

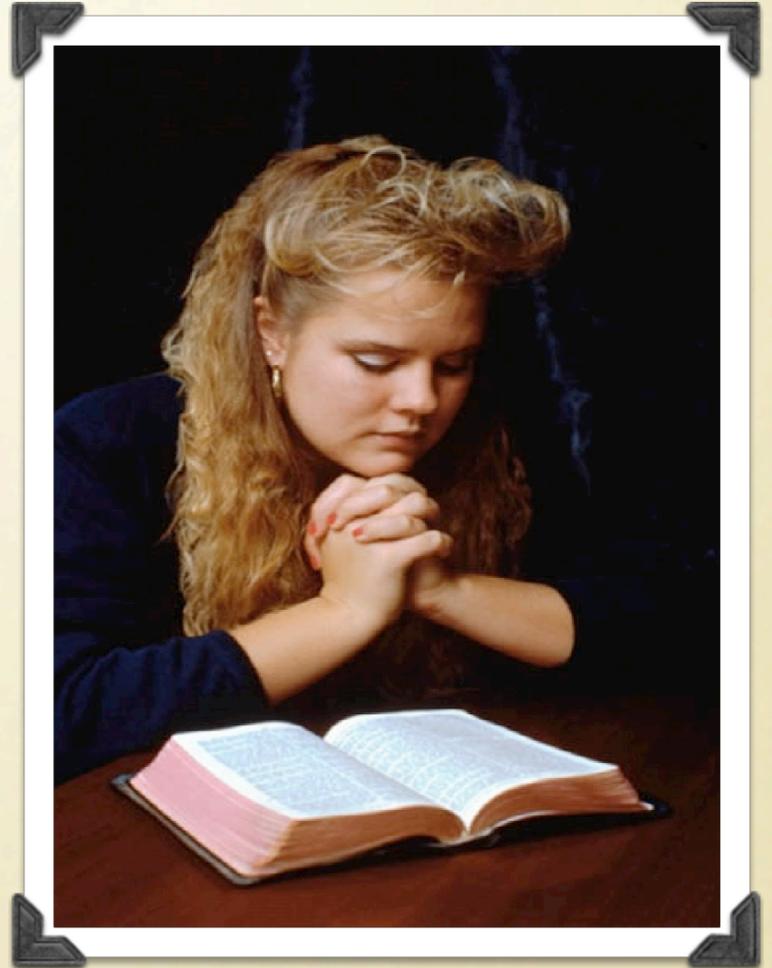
ARCHAEOLOGY  
and the BIBLE



*Part I: Archaeology  
and the Bible Student*

# Archaeology and the Bible Student

- What is *archaeology* [*archaeo* (ancient/old) plus *logy* (word/study)]?
  - A *science* unconcerned with spiritual matters
  - A *method* applied to historical investigation
  - A *discipline* limited in its scope



*A Science*

*“[Archaeology is] the scientific study of the material remains which have been left behind by men during past ages.”*

*(Charles F. Pfeiffer, *Wycliffe Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology*, p. 59)*

*“So then faith cometh by hearing,  
and hearing by the word of God.”*

**(Romans 10:17)**

*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”*

**(I Peter 3:15)**

*“But grow in grace, and in the  
knowledge of our Lord and  
Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be  
glory both now and for ever.  
Amen.”*

**(II Peter 3:18)**

*“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”*

*(I Peter 2:2)*

*“But speaking the truth in love,  
may grow up into him in all  
things, which is the head, even  
Christ:”*

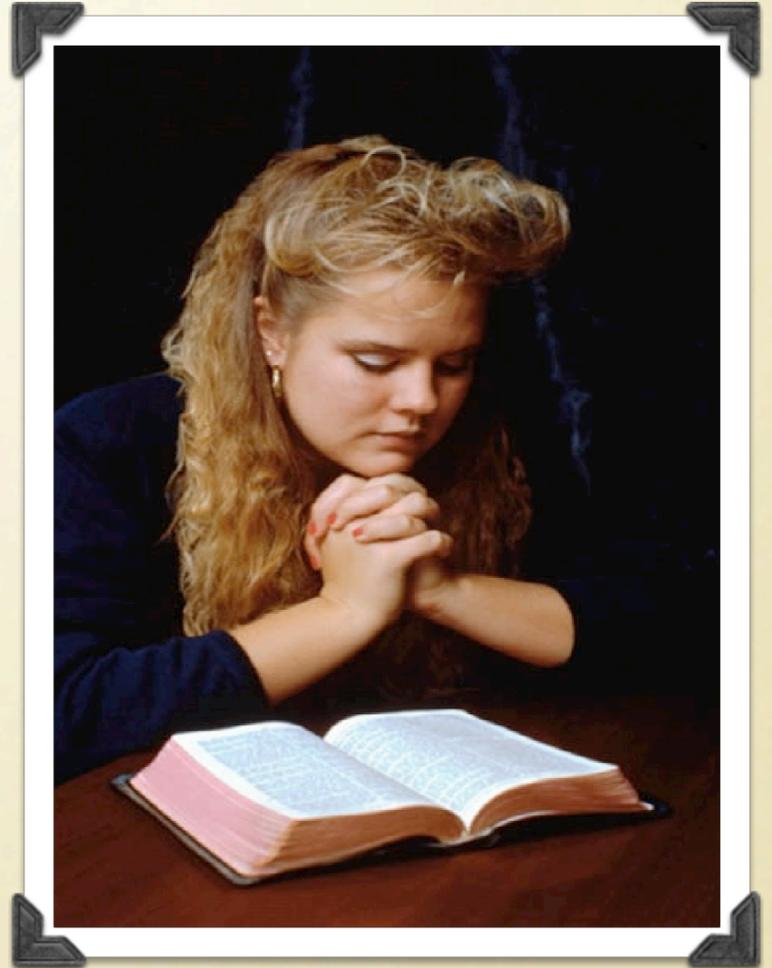
*(Ephesians 4:15)*

*“And beside this, giving all diligence,  
add to your faith virtue; and to virtue  
knowledge; And to knowledge  
temperance; and to temperance patience;  
and to patience godliness; And to  
godliness brotherly kindness; and to  
brotherly kindness charity.”*

