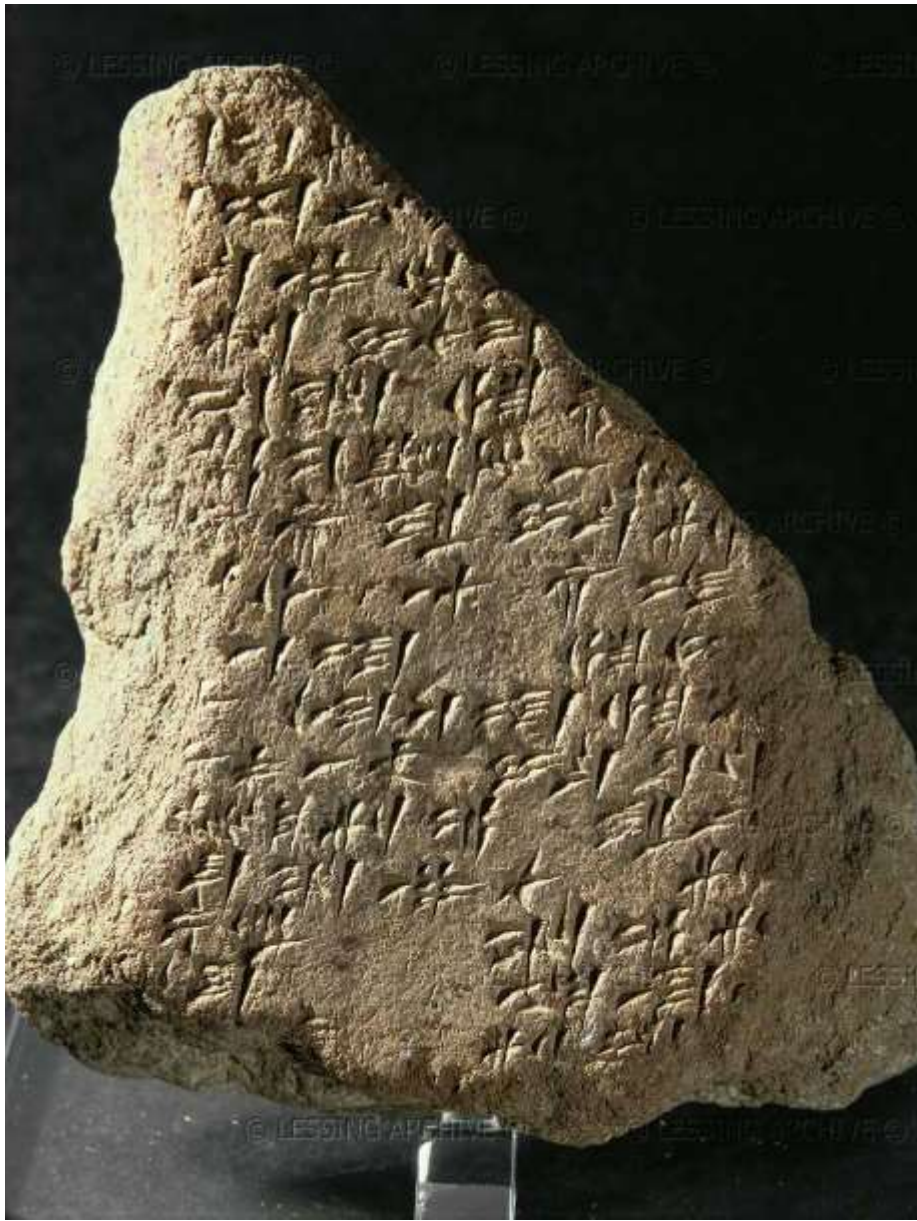


# Archaeology and the Bible: Friends or Foes

photographs courtesy of  
the  
Center for Online Judaic Studies

# Introduction: Text and Archaeology

- Friends or Foes
- Minimalists and Maximalists
- Religious aspects
- Politicization of archaeology
- Middle way, illustrating the Bible



