

Biblical King's seal discovered in dump site

By [Will Heilpern](#), for CNN

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(CNN) A dump site is the last place you would expect to find an 8th century B.C. seal for a papyrus document signed by one of the kings of Judah. Perhaps that's why it has taken 2,700 years for the piece of clay inscribed with King Hezekiah's seal to be discovered in Jerusalem. It is believed to be the first-ever seal -- also referred to as a "bulla" -- from an Israeli or Judean King to be discovered by archaeologists.



The oval bulla -- which is 0.5 inches wide -- is estimated to be 2,700 years old.



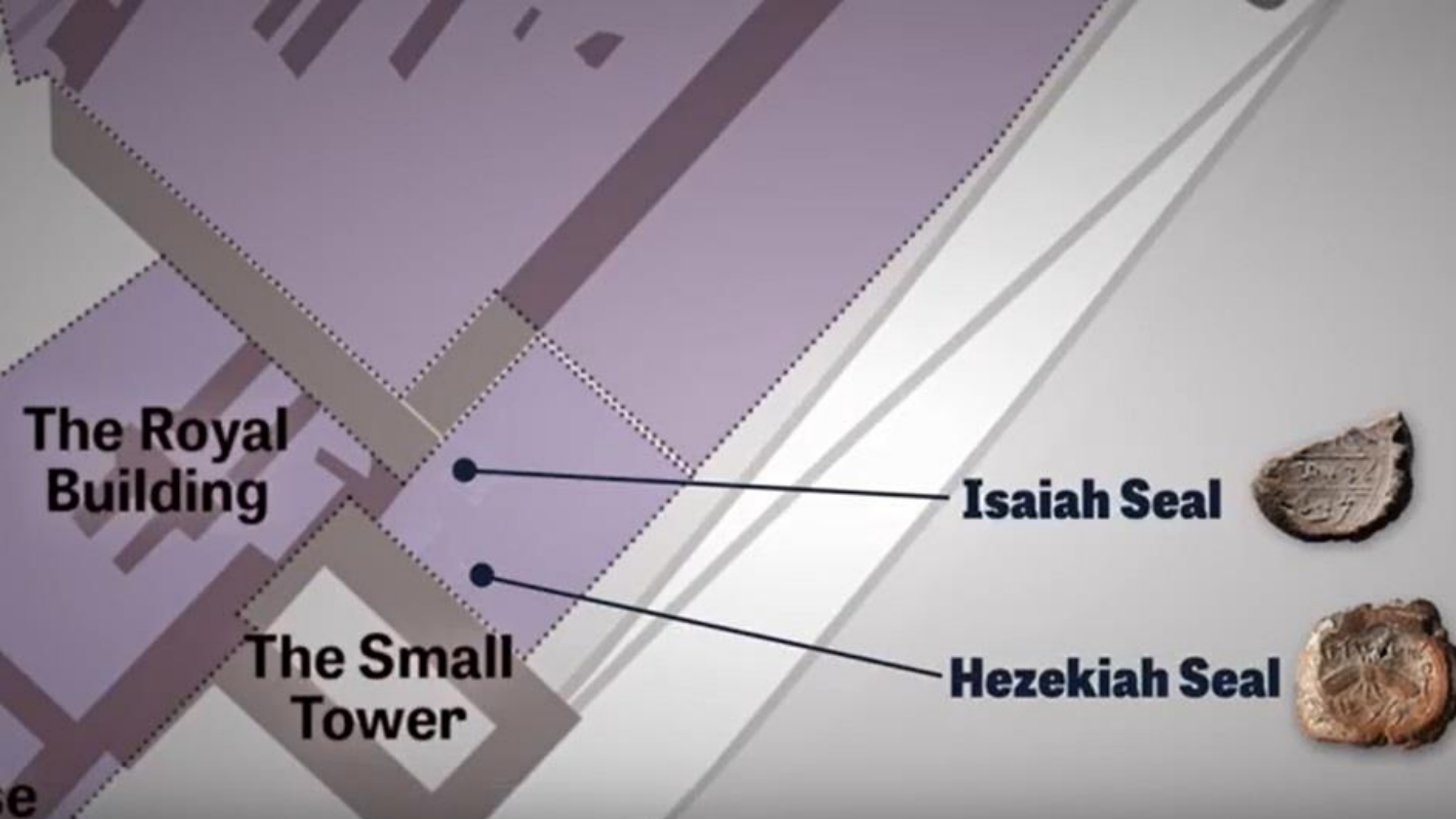


HEZEKIAH SEAL



ISAIAH SEAL





**The Royal
Building**

**The Small
Tower**

Isaiah Seal

Hezekiah Seal





1. CONTRADICTION: Solomon

Now Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father, David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places (1 K. 3:3).

His heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. . . Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done (1 K. 11:4, 6).

2. UNLIKE DAVID: Abijam (3) and Ahaz (12).

Abijam: He walked in all the sins of his father, which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David (I K. 15:3).

Ahaz: He did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done (II K. 16:2).

3. DID RIGHT, BUT UNLIKE DAVID, and high places not removed: Amaziah (9).

He did right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father; he did according to all that Joash his father had done. Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places (II K. 14:3-4).

4. DID RIGHT, AND LIKE DAVID, but high places not removed: Asa (4).

Asa did what was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father (I K. 15:11).

But the high places were not taken away; nevertheless the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the LORD all his days (I K. 15:14).

5. DID RIGHT, LIKE DAVID, and high places removed:
Hezekiah (13) and Josiah (16).

Hezekiah: He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. He removed the high places. . . (II K. 18:3-4).

Josiah: He did right in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left. . . The high places which were before Jerusalem. . . the king defiled (II K. 22:2; 23:13).

1. CONTRADICTION: Solomon

30 And the first of all the things, and every oblation of your oblations, shall be of dough, that he may cause the priest to eat in thine house.

31 The priests shall not eat of that is dead of itself, or torn, or fowl or beast.

CHAPTER 45

Moreover, when ye shall divide the land for inheritance, ye shall give an oblation unto the Lord, ye shall take of the land: the length shall be five and twenty thousand reeds, the breadth shall be ten thousand reeds, and it shall be holy in all the borders thereof. 2 Of this there shall be

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1. DISTINGUISH AND GIVE CREDIT AS GOD DOES.

30 And the first of all the things, and every oblation of your oblations, shall be the dough, that he may cause the bread in thine house.

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CHAPTER 45

Moreover, when ye shall divide the land for inheritance, ye shall oblation unto the Lord, an holy part of the land: the length shall be five and twenty thousand reeds, and the breadth shall be ten thousand reeds, holy in all the borders thereof. 2 Of this there shall be

