



**Jesus Himself believed.** This might seem like circular reasoning, but it only makes sense. How could we believe that Jesus was Deity, but imagine that He was fooled into believing in a heritage and promise based on a mythical figure that never

really existed? Jesus demonstrated a clear belief in David as a living breathing man (Luke 20:41- 44). If we are to believe in Jesus as God in the flesh we cannot then view as legendary folklore what He viewed as factual. Jesus believed in the creation of one man and woman (Mark 10:6). Jesus believed in the flood (Matt. 24:38) and in Noah as a real person (Matt. 24:37). Jesus believed in Abraham (John 8:58). We cannot accept part of the Bible as true and yet reject some of it as false, imaginary, and fictional. The Psalmist said correctly, **“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever”** (Ps. 119:168).



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Faithful Sayings Issue 16.52 December 28, 2014

## Welcome Visitors

**We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.**

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.52

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

December 28,  
2014

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow



## The House of David

By Kyle Pope

In August of 1993 a discovery was made at Tel Dan in northern Israel that electrified much of the scholarly world. For years liberal theologians had rejected the idea that David was a literal man who ruled as the second king of Israel because they had not been able to find any archeological reference to him outside of the Bible. These skeptics concluded because of this that David must have been simply a mythical figure who was a part of Jewish folklore.

What was discovered at Tel Dan changed all that. Archeologist Avraham Biran found an inscription bearing the words “House of David” and “King of Israel” believed to date to the 9th century B.C. That placed an artifact bearing David’s name within two hundred years of the time when David himself lived (ca. 1085 - 1014 BC.).

This thrilled more conservative scholars because they felt that at last there was material archaeological evidence of David's existence. As Christians while we may take pleasure in seeing those times when archeology harmonizes with Scripture there are a number of points we should consider about this, and similar issues:

**1. It is unreasonable to hold that**

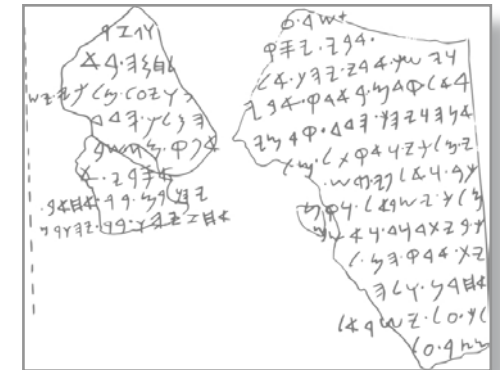


Olsen Park church of Christ

**the only things in Scripture that are true are those for which we can find material evidence.** I suspect that if the Lord allows the earth to stand for another thousand years any researcher looking for material evidence to prove the existence of a man named *Kyle Pope* who lived in the 21<sup>st</sup> century might be hard pressed to find any artifact that time will have preserved to show evidence of my existence. Nevertheless I do exist! This is a world in which **“moth and rust destroy”** (Matt. 6:19). Homes in which some of us lived as children no longer stand. Schools and church building that played important roles in recent history have now turned to dust. Characters well known from recent world history may have little (if any) material evidence to show their existence, and yet they did exist. Just because we may or may not be able to find non-biblical references to Noah, Abraham, or even Moses does not call into question the Bible's record of their existence. That doesn't mean that Christians should ignore material evidence, we must simply recognize its limits.

**2. If David didn't exist then Jesus didn't exist.** The first verse of the gospel of Matthew begins—**“The book**

**The Tel Dan “House of David” Inscription**



**of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham”** (Matt. 1:1). Much of Jesus' identification of Himself as the Messiah (or Christ) hinges upon the fact that He was a **“Son”** (or descendent) of David. The Lord promised David that He would **“establish the throne of his kingdom forever”** (2 Sam. 7:13). The throne of Christ's kingdom over His church is the fulfillment of this promise. Christians don't need an artifact so that we may believe David was a real man. A belief in Jesus demands a belief in His ancestry from the line of David. It is this ancestry that legitimized Jesus' claim to king-

ship over the Israel of God. Gabriel told Mary before Jesus' birth, **“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David”** (Luke 1:32).

**3. Believing in Jesus demands accepting what**