

Boaz Zissu – Short Academic Biography

Boaz Zissu is a Professor of Classical Archaeology at Bar-Ilan University's Institute of Archaeology and Department of Land of Israel Studies. His research specializes in the archaeology of Judea during the Second Temple, Roman, and Byzantine periods, with particular emphasis on the excavation and documentation of artificial cavities and subterranean complexes, including burial caves, hiding systems, water installations, and quarries.

Professor Zissu's studies on underground archaeology have advanced our understanding of human planning, rock-cutting, use, and repurposing of subterranean cavities from the Iron Age to Late Antiquity in Israel. His excavations and surveys have documented hundreds of rock-cut installations across the Judean landscape, from elaborate Hellenistic necropoleis and Bar Kokhba revolt refuge caves to Byzantine quarries. Notable among his projects are the comprehensive documentation of Maresha's subterranean necropolis, the exploration of the Te'omim Cave complex in the Jerusalem Hills, and the systematic study of Judean hiding complexes used during the Second Jewish Revolt (132-136 CE).

His collaborative research combines archaeological fieldwork with speleological, geological, and epigraphic analyses. Professor Zissu has co-authored seminal works including *The Necropolis of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period* (with Amos Kloner, 2007) and *The Bar Kokhba Revolt - The Archaeological Evidence* (with Hanan Eshel, 2019). He has published over 250 scholarly works in multiple languages.

Professor Zissu's fieldwork spans major sites throughout Judea, including Horvat 'Ethri, Horvat Midras, Horvat Burgin, and numerous cavities and underground systems in the Jerusalem Hills, Judean Shephelah, and Judean Desert. His interdisciplinary approach integrates archaeological, historical, and geological methodologies to reconstruct ancient underground landscapes and their functions in antiquity.

Selected English-Language Publications on Subterranean Complexes

1. Avni, G., and Zissu, B., 2015. The "Tomb of the Prophets" on the Mount of Olives: A Re-Examination. In: A. E. Killebrew and G. Fassbeck (eds). *Viewing Ancient Jewish Art and Archaeology*. Leiden: Brill, pp. 16-32.
2. Kloner A. and Zissu B., 2002. The "Caves of Simeon the Just" and "The Minor Sanhedrin." Two Burial Complexes from the Second Temple Period in Jerusalem. In: L. V. Rutgers (ed.). *What Athens has to do with Jerusalem – Essays in Honor of Gideon Foerster*. Leuven. pp. 125-149.
3. Kloner A. and Zissu B., 2003. Hiding Complexes in Judaea: An Archaeological and Geographical Update on the Area of the Bar Kokhba Revolt. in: Schäfer P. (ed.). *The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered*. Tübingen. pp. 181-216.
4. Kloner A., and Zissu B., 2009. Underground Hiding Complexes in Israel and the Bar Kokhba Revolt. *Opera Ipogea, Journal of Speleology in Artificial Cavities* 1/2009, pp. 9-28.

5. Kloner A., Zissu B., 2013. The Subterranean Complexes of Maresha: An Urban Center from the Hellenistic Period in the Judean Foothills, Israel. *Opera Ipogea* 2/2013, pp. 45-62.
6. Sagiv N., Zissu B. and Amit D., 2002. The Northern System of Eleutheropolis (Bet Guvrin). in: Amit D., Patrich J. and Hirschfeld Y., (eds.). *The Aqueducts of Israel*. Portsmouth, Rhode Island. pp. 177-186.
7. Shtober-Zisu N., Zissu, B. 2018. Lithology and the Distribution of Early Roman-Era Tombs in Jerusalem's Necropolis. *Progress in Physical Geography*, 42/5, pp. 628-649.
8. Taylor J. E., Zissu B., 2023. Horvat Qasra and the Chapel of Holy Salome: Features, Identity and Archaeological Context. *Strata: Journal of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society* 41, pp. 63-104.
9. Taylor J. E., Zissu B., 2024. Horvat Qasra et la chapelle Sainte Salomé: aperçu des caractéristiques, de l'identité et du contexte archéologique. *Subterranea* n°195. pp. 200-233.
10. Tsafir Y. and Zissu B., 2002. Hiding Complex of the Second Temple Period and the Time of the Bar-Kokhba Revolt at 'Ain-'Arrub in the Hebron Hills. In: Humphrey J. (ed.) *The Roman and Byzantine Near East*. vol.3. Portsmouth, Rhode Island. pp. 7-36.
11. Zissu B., 1998. Qumran Type Graves in Jerusalem: Archaeological Evidence of an Essene Community? *Dead Sea Discoveries* 5,2. pp. 158-171.
12. Zissu B., 2005. Burial Cave with a Greek Inscription and Graffiti at Khirbat el-'Ein, Judean Shephelah. *'Atiqot* 50. pp. 27-36.
13. Zissu B., 2007. A Burial Cave from the Second Temple Period at El-Maghar on the Southern Coastal Plain. *Buletin of the Anglo Israel Archaeological Society* 25. pp. 9-17.
14. Zissu B., 2012. Excavations near Nahmanides Cave in Jerusalem and the Question of the Identification of Biblical Nob. *Israel Exploration Journal* 62/1. pp. 54-70.
15. Zissu B., 2023. Archaeological Explorations at 'En Qobi in the Jerusalem Highlands and the Identification of Qube/Qubi. *Cercetări Arheologice* 30.1, pp. 263-284.
16. Zissu B. and Amit D., 2008. Common Judaism, Common Purity, and the Second Temple Period Judean Miqwa'ot (Ritual Immersion Baths). In: W. McCready and A. Reinhartz (eds.). *Common Judaism*. Minneapolis. pp. 47-62.
17. Zissu B., Abadi O., 2024. Pilgrimage Pathways: Burial Monuments and Road Networks in Early Roman Jerusalem. *Cercetări Arheologice*, Vol. 31.2: 347-378, doi: <https://doi.org/10.46535/ca.31.2.05>
18. Zissu B., Eshel H., Stiebel G. D., Porat R., Langford B., Davidovich U. and Frumkin A., 2011. Archaeological Remains of the Bar Kokhba Revolt in the Teomim Cave (Mūghâret Umm et Tûeimîn), Western Jerusalem Hills. *Journal of Jewish Studies* 62/2. pp. 262-283.

