

The Exodus: Fairy Tale or Historical Fact? By David Rohl
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5TyfBZKwUI&t=4s>
Text: <https://dontveter.com/ec/exodus.pdf>

BACKGROUND

Abraham had a son, Isaac.

Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau.

Jacob had 12 sons; Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt; Jacob is renamed Israel (so his descendants are called Israelites).

Joseph interprets the Pharaoh's dream and gets put in charge of everything. Rohl calls him the Vizier, in today's terms that is something like prime minister.

Jacob and family move to Egypt and settle in the land of Goshen in the Nile Delta. The original name of the city was Avaris but it was later changed to Rameses. (This led archaeologists to think that the Israelites left Egypt some 200 years after they actually did. If they left during Rameses, Jericho was already destroyed, so the Israelites could not destroy it so therefore the whole story is a fairy tale.)

Joseph makes the Israelites promise to take his body with them when they leave Egypt.

A new pharaoh makes the Israelites slaves.

Moses and the 10 plagues; Passover; Israelites cross the Red Sea; 40 years in the wilderness; Conquest of Jericho.

Meanwhile, after the Israelites leave Egypt, the Hyksos move in quite easily because Pharaoh's army drowned in the Red Sea.

Joseph's Palace

1:38:55

[What must be Jacob's] house according to the archaeology was knocked down [because] the owner of the house had died and it was decided to build a palace on top of it.

And this is the floor of the palace that was excavated by the Austrians.

What you see here is a mud brick floor which was painted white.

And then you have the settings here for two stone bases for wooden columns to hold it up.

It was basically a very, very nice audience chamber.

And I'm going to show you the reconstruction from the movie again now of that Egyptian style palace.

But it wasn't built for Egyptians, it was built for a Semite, possibly the Vizier, the northern Vizier.

When we look at a plan, this part over here was added later.

The original facade was here, along here and this courtyard was added later including these two suites here and a new entrance here.

But the original part of the house was this here.

This is the the shot you just saw of the four column bases and the mud brick floor.

This was the audience chamber to receive visitors.

This was his personal washroom.

And this was probably his robing room here.

And this, believe it or not, was his bedroom and this is a mud brick platform which is the biggest bed ever found in the ancient world.

You would expect that for Joseph wouldn't you?

The guy who interpreted dreams to have the best bed in the world.

Now what struck me immediately about this, and by the way these two suites are identical.

How many sons did Joseph have?

So when they were growing up and they're getting their first wife he built two apartments for them exactly the same, no argument.

You can't have a bigger one than him.

They must both have the same sized apartment. sized is strange, but Rohl is British

And significantly, the original facade of Joseph's palace had, you guessed it, twelve columns representing the twelve brothers, twelve tribes, in the back garden.

And this is now the palace over here.

This is the model that the Austrian excavators built for the palace.

You'll see a series of tombs and I suppose you're already ahead of me.

There are 12 of them, twelve main tombs, subsidiary ones possibly for wives here, but twelve main ones.

Each one had a tree planted in front of it but you'll notice number 12 is rather different from the rest.

Number 12 is a pyramid tomb.

Here you see that pyramid at the back of the garden is dated at the same time as the palace.

Here, the ones that you see along the line here, and these ones, are slightly earlier.

By the way, those daggers that I showed you earlier came from these tombs.

Now that pyramid is what we're going to concentrate on now.

This is the photograph before they started to excavate down into the tomb.

What you see here is a platform made of mud brick and then on the front, a base for a chapel.

So you have a pyramid with a chapel in front of it.

As I say, they haven't started excavating, and now the plan of it looks like this.

Here's your platform base for the pyramid, here's your chapel.

Underground, underneath, the pyramid we have a mud brick vault where the burial took place.

I'll explain what that is in a minute.

Here they are digging down into the burial chamber and this is all they found inside, a few broken bits of limestone and that strange thing.

I'll show you the excavation of the actual tomb itself.

Here we see this man, in the blue gala berry, standing in the corner of the tomb.

That's the chapel over there.

