Old Testament Introduction  
The Bible’s Buried Secrets  
Chapter 19, Mythic Settlements

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/bibles-buried-secrets.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qalTJzk4kO0>

***About the Video***

What is for the most part an exact copy of the video script follows. There are a few places where individual speakers could neither be heard nor understood: for this we apologize. Every effort was made to be precise: there were just spots that defeated us. Since this is a quote in its entirety it seemed unnecessary to mark it with quotation marks. The notation for each speaker is tedious enough: Narrator, Reader, etc. If you discover bothersome errors, please reply to this website and point them out. You may verify the script more easily by starting to replay it where the “time” stamps indicate discussion begins. The second of the above links is free from advertising and thus easier to use.

***Overview***

In a field of low credulity scientific methods, some worse than others; this segment of the BBS video is dominated by that which is no science at all.

**Sweeps**

Field sweeps conducted with the unaided human eye have no credibility whatsoever. We would like to see full and open disclosure of the record books: for we do not believe that either the area coverage or the allotted times are credible. We would like to see proof that teams of 425 on average, or as many as 598, and even 2,392 people in particular instances, actually participated in these field sweeps for ten hours at a time, twice a week, without ceasing for seven years.

**Explosion**

The claims for a population explosion during the period 1200-1000 BC, do not hold up under simple mathematical analysis.

**House**

The Israelite house dating, with its pottery, does not square with the dating of Hazor, or with the date for the Merneptah Stele. A 1450 BC destruction of Hazor by fire does not explain a minor 1200 BC occupation in the hills. Moreover, the people of Ai were terrified by fire, while the people of Hazor thought nothing of torching their own city.

**Density**

The biblical record indicates that less than one family occupied seventeen acres of settlement, which can hardly be described as a horde.

**Rot**

The follow-on materials disclose bias with malice, non-existent archaeology, unsupported psychology, claims of origin from egalitarian simplicity, invention of a cover story, and finally the creation of Yahweh in the image of man. We are compelled to reject all of this as twaddle.

***Script***

Mythic Settlements (time 34:28)

Quote:

In the 1970s archaeologists started wide ranging surveys throughout the central hill country of Canaan. Today, primarily the Palestinian territory of the west bank.

Israel Finkelstein:[[1]](#endnote-1) I was teaching at this time, we used to take students and go twice a week to the highland, and every day we used to cover between two to eight square kilometers,[[2]](#endnote-2) and this accumulated very slowly into the coverage of the entire area.

N: Israel Finkelstein and teams of archaeologists, walked out grids over large areas, collecting every fragment of ancient pottery lying on the surface. Over seven years, he covered nearly four hundred square miles, sorting pottery, and marking the locations of where it was found on a map.

Finkelstein: In the beginning they were spots on the map, they meant nothing to me, but later slowly, slowly I started seeing the sort of phenomenon….

N: By dating the pottery, Finkelstein discovered that before 1200 BC, there were approximately 25 settlements. He estimated the total population of those settlements to be three to five thousand inhabitants. But just 200 years later there is a very sharp increase in settlements and people.

Finkelstein: Then you get this boom of population growing and growing. Then we are thinking about 255 [settlements], and the population grows also in time from 3,000 to 45,000 or so. Now this is very dramatic and cannot be explained as natural growth. This rate is impossible in ancient times.[[3]](#endnote-3)

N: If not natural growth,[[4]](#endnote-4) perhaps these are the waves of dispersed people[[5]](#endnote-5) settling down following the collapse of the great state systems.[[6]](#endnote-6) Then more evidence of a new culture is discovered, a new type of simple dwelling never seen before. And it’s in the exact location where both the Merneptah Stele and the Bible place the Israelites.[[7]](#endnote-7)

Ben-Tor: The site in which this type of house appeared throughout the country, this is where the Israelites lived. And they are sometimes even called the Israelite house, the Israelite type house. The people who lived in those villages seem to be a more or less in a kind of egalitarian society, because there are no major architectural installations. If you look at the finds, the finds are relatively poor, the pottery is more or less mundane, I don’t want to offend the early settlers of the early Israelites, very little art.[[8]](#endnote-8)

