



Dr. Steven Collins

Director, Ph.D. Program, Archaeology & Biblical History,
Veritas Evangelical Seminary

Education:

1972, B.U.S., University of New Mexico
1975, M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
1978, D.Min., Luther Rice University
1983, Ph.D., Trinity Theological Seminary
1985, Post-Doctoral Studies, Archaeological Methods, Tulsa Seminary
1987, Post-Doctoral Studies, International Seminar in Theology & Law;
University of Strasbourg, France
1987, Post-Doc. Certificate, Int'l Law; International Institute of Human
Rights, University of Strasbourg, France
1989, Levantine Ceramic Typology, Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies
1997, Ph.D., Archaeology & Biblical History, Trinity Southwest University

Current Career Avenues:

Director of Ph.D. Program in Archaeology & Biblical History, Veritas Evangelical Seminary, (2018 forthcoming)
Executive Dean, Trinity Southwest University, 1990 to present.
Dean, College of Archaeology & Biblical History, Trinity Southwest University, since 2000 to present.
Chief Archaeologist & Director, Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Jordan, 2005 to present.
Curator, TSU Museum of Archaeology, 2001 to present.
Visiting Professor of Archaeology, Veritas Evangelical Seminary.
Continuing research in the geography, archaeology, and history of the southern Levant.
Continuing research and writing in Christian Apologetics.
Areas of expertise and teaching: biblical studies, biblical criticism, biblical languages, Christian apologetics, Near Eastern archaeology, biblical backgrounds.

Current & Recent Scholarly Pursuits & Memberships:

Professional Member, American Schools of Oriental Research.
Professional Member, World Archaeological Congress.
Professional Member, Society of Biblical Literature.
Professional Member, Near East Archaeological Society.
Board of Directors, Near East Archaeological Society.
Chief Archaeologist, Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Jordan, 2005-present.
Field Archaeologist, Kursi Excavation, Israel, 2003.
Host Scholar, International Symposium on Archaeology & the Bible, 2001-2005.
Field Supervisor, Khirbet el-Maqatir Excavation, Israel/West Bank, 1995-2000.
Field Archaeologist, Bethsaida Excavation, Israel, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2004.

Books, Media & Research Projects:

1989 *Christian Discipleship* (Hensley Publishers).
1991 *Championing the Faith* (Hensley Publishers).
1998 *Mastering New Testament Greek* (TSU Press).
2005 *Let My People Go: Using Historical Synchronisms to Identify the Pharaoh of the Exodus* (TSU Press).
2006 *The Search for Sodom and Gomorrah* (TSU Press).
2011 *The Defendable Faith: Lessons in Christian Apologetics* (TSU Press).
2011 *A Geographical, Historical, and Archaeological Handbook for Holy Land Travelers* (TSU Press), co-authored with John W. Moore.
2012 "The Discovery of Sodom," a documentary film by National Geographic.
2012 *Sodom and Science: The Application of Dialogical Methodology in Determining Material Correspondence between Archaeological Data and Biblical Narrative* (TSU Press).
2013 *Discovering the City of Sodom* (Simon & Schuster), co-authored with L.C. Scott.

- 2015 *Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project Field Manual* (TSU Press), co-authored with P. Silvia and C. Kobs.
 2015 *The Tall al-Ḥammām Excavations*, Vol. 1 (Eisenbrauns)
 2017 *The Tall al-Ḥammām Excavations, Jordan: Season Reports 2006–2017* (TSU Press)
 2017 *The Kikkar Dialogues: Scholarly Interactions on the Location of Sodom* (TSU Press, pending)

Recent Articles, Papers, & Lectures:

