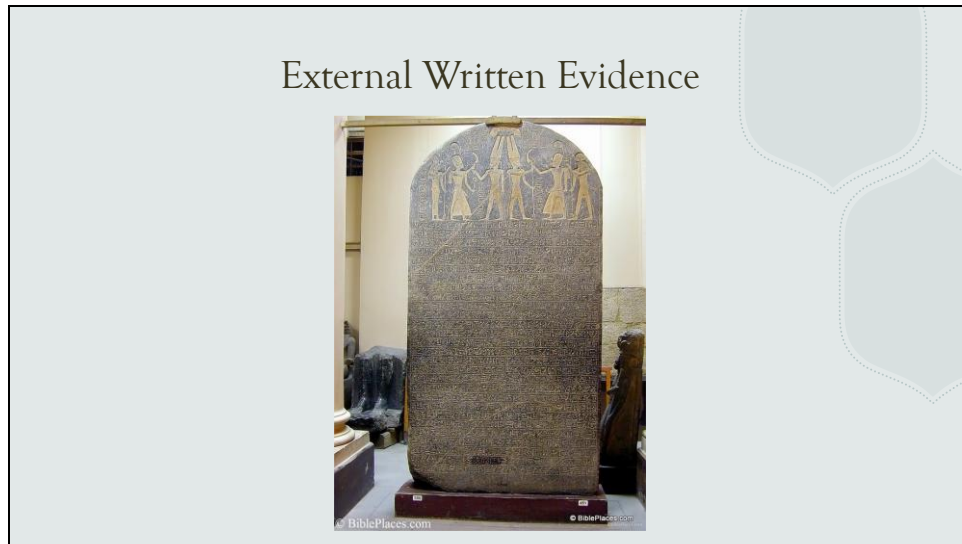


- (1 Samuel 8 - 1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1 - 2 Chronicles 9)
- By comparing the Chronologies of the Bible with other neighbouring civilisations, we can (fairly confidently) date this period as follows:
 - Saul c. 1042?-1010 BC
 - (We have to use some guesswork with Saul!)
 - David 1010-970 BC
 - (7 years over Judah + 33 years over all Israel, 2 Samuel 2:11; 5:4)
 - Solomon 971/970 - 931/930 BC
 - (40 years, 1 Kings 11:42)

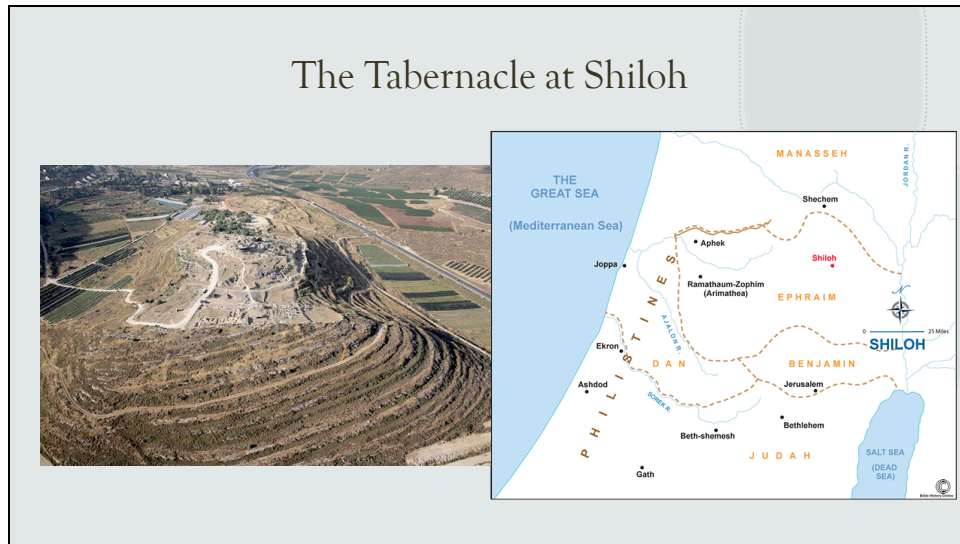


- Unlike with the later period of the divided kingdom, we do not have contemporary writings that name people or recount events described during the reigns of Saul, David or Solomon
- There is a simple reason for this. The great empires of later centuries had not yet expanded as far as Palestine. Assyria (who begin naming biblical kings from 853 BC) have no dealings with Israel in the 10th century.
- This is true of other kingdoms in this part of the world, not just Israel.
- But, we do have a few very tantalising mentions that are important.
 - Two mentions of the "House of David" from about 150 years after his life
 - (both of this were mentioned last week, the Tel Dan and Mesha Stela)
 - One mention of a place called the "heights of David" within 50 years of David's life.
 - (This is part of last week's list of towns associated with Shoshenq I)
 - A possible reference to Hadadezer, king of (Aram-)Zobah (2 Samuel 8:3-12; 10:15-19)
 - Assyrian documents mention (but do not name) a king of Aram ("Arumu") in the time of Assur-Rabi II (the correct time period) capturing the cities of Pitru (biblical "Pethor") and Mutkinu (which are in the region which the Bible says were controlled by Hadadezer at this time)
 - A (fairly certain) mention of Israel as one as an enemy of Egypt prior to this period (The Merneptah Stele).
 - Records that that it was written in the 5th year of the Pharaoh Merneptah (1217 BC)
- These are the only explicitly references to this period outside of the Bible. We will have to consider more indirect evidence to test the Bible's accounts more
- But it should be borne in mind that the character of these portions of scripture commends it as good history. It is just as detailed and specific in its naming of people and places as the later accounts. That is, it is still firmly grounded in a reality that we do not expect of legends or parables.

