BECIN 9 EE

Scientific Journal of University José Eduardo dos Santos

e-ISSN: 3006-9688 | Vol. 05 | n.º 01 | 2025















BEYOND THE SURFACE: EXPLORING THE DEPTH OF BIBLICAL CONTEXT THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY

PARA ALÉM DA SUPERFÍCIE: EXPLORANDO A PROFUNDIDADE DO CONTEXTO BÍBLICO ATRAVÉS DA ARQUEOLOGIA

Emílio Alfeu Quissanga ¹* (D); Fernando Cassinda Quissanga ² (D); Isaú Alfredo Bernardo Ouissindo ² ::

¹ NationsUniversity – United States of America. ² José Eduardo dos Santos University B. Huambo-Angola. * Email for correspondence: emilioalfeu@hotmail.com.

ABSTRACT

The relevant study addresses Beyond the Surface: Exploring the Depth of the Biblical Context through Archeology, which has been bringing several scientific innovations, when it comes to proof or evidence, archeology has been used. A cross-sectional dataset of 200 observations from 2024 to examine how methodological choices and archaeological discoveries affect our understanding of biblical context. Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC), Archaeological Discovery (AD), and Methodological Approach (MA) had higher average values than other traits, according to descriptive analysis. This suggests that they have a little better understanding of the biblical backdrop. AD, MA, and UBC all show positive correlations, indicating interdependence that is, increases in one measure usually correspond with increases in other variables. Strong internal consistency among measurements confirmed by reliability analysis, which increases trust in the data. The ANOVA results highlight the predictive significance of both AD and MA for UBC nevertheless, because of the possibility of multi co linearity, care should be used. To sum up, the results highlight the importance of combining scientific and archaeological viewpoints to improve comprehension of the biblical setting, while emphasizing the necessity of

RESUMO

O estudo relevante aborda o Além da Superficie: Explorando a Profundidade do Contexto Bíblico através da Arqueologia, que tem vindo a trazer diversas inovações científicas. Quando se trata de prova ou evidência, tem sido utilizada a arqueologia. Um conjunto de dados transversais de 200 observações de 2024 para examinar como as escolhas metodológicas e as descobertas arqueológicas afetam a nossa compreensão do contexto bíblico. Compreensão do Contexto Bíblico (CNB), Descoberta Arqueológica (AD) Abordagem Metodológica apresentaram valores médios mais elevados do que outras características, de acordo com a análise descritiva. Isto sugere que elas têm uma compreensão um pouco melhor do contexto bíblico. AD, AM e CNB apresentam correlações positivas, indicando interdependência, ou seja, aumentos numa medida correspondem geralmente a aumentos noutras variáveis. A forte consistência interna entre as medidas é confirmada pela análise de fiabilidade, o que aumenta a fiabilidade dos dados. Os resultados da ANOVA destacam a significância preditiva tanto da DA como da AM para o CNB. No entanto, devido à possibilidade de linearidade múltipla, deve-se ter cuidado. Em suma, os resultados destacam a importância de combinar pontos de vista científicos e arqueológicos para melhorar a



additional diagnostic improvement properly handle multi co linearity. The study of biblical background in depth through archaeology will probably take new turns in future thanks to interdisciplinary teamwork, cutting-edge technology, and a sophisticated comprehension of cultural settings. In order to reconstruct the social, religious, and political environments of ancient societies, researchers increasingly combine archaeological finds with literary, historical, and anthropological documentation.

Keywords: Archaeological Discovery (AD), Methodological Approach (MA) and Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC).

compreensão do contexto bíblico, ao mesmo tempo que enfatizam a necessidade de um melhoramento diagnóstico adicional para lidar adequadamente com a multicolinearidade. O estudo aprofundado do contexto bíblico através da arqueologia irá provavelmente tomar novos rumos no futuro, graças ao trabalho em equipa interdisciplinar, à tecnologia de ponta e a uma compreensão sofisticada dos contextos culturais. Para reconstruir os ambientes social, religioso e político das sociedades antigas, os investigadores podem cada vez mais combinar os achados arqueológicos com a documentação literária, histórica e antropológica.

Palavras-chave: Descoberta Arqueológica (AD), Abordagem Metodológica (MA) e Compreensão do Contexto Bíblico (UBC).

STUDY BACKGROUND AND AIMS

The Bible is not just a spiritual text but also a historical record of great cultural and archaeological value, held in high regard by millions of people as a foundational source of knowledge and faith. When one looks above its obvious storyline, one finds a tapestry woven with the strands of past civilizations, providing significant context for the stories as they were told. "Beyond the Surface: Exploring the Depth of Biblical Context through Archaeology" sets out on a quest to discover the priceless gems tucked away beneath the ages. The study of archaeology creates a physical link between the ancient settings of biblical events and the contemporary world. Archaeologists find relics, ruins, and inscriptions that shed light on the political, social, and cultural context of the biblical era through painstaking excavation and investigation.