- 1999 “The Logic of True Narrative Representations.” Co-authored with J.W. Oller, Jr. Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. Initially published in *Global Journal of Classical Theology*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (8/2000); revised version in *Biblical Research Bulletin* I.2, 2001.
- 1999 “Is the Bible a True Narrative Representation?” Co-authored with J.W. Oller, Jr. Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. Initially published in *Global Journal of Classical Theology*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (8/2000); revised version in *Biblical Research Bulletin* I.3, 2001.
- 2001 “Using Historical Synchronisms to Identify the Pharaoh of the Exodus.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2002 “Locating the Biblical Cities of the Plain.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2002 “The Geography of the Cities of the Plain,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* II.1.
- 2002 “A Chronology for the Cities of the Plain,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* II.8.
- 2002 “The Architecture of Sodom,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* II.14.
- 2002 “Terms of Destruction for the Cities of the Plain,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* II.16.
- 2002 “Explorations on the Eastern Jordan Disk,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* II.18.
- 2004 “The Bible, History, and Objectivity,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* IV.5.
- 2004 “The Length of the Israelite Sojourn in Egypt,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* IV.6.
- 2005 “The Home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites: Is Yahweh’s Promise a Significant Historical Synchronism?” *Biblical Research Bulletin* V.2.
- 2005 “How Low Did the Once-Great Egyptian Eighteenth Dynasty Sink?” *Biblical Research Bulletin* V.3.
- 2005 “Using Historical Synchronisms to Identify the Pharaoh of the Exodus,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* V.8.
- 2005 “Rethinking the Location of Zoar: An Exercise in Biblical Geography,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* VI.3.
- 2006 (with G.A. Byers, and M.C. Luddeni) “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Season Activity Report, Season One: 2005/2006 Probe Excavation and Survey.” Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 22 January 2006.
- 2006 “Christianity and Archaeology.” The 2006 Erskine Lecture Series, presented at Erskine Theological Seminary.
- 2007 “Forty Salient Points on the Geography of the Cities of the Kikkar,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* VII.1.
- 2007 “Reassessing the Term *hakikkar* in Nehemiah as Bearing on the Location of the Cities of the Plain,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* VII.3.
- 2007 (with G.A. Byers, M.C. Luddeni, and J.W. Moore) “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Season Activity Report, Season Two: 2006/2007 Excavation and Survey.” Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 4 February 2007.
- 2007 “If You Thought You Knew the Location of Sodom and Gomorrah... Think Again,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* VII.4.
- 2007 “Sodom: Discovery of a Lost City.” *Bible and Spade* 15.2.
- 2007 “A Response to Bryant G. Wood’s Critique of Collins’ Northern Sodom Theory,” *Biblical Research Bulletin* VII.7.
- 2007 “Sodom: Discovery of a Lost City.” The Kimbell Lecture Series, delivered at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX.
- 2007 “Tall el-Hammam: A Key Witness to the Archaeology and History of the Southern Jordan Valley—Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations from the 2007 Excavation Season.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2008 (with A. Abu Dayyeh, A. abu-Shmais, G.A. Byers, K. Hamdan, H. Aljarrah, J. Haroun, M.C. Luddeni; S. McAllister) “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Season Activity Report, Season Three: 2008 Excavation, Exploration, and Survey.” Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 13 February 2008.
- 2008 “The Bible and Archaeology.” The 2008 Erskine Lecture Series, presented at Erskine Theological Seminary.
- 2009 “Sodom: Discovery of a Lost City.” Lecture presented to the Biblical Archaeology Society of Pittsburgh.