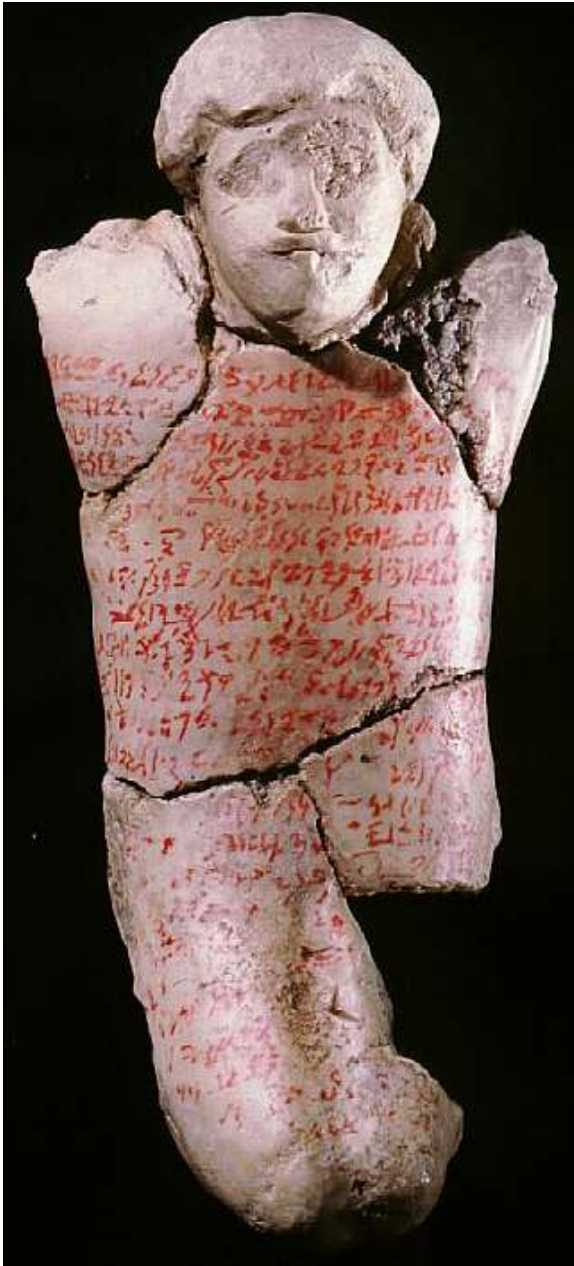
*The Babylonian  
Flood Story  
15<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.E.*

**“When the seventh  
day arrived  
I sent forth a dove  
and released it.”**

**Found at Megiddo, Israel**

# Code of Hammurabi





***Egyptian Execration Doll  
1800 B.C.E.***

**THE FIRST MENTION  
OF JERUSALEM**

**Musees Royaux d'Art et  
d'Histoire Brussels, Belgium**

***A Letter From  
Jerusalem  
1300's B.C.E.***

**A tablet from the King  
of Jerusalem to The  
Pharaoh.**



**Vorderasiatisches Museum  
Berlin, Germany**

# *Semitic Tribe Entering Egypt. 1800's B.C.E.*



**Beni Hassan, Egypt**

# *The Construction of Pithom: Store City of Rameses II 1292-1225 B.C.E.*



**“ . . . and there are neither men to make  
bricks nor straw.”**

**- Papyrus Anastasi IV**





## Merneptah Stele (c. 1210 BCE)

The princes are prostrate saying: "Shalom!"  
Not one of the Nine Bows lifts his head:  
Tjehenu is vanquished, Khatti at peace,  
Canaan is captive with all woe.  
Ashkelon is conquered, Gezer seized,  
Yanoam made nonexistent;  
Israel is wasted, bare of seed,  
Khor is become a widow for Egypt.  
All who roamed have been subdued  
By the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
*Banere-meramun,*  
Son of Re, *Merneptah, Content with Maat,*  
Given life like Re every day.

# Jericho Middle Bronze Wall



# Megiddo Early Bronze



# Megiddo Middle Bronze



# Deir Alla Inscription (750-700 BCE)



## Ketef Hinnom Amulets (c. 600 CE)



- **Ketef Hinnom I:** "YHWH. . . the great . . . who keeps] the covenant and [G]raciousness toward those who love [him] and alt: those who love [hi]m;) to those who keep [his commandments . . . . .] the Eternal? [. . .]. [the?] blessing more than any [sna]re and more than evil. For redemption is in him. For YHWH is our restorer [and] rock. May YHWH bles[s] you and [may he] keep you. [May] YHWH make [his face] shine . . . ."