**(II Peter 1:5-7)**

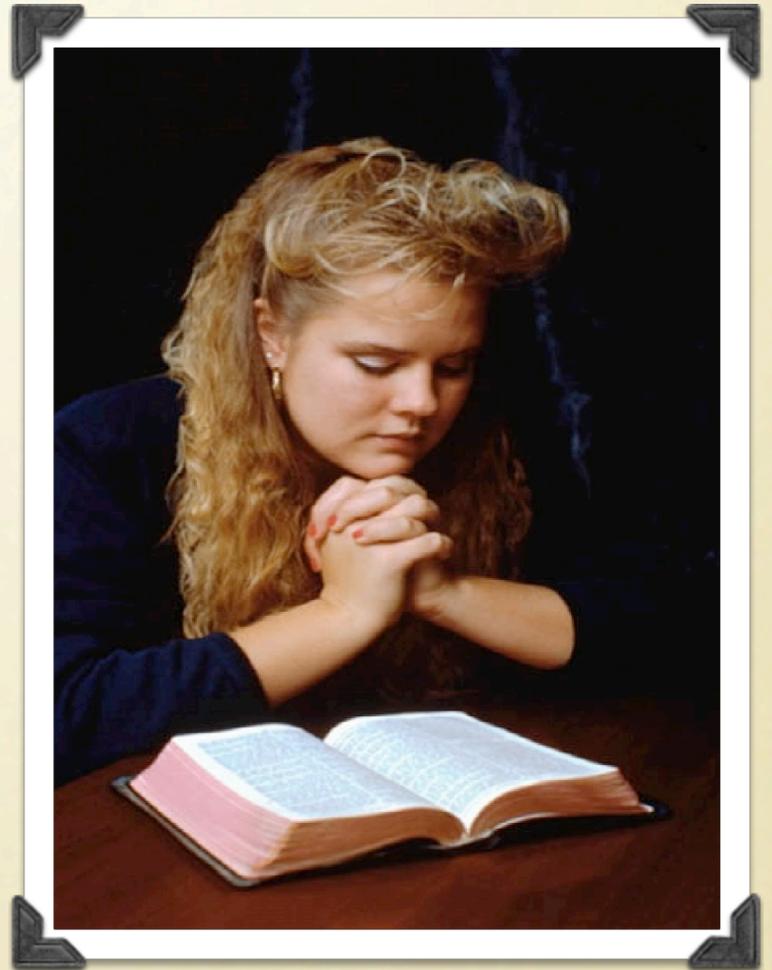
# Illumination of the Bible

Archaeology can aid the Bible student by contributing to his understanding of the locations, cultures, and contexts [historically] of Bible places, people, and events



# Confirmation of the Bible

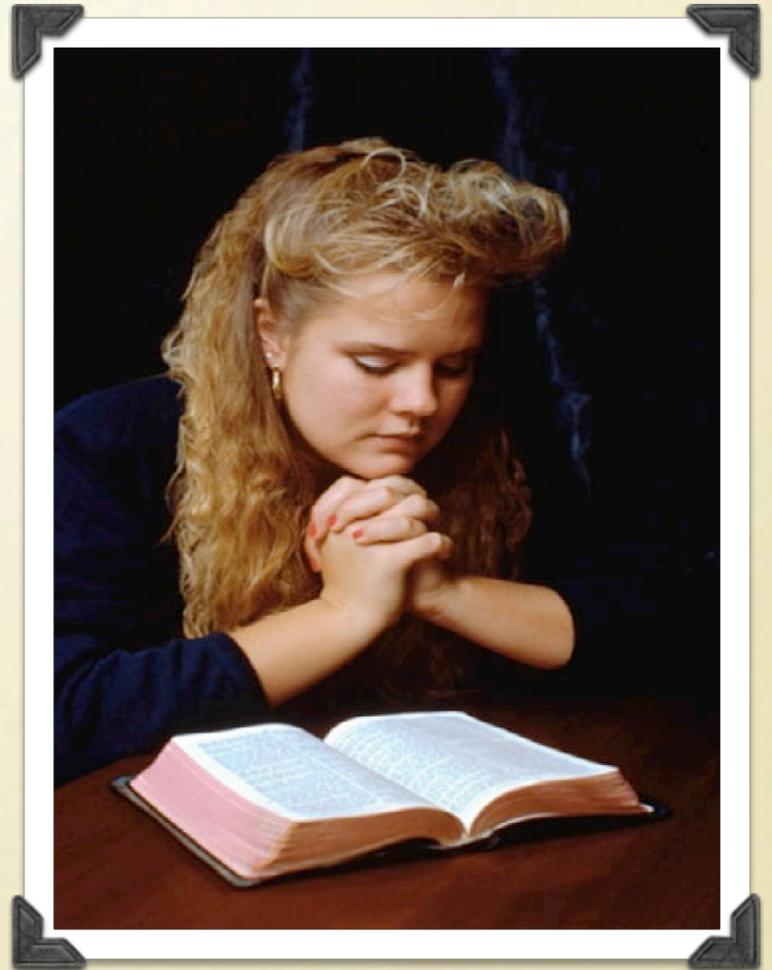
Archaeology can aid the Bible student by showing that the Bible is accurate in its descriptions of past peoples, places, titles, names and so forth



