

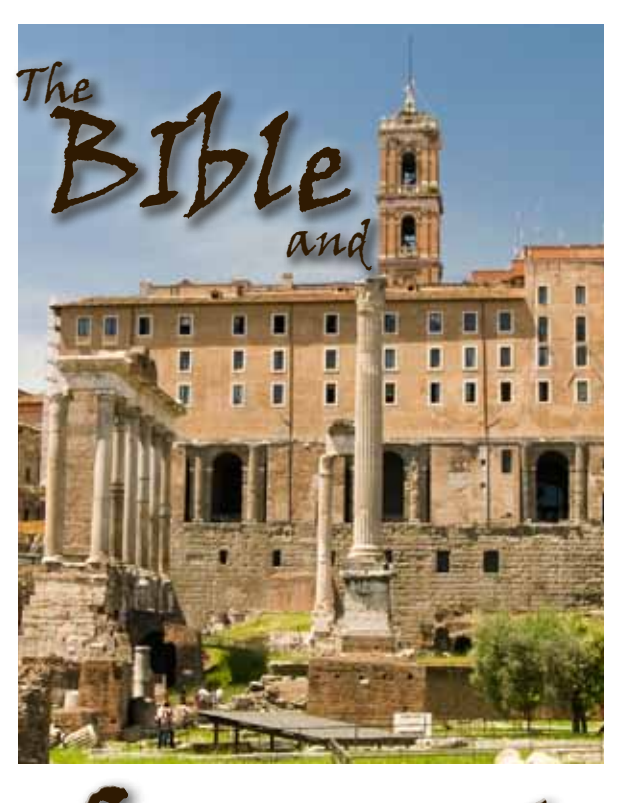
July 2009

Volume 20:07

# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*





# Hezekiah's TUNNEL

KYLE BUTT

The book of 2 Kings tells the story of King Hezekiah, one of the few kings of ancient Judah who did “what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done” (2 Kings 18:3). Second Kings 20:20 says: “Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah—all his might, and how he made a pool **and a tunnel** and brought water into the city—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?” We then read in 2 Chronicles 32:30 that “this same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the **water by tunnel** to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.” These two verses give us a wonderful opportunity to verify the Old Testament’s accuracy. If Hezekiah really dug a tunnel underneath the city of Jerusalem, then we might be able to find some evidence of it. After all, a huge tunnel under Jerusalem should be easy to spot. Are there any archaeological discoveries that verify this story?

Indeed there are. One archaeologist named Randall Price wrote a book titled *The Stones Cry Out*. In that book, he tells about the archaeologists who found the tunnel Hezekiah dug underneath the old city of Jerusalem. In fact, Randall Price includes a picture of his daughter standing in the actual tunnel. The tunnel is so easy to see that tourists can walk through it!

