

Gihon Temple Discovered !!!

Commentary for July 17, 2014 — But Is It an Israelite Temple?

Noted Israeli archaeologist Dr. Eli Shukron has admitted and presents evidence that a temple existed at the site of the Gihon Springs. He has participated in excavations at the site of the Gihon since 1995. He does not acknowledge that it was an Israelite or Jewish Temple. Nor can he demonstrate at this time that it was a pagan temple, either Jebusite or a later Greek site, or a temple from some other people. Yet he admits that remains of a temple at the Gihon dig site were dated from the 1st Temple era. Below is a reprint of an article by author Frank Turek, on Christian apologetics <http://CrossExamined.org>. In the article the underlines in the text are my emphasis and not in the original:

[The Jewish Temple that may Prevent World War III](#)

July 2, 2014 / 7 Comments/ in [Archaeology](#) / by [Frank Turek](#)

"Israel is the most contested piece of real estate in the world. And the most contested piece of real estate within Israel is the temple mount in the old city of Jerusalem. Nearly every Jew believes that the Muslim Dome of the Rock, which dominates that thirty-six acre site, sits on the spot of all previous Jewish Temples, including the last one destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Some Jews and Christians believe that the temple must be and will be rebuilt on that spot. Therein lies the problem. Can you think of a faster way to start World War III?



Dr. Eli Shukron (left) and Frank Turek outside the Western Wall at the Temple Mount, about 1,000 feet north of the City of David site.

Thankfully, new evidence is just coming to light that might reveal a more peaceful solution. The Jewish Temple may not have been on the Temple Mount but just outside the current walls of the old city. I had the privilege of seeing this evidence several days ago along with a few others participating on our [CrossExamined.org](#) trip to Israel. Our guide was the man who uncovered the new evidence: Israeli archaeologist [Eli Shukron](#).

Since 1995, Shukron has been digging up the twelve-acre area called the City of David that juts out from the southern wall of the old city of Jerusalem. He and his team have removed thousands of tons of dirt to discover, among other things, [the Pool of Siloam](#) where Jesus healed a blind person (John 9:7), and the once impenetrable [fortress of the Jebusites](#) that David and his men captured by sneaking up an underground water shaft (2 Samuel 5:7-8).

Near that water shaft, about 1,000 feet south of the Temple Mount, Shukron discovered the remains of an ancient temple just a few feet from the Gihon Spring. Shukron led us about forty feet underground into the well-secured area. As the lead archaeologist, only he has the key. The excavated area is down to bedrock, which means there was no civilization below it.

The site has grooves cut into that bedrock for an olive press and sacrifice tables, and loops cut into the walls presumably to secure animals. Slightly uphill and to the left of the olive press is a long channel cut into the floor most likely designed to drain off blood. Behind it Shukron unlocked a steel box he had built to protect something on the floor. As he swung the doors open, we saw an ancient upright stone (called a 'stele') surrounded by a foundation of smaller stones.



Close up of the only Jewish stele found in Jerusalem (for biblical references to steles see Genesis 28:18, 31:45, 35:14, Joshua 24:26, 1 Samuel 8:12).

'The Bible says Jacob took a stone and put small stones around it, and then put olive oil on top of that stone.' Shukron told me, referring to the stele Jacob erected in the town of Bethel (Genesis 28:18). 'It is a connection between Jacob and God—the relationship between them.' Indeed, Jacob called the place he made, 'God's house.'

The Jews were known to set up stele to commemorate interactions with God (Genesis 28:18, 31:45, 35:14, Joshua 24:26, 1 Samuel 8:12). But according to

Shukron, the stele he discovered is the only one ever found in Jerusalem. Could it mark the actual site of the real Jewish temple—God's house?

'It certainly was a temple from the first temple period (circa 970-586 B.C.),' Shukron said. 'But Solomon's temple was on the Temple Mount.'

When I asked him what archeological evidence exists for the Temple Mount site, he offered very little in response. Perhaps the paucity of evidence is due to the political realities that prevent much digging there. On the other hand, quite a compelling case can be made for Solomon's Temple being at Shukron's site.

My co-host on the trip, Bob Cornuke, makes that case in a fascinating new book called [Temple: Amazing New Discoveries that Change Everything About the Location of Solomon's Temple](#). Cornuke picks up on the research of the late archaeologist, Ernest L. Martin, who in 1997 suggested that the biblical text and eyewitness evidence from the first century all point to the City of David as the actual temple location. Now there appears to be quite specific archaeological evidence as well. Cornuke and Shukron have been discussing this evidence for the better part of the last year. There are even a couple of pictures in Cornuke's book from Shukron's site. You can see those pictures and some of my own [here](#).

So why isn't Shukron suggesting his site is where the temple was? If true, it would be the greatest archaeological discovery of all time! I had dinner with Eli, Bob and a couple of others to discuss that question.

First, there is the weight of the consensus site. If the true site is actually in the City of David, just how did the Temple Mount become the dominant site in the first place?

Cornuke provides some plausible historical answers in his book. He also shows the text of the Bible and other historical witnesses seem to point to the City of David. Nevertheless, maybe the general consensus in favor of the Temple Mount is correct.