# *A Method*

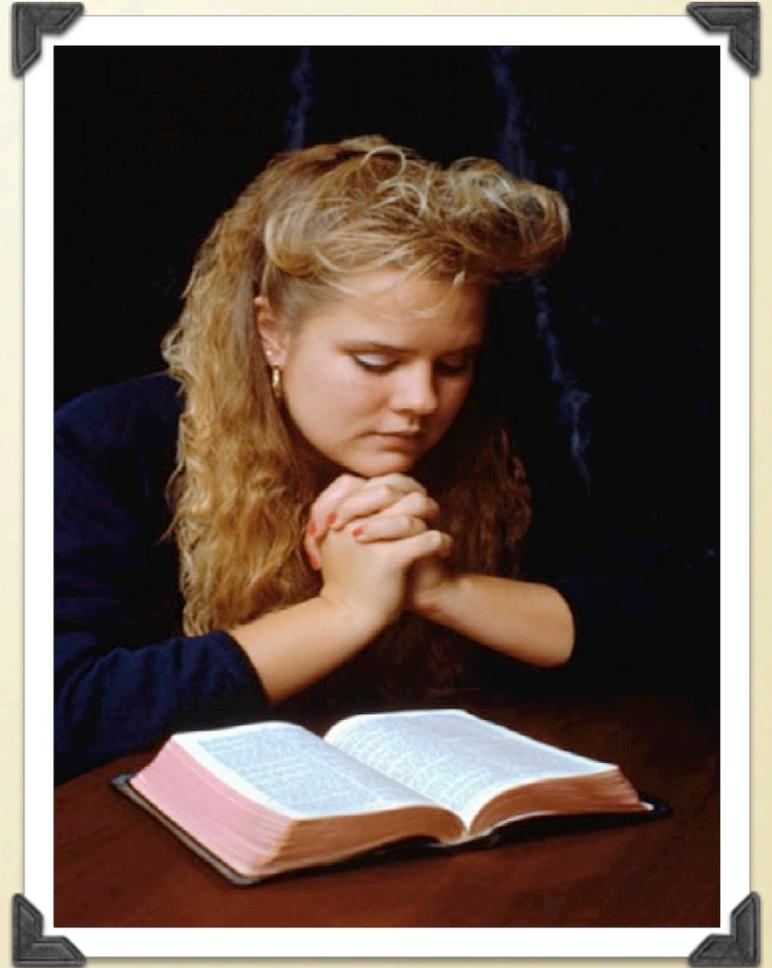
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Investigation
- Permission
- Excavation
- Documentation
- Interpretation
- Synchronism
- Publication



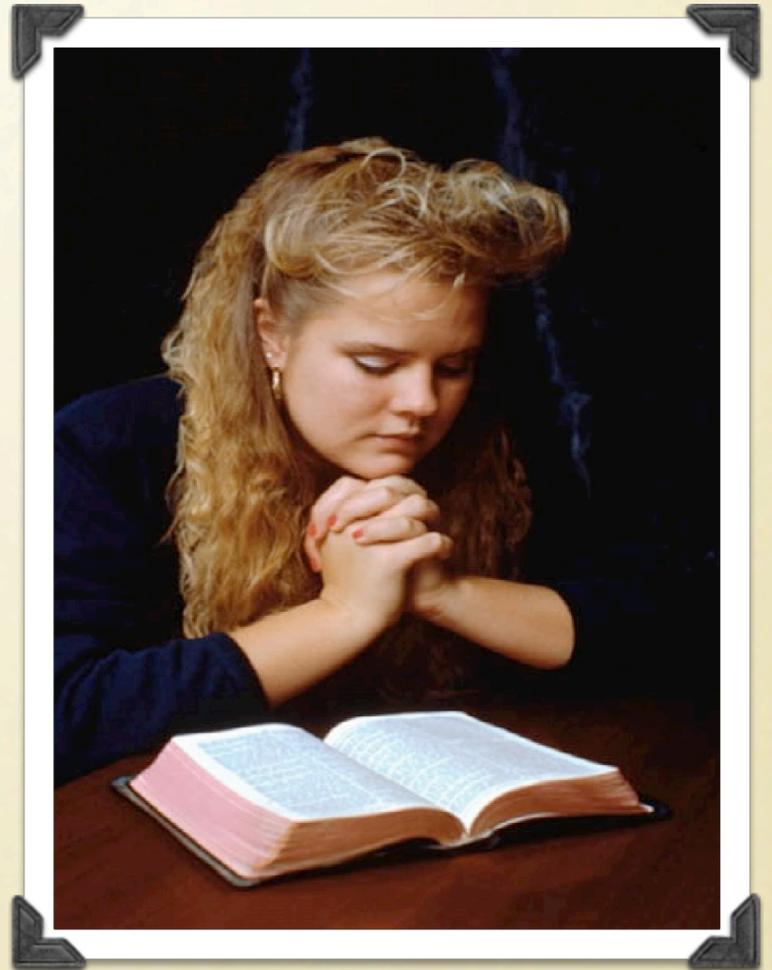
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Investigation: Deciding on a location
  - The likelihood of *importance*
  - *Fame* of site (ancient or modern)
  - *New* identification or find
  - *Accessibility* of site
  - Humor others



