

NEW LIGHT ON THE BIBLICAL PHILISTINES IN LIGHT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT PHILISTINE GATH (TELL ES-SAFI, ISRAEL)



FRIDAY, 17 MAY
II:00 A.M.
238 HRCB



Aren M. Maeir

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Aren M. Maeir is a professor of archaeology at the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar-Ilan University (Ramat-Gan, Israel). Maeir's expertise is biblical and Ancient Near Eastern archaeology. His primary professional focus is directing the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project, a long-term, multinational excavation of one of the largest ancient sites in Israel, identified as "Gath of the Philistines," the home of Goliath. The finds from this excavation have been extraordinary, including the earliest-known siege system in the world, the so-called "Goliath Inscription," and a large stone altar reminiscent of the altar (mentioned in Exodus 30) in the biblical description of the Tabernacle, which received the attention of the world press. He

has directed archaeological excavations and surveys in Jerusalem (the Western Wall Tunnels, Mamilla, Kikar Safra, Malha), Tell es-Safi/Gath, the Beth Shean Valley, and Tel Yavneh, and he has participated in excavations at numerous sites in Israel, including Hazor, Jerusalem, and Beth Shean, Qasile. Maeir has published more than 140 scholarly and popular studies in various journals and books and has written and edited seven books. Born in Rochester, New York, he and his family made *aliyah* to Israel (immigration) in 1969, when he was eleven. After completing his military service, Maeir received a BA in archaeology and Jewish history *summa cum laude* (1986) and a PhD in archaeology *summa cum laude* (1997) from Hebrew University in Jerusalem.