

From

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To here

BIBLICAL SURVEY: Old Testament Archaeology and the Monarchy

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Could this be the biggest find since the Dead Sea Scrolls? Seventy metal books found in cave in Jordan could change our view of Biblical history

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ARCHAEOLOGY

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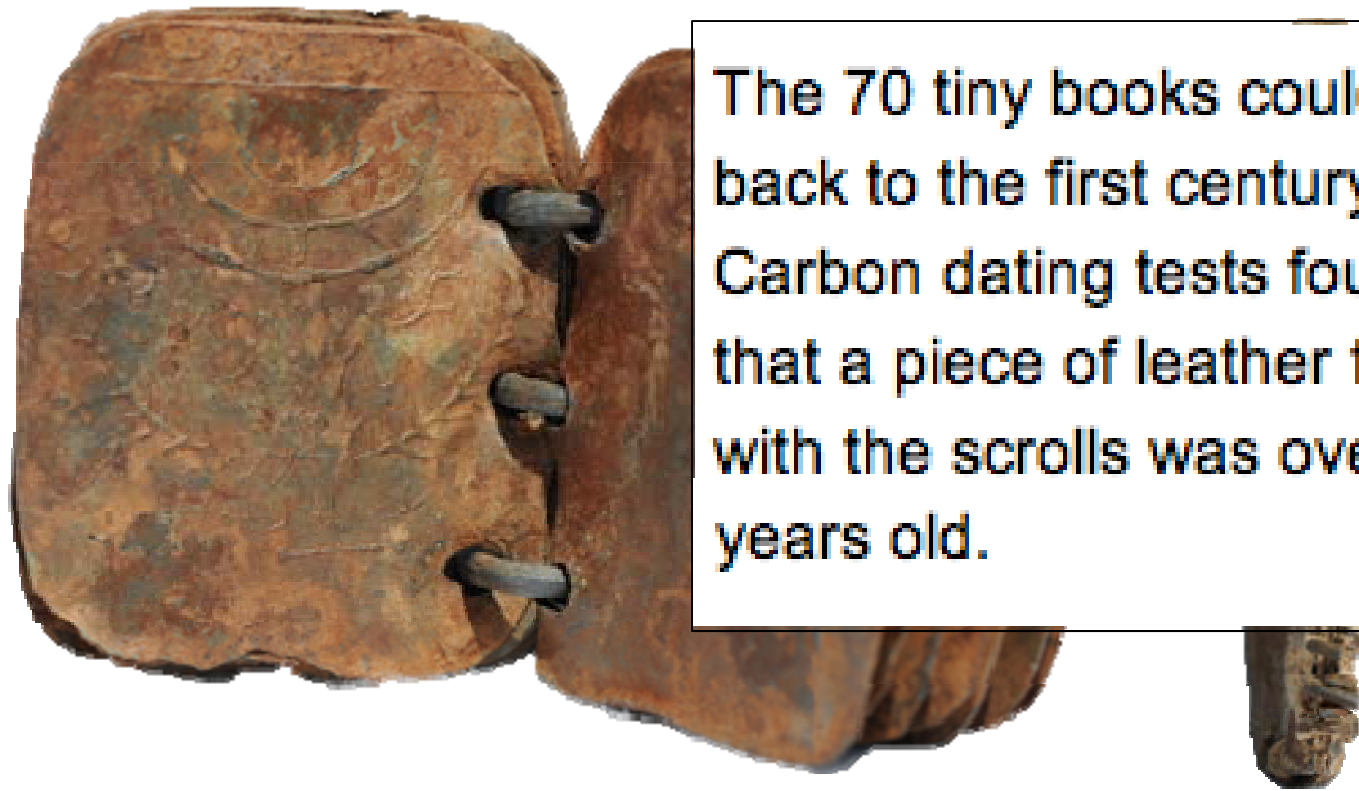
Could lead codices prove 'the major discovery of Christian history'?

By Chris Lehmann

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Jordan battles to regain 'priceless' Christian relics





The 70 tiny books could date back to the first century. Carbon dating tests found that a piece of leather found with the scrolls was over 2000 years old.



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“On pages not much bigger than a credit card, are images, symbols and words that appear to refer to the Messiah and, possibly even, to the Crucifixion and Resurrection”

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Jordan battles to regain 'priceless' Christian relics

They could be the earliest Christian writing in existence, surviving almost 2,000 years in a Jordanian cave. They could, just possibly, change our understanding of how Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and how Christianity was born.

A group of 70 or so "books", each with between five and 15 lead leaves bound by lead rings, was apparently discovered in a remote arid valley in northern Jordan somewhere between 2005 and 2007.

A flash flood had exposed two niches inside the cave, one of them marked with a menorah or candlestick, the ancient Jewish religious symbol.

A Jordanian Bedouin opened these plugs, and what he found inside might constitute extremely rare relics of early Christianity.

That is certainly the view of the Jordanian government, which claims they were smuggled into Israel by another Bedouin.

The Israeli Bedouin who currently holds the books has denied smuggling them out of Jordan, and claims they have been in his family for 100 years.

Jordan says it will "exert all efforts at every level" to get the relics repatriated.

Incredible claims

The director of the Jordan's Department of Antiquities, Ziad al-Saad, says the books might have been made by followers of Jesus in the few decades immediately following his crucifixion.