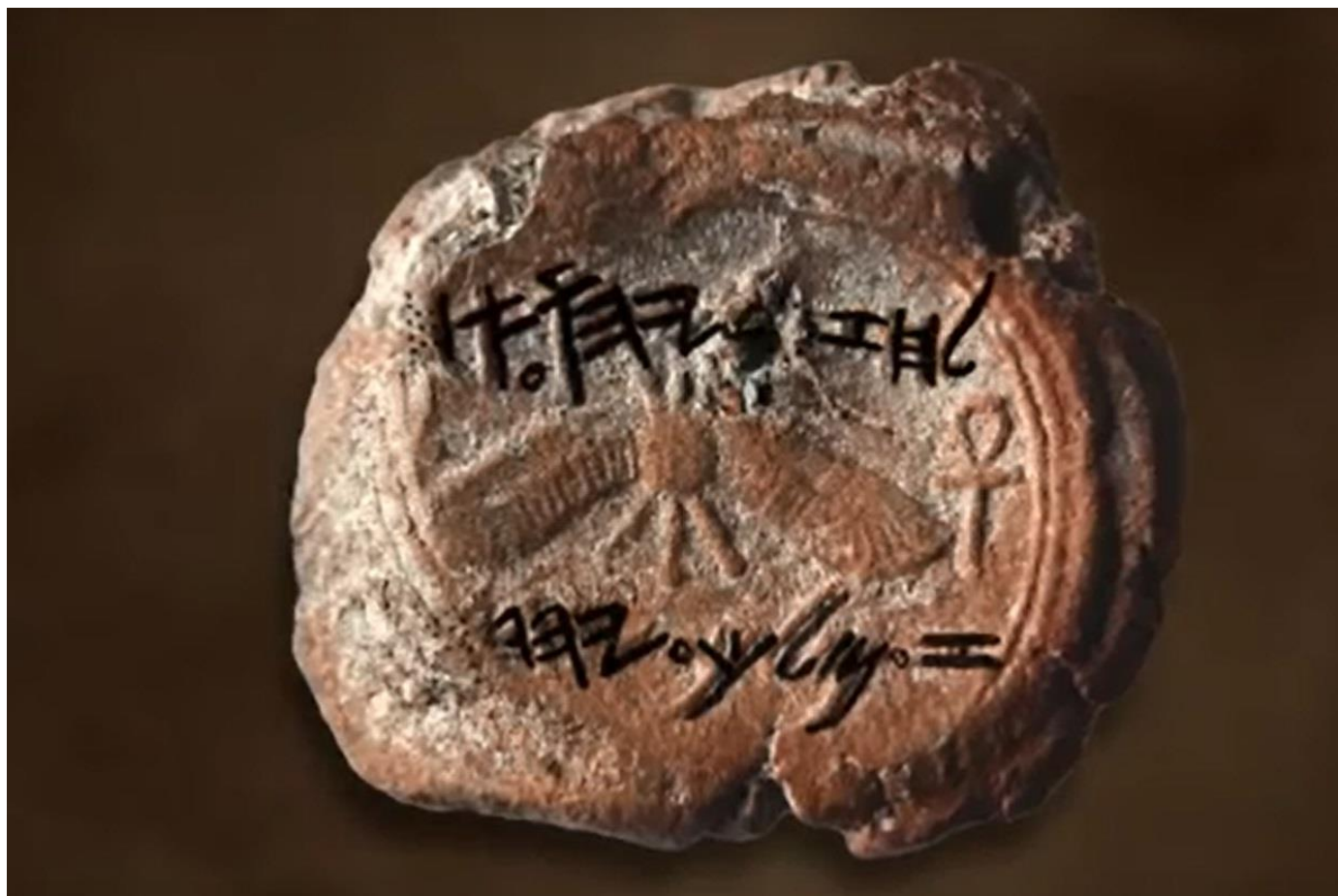
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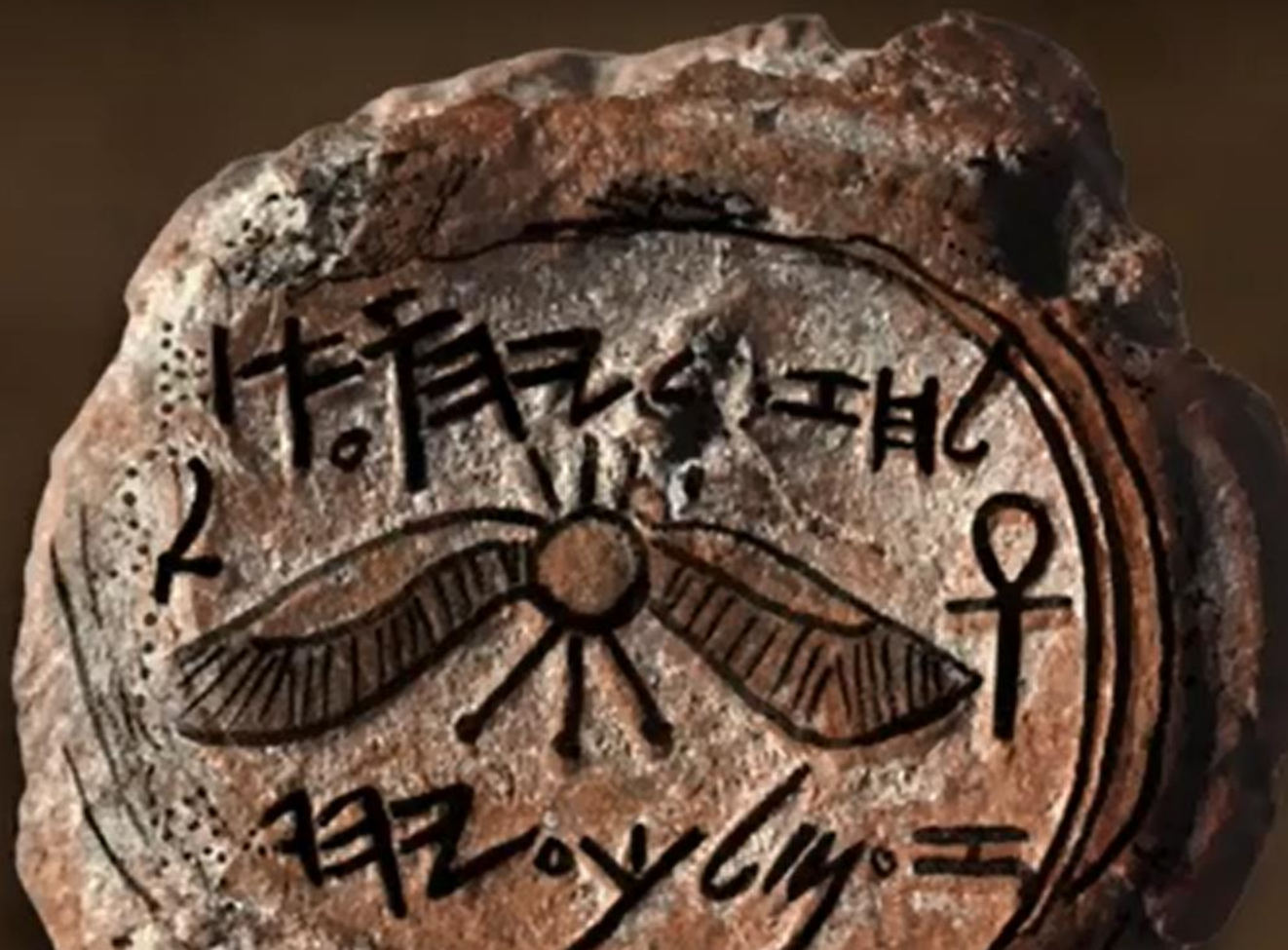
4. BE OF GOOD COURAGE.

