

Name:

Date:

Period:

The Biblical Minimalists: Expunging Ancient Israel's Past

Directions: Use the article to answer the questions below.

1. According to the author, what do biblical minimalists think traditional biblical scholarship is 'suppressing,' and how?
2. According to the author, what was the first narrative to 'fall' as historically credible in light of biblical scholarship, and why?
3. What does the author cite as an example of how the Primeval stories in Genesis 'provide us with some of the earliest misuses of archaeology'? Explain his example.
4. In the academic community, what is the current trend in Biblical research? Why does it make biblical historians 'uncomfortable'?
5. How did William F Albright attempt to make the case for the historicity of the patriarchal narratives? Who are the two scholars who 'destroyed' his argument, and how did they do it? Why does the author think that the logic of their argument does not lead to the conclusion they propose?