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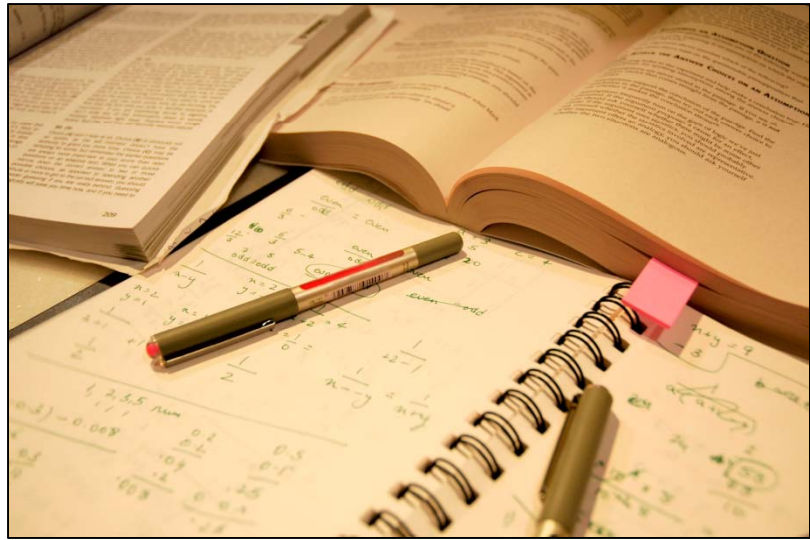
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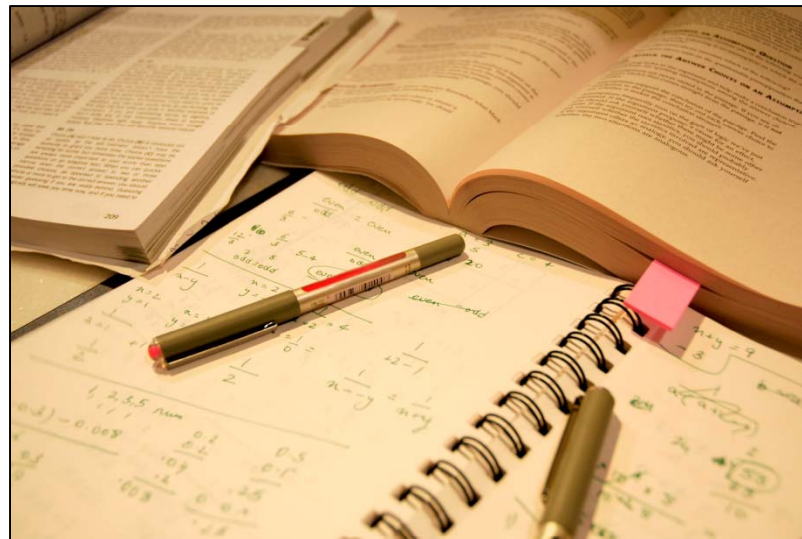
Dear Mark,

I was contacted about these lead books about a year and a half ago, but I was very suspicious of it and advised the person who contacted me, David Elkington in the UK, to work through the Jordanians. In the meantime, there was a change in the director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, and the new director has taken a more aggressive position. The new director, Ziad Al-Saad talked to me about three days ago and asked me, on behalf of Prince Hassan and him, to contact Hassam, the Bedouin. This I was finally able to do yesterday. Attached is the letter I sent Ziad this morning. I am still suspicious of the whole thing, and don't know whether Hassam will come and see me in Jerusalem or not. I'll keep you posted.

Weston



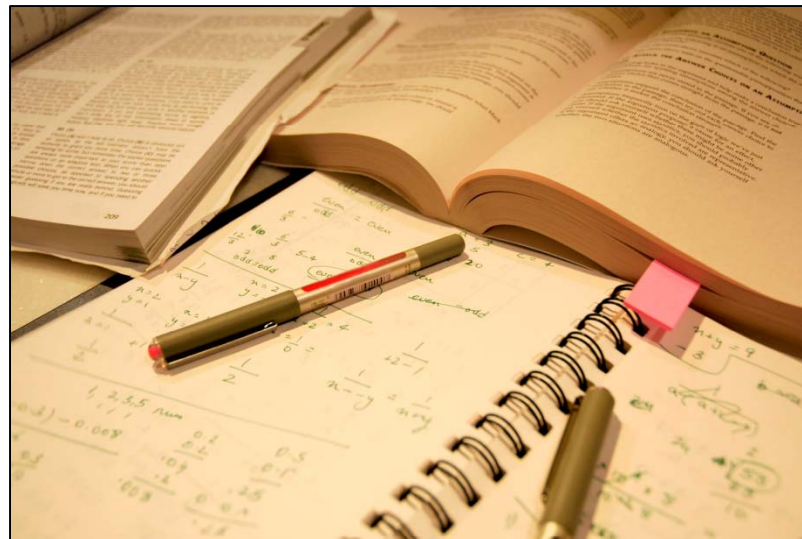
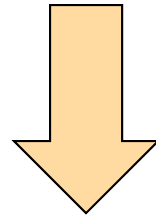
Faith + Intellectual integrity



Faith

+

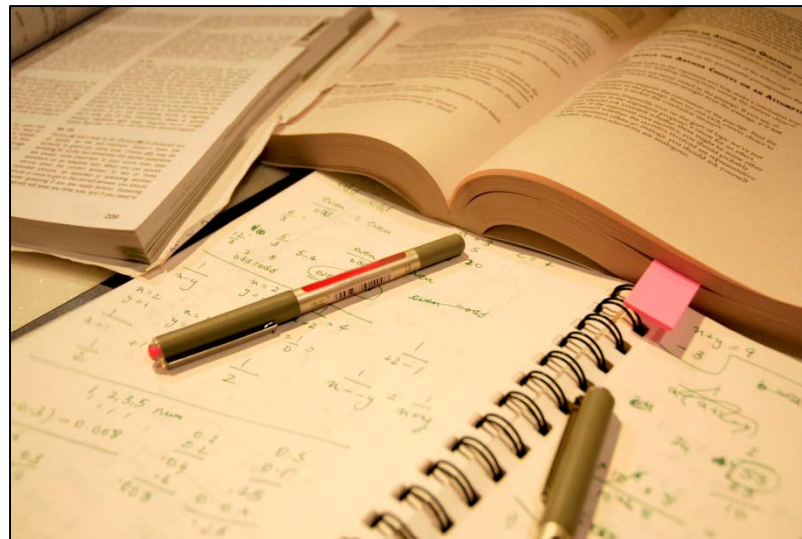
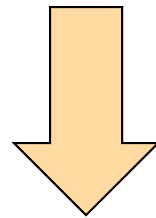
Intellectual
integrity



Faith

+

Intellectual
integrity



Study



Bart D. Ehrman

*Author, 'Forged: Writing in the Name of God—
Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think
They Are'*



