

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

The eleventh issue of *Al Atar* is dedicated to Jerusalem, and is largely based on the conference "The City of David - the palace of the kings of the House of David and their graves", which took place during Tishrei 5761 (October 2000) at the initiative of *Al Atar*.

Surprising discoveries have emerged from excavations in the city of David in recent years, re-opening old questions and conventional assumptions regarding the site and its history. This issue of *Al Atar* seeks contribute to this discussion and to re-assess conventional ways of understanding the correlation between Scriptural verses and archeological find in the City of David.

Dr. Eilat Mazar's lecture presents her proposal regarding the location of King David's palace. This proposal is based integrating the analysis of Scriptural sources and of archeological findings, as well as comparison with findings from other sites.

Dr. Yoel Elizur discusses the location of the tombs of the Davidic kings, returning to the explanation proposed by R. Weil, who excavated in the City of David in 1912, and was the first Jewish archeologist to undertake excavations in the Land of Israel. Methodologically, this paper continues Dr. Elizur's approach (presented in Volume 7 of *Al Atar*) of noting "fads" in archeological research which ten reject previous assumptions or hypotheses without adequate consideration and critical thinking.

Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun presents new insights from surprising new findings in the region of Shiloah Spring. He proposes a new conjecture regarding question which has long preoccupied City of David researchers - the reason for the winding path followed by the Shiloah Tunnel.

Dr. Israel Rozenon utilizes literary tools analyze the meanings attached the burial of kings, ancestral graves and other burials in the Bible.

In addition to the lectures given at the conference, two further papers have been included. Prof. Joshua Schwartz expounds the meaning of a homily regarding Jerusalem in *Midrash Pesikta Rabbati*. The author proposes that the homily reflects two historical events from the fourth century, which are rarely referred to in rabbinic writings - Gallus' revolt and the brief reign of Julian, during which permission was granted to rebuild the Temple.

Where in Jerusalem did Jews live and what were their occupations during the Crusader period? Dr. Michael Erlich addresses these questions, based on comparison with other cities in the Land of Israel, where Jews resided during that period.

An additional paper is based on a lecture from the conference on the City of David. Dr. Doron Bar examines the status of "David's Tomb" at Mount Zion during the period of Jordanian rule over the Old City

Prof. Joshua Schwartz' review of "The Complete Guide to the Temple Mount Excavations", by Dr. Eilat Mazar, completes this issue.

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