

Israeli Professor Rejects the General Israeli Narrative

Prof. Herzog suggests that Israelites were never in Egypt, did not wander in the desert, did not conquer the land in a military campaign and did not pass it on to the 12 tribes of Israel.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ze%27ev_Herzog

Ze'ev Herzog is an Israeli archaeologist, professor of archeology at the Department of Archeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at [Tel Aviv University](#) specializing in social archeology, [ancient architecture](#) and field archeology. Ze'ev Herzog served as director of The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archeology from 2005 to 2010, and has served as archaeological advisor to the [Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority](#) in the preservation and development of National Parks at [Arad](#) and Beer Sheba.



Herzog took part in the excavations of [Tel Hazor](#) and [Tel Megiddo](#) with [Yigael Yadin](#) and in excavations at [Tel Arad](#) and [Tel Be'er Sheva](#) with [Yohanan Aharoni](#). He directed the excavations at Tel Beer Sheba, [Tel Michal](#) and [Tel Gerisa](#) and at Tel Yafo (ancient [Jaffa](#)) in 1997 and 1999.

Herzog is among Israeli archaeologists who say that “biblical archeology is not anymore the ruling paradigm in archeology and that archeology became an independent discipline with its own conclusions and own observations which indeed present us a picture of a reality of ancient Israel quite different from the one which is described in the biblical stories.”¹

In 1999 Herzog's cover page article in the weekly magazine [Haaretz](#) "Deconstructing the walls of Jericho" attracted considerable public attention and debates. In this article Herzog cites recent scholarship to support that "the Israelites were never in Egypt, did not wander in the desert, did not conquer the land in a military campaign and did not pass it on to the 12 tribes of Israel. Perhaps even

1 ["Lateline - 24/4/2000: It Aint Necessarily So. Australian Broadcasting Corp". Abc.net.au. Retrieved 11 January 2015.](#)

harder to swallow is the fact that the united monarchy of David and Solomon, which is described by the Bible as a regional power, was at most a small tribal kingdom.

And it will come as an unpleasant shock to many that the god of Israel, Jehovah, had a female consort and that the early Israelite religion adopted monotheism only in the waning period of the monarchy and not at Mount Sinai".² Herzog's article was criticized by Hershel Shanks, editor of the [Biblical Archaeology Review](#), in a letter to the same publication.³

Herzog is a co-author with [Israel Finkelstein](#) of a 2007 paper which opposes claims made by [Eilat Mazar](#) who unearthed what she believed was King David's palace in Jerusalem, but is now known as the [Large Stone Structure](#).⁴ Most scholars rejected Mazar's identification of this site as David's palace.⁵ Herzog et al.'s paper further argued that the structure that Mazar excavated should be down dated. The attempt to re-date the site received a detailed response by Amihai Mazar.⁶ Agreeing with Mazar, [Avraham Faust](#) noted that Herzog's paper was written prior to the publication of all the excavation material and that its full publication was sufficient to settle the debate in favor of Eilat Mazar's interpretation of the dating of the site.⁷

2 Herzog, Ze'ev (October 29, 1999). "[Deconstructing the walls of Jericho](#)". [Haaretz](#).

3 Shanks, Hershel (5 November 1999). "[Herzog's Attack on the Bible Unjustified](#)". [Haaretz](#).

4 Finkelstein, Israel; Singer-Avitz, Lily; Herzog, Ze'ev; Ussishkin, David (2007). "[Has King David's Palace in Jerusalem been Found?](#)". *Tel Aviv*. 34 (2): 142–164. doi:10.1179/tav.2007.2007.2.142. S2CID 161500349.

5 Mazar, Eilat (12 May 2017). "[Did I Find King David's Palace?](#)". *Biblical Archaeology Society*. Retrieved 12 March 2020. *My position, to put it mildly, had not received sweeping support from the archaeological community. Indeed, quite the opposite was the case;*"

6 Faust, Avraham (2010). "Archaeology and the Biblical Narrative: the Case of the United Monarchy". [One God – One Cult – One Nation: Archaeological and Biblical Perspectives](#). [De Gruyter](#). pp. 29–58. ISBN .

7 Faust, Avraham (2010). "[The Large Stone Structure in the City of David: A Reexamination](#)". [Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins](#). 126 (2): 116–130. ISSN 0012-1169. JSTOR 41304083.