Revealing the past an archaeology history

William H. Stiebing Jr.'s book Uncovering the Past: A History of Archaeology" (1996) provides a thorough history of the field's growth. By taking readers on a historical tour, Stiebing traces the development of archaeological research from its inception to the present day. Stiebing's study is notable for its comprehensive analysis of the development of archaeological theories and practices. Stiebing gives readers a better knowledge of the struggles and victories that have molded the field of archaeology by showcasing noteworthy finds and the people who made them. Additionally, Stiebing places the evolution of archaeology in the larger historical and philosophical contexts. He looks at how nationalism, colonialism, and the development of



science have affected archaeology, illuminating the intricate socio-political forces that have impacted our perception of the past.

Popular culture based on archaeology from Stonehenge to Las Vegas

Published in 2006, "From Stonehenge to Las Vegas: Archaeology as Popular Culture" is an engrossing examination of the relationship between archaeology and contemporary popular culture. Author Cornelius Holtorf explores the ways in which archaeological finds, locations, and artifacts have captivated the public's interest and permeated different areas of modern culture. From prehistoric monuments like Stonehenge to contemporary marvels like the themed casinos of Las Vegas, Holtorf charts the trajectory of archaeological imagery and motifs. He studies how archaeology pervades popular culture and public ideas of the past through literature, film, television, advertising, and even tourism. Holtorf elucidates the manner in which archaeology is reflected and refracted in popular culture through incisive analysis and compelling case studies.

A request for biblical interpretation

The reader is led through a thorough examination of biblical hermeneutics in "Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology," by Andreas J. Köstenberger (2016). Renowned biblical scholar emphasizes the connections between history, literature, and theology within the biblical text to offer a methodical approach to Bible interpretation. By combining literary analysis, theological reflection, historical context, and a robust framework, invites readers to engage closely with the Scriptures. By clarifying the importance of each element of the "hermeneutical triad gives readers the resources they need to comprehend the biblical text in a deep and complex way exhibits a thorough understanding of the various viewpoints and approaches that inform interpretation based on scripture. He converses with a variety of academic perspectives while offering concise direction on how to handle the difficulties of biblical hermeneutics.

Geologically, climatologically, and historically, Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho were destroyed

For generations, scholars and enthusiasts have been fascinated by the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho. Neev and Emery (1997) explore the geological, climatologically, and archaeological aspects of the collapse of these ancient cities, providing insights into the possible

roles played by both natural and human forces. Geologically speaking, geological instability and seismic activity are well-known features in the area that contained Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho. This geological backdrop creates the conditions for natural disasters like earthquakes, which may have contributed to the fall of these towns. It is probable that the writers investigate indications of seismic activity in the archaeological documentation, including proof of earth tremors or structure impairments that align with seismic activity.

Archaeology's contribution to the study of women in biblical times

In "The Contribution of Archaeology to the Study of Women in Biblical Times," published in 2009, Ebeling examines how archaeology might improve our comprehension of the experiences and lives of women in ancient biblical times. By using a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates textual analysis, cultural context, and archaeological finds, Ebeling illuminates the sometimes-overlooked part of women's history in biblical texts. The discovery of material culture reflecting women's daily lives and social roles is one of archaeology's major contributions to the study of women in biblical times. Ancient sites have been excavated, yielding tangible proof of women's engagement in domestic tasks in the form of cooking equipment, textile tools, and household objects.

Bias in architecture in modern Biblical archaeology

The architectural bias in current Biblical archaeology, written by Ben-Yosef in 2019, tackles a problem that is common in the area of Biblical archaeology: the propensity to focus more on studying and excavating monumental architecture than other facets of ancient society. The focus and interpretation of archaeological study have historically been molded by this architectural bias, frequently overshadowing the investigation of daily living, social dynamics, and cultural practices. Temples, palaces, and fortifications receive disproportionate attention, which is one manifestation of architectural bias. Even though these colossal structures are certainly important for comprehending the military, religious, and political facets of ancient societies, they only make up a small portion of the historical built environment and material culture. Emphasizing monumental architecture might result in an unfinished comprehension of historical societies and ignore the realities of common people who didn't reside in privileged circles. Furthermore, smaller-scale details and artifacts that are crucial for recreating everyday life and social organization may be overlooked as a result of the architectural bias.

