

# **Biblical Lachish. A Tale of Construction, Destruction, Excavation and Restoration**

by David Ussishkin

Israel Exploration Society, Jerusalem 2014

Biblical Lachish was one of the most important cities in the Land of Israel for over 3,000 years. It played a central historical role during the period of rule by the kings of Canaan, followed by the kings of Israel and Judah. In the second millennium BCE Lachish was a large Canaanite city-state and during the Kingdom of Judah, a fortified city, second in importance only to Jerusalem. During Sennacherib's campaign to Judah, the Assyrian army lay siege to Lachish and conquered the city in a fierce battle. The unique importance of Lachish, the extensive archaeological excavations conducted there and the finds uncovered have made Tel Lachish a key site for the study of the history of the Land of Israel in the Biblical period.

This book presents a general readership with the history of Lachish in light of the excavations conducted at the site, focusing upon the excavations carried out from 1973 to 1994 under the direction of David Ussishkin.

*Professor David Ussishkin was born in Jerusalem and completed his studies in archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 1966 until his retirement in 2004 he taught the archaeology of the Land of Israel in the Biblical period and the archaeology of Anatolia at Tel Aviv University. He has directed other excavations at Tel Jezreel, Tel Megiddo and Beitar, the last fortress of Bar-Kochba, and carried out a comprehensive survey of the Jerusalem necropolis at Silwan.*

- Chapter 1: Tel Lachish – The Location of the Ancient City
- Chapter 2: The British Expedition Excavations
- Chapter 3: Yohanan Aharoni's Excavation in the Area of the Solar Shrine
- Chapter 4: The Renewed Excavations of Tel Aviv University
- Chapter 5: Strategy and Tactics of the Renewed Excavations
- Chapter 6: A Canaanite City-State Emerges
- Chapter 7: The Beginning of the Late Bronze Age and the Fosse Temple
- Chapter 8: Canaanite Lachish at Its Zenith
- Chapter 9: A Flourishing Economic, Trade and Cultural Center
- Chapter 10: The End of the Canaanite City – Conquest, Destruction and Abandonment
- Chapter 11: The Fortress City of the Judean Kings: the History
- Chapter 12: Monumental Public Buildings in the Fortress City
- Chapter 13: Sennacherib's Campaign to Judah
- Chapter 14: The Assyrian Onslaught: Remnants of the Siege
- Chapter 15: The Assyrian Onslaught: Remnants of the Battle
- Chapter 16: The Lachish Reliefs
- Chapter 17: *Lmlk* Storage Jars and Their Stamps
- Chapter 18: Lachish in the Last Days of Judah
- Chapter 19: A District Center under Persian Rule
- Chapter 20: Tel Lachish – A Biblical Period National Park

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David Ussishkin

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