The Dangers of Seeking a King



- 1 Samuel 8:11-17
 - “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you:
 - People would be conscripted into the army (vv. 11-12)
 - People would be conscripted into agricultural work (v. 12)
 - People would be conscripted to make weapons (v. 12)
 - Women would be conscripted as servants of the king (v. 13)
 - Land would be confiscated (v. 14)
 - The people would have to pay a tithe of their crops (v. 15)
 - Servants and livestock would be confiscated (vv. 16-17)
- Discoveries at Ugarit, Mari, and Alalakh have shown clear evidence of how these exact fears were already a reality there, rooting Samuel's words in the appropriate historical context.
- The accidental discovery of the city of Ugarit in 1928 uncovered many texts and fragments that give us an extraordinary extra insight into a world not too far removed from the Bible.



- We are going to piece together a few biblical details and see how it coincides with archaeological evidence
- 1 Samuel 4:1-2,10-12
 - The Philistines inflict a massive defeat on Israel not more than a day's journey from Shiloh (where the tabernacle was)
- Jeremiah 7:12; Psalm 78:60
 - These obscure references suggest that Shiloh was in fact destroyed in the days when the tabernacle was there.
- Excavations at Shiloh (Khirbet Seilun) confirm that after flourishing in the 12th and 11th centuries, it was then met with a violent destruction (c. 1050 based on radiocarbon dating).

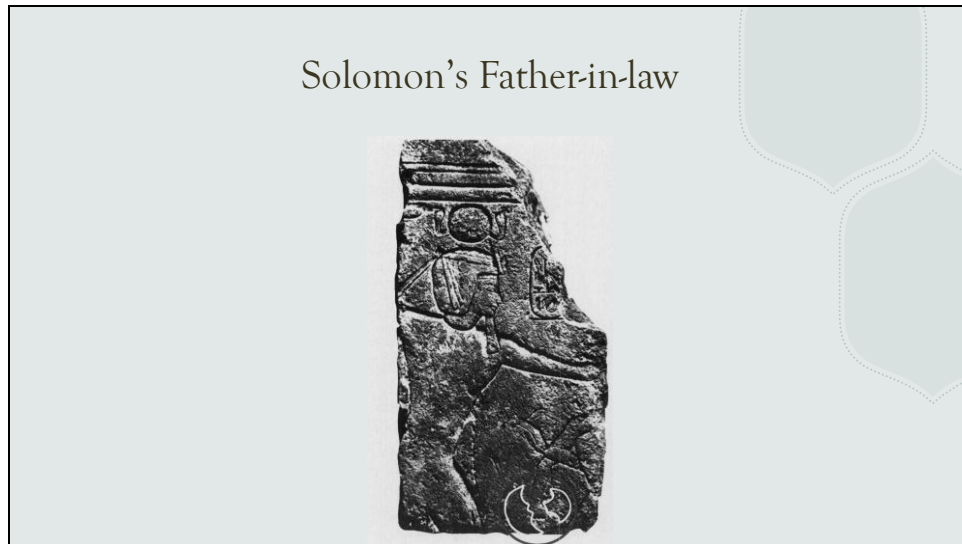


- 1 Samuel 15:34
 - Saul's kingdom was ruled from Gibeah, which became known as "Gibeah of Saul"

- Excavations at Gibeah (Tell el-Ful) show that a fortress was built there in the "Iron II" period (the same time period as Saul)



- In the time of David, Israel became what we might call a "mini-empire".
 - David directly controlled a central region in Israel
 - David subjugated surrounding kingdoms, making them into vassals (e.g. Edom, 1 Kings 11:14-17)
- This pattern also applies to Aram-Zobah under Hadadezer (2 Samuel 8,10)
- The time of the United Kingdom falls in a unique period, just after the "late bronze age collapse" (when the Hittite empire collapsed and Egypt was weakened) and just before the rise of the great empires (starting with Assyria)
- During this time we find that two neighbours of Israel follow the same biblical pattern of "mini-empires" which annex whole regions
 - Tabal
 - Carchemish
- The description of Israel's expansion is uniquely like the contemporary setting, and very unlike later periods.



- 1 Kings 3:1; 9:16
 - An unnamed Pharaoh gives his daughter to be Solomon's wife early in his reign.
 - Thee Pharaoh gives the recently conquered city of Gezer to Solomon as a dowry.
- By comparing chronologies, we would must naturally think that this Pharaoh was Siamun of the 21st dynasty of Egypt (986 - 967 BC)
- Coincidentally, we have uncovered a triumphal scene of Siamun at the temple of Amun, Tanis.
 - The distinctive weapon held by the enemy suggests that they are Philistines (i.e. the people living in the region around Gezer)
- There is also evidence from Gezer itself that it was destroyed and refortified in the 10th century .