Who Wrote The Bible and Why It Matters



Bart D. Ehrman

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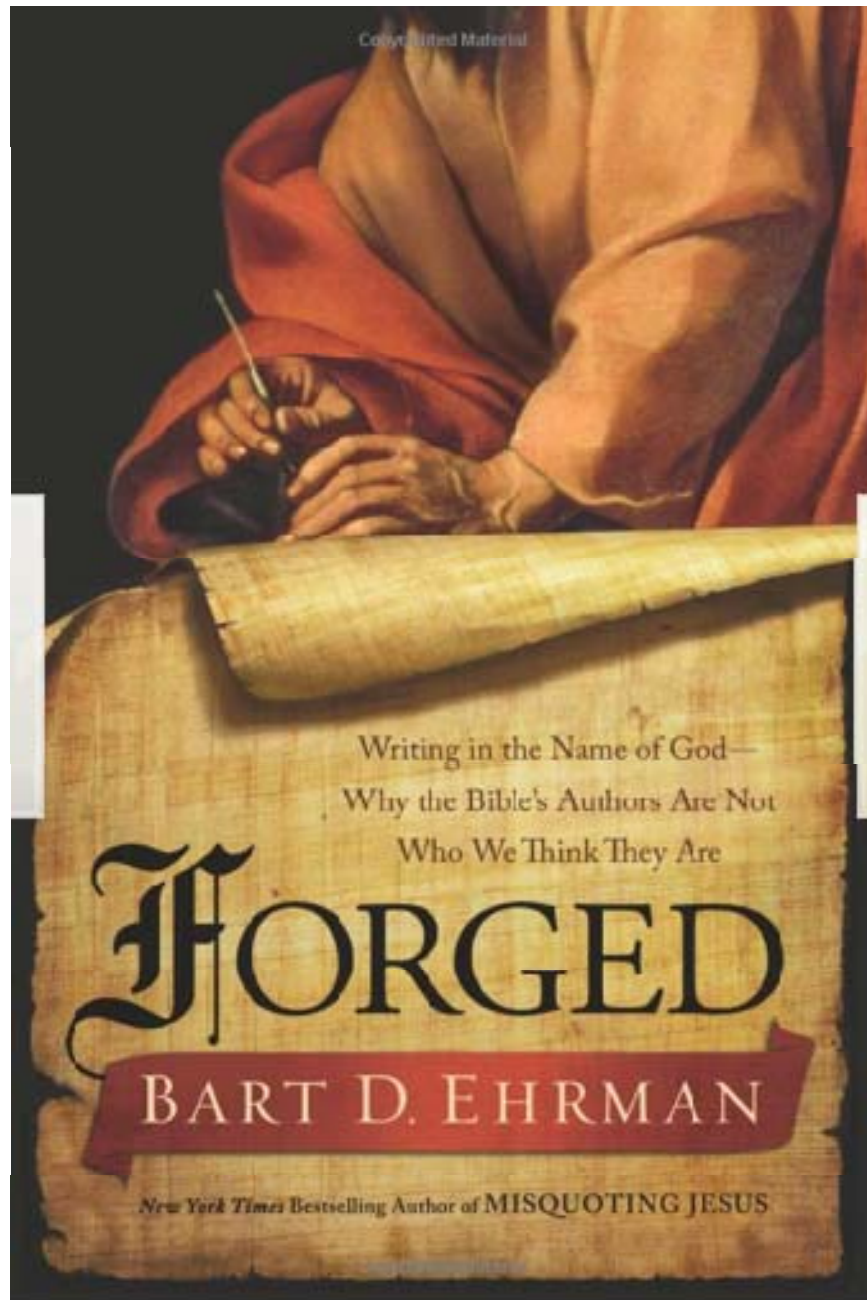
RSS

