

House of David Inscription Tel Dan
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In 1993 an archeological team led by Avraham Biran was working on a site at Tel Dan in northern Israel when Gila Cook discovered a fragments of a Canaanite basalt stone wall with Aramaic inscription that was still in tact. The inscription reads that Hazael, king of Aram, defeated two kings. One is named Joram, son of Ahab, King of Israel. The other defeated king named on the stele is Ahaziah, son of Joram of the House of David.

The Tel Dan Stele is the first historical and archeological evidence substantiating the existence of the House of David. Up until the 1993 discovery many scholars hypothesized that the tales of David, King of Israel, were mythical and folklore. The Tel Dan Stele identifies a king of Israel and Judah that the book of 2 Kings Chapter 9 records as reigning at the same time. Chapter 9 of 2 Kings also records that the king of Israel and the king of Judah had been in a battle with Hazael, king of Aram.

There will always be scholars who want to dispute such evidence, but the connection of the story recorded in 2 Kings Chapter 9 and the inscription on the Tel Dan Stele is a match. Most scholars acknowledge this fact. Not only does this prove that Hazael, Joram and Ahaziah all actually existed; the Tel Dan Stele is a trophy bragging about the fact that Hazael defeated a descendant of the Mighty King David. The Bible tells us that the kingdom of Israel was not only united by King David, but also he had defeated many enemies and had treaties with other neighbors of Israel. His kingdom was much larger than his predecessor, Saul, and his reign was legendary. Hazael was sure to name the House of David to fully capture the success of the battle when he was able to take down Israel and Judah.

Little did Hazael realize at the time that it was not by the power of his God but rather his victory was handed to him by the God of Israel. This was a moment in Israel and Judah's history where the people worshiped false Gods and not the God of Israel. As punishment for the breaking of the covenant, God allowed the Arameans to have success over Israel and Judah.