

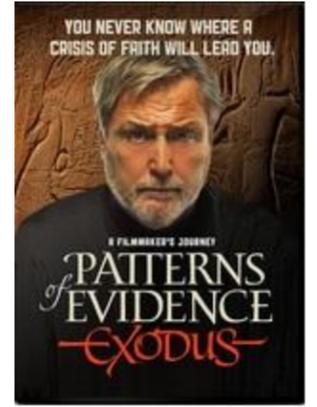
# Evidence of the Exodus

One of the most “faith eroding” exercises ... is to search the Internet to see what Archeologists and Bible scholars say about the Exodus:

- **Mainstream** history and archaeology now consider the Exodus never to have happened, and the story to be an **entirely fictional** narrative put together between the 8th & 5th centuries **BCE**. Christian and Jewish “literalists” do not accept this. [https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Evidence\\_for\\_the\\_Exodus](https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Evidence_for_the_Exodus)

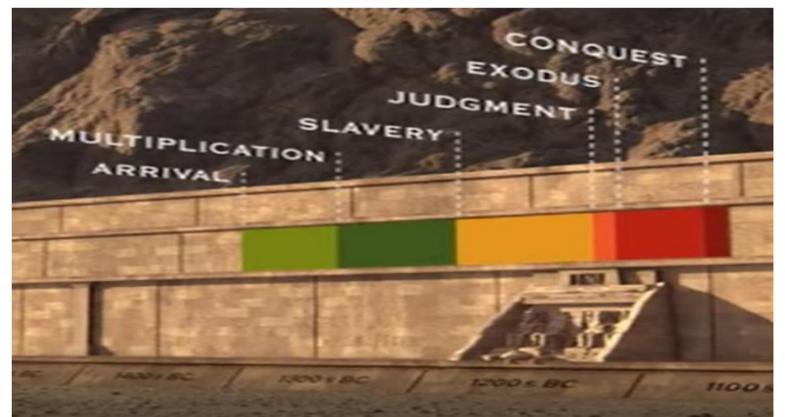
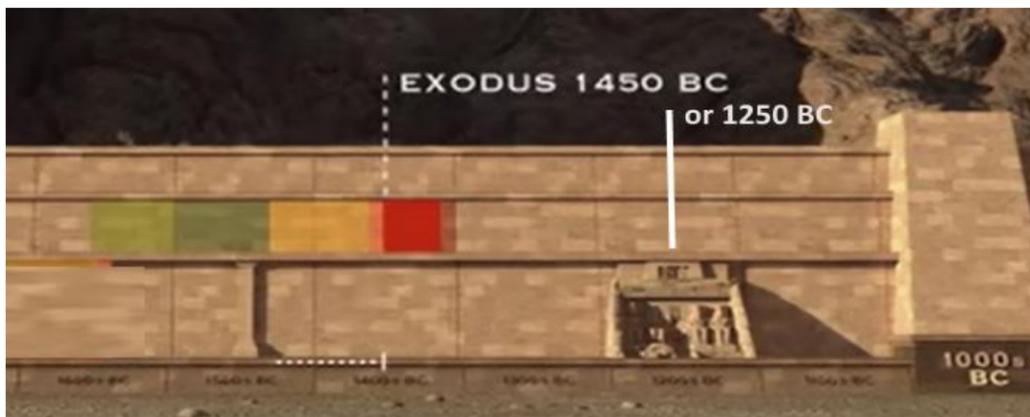
A faith “building” exercise is to view the 2014 documentary “*Patterns of Evidence: Exodus*”

The film features interviews with archaeologists, historians, and biblical scholars & describes numerous findings, including possible archaeological findings of evidence of Hebrew habitation in ancient Egypt, and new historical findings as to the timeline of the events of Exodus, as well as contemporary events in ancient Egypt. It also describes existing artefacts and documents from Ancient Egypt which experts have long debated.



His approach in the Documentary was to look for the patterns that fit what is described in Scripture:

- **Arrival** – Evidence of Israel coming to Egypt
- **Multiplication** – Evidence the population of Israel grew large
- **Slavery** – Evidence of Israel’s slavery in Egypt
- **Judgment** – Evidence of Egypt’s destruction
- **Exodus** – Evidence of Israel leaving
- **Conquest** of Promised Land



## Biggest Problem

Archeologists assume a late date for the Exodus to line up with the city of Raamses which only existed ~200 years – so they don’t see relevant evidence because it doesn’t match their timeline

**Exo 1:11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Historians would do better to examine earlier events that match up with Scripture.

**1Ki 6:1** And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign (*starting ~970 BC*) over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which *is* the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD. (*ie exodus = ~1450 BC*)

Some Key findings ... some great archeological evidence ... Much of it is amazing!

