

The Search for Joshua's Ai

Prospectus for Membership in the Khirbet el-Maqatir Excavation Consortium



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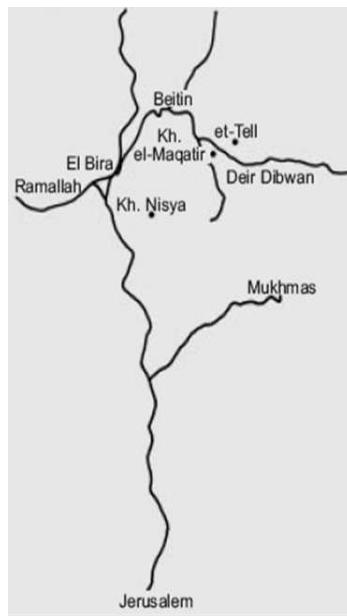


A Christian apologetics ministry dedicated to demonstrating the historical reliability of the Bible through archaeological and Biblical research

www.BibleArchaeology.org

The Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) is conducting an important archaeological excavation project for which we are seeking help and partnerships from other evangelical institutions and individuals. It is the excavation of Khirbet el-Maqatir, located 15 kilometers north of Jerusalem and 1 kilometer west of et-Tell, under the direction of Dr. Bryant Wood. Topography, fortifications, and pottery finds all strongly suggest that Kh. el-Maqatir is the Ai of Joshua 7-8. This project was conducted from 1995-2000 and recently resumed in May 2009 and 2010.

The location of Joshua's Ai has been a matter of mystery and controversy since the beginnings of archaeological research in Israel. This excavation is a critical project in the apologetic task of refuting skeptical arguments that undermine the authority and inerrancy of the Bible.



Most archaeologists locate Joshua's Ai at et-Tell, where there is no indication of occupation at the time of Joshua. This has led scholars to doubt the historicity of the account of the capture of Ai, and the Conquest in general. **To find the true site where the Biblical event took place would be a very significant and important discovery,** having far-reaching implications for a correct understanding of the early history of Israel.

Because of limited resources, ABR cannot effectively complete this project by itself. Therefore, educational institutions, churches, Christian ministries, corporations and private individuals are invited to participate in the endeavor. **ABR is forming a consortium of interested parties to carry out the excavation.** ABR will supply the professional expertise, organization, and leadership for the project while consortium members will be called upon to provide manpower and funding.



To make participation in the excavation available to as many individuals as possible, dig seasons are only two weeks in length. In conjunction with each dig, optional touring of major Biblical and archaeological sites in Israel is offered. A typical program consists of five days of touring, ten days of excavating and one free day (subject to change based on participation). As part of its mission to train others in the field archaeology, ABR conducts a Field School as an integral part of the tour and excavation.

While excavating, the dig team stays at the Christian moshav Yad HaShmonah, near Abu Ghosh 12 kilometers west of Jerusalem, which offers excellent guest accommodations and classroom facilities. Transportation to the site each day is by bus. Participants receive a receipt for their volunteer work. All expenses related to that work **may be** tax-deductible as expenses of volunteer work for a non-profit ministry. (Please consult a tax professional for advice.)

ABR recognizes that the level of funding available from prospective members of the consortium varies. **Therefore, several levels of participation, with a sliding scale of benefits, have been established.** Membership in the consortium is on a yearly basis.



- A faculty member who participates in the excavation on a regular basis is given the opportunity to be trained as a Square Supervisor. The faculty member is then assigned his/her own square to excavate, along with students from the faculty member's institution.
- Authorization to publicize participation in the excavation.



Following are the levels of consortium membership, with corresponding additional benefits:

- **Consortium Patron**— Supports the project with an annual gift of \$6,000.00 or more. Qualifies for the “Five for One” faculty participation plan for an unlimited number of faculty members. For each five students from the faculty members’ institution participating in the program at full cost, one faculty member’s dig expense (travel, double accommodation, meals) will be covered.

All consortium members receive the following benefits:

- A unique opportunity to participate in what may be one of the most important discoveries in Biblical archaeology in defense of the Scriptures.
- Recognition in the publication of the excavation results.
- Copies of all publications pertaining to the excavation.
- Participation in the ABR Field School. The Field School consists of daily evening lectures by the core staff on places visited while touring, archaeological methodology, pottery typology, the Conquest, including the Ai problem, and the early Judges period. Member schools are encouraged to offer credit to students taking part in the program.

- **Consortium Sponsor**— Supports the project with an annual gift of \$3,000.00. Qualifies for the “Five for One” faculty participation plan for two faculty members. For each five students from the faculty members’ institution participating in the program at full cost, one faculty member’s dig expenses (travel, double accommodation, meals) will be covered, up to a total of two faculty members.
- **Consortium Member**—Supports the project with an annual gift of \$1,000.00. Up to two faculty members of the member institution will receive a 10% discount off the cost of participating in the program.

For further information, contact Henry Smith, ABR Director of Development, at **(800)-430-0008** or **HSmith@BibleArchaeology.org**

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Visit our website for further details on the Search for Joshua’s Ai:

The Khirbet el-Maqtir Excavation at www.BibleArchaeology.org/outreach



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Application for membership in the Associates for Biblical Research Khirbet el-Maqtir Ai Excavation Consortium

Institution

Street Address

City, State and Zip

Membership level:

_____ Patron \$6,000.00
 _____ Sponsor \$3,000.00
 _____ Member \$1,000.00

Contact Person

Street Address

City, State and Zip

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Send completed form with payment to:

Kh. el-Maqtir Consortium
 Associates for Biblical Research
 P.O. Box 144
 Akron, PA 17501