

DEMONSTRATING THE HISTORICAL RELIABILITY  
OF THE BIBLE THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
AND BIBLICAL RESEARCH

February 2014

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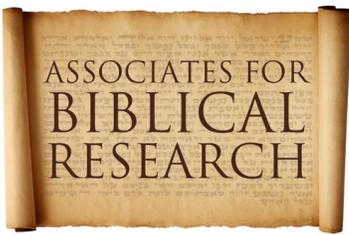
## PRESS RELEASE

# Major Artifact Confirms Biblical Account

**The Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) announces the discovery of an Egyptian scarab, dated to around the time period of the book of Joshua in the Bible. Rated the #1 Bible archaeology discovery of 2013 by *Christianity Today*.**



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ABR has been conducting excavations in Israel since 1995 at Khirbet el-Maqatir (9 miles north of Jerusalem), which meets the biblical requirements to be identified as the fortress of Ai conquered by the Israelites as recorded in Joshua 7-8.

Pottery excavated at the site indicates the fortress was in use in the Late Bronze period, circa 1500-1400 BC. The scarab is a rare type that was made in the early 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty, ca. 1485-1418 BC. *This is a significant discovery since it provides an independent date for the fortress apart from pottery.* According to the Bible, the Israelites left Egypt in 1446 BC and entered Canaan in 1406 BC. The scarab substantiates the historical accuracy of the narratives found in Joshua. The Egyptian scarab from Khirbet el-Maqatir will be on display in the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University from January 22 to December 20, 2014.

The exhibit, *Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site*, will feature a Symposium and Conference that will take place on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Speakers will include excavation staff archaeologists:

Dr. Bryant G. Wood  
Dr. Eugene H. Merrill  
Dr. Leen Ritmeyer  
Dr. Scott Stripling

The public can register for this event on the [Houston Baptist University Website](#). The exhibit and conference are made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Wharton County Junior College, Wharton, Texas.

**A press conference will be held on Friday, February 7, 2014 at 2PM in Dillon II, located in the Hinton Center on the campus of Houston Baptist University.**

**Members of the media are invited to attend.**

A map of the HBU campus can be found at:

<http://www.hbu.edu/About-HBU/The-Campus/Campus-Map.aspx>

For more information, please contact:

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**The Associates for Biblical Research is a non-profit Christian apologetics ministry dedicated to demonstrating the historical reliability of the Bible through archaeological and biblical research.**

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