**Ketef Hinnom II:** [For PN, 9th son/daughter of) xxxx]h/hu. May h[e]/sh[e] be blessed by Yahweh, the warrior [or:helper] and and the rebuker of [E]vil; May Yahweh bless you, keep you. May Yahweh make his face shine upon you and grant you p[ea]ce.

# City of David Stepped Structure



# City of David Jerusalem





# David's Palace?



# *The Seal Impression of Jehuchal ben Shelemiah*



**Found in 2005 at  
the City of David  
excavations!**

# Gezer Solomonic Gate



# Hazor Solomonide Gate



# Khirbet Qeiyafa



# Khirbet Qeiafa Southern City Gate



# *Pharaoh Shoshenq 925 B.C.E.*

**Shoshenq boasts  
of 90 cities he  
conquers in  
southern Israel up  
to Megiddo.**



**Amun Temple  
Karnak, Egypt**

# *Shoshenq Megiddo Fragment*



**A fragment of  
Pharaoh  
Shoshenq's  
commemorative  
stele found at  
Megiddo.**



# Dan Iron Age Gate



*The Tel Dan Stele  
Erected by Hazael,  
King of Aram  
840 B.C.E.*

**“I KILLED JEHORAM  
SON OF (AHAB) KING  
OF ISRAEL . . . AND I  
SLEW THE KING OF  
THE HOUSE OF  
DAVID.”**





***The Black Obelisk of  
King Shalmaneser III  
840 B.C.E.***

British Museum

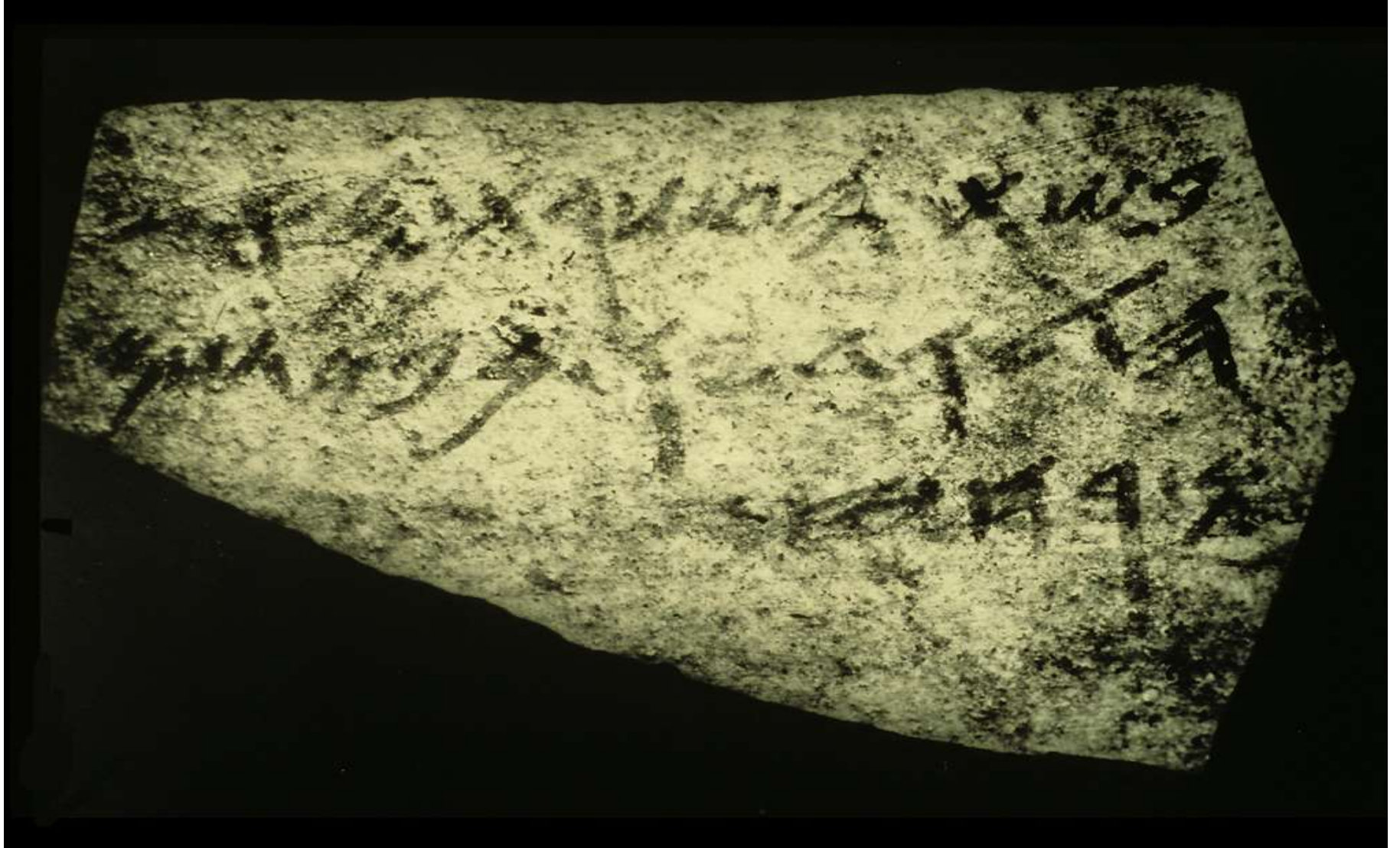


**“I received tribute from Jehu, successor of Omri”**

# Samaria Iron Age



# Samaria Ostrakon





## ***The Moabite Stone 835 B.C.E.***

**“Omri was the king of  
Israel, and he  
oppressed Moab . . .  
And . . . I took the  
Vessels of YHWH.”**

**The Louvre**

# Arad Iron Age Temple





# Arad Iron Age Holy of Holies



# Tel Beersheva



# Beersheva Iron Age Temple



# Beersheva Four Horned Altar



*Seal of Shema Servant of Jeroboam II  
786 – 746 B.C.E.*



**“Belonging to Shema servant of Jeroboam”**



## ***The Iran Stele 738 B.C.E.***

**“ I received tribute from . . .  
Menahem of Samaria.”**

*The Destruction of the Kingdom of Israel  
by King Shalmaneser V  
727-722 B.C.E.*



The British Museum

**“Shalmaneser (V) ascended  
the throne in Assyria . . .  
He ravaged Samaria.”**

**- Babylonian Chronicle I**

# *Sennacherib's Wall Relief From Nineveh* *701 B.C.E.*

British Museum



**“Sennacherib, king of the universe, king of Assyria,  
seated upon a sedan chair, the spoils of Lachish  
passed before him.”**

