

# The Israel Museum of Jerusalem Tour

By: Andrew Cross

1. Themes that can be traced through the exhibits beginning in the Chalcolithic Period
  - a. The *kernos*
  - b. The tree symbol for the goddess
  - c. The bird symbol for the goddess
  - d. The bull symbol for the god
  - e. Fertility figurines that emphasize sexuality
  - f. The *massebah*
2. The Hazor High Places and Temples
  - a. Where was the high place in the city?
  - b. Where were the temples
  - c. What other artifacts were found nearby?
  - d. What deities were worshipped here?
3. The Philistines
  - a. Who were the Philistines?
  - b. What does their material culture tell us about their relationships with Egypt and Phoenicia?
  - c. What gods did they worship?
4. “House of David” Victory Stelae
  - a. Where was it found?
  - b. The historical context of the stelae
  - c. Why is it such an important find?
5. Seals and Bullae of Judah
  - a. The iconography of the seals
  - b. The Israelite onomasticon
6. The Edomite Shrine
  - a. What was an Edomite Shrine doing so close to Israel?
  - b. What do the remains of the cult tell us about Edomite religion?
7. The Pillar Figurines
  - a. The date of the pillar figurines.
  - b. Judah at the end of Empire.
  - c. Jeremiah vs. the women of Judah!
8. The Lachish Letters
  - a. Who was the mysterious prophet mentioned in the letters?
  - b. The fall of a city through the eyes of the watchman
9. Sennacherib’s “Siege of Lachish” relief
  - a. The place it was found
  - b. The story it tells
  - c. The prophet Isaiah and the Assyrians
  - d. Why Lachish instead of Jerusalem?!

10. Arad High Place
  - a. Who did it belong to?
  - b. What happened to it?
  - c. How does the iconography of this cultic site compare with the Edomite shrine at En Hatseva or Horvat Kitmit?
11. Ketef Hinnom
  - a. Burial practices in the Iron Age
  - b. The context for the discovery of the silver scrolls.
  - c. Why this text of Scripture in a burial?
  - d. Is it an 'amulet'?
12. The tomb of Herod the Great
  - a. Herod the Great / Horrible
  - b. Herod and the cult of the Empire
13. The Ossuary of Caiaphas
  - a. Burial methods in the New Testament period
  - b. Who was Caiaphas?
14. Statues of Artemis
  - a. The symbolism of the goddess
  - b. Her connection with Syrian cult
15. The synagogue
  - a. The layout
  - b. The furnishings
  - c. The mosaics
16. The church
  - a. The layout
  - b. The furnishings
  - c. The mosaics
17. The mosque
  - a. The layout
  - b. The furnishings
18. House of Leontius Mosaics and the Orpheus mosaic
  - a. Mosaics and the synagogue
  - b. A ban on images?
  - c. Hellenism and Judaism