

Archaeological Discovery Supports Biblical Account of Shiloh's Destruction

January 17, 2013

By: [Edward Lane](#)



Clay pitcher.....more than 1,000 years old, a pitcher found at this site in Israel surrounded by ashes suggests Shiloh burned to ground by Philistines.

Credits: Tel-Shiloh Archaeological Dig Site

The discovery of a broken **clay pitcher** in a bed of ashes near [Shiloh](#), the ancient capital of Israel, suggests the city was burned to the ground, according to an article in yesterday's **Huffington Post**.

The [Ark of the Covenant](#), which was the centerpiece of a [Steven Spielberg](#) Indiana Jones movie, was kept in Shiloh by the Israelites around the 12th century B.C. until it was captured by the Philistines. **Spielberg's** movie was named **Raiders of the Lost Ark** and included a plot in which the U.S. government asked Indiana Jones to find the Ark before the Nazis did. Although **Spielberg's** film was fictional, the Ark did actually temporarily fall into the hands of the Philistines in ancient days.

Two Old Testament books **Jeremiah** and **I Samuel** describe a devastating defeat of the Israelites by the Philistines near Shiloh.

Huffington Post cited the [Tazpit News Agency](#) reports as its basis for the story which states the Book Samuel writes of the battle between the Israelites and the Philistines, but has never explained exactly how the city was destroyed.

The dating of the pitcher, 1050 B.C.E. combined with the ashes found around it suggests the city was destroyed by fire following the fierce battle.

Previous archaeological finds at the Tel Shiloh dig site indicated that after the major loss to the Philistines, the area continued to be inhabited until 722 B.C.E. Assyria defeated the Kingdom of Israel in that year.

Scholars believe Shiloh was the pre-Jerusalem capital and spiritual center of Israel.

Shiloh is reported to have been the religious center for Israel for approximately 370 years.

The Philistines achieved their battlefield victory at Eben Haezel, before moving on to destroy Shiloh, according to Tazpit News Agency.

Shiloh played a major role in the [Bible](#). It was the location where...

To read this article in its entirety, go to: <http://www.examiner.com/article/archaeological-discovery-supports-biblical-account-of-shiloh-s-destruction>