



What Does Modern Archeology Tell Us About Biblical Israel?

Sarah Koplik of Johns Hopkins University, a Beit Tikvah member, will speak at the Friday night Shabbat service on **March 28th at 7:30 pm** about her experiences as an archeologist in Israel and the Middle East.

Over the past 20 years, modern archeological research has changed our view of biblical Israel. Find out what is going on from someone who has been there. In her own words:

“As an undergraduate, I studied the archaeology of many regions outside of the Near East. My first dig was at a Great Depression era site in Vineland, New Jersey. I have also dug in Italy and Cyprus I'm looking forward to talking about three sites that I have dug in the Middle East as part of my graduate studies at Hopkins – in Syria (Umm el-Marra), Egypt (Temple of Mut), and Israel (Beth Shemesh) – connecting the three chronologically and relating them to the Biblical text as they give us a picture of the cultures that existed prior to the emergence of the kingdom of David. As I go through some of the archaeology from each of these sites, I want to particularly share anecdotes from my dig experiences, to give a sense of what its like to do archaeological work – dirt, mosquitoes, snakes, scorpions, etc. I'll be focusing a little more on the site of Beth Shemesh as it connects most directly to the history of the Jewish people and the Biblical text. Beth Shemesh is located on the historical border between Judah (i.e. the Israelites) and Philistia (i.e. the Philistines). It thus has provided some important data on the development of Israelite and Philistine ethnic identities and whether/how we can recognize archaeologically Israelites versus “Philistines” in this early period (Biblically, the period of the Judges).”