- 2009 (with K. Hamdan, G.A. Byers, J. Haroun, H. Aljarrah, M.C. Luddeni, S. McAllister, Q. Dasouqi; A. Abu-Shmais, and D. Graves) “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Season Activity Report, Season Four: 2009 Excavation, Exploration, and Survey.” Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 27 February 2009.
- 2009 “Tall el-Hammam: Key Witness to the Archaeology and History of the Southern Jordan Valley.” Lecture presented to the Friends of Archaeology and Heritage of Jordan, Amman.
- 2009 “Tall el-Hammam, Season Four: Data, Interpretations, and Insights from the 2009 Excavations.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2009 “Locating Zoar: An Exercise in Biblical Geography.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2009 “Tall el-Hammam: Key Witness to the Archaeology and History of the Southern Jordan Valley.” Lecture presented to the Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2010 (with K. Hamdan, G.A. Byers, J. Haroun, H. Aljarrah, M.C. Luddeni, S. McAllister, Q. Dasouqi, A. Abu-Shmais) “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, Season Activity Report, Season Five: 2010 Excavation, Exploration, and Survey.” Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 31 January 2010.
- 2010 (with K. Hamdan and G.A. Byers) “Tall al-Ḥammām: Preliminary Report on Four Seasons of Excavation (2006-2009).” *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 53.
- 2010 “Tall el-Hammam: Has the Lost City of Sodom Been Found?” Lecture presented to the Old Testament Department, Dallas Theological Seminary.
- 2010 “Sodom: Discovery of a Lost City.” The Southwestern Lectures on Archaeology and Biblical History, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX.
- 2010 “Tall el-Hammam: Data, Interpretations, and Insights from Five Seasons of Excavation, 2006-2010.” Paper presented to the 11th Tri-annual International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Paris, France.
- 2010 “Tall el-Hammam, Season Six: Data, Interpretations, and Insights from the 2010-2011 Excavations.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2011 “From Text to Ground and Back: The Dialogical Integration of Archaeology and Biblical Studies in the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project.” Paper presented in a dedicated session at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, London.
- 2011 “Tall el-Hammam and the Eastern Kikkar Sites: Geographical Foundation of the Biblical ‘Cities of the Plain’ Formula.” Paper presented in a dedicated session at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, London.
- 2011 “A Dialogical Approach to Archaeology and the Bible: Insights from the Excavations at Tall el-Hammam, Jordan.” The 2011 Erskine Lecture Series, presented at Erskine Theological Seminary.
- 2011 “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project: End of Season Activity Report—Season Six: 2011 Excavation, Exploration, and Survey.” Jordan Department of Antiquities 26 January 2011.
- 2011 “Tall al-Ḥammām Season Six, 2011: Excavation, Survey, Interpretations and Insights.” *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 55.
- 2011 “Sodom and the Cities of The Plain.” In the *Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Logos).
- 2011 (with K. Schath, K and H. Aljarrah) “The Excavation of an Undisturbed Demi-Dolmen and Insights from the Ḥammām Megalithic Field, 2011 Season.” *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 55.
- 2011 (with C. Kobs, H. Aljarrah and H. Bonnette) “A Plaque Figurine at Tall al-Ḥammām, Season Six (2011).” *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 55.
- 2012 “The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project: End of Season Activity Report—Season Seven: 2012 Excavation, Exploration, and Survey.” Jordan Department of Antiquities 30 February 2012.
- 2012 “Tall el-Hammam Is Sodom: Billington’s Heshbon Identification Suffers from Numerous Fatal Flaws.” *Biblical Research Bulletin* XII.1
- 2012 “Sodom: Discovery of a Lost City.” The Joan & Andy Horner Lecture Series, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX.
- 2012 “Sodom Discovered.” Lecture, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.
- 2013 “Where Is Sodom? The Case for Tall el-Hammam.” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 39.2.
- 2013 “Tall el-Hammam Is Still Sodom: Critical Data-Sets Cast Serious Doubt on E.H. Merrill’s Chronological Analysis.” *Biblical Research Bulletin* XIII.1