N: Curiously, the mundane pottery found at these new Israelite villages is very similar to the everyday pottery found at the older Canaanite cities like Hazor.[[9]](#endnote-9) In fact the Israelite house is practically the only thing that is different. This broad similarity is leading archaeologists to a startling new conclusion about the origins of the ancient Israelites.[[10]](#endnote-10)

Dever: The notion is that most of the early Israelites were originally Canaanites, displaced Canaanites.[[11]](#endnote-11)

Machinist: The Israelites were always in the land of Israel. They were natives, but they were different kinds of groups. They were basically the have-nots.[[12]](#endnote-12)

Dever: So what we’re dealing with is a movement of peoples, but not an invasion of armed hordes from outside, but rather a social and economic revolution.[[13]](#endnote-13)

N: Ancient texts describe how the Egyptian rulers and their Canaanite vassal kings burdened the lower classes of Canaan with taxes and even slavery.[[14]](#endnote-14) A radical new theory based on archaeology suggests what happens next. As that oppressive social system declines, families and tribes of serfs, slaves and common Canaanites seize the opportunity.[[15]](#endnote-15) In search of a better way of life, they abandon the old city-states and head for the hills.[[16]](#endnote-16) Free from the oppression of their past, they eventually emerge in a new place, as a new people, the Israelites.[[17]](#endnote-17)

Finkelstein: In the text you have a story of the Israelites coming from outside and then the teaching, the Canaanite cities, destroying them and then becoming a nation in the land of Canaan. Whereas, archaeology tells us something which is the opposite. According to archaeology the rise of early Israel is an outcome of the collapse of the Canaanite society, not the reason for that collapse.[[18]](#endnote-18)

N: Archaeology reveals[[19]](#endnote-19) that the Israelites were themselves originally Canaanites. So why did the Bible consistently cast the Israelites as outsiders in Canaan? Abraham’s wanderings from Mesopotamia; Moses leading slaves out of Egypt and into the Promised Land; and Joshua conquering Canaan from outside. The answer may lie in the desire to forge a distinctly new identity.[[20]](#endnote-20)

Machinist: Identity is created, as psychologists tell us, by talking about what you are not, by talking about another. In order to figure out who I am I have to figure out who I am not.[[21]](#endnote-21)

N: Conspicuously absent from Israelite villages are the grand palaces and the extravagant pottery associated with the kings and …-ese of Canaan.

Avraham Faust:[[22]](#endnote-22) The Israelites did not like the Canaanite system and they defined themselves in contrast to that system by not using decorations, by not using decorated pottery, they developed an ideology of simplicity, which marked the difference between them and the Egyptian Canaanite system.[[23]](#endnote-23)

N: If the Israelites wanted to distinguish themselves from their Canaanite paths,[[24]](#endnote-24) what better way than to create a story about destroying them.[[25]](#endnote-25) But the stories of Abraham, Exodus, and the Conquest serve another purpose. They celebrate the power of what the Bible says is the foremost distinction between the Israelites and all other people, their God.[[26]](#endnote-26) In later Judaism the name of God is considered so sacred that it is never to be spoken.[[27]](#endnote-27)

Coogan: We don’t know exactly what it means. We don’t know how it was pronounced. But it seems to have been the personal name of the God of Israel. So His title in a sense was God; and His name was these four letters, י - ה - ו - ה, which in English would be YHWH [JHVH], which we think would probably be pronounced something like Yahweh.[[28]](#endnote-28)

Unquote.

***Methods***

**Petrie**

Archaeological methods began with the careful and precise work of people like Flinders Petrie[[29]](#endnote-29). For Petrie the work of archaeology began with careful field evaluation, which likely included a lot of photography. Then the excavation site was laid out in small squares, perhaps about twelve feet or three meters or slightly larger in size. The work focused on quality, rather than on quantity, and proceeded slowly sifting every trowel-full of dirt. In this manner, the depth or stratum of excavation was also controlled and evaluated. Thus with the careful logging of each square a 3D model of the archaeological matrix was created. Anyone could read the log and re-date or reevaluate the finds.

**Garstang and Kenyon**

Garstang[[30]](#endnote-30) and Kenyon[[31]](#endnote-31) seem to have preferred the trench method. It is easier and faster. However, control of the 3D matrix is lost, as length and depth are the only dimensions being controlled. This does have the minor advantage of providing a vertical section view of the excavation, but the in depth perspective of horizontal features is lost, because it is fundamentally a 2D technique.