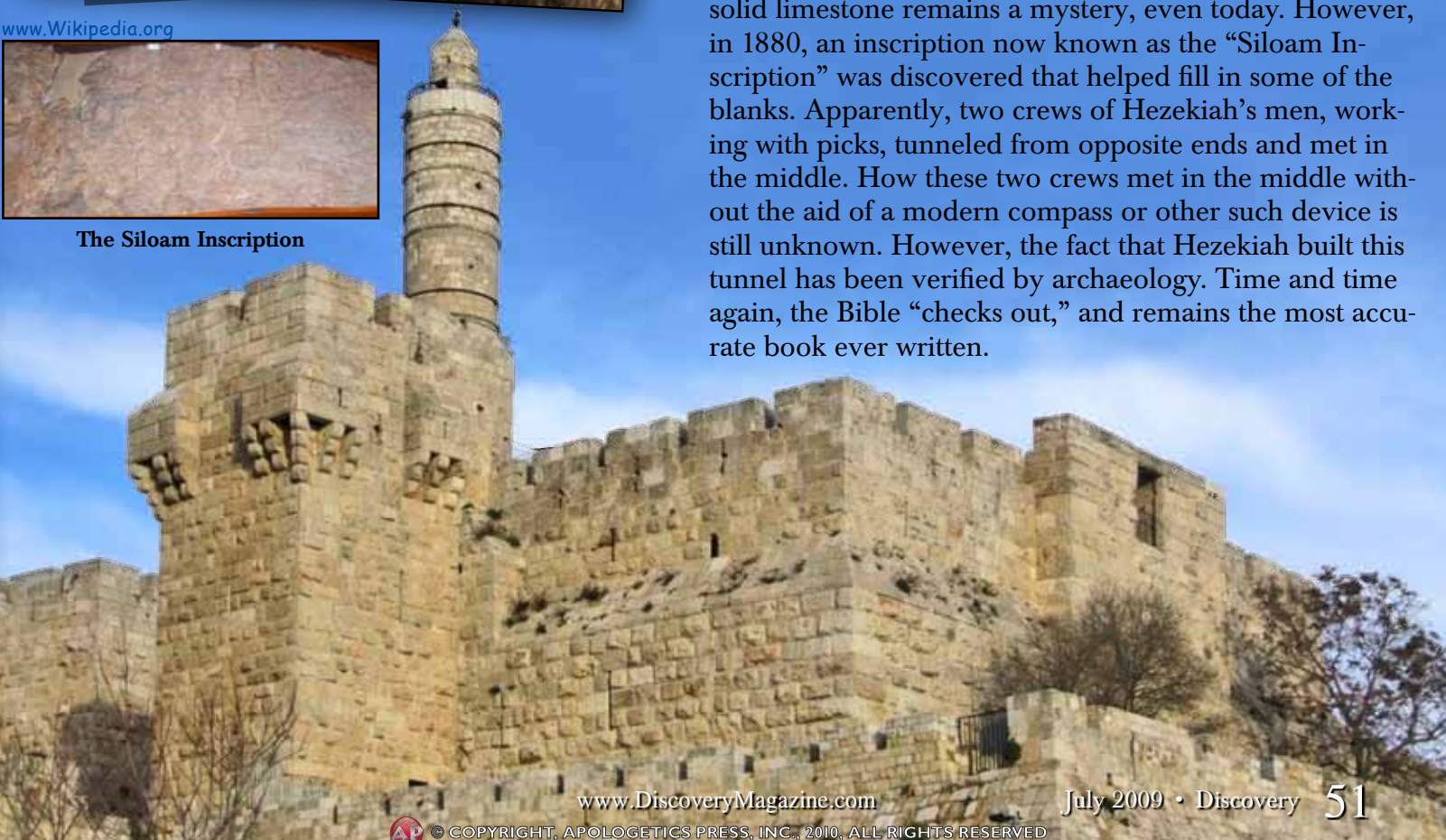
How Hezekiah carved this 1,750-foot tunnel through solid limestone remains a mystery, even today. However, in 1880, an inscription now known as the “Siloam Inscription” was discovered that helped fill in some of the blanks. Apparently, two crews of Hezekiah’s men, working with picks, tunneled from opposite ends and met in the middle. How these two crews met in the middle without the aid of a modern compass or other such device is still unknown. However, the fact that Hezekiah built this tunnel has been verified by archaeology. Time and time again, the Bible “checks out,” and remains the most accurate book ever written.

www.Wikipedia.org

www.Wikipedia.org



The Siloam Inscription



# Archaeology

KYLE BUTT

Archaeology [are-key-AH-low-jee] is a big word. It means the study of physical artifacts from the lives of people in the past. Archaeologists are scientists who practice archaeology. They study things such as stone tablets, ancient houses, and historic cities that have been buried for many years. Archaeology can be very exciting. Sometimes archaeologists uncover amazing treasures that were buried by kings hundreds or even thousands of years ago. At other times, “treasures” like ancient writing tablets or inscriptions are found that describe events in the past. Archaeology is important because it helps us see what things were like in the past, and it helps us know what really happened.

Archaeology is also very important because it shows that the Bible writers always told the truth and wrote about things that really happened. The Bible writers were inspired by God to record certain historical facts exactly as

they occurred. While this might not sound that amazing, it really is. You see, most historic books have errors. That is why history books are rewritten every few years, so that the errors in them can be corrected. There is only one book that reports ancient history that has every fact exactly right—the Bible.