Email

Like

Who Wrote The Bible and Why It Matters

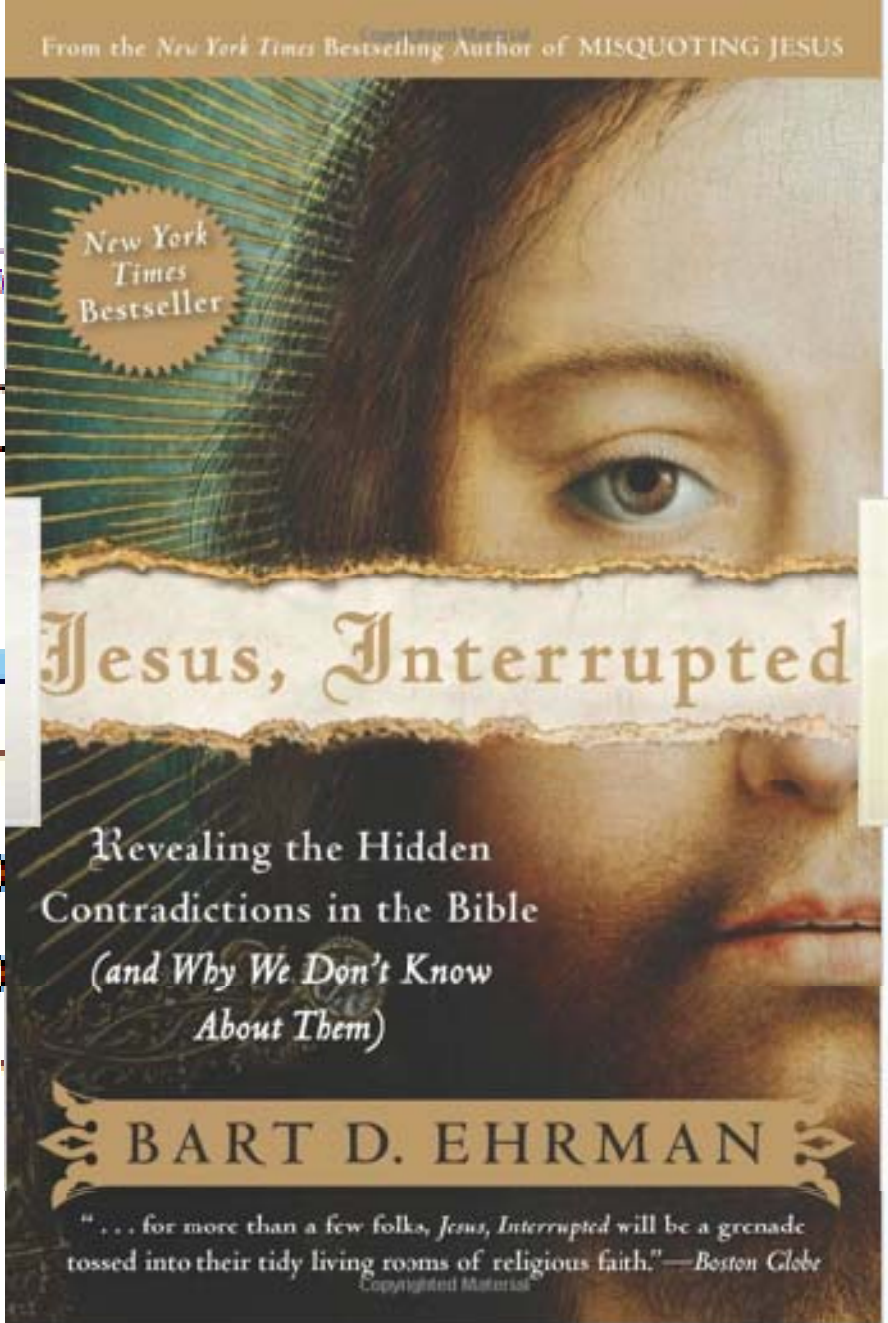
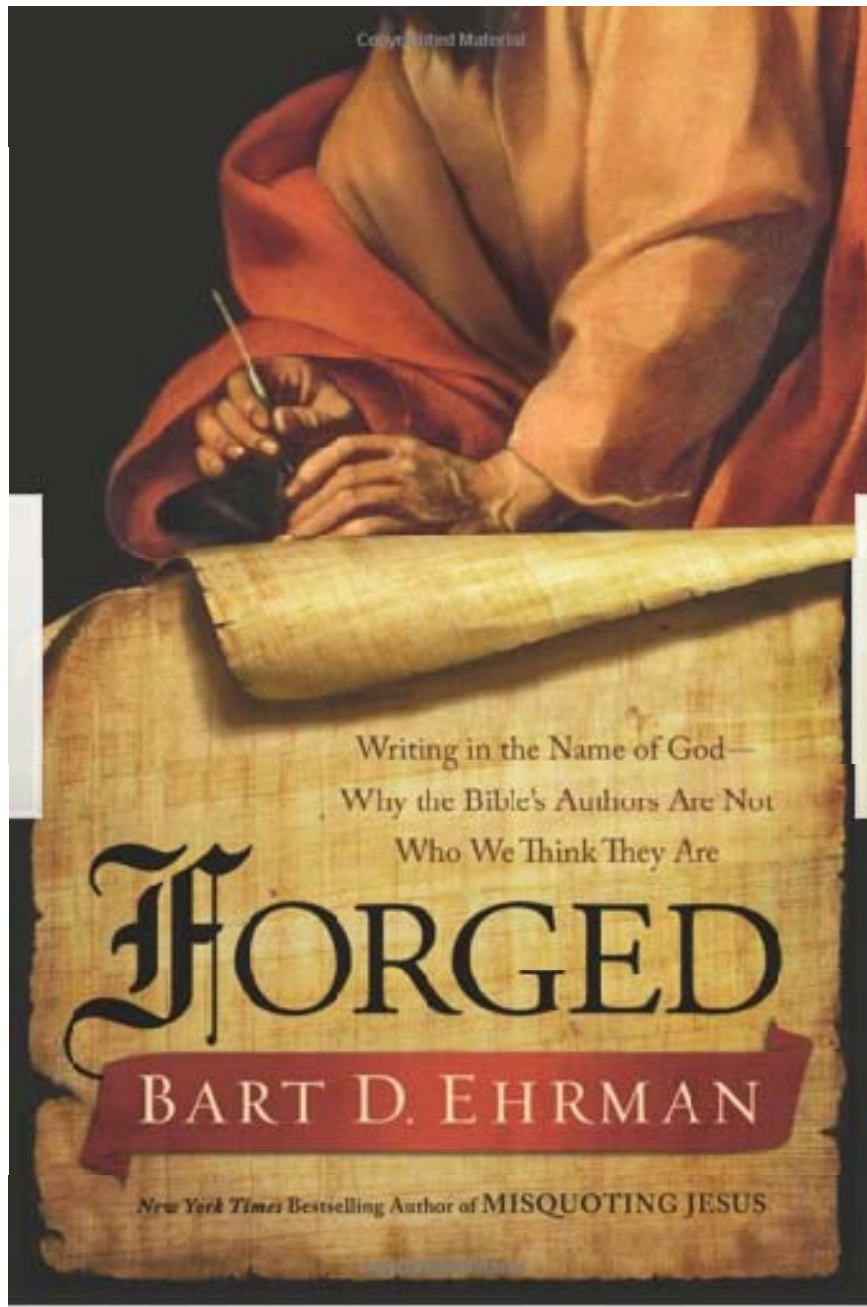
Apart from the most rabid fundamentalists among us, nearly everyone admits that the Bible might contain errors -- a faulty creation story here, a historical mistake there, a contradiction or two in some other place. But is it possible that the problem is worse than that -- that the Bible actually contains lies?



d—
Think

the Bible and Why It

fundamentalists among us,
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story here, a historical mistake
to in some other place. But is it
s worse than that -- that the
?



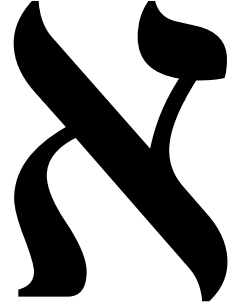
Pause 5 minutes
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Pause 5 minutes
for:



ה Hebrew class!

X



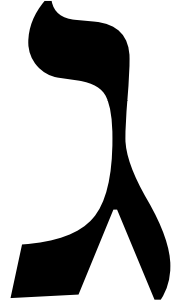
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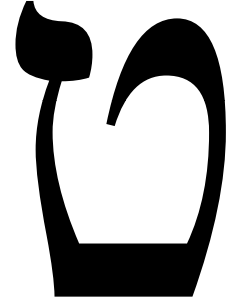
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Lamed

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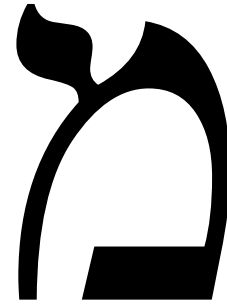
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ה Hebrew class!

IS OVER!

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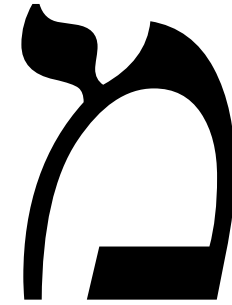


Mem



Lamed


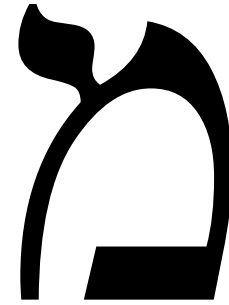
Mem



Kof

Lamed

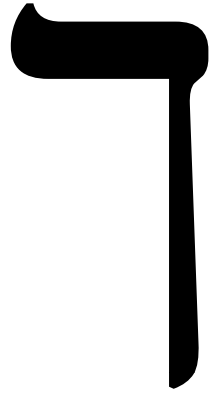
Mem

The image shows the Hebrew letter Lamed (ל) in a bold, black, stylized font. It has a small hook at the top left, a horizontal bar, and a vertical stem that curves slightly to the right at the bottom.The image shows the Hebrew letter Mem (מ) in a bold, black, stylized font. It features a small hook at the top left, a curved stem that goes down and then back up to the right, and a horizontal base.