Archaeology's major challenges



The 2014 publication "Grand Challenges for Archaeology" by Kintigh et al. lists important areas where archaeology faces major obstacles and chances for progress. This multidisciplinary study tackles the intricate and dynamic character of archaeological research, bringing to light urgent problems that necessitate cooperation and attention from a range of disciplines. The book highlights a significant obstacle as the requirement to incorporate various data sources and methods in order to create thorough historical narratives. In order to supplement conventional excavation techniques, archaeology increasingly uses scientific approaches like DNA sequencing, isotope analysis, and remote sensing. While integrating these disparate datasets offers previously unheard-of prospects for multidimensional understandings of historical societies, it also poses obstacles in data administration, interpretation, and synthesis. The management and preservation of archaeological sites and resources in the face of quick changes in the environment and human activity is another major concern. Global hazards to ancient heritage include development, urbanization, theft, and climate change.

Life in the Bible at that time

Borowski's 2004 book "Daily Life in Biblical Times" offers a thorough analysis of the cultural, social, economic, and religious facets of daily life in the ancient Near East during biblical times. Borowski does this by carefully examining archaeological evidence, textual sources, and comparative studies. This allows to paint a vivid picture of the customs, daily routines, and difficulties that individuals and communities faced in antiquity. One major area of focus for analysis is the household, which was the primary unit of social and economic organization in ancient societies.

Jewish daily life in the middle ages and biblical women

The 2022 book "Biblical Women and Jewish Daily Life in the Middle Ages" by Baumgarten probably provides a perceptive look at the responsibilities, encounters, and impacts of biblical women in the setting of mediaeval Jewish civilization. Most likely looks at how women's lessons and biblical stories were received, passed down, and incorporated into mediaeval Jewish communities' daily lives. The persistence and evolution of biblical gender standards and ideals within mediaeval Jewish society is one area that might be investigated. She can examine how biblical tales and figures—like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Esther shaped the identities, goals, and social positions of mediaeval Jewish women by acting as archetypes and role models. Furthermore, might look into the interpretations and applications of legal writings and rabbinic

literature. Scriptures' depictions of women and their rules in the setting of mediaeval Jewish communities.

Objectives of the study

- To investigate the impact of archaeological discovery on understanding of biblical context.
- 2) To investigate the impact of methodological approach on understanding of biblical context.

Problem Statement

Despite Angola's rich cultural legacy and historical relevance, there is a deficiency in archaeological research on methodological approaches and how they affect comprehension of the biblical setting in the area. There are significant gaps in our understanding of the material culture, social activities, and religious beliefs that may have existed in ancient Angola due to the lack of comprehensive archaeological research. The following inquiries are attempted to be answered by this study problem statement: Which methodological techniques can be used to find and examine archaeological evidence relevant to Angolan biblical contexts? In what ways do these methodological methods advance our comprehension of the ways in which biblical narratives and the archaeological record in Angola intersect? Through examining these inquiries, this study seeks to close the knowledge gap about the biblical setting inside Angola, illuminating the historical and cultural aspects of the area and advancing more general conversations about biblical archaeology.

Scope of the study

Angola's rich and varied landscape of archaeological study gives numerous chances for investigation and discovery in the context of the nation's varied cultural legacy and historical narratives. Situated in southwest Africa, Angola has a multifaceted millennium-long history that includes interactions with colonial powers, indigenous societies, and post-independence events. Archaeological research has the potential to provide light on the pre-colonial past, clarify the relationships between various communities, and enhance our comprehension of Angola's cultural mosaic and its links to larger regional and global networks within this dynamic context. Angola's archaeological research includes the study of prehistoric societies and their material cultures as one of its main areas of interest.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The 2020 publication of "Religion, Spirituality, and Health: A Social Scientific Approach" provides a thorough analysis of the rites and customs found in many different faiths. The book's main goal, written by a number of academic experts in the field, is to investigate how religion, spirituality, and health connect from a social science standpoint. The authors examine how religious rites and practices, in various cultural and religious contexts, contribute to the promotion of physical, mental, and emotional well-being using a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. Surveys, interviews, and ethnographic observations are used to quantify variables, which record both subjective experiences and objective health outcomes. The study's conclusion indicates that participation in religious rites and practices can significantly affect a person's general health and quality of life. Stressing how crucial it is to take spirituality into account as a crucial element of holistic healing methods.