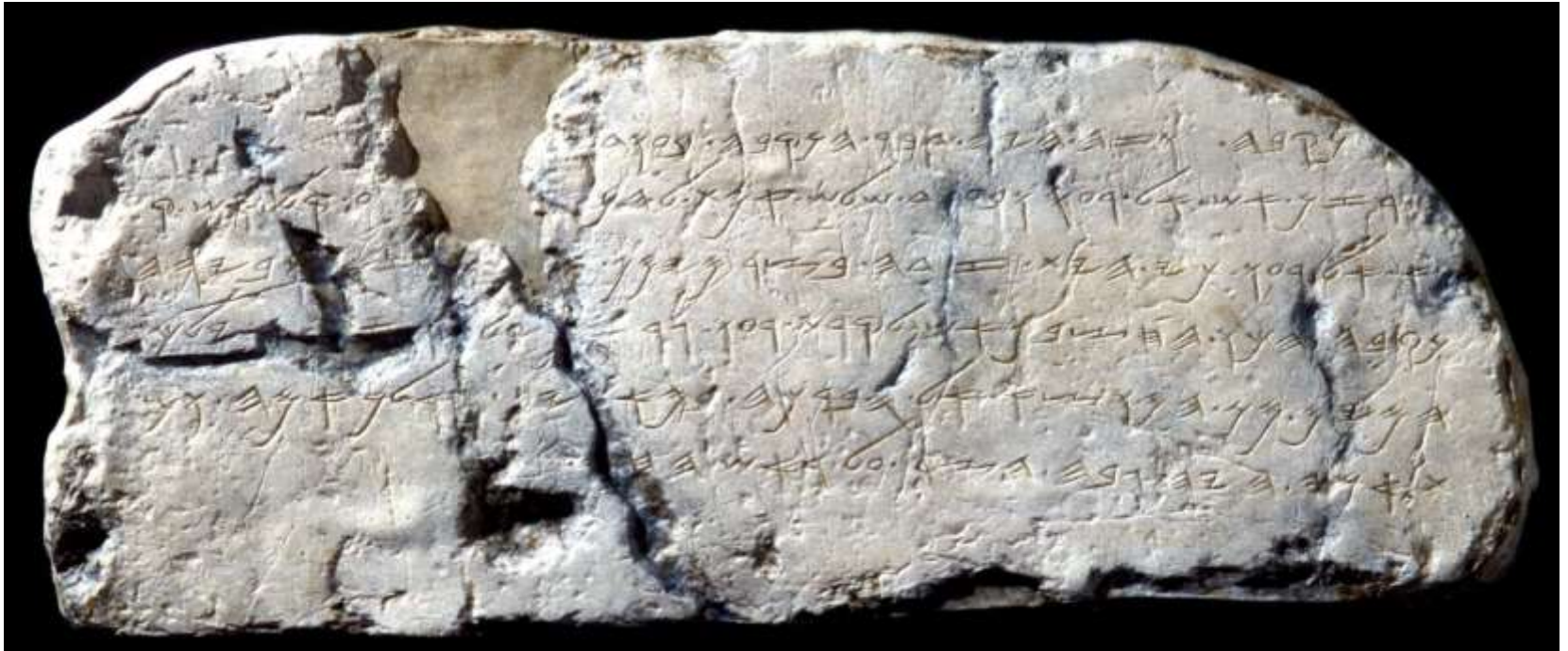


# Hezekiah's Tunnel

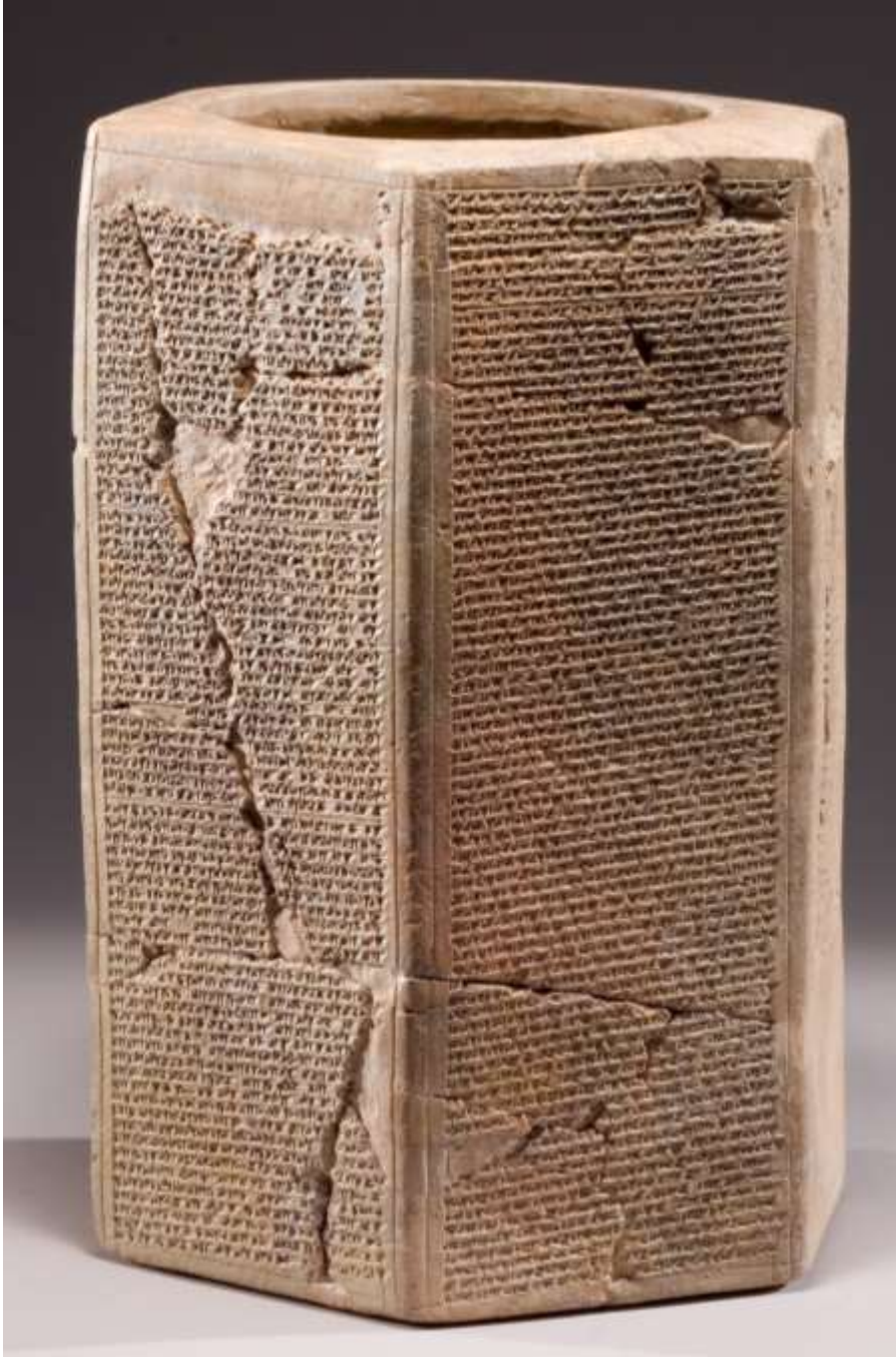


# *The Siloam Tunnel Inscription* *701 B.C.E.*

Istanbul Archaeology Museum