How can archaeology help us know that the Bible is true? Suppose the Bible tells about a king in Judah who dug a large tunnel under the city of Jerusalem. If this really did happen, we might expect to see the tunnel still there, or at least see signs that it was dug at one time. Or suppose the Bible mentions ancient kings who ruled other nations. When we find inscriptions and documents from those nations, we would expect them to have the names of the kings mentioned in the Bible. Since many of the documents or artifacts might have been destroyed, we would not expect to find archaeological evidence to verify everything in the Bible. But we would expect to discover some artifacts that show the Bible to be accurate. In this issue of *Discovery*, we are going to look at some interesting archaeological finds. We are going to see that thousands of archaeological finds have shown that the Bible writers always wrote the truth. There has never been a single discovery that disproves anything in the Bible.





# "OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID"

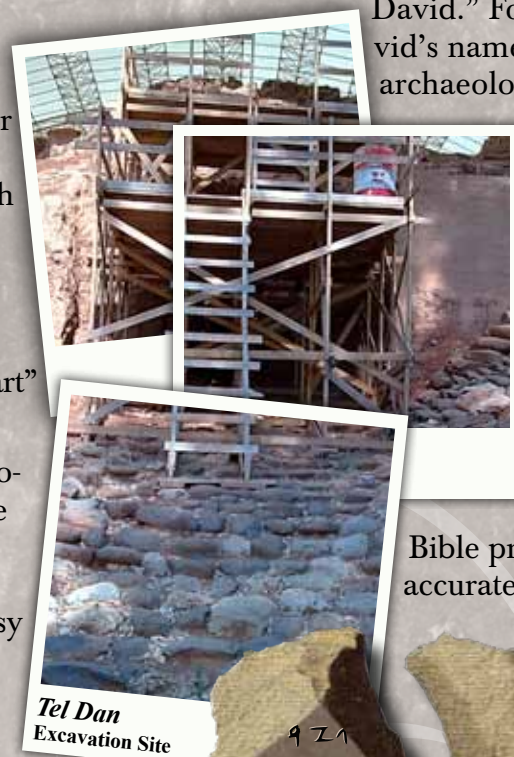
## KYLE BUTT

King David was one of the most famous men in all of the Bible. With God's mighty power behind him, he killed a bear and a lion to save his father's sheep and toppled a wicked giant with a single stone. The Bible mentions David 1,048 times. He wrote 73 of the psalms, and he is the major character in about 62 chapters of the Old Testament. Anyone who has ever read the Bible knows about David—a man "after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14).

For many years, however, there was no archaeological evidence that David existed. Some people thought that the Israelites just made up stories about David. They thought that David never really lived. They believed David's life was a fantasy based on myths and legends. After all, every nation needs a hero who slays giants. The Saxons had Beowulf, the Greeks had Hercules, and the Jews had David. David's daring deeds and courageous conduct were said to be make believe.

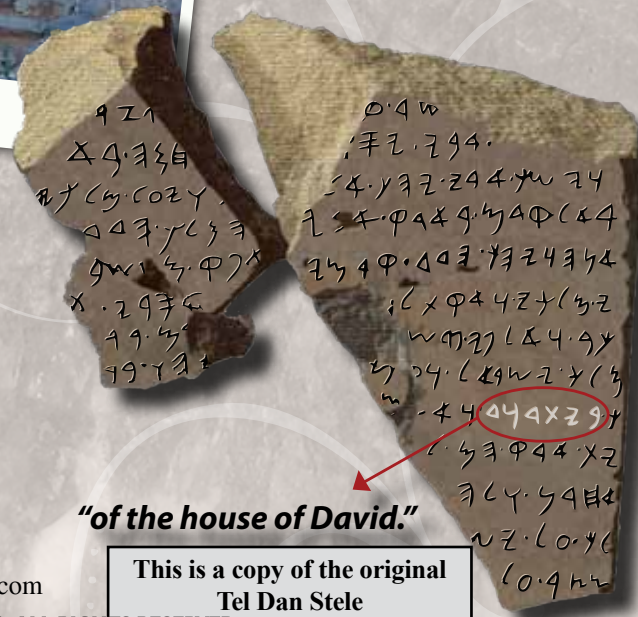
But a stone found in Palestine in 1993 changed all that. Professor Avraham Biran was digging at a site in northern Israel known as Tel Dan. There he discovered a 3,000-year-old stone that had been carved by one of the enemies of Israel. The stone explained that Ben Hadad, King of Damascus, had defeated the Israelites and taken many of them captive. But the most amazing thing about

the stone is that it plainly states that the Israelite king defeated by Ben Hadad was "of the house of David." For the first time, David's name was confirmed by archaeology.



