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Departmental Newsletters

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Fall 2007

## **Fall 2007 DigSight Newsletter**

Southern Adventist University

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## Hazor Excavations 2007

**This summer, from June 21 through August 5, eighteen participants from Southern Adventist University traveled to Israel to participate in the Hazor Excavations sponsored by the Israel Exploration Society and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.**

Outstanding finds were made by the Southern team, including an Egyptian basalt statue inscribed on either side with hieroglyphics. The statue indicates the international nature of Hazor, as indicated in the biblical description, that it was “head of all those kingdoms.” Another significant find was a cuneiform tablet written in Akkadian. The tablet teaches how to forecast the future using an animal liver, a common ritual in the ancient Near East.



To date, only 20 tablets have been found at Hazor, hinting at the possibility that the site might contain important archives. The significance of such a discovery for the history of the region cannot be underestimated. “That hope of discovery is like finding a needle in a haystack, yet it is what keeps us going back year after year,” observed Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern.

This summer excavations continued along the northern slope of the upper city. A large complex of Persian period houses was discovered here. A pilgrim flask, whole storage jars, and agricultural tools were found in its destruction. “It was incredibly exciting to find an iron tool nearly

two feet long in my square,” said Anna Lee Beagle, an archaeology major at Southern. “To think that it might have been used for agriculture and perhaps even a weapon of defense as the Persian buildings were destroyed!”

Directly below these buildings were signs of an earlier, Iron Age destruction. In some areas this destruction measured over two meters thick. Excavators attribute the destruction to the Assyrian king, Tiglath Pileser III, who conquered Hazor and Megiddo in 732 B.C. and then overran the entire Galilee and coastal plain, exiling all their inhabitants. “In the days of Pekah, king of Israel, came Tiglath Pileser, king of Assyria, and took . . . Hazor . . . all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria” (2 Kgs 15:29). Today these events of biblical history come to life as excavations continue.



Sept/Oct 2007

Issue 2

### In This Issue:

Page 1

Hazor Excavations 2007

Page 2

Hope Channel Premier

New Museum Coordinator

Page 3

Dedication Leads to Discovery

Page 4

National Geographic Interview

Realizing Our Dreams

Page 5

Realizing Dreams, cont.

Recent Sightings

Page 6

Upcoming Events

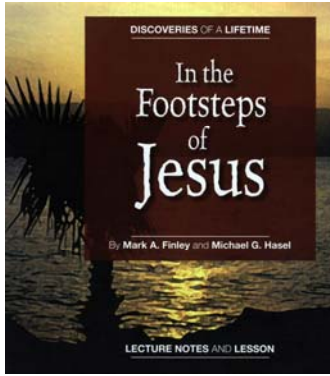
### Mission Statement

“The Institute of Archaeology is an entity that fosters archaeological research, publication, and education to enhance the understanding of biblical history at Southern Adventist University, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the community at large.”



**SOUTHERN**  
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## Hope Channel Premier



In September the ten-part television series “Discoveries of a Lifetime” premiered on the Hope Channel with Dr. Mark Finley, Chairman of the Board of the Hope Channel, and Dr. Michael Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern Adventist

University. This series brings the latest archaeological research from the Middle East and relates it to the Bible. The professionally produced presentations include high-quality photographs from excavations and recent archaeological discoveries in the Holy Land.

Finley and Hasel have recently conducted meetings at several locations based on this new series. The success of these meetings dem-



onstrates the importance of archaeology as it relates to establishing the foundation of the Bible in our lives. In Chattanooga, 2006, over eight hundred people registered for the five-night “Discoveries of a Lifetime” series. Last month in Portland, Maine, 380 people met for five nights.

The Institute of Archaeology has teamed up with Finley to produce this ten-part DVD series of one-hour programs. They are now available for purchase through the Hart Research Center. Five full color study guides have been designed to accompany the series.

“It has been exciting to see the people respond to this series. They are thrilled to see the Bible come to life and authenticated by the discoveries of archaeology. There are few presentations that I have done that draw people out like archaeology does,” commented Finley.

To order your personal copy of “Discoveries of a Lifetime,” contact:  
Hart Research Center  
P.O. Box 2377  
Fallbrook, CA 92028  
(800) 487-4278  
[www.hartresearch.org](http://www.hartresearch.org)

## New Museum Coordinator



Early this semester the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum expanded its staff, creating the position of Museum Coordinator. Southern alumnus Justo E. Morales has accepted the position. Morales graduated from Southern in 2006 with

B.A. degrees in Near Eastern Archaeology, Classical Archaeology, and History. He is fluent in Spanish and German, in addition to having completed coursework in Greek, Hebrew, and Akkadian. He is completing his M.A. thesis in Old Testament and Archaeology from Andrews University.

While a student at Southern, Morales participated in the development of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum through a Museum Design class. He also served as a docent after the museum’s opening. Morales’ most recent experience comes from his work at Andrews University’s Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum.

As a graduate research assistant, he designed and assembled temporary exhibits, researched artifact labels, and performed various curatorial tasks. Morales’ fieldwork experience includes his participation at excavations at Idalion, Cyprus, Hazor, Israel, and most recently, Tall Jalul, Jordan, where he served as square supervisor.