There's the fragments of limestone and this large group of heavier limestone here.

That is what we're going to concentrate on in a minute.

And looking in the other direction, here is the object again, looking from the chapel towards the burial chamber.

And in the burial chamber all you've got is this piece of limestone and two more pieces of limestone from the same object.

[The tomb is] completely empty, no bones, no mummy beads, no coffin, no wood, no pottery, absolutely empty, so the archaeologists said, oh I know why that is.

Its because there's a tunnel that's been dug in from the chapel into the burial chamber and everything has been cleaned out.

But then I asked Bitak (famous archaeologist) what grave robber would take the bones?

What's the value of the bones to a grave robber?

Doesn't work, this is not robbery, this is pious removal of the body.

So now the crunch time is, what is this?

Well, it stood in the chapel, in front of the tomb and when they assembled the bits it was quite clear that was part of a human statue, the top half.

But you'll notice that the whole of the face has been smashed off.

This is reconstruction here, the eyes have been gouged out with an axe.

Look at this massive hit on the top of the head there.

But we also have a throw stick on the shoulder.

I'll come back to that in a minute.

If we look at the hair, beautifully coiffured, beautifully combed, and the original paint still survives on the statue.

Red hair, flame red hair and on the forehead, although you can't see it too well, this is yellow paint.

So, yellow skin, red hair, beautifully coiffured and combed in what we call the mushrooms hairstyle, and on his shoulder, a throw stick.

Now a throw stick is a symbol of an Asiatic or Semite so this high official with this statue is an official of state but he's a foreigner, he is not an Egyptian.

On the back shoulder I began to see, can you see, fragments of paint in stripes.

See that one?

Can you see them coming in this direction here, or on the shoulders, the collar, and then they go down vertically.

If I highlight that for you just a little bit, just help you to understand it, it's a multicolored coat.

So this statue, which is twice life-size is a seated statue of a high official of state with yellow skin, red hair wearing a multicolored coat in a tomb, a pyramid tomb.

Now a pyramid tomb is normally not given to a high official in this period.

Only Kings had pyramids, only Kings have colossal statues, no individual except the King would have that.

This guy has been honored to the highest level that a king could grant.

Art historians have looked at this statute and said that it was carved and made in the royal workshops next to the pyramid of Amenemhat the third.

Okay, so the king ordered this statue for this individual.

So let's restore his face, red hair, yellow skin, collar, multicolored coat and this is the reconstruction from the movie of the chapel with the statue.

And if only we have the other part of this, we'd be able to read the name of the individual and this is his name in hieroglyphs and that's the name of Joseph in his Egyptian name.

HERE MOSES GETS INTO THE VIDEO ALONG WITH THE MURDERED BABY BOYS

1:54

Who was the Pharaoh who raised Moses in the palace?

So here's the text famous one from Exodus 1.

Then there came to power in Egypt a new king who did not know Joseph.

Look he said, these people they are now more numerous and stronger than we are.

Because they've prospered, we must take action to stop them from multiplying, for if war should break out they might join forces with our enemies, they might take up arms against us and then escape from the country.

Accordingly, they put taskmasters over the Israelites to wear them down by forced labor.

This is the introduction to Moses and his birth.

They've prospered, they've gotten numerous, they've become powerful and we've seen that because in the 13th dynasty most of the officials were Semitic, they weren't Egyptians.

Even some of the pharaohs were Semitic at that time.

What are the most telling and saddest things about the archaeological excavations at Tell El Daba Avaris is they found hundreds of tiny graves.

These are mud bricks here so those are little babies all over the site.

Now in most ancient sites, infant burials represent around 25% of the cemetery population, in other words 1/4 of most graves you find in the ancient world belonged to infants 1 year old or less.

In this site at Avaris, infant burials represent 50% of the total cemetery population.

There is a massive doubling of the number of infant burials

And then with the remaining adult population that are left over, of the remaining adult burials, there are 3 females to every 2 males.

That tells me that these infants are mostly male, because there's a skew in the population.

