

4 FREE eBooks

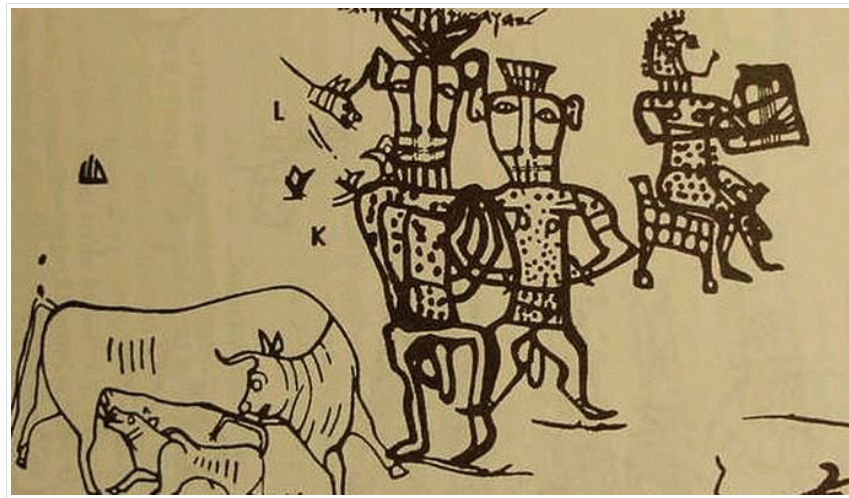


All Search across 12,000+ articles

NEWS HUMAN ORIGINS HISTORY ARTIFACTS MYTHS PLACES UNEXPLAINED OPINION PREMIUM

History & Archaeology Science & Space Evolution & Human Origins Mysterious Phenomena

Home / News



# Kuntillet Ajrud: The Ancient Fortress that puzzles archaeologists

UPDATED 8 APRIL, 2013 - 19:37 JOHNBLACK

READ LATER PRINT

In the Sinah desert stands Kuntillet Ajrud, a remote settlement that was found in 1975 by the archaeologist Ze'ev Meshel of the University of Tel Aviv. The settlement is dated to the 8 th century BC and is suggested to be one of the border fortresses built by King Solomon. The name of the fortress in Arabic, means 'Hill of the Water-Source'.



### MOST READ TODAY

- [Mathematician Finds Pythagorean Triples On Ancient Babylonian Tablet](#)
- [Bess of Hardwick: The Second Wealthiest Woman In Tudor England](#)
- [Two of Europe's Biggest Cairns are About to Be Buried in Trash](#)
- [Ivar the Boneless: Viking Warrior, Ruler and Raider](#)
- [Viking Berserkers – Fierce Warriors or Drug-Fuelled Madmen?](#)
- [Experts Have Found the True Age of Machu Picchu](#)

Two major buildings were found preserved at Kuntillet Ajrud. The largest one contained numerous inscriptions—of early Hebrew and Phoenician writings—and paintings on the walls, or posts, pottery and stone jars, as well as numerous drawings of men, animals and gods. It is interesting to note that in addition to Yahweh (the God of the Bible) being mentioned in the inscriptions, the Canaanite gods, El and Baal, were also worshipped. It was only later that Baal was 'transformed' to a demon and was considered evil in the scriptures.

Even if it has been proposed that Kuntillet Ajrud was used as a fortress, the actual nature and function of the place is not clear. Various remains that were found, including the inscriptions, suggest that it also served as a kind of religious center, with one phrase of particular importance creating debate amongst archaeologists: "I have blessed you to Yahweh of Samaria and to His Asherah". **Asherah** was a Semitic mother goddess. The question has therefore been debated among scholars as to whether she may have been the wife of God? Asherah was known to be the consort of the god El, however it seems that she disappears at some point from Phoenician/Canaanite inscriptions.

Under that inscription is a drawing of two figures, possibly God and Asherah, and one that resembles the Egyptian god Bes, which is a collective name for a group of dwarf deities. A few scholars have suggested that the drawings were added after the initial inscriptions and may not be related, but both of the **drawings** are very interesting in terms of how they present the God and his possible wife—if that is their purpose, of course.

Another inscription found on the walls says the following:

"When God shines forth ... Yahweh ... The mountains will melt, the hills will crush ... The Holy One over the gods ... Prepare to bless Ba'al on a day of war ... to the name of El on a day of war"

Kuntillet Ajrud baffles archaeologists—especially biblical archaeologists—because of the complexity of early Israelite worship and the mixing of the god of the Bible with many different deities, showing a different 'face' of the god and a gradual movement towards monotheistic worship without any other 'interferences'. The controversial inscriptions at Kuntillet Ajrud serve to shake the foundations of monotheism.



