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New Testament

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Extra Credit- Byzantine Bethsaida

The presentation at the Museum of the Bible focused on the ongoing excavation project at Bethsaida and Julias, two ancient cities in Israel with significant historical and cultural significance. Dr. Notley and Dr. Aviam shared their insights on the discoveries made during the excavations and the challenges faced in uncovering more information about the cities past.

One of the key takeaways from the presentation was the confirmation of Bethsaidas existence through both historical records and archaeological evidence. However, the lack of evidence during a 200year period raises questions about the citys decline and eventual abandonment. The ongoing excavation at Julias, believed to be the hometown of Jesus apostles, presents an opportunity to learn more about the history and culture of the region.

The identification of Peters house in Capernaum remains unresolved, with conflicting evidence suggesting it may have been a fourth century church rather than the apostles residence. This highlights the challenges of archaeological interpretation and the importance of considering multiple perspectives.

The teams discoveries of pottery and coins from different periods offer insights into the citys past and its connections to wider historical events. However, knowing when to stop digging is crucial to preserving the sites integrity and avoiding damage to important artifacts.

The presentation emphasized the importance of raising funds to continue the excavation and engage volunteers in the project. This not only provides an opportunity for individuals to participate in important archaeological work but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the history and culture of the region.

Overall, the ongoing excavation project at Bethsaida and Julias offers valuable insights into the history and culture of ancient Israel. The presentation highlighted the challenges and

benefits of such work, as well as the importance of continued support to uncover more information about the past.