“We are thrilled to have a coordinator for the museum,” said Michael G. Hasel, curator of the museum “This will be one more step toward the necessary requirements for museum accreditation and will provide much needed help in increasing our visitor attendance through new activities.” As Museum Coordinator, Morales will assist the curator in overseeing the preservation of the museum collections, maintaining and updating collection catalogue records, coordinating the development of new exhibits, developing educational programs, and most importantly, improving the museum’s visibility in the community in order to increase visitor numbers.

Morales relocated here from Berrien Springs, Michigan, with his wife Marcella Colburn, a photojournalist who also graduated from Southern (’04) with a degree in Mass Communications. Morales began work in September.

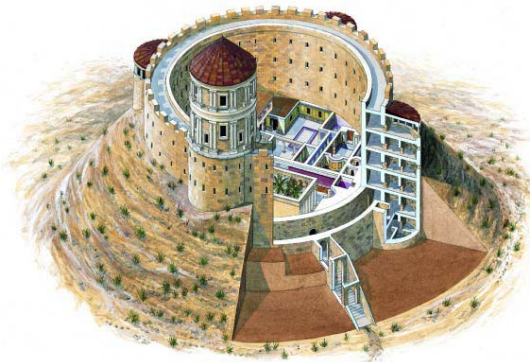
# Dedication Leads to Discovery

This year has brought incredible news from Jerusalem, with the discovery of Herod's tomb at his fortress of Herodium. This is the third largest fortress in the Roman Empire. We thrive on this kind of news. Not only does it remind us that these individuals lived and died just as the Bible and ancient historians like Josephus tell us, but it also reminds us of the fragility of life and the dismal end to one of the most prolific builders in ancient history. Herod wanted to be remembered for posterity. Instead, his tomb was ransacked and his ornate sarcophagus broken into hundreds of pieces.

**On the fragment was an inscription: “*regi Herodi Iudaico*” (for Herod, king of Judaea). It was the first mention of this title, outside of the Bible and Josephus, found in an archaeological context!**

Josephus, the Jewish historian, described. We never did find the gardens that spring, but we did discover something else – a broken piece of pottery in an ancient garbage dump. It was a fragment of a wine amphora imported from Rome, undoubtedly part of Herod's original stores of food and equipment at this desert hideout. On the fragment was an inscription: “*regi Herodi Iudaico*” (for Herod, king of Judaea). It was the first mention of this title, outside of the Bible and Josephus, found in an archaeological context! Today, thanks to Professor Netzer's perseverance, we have made another important connection to Herod's life and death. The search took 35 years, but eventually his tomb was found.

Men and women like Ehud Netzer, now retired, are searching for people to take on the passion for discovering the ancient biblical world. We have a unique opportunity here at Southern Adventist University to do just that. We have the opportunity to continue the work where others have invested their lives – to take on the mantle and carry on the search in the land of the Bible for those “treasures” that make a difference.



Fortress of Herodium

The discovery of this tomb, as significant as it is, highlights another important aspect of archaeological research and the pursuit of understanding these ancient peoples, places, and events. Archaeology takes time. Gone are the days of treasure hunting. Today's archaeological research involves experts, permits, equipment, and most of all, dedication and tenacity. The perseverance of Ehud Netzer, retired professor of archaeology at the Hebrew University, exemplifies this. Netzer began his search for Herod's tomb in 1972—35 years ago. He has diligently continued his excavations. Over the years he has become the ranking expert in the world on the Herodian Period, and the life and archaeology of Herod the Great.

I remember working with Professor Netzer in 1996 at Masada, where we began the search for Herod's gardens in the middle of the desert. Everyone else thought it would be impossible, but Professor Netzer believed it was there somewhere, just as



Michael G. Hasel

Director, Institute of Archaeology

# Hasel Interviewed for National Geographic

Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology and professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, was flown to London, England, on February 15 to be interviewed for the National Geographic documentary “Engineering Egypt.” The film premiered on the National Geographic Channel in the United States and Britain's Channel 4 in July.

Dr. Hasel is a renowned expert on ancient Egyptian military tactics, having published numerous articles and two books on ancient warfare. He has served as a consultant for the National Geographic project since October 2006, when he was interviewed for three hours by phone. The two hour production focuses on the major technological advancements in ancient Egypt that enabled this civilization to survive and thrive over three thousand years.

Dr. Hasel was interviewed on the history of warfare—in particular, the Battle of Kadesh fought between the Egyptian and Hittite armies. This is one of the first major battles between two competing world empires. “The Egyptians were able to improve upon innovations like the chariot and



composite bow developed in surrounding countries of the Near East,” says Hasel. “This provided one of the catalysts for the New Kingdom to dominate much of

Canaan and Nubia as an imperialistic force.”

Dr. Hasel was one of six experts interviewed for the program and one of only two from the United States. He is currently completing a fourth book on Egyptian expansion in the Eastern Mediterranean world after completing a Fulbright Fellowship in 2005. He will be presenting his research at the American Research Center in Egypt annual meetings this coming April in Seattle, Washington. The National Geographic documentary will be available for purchase through the National Geographic Channel.