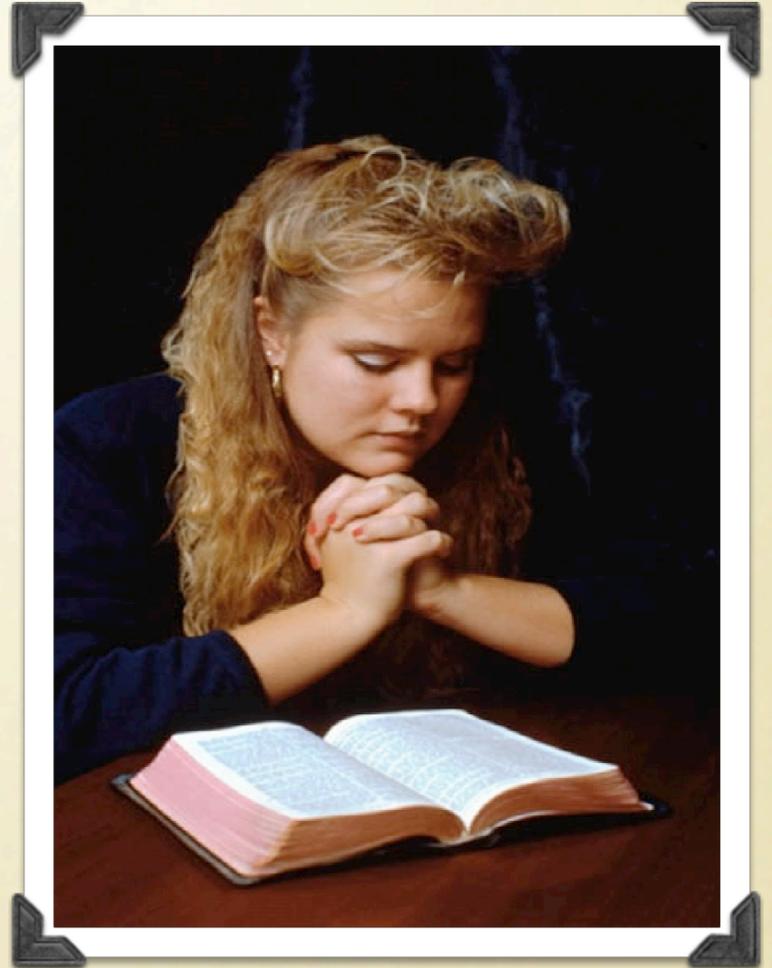
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Investigation
- Permission
- Excavation
- Documentation
- Interpretation
- Synchronism
- Publication



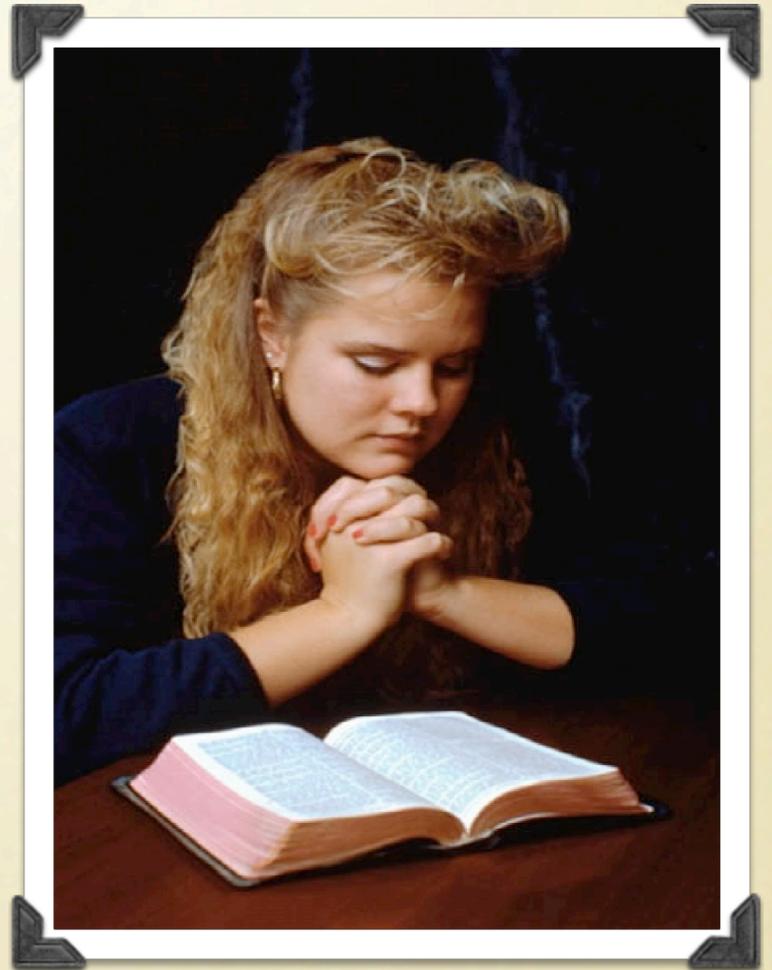
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Excavation: Digging up the remains
  - Mapping (including surveying and subsurface radar)
  - Balk (or Baulk) method
  - Trench method
  - Layer method
  - Occasionally, mass excavation; underwater excavation; etc.



