ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Using Pre-monarchic Israel’s Bet-ave as a sustainability precedent for a contemporary development in the Killbuck/Mud Creek subwatershed, Delaware County, Indiana.

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As we scramble to find modern solutions to our social and environmental problems, the culture of Pre-monarchic Israel has something to contribute to the conversation.

The Bible, and its critical literature, despite going into the details of the socioeconomic order at its social, political, and economic levels, does not speak specifically about culture at the site design level. For example, despite elaborating on the policies that guaranteed land being distributed to every family, it does not go into detail regarding how much land, or how that land was managed, distributed, and designed.

The problem, then, is despite ample amounts of planning, policy, ideological and economic commentary in the texts, little is said about the spatial and systemic dimensions of the community.

Besides further investigating the hermeneutic/anthropological tools for reconstructing ancient cultures, I will seek to fill this gap with other sources of information that reasonably answer the question of what factors (energy, water, food, material, environmental, etc.) must be considered and what are the relative weights of those factors in constructing a conceptual spatial footprint, to theoretically inform us of ancient Israelite culture at the material level.

Only when this problem is solved can the theoretical model be used as a case study for a contemporary development. The model will be used as a design framework for development in the Killbuck/Mud Creek subwatershed which will involve the master planning of a network of Bet-ave villages and specific site design of an individual Bet-ave compound.

The hypothesis is that any 100 member community could be sustainable by using Bet-ave principles. The assumption is that the socioeconomic order of Pre-monarchic Israel will provide valid guidance and a new direction in the design of contemporary village/nuclear family productive units.