













Some applications

Psalm 1

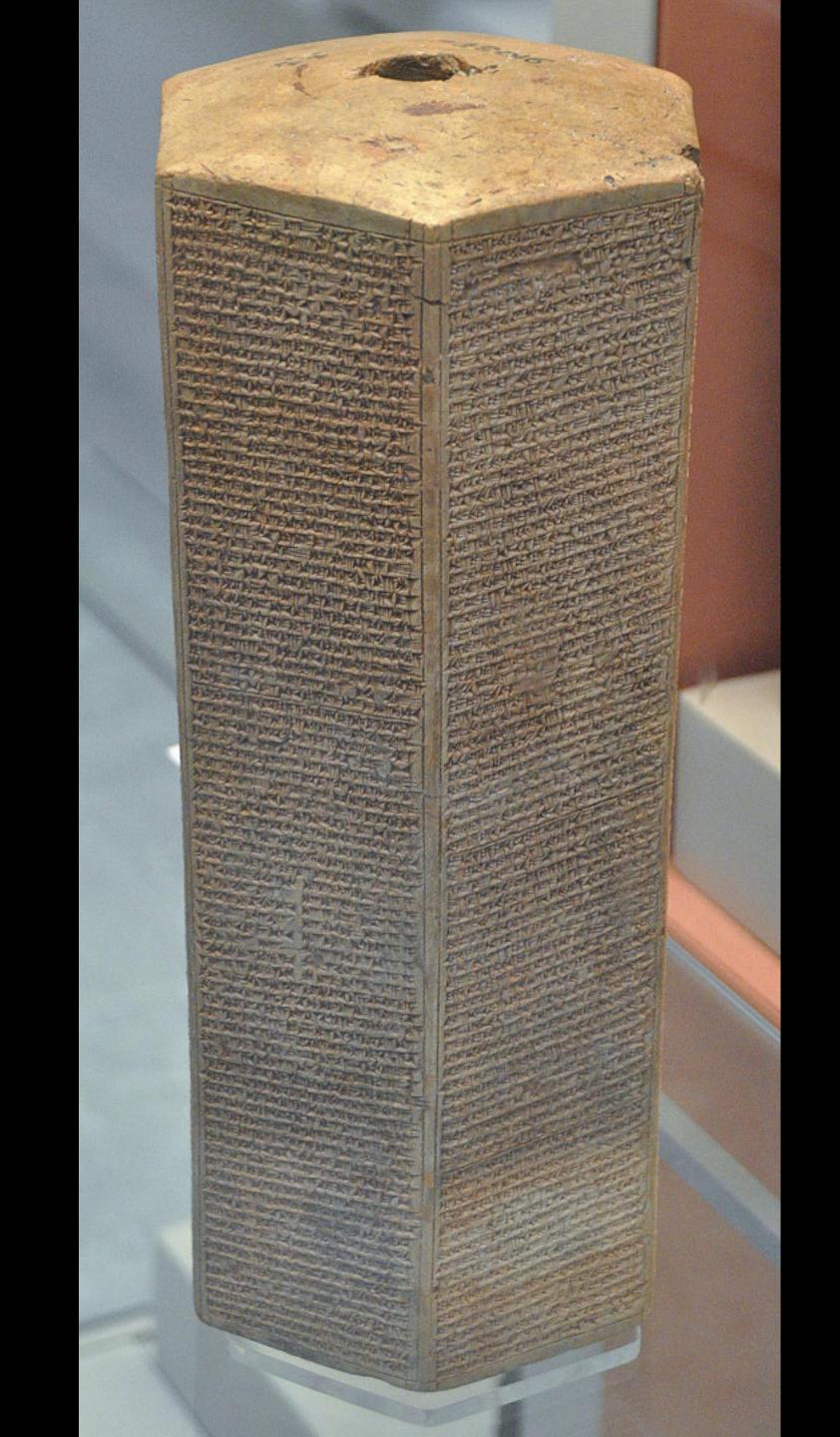
Psalm 26

Ehud

Ruth

2 Kings 18

Jonah and the Assyrians Jonah, 2 Kings 18, and Archaeology



















Jonah and the Assyrians How history and archaeology help us understand Jonah

- Jonah had his reasons. The Assyrians were exceedingly vicious against Judah.
- The mercy of God

Conclusion

- Archaeology is at its best when we look to it to shed light on life and customs in the ancient world.
- This information helps us to see the biblical stories as being situated in real places and times—they portray ancient realia.
- By reading ancient texts in their historical and cultural contexts, we can see that they often have layers of meaning we hadn't previously grasped.

- The first talk commented on the fact that the Bible came to us through divinely inspired humans, which means it is the result of a partnership between God and human agents. What role(s) did each contribute? How should recognizing the partnership affect the way we study Scripture?
- Why do you think it's important to have some knowledge of ancient geography and culture?
- Consider Joshua 2, the story of the spies visiting Jericho and being hidden by Rahab. Pay attention to details about Rahab's house. Do those details match what we saw in Session 2 about the way ancient people built their houses? Then, consider the ways in which some knowledge of archaeology, culture, and history may affect your reading of other biblical stories. Can you think of any other stories that might "come to life" with a bit of historical or cultural context?
- Has anything else struck you in the first two sessions? Has anything become clearer? Have the talks raised any questions for you?