

## ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

The relationship between archaeology of the Ancient Near East and biblical history and texts has always been, for whatever reasons, a close one. Generations of students and scholars have been familiar with biblical stories and legends about Abraham, Moses and Solomon or pharaohs, emperors and potentates such as Ramses II, Sennacherib, Cyrus and Herod and the landscapes where these almost mythical figures lived, fought and walked. Flinders-Petrie, W.F.Albright, Yadin and Glueck are just a few who have integrated archaeology with biblical texts.

This course explores the cultures of the Patriarchal period from the Early, Middle and Late Bronze Ages through the Diaspora world of the Classical period as these might relate to biblical texts. Some of the cultures briefly included in this survey course are peoples of Bronze Age Mesopotamia, Egypt, Canaan-Ugarit, and Neo-Assyria, and the emerging Hellenistic world, particularly as selected biblical texts may be contextualized by these cultures. Some of the biblical texts to be examined include selected excerpts from the books of *Genesis*, *Exodus*, *Deuteronomy*, *Joshua*, *I Samuel*, *I and II Kings*, *Isaiah*, *Nahum*, and others. Some of the hermeneutic problems attendant with textual material (where religious presuppositions can interfere with interpretation) will also be addressed. This course dose not attempt to solve religious controversy and dose not assume biblical familiarity or attempt to prove biblical historicity.