**Bietak**

At Avaris/Piramesse/Qantir/Tell El-Dab’a, Manfred Bietak[[32]](#endnote-32) used radar imaging technology to map the entire region before any digging took place. Radar imaging technology created an extensive picture of the layout plan of the site. While radar imaging technology began as a 2D technique, multiple echo methods make 3D imaging possible, and even 3D X-ray scanning. Such technology was first developed for medical scanning devices and in space[[33]](#endnote-33); it quickly found industrial applications; the only limit is that of cost. We do not know if such 3D technology is yet employed extensively in Promised Land and Egyptian archaeologically.[[34]](#endnote-34)

***Field Sweeps***

**Large Scale**

Field sweeping technology uses large scale grids to examine huge areas.[[35]](#endnote-35) This is the same technology that is commonly used to search for missing persons or murder victims. Field sweeps must be conducted with each participant physically holding hands with both neighbors, all participants maintaining a straight line, as participants walk slowly across a field: experience has taught that greater separations result in lost and missing information: critical in searching for a lost child. It is crucial to conduct the sweep as soon as is possible because open field material degrades very rapidly from exposure to animals, insects, people, rain, sun, wind, and the like. Just about anything can destroy or remove valuable information.

**Loss of Control**

Archaeological field sweeps control only large scale grids. There is no control of the surface, which has now degraded for over three millennia, three thousand years. Any resemblance to the surface topography as it might have existed in 1200 BC is strictly accidental. Any artifact located, could have been dropped by a playing child, been the result of anyone throwing pottery shards at random, or from any number of uncontrolled and uncontrollable sources. Moreover, the tendency, over the years, would be for artifacts to disappear. If anything significant were found, it would be the result of random chance, and would greatly underestimate what existed three millennia ago. Also, whatever had been accidentally deposited down through the centuries would be mixed together in an indiscriminate manner.

**Subsurface**

For all these reasons, serious archaeological investigation must have a means to look below the surface to undisturbed strata, and then begin with a careful process. That which a farmer’s plow kicks up accidentally, is not likely to be an important find. It does not appear that any of these concerns were addressed, in the procedure at hand. Very little credibility can be attached to the results “discovered.” This is simply not careful scientific work. Dating is also dubious, since the only relationship possible is through pottery, and that is devoid of strata relationships.

Field sweeps, conducted with the naked eye are neither science nor archaeology. 3D sweeps conducted with radar imaging technology would have scientific credibility.

**Area**

The claim for the area covered, amounts to 400 square miles in seven years. Let’s evaluate this claim using simple arithmetic.

* 400 square miles in seven years is
* 57.14 square miles per year is
* 1.099 square miles per week with two one-day trips per week is
* 1.423 square kilometers per day[[36]](#endnote-36) is
* .549 square miles per day is
* 352 acres per day is
* 15,317,802 square feet per day.

A single student examining a single square foot per second for a ten hour day would catalog the following:

* 1 square foot per student per second is
* 60 square feet per student per minute is
* 3,600 square feet per student per hour is
* 36,000 square feet per student per ten-hour working day.

Dividing 15,317,802 by 36,000, we discover that a team of at least 425 students would have to work the field one day, twice a week, year-round, to accomplish the work. We simply do not believe that a single teacher was able to organize 425 person teams over the course of seven years. None of the associated pictures show more that twelve or so students participating. Thus:

* the work was done casually and inconsistently, or
* far less was accomplished than claimed, and
* the magnitude of the discovery claimed grossly understates the size of the Israelite presence in 1200 BC.

***Growth***

The claim is that prior to 1200 BC, 25 settlements were identified having a total population of three to five thousand inhabitants. Moreover, sufficient discrimination of the pottery was shown to identify 255 settlements, with forty-five thousand inhabitants by around 1000 BC, two-hundred years later. Furthermore, this increase is described as a “population boom”, a “sharp increase”, “a very dramatic [growth that] cannot be explained as natural”, a “rate [that] is impossible in ancient times”, and “waves of dispersed people.”

**Settlements**

Let’s examine some very simple arithmetic, involving the nature of exponential or growth equations:

* y = a \* b ^ t, looking at the settlement report
* 255 = 25 \* b ^200, what is the growth rate? Solving for b
* b = (255/25) ^ (1/200), 1/200 is the two-hundredth root, on our scientific calculator b = 1.0117, which is a growth rate of only 1.17%, a very low growth rate.