"Controversies in Archaeology" by Kehoe (2016) examines the many controversial topics in the profession with the goal of clarifying opposing viewpoints and promoting critical conversation. The book's goals include identifying and analyzing the major disputes that influence archaeological practice and interpretation, from theoretical arguments to moral conundrums. Kehoe navigates complicated elements like cultural biases, political motivations, and scientific restrictions that affect the creation and interpretation of archaeological narratives through a careful analysis of archaeological case studies and theoretical frameworks. The study "The Limits of Evidence: Archaeology and Objectivity" by Brandfon (1987) attempts to critically analyze the difficulties and limitations archaeologists have in their search for objectivity and truth within the field. The study aims to ascertain the intrinsic constraints of archaeological data, investigate the subjectivity present in interpretation, and provide approaches for reducing prejudice and enhancing methodological precision. The topic of "The architectural bias in current Biblical archaeology" is addressed by Ben-Yosef, E. (2019b), who looks at the field's propensity to emphasize monumental building above other facets of ancient societies. The study aims to clarify this prejudice and its consequences for our comprehension of the past. The kinds of archaeological sites that are dug, the allocation of funds and resources within the field, and the prominence of architectural remains in academic publications are among the variables that are measured. In "Inference from Absence: The Case of Archaeology," Wallach, E. (2019) delves into the idea of explaining how archaeologists deduce meanings and conclusions from the lack of data in archaeological settings. Examining the methodological strategies used by archaeologists in the face of gaps or lacunae in the archaeological record and evaluating the reliability of conclusions drawn from them are the main goals of the project. Brent Nongbri's 2018 book "God's Library: The Archaeology of the Earliest Christian Manuscripts" attempts to explain the creation, dissemination, and circulation of the oldest Christian manuscripts by analyzing the archaeological evidence surrounding them. By closely examining the available data and delving into the socio cultural settings surrounding the creation and use of these manuscripts, aims to refute conventional wisdom regarding the beginnings and evolution of Christian literature. Nongbri uses a multidisciplinary approach that combines textual criticism, paleography, and archaeological approaches to meticulously analyze archaeological discoveries, such as papyri, parchment, and inscriptions, in order to reconstruct the intricate paths taken by early Christian literature. In their paper "Visitors with their 'Backs to the Archaeology,'" Koren-Lawrence and Collins-Kreiner (2018) investigate the relationship between religious tourism and archaeology. Their study aims to investigate the ways in which religious tourists interact with archaeological sites, with a specific focus on how they interact with the archaeological remains and the resulting implications for the management and interpretation of the site. Through on-site observations, surveys, and interviews with religious tourists visiting archaeological sites in Israel, the authors measure variables such as visitor behavior, attitudes towards archaeology, and perceptions of authenticity. They examine the qualitative data using a qualitative methodology in order to find trends and themes pertaining to how visitors interact with archaeology.

METHODOLOGY

The impact of Archaeological Discovery (AD) and Methodological Approach (MA) on the Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC) was investigated in the cross-sectional study carried out in Angola in 2024. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the ways in which methodological developments and archaeological findings affect our understanding of the biblical context in the Angolan environment. The study used a regression model to examine the connections between AD, MA, and UBC using a sample collection of 200. Reliability analysis was performed to guarantee measurement consistency, and correlation tests were performed to ascertain the direction and degree of relationships between variables. A diagnostic analysis was also performed in order to find any significant data points or any outliers.

Model specification

The regression model will be used.

UBC= $\beta 1 + \beta 2AD + \beta 3MA + \epsilon$

Where; UBC= Understanding of Biblical Context; AD= Archaeological Discovery



MA= Methodological Approach; β1 is the intercept.

 β 2 and β 3, are the coefficients for archaeological discovery and methodological approach on understanding of biblical context, ϵ is the error term. This model can be estimated using linear regression, with understanding of biblical context as the dependent variable and archaeological discovery and methodological as the independent variables. The coefficients β 2 and β 3, can be interpreted as the average effect of each independent variable on understanding of biblical context, holding all other variables constant. If the coefficients β 2 and β 3 are positive and statistically significant, this would indicate that archaeological discovery and methodological has a positive impact on understanding of biblical context. Conversely, if the coefficients are negative and statistically significant, this would indicate that this archaeological discovery and methodological has a negative impact on understanding of biblical context.

RESULTS

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics for the main variables examined in this study. These measures provide an overview of the central tendency, dispersion, and range of the dataset, enabling a clearer understanding of the general patterns and relationships among the studied constructs. The statistical summary includes the number of observations (N), minimum and maximum values, mean scores, standard deviations, and variances for each variable. Such information is essential for assessing data quality and variability before conducting inferential analyses.