**"The tunneling was completed... While the hewers wielded the ax, each man toward his fellow... there was heard a man's voice calling to his fellow... the hewers hacked each toward the other, ax against ax, and the water flowed from the spring to the pool, a distance of 1,200 cubits..."**



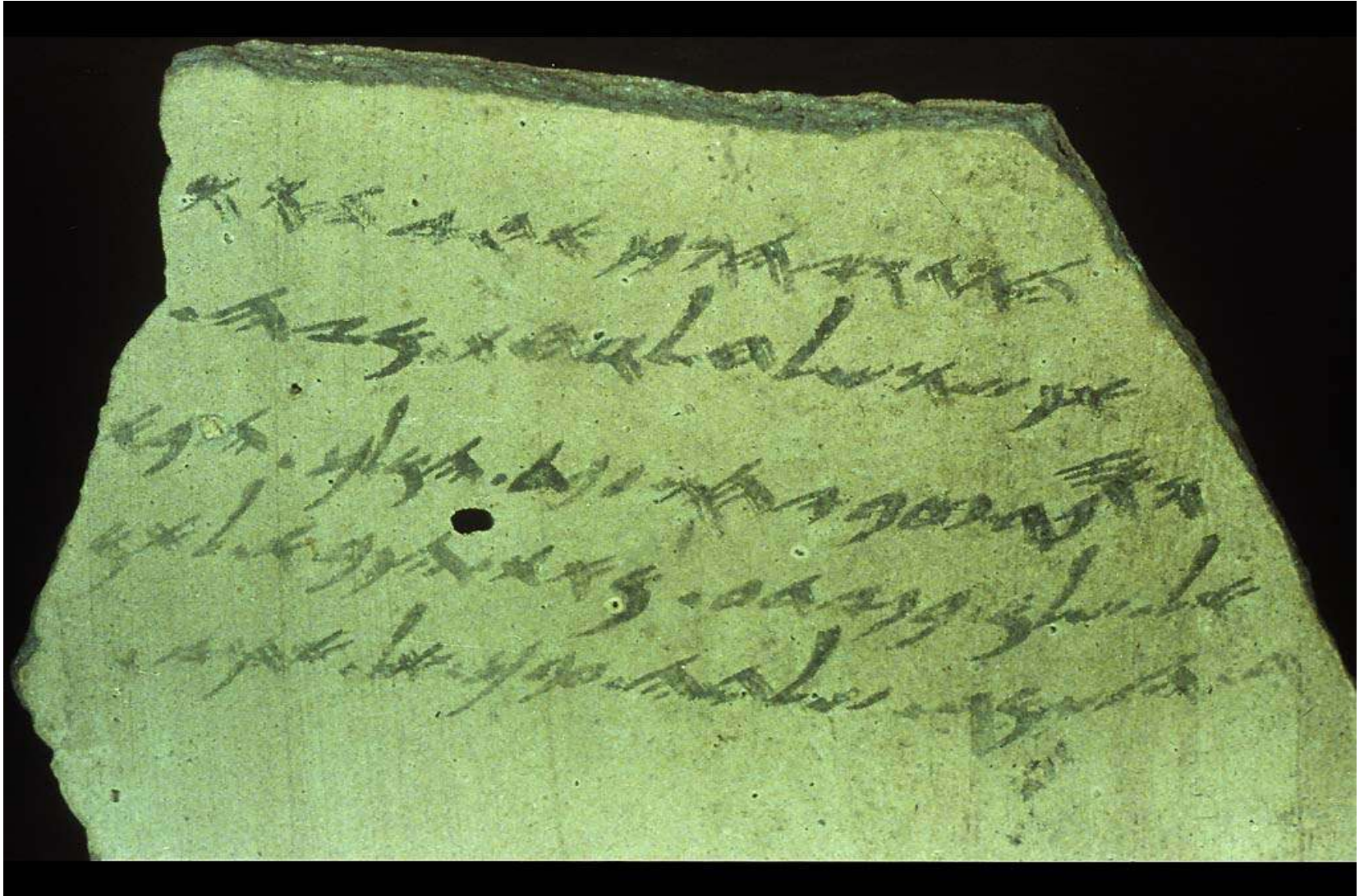
***Sennacherib's  
Prism  
701 B.C.E.***