Kof

Lamed

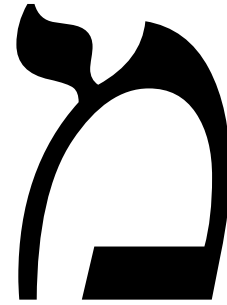
Mem

The image shows the Hebrew letter Kof (כ) in a bold, black, sans-serif font. It consists of a horizontal top bar that curves slightly to the left at its end, and a vertical stem extending downwards from the center of the bar.

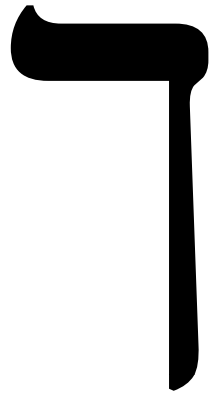
Kof

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Lamed

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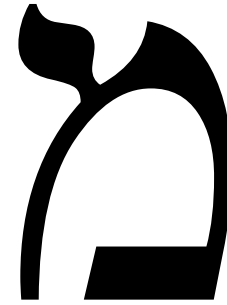
Mem

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Kof

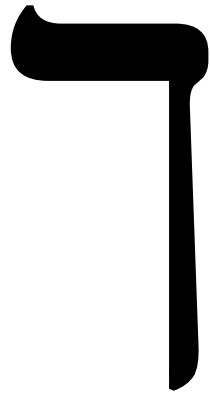
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Lamed

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Mem

Melek

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Kof

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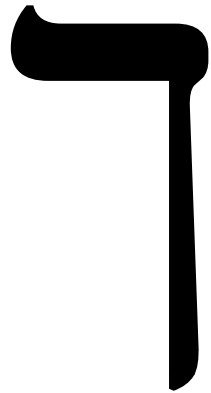
Lamed

The image shows the Hebrew letter Mem (מ) in a bold, black, stylized font. It has a small hook at the top left, followed by a curved stem that descends and then curves back towards the right, ending in a horizontal base.

Mem

Melek

“King”

The Hebrew letter Kof is shown in a bold, black, stylized font. It consists of a horizontal top bar that curves slightly to the left, and a vertical stem that descends from the right side of the bar.

Kof

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Lamed

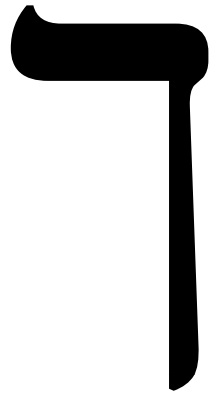
The Hebrew letter Mem is shown in a bold, black, stylized font. It has a small hook at the top left, followed by a vertical stem that curves to the right and then descends, ending in a horizontal base.

Mem

Melek

“King”


Zadek

The Hebrew letter Kof is shown in a bold, black, stylized font. It consists of a horizontal top bar with a small hook on the left side, and a vertical stem extending downwards from the center of the bar.

Kof

The Hebrew letter Lamed is shown in a bold, black, stylized font. It features a small hook at the top left, followed by a curved line that descends and then curves back up to the right, ending in a small hook.

Lamed

The Hebrew letter Mem is shown in a bold, black, stylized font. It has a small hook at the top left, followed by a curved line that descends and then curves back up to the right, ending in a small hook. The bottom part of the letter is a solid horizontal bar.

Mem

Melek

“King”

Zadek

“Righteousness”

מלך דוד

דוד מלך

Melek

מלך דוד

David Melek

“King David”



מלך דוד

David Melek

“King David”



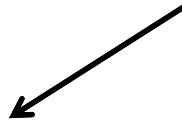
And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

(1 Sam 17:52)



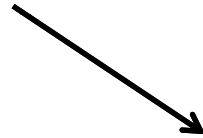
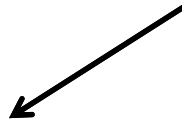
Shaaraim

Shaaraim



*“Shaar” =
gate*

Shaaraim

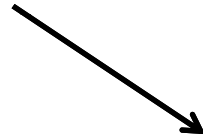
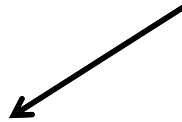


*“Shaar” =
gate*

“ayim” = 2!

“City of 2 Gates”

Shaaraim

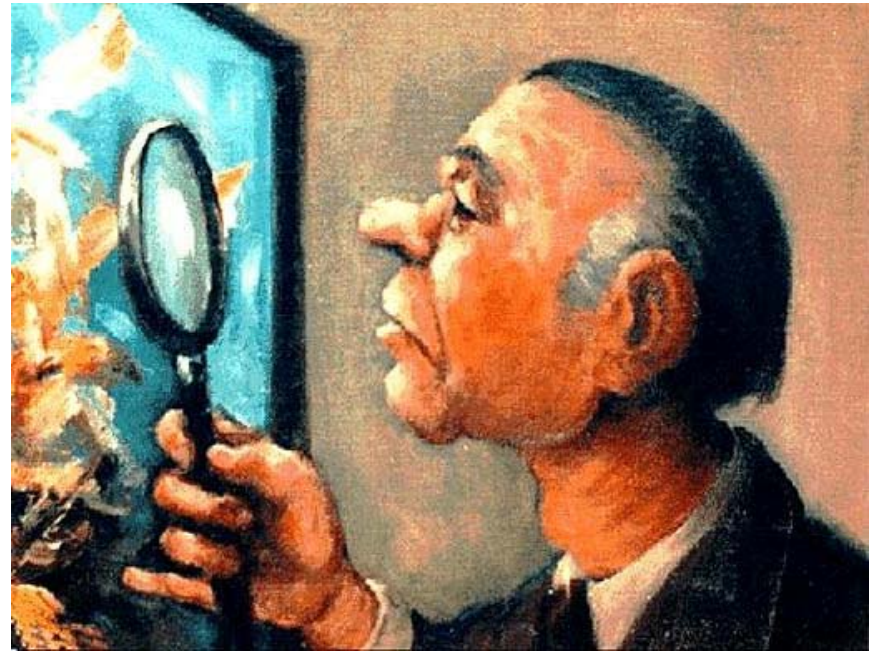


*“Shaar” =
gate*

“ayim” = 2!