19. Zissu B., Ganor A., Klein E., Klein A., 2013. New Discoveries at Horvat Burgin in the Judean Shephelah: Tombs, Hiding Complexes, and Graffiti. *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 145. pp. 29-52.
20. Zissu B., Klein E., Porat R., Langford B., and Frumkin A., 2017. Votive Offerings from the Late Roman Period in the Te'omim Cave, Western Jerusalem Hills, in O. Tal and Z. Weiss (eds.). *Expressions of Cult in the Southern Levant*. Turnhout. pp. 111-130.
21. Zissu B., Kloner A., Ganor A., Avner R., and Klein A. 2016. Horvat Midras (Khirbet Durusiya): An Ancient Settlement and its Artificial Cavities in the Judean Foothills, Israel. *Opera Ipogea* 2/2016, pp. 11-28.
22. Zissu B., and Klein E., 2014. On the Use and Reuse of Rock-Cut Tombs and a Ritual Bath at Tel en-Naşbeh: New Perspectives on the Roman and Byzantine Necropoleis, in: J. R. Zorn and A. J. Brody (eds.). *Tell en-Nasbeh Excavations after 85 Years*. Piscataway. pp. 199-224.
23. Zissu B., and Klein E., 2015. Rock-Cut Burial Cave from the Roman Period at Beit Nattif, Judaeen Foothills. *Israel Exploration Journal* 61/2. pp. 196-216.
24. Zissu, B., Klein, E., 2025. Between Text and Trowel: Archaeological Investigations at Hurbat Husham in the Judean Foothills and the Identification of Thamnata. *Cercetări Arheologice*, Vol. 32.1. pp. 49-84, doi: <https://doi.org/10.46535/ca.32.1.04>
25. Zissu B., and Kloner A., 2014. The Bell-Shaped Quarries of the Judean Foothills, Israel. *Opera Ipogea* 2/2014. pp. 47-60.
26. Zissu B., and Kloner A., 2014. Rock-Cut Hiding Complexes from the Roman Period in Israel. *Der Erdstall, Beitrage zur Erforschung kuenstlicher Hoehlen* 40, pp. 96-119.
27. Zissu B., and Kloner A., 2015. Subterranean Complexes at Maresha and Additional Notes on the Judean Hiding Complexes. in: S. R. Wolff (ed.), *Villain or Visionary? Macalister and the Archaeology of Palestine*. London. pp. 96-111.
28. Zissu, B., Kloner A., 2025. The Final Dwelling: Funerary Architecture and Burial Customs at Hellenistic-Period Maresha. *Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology* 12.2, pp. 72–129. <https://doi.org/10.14795/jaha.12.2.2025.1279>
29. Zissu B., Langford B., Ecker A., and Eshel E., 2014. Aramaic and Latin Graffiti in an Underground Complex at Khirbet 'Arak Hala – North of Bet Guvrin, in: Eshel E., and Levin Y., (eds.). *Epigraphy and Daily Life from the Bible to the Talmud*. Goetingen. pp. 123-142.
30. Zissu B., and Shtober-Zisu N., 2023. An Underground Rock-Cut Shrine near Amatsya, Judean Foothills, Israel. *Cercetări Arheologice*, Vol. 30.2, pp. 599-626.