

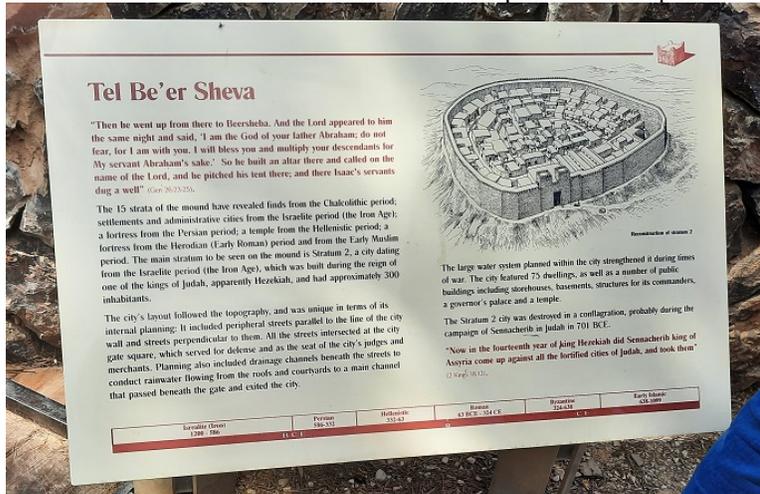


**The Half Shekel Journals of 2023** by Pastor Ed Rice  
**#23030 Wed/Thur 29-30 Mar Beersheba, Tel Aviv, Newark**

We came to Israel with particular attention given to walking where Jesus walked. Today we were to step back nineteen-hundred years before Christ, and walk where Abraham walked.

*And Abraham planted a grove in **Beersheba**, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God. <sup>34</sup> And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days (Gen.21:33-34).*

So is it Beersheba, as in the Bible, or Be'er Sheva as in everywhere else? An interesting question with an interesting answer. The short version is the Hebrew alphabet has its second letter Bet as ב or as בּ, the tiny dot inside the letter changes the letters pronunciation from soft “v” to hard “b”. The Bible was copied for centuries without spaces between words, vowel points, or pronunciation points, consequently it calls our “well of the sevenfold oath” Beersheba. It is easy to deal with in that light. Since I search the scriptures daily, in English, I more often use Beersheba. Other Hebrew letters with pronunciation points are shown in the table below.



At Tel Be'er Sheva it would be easy to be overrun by a lot of archaeological things and miss the Bible importance of being here. Easy, and not at all uncommon. As can be seen in the welcome sign; 1) the period under consideration for Be'er Sheva runs from twelve-hundred BC to twelve-hundred AD; 2) emphasis is put on the 2<sup>nd</sup> stratum in what “they” call “the iron age”; 3) great emphasis is put on “iron age”

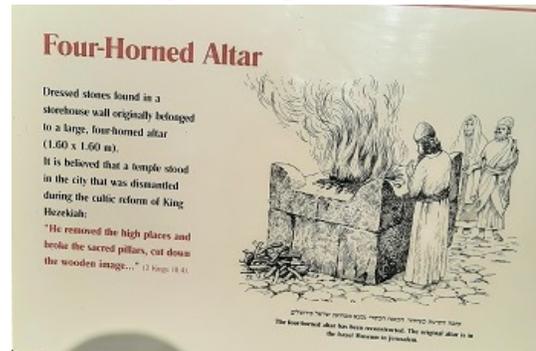
ש	שׁ	ו	וׁ	וּ	וּׁ	ת	תׁ	תּ	פ	פׁ	פּ	כ	כׁ	כּ	ב	בׁ	בּ
Sh	S	U	O	V	T	Th	P	F	K	Kh	B	V					

Other 'Nikkud' (Hbrw points)

city planning; and 4) great emphasis is put on an extensive water system that gave the city its strength.