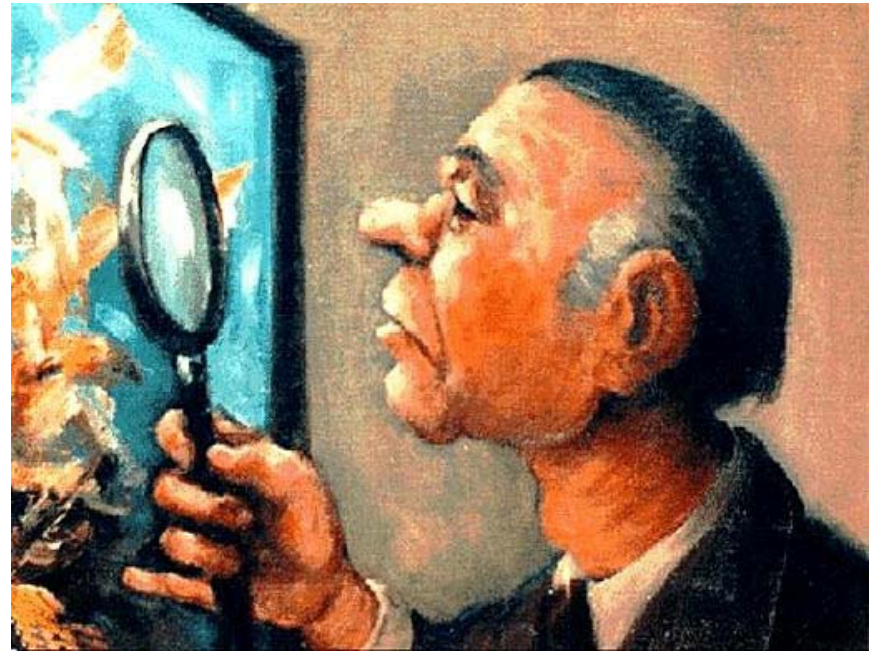
“City of 2 Gates”

Shaaraim



“City of 2 Gates”

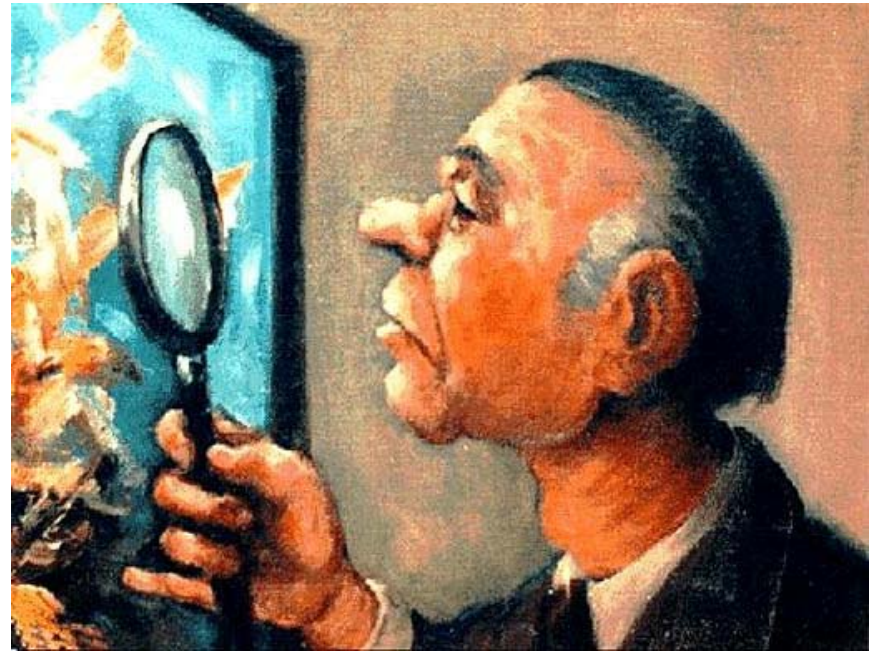
Shaaraim



1. The town did not exist

“City of 2 Gates”

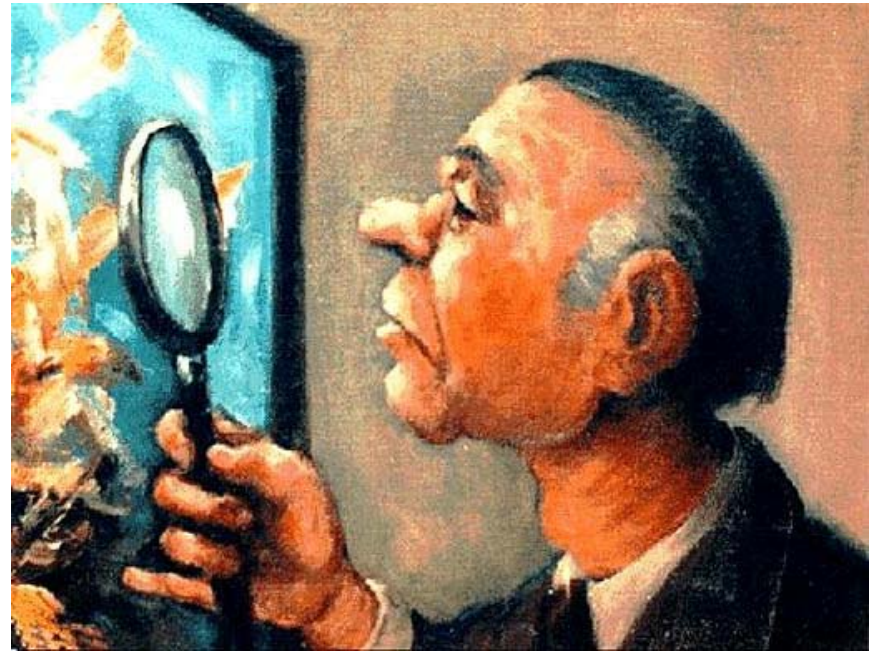
Shaaraim



1. The town did not exist
2. No town with 2 gates

“City of 2 Gates”

