

Review: Timothy Mahoney, *Patterns of Evidence, Thinking Man Films, 2015*

Runtime (min): 119

Evidence Exists!

This documentary provides compelling evidence of Old Testament events using six main sections under a framework of millennia: the arrival of Jacob and his family, population multiplication in Goshen, slavery, God's judgments via Moses, the Exodus, and Joshua's conquest of Canaan.

Standout evidences include the Ipwer Papyrus containing the plagues of Egypt, the statue of Joseph and his [empty] tomb in Avaris, Goshen, and the ruins of Jericho with its burnt grain stores and fire-damaged interior.

Filmmaker Tim Mahoney approaches his project from an almost agnostic position and without much scripture, so the production does not have a direct evangelistic impact. The most lively (and persuasive) historian David Rohl, though an agnostic, seems more zealous than Mr Mahoney.

At 119 minutes and with great summaries after each chapter the education value is high. For those that already believe the Holy Bible there is much 'ammunition', and for the sceptic there are even less reasons to remain scornful.

The production has excellent summaries at the tail of each chapter that cement understandings. The seven main chapters under a framework of millennia are: arrival of Jacob and his family, population multiplication in Goshen, slavery, God's judgments via Moses, the Exodus, and Joshua's conquest of Canaan.

The central hypothesis is the exodus happened around 1450BC in the Early-Middle Egyptian Kingdom period and not 1100BC (under Rameses II).

Joseph's statue of red hair, pales yellow skin, a coloured coat and shoulder-weapon in his [empty] pyramidal tomb in Avaris, Goshen is stunning evidence.

Egyptian records have Semitic slave names (even Biblical ones).

There remain twenty unexplored cities in Goshen that may be similar to Avaris and yield more evidences of the Hebrews.

There was a **twelve**-pillared Syrian-style house found in Avaris.

Evidence of Hebrew infant mortality of 70% exists (against of average of 25%), also a chronologically later female-to-male adult ratio of 60-40 suggesting higher male child death rate. This correlates with Pharaoh's murdering of the Hebrew boys in Goshen.

The Ipwer Egyptian papyrus has an account of the Biblical plagues and it is dated during the Middle Kingdom.

The son of Rameses II had a plinth tablet implies Israel was already a nation in Canaan at that time (i.e. c1100BC) when they would still have been wandering in the desert. This means the 'Rameses' title in the Bible is an anachronism and cannot be the same.

The Berlin Pedestal hieroglyphics mention three nations defeated by the Egyptians: Ashkelon, Canaan and Israel and it is dated 1360BC i.e. *before* Rameses II. Israel was already a power in Canaan much earlier than standard Egyptian chronology.

Avaris has plague burial mounds abandoned in a hurry.

The Egyptian priest Manetho [300BC] said God [not the gods] smote the Egyptians in the reign of one 'Deutymo', then coincidentally the northern invaders conquered and ruled Egypt for some 200 years (called the 'Hyksos' period).

In the 1950s, Kathleen Kenyon excavated the Jericho site and found a stone foundation topped with mud brick walls. There was evidence of fire inside the city as well as burnt (full) grain stores indicating it was during harvest [i.e. Spring, also Passover time], and that the siege was very short [only seven days!].

An earlier German excavation effort found a small section of the wall remained [where Rahab's house must have been].

At the conquered city of Hazor (Israel) a cuneiform tablet with Ibni (**Jabin**) on it was found, the King Jabin of the Bible!

Kathleen dated the destruction 1550BC.

Orthodox Egyptian chronology which is built on 'rags and tatters' is the cornerstone of all other ancient history. This means pushing events back centuries to fit the archaeological evidence would be anathema. However, this chronology contains three main 'dark' periods, the longest being the third which could easily account for the gap.