Table 1: Descriptive Statatistics

Descriptive Statistics									
	N	Mini mum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance			
AD	200	17.00	50.00	35.0300	5.50003	30.250			
MA	200	25.00	48.00	36.8800	3.72491	13.875			
UBC	200	26.00	47.00	37.5300	4.20924	17.718			
Valid N (listwise)	200								

Note: Own elaboration, (2024)

Three primary variables are analyzed in this 200-observation dataset: Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC), Methodological Approach (MA), and Archaeological Discovery (AD). The Archaeological Discovery variable has a mean of 35.03 and a standard deviation of 5.50. The minimum and maximum reported values are 17.00 and 50.00, respectively. Methodological

Approach has a mean of 36.88 and a standard deviation of 3.72, ranging from 25.00 to 48.00. The range of understanding of biblical context is 26.00 to 47.00, with a standard deviation of 4.21 and a mean of 37.53. The distribution and central tendency of each variable are revealed by these descriptive statistics. Comparing Understanding of Biblical Context to Archaeological Discovery and Methodological Approach, it seems that the former two have somewhat higher average values.

Table 2: Correlations

Correlations					
		AD	MA	UBC	
	Pearson Correlation	1	.183**	.239**	
AD	Sig. (2-tailed)		.009	.001	
	N	200	200	200	
	Pearson Correlation	.183**	1	.365**	
MA	Sig. (2-tailed)	.009		.000	
	N	200	200	200	
	Pearson Correlation	.239**	.365**	1	
UBC	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000		
	N	200	200	200	

Note: Own elaboration, (2024)

The links between Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC), Methodological Approach (MA), and Archaeological Discovery (AD) are depicted in the correlation matrix. Significant positive correlations between every pair of variables are shown by the Pearson correlation coefficients. In particular, the correlation between AD and MA is.183 (p =.009), the correlation between AD and UBC is.239 (p =.001), and the correlation between MA and UBC is.365 (p <.001). These results imply that understanding biblical context, methodological approach, and archaeological discovery have moderate to weak positive relationships that are statistically significant. This suggests that, while the strength of the correlations varies, as one variable rises, the others generally tend to rise as well.

A Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.816 was obtained from the dataset's reliability analysis, suggesting that the items measured for Archaeological Discovery (AD), Methodological Approach (MA), and Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC) had a good degree of internal consistency. This shows that the measures for AD, MA, and UBC are dependable and exhibit substantial interrelatedness, with 30 items included in the analysis. This suggests that each construct's elements measure the same underlying idea consistently, which raises trust in the

accuracy of the data gathered. As a result, scholars can depend on these metrics to precisely evaluate and interpret the constructs of interest, which will enable additional data analysis and interpretation in the context of methodological approach, biblical context comprehension, and archaeological discoveries.

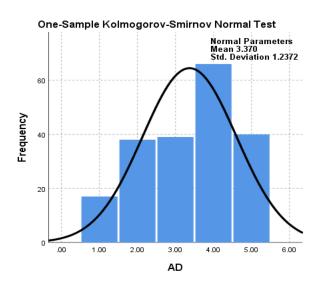
Table 3: Anova Regression

ANOVA Regression									
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.			
	Regression	577.844	2	288.922	19.307	.000 ^b			
1	Residual	2947.976	197	14.964					
	Total	3525.820	199						

Note: Own elaboration, (2024)

Based on Archaeological Discovery (AD) and Methodological Approach (MA), the ANOVA findings show a statistically significant regression model for Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC), F(2, 197) = 19.307, p < .000. This shows that UBC scores are significantly predicted by the combined influence of AD and MA. The large F-value and significant p-value show that the regression model explains a considerable amount of the variance in UBC scores. This suggests that the prediction of Understanding of Biblical Context scores benefits from the significant contributions made by both Archaeological Discovery and Methodological Approach.

Figure 1: Archaeological Discovery (AD)



Note: Own elaboration, (2024)

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Normal Test

Normal Parameters
Mean 3.735
Std. Deviation .9588

Figure 2: Methodological Approach (MA)

Note: Own elaboration, (2024)

DISCUSSION

A thorough analysis of the multiple threats posed by climate change to Arctic archaeological sites in south-western Greenland was carried out by Fenger-Nielsen et al. in 2020. Their study emphasizes how critical it is to address the serious threats that climate change poses to the Arctic region's cultural heritage. Through an analysis of several hazards such as permafrost thawing, coastal erosion, and increased precipitation, the study underscores the susceptibility of these archaeological sites to alterations in the environment. Their results highlight the significance of multidisciplinary approaches that combine viewpoints from the fields of archaeology, climatology, and conservation to create practical plans for preserving these priceless cultural assets. Additionally, the report provides as a call to action for local communities, researchers, and governments to work together to take preemptive measures to lessen the effects of climate change on Arctic archaeological places, safeguarding for upcoming generations this important facet of human history.