It might sound like I have an ax to grind here, and a little bit I do have a couple. Let's start with “their” Chalcolithic period. Chalcolithic means, literally, a “stone to copper

phase” and, thus, it refers to prehistoric man evolving from the stone-age (a palaeolithic<sup>1</sup>, then mesolithic<sup>2</sup> and finally neolithic<sup>3</sup> stone age, with arch-evolutionist's ape-like



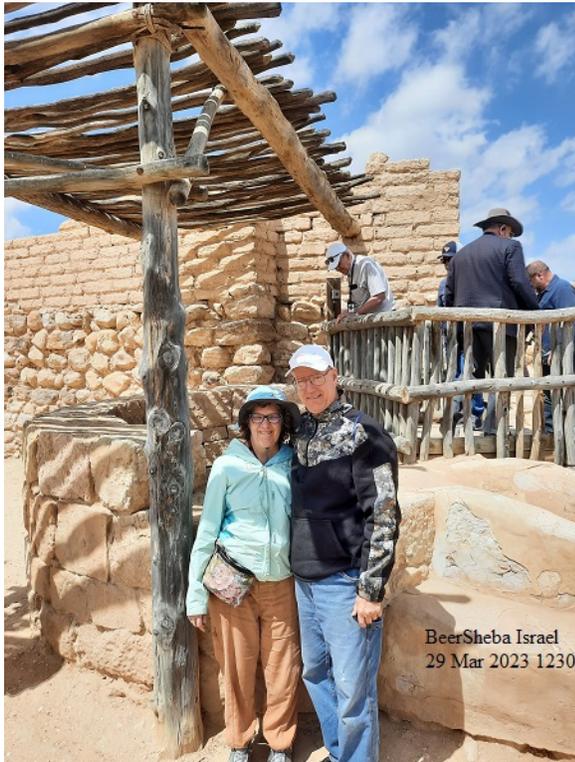
- 1 From the arch-evolutionist archaeological dictionary, Palaeolithic = relating to or denoting the early phase of the Stone Age, lasting about 2.5 million years, when primitive stone implements were used by ape-like cave men. The 2.5 million is obviously from the pen of an infidel evolutionist.
- 2 From the arch-evolutionist fiction the Mesolithic stone age period comes when palaeolithic hunter-gatherer ape-like creatures learned to make chipped stone tools and even begin some agricultural enterprises, entering a mesolithic period of evolution, where these ape-like creatures moved from their caves and built huts, with a rise of global temperatures there was even a rise of permanent settlements.
- 3 From the arch-evolutionist fiction the Neolithic stone-age period is distinguished by cave men using polished stone tools, leaving their caves, forming settlements and even learning the domestication of

creatures learning to use stone tools) to a time when man finally evolved high enough to smelt copper. Such an evolutionary age came just before the arch-evolutionist's schemed, but entirely fictional, Bronze-Age. Their Bronze-Age then evolved, when their neanderthal man evolved high enough to smelt iron with a charcoal reducing agent, into their fictional account's Iron-Age. All this took millions of the arch-evolutionist's years.

Again, believers, with a verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible Holy Bible, have none of that in their timeline. They have no “pre-historic” age. The unbelieving world is so consumed with prehistoric cavemen evolving through a bronze-age into an iron-age, that they will never discover Lamech's son Tubalcaine, “an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron” (Gen.4:22). God said Tubalcaine was in the 7<sup>th</sup> generation from Adam. Incidentally Tubalcain, a decedent of Cain, and Methuselah, a descendant of Seth, were both 7<sup>th</sup> generation from Adam, and were thus possibly born around the same time.

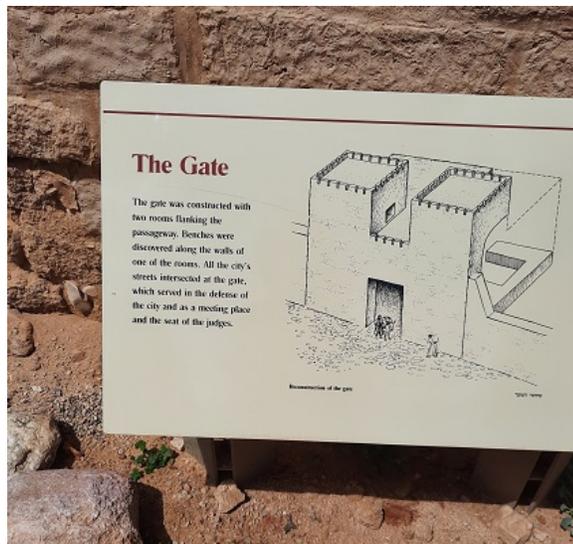


Methuselah was born in 3317 BC, in a 687 year old earth, 969 years before the world flood (Methuselah died the day before it started to rain!) (see the table of the ages of the “Sons of God” at the end of Journal #23024 on page 206 of this volume). Please let this paragraph come to mind every time



you see a reference to the arch-evolutionist's Chaleolithic period, Bronze-Age, or Iron-Age.

