



EXPOSITION

Monthly e-Bulletin from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary



From My Window

Hymns of the Republic (2019) by Samuel Gwynne chronicles the final year of the Civil War. After three years of a stalemate between the North and South, Pres. Lincoln was frustrated. It seemed to him that his leading generals were more interested in “other things” than winning and ending the war. However, on March 10, 1864, Lincoln installed Gen. Grant as commander of the Union Army; and on April 9, 1865, the war was formally finished. Gwynne’s research uncovered a startling fact about the North—for years they had the resources to win, but not the will. How appropriate for every Christian’s war with the Enemy of our souls! Being in Christ gives us the resources to overcome sin (Ro. 5:20–21), but do we have the will?



VBTS Professor & Field Archaeologist

Dr. Mark Hassler is not only the Associate Professor of Old Testament at VBTS but also a Field Archaeologist and the Director of Publications with the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR). ABR is an evangelical organization that has conducted scientific research in Israel for over forty years. Dr. Hassler enjoys teaching the Old Testament, and he finds that working at a Holy Land site expands his ministry to others and strengthens his teaching. He says, “*I love helping others grasp the authorial intent of Scripture, and archaeology helps us to better understand the Bible in its ancient Near Eastern context.*” The above picture was taken this past summer of those who were working on the Shiloh site. This summer will be the fourth year that ABR has meticulously labored at Shiloh, and over one hundred people are expected to participate in the expedition. If you would like to join Dr. Hassler this summer, please read the back page which details “the adventure of a lifetime!” He encourages anyone interested to be a part of this project and catch the excitement of handling artifacts from ancient biblical history.



Join the 2020 Shiloh Excavations **Dr. Mark Hassler, VBTS Associate Professor of Old Testament**

“The whole congregation of the Israelites assembled themselves at Shiloh, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them.” ~ Joshua 18:1

You can experience the adventure of a lifetime by participating in the archaeological excavation of a biblical site. Join Dr. Mark Hassler, Associate Professor of Old Testament at VBTS and Field Archaeologist, for the fourth season of excavation at Tell Shiloh, Israel’s first capitol and the resting place of the tabernacle for more than three centuries.

The package includes full room and board, on-site training, and evening lectures on biblical archaeology. The team digs on the weekdays, while the afternoons and weekends provide an opportunity for group or individual touring or shopping. The team stays at a hotel in Jerusalem, a short walk to the Temple Mount.

General Schedule and Pricing

- Pre-dig tour of the Holy Land (with Dr. Scott Stripling, Director of Excavations): May 8–17
- Four weeks of excavation: May 17–June 13
- Post-dig tour of the Holy Land (with Gary Byers, Assistant Director of Excavations): June 14–22

Your application and a \$500 per person deposit is due on a first-come-first-serve basis. The sponsoring organization, the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR), highly recommends sending your deposit ASAP to reserve your space. Full payment is due March 15. You can customize your length of stay to accommodate your schedule.

- Four weeks: \$3,600 (best rate per week)
- Three weeks: \$2,900
- Two weeks: \$2,000
- One week: \$1,100
- Pre- or post-dig tour: \$800–1,500

The pricing excludes airfare. To receive the best prices, travelers arrange their own flights. Flights from the United States to Tel Aviv, Israel, average \$700–1,300. Valid passports are mandatory.

To register or receive more information:

- Visit www.DigShiloh.org
- Watch a Shiloh documentary: “[Go Now to Shiloh](#)”
- Contact Dr. Mark Hassler: mhassler@vbts.edu



Testimony of Pastor Daniel Steinman, current VBTS student (ThM) and alumnus (MDiv)

“The Shiloh excavation experience was amazing because I was able to feel the soil and hold the artifacts while learning about archaeology at such an important biblical site. At the same time, it was a blessing to spend time with others who were eager to interact with me and share their knowledge from years of experience. Books simply cannot do that. I highly recommend this opportunity for those pursuing a degree as well as those looking for an adventure in the Holy Land.”