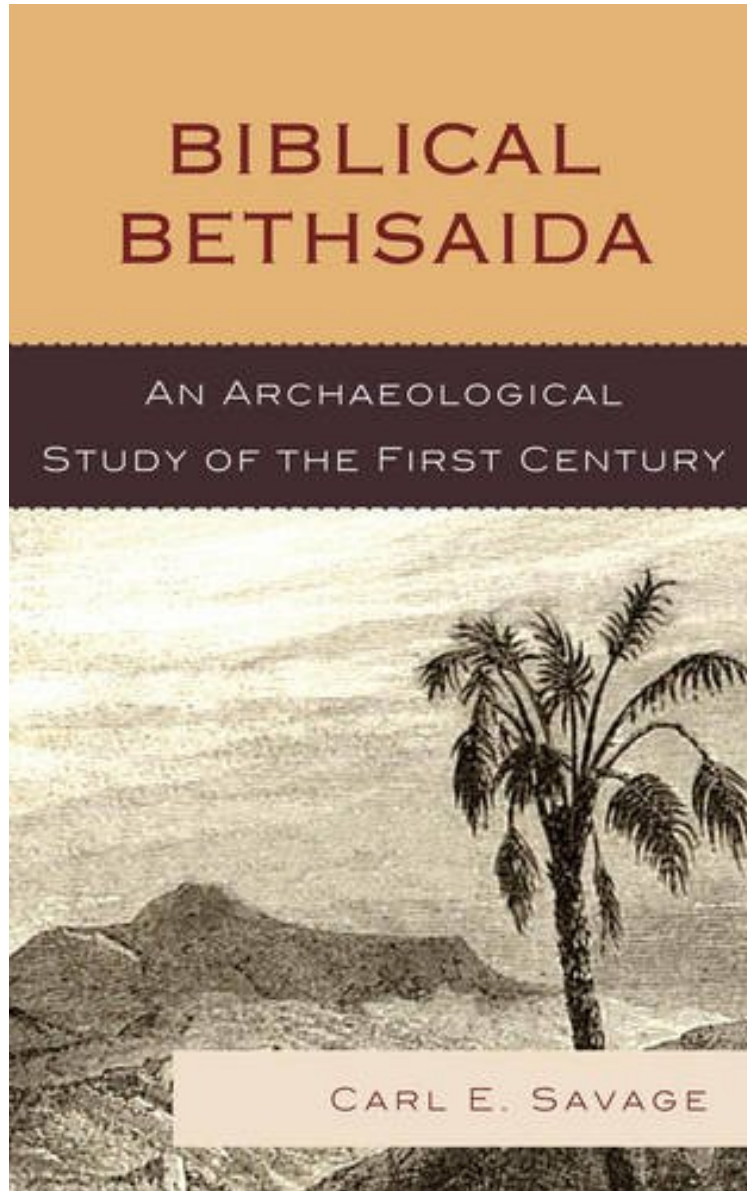


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Biblical Bethsaida: A Study of the First Century CE in the Galilee

Carl E. Savage

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Carl E. Savage : Biblical Bethsaida: A Study of the First Century CE in the Galilee before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Biblical Bethsaida: A Study of the First Century CE in the Galilee:

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nature of ...By Barry Davis This book, small though it is, contains information that will cause the reader to consider the importance of this "lost" site to Biblical Archaeology and History. Dr. Savage gives a wonderful overview of the importance of the Jewish nature of Bethsaida during the First Century, and how this site fits into the larger picture of Jewish settlement in the Upper Galilee. Very readable in style, yet very impressive in the use of archeological data, this work is a bridge between the academic world and the interested public reader. Dr. Savage's work as co-director of the Bethsaida Excavations gives him an insight into this subject that few authors possess. Highly recommend that you read this book first, if you are interest in the history of Bethsaida and how it fits into the First Century C.E..

In his illuminating, well-researched book examining the site of Et-Tell, also known as Bethsaida, Carl E. Savage explores archaeological evidence to offer readers a portrait of the religious beliefs and practices of the community living near the north shore of the Sea of Galilee during the first century CE. In the study of the cultural and social matrix of the first century in the Galilee, scholars have commonly prioritized written sources over archaeological evidence because written sources seem to contribute more directly to an understanding of the religious beliefs and practices of a community. However, there exist many competing views of the landscape during that time due to the varying interpretations of the textual sources. Using archaeological data from Bethsaida itself, Savage investigates the material practices of Bethsaida's ancient inhabitants, describing these practices as significant indicators of their sense of place both ideologically and geographically. He evaluates the historical plausibility of various social reconstructions for the region, and finds that the image that emerges of first-century Bethsaida is one similar to those of other Jewish communities in the Galilee.

Carl Savage's Biblical Bethsaida will certainly become one of the 'must read' books for scholars of the New Testament, the Hebrew Bible, and archaeology. The book's documentation and his far-reaching conclusions about Galilee in the time of the first century CE establish a new standard for works on biblical archaeology. (Richard A. Freund, director, Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, University of Hartford) Bethsaida is the only site that has yielded sufficient archaeological remains to shed light on a place pivotal to the ministry of Jesus. For anyone who is interested in the life of Jesus this book is absolutely a must. (Rami Arav, Director, Bethsaida Excavations Project, University of Nebraska at Omaha) About the Author Carl E. Savage is director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Drew University and serves as assistant director of excavations for the Bethsaida Excavations Project.