Tel Dan Excavation Site

Because of this wonderful discovery, we have archaeological evidence that the story of King David is not a myth or legend. David lived, just as the Bible states. And once again, the Bible proves to be perfectly accurate in every detail.



"of the house of David."

This is a copy of the original Tel Dan Stele

# THE MOABITE STONE

Kyle Butt

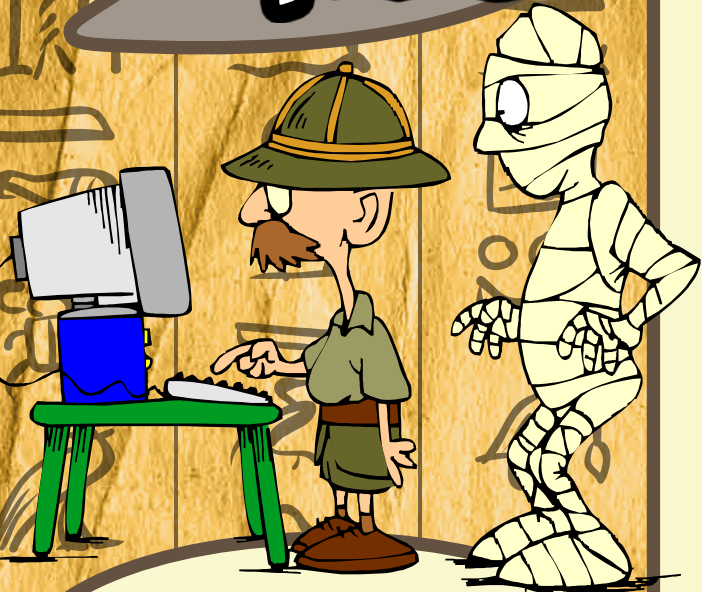
Writing about a rock that was found almost 150 years ago certainly would not fit in an "in the news" section of a newspaper. In fact, since 1868, there have been many articles written about the stone. But the truth is, many people do not even know it exists. The Moabite Stone is very important because it helps to show that the Bible is always correct.

The Moabite Stone was found by a missionary named F. Klein in 1868. When he first saw the black basalt stone it measured about three and a half feet high and two feet wide. Upon hearing of Klein's adventure, a French scholar named Clermont-Ganneau traveled to see the stone. He then made an impression of the writing on its surface. From that point, no one really knows what happened to the stone. Somehow, the stone was broken in several pieces. The pieces were scattered around the world, but about two-thirds of the original stone has been found and is currently on display at the Louvre, a famous museum in Paris.

The written inscription on the stone provides a piece of evidence that proves the Bible's accuracy. Mesha, the king of Moab, had the stone cut in about 850 B.C. to tell of his many conquests. He told about the lands that he recaptured from Israel. In the text of the stone, which is over 30 lines and contains about 260 words, Mesha mentions that Omri was the king of Israel who had oppressed Moab. When we look in the Bible, we see that 1 Kings 16:21-28 gives us the same information. Furthermore, both the Moabite Stone and 2 Kings 3:4-6 say that Mesha was the king of Moab. The stele also names the Israelite tribe of Gad, and the Israelite God, Yahweh, two names the Bible mentions often. Once again, archaeology helps us see that the Bible writers only wrote things that were the truth.