- 2013 “The Bronze Age Fortifications and Gateways at Tall el-Hammam: Data, Interpretations, and Insights from Eight Excavation Seasons.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research.
- 2013 (with K. Tarawneh) “Tall el-Hammam Season Eight, 2013: Excavation, Survey, Interpretations, and Insights.” Jordan Department of Antiquities, March 2013.
- 2013 “Has Archaeology Gone too Far in Throwing Out the Bible?” *The Ancient Near East Today*, online magazine published by the American Schools of Oriental Research, October edition.
- 2013 “The Geography of Sodom and Zoar: Reality Demolishes W. Schlegel’s Attacks against a Northern Sodom.” *Biblical Research Bulletin* XIII.2.
- 2013 “Finding Sodom: A Study in Biblical Geography.” A lecture sponsored by the Dr. Jonathan J. Lu and Sayoko Lu Biblical Geography Endowment Fund, University of Northern Iowa.
- 2014 (with G. Byers, C. Kobs, et al) “Tall el-Hammam Season Nine, 2014: Excavation, Survey, Interpretations, and Insights.” Jordan Department of Antiquities, March 2014.
- 2014 “The Early Bronze Age 4 Fortifications at Tall el-Hammam.” Paper presented in a dedicated session of the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society (proceedings published by Eisenbrauns).
- 2014 “Christian Contributions to Archaeology.” In the *Encyclopedia of Christian Education* (Scarecrow Press).
- 2015 (with G. Byers, C. Kobs, et al) “The Tall el-Hammam Season Ten, 2015: Excavation, Survey, Interpretations, and Insights.” Jordan Department of Antiquities March 2015.
- 2015 “The Early Bronze Age 3 Fortifications at Tall el-Hammam.” Paper presented in a dedicated session of the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society (proceedings published by Eisenbrauns).
- 2015 (with P. Silvia) “The Civilization-Ending 3.7KYrBP Kikkar Event: Archaeological Data, Sample Analyses, and Biblical Implications.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society.
- 2016 (with G. Byers, C. Kobs, et al) “The Tall el-Hammam Season Eleven, 2016: Excavation, Survey, Interpretations, and Insights.” Jordan Department of Antiquities, March 2016.
- 2016 (with K. Kobs and G. Byers) “Early Bronze Age Domestic Structures in Field LA, Tall el-Hammam, Jordan.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research.
- 2016 (with G. Byers and K. Kobs) “Intermediate Bronze Age Domestic Structures in Field LA, Tall el-Hammam, Jordan.” Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research.
- 2016 “The Chalcolithic-to-Early Bronze Age 1 Transition at Tall el-Hammam.” Paper presented in a dedicated workshop at the International Conference on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, Vienna, Austria.
- 2017 “Tall al-Ḥammām’s Population and Demography in the Early Bronze Age.” Paper presented to the G. Whitaker Foundation summer conference (Palermo, Italy)—The Cities of the Dead Sea Plain: Conceptualizing Urban Experiences in the Southern Jordan Valley During the Early Bronze Age: Tell es-Sultan (Palestine) and Tall el-Hammam (Jordan), Palermo, Italy (publication pending, Sapienza University of Rome, L. Nigro, ed.).
- 2017 “Tall al-Ḥammām’s Economy and Social Organization in the Early Bronze Age.” Paper presented to the G. Whitaker Foundation summer conference (Palermo, Italy)—The Cities of the Dead Sea Plain: Conceptualizing Urban Experiences in the Southern Jordan Valley During the Early Bronze Age: Tell es-Sultan (Palestine) and Tall el-Hammam (Jordan) (publication pending, Sapienza University of Rome, L. Nigro, ed.).
- 2017 “Tall al-Ḥammām’s Trade and Connectivity in the Early Bronze Age.” Paper presented to the G. Whitaker Foundation summer conference (Palermo, Italy)—The Cities of the Dead Sea Plain: Conceptualizing Urban Experiences in the Southern Jordan Valley During the Early Bronze Age: Tell es-Sultan (Palestine) and Tall el-Hammam (Jordan) (publication pending, Sapienza University of Rome, L. Nigro, ed.).
- 2017 *The Tall al-Ḥammām Excavations, Jordan: Season Reports 2006–2017* (TSU Press)
- 2017 “The Early Bronze III-IV Fortifications and Gateways of Tall al-Ḥammām.” *Early Bronze Age III-IV in the Levant*, S. Richard, ed. (Eisenbrauns, pending)

BioSketch:

Steven Collins has been researching and lecturing in the field of Near Eastern archeology, biblical studies, and apologetics for more than 30 years. His background as a field archaeologist and Bible scholar gives him a commanding grasp of the issues involved in researching the nature of the biblical record from both the historical and scientific perspectives. Currently Chief Archaeologist and Director of the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project in Jordan, his rigorous investigations into the location of biblical Sodom is the subject of numerous books, including *Discovering the City of Sodom* (Simon & Schuster), numerous documentary films (by the National Geographic, Discovery, Travel, and History channels), and magazine articles (*Biblical Archaeology Review*; *Popular Archaeology*; *The Ancient Near East Today*, and many others). He is an active contributor to many

professional journals and publications, and is an oft-invited presenter at archaeological meetings and conferences throughout the world. He lectures widely, and appears frequently on national and international television and radio programs. From the museums and libraries of Europe, to the high plateaus of Asia Minor, to the banks of the Nile, to the environs of ancient Jerusalem, to his extensive exploration and excavations in the southern Jordan Valley, Dr. Collins continues on the leading edge of archaeological research into the biblical world.