The City of David is the Archaeological Portal to the History of the Jewish People
Chalcolithic (Copper) Age in Canaan
4500-3600 BCE

http://noasarai.com/ISAW/tour/
"The Lord said to Abraham, Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you."
Genesis 14:17-18

Abraham
In Jerusalem

“When he (Abraham) returned . . . King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine . . .”
Egyptian Execration Doll
1800 BCE

THE FIRST MENTION OF JERUSALEM!!!

“The Ruler of Jerusalem, Setj-’Anu, and all the retainers who are with him…”

Musees Royaux d’Art et d’Histoire Brussels, Belgium
The Gihon Spring
An Angel Prevents the Sacrifice of Isaac

Rembrandt
The Resting Place of the Ark

The Dome of the Rock
“Isaac prayed to the LORD and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived…When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. Now the first came and they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob…”
Jacob Scarab Seal
1730 BCE

The hieroglyphs in the scarab spell out Y’qb-HR, the Egyptian transliteration of the Semitic Yaqub (Jacob)
“Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we...”
Pharaoh Rameses II
1279 – 1213 BCE
“The Israelites set out from Rameses… and they encamped at Migdol.”
“I was sent forth from the broad halls of the palace... following after two slaves. When I reached the fortress, they told me that the scout had come from the desert saying that they had passed the walled place north of the Migdol of Seti-Merneptah.”
The Israelites are in Canaan

The Merneptah Stele
1207 BCE

“CANAAN IS PLUNDERED . . . ISRAEL IS LAID WASTE, HIS SEED IS NOT.”

Cairo Museum, Egypt
Joshua 10:41

“Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon.”
Wine Jar Handles from Gibeon

“gb’n gdr– “vineyard of Gibeon”
After Joshua enters the land of Israel, the Ark of the Covenant is brought to Israel.
The Ark of the Covenant in Shiloh
1200-1000 BCE

twelve brothers went down to Egypt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AdbxZpFXVE
“David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.”
The Tel Dan Stele
Erected by Hazael, King of Aram (Syria) 840 BCE

“I KILLED JEHORAM SON OF THE KING OF ISRAEL . . . AND I SLEW THE KING OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID.”
Jebusite Water Shaft Discovered in the City of David

City of David Excavations
1 Kings 8:20-21

King Solomon Builds the Temple

“I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel. I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of Egypt.”
“In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel and reigned twelve years…”
The Moabite Stone
840 BCE

The First Mention of the God of Israel YHWH

“Omri was the king of Israel, and he oppressed Moab . . . And ... I took the Vessels of YHWH.”
1 Kings 20:15

King Ahab
874 - 853 BCE

“So he (Ahab) mustered the aids of the provincial governors, 232 strong, and then he mustered the troop - all the Israelites - 7,000 strong.”
The Kurkh Stele of Shalmaneser III
The Assyrian
853 BCE

“He Brought . . . 2,000 chariots, 10,000 foot soldiers of Ahab the Israelite . . .”
“He arose and went into the house, and he poured the oil on his head and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel.”’
The Annals of King Shalmaneser III of Assyria: The Black Obelisk 840 BCE

Austen Henry Layard discovers the Black Obelisk in “Iraq” in 1846
First Depiction of a King of Israel

“I received tribute from Jehu, successor of Omri”
Shalmaneser III
859–824 BCE
Palace at Nimrud

Institute for the Visualization of History

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVJts1DrOvk
The Assyrians and Isaiah
Chapter 1: Verse 1

The prophecies of Isaiah son of Amoz, who prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

English translation of the Great Isaiah Scroll (Masoretic Version) learn more

http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/
“Hizilyahu Son of Yeshayahuhu (Isaiah)”
“Belonging to Amoz”
8th Century BC
“Belonging to Jotham”
“Belonging to Ushna, servant of Ahaz.”
8th Century BC
“Belonging to Hezekiah, (son of) Ahaz, king of Judah.”
Isaiah

http://www.imj.org.il/isaiah/
“In the days of Pekah king of Israel (c. 740-732 BCE), Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured…Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.”

Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BCE)

“…Israel (Bit Hu-um-ri-a) and the wide land of Naphtali, in its entire extent, I united with Assyria.”
In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria. He deported the Israelites to Assyria.
Sargon II
721-705

“I besieged and conquered Samaria, led away as booty 27,290 inhabitants of it.”
“Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts,
‘Come, go to this steward,
To Shebna, who is in charge of the royal household… you have hewn a tomb for yourself here,
You who hewed a tomb on the height,
You who carve a resting place for yourself in the rock?’”
Tomb of Shebna
7th Century BCE

British Museum
When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib intended to attack Jerusalem . . . Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them to the west side of the city of David.”
"The tunneling was completed... While the hewers wielded the ax, each man toward his fellow... there was heard a man's voice calling to his fellow... the hewers hacked each toward the other, ax against ax, and the water flowed from the spring to the pool, a distance of 1,200 cubits..."
Pool of Siloam
The Lower Pool
Pool of Siloam
Isaiah Chapter 36
The Battle of Lachish
701 BCE

Institute for the Visualization of History

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvquELNbHsE
“Sennacherib, king of the universe, king of Assyria, seated upon a sedan chair, the spoils of Lachish passed before him.”
Lachish Battle Reliefs

Institute for the Visualization of History

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqFbxHZz_bU
Lachish Battle Reliefs

Megalim Institute

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFT7Nr7DUHM
Sennacherib’s Prism
701 BCE

The word “Jew”
Citizen of Judah enters history
“As for Hezekiah the Jew, who did not submit to my yoke…30 talents of gold and 800 talents of silver… all kinds of valuable treasures, as well as his daughters, his harem, he had them bring after me to Nineveh, my royal city.”

--Taylor Prism
Isaiah 37:37

“So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and retreated, and stayed in Nineveh.”
Sennacherib’s Palace at Nineveh

Institute for the Visualization of History

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD8mN-mMDgE
The Babylonians and Jeremiah
By the Rivers of Babylon
Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem

http://noasarai.com/BLMJ/
At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.
"He (Nebuchadnezzar) encamped against the city of Judah (Jerusalem) He took... tribute and conveyed it to Babylon."
2 Kings 24:15

King Jehoiachin
598 - 597 BCE

“And he (Nebuchadnezzar) carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon . . .”
This text lists the rations for Jehoiachin and his family, while they were captive in Babylon.

“10 liters (of oil) to Jehoiachin, king of Judah, 2.5 liters for the 5 sons of the king of Judah...”
“Then, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the LORD’s house.”
Berekhyahu (Baruch), the Son of Neriyahu, the Scribe
586 BCE

City of David Excavations
Gemaryahu Son of Shaphan
586 BCE

City of David Excavations
“Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehukal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah heard what Jeremiah was telling all the people…

“This is what the Lord says: ‘This city will certainly be given into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon, who will capture it.’ ”

Then the officials said to the king [Zedekiah], “This man should be put to death…”
Shelemiyahu, Son of Shovi
586 BCE

City of David Excavations
Gedaliah Son of Pashhur
586 BCE
“Then they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchijah the king’s son, which was in the court of the guardhouse; and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water but only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.”
Jeremiah’s Pit

City of David Excavations
“...when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the remaining cities of Judah, that is, Lachish and Azekah, for they alone remained as fortified cities among the cities of Judah.”
“...we are watching the Lachish (fire-) signal according to the signs which my lord has given, because we do not see (the fire-signal from) Azekah.”
“He burnt the house of the Lord, and the king’s house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great man’s house burnt he with fire.”

2 Kings 25:8-9
Area G

Ahiel’s House
Area G
House of the Bullae

Over 50 seal impressions (bullae) found in the ash of the Babylonian destruction.
Promissory Note for Barley
Written in Al-Yahudu (City of the Judeans)
550 BCE

“(x) liters of barley are owed to Gummulu son of Bi-hame, by Shalam-Yama son of Nadab-Yama.”
The Persians
King Cyrus of Persia

“King Cyrus of Persia, in the first year of his reign made a decree that the house of God should be rebuilt (in Jerusalem) . . .”
“I Cyrus returned the [images of] the gods to the sacred centers . . . I gathered all their inhabitants and returned [to them] their dwellings.”
“Mortal! I am Cyrus son of Cambyses, who founded the Persian empire, and was King of Asia. Grudge me not then my monument.”
Judah, a Persian Province

Yehud Coin, 4th c. BCE

Palestine Does Not Exist

City of David
“…You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem…”

Nehemiah 2:17
The Greeks
“Now Alexander, when he had taken Gaza, made haste to go up to Jerusalem... The Jews also did all together, with one voice, salute Alexander, and encompass him about...”