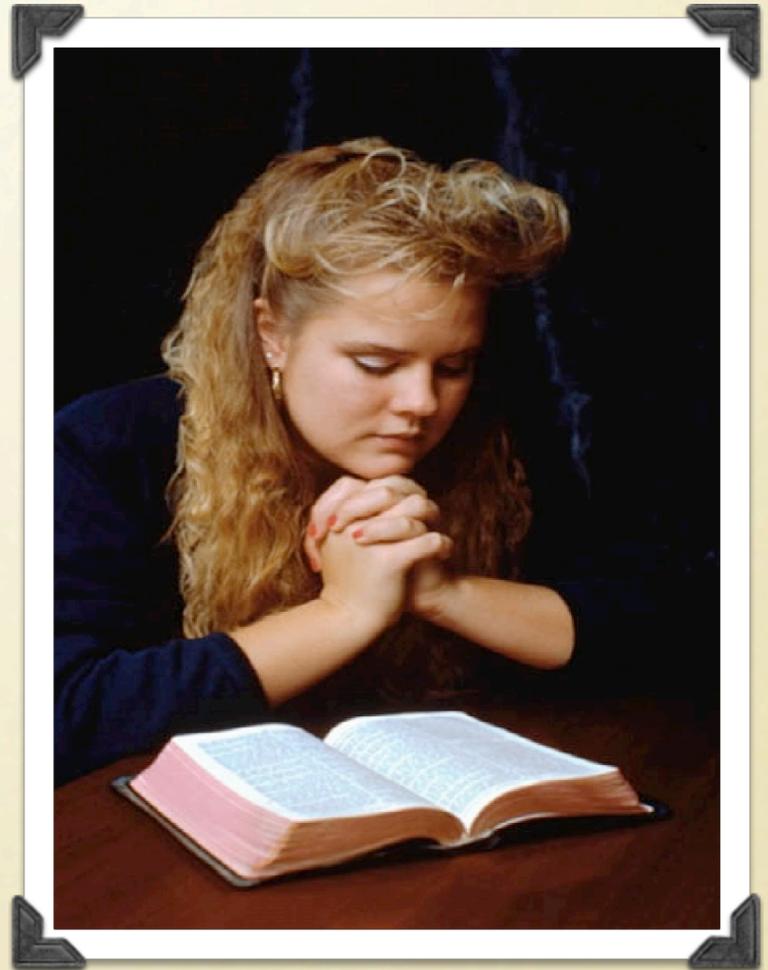
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Investigation
- Permission
- Excavation
- Documentation
- Interpretation
- Synchronism
- Publication



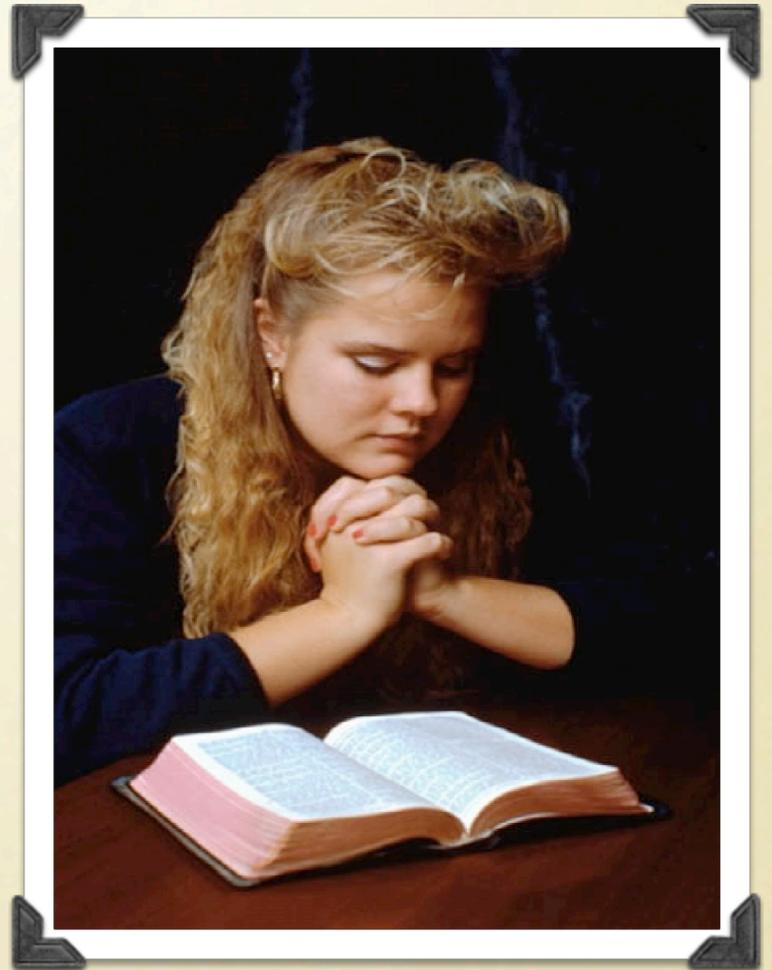
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Interpretation: Understanding context historically (including *relative dating* versus *absolute dating*)
  - Ceramic typology
  - Numismatics
  - Radiocarbon dating
  - Archaeomagnetism
  - Thermoluminescence
  - Dendrochronology
  - Palynology, et al