## Realizing Our Dreams

Dr. William G. Dever, America's foremost Near Eastern archaeologist and professor emeritus at The University of Arizona, was on the campus of Southern Adventist University again this year. In 2000 he placed at Southern the largest teaching collection of Near Eastern art and objects in the U.S. This collection became the basis of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, which opened in 2004.

Together with the museum and archaeological laboratory, Southern Adventist University is only one of two institutions in the world to offer an undergraduate degree in archaeology taught from a Christian perspective. This coming May the final piece of Dever's legacy will arrive at Southern—his personal library of nearly fifteen hundred volumes and his slide collection consisting of fifteen thousand slides. Thanks to generous donors, our goal for the Dever library project has been achieved.

During his recent visit Dever reiterated his dream that our institution carry on the legacy of American archaeology in Israel by establishing an archaeological excavation to train the next generation of American archaeologists. This is the

next logical step, for without active fieldwork an archaeological program cannot exist. Archaeology takes time. It takes personnel. Each season the staff of the excavation is flown to Israel and accommodated for nearly two months. That takes funding to accomplish.

This past December the Institute of Archaeology Advisory Board voted to raise one million dollars to begin new excavations in Israel. To some that may sound like an impossible dream, but if we do not plan like those who have preceded us, if we do not resolve to put forth full energy to accomplish the task, then our dream to establish an excavation in the Middle East will die as well.

Thirty-five years ago Ehud Netzer had the dream of finding Herod's tomb, and he did what was necessary to accomplish that goal (see “Director's Letter”). Howard Carter had a dream to find the tomb of King Tutankhamun, and he worked long hot years in the Valley of the Kings until he accomplished that goal. History remembers those who have the perseverance to see their dreams come true.

**Cont. page 5**

## Realizing Dreams, cont.

“Today, when increasing skepticism toward the historical periods of Israel’s history prevail, it is crucial that Christian institutions also enter into the discussion,” suggests Dr. Kenneth Mathews, a member of the Institute of Archaeology Advisory Board. “As a board, we are dedicated to that mission and will continue to articulate that need to foundations and individuals who share a desire to see the biblical world studied through archaeology.”



### Development Goals

|                  |                 |                           |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>\$250,000</b> | Endowment Fund  | Goal: \$1,000,000         |
| <b>\$105,000</b> | Excavation Fund | Goal: \$200,000           |
| <b>\$60,000</b>  | Dever Library   | Goal: Reached. Thank you! |
| <b>\$3,500</b>   | Museum Fund     | Goal: \$50,000            |

*Your gift can make an enormous difference as we endeavor to reach our excavation and publication goals. Call Carolyn Liers at 423.236.2818 or Rob Rainey at 423.236.2781 at the Advancement Office for ways that your gift can make a difference.*

## Recent Sightings



**For the full story, click on the links below:**

**Archaeologists discover footprint made by sandal of Roman soldier**

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/893560.html>

**Hazor: city of stature in days of old**

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=900032>

**Archaeologists find Second Temple quarry**

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1189411466635&pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull>

**2007 excavation at Ramat Rahel in Jerusalem**

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1189411495971&pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull>

**Excavation and restoration work at Ephesus**

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=123445>

**“A land of milk and honey”**

<http://www.rehov.org/bee.htm>

**Seal of Jezebel identified**

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/911612.html>

**Dig could harm Temple Mount artifacts**

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/898762.html>

**Tiny tablet provides proof for Old Testament**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/07/11/ntablet111.xml>



# Upcoming Events

## Museum Lecture Series

“The Worlds of Abraham”

Alfred J. Hoerth

November 1, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Lynn H. Wood Chapel

Dr. Hoerth, former director and professor emeritus of Archaeology at Wheaton College, will deliver a lecture on Abraham and the world in which he lived.

## Museum Open House

November 1, 2007

5:00-6:45 p.m.

Hackman Hall, Room 122

Join us in welcoming Dr. Hoerth, visit our museum, enjoy Middle Eastern appetizers, and watch a slideshow of the 2007 excavation at Hazor, Israel.

## Scholarly Meetings

American Schools of Oriental Research

Annual Meetings

November 14-17, 2007

San Diego, California

American Research Center in Egypt

Annual Meetings

April 25-27, 2008

Seattle, Washington

## 2008 Events

Museum Lecture Series

February

Dr. Gabriel Barkay, Bar-Ilan University

March

Dr. Peter J. Brand, University of Memphis

**Coming soon! New Updated**

**and Improved website:**

**<http://archaeology.southern.edu>**



Layout Editor: Justo E. Morales

Content Editor: Michael G. Hasel

Design: Marcella J. Morales

For more information about this newsletter, contact Justo E. Morales at 423.236.2027 or [jmorales@southern.edu](mailto:jmorales@southern.edu).



Institute of Archaeology

P.O. Box 370

Collegedale

Tennessee 37315

Tel: 423.236.2986

Fax: 423.236.1977