Flavius Josephus
Antiquities of the Jews, Book XI
Alexander the Great
Died in Babylon in 323 BCE
Then Buried in Egypt

Found in Tel Dor, Israel
“And he (Antiochus IV) commanded altars to be built, and temples, and idols, and swine's flesh to be immolated, and unclean beasts.”
Greek (Seleucid) Acra built by Antiochus IV

“...and when he [Antiochus IV] had overthrown the city walls, he built a citadel [Greek: Acra] in the lower part of the city, for the place was high, and overlooked the temple; on which account he fortified it with high walls and towers...”

— Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 12:252–253
“They then rebuilt the City of David with a great strong wall and strong towers and made this their Citadel.

There they installed a brood of sinners, of renegades, who fortified themselves inside it, storing arms and provisions, and depositing there the loot they had collected from Jerusalem”

--1 Maccabees 1:33-35
The Romans
“Pompey went into the temple itself whither it was not lawful for any to enter but the high priest, and saw what was reposited therein, the candlestick with its lamps, and the table, and the pouring vessels, and the censers, all made entirely of gold...”

Flavius Josephus
War of the Jews, Book 1
“Herod..., by giving (Mark) Antony a great deal of money, endeavored to persuade him to have (Matthias) Antigonus slain...And thus did the government of the Hasamoneans cease, a hundred twenty and six years after it was first set up.”

Flavius Josephus
Antiquities of the Jews, Book XIV
The First Representation of the Menorah Coin of Matthias Antigonus
37 BCE
“He (Antony) also took away a great deal of their country; nay, even the plantation of palm trees at Jericho, where also grows the balsam tree, and bestowed them upon her (Cleopatra)…”
Mark Antony and Cleopatra Coin
“Herod the Great, King of the Jews (or Judea)”
19 BCE
Simon the Temple Builder
Ossuary, 1st Century BCE
The heel bone of Yehohanan ben Hagkol, a Jewish resident of Jerusalem.
“But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles”
Greek Inscription Prohibiting Gentiles From Entering the Inner Courtyard of the Temple
Numbers 10:2-3

“Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out.”
“The Place of the Trumpeting”

T’KIAH!

Israel Museum
Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”
"Hear O Israel, the Lord is your God"

Qumran Phylactery Parchment
Before 68 CE
Nero
Emperor of Rome 54 – 68 CE
“Jerusalem the Holy”
“Shekel of Israel”
66-70 CE
Jewish Silver Shekel
Year 2 of the Revolt against Nero, 67 CE

SHEKEL ISRAEL
YEAR 2 
=
SHEKEL ISRAEL
SHIN BET

JERUSALEM
THE HOLY
=
YERUSHALAYIM
HA KeDOSha
“For the Freedom of Zion”
Bronze Prutah
66-70 CE
The Best Representation of the Temple Menorah 70 CE

Israel Museum
Josephus Flavius recounts how the Romans in their efforts to capture the Jews hiding in the Drainage Channel, broke open the stones of the stepped street.
Arch of Titus
70 CE

Bringing the Menorah and Temple Treasures to Rome
Inscription from a synagogue in Jerusalem written in Greek:

“Theodotus son of Vettenus, priest and synagogue leader, son of a synagogue leader, grandson of a synagogue leader, rebuilt this synagogue for the reading of the Law and the teaching of the commandments, and the hostelry, rooms and baths, for the lodging of those who have need from abroad. It was established by his forefathers, the elders and Simonides.”
Aelia Capitolina Coin 135 CE

Hadrian renames Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina and Judea as Philistia
“Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.”
“Send wooden beams (lulavs) and citrons (Etrogs) for the celebration of Succoth.”
Coin From The Bar Kokhba Revolt
132-135 CE

Lulav and etrog imprinted over the face of Emperor Trajan
Gold Medallion Found Near the Temple Mount

614 CE

Hebrew University
Coin Hoard with the likeness of Heraclius, Byzantine emperor, 610-641 CE
Maimonides 1135-1204 CE

Maimonides was Court Physician to Saladin who defeated Richard the Lionhearted

“On the fourth day of the month of MarCheshvan, in the year 4926 from the time of creation (1165 CE), I left Akko and set out for Jerusalem, encountering many dangers along the way. I entered the Great and Holy House and prayed there…”
Mishneh Torah
1180

Maimonides Introduces Aristotelian Thinking into the Jewish Faith

"Corrected against my own book - I, Moses, son of Rabbi Maymunit of blessed memory."