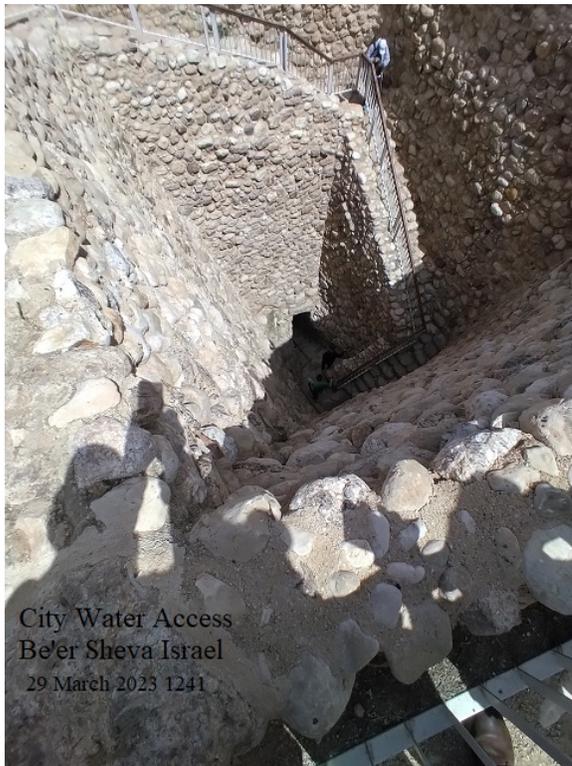
And so, in our tour of Be'er Sheva we went through Stratum 2 of the 15 strata tel, and were enthralled to explore the extensive



plants and animals.

water system that gave the city its strength. We examined and photographed the reconstructed four-horned idolatrous altar likely destroyed when King Hezekiah “*did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, ... 4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, ... 5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; ... 6 For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses* (2Kings.18:3-6).

Also Pastor Pickett briefly explored for us the October 31, 1917 Battle of Beersheba, the first major victory for Britain in World War One. Going into this battle, Britain had been defeated four times by the Turkish army. Now Gen. Edmund Allenby, aided and advised by a Palestinian Jew and a Christian Zionist intelligence officer, was persuaded to swerve south of Gaza and attack Beersheba, because an agronomist told him, “that is where the water is.”



City Water Access  
Be'er Sheva Israel  
29 March 2023 1241

Gen Allenby used military deception to lull the enemy into thinking he would launch a third major assault on Gaza, but instead, in the last great cavalry charge in military history, the Australian 4th and 12th Light Horse Brigades won the day, Beersheba was taken, and this battle opened the way for the liberation of Jerusalem by Christmas, and the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

Here I can barely touch all the exciting detail Pastor Lee might add to this battle. The Battle of Beersheba was reenacted on its hundredth anniversary October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. More exciting detail is given by a Jerusalem Post Barry Shaw article, “1917 and the Battle of Beersheba.” (ref.

[jpost.com/opinion/1917-and-the-battle-of-beersheba-507788](https://jpost.com/opinion/1917-and-the-battle-of-beersheba-507788), accessed 02/15/2024.)

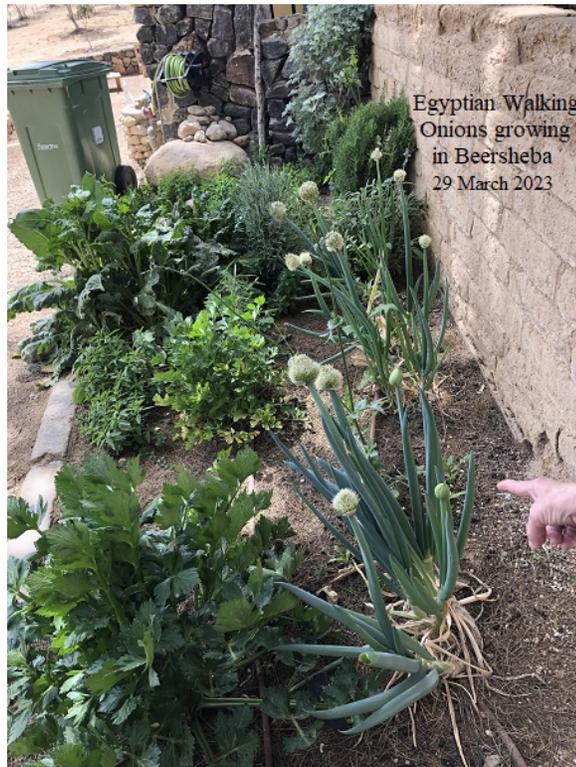
The tour, the archaeology, the water wells, the long history of Beersheba, the battles and victories here must, however, pale to the Biblical importance of Beersheba. Here, in Abraham's life the Gospel of Jesus Christ was revealed in exemplary detail. In this holy pilgrimage to a holy land, it is altogether fitting that our last stop be in the place where such an unfolding of such a glorious gospel was revealed.