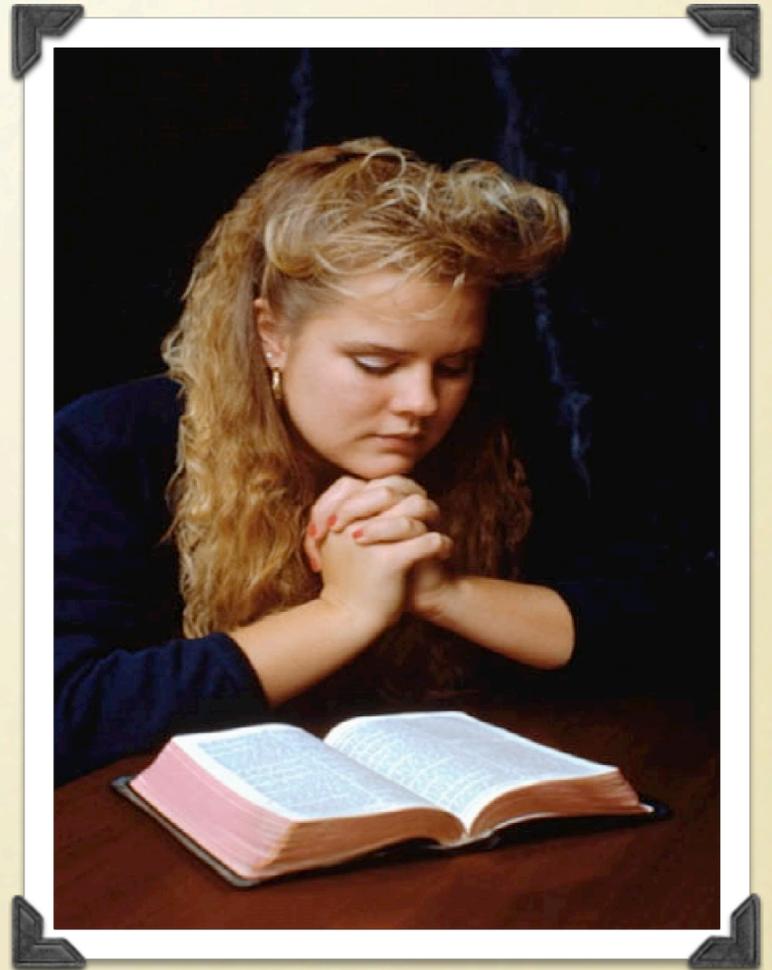
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Investigation
- Permission
- Excavation
- Documentation
- Interpretation
- Synchronism
- Publication



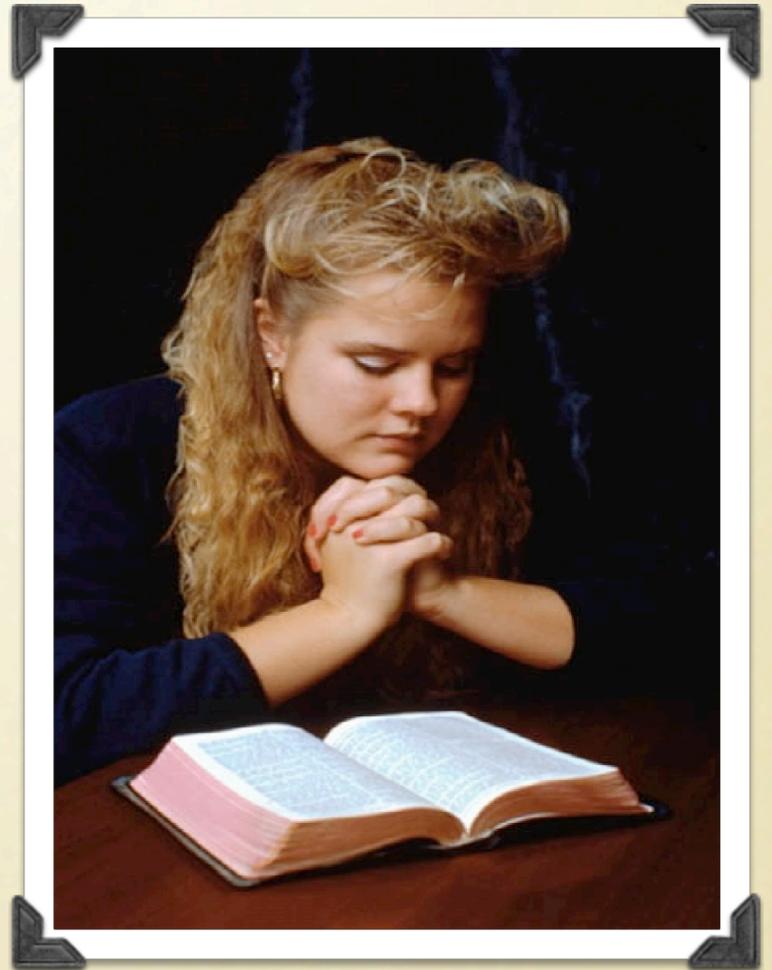
# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

- Synchronism: Utilizing experts to provide historical context
  - Epigraphers
  - Ceramics experts
  - Physical anthropologists
  - Cultural anthropologists
  - Numismatists
  - Paleoethnobotanists



