

"Now it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. And he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and he took everything, even taking all the shields of gold which Solomon had made" (I KINGS 14:25,26).

The Kingdom of Israel had just divided and neither the north or the south were faithful. The Bible says "Judah did evil" and "provoked (God) to jealousy" and "did according to all the abominations of the nations" (I KINGS 14:21-24). Consequently, God withdrew His protection and Egypt attacked. The Bible refers to the pharaoh by the name of "Shishak." He is the earliest character mentioned by name in both the Bible and other ancient

writings, or at least the earliest discovered so far. Previous pharaohs had been referred to simply as "Pharaoh" in the Bible.

Back in Egypt following the campaign against Judah, Shishak erected a monument at Karnak to his military victory in Judah, and mentions Jerusalem by name thus confirming the above account. This monument has been found and can be visited today.

THE MOABITE STONE

"Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and use to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. But it came about when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel" (II KINGS 3:4,5).

The Moabites had been subjects of Israel from David's time. However, since Israel had become unfaithful she found herself losing control. The Moabites, under king Mesha, rebelled after Ahab's death.

Archaeologists have found the Moabite Stone. It is Mesha's own account of the above passage. He mentions his servitude to Omri and his son (Ahab). He claims to have thrown off the yoke thanks to his god Chemosh. The victory speech was premature because Moab was subsequently defeated by an alliance of Israel, Judah and even Edom (II KINGS 3:24).

It makes you wonder what new discovery might be on the horizon, doesn't it! The Bible is history. It is true! ~

NAVARRE MESSENGER

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Spiritual Conditioning



Millions of dollars are spent yearly for memberships in health clubs so that people can exercise and keep their bodies strong and healthy. This is good and all surely know the importance of trying to keep our bodies in relatively good physical condition. As easy as it is to see the importance of keeping up some type of a conditioning program physically, it is amazing to see the unbelievably large number of Christians that see no need in keeping themselves in a "spiritual" conditioning program. It is so sad to look about us and

see many children of God becoming weak in their faithfulness to the Lord. The enticements of the world, if given favorable attention, will rob the Christian of his strength, just as surely as a deadly virus drains the human body of its strength. There must be a concentrated effort on our part to remain strong spiritually. The Lord knew of the weakening effects of temptation day in and day out that His children would have to face. He also knows that we must strive to be strong, so he challenges us to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of his

might." (Eph. 6:10)

The life of a Christian is filled with battles against evil and requires a constant program of spiritual conditioning. We must ever be conditioning ourselves to overcome temptations to do evil, temptations to quit and give up in despair, to defend the truth against false teaching, to work when all about us others are unwilling. The one who is unwilling to work at being strong spiritually will more than likely be overcome by evil and die the eternal death separated from God. To be able

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Assembly Schedule
Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

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to fight the battles and overcome the wiles of Satan we must follow the Lord's instructions as to what we must do to remain strong and useful in His kingdom.

It begins with letting "the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." (Col. 3:16). This comes from our being willing to "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). The Spirit moved Peter to admonish, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (2 Pet. 3:18).

When we constantly make application of these instructions in our life then He says we will be strong: "I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." (1 John 2:14). Paul told the Ephesian elders, "I commend you to God, and to the word of his

grace, which is able to build you up ..." (Acts 20:32).

The taking of nourishment is good for the body, but it alone will not give the strength needed to be victorious. There must also be exercise. We may read the Bible daily, be able to quote a large portion by memory and give the proper meaning of many passages, but if we do not put into practice those things we read, we will not become strong. We must preach, teach, defend, convict, admonish and comfort as we are instructed if we are to remain strong children of God.

A great factor in whether or not one remains strong in the faith is one's attitude. The proper attitude begins with the realization of one's own insufficiency. This means we realize that we will never be able to stand alone, but that we always need God's help to remain strong. The warning is sounded in 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Paul realized his constant

need for the Lord in his efforts to remain strong in the faith when he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil. 4:13). This proper attitude also involves a love for His Word and His Church. When we have a love for the work we are doing we will desire to try to stay strong spiritually so that our labor of love will continue until our death: "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of righteousness." (Rev. 2:10). Then we can hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ... Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21).

