

Top Archeological Discoveries in Israel 2017

A land this rich in history is brimming with evidence waiting to be discovered! Here are some of the most exciting finds this year..



Galilee Church & Mosaics

This year brought major discoveries in the Galilee region, a 1500-year-old monastery was unearthed that had impeccably preserved mosaics that show beautiful images and records, including that women held a prominent position in the early church.

Borschel-Dan, Amanda, et al. "1,600-Year-Old church mosaic puzzles out key role of women in early Christianity." *The Times of Israel*, www.timesofisrael.com/who-run-the-world-sometimes-women-1600-year-old-church-mosaic-shows/.

"Byzantine-Era Monastery and Church Uncovered in Israel." *Sci News*, 27 Dec. 2017, www.sci-news.com/archaeology/byzantine-era-monastery-church-israel-05576.html.



Copper Mines Dated to the Time of King Solomon

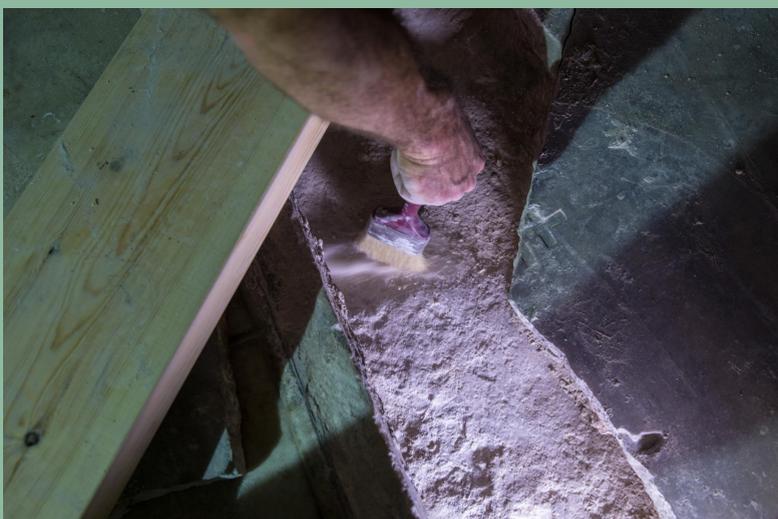
Donkey dung found in Timna Valley at sites of abandoned mines were dated to be 3000 years old, bringing it directly into the time believed to have been when Kings David and Solomon ruled.

"Found: Fresh Clues to Mystery of King Solomon's Mines." *National Geographic*, National Geographic Society, 2 Apr. 2017, news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/03/king-solomon-mines-bible-timna-dung/.

Discoveries at Caesarea

Herod's city of Caesarea has long held archeological treasures and discoveries, but this year's finds included finding the base of an alter spoken about by Josephus, the famous ancient Jewish historian. They continually discover artifacts from Jesus' time as well as during the Byzantine era, and plan to expand the national park located there.

Hasson, Nir. "Archaeologists Uncover Ancient Entrance to Caesarea in Israel." *Haaretz.com*, 29 Apr. 2017, www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.785858.



Purported Tomb of Christ Dated

Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre has been through natural disasters and war, but it is believed by many to be the location of the tomb which Christ rose from the dead. Originally identified in approximately 325 AD by a Roman delegation, the church was destroyed around 1009 AD, leading many to believe that perhaps the location was no longer authentic to the Constantine Empire. In 2016, they opened the tomb for the first time, and scientific dating confirmed that the tomb was last opened squarely in the era.

"Exclusive: Age of Jesus Christ's Purported Tomb Revealed." *National Geographic*, National Geographic Society, 28 Nov. 2017, news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/11/jesus-tomb-archaeology-jerusalem-christianity-rome/.



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