Ad



# Ad Re



Skip All Ads  
Enjoy A Peaceful Internet!

Ad Remover

by John Black

### Related Links

[Kuntillet Ajrud Fortress](#)

[Kuntillet Arjud Inscriptions](#)

[Puzzling Finds from Kuntillet Arjud](#)

### Related Books



Sign Up for **Premium**  
Ads-FREE Content

## VIRAL ARTICLES

Legends   Technology   Ancient Places

### Ivar the Boneless: Viking Warrior, Ruler and Raider

Ivar the Boneless was likely the son of legendary Viking king Ragnar Lothbrok, and raided alongside his father and brothers, eventually becoming ruler of York in England in the 9th century AD.

### Viking Berserkers – Fierce Warriors or Drug-Fuelled Madmen?

### The Real Story of Medusa: Protective Powers from a Snake-Haired Gorgon

### Dikteon Cave: The Legendary Birthplace of Zeus

### Related Videos

Arctic Circle Anomalies: Archaeology Under the Permafrost

Cantre'r Gwaelod – The Mythical Sunken Kingdom of Wales

4 FREE eBooks



Section: [Ancient Places](#) [Asia](#)

Tags: [ancient](#) [places](#) [Kuntillet](#) [Ajrud](#)

Read the Comments **(3 Comments)**

### JOHN BLACK

*Dr John (Ioannis) Syrigos initially began writing on Ancient Origins under the pen name John Black. He is both a co-owner and co-founder of Ancient Origins.*

*John is a computer & electrical engineer with a PhD in Artificial Intelligence, a... [Read More](#)*

### RELATED ARTICLES ON ANCIENT-ORIGINS



30 JULY, 2021 - 01:51 IVAN PETRICEVIC

### Chankillo: The Oldest Solar Observatory in the Americas

Located in the Peruvian coastal desert at the Nasca-Sechin Oasis stands the incredible monumental complex of Chankillo. The archaeological site consists of a fort located on a hilltop and thirteen...

[READ LATER](#) [READ MORE](#)

29 JULY, 2021 - 01:47 DHWTY

### 7,000-Year-Old Chinchorro Mummies are the World's Oldest

The mummies of ancient Egypt are arguably the most famous mummies in the world. They are not, however, the oldest. The Chinchorros of South America began preserving their dead about 7,000 years ago...

[READ LATER](#) [READ MORE](#)

28 JULY, 2021 - 14:29 CALEB STROM

### Panspermia – The Idea That Life Came From The Stars

The astronomer Carl Sagan once said that the question of the nature of life on Earth and the question of whether life can be found beyond Earth are two sides of the same question. In the case of...

[READ LATER](#) [READ MORE](#)

21 JULY, 2021 - 08:44 ALDA S

### Icelanders Believed in Elves, But it is Probably Not What You Think

Icelanders believe in elves. They refuse to begin major construction projects unless they consult with elves first. They lobby their politicians on behalf of elf colonies. They run "elf schools" and...

[READ LATER](#) [READ MORE](#)

16 JULY, 2021 - 18:48 DHWTY

### The Minoan Civilization of Crete: A Great Aegean Culture

The Minoan civilization was a Bronze Age civilization that was based on the island of Crete, in the Aegean Sea. This civilization flourished from around 3000 BC to around 1100 BC. The Minoan...

[READ LATER](#) [READ MORE](#)

4 JULY, 2021 - 22:46 ASHLEY COWIE

### Ancient Greeks Used Moveable Stage in Messene Theater!

Moveable theater props and three stone tracks have been discovered at the ancient Greek Messene Theater in the Peloponnese region of southern Greece . These new findings related to ancient Greek...

[READ LATER](#) [READ MORE](#)

*Ancient Origins has been quoted by:*



## TOP NEW STORIES

### Fragments of Chinese Coins Are Evidence of World's Oldest Minting Site

Archaeologists have long been preoccupied with understanding the origins of metal coinage and monetization. Now, a team working in the Henan Province of China has discovered an early minting site at Guanzhuang, complete with Chinese spade coins and their clay molds.

### Mathematician Finds Pythagorean Triples On Ancient Babylonian Tablet

### Sword Harness Pyramid With Rare Gems Unearthed In England

### Evidence of Earthquake Recorded in the Bible Found at City of David

### The Great Pyramid at Giza and Noah's Ark: Are we coming closer to an understanding of the Ancient Mind? Part I

### Archaeologists Find An Unusual Urban Complex Within Egypt's Marea Site

## HUMAN ORIGINS

### Panspermia – The Idea That Life Came From The Stars

The astronomer Carl Sagan once said that the question of the nature of life on Earth and the question of whether life can be found beyond Earth are two sides of the same question. In the case of...

