

# **Khirbet Qeiyafa Retrospective: The excavator's view of the controversy**

by

**Professor Yosef Garfinkel**

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The site of Khirbet Qeiyafa, which a year earlier was unknown, became world-famous in 2008 when *The New York Times* dedicated a full page to describe its excavation and the preliminary results. The paper referred to the figure of King David, who is well known from the biblical tradition but is archaeologically and historically elusive, because this was the first time a fortified city from the time and locale of King David had been found. The date of the site was determined by accurate radiometric measurements and it is in the Elah Valley, the place of the biblical tradition of David and Goliath. Khirbet Qeiyafa has become the point of contact between archaeology, biblical studies, ancient history and mythology, but this engagement has not been smooth. Prof Garfinkel will reflect on the subsequent controversies.



**The Lecturer:** Yosef Garfinkel is Yigael Yadin Professor of Archaeology of the Land of Israel at the Institute of Archaeology, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was originally a prehistorian, excavating Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites, including Yiftahel, Gesher, Neolithic Ashkelon, Shaar Hagolan and Tel Tsaf.

Since 2007 he is conducting a regional project in the Judean Shephelah, excavating in Khirbet Qeiyafa (2007-2013), Tel Lachish (2013-2017), and Khirbet er-Rai (since 2015). Prof. Garfinkel has over 200 publications, including 30 books.

**5.15 pm Thursday 23 August, 2018**

**Venue: Australian Institute of Archaeology,  
Terrace Way, Macleod**

**(La Trobe University, Building TER 11, Melways 873-4  
University parking restrictions cease at 5pm)**

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