Eli Shukron (right) reviews details of a temple he discovered 40 feet under the City of David with Bob Cornuke, author of the new book, 'Temple.'

Second, as a noted Israeli archaeologist, Shukron would need to evaluate more of the evidence and the opinions of his colleagues before he would ever entertain making a shift on such a monumental question. The Temple Mount is so entrenched in tradition, politics, and Jewish identity—the Western Wall being the holiest Jewish site for prayer—that any shift in opinion would be met with great resistance. It's not a shift

one should make overnight.

However, Shukron is open to the possibility. He told us that the location of the Temple is certainly a topic worthy of debate. That debate could be ratcheted up when he presents his findings to a group of archaeologists at a conference in Jerusalem at the end of July.

If it's not Solomon's Temple, then whose Temple did Shukron discover? When I asked him that question, he just said, 'we'll see.'¹ Is it possible his site could be the game-changing discovery that prevents World War III (at least until Armageddon)? We'll see indeed.

In the meantime, I highly recommend you get Cornuke's book to start your research into this politically explosive and fascinating question. He's also available for questions at Bob@BaseInstitute.org. If you'd like to see the archaeological remains of the City of David and any other area of Israel, Eli Shukron provides an outstanding tour. Contact him at EliShu29@gmail.com.”

[End article]

I have expressed appreciation to Frank Turek for his article and his distribution of this information. But for readers of the ASK website, this information comes as no surprise. As Turek correctly points out, Dr. Martin began his research in 1995 and published in 1997,² followed by his book *The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot* (Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 2000).

¹ Was this site discovered by Shukron one of the places Solomon built for his wives? God warned Solomon not to do such a thing (1 Kings 11:1–4), and no temple is mentioned in 1 Kings 11:7–10:

“Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem [not in the City of David], and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And YHWH was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from YHWH God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which YHWH commanded.”

The discoveries Dr. Shukron and his colleagues uncovered are not a “high place” but appear to be a temple “under” the City of David, as the article says.

² The earliest article on the ASK website “[Temple Update Index](#)” page is a 1997 page titled “[Special Historical Report](#).” It presents scriptural and secular historical evidence to prove [note cont'd]

“... that the Temple of God built by Solomon and the later Temple built by Zerubbabel after the Babylonian Captivity were both constructed about a third of a mile south of the Dome of the Rock (the place where all people today erroneously believe the original Temples of God were built).”

Further research articles came later. Bob Cornuke writes in the introduction to his book:³

“Like so many, I have always thought that the location for the temple of Solomon had been proven absolutely, without any questions. I, as most all, believed the site to be on the traditional Temple Mount in Jerusalem. But I began to become doubtful of that traditional view of the temple placement after Dr. Paul Feinberg alerted me to the revolutionary work of the late archaeologist and author, Dr. Ernest L. Martin.

Dr. Martin’s pioneering research on the subject of the Temple Mount and the proposed placement of Solomon’s and Herod’s temples is astounding. This book would not have been possible without his groundbreaking insights.”

ASK has no affiliation with Frank Turek. Bob Cornuke’s book was unknown to us until recently. It is likely Dr. Martin would have differed on some points with them, but I am certain he would have been thrilled with Dr. Shukron’s findings.

Dr. Martin was hopeful others would write books that would catch the interest of the general public. Bob Cornuke’s book reaches a different audience than Dr. Martin’s scholarly book. So, we are grateful for Frank and Bob’s popular presentations that credit Dr. Martin’s research which motivated them to conduct their own investigations. In doing so, they verified Dr. Martin’s biblical and historical sources to their own satisfaction.

Professor George Wesley Buchanan and I often wondered whether Israeli scholars know the true Temple location is above the Gihon.⁴ Ken Klein and I discussed this same question often in our travels.⁵ To us the evidence is obvious and overwhelming. We may now have answers: **(1)** Until now, there was little archaeological evidence. **(2)** Scholars could not believe the biblical and historical evidence when first presented with it. **(3)** It goes against deeply held tradition. **(4)** Therefore, the scholarly guild would not address it or accept it.

I was present at more than one occasion when Dr. Martin presented his research to archaeologists (some worked at the Gihon site) individually and at professional conferences soon after *Temples* was published. He never spoke with Dr. Shukron. Dr. Martin gave a presentation to dozens of Christian and Muslim scholars at the Sabeel Center in Jerusalem on February 2001 (“[Dr. Martin Returns from Jerusalem](#)”).

I spoke to other archaeologists and scholars about the Temple research after Dr. Martin died in January 2002, presented several times with Professor Buchanan to groups and individuals. I met Dr. Shukron twice since Dr. Martin died (the last time in 2012), but these were quick introductions and he did not mention these new findings. It is frustrating that such dramatic and compelling evidence requires so much time to be accepted. I pray God will begin to open the minds of people (and scholars!) to accept the biblical and historical truth.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com

³ Bob Cornuke, *Temples*, pp. 9–10.

⁴ See Professor Buchanan’s Temple research articles on the “[Temple Update Index](#)” page.

⁵ See Ken Klein’s FREE YouTube video, “[Jerusalem, The Center of the Earth](#),” and also the DVD Ken produced, available for sale, [Jerusalem and the Lost Temple of the Jews](#).