### Thoth's Storm: New Evidence for Ancient Egyptians in Ireland?

### Overlords of the Underworlds: 10 Gods of Death From Around the World

### The Christ And The Buddha: How Can You Explain the Uncanny Similarities?

### Where are Ashkenazi Jews from? Their Origins May Surprise You

### The Origins of the Faeries: Encoded in our Cultures – Part I

## ANCIENT PLACES

### Two of Europe's Biggest Cairns are About to Be Buried in Trash

Two of the biggest European cairns are facing destruction in the World Heritage city of Maulbronn, Germany. If it happens, the prehistoric monuments would be lost and scientific investigation impossible.

### The Monumental Fall of Babylon: What Really Shattered the Empire?

### The Mystery of Herxheim: Was an Entire Village Cannibalized?

### The last hieroglyphic language on earth and an ancient culture fighting to survive

### The Great Pyramid at Giza and Noah's Ark: Are we coming closer to an understanding of the Ancient Mind? Part I

### Arkaim: Aryans, Advanced Astronomy and Untold Secrets of a Russian Citadel

## MYTHS & LEGENDS

## ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY

## OPINION

4 FREE eBooks

### Ivar the Boneless: Viking Warrior, Ruler and Raider

Ivar the Boneless was likely the son of legendary Viking king Ragnar Lothbrok, and raided alongside his father and brothers, eventually becoming ruler of York in England in the 9th century AD.



### Viking Berserkers – Fierce Warriors or Drug-Fuelled Madmen?

### The Real Story of Medusa: Protective Powers from a Snake-Haired Gorgon

### Dikteon Cave: The Legendary Birthplace of Zeus

### Arctic Circle Anomalies: Archaeological Insight Under the Permafrost

### Cantre'r Gwaelod – The Mythical Sunken Kingdom of Wales

### The Great Pyramid at Giza and Noah's Ark: Are we coming closer to an understanding of the Ancient Mind? Part I

Two phenomena that have been haunting humanity for a long time are Noah's Ark and the Great Pyramid of Giza. It has however rarely been suggested that these two are connected. One, the Ark, is part...

### The Disc of Sabu: Ancient Egyptian Water Pump or Alien Hyperdrive?

### The Great Pyramid at Giza and Noah's Ark: Are we coming closer to an understanding of the Ancient Mind? Part II

### Norimitsu Odachi: Who Could Have Possibly Wielded This Enormous 15th Century Japanese Sword?

### The Evidence is Cut in Stone: A Compelling Argument for Lost High Technology in Ancient Egypt

### Mysterious GodSelf Icon Found Worldwide: Lost Symbol of an Ancient Global Religion?

### The Great Pyramid at Giza and Noah's Ark: Are we coming closer to an understanding of the Ancient Mind? Part I

Two phenomena that have been haunting humanity for a long time are Noah's Ark and the Great Pyramid of Giza. It has however rarely been suggested that these two are connected. One, the Ark, is part...

### Icelanders Believed in Elves, But it is Probably Not What You Think

### Did Egyptian Mummification Descend from a More Ancient and, Perhaps, Reversible Preservation Technique?

### Mysterious GodSelf Icon Found Worldwide: Lost Symbol of an Ancient Global Religion?

### The Underwater City of Cuba: A New Theory on its Origins – Part I

### Thoth's Storm: New Evidence for Ancient Egyptians in Ireland?

## OUR MISSION

At Ancient Origins, we believe that one of the most important fields of knowledge we can pursue as human beings is our beginnings. And while some people may seem content with the story as it stands, our view is that there exist countless mysteries, scientific anomalies and surprising artifacts that have yet to be discovered and explained.

The goal of Ancient Origins is to highlight recent archaeological discoveries, peer-reviewed academic research and evidence, as well as offering alternative viewpoints and explanations of science, archaeology, mythology, religion and history around the globe.

We're the only Pop Archaeology site combining scientific research with out-of-the-box perspectives.

By bringing together top experts and authors, this archaeology website explores lost civilizations, examines sacred writings, tours ancient places, investigates ancient discoveries and questions mysterious happenings. Our open community is dedicated to digging into the origins of our species on planet earth, and question wherever the discoveries might take us. We seek to retell the story of our beginnings.

Ancient Origins © 2013 - 2021

[Disclaimer](#) - [Terms of Publication](#) - [Privacy Policy & Cookies](#) - [Advertising Policy](#) - [Submissions](#) - [We Give Back](#) - [Contact us](#)

A project of Stella Novus - Development and Customization by Novus Web Solutions

## ANCIENT IMAGE GALLERIES