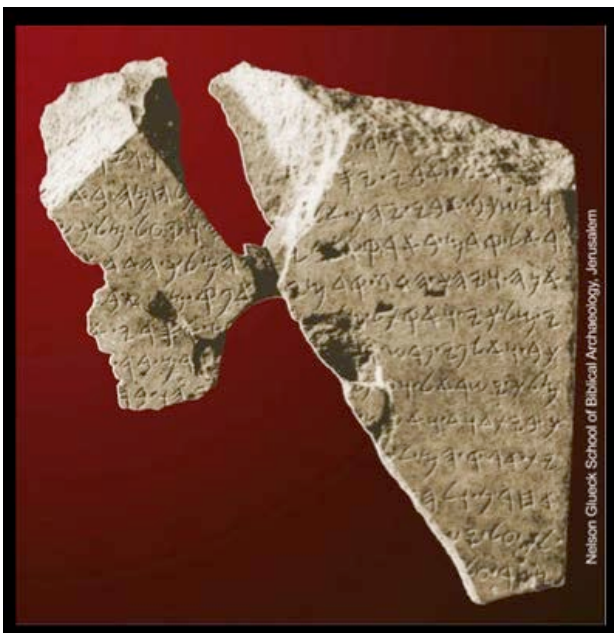
So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. Now Joram with all Israel was defending Ramoth-Gilead against Hazael king of Aram, but King Joram had returned to Jezreel to be healed of the wounds which the Arameans had inflicted on him when he fought with Hazael king of Aram. So Jehu said, "If this is your mind, *then* let no one escape or leave the city to go tell *it* in Jezreel." Then Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram was lying there. Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram. Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel and he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Take a horseman and send him to meet them and let him say, 'Is it peace?'" So a horseman went to meet him and said, "Thus says the king, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu said, "What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me." And the watchman reported, "The messenger came to them, but he did not return." Then he sent out a second horseman, who came to them and said, "Thus says the king, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me." The watchman reported, "He came even to them, and he did not return; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously." Then Joram said, "Get ready." And they made his chariot ready. Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah, king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out to meet Jehu and found him in the property of Naboth the Jezreelite. When Joram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" And he answered, "What peace, as long



as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" So Joram reined about and fled and said to Ahaziah, "*There is treachery, O Ahaziah!*" And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow went through his heart and he sank in his chariot. Then *Jehu* said to Bidkar his officer, "Take *him* up and cast him into the property of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite, for I remember when you and I were riding together after Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this oracle against him: 'Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,' says the LORD, 'and I will repay you in this property,' says the LORD (1 Kings 21:19-24). Now then, take and cast him into the property, according to the word of the LORD." **(Third Prophecy and Third Prophecy fulfilled)**

### **2 Kings 8:25b**

Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign..... **9:27-28** When Ahaziah the king of Judah saw *this* [that Jehu had killed Joram son of Ahab]], he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu pursued him and said, "Shoot him too, in the chariot." So *they shot him* at the ascent of Gur, which is at Ibleam. But he fled to Megiddo and died there. Then his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem and buried him in his grave with his fathers in the city of David.



**VICTORY MONUMENT  
SET UP BY HAZAEL AT TEL DAN**

## Beit David Inscription/Tel Dan Stele

3. . . . Now the king of Israel had penetrated
4. into my father's land before. [But then] Hadad made me king
6. . . . and I [Hazael] killed 70 kings who had harnessed thousands of chariots
7. and thousands of cavalry. [And I killed Jo]ram son of [Ahab]
8. the king of Israel, and I killed [Ahazi]yahu [=Ahaziah] son of [Joram the Ki]ng of
9. **the House of David.** And I made [their towns into ruins and turned]
10. their land into [a desolation]...

## 6. ***The Bible Through the Lens of "Geology"...***

### **Exodus 17:6**

"Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall **strike the rock**, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

### **Numbers 20:8, 11, 12**

"Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and **speak to the rock** before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink." ..... **Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock** twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."





**SOUTHERN SINAI DESERTS  
HARD GRANITE**



**NORTHERN SINAI DESERTS  
SOFT LIMESTONE**



**NACHAL TSIN IN WILDERNESS OF ZIN  
(LOCATION WHERE MOSES  
STRUCK THE ROCK)**



**WATER SEEPAGE CHANGES  
COLOR OF THE ROCKS**



**ACACIA TREES**



**MINERAL CAP**

## II. Conclusion/Take-aways

1. *The realities of the Bible should be taken seriously.*
2. *Before “spiritualizing” a passage, look into its “backstory”: more often than not, it actually means exactly what it says!*
3. *As in all communication, context REALLY matters!*
4. *In terms of accuracy in reflecting the realities of **ITS** world, the Bible is off the charts!*
5. *You can trust God’s Word: you can believe it, live it and rely on it for your eternal destiny!*
6. *The fertile, deep soil of REALITY provides a healthy context for your relationship with God to GROW, because in the lands of the Bible, **FAITH** regularly becomes **SIGHT**!*