

# Prof. Dr. Eliezer Oren

Canada Chair in Near Eastern Archaeology, Dept. of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near East  
Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel

**Montag, 20.6.2011, HS 15, 18.00 c.t.**

## **Archaeology of Cult – New Evidence from Middle Bronze Age Canaan**

**Summary:** The lecture will discuss aspects of temple architecture and diagnostic ritual practices in Middle Bronze Age Canaan against the background of northwest Semitic "Amorite" religious ideology in Syria. The nucleus of my presentation is the Middle Bronze Age sacred precinct that our expedition has been exploring since 1989 at Tel Haror, Israel with the last season during October 2010. This site provides an excellent example of Syrian-type temple architecture as well as unique testimony on ritual practices such as dog sacrifices and ceremonial equid burials. The temple site of Tel Haror exhibits the diffusion of this type of sacred institution from the Euphrates to the border of Egypt.

**Lebenslauf:** Born in Israel. Studied archaeology and ancient history at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem (1959-1963), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (1963-1966) and University of London (1966-1969) where obtained the Ph.D.(supervised by Dame K. Kenyon).

Since 1970 lecturer of Near eastern archaeology at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and founder of its Archaeological Division (1972), Chair of its Department of Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (1983-1987) and first incumbent of the Canada Chair in Near Eastern Archaeology (1990). Was Visiting Professor at Harvard University, New York University, University of California, San Diego, College de France, Paris, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oxford, Heidelberg University and University of Sydney.

Participated and directed archaeological excavations at Cesarea, Beit Govrin Caves, Jerusalem, Acre, Tiberias, Tel Arad and Motya (Sicily). In 1972-78 directed Ben-Gurion University Expedition to Tel Sera, and between 1972-1982 headed the North Sinai Expedition, between the Suez Canal and the Gaza Strip (Egyptian "Ways-of-Horus"). Between 1982-1990 directed the survey and excavations in the Gaza Strip. Since 1981 director of the "Land of Gerar " archaeological project in the western Negev, focusing on the key Bronze and Iron age site of Tel Haror as well as a survey along the drainage basin of Wadi esh-Shari'a and Besor.

**Books:** The Northern Cemetery of Beth Shan (Leiden 1973); [ed.] The Hyksos: New Historical and Archaeological Perspectives (Philadelphia 1997); [ed. with S. Ahituv] Israel's Origin - Current Debate: Biblical, Historical and Archaeological Perspectives (Beer Sheva 1999); [ed.] The Sea Peoples and Their World: A Reassessment (Philadelphia 2000);[ed. with S. Ahituv] Studies in the History and Archaeology of the Levant, Memorial Volume to Aharon Kempinski (Beer Sheva 2002).