# ACTIVITY PAGES



## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

### ACROSS

- THE STUDY OF PHYSICAL ARTIFACTS FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE PAST
- THE KING OF JUDAH WHO HAD A TUNNEL MADE UNDER JERUSALEM TO HAVE WATER BROUGHT INTO THE CITY
- THE "PILATE INSCRIPTION" WAS FOUND IN THIS CITY
- THE ROMAN OFFICIAL WHO GOVERNED THE AREA OF JUDEA AT THE TIME OF CHRIST'S DEATH

### DOWN

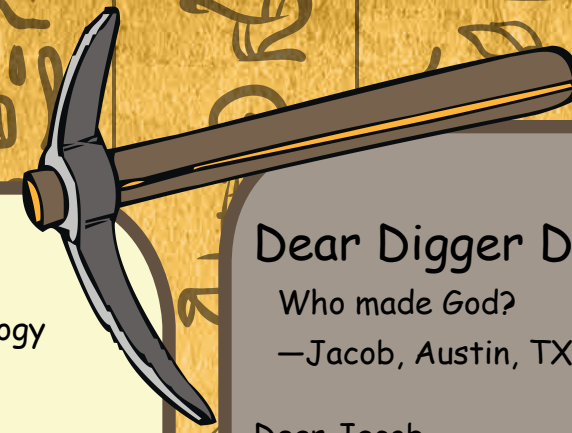
- THIS KING HAD THE MOABITE STONE CUT IN ABOUT 850 B.C.
- A KING OF DAMASCUS
- A BLACK BASALT STONE MEASURING ABOUT 3½ FEET HIGH AND 2 FEET WIDE
- KILLED A BEAR AND A LION TO SAVE HIS FATHER'S SHEEP
- THE KING OF ISRAEL MENTIONED ON THE MOABITE STONE

- ### TRUE OR FALSE
- ARCHAEOLOGISTS STUDY THINGS SUCH AS STONE TABLETS, ANCIENT HOUSES, AND HISTORIC CITIES THAT HAVE BEEN BURIED FOR MANY YEARS.
  - THE BIBLE IS FULL OF ERRORS.
  - THE MOABITE STONE MENTIONS THAT OMRI WAS THE KING OF ISRAEL WHO HAD OPPRESSED MOAB.
  - THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SINGLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY THAT DISPROVES ANYTHING IN THE BIBLE.
  - KING HEZEKIAH WAS ONE OF THE FEW KINGS OF ANCIENT JUDAH WHO DID "WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, ACCORDING TO ALL THAT HIS FATHER DAVID HAD DONE" (2 KINGS 18:3).
  - THE STONE TABLET NOW KNOWN AS THE "PILATE INSCRIPTION," CONTAINS THESE WORDS: "PONTIUS PILATE NEVER WAS THE GOVERNOR OF JUDEA."
  - HOW HEZEKIAH'S MEN CARVED A 1,750-FOOT TUNNEL THROUGH SOLID LIMESTONE REMAINS A MYSTERY, EVEN TODAY.
  - ARCHAEOLOGY HELPS TO SHOW THAT THE BIBLE WRITERS ALWAYS TOLD THE TRUTH AND WROTE THINGS THAT REALLY HAPPENED.

### TRUE OR FALSE

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

- Scientists who practice archaeology
  - Biologists
  - Chemists
  - Archaeologists
  - None of the above
- Described as a man "after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14)
  - Saul
  - David
  - Solomon
  - Hezekiah
- A stone found in Palestine in 1993 had the following 3,000-year-old inscription on it
  - "of the house of David"
  - "in the time of Pharaoh"
  - "on the side of Sinai"
  - None of the above
- The king of Moab in 850 B.C.
  - Omri
  - Hezekiah
  - Solomon
  - Mesha
- The tribe of Israel mentioned on the Moabite Stone
  - Judah
  - Benjamin
  - Gad
  - Dan



Dear Digger Doug,  
Who made God?  
—Jacob, Austin, TX

Dear Jacob,

Thank you for sending such an important question. One of the laws of science states that, in this Universe, every effect must have a cause that is greater than the effect. This is easy to see. For example, baby animals (puppies, kittens, calves) have parent animals (dogs, cats, and cows). The Law of Cause and Effect applies even in the Plant Kingdom as well.