This growth rate corresponds to a doubling time of 60 (59.69) years. This means that the number of settlements could be expected to double every 60 years. Here is a scaled chart:

* time in years number of settlements
* 0 25
* 60 50
* 120 100
* 180 200
* 200 255
* 240 400

We easily passed 200 settlements in only one-hundred-eighty years. In the next twenty years we reached 255. A mere forty years after that we would have reached a total of 400 settlements, without the existence of any population boom whatsoever. A little over 1% is not a population boom; this is close to the worldwide average.

**Population**

Let’s do the same simple arithmetic for the population report of expansion from a minimum of 3000 to 45,000.

* y = a \* b ^ t, looking at the population report
* 45,000 = 3,000 \* b ^ 200
* b = (45,000/3,000) ^ (1/200) = 1.0136, a 1.36% growth rate, slightly higher than for settlements, but not alarming either.

The doubling time is down to less than 52 (51.19) years.

* time in years number of people
* 0 3,000
* 52 6,000
* 104 12,000
* 156 24,000
* 200 45,000
* 208 48,000

Evidently BBS is not acquainted with the mathematics of growth. There is nothing exceptional about these numbers. In fact we are astounded that these growth rates are so low.

***House***

At this point in our saga, BBS splices Ben-Tor’s report of the Israelite House into the error filled arithmetic. If we were to accept either Zuckerman’s or Finkelstein’s Hypothesis, we would be compelled to call these Canaanite houses. Fortunately, Zuckerman’s frivolity and Finkelstein’s weightless, worthless data compel us to believe Ben-Tor. We have no problem with this being an egalitarian society; these were simple Semitic shepherds, not devoted to pomp and show.

The pottery identification in these Israelite Houses is another matter. It is described as being equivalent to the pottery discovered at lower Hazor. This exposes other errors: for the 1200 BC pottery discovered in an Israelite House cannot be equated to pottery for a 1450 BC[[37]](#endnote-37) battle at Hazor, with pottery from upper Hazor and lower Hazor co-existing in space and time. Granted: the BBS description of pottery dating is grossly oversimplified; so oversimplified as to be completely wrong. Several possibilities still exist.

* Hazor pottery exposes a chronological inversion that discredits the entire pottery dating method.
* Israelite Houses must be re-dated to 1450 BC which is preposterous in light of a 1364-1354 BC invasion, or the Merneptah Stele.
* Hazor must be re-dated to 1200 BC, which seems preposterous in view of the 14C data.
* Bible records are accurate, reporting a post 1364 BC date for the First Battle of Hazor, followed by a slowly developing and theologically confusing development of settlement from 1354 to 1010 BC, during which time the Philistines became the dominant military and political force for a space of about fifty-four years until Yahweh suppressed them through the work of Samuel and David.

“The [whole] notion … that most of the early Israelites were originally Canaanites,” is based on false reasoning and bad arithmetic. This construct has no evidence and is impossible to sustain against real evidence: it is completely subjective and only has assumption for a foundation. So, are we dealing with an invasion of armed hordes?

***Israel***

Israel currently claims a land area in excess of eight-thousand square miles, all of which is west of the Jordan River. While it is nearly impossible to get accurate figures, we believe that the territory commanded by the Israelites from 1354 to 1010 BC was supposed to be at least twice this size or more than sixteen-thousand square miles, including both Cisjordan and Transjordan. After the conquest, the task fell to Joshua to assign the allotted inheritances, many of which were Transjordan territories. If we use 16,000 square miles as a basic estimate of land area, and 2.414 million as a basic estimate of population we can arrive at a crude idea of the potential population density. This number will be high because many Israelites were exclusively city dwellers.[[38]](#endnote-38)

* 2.414 million people distributed over 16 thousand square miles is
* 151 persons per square mile is
* 4.24 acres per person is
* 17 acres per family of four.

Finkelstein’s proposed numbers range from around 8 people to as many as 113 people per square mile. These numbers are not consistent with the biblical evidence, even when one allows for militarily involved individuals, unable to settle because of military duty, and other possible factors. Neither are they consistent with a flight from Hazor. Finkelstein’s numbers are far too low for either contingency: since both his math and method are seriously flawed we cannot rely on his numbers as an evaluator of reality. The Bible simply provides better and more reliable data. None of this is a description of armed hoards.