Archaeology, internationalism, and imperialism

Meskell (2020) explores the relationship between internationalism, archaeology, and imperialism in the context of the UN and the Middle East's creation. Meskell clarifies the intricate relationships between colonial powers, international organizations, and archaeological activities in forming the Middle Eastern region's narratives and identities through a critical



analysis. The study emphasizes the necessity for a nuanced understanding of the historical and political conditions that shape archaeological discourse and practice in the region by critically examining the function of archaeology as a tool of power and diplomacy.

Ramifications for discussions on archaeological chronology

The 2018 study by Manning et al. explores the nuances of radiocarbon dating in the southern Levant, illuminating variable offsets and their consequences for discussions of archaeological chronology. Through the analysis of regional radiocarbon data, the study challenges the notion of a constant offset and emphasizes the importance of proper calibration and interpretation of radiocarbon dates by revealing fluctuations in offsets across time. These findings require researchers to take into account nuanced approaches in dating methodologies and interpretations, especially in areas with complex environmental and cultural histories like the southern Levant, where their implications for archaeological chronologies are substantial.

Limitations on the spread of religious innovations in space

In Fousek et al. (2018), the case of early Christianity in the Roman Empire is used to investigate the geographical dynamics impacting the transmission of religious innovations. Their research explores the patterns and restrictions imposed by geography on the early Christian movement. The researchers explain how terrain, transportation networks, and urban centers affected the spread of religious beliefs and practices throughout the Roman Empire by using historical data and spatial analysis techniques. The study's conclusions advance our knowledge of the processes behind the spread and growth of religion in antiquity. Through their illustrations of how spatial elements interacted with social, political, and cultural processes to either help or impede the development of Christianity, they stress the significance of geographical environment in shaping the course of religious movements. The study also emphasizes how important it is to use multidisciplinary methods to analyze the spread of religious innovations by incorporating historical, archaeological, and geographical viewpoints.

The Nazareth Archaeology of Jesus

In-depth research on the archaeology of Jesus' Nazareth is done by Dark (2023), which sheds light on the historical and archaeological background of this important location in Christian tradition. The study attempts to reconstruct the socio-cultural environment of Nazareth during Jesus' time by fusing archaeological data with historical and literary sources. Dark probably investigates different archaeological digs carried out in Nazareth and the environs to find relics, buildings, and characteristics that illuminate the daily existence, religious rituals, and

architectural evolution of ancient Nazareth. The investigation may also tackle the difficulties and disagreements related to identifying and interpreting archaeological relics connected to Nazareth. Given that Jesus was born and raised in Nazareth, the study may also address the ways in which archaeological discoveries and biblical stories interact. and customs, fostering a deeper comprehension of the real Jesus and the early Christian society. All things considered, Dark's study of the archaeology of Jesus' Nazareth provides insightful information about the material culture and socio-historical background of this significant location, enhancing our comprehension of both the historical setting of first-century Palestine and the life and times of Jesus.

The Lateran squeezes' biography

Van De Ven's (2023) study of the Lateran squeezes' biography dives into the complex process of preserving archaeological information via practical replication. Focusing on plaster impressions of ancient Roman inscriptions known as Lateran squeezes, the study probably explores the relevance and methods of recreating archaeological artifacts. Scholars can participate in experiential learning and acquire understanding of the creation, materiality, and contextual relevance of ancient inscriptions by using painstaking replication techniques. Van De Ven's work probably clarifies the ways in which practical replication is an important instrument for archaeological study, education, and interpretation. It also presents fresh viewpoints on the preservation and sharing of archaeological information.

Restricted accessibility to cultural heritage

The study conducted by Aricò et al. (2023) represents a novel attempt to explore the web for cultural heritage sites that are not easily accessible. It focuses on the first trial with hypogeum archaeological sites. Because hypogeum sites are underground, they can be difficult to physically access for a variety of reasons, including safety rules or preservation considerations. Probably in an attempt to circumvent these restrictions and provide virtual access to these otherwise unreachable sites, the study makes use of web exploration technologies like virtual reality and interactive online platforms. This methodology not only promotes public interaction with cultural assets but also creates new opportunities for conservation, education, and research. The study may go over the user experience, the technical implementation of web exploration tools, and the consequences of virtual access for more comprehensive methods for managing cultural heritage. All things considered, the work of Aricò, La Guardia, and Lo Brute is an

important step towards democratizing access to cultural material and safeguarding it for coming generations.

This study probably explores how archaeological collections are acquired, providing insight into how organizations and museums have accumulated their holdings over time. The Christian religion of the Epitaphist during the COVID-19 crisis in Greece and Cyprus is the subject of Papantoniou and Vionis' (2020) study. This study probably looks at how communities responded materially to the epidemic, especially in relation to religious customs and rituals. Research on reconstructing biblical military campaigns using geomagnetic field data is presented by Vaknin et al. (2022). This work shows the possibility of multidisciplinary approaches in archaeological research by presumably using cutting-edge scientific technologies to analyze historical occurrences.