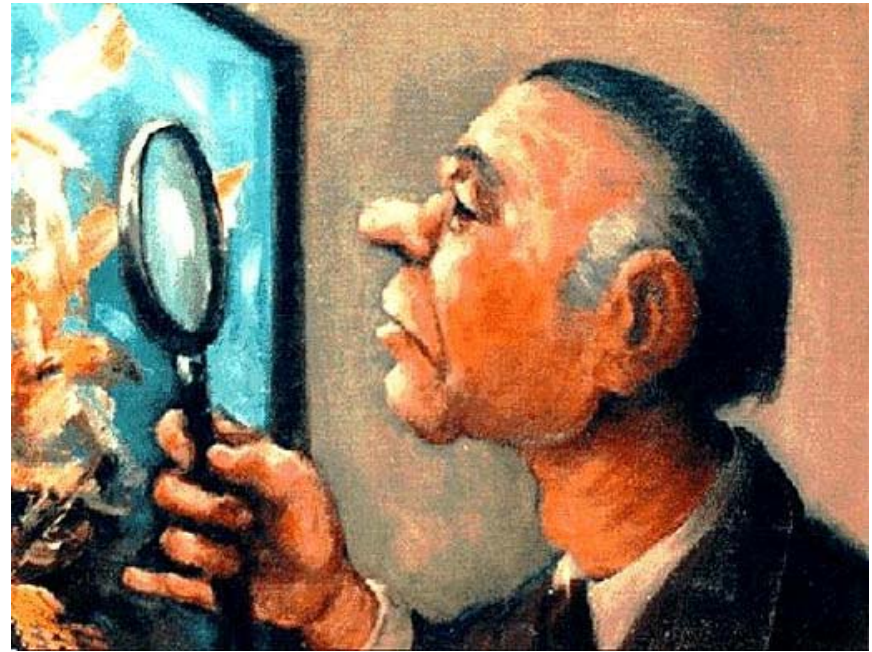
Shaaraim



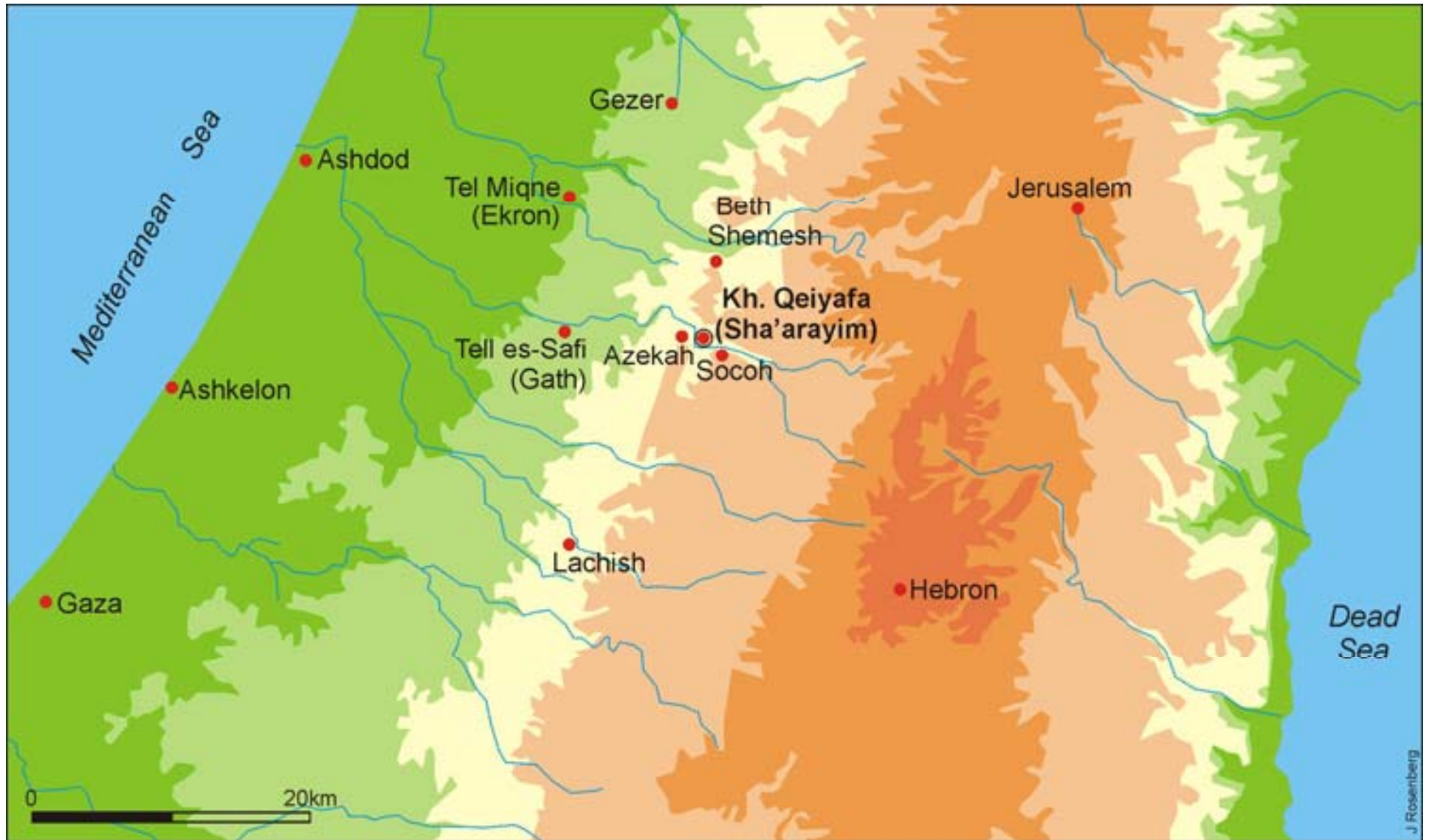
1. The town did not exist
2. No town with 2 gates
3. Warlords, not kings

“City of 2 Gates”

Shaaraim



1. The town did not exist
2. No town with 2 gates
3. Warlords, not kings
4. No written records



Elah Valley from Qeiyafa



Aerial View of Qeiyafa



Iron II Gate



Two Gates!