***Wrap Up***

What follows in the BBS discussion is the clear disclosure of the BBS intentional opposition to biblical records. This is not a search for convergence or for resonance; this is a quest to destroy and discredit biblical evidence. The claim that the Israelites were originally Canaanites is based in the first part on an archaeology that only exists as the figment of one uber-imaginative mind. In the second part, the claim is based on a pseudo-psychological definition of identity: no actual psychologists were referenced in the claim. In the third part, a claim surfaces, based on the supposed humility and egalitarian simplicity of these Israelite/neo-Canaanite people, which is once again devoid of substantiation: how exactly do humility and egalitarian simplicity establish national origin? In the fourth part, the claim is made for the big lie; the Israelite/neo-Canaanite people fabricate a falsified cover story that justifies their right to exist. Lastly, they supposedly invent an uber-deity, a larger-than-life God, named Yahweh: which makes no sense whatsoever, and is irrelevant to the case at hand, unless this Yahweh really exists.

***Conclusion***

In a field of low credulity scientific methods, some worse than others; this segment of the BBS video is dominated by that which is no science at all.

**Sweeps**

Field sweeps conducted with the unaided human eye have no credibility whatsoever. We would like to see full and open disclosure of the record books: for we do not believe that either the area coverage or the allotted times are credible. We would like to see proof that teams of 425 on average, or as many as 598, and even 2,392 people in particular instances, actually participated in these field sweeps for ten hours at a time, twice a week, without ceasing for seven years.

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**Density**

The biblical record indicates that less than one family occupied seventeen acres of settlement, which can hardly be described as a horde.

**Rot**

The follow-on materials disclose bias with malice, non-existent archaeology, unsupported psychology, claims of origin from egalitarian simplicity, invention of a cover story, and finally the creation of Yahweh in the image of man. We are compelled to reject all of this as twaddle.

[[39]](#endnote-39)

1. Israel Finkelstein (1949 …), Israeli archaeologist and professor at Tel Aviv University. Works: Megiddo. There is little evidence that Finkelstein ever participated in a dig.

   <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Finkelstein> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. 2-8 square kilometers amounts to 0.772-3.089 square miles, or 494-1977 acres, or 21,528,000-86,111,000 square feet. We do not believe that any one person can cover more than 1 square foot per second effectively for a ten hour day, which amounts to 36,000 square feet per person per day. Hence, between 598 and 2392 people would be required to do the work. We simply do not believe such figures are possible: they are necessarily greatly exaggerated. We have refrained from using the term, lying, but this is most certainly gross exaggeration of the facts. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Unfortunately, this emotional argument does not show a very good grasp of the mathematics involved, the mathematics of exponential equations. Natural growth is exactly what it must be explained by. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. The conditional clause (if) fails. Careful mathematical examination reveals that this growth is perfectly normal: there is nothing unusual or extraordinary about this growth whatsoever. Given the reality of human fertility, we are surprised that the growth is so low. Nor is there any general collapse of the “great state systems”. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. The record clearly shows that “waves of dispersed people” are involved. Not waves of Canaanites pouring out of Hazor in search of greater freedom from Hazor’s supposed slavery: for which, no documentary evidence was ever adduced; but rather, waves of Israelites are pouring from Gilgal to receive their Yahweh-promised inheritance. This is, by its very description, ten waves of dispersing people.

   Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh inherited in Transjordan. Manasseh had a double first inheritance from Joseph. Levi has only a distributed city inheritance because of their priestly duties. This leaves Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, half-Manasseh, Ephraim, and Benjamin: ten tribes to create a dispersing wave.

