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*From Canaanite Stronghold to Solomonic Fortress—The History of Late Bronze and Iron Age Gezer*

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**  
3:00pm  
Oxford Road Building, Presentation Room  
Emory University

This will be an illustrated lecture on the recent excavations and discoveries at Tel Gezer, Israel. Tel Gezer has been at the heart of the archaeology of Solomon. Debates concerning the nature of the Israelite Monarchy have become invigorated due to recent archaeological discoveries and proposals. Tel Gezer is a 33 acre site located on the border between the Israelites and Philistines. It is strategically located at an important crossroad guarding the pass from the coast up to Jerusalem. The ancient city is mentioned in several Egyptian and Assyrian texts. Gezer is mentioned in the biblical account of Solomon’s fortifications (1 Kings 9:15). It was continuously occupied from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic Period. Although previous excavations have revealed much of Gezer’s history, there are still many questions left unanswered. A new team has been excavating the site for the past decade to address current paradigms of state formation, ethnicity, and boundaries in the southern Levant. This afternoon’s lecture will present the latest discoveries at this biblical city: a newly discovered Canaanite walled city and a large palace associated with Solomon.