Old Testament Introduction
The Bible’s Buried Secrets
Chapter 4, Pertinent Artifacts

***Commonly Available Evidence***

*The Bible’s Buried Secrets* is supposed to be an accurate scientific synthesis of archaeology and the Bible. Here is one collection of a list of pertinent or relevant artifacts.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_artifacts_in_biblical_archaeology>

The most casual perusal of this list gives an idea of how much information was avoided by *The Bible’s Buried Secrets* in its discussion. While we don’t expect a two-hour-long video to explore all of these, the omission of some is absurd, while the neglect of others is devious. We are especially wary of the start of discussion with the Merneptah Stele, which is not a creation, temptation, or flood account. A list of things that should not have been omitted, considering the scope of the subject matter might include:

* The 2000 BC: artifacts especially those related to creation, temptation, flood, and law; execration texts.
* The 1500 BC: Tombs, Amarna letters, Ipuwer Papyrus, Papyrus Harris I.
* 10th century BC: Gezer calendar was discovered in 1908; emphasis on Tel Zayit, discovered in 2005, suggests that this is somehow or other shocking news; Isbeth Sartah; Pim weight, which gives credence to 1 Samuel; Tell es-Safi, which gives credence to Goliath; Ophel inscription.
* 9th century BC: Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III, which is pictured in the video, but not discussed.

The supposed evidence of The Bible’s Buried Secrets rests on only a dozen or so of this mountain of artifacts. The rest are unnoted and unheeded.

Our purpose here, is not to demand that every artifact be discussed; but rather to insist that good science never eliminates evidence. The preference of Tel Zayit over the Gezer calendar, appears to be motivated by the highly biased, and bigoted attempt to establish the Documentary Hypotheses[[1]](#endnote-1) as new, when they in fact originated in the nineteenth century, over one-hundred years ago. The deliberate distortion of evidence to make a point is out of bounds.

If biblical accounts of creation, temptation, and the flood are discussed, we expect *The Bible’s Buried Secrets* to at least begin by mentioning the existence of Mesopotamian creation, temptation, and flood epics.

If biblical accounts of Law are discussed, we expect some discussion of the fact that there is significant evidence of such legal codification dating as far back as 1754 BC.[[2]](#endnote-2) Hammurabi is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. There is enough surviving legal literature to establish Law as a genre. Subject matter experts in the field can even classify types of laws or covenants.”[[3]](#endnote-3) This sort of literature shows that legal or covenant documents of this type exist as unquestionably whole documents, not as pasted up source documents: evidence which is fatal to any of the variant Documentary Hypotheses. The real question concerning Torah is not if it came from source documents, but how and why does it differ from other legal codes of the era.

***Other Missing Evidence***

Why would and did the Shəkinah Glory appear first in a Burning Bush, then in a Pillar of Cloud and Fire, crossing the Red (or Reed Sea), settling on Sinai, leading through the desert, conquering great nations, crossing the Jordan, and destroying Jericho without a fight?[[4]](#endnote-4)

Why would and did the Shəkinah Glory bother to give a new law, if all He wished to establish was another civil moral code, like that of Hammurabi?

Why would and did the Shəkinah Glory allow Himself to be paraded about on a sedan chair (the Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat) like any other temporal earthly potentate?

Or why would *The Bible’s Buried Secrets* allow opinions about the paucity of weapons artifacts within cities to stand when the standard practice was to do the bulk of fighting outside of cities, not within them?

Or why does *The Bible’s Buried Secrets* develop a whole construct of the twelfth and eleventh centuries without once even mentioning the material of Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel?

Or why is the massive settlement of the Philistines[[5]](#endnote-5) in five major cities along the Mediterranean Sea unmentioned? Why do the maps always refer to Philistia as an occupation in the central highlands?

Or why is the discussion of Joshua’s invasion devoid of any reference to Edomites[[6]](#endnote-6), Amorites[[7]](#endnote-7), Ammonites[[8]](#endnote-8), Bashanites[[9]](#endnote-9), Moabites[[10]](#endnote-10), or Amalekites[[11]](#endnote-11)?

*The Bible’s Buried Secrets* has also avoided even mentioning that “Dr. Bryant Wood has proposed that Ai should instead be located at the site of Kirbet el-Maqatir” Since, *The Bible’s Buried Secrets* managed to harp on problems with Ai’s dating associated with Et-Tell, we might have at least expected some balancing information.