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgal_I>

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgal>

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rujm_el-Hiri>

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Joshua>

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethabara>

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba_Map> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Rather than “the collapse of the great state systems” the period from 1364 to 1010 BC shows a revival with increasing power among “the great state systems”. After Joshua’s defeat of these “great state systems”, Israelite martial and political control declined steadily (in the linear regression) due to compromise of values, idolatry, and other sins. At the same time the Canaanite “great state systems” are growing steadily, reaching a power climax during Philistine domination, a domination so complete that Israelites were afraid to walk the main roads (Judges 5:6), or to thresh wheat openly (Judges 6:11); villages were also abandoned (Judges 5:7). [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. As we have demonstrated before, the Merneptah Stele offers no definitive information; while the Bible places the Israelites in Canaan as Semitic invaders. The architectural style seems irrelevant to such points. The houses tell us nothing about who lived in them: at least not from the information provided by BBS. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. We have no objection whatsoever to the Ben-Tor comments. What we find fault with is the false-construct that others will attempt to make from them. It is the simple fact: Ben-Tor’s observations about the Israelite house are not at all supportive of a migration of poor refugees, coming from lower Hazor, into the mountains; when, ostensibly, the poor of Hazor burned their own city and fled for the hills. The timing is inconsistent (1450 BC is not supportive of a 1200-1000 BC movement). The motivation is inconsistent (why would they do this?). The quantity of 20,000 inhabitants of Hazor, at least 17,500 of whom were from lower Hazor, is inconsistent with 25 settlements, having 3,000 total inhabitants. Besides which, there were many other similar, but smaller cities involved in the supposed collapse of Canaanite culture around 1450 BC. This adds up to hundreds of such settlements, and tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of refugees by 1200 BC, and many more in 1000 BC. Ben-Tor is right; but, all of the numbers are wrong. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. In which case, we must either date these houses and villages to 1450 BC; or re-date Hazor to a later period, matching the Israelite houses; or reject the pottery dating system as an unworkable solution. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. “This broad similarity is leading archaeologists to a startling new [false] conclusion about the origins of the ancient Israelites.” Since when do mere pottery and/or wealth convey the nature of the ethnicity of the owner, or whether the presence of such pottery and/or wealth establishes its owner either as an external invader, or a participant in internal dispersion (a sort of Canaanite suburban sprawl, or a version of lower class Canaanite flight)? Having supposedly taken internal control of Hazor, what motivation would lower class Canaanites have to live in the mountains? Since Hazor was such a sizable and populous city (17,000 or more without any stretch of imagination; possibly 70,000 or more), why are the numbers and sizes of settlements not greater? The argument is self-defeating.

    This article claims 20,000 inhabitants at Hazor’s prime,

    <http://phys.org/news/2013-07-archaeological-tel-hazor-sphinx-fragment.html>

    <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menkaure> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Obviously, an impossibility: neither the motivations nor the numbers of people support such a conclusion. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Where is the evidence for such an idea? [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. This is just more question begging. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Which texts? Please provide verbatim quotes, with dated and located references that specifically relate to Canaanite/Egyptian affairs. The Lachish Letters (590 BC) are too late. What related correspondence exists beside the Amarna letters (1391-1332 BC)? Which letter? What line?

    <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachish_letters>

    [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna\_letters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna_letters#Chronology) [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. There is no factual basis for this. There are several indications of widespread freedom of speech.

    <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna_letters#Quotations_and_phrases> [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. There is no evidence for such an internal migration either. If such evidence exists, please produce it. This is just so much subjective speculation. Hazor was continuously occupied from before 1450 BC until well after Solomon in 930 BC. So, from whence did these disgruntled Canaanites appear? [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. The only recorded instance of such flight is that of the Gibeonites, who were willing to become indentured servants so that they could abandon the slavery of idolatry, and come close to Yahweh, the living God (Joshua 9). Afterward, they returned to their homes in peace, where they were later attacked by other Canaanites. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. “According to [the narrow minded, highly biased, and extremely unscientific] archaeology” of Finkelstein. By the open declaration, “archaeology tells us something which is the opposite,” Finkelstein reveals that this entire BBS discussion is clearly contradictory and visibly hostile to the biblical witness. It is not archaeology that poses the problem, but the subjective and unfounded interpretation of archaeology that is the real problem. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. Actually, archaeology reveals nothing of the sort. A serious examination of Joshua and Judges reveals a perfect fit with this archaeology, especially with the turbulence of Judges. Only by imposing a false construct on archaeology and the Bible, can we arrive at such an erroneous conclusion, “that the Israelites were themselves originally Canaanites”. The turbulence of Judges and 1 Samuel is only brought under control by the administrative skills of David and Solomon. Shortly after Solomon’s death, the northern territories (Israel) quickly revert to pagan Canaanite mentalities. In the southern territories (Judea) the process of stagnation merely takes longer. These were not Canaanites becoming Israelites; these were Israelites becoming Canaanites. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. The Israelites did not lie to falsify a new identity. By all means, when one doesn’t possess a legitimate passport or other biological records, the legally appropriate thing to do is forge such false documents (sarcasm). That way you can get into bars without being exposed as a fraud (more sarcasm). The absurdity of this suggestion is patent. The Israelites did not lie to falsify a new identity. They had all the necessary credentials in Yahweh. [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. Imaginary or mythic identity may be created by such means; but real identity is created from a family and parents, with a birth certificate, and a lifetime of honest commitment and work in service to society, to those we love, and even to our enemies. Real identity rests in thus honoring God first, as well as the family name and reputation. [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. Avraham Faust, professor at Bar-Ilan University, no other bibliography.

