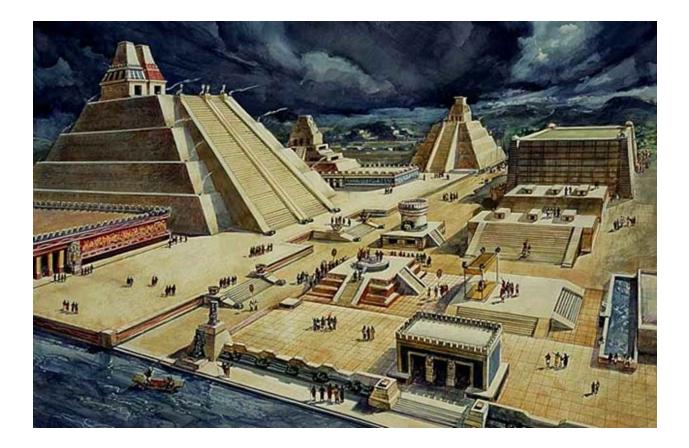# Gods, Ghosts, and Graves: Archaeology of Religions

Bruno Soltic, PhD ABD in Archaeology
Professor of Religion
Indian River State College

Dates

June 17th — August 5th, 2020

Location and Time

Meeting Room:

Time: Wednesday @ 1pm EST

Overview

Archaeology as a science was established less than 200 years ago. Being a young science, it is constantly developing and expanding into other fields. With two centuries worth of collected data and our ability to more accurately interpret the findings, archaeology has, among other disciplines, branched out and used it's discovered knowledge to explore religion by studying human material culture in a cultic context. The largest material culture and often best preserved were the temples.

This group will explain how archaeology works, examine different temples, civilizations and religions to discover why people invented religion, explore the theories surrounding world religion's structural remains and how they were utilized for religious practices.

Structure

Each week we will discuss the reading provided here in the Live Syllabus. The group is entirely discussion based, meaning that the reading material is crucial. Discussions are connected with the given topic, but are open to discuss related topics as well.

Schedule

1st Meeting (June 17th, 2020): Introduction

What is Archaeology?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvc1xIyntC0

Reading - Three Stones make a wall = Book extract
https://groups.google.com/a/saveancientstudies.org/forum/#!topic/sasa-gods-ghosts-and-graves-archaeology-of-religions/bBF1rkIL7Hk

Why did Religion develop?

https://www.ted.com/talks/yuval_noah_harari_what_explains_the_rise_of_humans?language=en

Extra:
Don Verdeen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Kf1WAcs6gs

2nd Meeting (June 24th, 2020): First temple

Gobekli Tepe

https://www.academia.edu/6691265/World_s_First_Temple_GöbekliTepe (or check google groups) - just skim the article - need to understand when it was built and what was the purpose.

Genesis 1-11 and its Mesopotamian Problem - Ronal Hendel (check google groups)

Neolithic Revolution
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja_N5s1I

Link - https://groups.google.com/a/saveancientstudies.org/forum/#!topic/sasa-gods-ghosts-and-graves-archaeology-of-religions/bBF1rkIL7Hk

Story of Adam and Eve - Genesis 2-4 (bible)

Gobekli Tepe Temple

3rd Meeting (July 1st, 2020) - Mesopotamian and Egyptian Temples

Readings:

Ziggurats & Semerian Religion (Sumer and the Sumerians - Harriet Crawford)

Egypt (The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt - Richard Wilkinson)

The readings are attached in google groups.
https://groups.google.com/a/saveancientstudies.org/g/sasa-gods-ghosts-and-graves-archaeology-of-religions/c/0JMilIY63XE

Karnak Temple in Egypt

4th Meeting (July 8th, 2020) - Israelite Temples
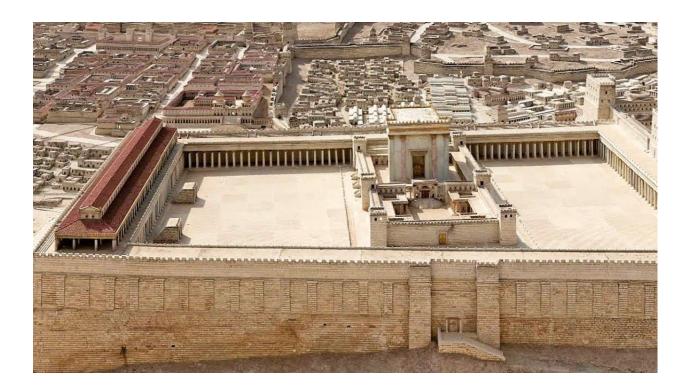
We will talk about the Israelite religion.

Readings:

Moza Temple and Solomon's Temple - David Shapira - Good overview of the Solomonic Jerusalem temple

Herodian Temple in Josephus - David Kaden - Textual overview of Herod's temple (2nd Temple in Jerusalem)

Archaeological Evidence for the divided monarchy - Richard Hess

http://www.asor.org/anetoday/2020/07/house-of-god

Model of Jerusalem Temple in 1 century C.E.

5th Meeting (July 15th, 2020) - Greco Roman Temples

We will be discussing the Greco Roman Temples

Readings:

Assimilation of Hellenisitic Architecture after the Punic Wars

Monumentality and Foreign Influence in Early Greek Temples - Barbara - Barletta

The Periclean Acropolis - Robin Rhodes

Parthenon in Athens

6th Meeting (July 22nd, 2020) - Mesoamerican pyramids

We will be discussing the Mesoamerican Religion.

Readings:

The Religious Traditions of Mesoamerica

FROM TEOTIHUACAN TO TENOCHTITLAN - THEIR GREAT TEMPLES

Chichen Itza - Mexico

7th Meeting (July 29th, 2020) - Asian Religious Buildings

8th Meeting (August 5th, 2020) - Monothiesitic Structures of worship