Let us not be frightened with apprehension of the continual decay of virtue, as if, when times and men are bad, they must needs, of course, grow worse and worse. That does not follow. For, after many bad kings, God raised up one that was like David himself (Matthew Henry).



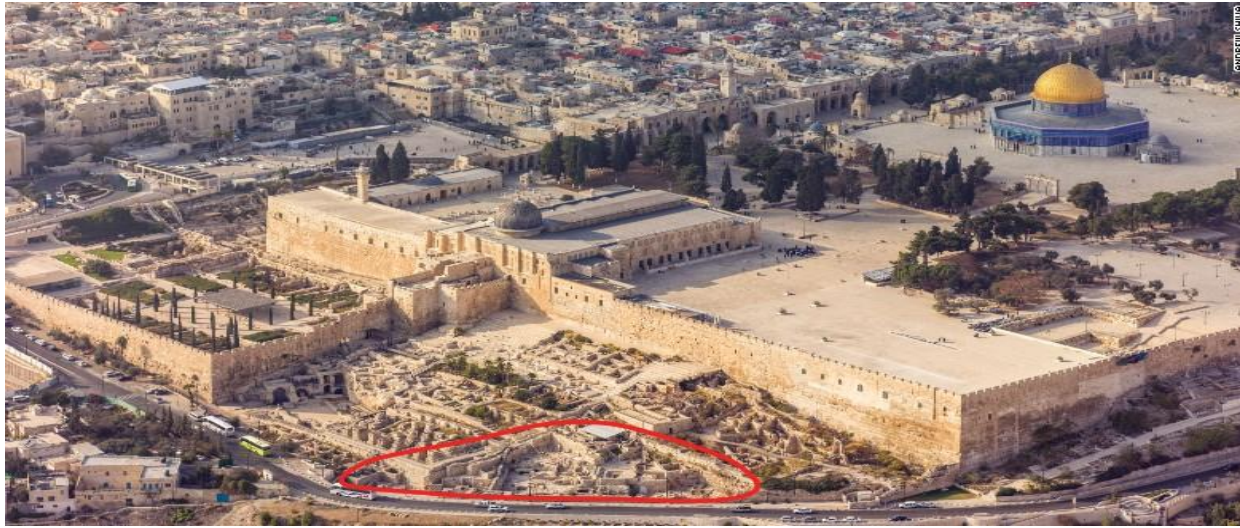


King Hezekiah's Seal Impression Found in the Ophel Excavations, Jerusalem



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The site itself, along with the nearby City of David, is contentious, because it is an Israeli archaeological dig in East Jerusalem next to a Palestinian neighborhood. Critics say the dig is politically motivated to extend Jewish claims over East Jerusalem and the Old City: archaeological finds become historical justifications