**“As for Hezekiah . . .  
I made a prisoner . . .  
like a bird in a cage.”**

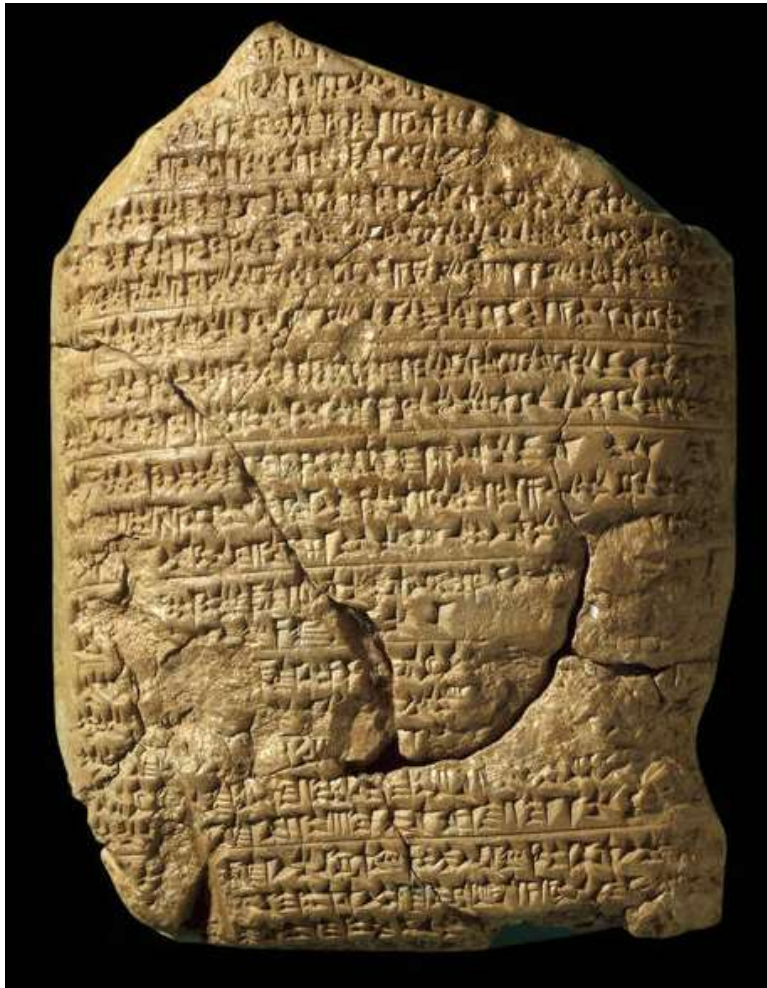
# Lakhish Palace



# Lakhish Inscription Mentioning Prophet



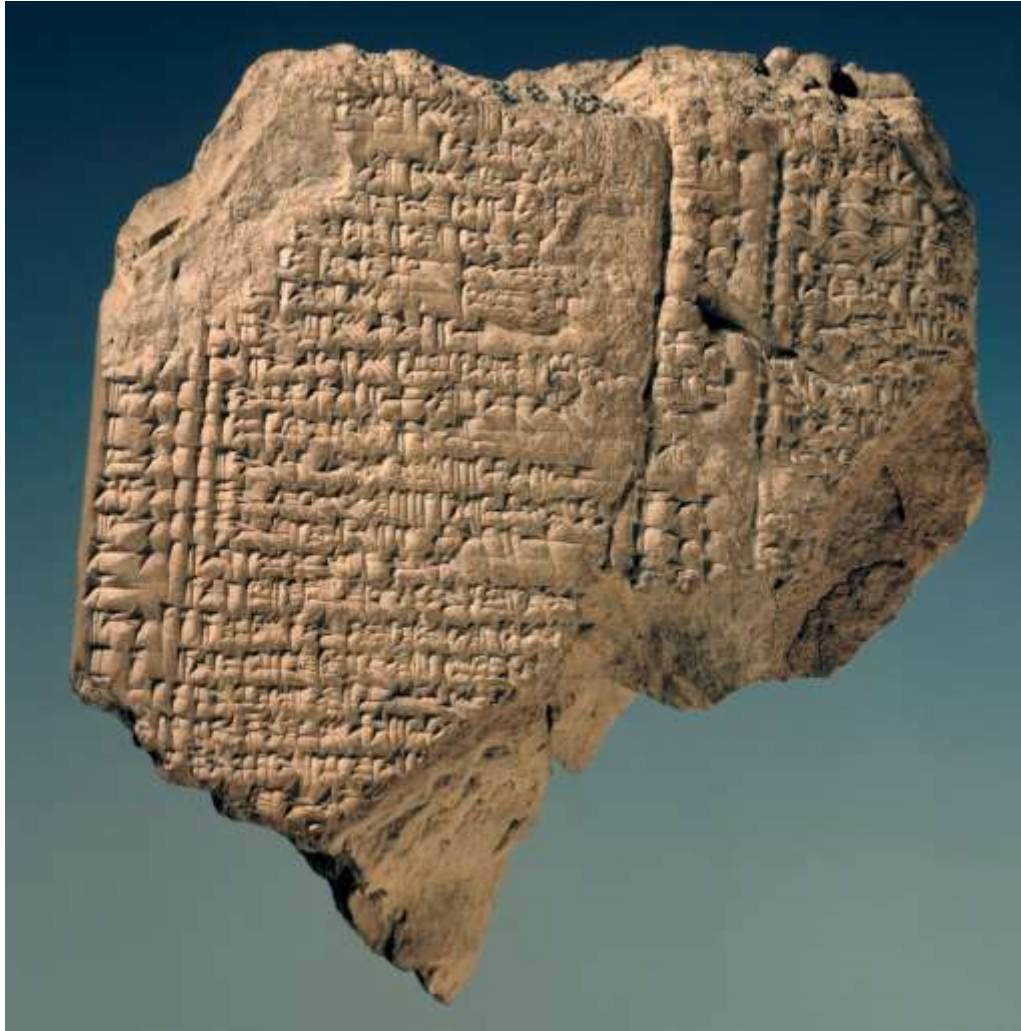
# *Chronicle of Nebuchadnezzar II* *604-562 B.C.E.*



**“He [Nebuchadnezzar] encamped against the city of Judah [Jerusalem] . . . He took . . . tribute and conveyed it to Babylon.”**

**British Museum**

# **The Babylonian Ration List 592 B.C.E.**



**This text lists the rations for Jehoiachin and his family, while they were captive in Babylon.**

# *Seal of Gedaliah*



**“Belonging to  
Gedaliah,  
who is over the  
household.”**





***“Belonging to  
Gemaryahu  
Son of Shaphan  
586 B.C.E.***

**This clay impression  
(bulla) of Gemariah’s  
seal, was found in the  
ashes of the Babylonian  
destruction at Area G of  
the City of David  
excavations.**

Israel Museum

# *Cyrus Cylinder* *559-530 B.C.E.*

British Museum



**“I returned the [images of] the gods to the sacred centers . . . whose sanctuaries had been abandoned for a long time . . . I gathered all their inhabitants and returned [to them] their dwellings.**

# ***“The Festival of the Unleavened Bread”*** ***419 B.C.E.***

Bildarchiv PreuBischer Kulturbesitz



**“In the month of Nisan, let there be a Passover for the Judahite garrison . . . from the 15th day to the 21st day of Nisan are seven days of Unleavened Bread . . . Do not work on the 15th day and on the 21st day. Also, drink no intoxicants; and anything in which there is leaven . . .”**