The ongoing excavations at Tell es-Safi/Gath (Israel), which is identified as biblical Philistine Gath (home of Goliath according to the Bible) have shed light on cultural remains from many periods - spanning the late Prehistoric through Modern periods. Most importantly, the finds have shed light and clarified many issues relating to the historical and biblical sources, and have provided a fruitful background for the study of various cultures over the ages - utilizing a wide range of analytic perspectives - whether historical, anthropological or that of the sciences. In this lecture, Professor Aren Maeir will survey some of the more interesting finds and interpretative perspectives that these finds have brought forth.

Aren Maeir is a Professor of Archaeology at the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar-Ilan University (which is located in Ramat-Gan, Israel), where he teaches Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology. Over the years, Professor Maeir has published more than 140 scholarly and popular studies in various journals and books, and has written and edited 7 books. Professor Maeir’s primary professional focus is the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project (which he directs) a long-term, multi-national excavation of one of the largest ancient sites in the Land of Israel, a site that is identified as “Gath of the Philistines,” home of Goliath.