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Professor R. Steven Notley

BIB381 Land of the Bible (NA)

February 3, 2023

Museum of the Bible Lecture

Professor Notley introduced Professor Aviam to the podium. The Lecture was about the excavation they did at Bethesda and finding what believe to be Peter's house.

Professor Aviam stated that new evidence from the ground was found, linking it to material culture. He spoke of the Jordon Valley, where three rivers meet. He said Delta Bay tram was the gate, if Israel was heaven. And that the area produces much fruit, because it was very fertile.

He said a coin of Phillip the establisher, which dated 30/31 CE, which came from the mint of Julius, was in The Bethesda Valley.

He stated that El -Araj Architectural fragments were found on site, pillars of limestone found, were maybe pillar of the synagogue.

Professor said, Professor Notley invited him to El-Araj and while excavating, they found Roman Pottery, coins and walls in the first area, 14th century pillars. They also found sungar industry facility, bowls, pots, jars. He said Bethesda has warmth and water. The found evidence of a Byzantine Monastery, Evidence of this church were coins pottery, it symbolizes Islam. The found the Bishop's inscription.

He said a medallion was found in the last hour of the dig, the word "apostle" was written on it. They also found white mosaic floor. Later the entire inscription was found and was read. Constantine paved it and dedicated it to the chief apostle, "Constantine paved it and dedicated it to the apostle.

They picked up coin of the 5th century, Roman pottery, mosaic. Black and white type bath houses, the digging moved from a village to a palace. Thirty meters to the east, oil lamp. Jars, potteries, which showed Roman occupancy. These were taken from four (4) different areas.

He told of the stones they found, which speaks of Jewish sites. They also found Denarius of Nero 53 EC 1st Roman coin. In area "D" Roman's dwellings were found, glass bottle, 2nd century oil lamps and 1st century coin, He mentioned Pope Benedict XVI skepticism which leads to the question, "What tradition lies behind the Martyrium of Capernaum, 1st century church?" He highlighted that Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis of Cyprus allowed 1st century church to be built (310 - 403 GE).

Postscript, "Chief of the Apostle connects with Peter's home in Bethesda and call it "Church of Peter and Andrew, which shows a "New Discovery"