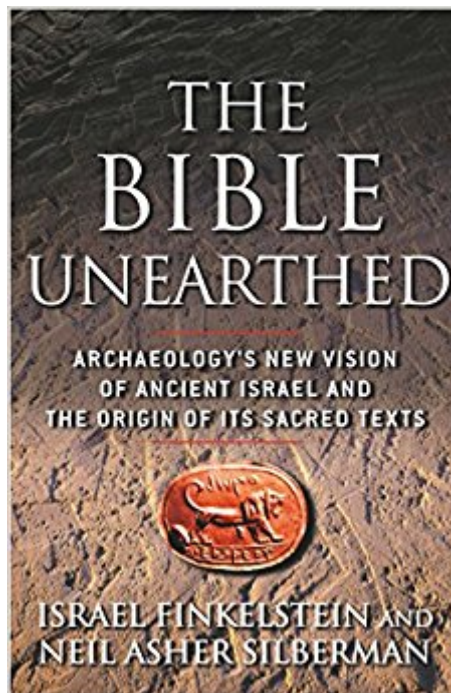




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# **The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision Of Ancient Isreal And The Origin Of Sacred Texts**



## Synopsis

In this groundbreaking work that sets apart fact and legend, authors Finkelstein and Silberman use significant archeological discoveries to provide historical information about biblical Israel and its neighbors. In this iconoclastic and provocative work, leading scholars Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman draw on recent archaeological research to present a dramatically revised portrait of ancient Israel and its neighbors. They argue that crucial evidence (or a telling lack of evidence) at digs in Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon suggests that many of the most famous stories in the Bible—the wanderings of the patriarchs, the Exodus from Egypt, Joshua's conquest of Canaan, and David and Solomon's vast empire—reflect the world of the later authors rather than actual historical facts. Challenging the fundamentalist readings of the scriptures and marshaling the latest archaeological evidence to support its new vision of ancient Israel, *The Bible Unearthed* offers a fascinating and controversial perspective on when and why the Bible was written and why it possesses such great spiritual and emotional power today.

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## Customer Reviews

There are already plenty of reviews about the book's content, so I will just comment on the Kindle format -- it's really bad. As someone who has been involved in book production, I simply can't understand how publishers let this happen. If a high school student turned in this as an assignment, I would probably give him or her a D for sloppiness. For example, there are hundreds of extraneous spaces such as "(Figure 25 )," "350 ,000," and frequently before periods and commas. Thus lines can begin with closing punctuation, e.g. ") Judah was..." and ", Jerusalem underwent..." and even ".] axe[s]" In other places, especially with the smaller fonts, spaces disappear so we have "for1,200cubits" and "whom theLorddrove out;" in fact, most occurrences of "the Lord x" in the block quotes are collapsed into "theLordx." The end note font is so much smaller than the body font that you'll have to change the font back and forth going from one to the other. Worst of all, though, the figures and tables have been reduced to tiny images with unreadable text. Just zoom in, right? No, there is no larger image behind the small ones, so basically you give up the tables and many of the figures (though with a good magnifying glass you can see some of them better). All this is downright distracting. I download lots of Kindle books because shipping is a problem where I live in West Africa, but this is one book I will probably return for a refund, to buy the paper book sometime in the future.

Quite readable, clear & fascinating, but a bit superficial. I say this because I have watched some lectures by Finkelstein in Hebrew and he pointed out some interesting issues that are not included in the book, although usually books contain more material than parallel lectures. For example the fact that also many bad things are written in the bible about King David although the bible is actually a sort of propaganda for the Davidic dynasty is not explained. In the lectures, Finkelstein said that this is so because the redactors had to include negative traditions about David brought by the refugees from the fallen Israelite kingdom in Yehuda which were a very large part of the population in the 7th century BC.

My honest opinion is you take what is written at face value. Make sure as you're reading that there isn't newer evidence. This was written in 2001. Much has been added to the list of biblical archeological finds. Overall, I enjoyed their theories and it's well written with the information that was readily available at that time! Just read with new information and it's a great read!

Sound archaeology, excellent writing. This is a winner for anyone wanting to explore the roots of western civilization. (It has caused head explosions among many folks whose thinking is more rigid.)

An interesting archaeological study surrounding stories from the old testament. The result of the archaeological findings raises considerable doubt as to the authenticity of many stories of the Old Testament and when they were written. For instance, according to the Bible 600,000 men, plus women and children were involved in the exodus from Egypt. Assuming one wife plus two children per family (and during that time period families were often much larger) more than 2 million people would be involved in the exodus. Also, according to the Bible, this group spent 40 years traveling in the desert. As a result, there would be many deaths, piles of trash, and other indications of their meanderings. The archaeologists were not able to find anything indicative of this. The book is written for people who understand archaeology and goes into considerable detail. At times, this was a little too much for me, and I would speed read to get to the conclusions.

Readers may feel that they are drowning in the details, but they should try to stay afloat. The authors have convincingly crafted a meticulous case for Josiah's influence on the modern Hebrew and Christian Bibles. The many maps are useful, though it would have been nice to have photographs in addition to diagrams. My knowledge has been expanded on several fronts. I appreciated the organization of the book, as well.

Excellent, well written and very informative. Somewhat hard to follow all the characters, ages plus all the data on archeology periods etc.

This book appealed to the archaeologist in me. If you ever wondered if there are any artifacts which might prove bible stories to be true, this book is for you. I loved it!

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