



MATERIALITY OF RELIGION IN ISRAELITE HOUSEHOLDS: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSES OF RITUAL OBJECTS FROM IRON II TELL EN-NASBEH

PRESENTED BY PROF. AARON BRODY

Household religion is a theme emerging in recent studies of ancient religions. Prior research has relied heavily on textual sources, which tend to be biased towards elite households, both royal and divine. The archaeology of ritual practices of common people evident in their houses and family tombs increases our understanding. This research on Tell en-Nasbeh highlights household religion through a direct, contextual presentation of ritual artifacts from an Israelite village. Nasbeh's ritual objects have never been studied in relation to each other or to utilitarian artifacts from the same contexts. This paper will present a case study of ritual objects from an Iron Age II compound made up of five pillared houses. A gendered approach to ritual at the site will add to our understanding of religious culture of women, men, families, and households in ancient Israel.

Aaron Brody is the Robert and Kathryn Riddell Associate Professor of Bible and Archaeology and the Director of the Badè Museum at Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. His fieldwork has been conducted primarily at Bronze and Iron Age sites on the Mediterranean coast of Israel, with participation in projects in the Negev, Akko Plain, and northern California. His primary research interests include archaeological interpretations of the religion, society, and economy of ancient Canaan, Phoenicia, and Israel. He has held research posts at both the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, in Jerusalem, and the American Center for Oriental Research, in Amman. Recently his research has focused on household religion, household archaeology, metallurgy, and interregional trade at Tell en-Nasbeh, the site that forms the principal holdings of the Badè Museum. Recent publications include "Living in Households, Constructing Identities: Ethnicity, Boundaries, and Empire in Iron IIB-IIC Tell en-Nasbeh." in *Household Studies in Complex Societies: (Micro) Archaeological and Textual Approaches*, (2015); "New Perspectives on Levantine Mortuary Ritual: A Cognitive Interpretive Approach to the Archaeology of Death," in *Historical Biblical Archaeology and the Future: The New Pragmatism* (2010); "The Specialized Religions of Ancient Mediterranean Seafarers," *Religion Compass* (2008).

This is part of the NOTES FROM THE FIELD lecture series.

This series consists of informal lectures on religion by faculty from UC Davis or from neighboring campuses that focus on faculty members' recent research.

Tuesday, March 14th

12:00-1:00pm

912 Sproul Hall

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

THIS LECTURE IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.