Remember at Beersheba's first mention, in



Genesis 21 there was a well dug and a covenant made there. The name means “well of the sevenfold oath.” Seven, being the number of days in creation's first week, is a number of completeness. It is thus appropriate that here God would reveal his complete covenant to provide man with eternal life and living water (cf. John 4:10,7:38). Genesis 21 closes with Abraham calling “*on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God*” and sojourning at Beersheba in the Philistine's land.

Genesis 22 opens with God calling on Abraham to, “*Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*” God had promised in Genesis 3:15 that the seed of woman would bruise Satan's head, and in Genesis 12 God promised Abraham, “*I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*” Now God comes to Abraham at Beersheba, and reveals through him, what God himself was going to do: “*Take now thy son, thine only son ... , whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains ... .*”



Egyptian Walking Onions growing in Beersheba  
29 March 2023



Beersheba behind us, we are headed to Tel Aviv

Any student of the Bible knows well the story that unfolds in Genesis 22. Abraham is spared from offering Isaac his only begotten son. Isaac says, “*My father: Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*” Abraham answered prophetically saying, “*My son, **God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.***” Afterwards, the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven and said, “*By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;** because thou hast obeyed my voice.*” This is all familiar to the Bible student, but many miss verse 19

of this chapter, “*So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and **Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.***”

God did “*provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.*” And he died for you , he died

for me.

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten*



*Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ... 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. ... 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

How one accepts that free gift is worded succinctly in what we call the Romans Road to Heaven:

*Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ... 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

*Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.,*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*And Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ... 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*



This Holy Land Pilgrimage was designed to visit the Med Sea, the Dead Sea, and then the Red Sea. Most tours do not go through Israel's Negev and visit the Red Sea. It was well worth tacking on the couple extra days to get it all in, the Negev was absolutely amazing, and closing it out with time in Beersheba, where God's redemption plan was revealed to Abraham, and thru Abraham, made for a superb Gospel synopsis of our time here. We walked where Abraham walked, we walked where Moses walked, we walked where Jesus walked.

The trip's ledger called 30 March Day 15, but our EL AL Israel Flight LY27 Departed Tel Aviv for Newark NJ at 0 0:30 which made Day 15 only 30 minutes long. Pastor Lee's "Bible Borean Israel Tour 2023" booklet closed its Day 14 coverage by saying, "We end our day checking in at Grand Beach Hotel to refresh and have a meal before departing to the Airport to say good bye to Israel. Our Canadian friends will enjoy a good night sleep and then depart in the morning for home. It has truly been an amazing trip I think we will all remember. Day Fifteen Thursday March 30, 2023 We are Headed Home. Shalom to all."



It was exceptional and thoughtful that they provided the Grand Beach Hotel room, at Tel Aviv, Israel, for our Wednesday evening. It was a deluxe and luxurious close to a delightful day, and a superb supper with friends. Of course it sure beat waiting in an airport terminal for seven hours. We got our Canadian good byes said -A, and Costia drove us to the Airport.

The flight to Israel was long and laden with anticipation, the flight home was not long at all and laden with exhaustion. I remember taking off, two superb meals, sleeping, stretching in the El-Al "exercise area", and touching down. And voila we were in Newark NJ where our grandson, Micah picked us up in time to get us to Solid Rock Baptist Church's, Berlin NJ Thursday night prayer service. I love El-Al Airlines.



Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Israel has been at war. Biblical prophecy shows that all nations will one day gather against her, and God will avenge. Israel's war against Palestinian Terrorists and Islamists who want all Jews annihilated, has shown all nations begin such a turning away from God's chosen nation Israel. Even our own nation, weakened and depraved under liberal leadership with Marxist, socialist intentions, has shown signs of such a turning against Israel. God will bless Israel.

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee (Ps.122:6).*

*«A Song of degrees of David.»*

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. 2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. 3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: 4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. 5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.*

*6 ¶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good (Psalm 122:1-9).*