

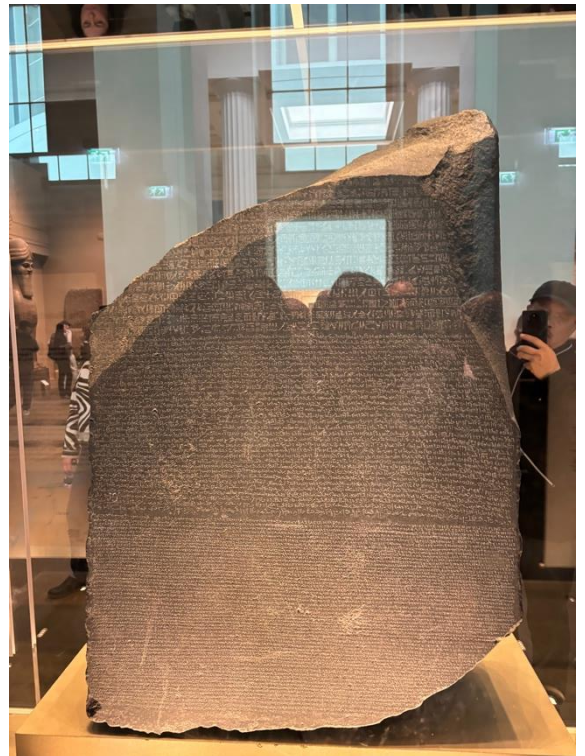
RELEASE DATE: **28th October 2024**

Sophie Phenix - A Trip to the British Museum

On Wednesday 23rd October, I went on a trip to the British Museum with the School for Discipleship. It was an extremely long day with it taking over 4 hours on the coach there and back! However, it was a greatly beneficial time of learning about the Biblical times, and I loved it!

We were split into two groups. One group went with Chris Sinkinson to look at artefacts from the Old Testament time and the other group went with Chris Jack to look at artefacts from the New Testament time. We then swapped after lunch.

I started off looking at the New Testament with Chris Jack. The first thing we saw was the Rosetta stone and wow was it incredible! You had to push through a crowd to see it which shows just how popular it is! For those of you who don't know what this masterpiece is, it contains an inscription carved out on the stone three times, in different languages. On the top it is written in hieroglyphics, in the middle it is written in demotic (an ancient Egyptian script) and on the bottom it is written in Greek. This was revolutionary as it was the first time researchers were able to translate hieroglyphics! They figured out that all three texts said the same thing and so were able to translate hieroglyphics, figuring out what each symbol meant. This was definitely a highlight of the trip as it was so incredibly interesting, and the writings were so intricate!



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We then moved into ancient Egypt. We learnt that this Pharaoh (Amenhotep III) could have been Pharaoh during the time of the Exodus (it isn't proven though that it was him). We also saw sarcophagi which were extremely interesting and absolutely covered in Hieroglyphics.

We then moved into ancient Greece. Here we looked at artefacts from the time of Alexander the Great and the prominent philosophers of that time.

We saw the Nereid Monument which is a reconstructed statue that is influenced by the ionic temples of the Acropolis of Athens.



We missed out on a lot of the artefacts from the roman time due to exhibits being closed. This was sad, but we still managed to see a lot of Greco-Roman artefacts!

I found that the Old Testament section was the most exciting! Unfortunately, the section on Canaan was closed which I was gutted about but that means I'll have to go back again sometime!

We started off in Ancient Egypt again and saw the Abydos King List. This is a list of kings (Pharaohs) although it leaves many off! (mainly female pharaohs). Amenhotep's name is on this list written in hieroglyphics which is so cool!

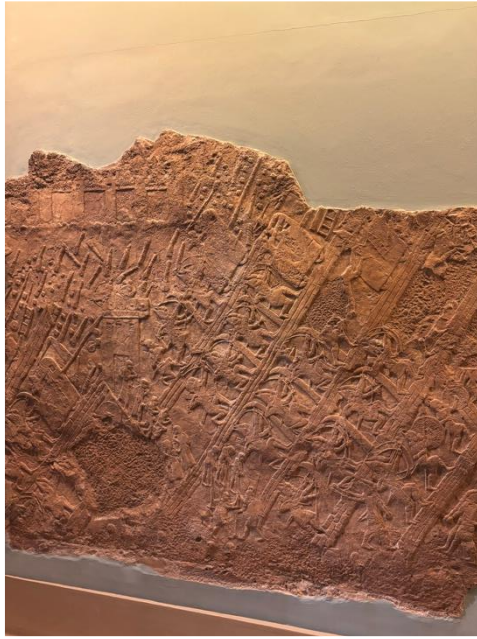
We then saw the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III. It describes a military campaign by an Assyrian King and includes references to Hazael of Damascus and to the tribute paid by King Jehu of Israel. It also depicts Israelites in their typical dress.



This is a depiction of a priest from Nineveh dressed in a fish robe, which is said to be a representation of a fish god called Dagon. The journey of Jonah to Nineveh via a fish has intriguing connections to the Ninevite worship of a fish god which I found extremely interesting!



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We then moved to look at the Assyrians where we saw the wall reliefs. These were depictions of lion hunts and most importantly, the depiction of the siege of Lachish. This is the fall of a Judean town as the time of Hezekiah. The siege ramp is still there today! We also saw the type of smooth stone and sling that David would have used to defeat Goliath!

We then looked at artefacts from the land of Ur, the time of Abraham. We saw a popular board game, a lyre and lots of Babylonian culture and literature! There were many cuneiform documents which included biblical events, people and places. We saw the creation epic (Atrahasis) and the Epic of Gilgamesh which refer to the great flood and building of the ark. There was also a display devoted to biblical references!



We also saw the Cyrus cylinder from the Persian Period. This is a clay cylinder with a Babylonian account of the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus in 539 BC on it.



We then looked at more Egyptian artefacts including mummies! This was creepy but so interesting! I love learning about Ancient Egypt and to see all these artefacts was just incredible.



We finished by seeing the first mosaic of Jesus. This was amazing and was actually found in Dorset!

I had such an amazing time and loved seeing real objects from times that are talked about in the Bible! I would recommend that everyone should go on a trip to the



British Museum!

I hope you enjoy this picture of Chris Sinkinson with his book 'Background to the Bible' which was on sale in the museum!

Sophie Phenix
28th October 2024