

The Muse

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HistoryOnTheMove STUDY TOUR

The next HistoryOnTheMove Study Tour to Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Italy is scheduled for June 9-22, 2016. Join this study tour to learn about modern Israel, biblical geography, and the Mediterranean area. To see a detailed itinerary and registration form, please visit www.historyonthemove.com.



WHY YOU SHOULD TRAVEL TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

A primary reason that everyone should visit the Mediterranean Sea area sometime in their adult life is that it is a central part of the biblical world, not to mention other historical reasons. So much of ancient and biblical history was concentrated in that area and a large amount of ancient trade and travel took place there.

In antiquity it took a great deal of time to travel by foot, by animal, or by sea, yet so many set out to do so. The travels of the Apostle Paul exemplify this. Paul and his traveling colleagues journeyed to different areas around the Mediterranean world to visit synagogues and to establish churches.

So why visit Israel and the Mediterranean? There is no better way to learn about the history recorded in the Bible than to personally see the places it mentions. Cities and landscapes spoken about in the Bible begin to take shape in a very vivid way, leading to a greater understanding of the historical context of Scripture. Traveling to these places quite simply makes the Bible come to life.

The 2016 HistoryOnTheMove Study Tour is the perfect opportunity to make this journey to biblical lands a reality! On the tour you will not only explore biblical sites, but you will also be taught their exciting history by knowledgeable leaders who have studied the land and its people. Be on the lookout for flyers and emails with more information. Registration is available online at www.historyonthemove.com, also be on the lookout for the fliers, and join us for this exploration of the biblical lands.

A ROYAL SEAL OF KING HEZEKIAH COMES TO LIGHT

King Hezekiah, son and successor of Ahaz, was the 13th king of ancient Judah. He reigned from 715-686 BC, and he was known for his religious reforms and attempts to gain independence from the Assyrians. According to 2 Chronicles 29-32, Hezekiah began his reforms in the first year of his reign.

For the first time, the royal seal of King Hezekiah has been found in an archaeological excavation. The stamped clay seal, also known as a *bullae*, was discovered in the

excavations at the foot of the southern wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Israel by Dr. Eilat Mazar. The bulla, which measures over a centimeter in diameter, bears a seal impression depicting a two-winged sun disk flanked by symbols and contains a Hebrew inscription that reads "Belonging to Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, king of Judah." The bulla was discovered along with 33 other stamped bullae during the wet-sifting of dirt from a refuse dump located next to a 10th-century BC royal building.

In the Ancient Near East, clay bullae were used to secure the strings around rolled-up documents. The bullae were made by pressing a seal onto a wet lump of clay. The stamped bulla serves as both a signature and a means of ensuring the authenticity of the documents. This bulla represents the first time the royal seal of Hezekiah has been found on an archaeological project.

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