How strong is your desire to build and maintain your spiritual strength and usefulness to the Lord? If you find that worldliness is becoming more attractive to you, then it is certainly time for you to work on regaining your spiritual strength before it is everlastingly too late. ~

Gary N. Patton From the Charlottesville Beacon



Photo of the Mesha Stele (Moabite Stone)...

discovered in 1868 about 20 miles east of the Dead Sea. What is most amazing is that it mentions "Israel," "Yahweh" and the "House of David." It is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris.

In the Bible it says that Mesha the king of Moab was paying tribute to Israel and that they suddenly stopped: "Mesha, king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel..." (2 Kings 3:5). Well, Mesha made his own record of this rebellion, and the record has been found. It is known

today as "The Mesha Stele" or the more popular designation "The Moabite Stone." It was found in 1868 at Dibon, in Moab. Dibon is located 20 miles east of the Dead Sea. Amazingly enough it was discovered by chance by F.A. Klein, a German missionary who had heard rumors of this stone while visiting the area.

(More on the fascinating history of this stone at: http://www.bible-history.com/resource/ff_mesha.htm)

The Bible and Archaeology

By Jon Quinn

One expert not so long ago suggested that only about two percent of the potential archaeology of the Palestine area had been accomplished. Some quite amazing discoveries have been made, and we've only just begun. But one has to approach the relationship between archaeology and the Bible with caution. Archaeology can never tell us about God's character or purpose. What it can do is give us further information on the events that we read about in the Bible.

It is important to note that no archaeological discovery has contradicted anything that the Bible states. Thus far, the Bible has been shown to be 100 per cent accurate. Of course this is not surprising to one who already has faith. It is also very frustrating to the skeptic who wants so badly to find some discrepancy. New discoveries continue to confirm what the Bible has said all along while putting to rest one after the other of the skeptics' antibiblical theories.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH MEET THEIR DOOM

"Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground" (GEN 19:24-25).

The skeptics ridiculed the whole account. They said there had

never been a Sodom and Gomorrah. The acidity of the soil around the Salt Sea (also called the Dead Sea) was too great to have ever supported cities there. And besides, why are they not mentioned anywhere other than the Bible? And why have we not found some remains of the cities?

That was being said 50 years ago. Its not being said any longer. It seems that it was the "enlightened" skeptic who was the ignorant one all along!

Recently, the ancient city of Elba has been discovered to the north of Canaan. It had been the capital of a vast empire centuries before Abraham. It established trade with various Canaanite cities, and according to business records these cities included Sodom and Gomorrah! By the way, Elba was polytheistic, but in the city records we do find that "Jehovah" was one of the deities worshiped there.

Charred remains of cities have now been discovered in the Salt Sea region. Why did it take so long? Because these remains are now under the Salt Sea itself! The contour of the land has changed to where the ruins have been covered by corrosive salt water, but charred pieces of pottery have been found.

THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN!

"So the people shouted, and the priests blew the trumpets; and it came about, when the people

heard the sound of the trumpet, that the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city" (JOSH 6:20).

Of course it has never been denied that Jericho existed, nor that it was conquered by Israel. But the method has been questioned by the skeptics. This idea of the walls falling down flat is too much to swallow for people who do not know God. During the excavations of Jericho that took place in 1930-1936, the archaeologists discovered something startling. One of them, Garstang by name, had this to say: "As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city."

Incidentally, there have also been recovered documents in Egypt written during this time. The documents are correspondence from various kings in Canaan appealing to Egypt for help against the "Habiru" (a term referring to nomads) who were invading Canaan at that time. The letters state doubt as to whether they will be able to hold out even for another year if help does not come. Of course, Egypt knew by experience that they were in no position to send help against Jehovah's people.

SHISHAK...THE EARLIEST SO FAR