<http://www.bibleplaces.com/maqatir.htm>

***Conclusion***

We have just begun to scratch the surface. All in all, there is a massive amount of unevaluated material. We do not insist that it is necessary to study all of this material in a single two-hour video. We do insist that it is necessary to study all of this material, before one ventures to propose such a wild and unfounded hypothesis as that put forward in *The Bible’s Buried Secrets*. The use of evidence in *The Bible’s Buried Secrets* suggests that they cherry-picked only those pieces of evidence that would suit their theory. This is not science; this is theatrics, this is drama and posturing. The evidence is buried in a matrix of spectacular music and photography; a barrage of quickly changing authorities, and pseudo-authorities; and then cloaked in the name of science and the Bible. “That’s not how this works. That’s not how any of this works.”[[12]](#endnote-12)

[[13]](#endnote-13)

1. The basic idea of the Documentary Hypothesis is not that a single man named Moses, acting at the direction and tutelage of Almighty God, between the years 1406-1366 BC, wrote five books: named Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Rather four groups of people, acting on their own carnal and mortal authority, wrote four separate streams of information: named J (circa 950 BC), E (circa 850 BC), D (circa 600 BC), and P (circa 500 BC). These four groups of people carried these four separate streams of information, either as tribal oral traditions, as tribal scraps of written legends mixed with oral traditions, or as tribal written legends that were nearly complete. These four separate streams of information were melded together: possibly, as they went along in time (950-500 BC); or possibly, only at the end (500 BC); or possibly, in some other way. In any case, these four separate streams of information were not finally gathered into distinct books named Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, until a group of scribes called P finished the editing process, adding as much as half (50%) of the material along the way. Evidently, most of D existed as a distinct book from as early as circa 600 BC. Among these groups of people or scribes, there possibly existed one or several men named Moses who participated in the process along the way: however, the time constraints make it impossible that any one person was ever involved in the whole process. Other than that, the name Moses appears to be a fabrication designed to reinforce a Canaanitish-Egyptian connection, not an Israelitish-Egyptian connection. For the most part, there are no Israelites, or at most a tiny group of Israelites might have existed; the people called Israelites are, in fact Canaanites: the name Israelite was invented to justify the existence of a people, today know as Jews. This Jewish people have no actual national existence prior to 516 BC, when that national existence was established as a vassal state of the Persian empire. The Old Testament documents were invented to justify their fraudulent puppet kingdom. That sums up the nutshell, and nuts and bolts of the Documentary Hypothesis lie.

The Documentary Hypothesis may have had some credibility in Wellhausen’s day. That being conceded, the purpose of any hypothesis is to form a basis and plan for collecting and testing evidence. What that evidence has consistently done is to find one flaw after another in the Wellhausen hypothesis; while, at the same time providing increasing agreement with and support for the biblical evidence. The fine line separating history from pre-history has moved steadily backward in time. Today, there is little choice but to consider the Documentary Hypothesis failed. It may be renamed and reinvented as a Supplementary or as a Fragmentary Hypothesis(es); yet, it is still wrong. There is a point in intellectual honesty, in which continuing support of a failed hypothesis has to be considered a lie; it may be a lie of self-deception: nevertheless, it is still a lie.

As far as the Jews are concerned, they are a new people, with very little resemblance to the Judeans of 586, the Israelites of 722, or the united-kingdom of David and Solomon, let alone the theocracy of Moses and Samuel. Yes, this is, in some respects, the Jews history, and it is certainly established as a real history at least from 1010 BC and onward… a reasonable and yet to be disproved pre-history before that: yet, it is not a history in which the Jews have any real relationship. Principally, the Shəkinah, the Glory is not among them, and will not return until 4 BC; that devastating loss, among others, makes all the difference between being a Jew and being a Judean: they are no longer the same people. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_of_Hammurabi> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Meredith G. Kline (1922-2007), for example, who has in the neighborhood of a dozen or more publications in the field. *The Structure of Biblical Authority* (1997), and *Treaty of the Great King: The Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy: Studies and Commentary* (1963) are essential reading

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meredith_Kline> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. All of this evidence was also suppressed. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philistines#Archaeological_evidence> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edom#Archaeological_references> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amorites> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammon> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashan> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moab> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amalek> [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. This is a line from a popular TV commercial that refers to posting on the wall. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. If you have been blessed or helped by any of these meditations, please repost, share, or use any of them as you wish. No rights are reserved. They are designed and intended for your free participation. They were freely received, and are freely given. No other permission is required for their use. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)