# Investigation Concerned with Methodology

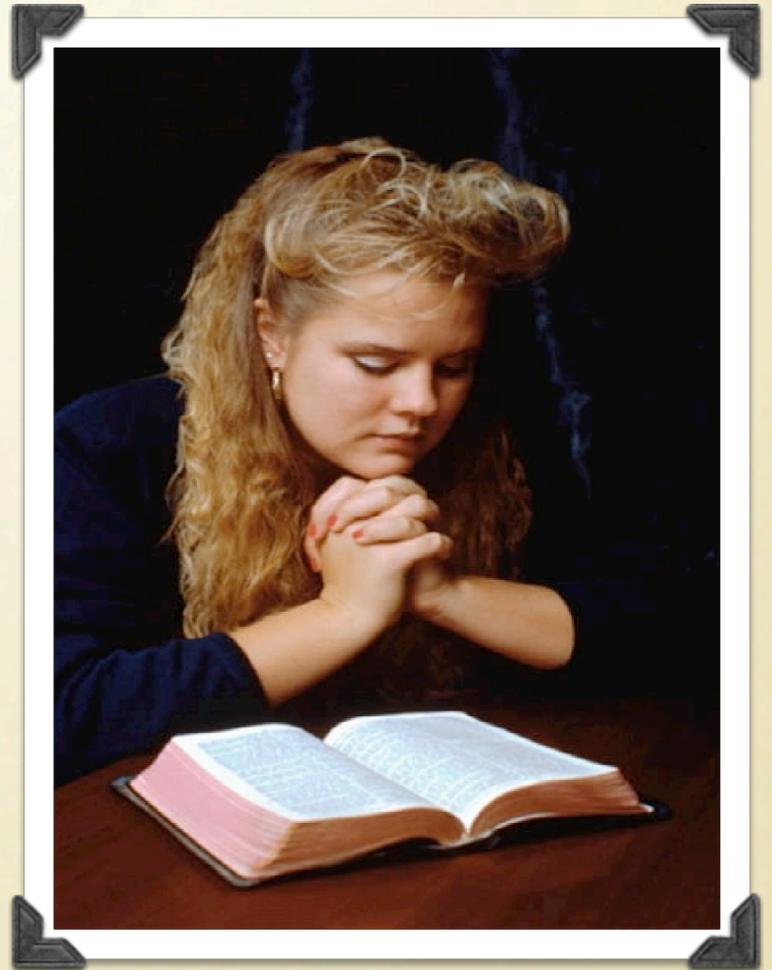
- Investigation
- Permission
- Excavation
- Documentation
- Interpretation
- Synchronism
- Publication



*A Discipline*

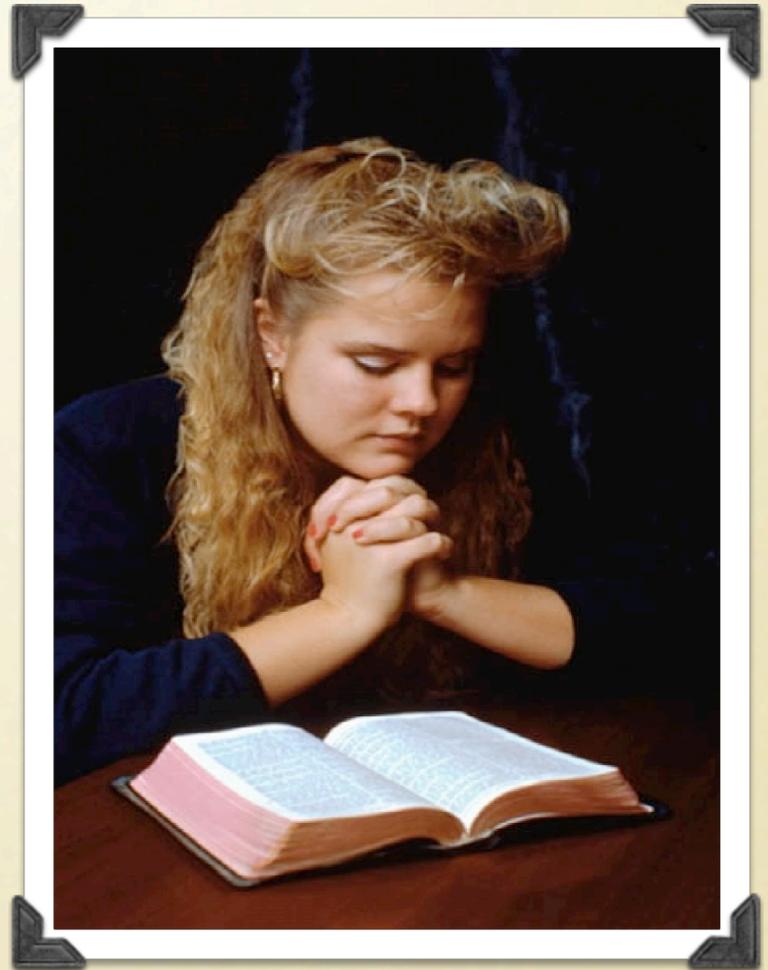
# Of Necessity, Limited in Scope

- There are only a limited number of ...
  - ... archaeologists
  - ... benefactors
  - ... locations
  - ... workers
  - ... specialists