    <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/jerusalem/avraham-faust-on-david%E2%80%99s-palace/> [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. The difference is marked, because it is real. In spite of all their compromises with idolatry the record of Judges shows that the Israelites had a memory of Yahweh; when they were in trouble, they cried out to Yahweh, and were saved. As falsely prompted as Israelite prayer was, Yahweh rescued them repeatedly. [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. Once again, the conditional clause (if) fails. The Israelites have no motive for wanting “to distinguish themselves from their Canaanite paths”, if indeed, they are originally Canaanites. [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. If one is ashamed of one’s past, the best course is to denounce and renounce it. Lying only complicates an already bad situation. This BBS argument is simply farfetched. [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. If Yahweh “is the foremost distinction between the Israelites and all other people”, He is either real or not real. If Yahweh is not real. He is just another Canaanite idol, and there is no special attraction in seeking to serve Him. The “distinction between the Israelites and all other people” is only pivotal and rational if Yahweh is real. Surely, even the stiff necked Israelites would have understood this. If Yahweh “is the foremost distinction between the Israelites and all other people”, no false tale of destruction is necessary. This “moral purpose” argument has no weight. Indeed, if Maslow were correct, yet he is not, the Israelites could develop no such self-actualization “needs” until their bellies are full: so here we have a poverty stricken and homeless people acting at the highest plane of human need hierarchy. Either Maslow is wrong, or BBS is wrong, or both are wrong, or there is another motivating force or person involved: namely, Yahweh. Fundamental to this BBS chain of argument is the fact that none of the perpetrators believes that Yahweh really exists.

    <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow%27s_hierarchy_of_needs> [↑](#endnote-ref-26)
27. BBS has only one recourse to reality: falsification of ancient records. This is pathetic. The leap of conversation to the meaning of the name of Yahweh at this point is a non-sequitur: it has no relationship to the topic at hand. [↑](#endnote-ref-27)
28. All of this is true, yet amazingly irrelevant. [↑](#endnote-ref-28)
29. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flinders_Petrie> [↑](#endnote-ref-29)
30. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Garstang> [↑](#endnote-ref-30)
31. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Kenyon> [↑](#endnote-ref-31)
32. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manfred_Bietak> [↑](#endnote-ref-32)
33. Military espionage puts a lot of funding and technical expertise into such efforts. [↑](#endnote-ref-33)
34. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3D_scanner>

    <http://proscan3dimaging.com/>

    <http://www.3d-radar.com/>

    <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lidar>

    <http://www.rapidform.com/3d-scanners/>

    <http://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs/24019/InTech-Ct_scanning_in_archaeology.pdf>

    <http://www.academia.edu/Documents/in/3D_Laser_Scanning_Archaeology_?page=7> [↑](#endnote-ref-34)
35. Finkelstein indicates that his idea of grid size is in the neighborhood of 2 to 8 square kilometers, 0.772 to 3.089 square miles. He does not indicate the surveying method he used to establish his grid, or mark it. [↑](#endnote-ref-35)
36. Finkelstein claims “every day we used to cover between two to eight square kilometers.” Both of these numbers are considerably larger than 1.423; they are obvious exaggerations. [↑](#endnote-ref-36)
37. The 14C date. The biblical date remains at slightly post 1364 BC. [↑](#endnote-ref-37)
38. All of the Levites, plus all of the leaders, administrators, and scribe classes. [↑](#endnote-ref-38)
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