

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY Definitions, III

- **ANTHROPOLOGY:** (*anthrōpos* = man; *logos* = word, study of); The science dealing with the origin, development, varieties, culture, beliefs, etc. of humanity. Branches include:
 - **Physical Anthropology:** (aka Biological Anthropology) Study of body structure of modern man and hominids (“early man”) and races.
 - **Cultural Anthropology:** Study of human groups and their distinguishing differences dealing with languages, beliefs, morality, norms, customs, institutions, physical objects, etc.
 - **Linguistics:** study of extinction of languages, and how languages influence social life, shape communications, influence social identification and group membership, organize large-scale cultural beliefs and ideologies...
 - **Archaeology** (*archaios* = ancient): the scientific study of any historic and prehistoric human culture by means of excavation and description of its remains to help reconstruct ancient life.
- **BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY:** Archaeology done in the lands of the Bible, including Palestine and its neighbors such as Egypt, Mesopotamia (mostly Iraq), Syria, Jordan, Persia (Iran)... relevant to understanding the history and culture of biblical times, and to test the reliability of the Bible.
- **Tell (Akkadian or Sumerian) or Tel (Hebrew):** mound or ruin heap; hill or mound of a series of progressively older occupations layers; ruined cities built over one another in a chronological order consisting of oldest at the bottom and newest at the top layer.
- **Minimalist:** Skeptical archaeologists of 1990 to present who believe that bible names, places, dates, etc. are fictitious. Evolved from the beliefs of the **Documentary Hypothesis** of the **Higher Critics** (Dutch and later Europeans), 1790-1940, who believed the Bible is mostly fictional and redacted from earlier JEDP versions (pre and during Babylonian captivity).