These slaves go from being 50-50 male and female to a strong bias towards female in adulthood and we know what that story is.

1:56

NOW HE LOOKS THROUGH SOME RECORDS FOR THE NAME OF THE PHARAOH OF THE EXODUS.

1:59

[Now] over here we need to be looking for the Pharaoh of the Exodus.

So if I go 45 years down, it's approximately 45, because we don't have the exact dates, we come to this little fragment of the papyrus here, and the name, Dudimose.

Remember that name because he's the Pharaoh of the exodus, not Rameses the second.

This nobody. This guy that nobody ever heard of.

1:59:54

NOW THE RUINS OF JERICHO

2:02

At the end of stratum G, marking the end of the 13th dynasty, the main tell area was abruptly abandoned and the Semitic population vanished.

So here we are, this is the location now we're dealing with.

We're not saying Ramesses of the 19th dynasty was the Fuhrer of the exodus.

We're saying it happened down there under Dudimose at the close of the 13th dynasty.

And this, 40 years later, approximately 40 years later, is where we should be looking for a Jericho that was destroyed.

And then we have the Egyptian collapse with the Hyksos dominating the country for two centuries before the recovery in the 18th dynasty.

So we're not going to deal with where they went because that's for the next film, so I'm going to very quickly jump forward to the conquest and I should be able to wrap this up within the time we've got left.

So remember our chart.

We have the Iron Age town built by Hiel on the body of his two sons, in the time of Ahab and Omri, circa (c.) 1800 BC.

Then, we have going backwards, the six hundred year gap at Jericho and we have the destruction of middle Bronze Age city destroyed by Joshua.

Dave, what you're saying is that this Dudimose and the end of his kingdom and the dark or the second intermediate period is right there?

That is, right at that spot, the second Dark Age hits.

Right at that spot, okay, and it's caused by the Israelites and God destroying the Egyptians.

The walls collapse at Jericho, there's heavy burning of the site and the site is abandoned, as I say, for 600 years just as in the Biblical story.

Joshua 6:20 and 26 when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, they raised a mighty war cry and the wall of Jericho collapsed then and there.

At once the people stormed the city, each man going straight forward and they captured the city.

And at that time Joshua made them take this oath before Yahweh.

Accursed before Yahweh be the man who rises up and builds this city!

On his firstborn he will lay its foundations, on his youngest son he will set up its gates!

Exactly as happens with Hiel in the Iron Age 1B.

The new city is built and he sacrificed his two children as foundation deposits for the building of the new city in the time of Ahab and Omri.

So if you look at Jericho, this is looking down on Jericho excavated in the 1950s by Kathleen Kenyon.

I'm going to take you to this trench that she dug.

She dug several trenches, but this is one that I studied myself.

Here is the trench during the excavations.

You see, she dug right down into the tell.

Here's me, examining the stratigraphy because when you cut down into a trench you can see the different layers one on top of the other.

And what I'm going to show you now is the structure of the defensive system which is a foundation of which of the wall that's on the top of the tell.

Here a sloping rampart made of plaster, a glassy we call it.

At the bottom is a revetment wall made of stone and so it's virtually impossible to attack this, this monstrous structure, these high walls that you see at Jericho in the middle Bronze Age.

Let me put on top of that the existing structure which has now disappeared.

So you have the revetment wall made of stone at the bottom, you have the plastic sloped glassy here and you have the city wall at the top.

And when Kathleen Kenyon excavated this, she found the wall had collapsed and had rolled down and ended up at the bottom.

The mud bricks from the top wall ended up at the bottom, the walls came tumbling down and then they set the thing alight and burnt the whole city to the ground.

So again, this is the wonderful reconstruction from the movie.

When the archaeologists excavated in the houses they found large storage jars full of grain.

This grain was heavily charred from burning, but what this tells us is when the attack took place.

When the destruction took place it took place shortly after Passover, because that's when the harvest is brought in from the Jordan Valley.

And we know it wasn't a long siege because the jars are still full, it must have been a very short siege of the city.

What does the Bible tell us? Seven days.

2:07