Birch and Szpak (2022) provide insights into current developments and future directions in archaeological science. This article likely discusses recent advancements in scientific techniques and methodologies used in archaeological research, such as isotopic analysis, radiocarbon dating, and molecular archaeology. It may also explore the potential applications of emerging technologies and interdisciplinary approaches in addressing archaeology questions and challenges. Walker (2022) provides a review of "Human Prehistory: Exploring the Past to Understand the Future," written by Deborah Barsky. This review presumably gives a summary of Barsky's work, highlighting its contributions to our knowledge of human prehistory and its applicability to current archaeology discussions. The methodology, theoretical underpinnings, and synthesis of archaeological data in the book may be evaluated, providing insights into the larger relevance of prehistoric studies for comprehending human evolution, adaption, and behavior. These papers demonstrate the complexity and breadth of archaeological research, covering theoretical viewpoints, socio-political aspects, and scientific developments.

CONCLUSION

The association between Archaeological Discovery (AD), Methodological Approach (MA), and Understanding of Biblical Context (UBC) is revealed by the study of a dataset with 200 observations. According to descriptive data, UBC, AD, and MA typically have greater values on average. Compared to the other characteristics, this shows a slightly better comprehension of the biblical background. The results underscore the interdependence of AD, MA, and UBC, which is further reinforced by noteworthy positive correlations between them. This suggests

that when one variable rises, the others typically follow suit. Furthermore, the reliability analysis demonstrates a high level of internal consistency between the AD, MA, and UBC measurements, increasing confidence in the collected data. The results of the ANOVA highlight the importance of both AD and MA in predicting UBC, suggesting that both variables account for a sizable portion of the variance in UBC scores. However, because multi co linearity may occur, care should be used when interpreting the regression coefficients as it could increase standard errors and jeopardize the precision of the estimations. In summary, these results underscore the significance of taking into account both methodological and archaeological findings when improving our comprehension of biblical context. They also point to the necessity of additional diagnostics or model modifications in order to properly handle multi co linearity.

LIMITATIONS

- Fragmentary Evidence: It can be difficult to fully reconstruct the context and significance of biblical events or tales due to the fragmented and fragmentary nature of archaeological evidence.
- ➤ Interpretive Bias: Subjective interpretations of archaeological data may result from the effect of cultural prejudices, personal views, and preconceived conceptions about biblical texts.
- ➤ Preservation Issues: Natural processes, human activity, and environmental conditions can damage the preservation of archaeological sites and artifacts, hence reducing the quantity and caliber of available evidence.
- ➤ Chronological Uncertainty: It can be challenging to establish exact chronologies for archaeological sites and artifacts, which leaves room for speculation on the time relationship between biblical events and archaeological remains.
- Absence of Direct Evidence: Although archaeology can support biblical accounts in an indirect way, it frequently is unable to establish the historical validity of certain Bible-referenced events or figures.
- ➤ Interpretation Challenges: It can be difficult and a topic of scholarly discussion to interpret archaeological evidence in the context of biblical texts without carefully taking linguistic, cultural, and historical variables into account.
- ➤ Biblical writings were written over many centuries and represent a wide range of religious and cultural viewpoints, which makes it difficult to link particular biblical



- passages or stories with archaeological discoveries. This is known as contextual complexity.
- ➤ Limitations of Technology: Although technical developments have improved the capacity for archaeological study, there are still restrictions on the methods and instruments that can be used to analyze archaeological data, especially in difficult situations or settings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aricò, M., La Guardia, M. and Lo Brutto, M. (2023) 'WEB EXPLORATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE WITH LIMITED ACCESSIBILITY: FIRST EXPERIMENTATION FOR HYPOGEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES,' *The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, XLVIII-M-2–2023, pp. 111–117. https://doi.org/10.5194/isprs-archives-xlviii-m-2-2023-111-2023.
- Baumgarten, E. (2022) *Biblical women and Jewish daily life in the Middle Ages, University of Pennsylvania Press eBooks*. https://doi.org/10.9783/9780812297522.
- Ben-Yosef, E. (2019) 'The architectural bias in current Biblical archaeology,' *Vetus Testamentum*, 69(3), pp. 361–387. https://doi.org/10.1163/15685330-12341370.
- Ben-Yosef, E. (2019b) 'The architectural bias in current Biblical archaeology,' *Vetus Testamentum*, 69(3), pp. 361–387. https://doi.org/10.1163/15685330-12341370.
- Birch, S.E.P. and Szpak, P. (2022) 'Current developments and future directions in archaeological science,' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 119(43). https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2212490119.
- Borowski, O. (2004) 'Daily life in biblical times,' *Choice Reviews Online*, 41(08), pp. 41–4818. https://doi.org/10.5860/choice.41-4818.
- Brandfon, F.R. (1987) 'The Limits of Evidence: Archaeology and Objectivity,' *Maarav*, 4(1), pp. 5–43. https://doi.org/10.1086/mar198704101.
- Dark, K. (2023) 'Archaeology of Jesus' Nazareth,' in *Oxford University Press eBooks*. https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192865397.001.0001.
- Ebeling, J. (2009) 'The Contribution of Archaeology to the Study of Women in Biblical Times: Two case studies,' *Review & Expositor*, 106(3), pp. 383–398. https://doi.org/10.1177/003463730910600306.
- Fenger-Nielsen, R. *et al.* (2020) 'Arctic archaeological sites threatened by climate change: A regional multi-threat assessment of sites in south-west Greenland,' *Archaeometry*, 62(6), pp. 1280–1297. https://doi.org/10.1111/arcm.12593.