## **Arrival**

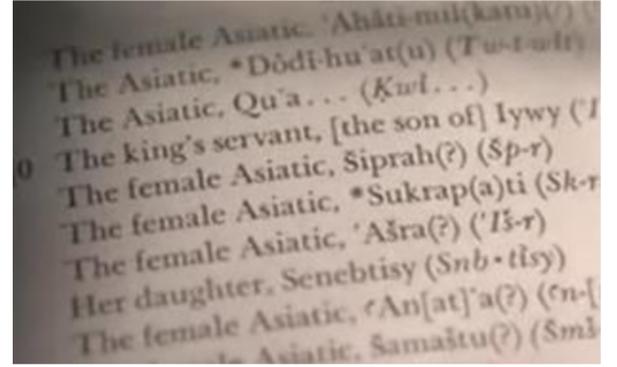
- Semitic people (Arabs, Hebrews) show up in Goshen area. Remains of different housing, burial practices found
- Palace at Avaris (excavated below Rameses) has features that would be improbable unless they are connected to Jacob and Joseph. Including: Twelve tombs, Twelve pillars that support part of the house. Statue of Semitic leader in pyramid shaped tomb wearing coat of many colors ... no body found (as Joseph’s body removed from Egypt). Other time periods don’t feature prominent Semitics in Goshen or pyramid tombs





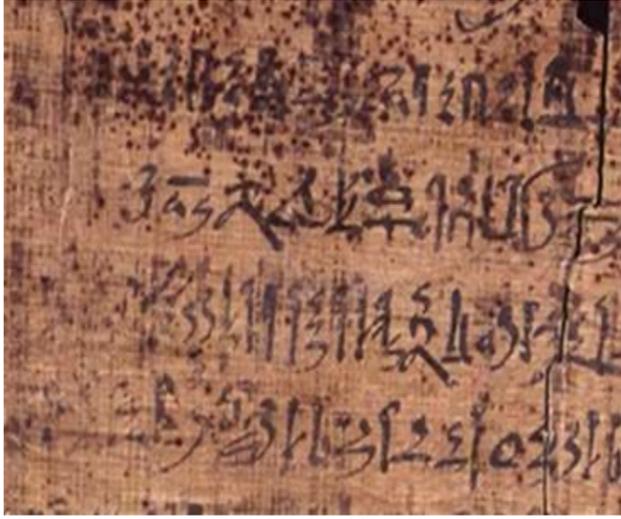
## Multiplication

- Avaris grows from tiny community of perhaps 120 people to become one of the largest cities of ancient world



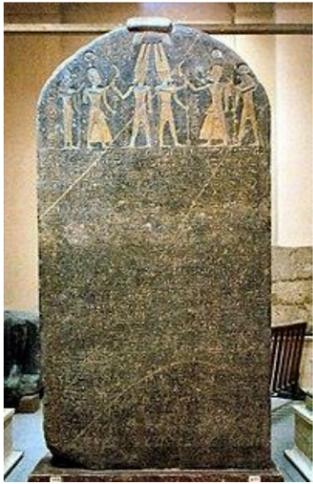
## Slavery

- Brooklyn Papyrus – List of around 100 slaves of one house ... 70% with Hebrew names (near 1700 BC)
- Gravesites at Avaris become 60% female ... 50% of graves for infants



## Judgment

- Ipuwer Papyrus describes calamity in Egypt where “the river is blood”, “death is everywhere”, “poor men have become owners of wealth”, jewelry on the necks of female slaves, terror, famine, weeping, lamentation, etc. (Written ~1250 BC describing period in Middle Kingdom)
- Events of scripture would collapse Egyptian society... Loss of cattle, crops, firstborn, army, etc. Graves found where people were “tossed in” and buried



- **Merneptah Stele** (~1208 BC) rare reference in ancient Egypt naming Israel ... of losing a battle vs Egypt ... Late Exodus cannot be correct because Israel would not be in Promised land yet (but they are!)

- **Berlin Pedestal** (~1360 BC) Pharaoh boasts defeat of Ashkelon, Canaan, & Israel . Late Exodus cannot be correct because Israel would not be in Promised land yet (but they are!)



## Exodus

- Semetic communities of Avaris & Kahun were both abandoned “suddenly & unpremeditated” as goods were left ...and covered by the sands of the desert
- Hyksos invaders conquer Egypt... 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC priest Manetho writes an Egyptian History explaining hordes came into Egypt “without striking a blow” ...around end of Middle Kingdom because “God smote the Egyptians” (not “the gods”)



## Conquest

- Digs confirm at Jericho walls fell suddenly (first), and then the city was burned... A portion of wall did not fall (allowing the rescue of Rahab). Lots of stores of grain were burned as ... the siege lasted just 7 days ...
- Hazor and other cities were destroyed & burned by Joshua ... At Hazor, a cuneiform tablet was found listing the name of the Jaban the king – just as he is named in the Bible.

**Jos 11:1** And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard *these things*,  
(vs 10 Joshua executes him)