How Ancient Israel Began: A New Archaeological Perspective

Over the last hundred years or so, a number of theories have been proposed to explain the origins of ancient Israel. All these have been informed to some degree by the biblical text and all have considered the role of New Kingdom Egypt and the collapse of empires throughout the Near East circa 1200-1100 BCE. The lecture will present a radical new proposal: that Egypt itself instigated “Israelite” settlement.

About the Speaker: David Ilan is the director of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. He has excavated at Tel Arad, Tel Megiddo, and Tel Dan. He teaches at Hebrew Union College and has taught at Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University, and at Johns Hopkins University. He specializes in mortuary archaeology, religion, and ritual in the Chalcolithic period, the Middle Bronze Age and the early Iron Age of the southern Levant. Since 2005, he has directed the excavations at Tel Dan in northern Israel. He is also the editor of the journal NGSBA Archaeology.

While the event is free and open to Leve Center members, pre-registration is required. E mail cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu or call (310) 267-5327 to register.