



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Correcting misconceptions: Samaria-Sebaste and its water supply

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Abstract

British archaeologist John Crowfoot directed the excavation of the important site of Samaria-Sebaste in the 1930's, during the period of the British Mandate for Palestine. Crowfoot proclaimed that the site never had a local water supply, and this statement has been published repeatedly in archaeological journals.

However, upon reviewing the archaeological data, excavation diaries, maps, photographs, Palestinian Authority documentation, and testimonies from local villagers it is evident that Samaria-Sebaste had an on-site water supply throughout all periods of its occupation. This case exemplifies the disconnect between foreign archaeological expeditions and the cultural context of the sites they investigate, both past and present.

This research corrects Crowfoot's assertion and identifies the location of the village spring. In addition, a forgotten, enigmatic, Iron Age, rock-cut, stepped, water tunnel discovered in 1910, west of the spring, may have connected to it and so points to the existence of a more complex water system.

Keywords

Water, Archaeology , Mandate, Samaria-Sebaste

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