

Archaeology and the Biblical Record: Antiquities from the Alpert Collection

April - August 2012

The Arnold Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum is a unique collection of Jewish art, artifacts and ritual objects. In addition to preserving significant objects for posterity, the museum seeks to develop programs and exhibitions that are designed to educate the congregation and promote an appreciation for works of Judaica.



*North Suburban
Synagogue*
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

The Arnold Rissman Family
Kol Ami Museum



Fran and Bernie Alpert's new book, *Archaeology and the Biblical Record*, is scheduled for release in July 2012 by Hamilton Books, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group. The book provides readers with a better understanding of familiar Bible stories through the lens of modern archaeology.

Bernie Alpert received a B.S. in earth sciences from the University of Illinois and an M.S. in Classical archaeology from Oxford University. Fran Alpert received a B.A. in education and an M.S. in Classical archaeology from Oxford University. The Alperns founded Archaeological Seminars in Jerusalem and are licensed Israel tour guides and field archaeologists. Long time members of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, who spend part of their time in Jerusalem, they donated this substantial collection of antiquities to the Arnold Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum and loaned several additional pieces for this exhibit.

HISTORICAL TIME PERIODS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

CHALCOLITHIC AGE ~ 4000 - 3200 B.C.E.: Copper stone age, just before the dawn of history; humans first learn to create metal tools and ceremonial objects. Emergence of houses, towns and geometric designs on pottery.

CANAANITE (BRONZE) AGE ~ 3200 – 1200 B.C.E.: History begins with the first written records.

- 1900–1750: Age of Patriarchs and Matriarchs. Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebecca; Jacob, Leah and Rachel. Joseph in Egypt.
- 1750–1550: Hyksos invade and rule Egypt. High civilization and trade.
- 1550–1300: Influence of Egyptian, Mycenaean, Cypriot and Hittite cultures. El-Amarna period.
- 1300–1200: The Exodus of the Children of Israel under Moses. Law given at Mt. Sinai. Wandering in the wilderness. Israelite conquest of Promised Land under Joshua.

ISRAELITE (IRON AGE) ~ 1200 – 587 B.C.E.

- 1200–1020: Period of Judges. Philistines invade.
- 1020–930: The United Monarchy. Saul organizes state. David establishes Jerusalem as capital. Solomon builds First Temple.
- 930–722: The Divided Monarchy. Ten northern tribes form the Kingdom of Israel as distinct from the Kingdom of Judah. Period ends with the fall of Israel to the Assyrian conquerors.
- 722–586: Judah stands alone. Hezekiah constructs Broad Wall and Siloam Tunnel. Period of Classical Prophets.
- 586: Fall of Judah. Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Temple. Jews exiled “by the waters of Babylon.”

SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD ~ 536 B.C.E. – 70 C.E.

- 536–332: Persian rule. New Persian Empire defeats Babylonians. Cyrus the Great allows exiles to return to Judea. Second Temple completed in 515. Religious reforms of Ezra and Nehemiah.
- 332–63: Hellenistic rule. Alexander the Great conquers. War of liberation led by Maccabees in 167. Rule of Hasmonean Priest-King dynasty.
- 63–70 C.E.: Roman rule. Herod the Great enlarges Second Temple. Beginnings of Christianity. Jewish revolt begins in 66 C.E., and leads to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70.

LATE ROMAN PERIOD ~ 70 – 324 C.E.

- 132–135: Second Jewish revolt led by Shimon Bar Kochva fails. Hadrian replaces Jerusalem with pagan city Aelia Capitolina.
- 200: Judah HaNasi completes Mishna.

(Archaeological Seminars Ltd.)