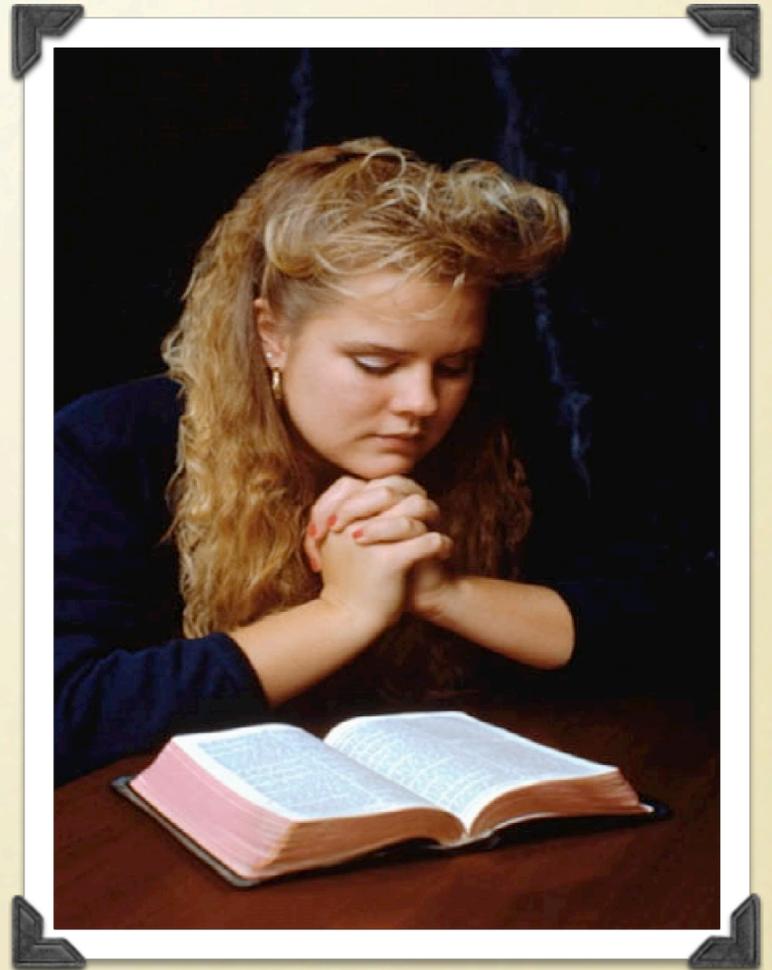
# Of Necessity, Limited in Scope

- Only a fraction of ...
  - ... that which has been made or written survives
  - ... sites have been surveyed
  - ... surveyed sites have been excavated
  - ... excavated sites have been examined
  - ... examined material has been published



# Of Necessity, Limited in Scope

- What if the study were not so limited?
  - More Biblical places, peoples, and personalities would surface
  - More Biblical events and accounts would be supported
  - There would still be critics and failing disciples!



*“And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.”*

*(Mark 8:11,12)*

*“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:”*

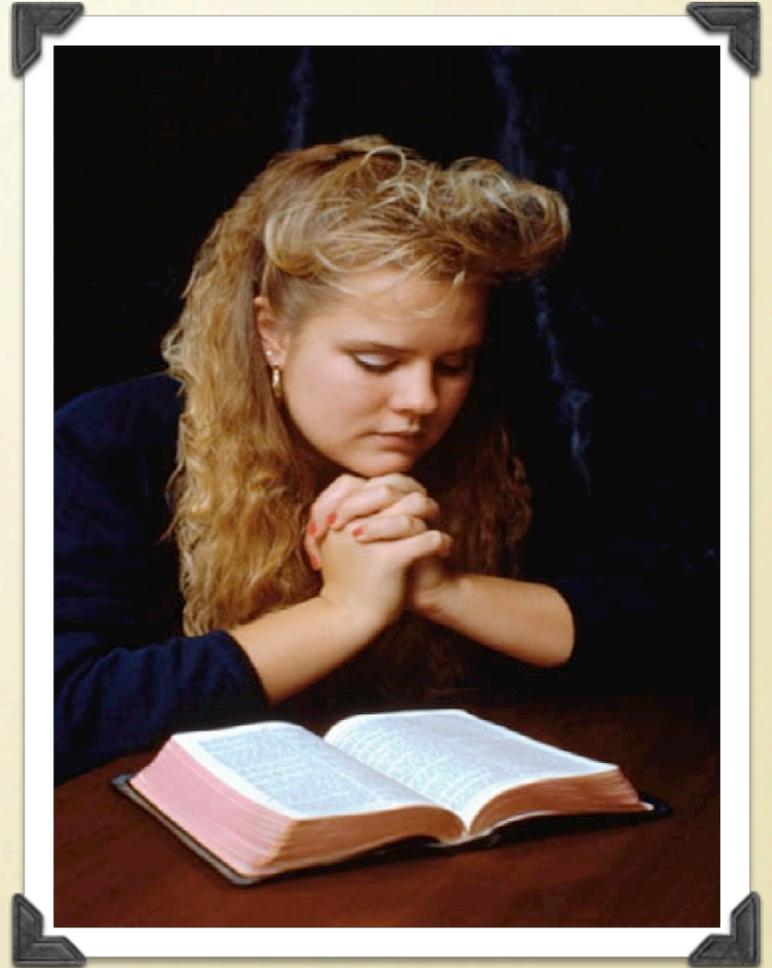
*(Matthew 12:39)*

*“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”*

*(John 6:60-66)*

# Of Necessity, Limited in Scope

Absence of  
Evidence  
*Is Not*  
Evidence of  
Absence!



*The End*