“mlk” (King)



“City of 2 Gates”

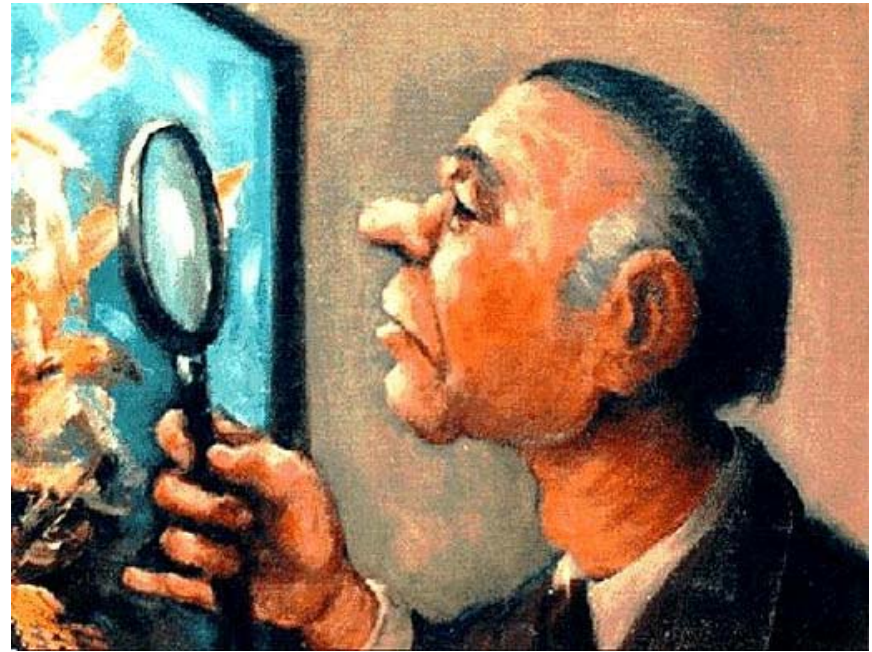
Shaaraim



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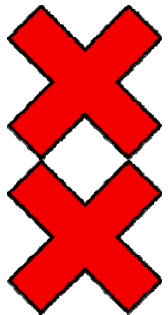
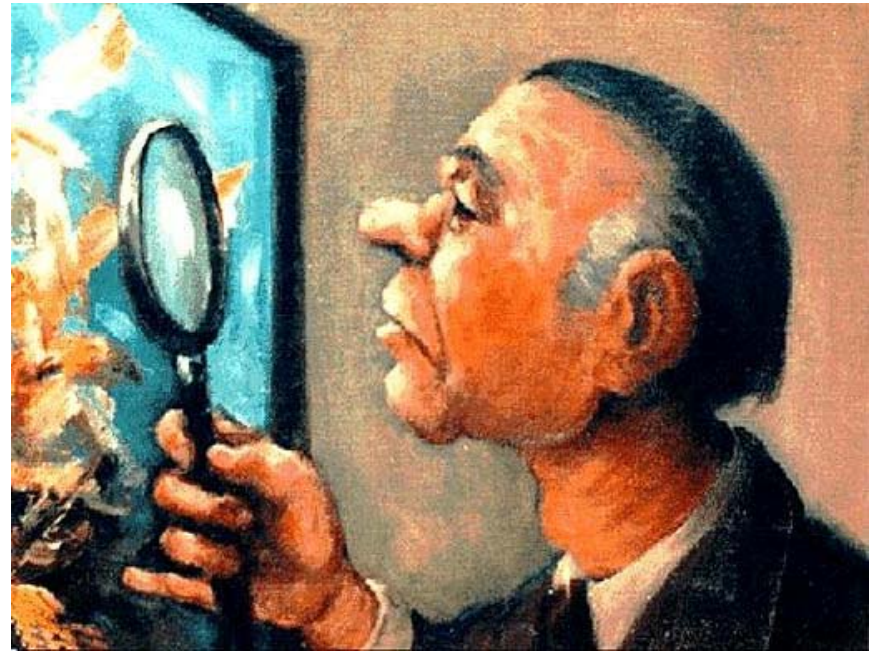
Shaaraim



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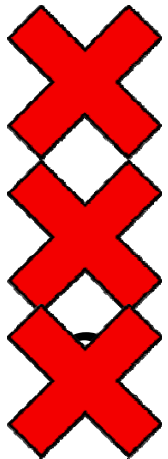
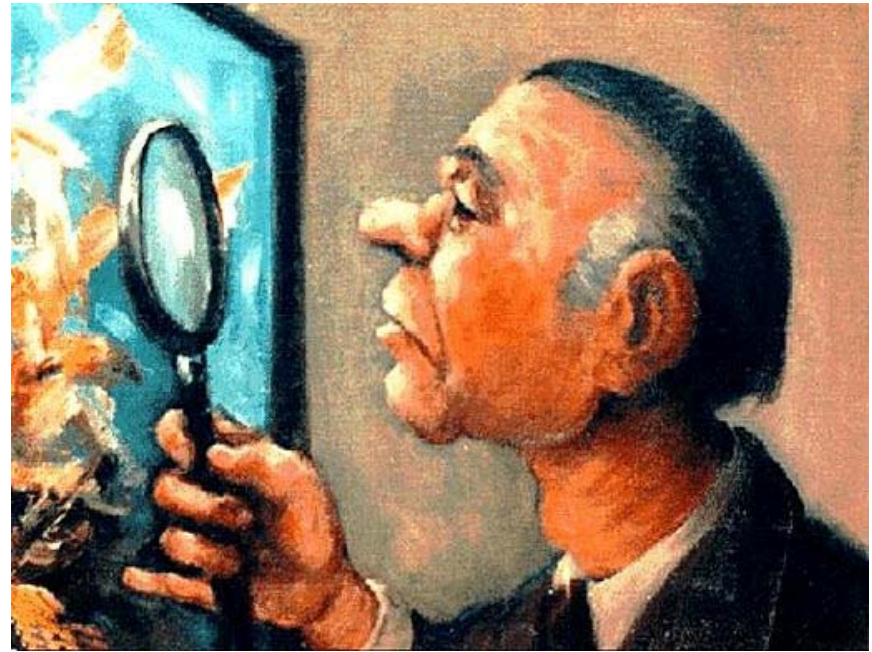


3. Warlords, not kings

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“City of 2 Gates”

Shaaraim

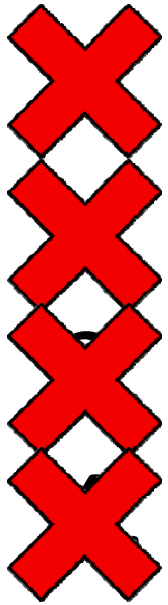


Warlords, not kings

4. No written records

“City of 2 Gates”

Shaaraim



Warlords, not kings

No written records



*“Lift up your heads, O Gates! That
the king (מֶלֶךְ) of glory may come in.”
(Ps. 24:7)*



Serve the King of
Kings!

*“Lift up your heads, O Gates! That
the king (מֶלֶךְ) of glory may come in.”
(Ps. 24:7)*



"Shaaraim."
(1 Sam. 17:52)



Give God your
“lesser known”
places!

“Shaaraim.”
(1 Sam. 17:52)



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the king (מֶלֶךְ) of glory may come in.”
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