

Listening Guide

I. Introduction

[1] In addition to archaeology's contribution to biblical studies, what else will be examined in this lesson?

II. More Valuable Insights from Archaeology

A. People

[2] To what Old Testament character did texts found at Deir 'Alla give historical credence?

[3] In addition to giving credence to Old Testament characters, how else does archaeology contribute to our understanding of people in the Bible?

[4] What is the central theme of the Bible?

[5] What enriches our understanding of that central theme?

[6] Why is Sumer important to biblical history?

B. Places

[7] How has archaeology enhanced our reading of Jonah's book?

[8] The discovery of what other temples' remains enriches our understanding of Solomon's temple?

C. Events

[9] Why is the Battle of Qarqar important to biblical history?

[10] The Lachish letters enhance our knowledge of what great event in biblical history?

[11] From Dr. Stuart's discussion of its contribution to biblical history, how would you define historical synchronism?

III. Role of Archaeology in Interpretation

[12] What two kinds of truth does the Bible contain?

[13] Briefly explain the difference between these two kinds of truth.

[14] Why is knowledge gleaned from archaeology so relevant to biblical interpretation?

[15] In what geographical area does biblical archaeology primarily occur?

[16] Do you know the location of that geographical area?

A. Valuable Information

[17] How many areas of biblical research have been illuminated and brought into sharper focus by knowledge that comes from ancient Near Eastern archaeology?

[18] What does Dr. Stuart mean by the apologetic value of archaeology?

B. Limitations of Archaeology

[19] What must we do before the time and effort invested in archaeology can contribute to our understanding of the Bible?

[20] What is the first “other” limitation of archaeology Dr. Stuart presents?

[21] Why is that a limitation?

[22] What “extenuating factor” does Dr. Stuart explain?

[23] What is the result of that factor?

[24] What is being done about that factor?

[25] What limitation of archaeology is unlike doing research in chemistry or biology?

[26] Why does that limitation exist?

[27] What final limitation does Dr. Stuart discuss?

[28] What two limitations of archaeology exist because of the very nature of the enterprise?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

If an archaeologist supposedly discovered an artifact that irrefutably “disproved” a biblical fact, and you are a strong believer that all Scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:15–16), how would you respond personally? How damaging would that be to your own faith in God’s Word? And what would you say to a skeptic who rejects biblical inerrancy? How would the final point of this lesson contribute to both responses? How would you balance the lesson’s final point with the exciting ways archaeology supports biblical claims? (See III. A. of this lesson.)