- Fousek, J. *et al.* (2018) 'Spatial constraints on the diffusion of religious innovations: The case of early Christianity in the Roman Empire,' *PLOS ONE*, 13(12), p. e0208744. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208744.
- 'From Stonehenge to Las Vegas: archaeology as popular culture' (2006) *Choice Reviews Online*, 43(07), pp. 43–4114. https://doi.org/10.5860/choice.43-4114.
- Kehoe, A.B. (2016) *Controversies in archaeology, Routledge eBooks*. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315431611.
- Kintigh, K. *et al.* (2014) 'Grand challenges for archaeology,' *American Antiquity*, 79(1), pp. 5–24. https://doi.org/10.7183/0002-7316.79.1.5.
- Koren-Lawrence, N. and Collins–Kreiner, N. (2018) 'Visitors with their 'Backs to the archaeology': religious tourism and archaeology,' *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, 14(2), pp. 138–149. https://doi.org/10.1080/1743873x.2018.1503279.
- Legarth, P.V. (2016) 'Andreas J. Köstenberger: Invitation to Biblical Interpretation Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature and Theology (Kregel Publications, 2011),' *Dansk Tidsskrift for Teologi Og Kirke*, 41(3), pp. 251–254. http://tidsskrift.dk/index.php/dttk/article/view/72493.
- Manning, S.W. *et al.* (2018) 'Fluctuating radiocarbon offsets observed in the southern Levant and implications for archaeological chronology debates,' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 115(24), pp. 6141–6146. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1719420115.
- Meskell, L. (2020) 'Imperialism, internationalism, and archaeology in the UN/Making of the Middle East,' *American Anthropologist*, 122(3), pp. 554–567. https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13413.
- Neev, D. and Emery, K.O. (1997) 'The destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho: geological, climatological, and archaeological background,' *Geographical Review*, 87(3), p. 441. https://doi.org/10.2307/216053.
- Nongbri, B. (2018) *God's Library: The Archaeology of the earliest Christian manuscripts*. https://ixtheo.de/Record/1029513503.
- Papantoniou, G. and Vionis, A.K. (2020) 'Popular Religion and Material Responses to Pandemic: The Christian Cult of the Epitaphios during the COVID-19 Crisis in Greece and Cyprus,' *Ethnoarchaeology*, 12(2), pp. 85–117. https://doi.org/10.1080/19442890.2021.1896129.
- Rituals and practices in world religions (2020) Religion, spirituality and health: a social scientific approach. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-27953-0.



Stiebing, W.H. (1996) 'Uncovering the Past: A History of Archaeology. by William H. Stiebing

Jr.,' American Journal of Archaeology, 100(3), p. 605. https://doi.org/10.2307/507031.

Vaknin, Y. et al. (2022) 'Reconstructing biblical military campaigns using geomagnetic field data,' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 119(44). https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2209117119.

- Van De Ven, A. (2023) 'The biography of the Lateran squeezes: The curation of archaeological knowledge through hands-on replication,' *Museum History Journal*, 16(2), pp. 119–140. https://doi.org/10.1080/19369816.2023.2187947.
- Walker, M.J. (2022) 'Deborah Barsky. 2022. Human prehistory: exploring the past to understand the future. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; hardback 978-1-316-51542-6 £84.99.,' *Antiquity*, 97(391), pp. 241–243. https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2022.153.
- Wallach, E. (2019) 'Inference from absence: the case of archaeology,' *Palgrave Communications*, 5(1). https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-019-0307-9.