God is the only One Who does not have a cause, such as a parent or maker. In fact, God has always existed. The word for this is **eternal**. The fact that God is eternal means that He is self-existent. He had no beginning and will never cease to exist (Psalm 90:2). (If He were created, then that would mean that someone greater than God exists—but this cannot be.) The prophet Isaiah wrote that God "inhabits eternity," and that He is the only One Who does (Isaiah 57:15). We are glad to serve such an amazing Creator.



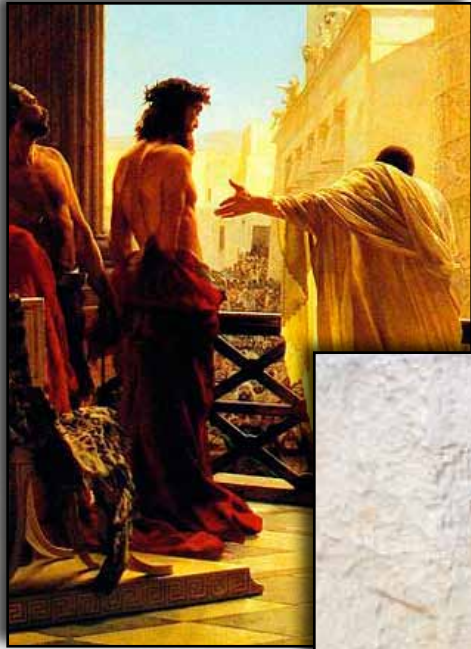


APOLOGETICS PRESS, INC.  
 230 Landmark Drive  
 Montgomery, AL 36117  
 (800) 234-8558 (Orders)  
 (334) 272-8558  
 www.DiscoveryMagazine.com  
 © 2010 Apologetics Press, Inc.  
 All Rights Reserved

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Montgomery, AL  
 Permit No. 513

Editor: Kyle Butt, M.A.  
 Associate Editor: Eric Lyons, M.Min.  
 Layout and Design: Rob Baker, M.Ed.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# PILATE—LOST AND FOUND

Kyle Butt

though Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, he sentenced Him to death.

Although the Bible mentions Pilate on several occasions, his name could not be found among the archaeological evidence. For hundreds of years, no stone inscriptions or other physical evidence could be found that contained Pilate’s name. Had the New Testament writers made up the story about Pilate? Were they simply trying to make the story about Jesus more interesting to readers? Were the New Testament documents wrong about Pilate?

No, the New Testament writers were not wrong. They were reporting the historical facts just as they happened. In 1961, an Italian archaeological team working at Caesarea found a stone tablet that measured 32 inches high by 27 inches wide by eight inches thick. On this slab, now known as the “Pilate Inscription,” were the remains of this simple title: “Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea”—almost the same title as the one given to him in Luke 3:1. This, then, became yet another find to remind us that the more we uncover the past, the more we uncover the truth—the Bible is, indeed, the Word of God.

The last few days of Jesus’ life were the most tragic of any in human history. Ruthless men and women made fun of Him, spit upon Him, and hit Him. In the middle of all the violence, there stood one man who had the power to stop all the torture. One man who could call off the Roman soldiers and save Christ from being crucified. His name was Pontius Pilate. He was the Roman official who governed the area of Judea at the time of Christ’s death. The story of the crucifixion can hardly be told without mentioning Pilate. Three times Pilate said that Jesus was innocent and did not deserve death. Pilate’s wife sent him a message during the trial of Jesus. She told him not to have anything to do with the death of Jesus because Christ was a righteous man. Yet even

## ANSWERS

3. A (“of the house of David”); 4. D (Mesha); 5. C (Gad).  
 9. Pilate; **Down:** 1. Mesha; 2. Ben Haddad; 3. Moabite Stone; 4. David; 8. Omni; MULTIPLE CHOICE: 1. C (Archaeologists); 2. B (David); TRUE OR FALSE: 1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T. CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: **Across:** 4. Archaeology; 5. Hezekiah; 7. Caesarea.  
 Yearly Subscription Fees in U.S. Funds Only • United States of America: Individual rate: \$12 each • Bulk rate (at least 5 to same address): \$8.50 each.  
 Club rate (at least 10 to different addresses paid together): \$10 • Homeschool discount 10% off above rates • Canada: \$16 each (bulk: \$12) • Overseas Airmail: \$21 each (bulk: \$14)