

People and Peoples in the Bible Verified by Non-Biblical Evidence

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Sequence of presentation:

- **Personal Background**
- **What about the Bible?**
- **People Verified by Archaeological Evidence**
- **Peoples Verified by Archaeological Evidence**
- **Q&A, Discussion**

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Maximalist



Minimalist

HISTOIRE CRITIQUE DU

VIEUX TESTAMENT,

Par

Le R. P. RICHARD SIMON,

Prêtre de la Congregation de l'Oratoire,

Nouvelle Edition, & qui est la première imprimée sur la Copie de Paris, augmentée d'une Apologie générale, de plusieurs Remarques Critiques, & d'une Réponse par un Théologien Protestant.

On a de plus ajouté à cette Edition une Table des matières, & tout ce qui a été imprimé jusqu'à présent à l'occasion de cette

HISTOIRE CRITIQUE.

Augmentée d'une Notice sur l'auteur, de M. Simon, par M. de la Harpe.



A ROTTERDAM,
Chez REINIER LEERS,
M DC LXXXV.

Is the Bible true or is it fiction?

Who wrote the Bible and when?

How does the Bible differ from all other writings of the ancient world?



"The Bible does not mean what it says, the Bible means what it means."
Dr. Steven Collins

Bible

Tanakh

First history book?

Old Testament

Written by Moses or
written by scribes
during time of David or
Solomon?

New Testament

Written by Disciples?



DATING THE BIBLE

Scholars look for a number of things to help

What language was used at time of Moses?

How about writing? Many scholars have claimed the Israelites had no writing.



DATING THE BIBLE – CONT.

Words help us to validate the age of the Bible:

- Meanings of words and some usages disappeared before David's time
- Some words are rarely used.
- "Abrek" is a good example, Gen 41:43
- Often words have multiple meanings, which is not unusual in a book that had/has no vowels:
 - "Yom"
 - Means "day" 1118 times
 - "Period" 4 times
 - "eternity" a meaning used once



When was the Bible written?

Gen. 37:28 "When Midianite traders passed by, they (the brothers) pulled Joseph up out of the pit. They sold Joseph for Twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who brought Joseph to Egypt."

Ex. 21:32 "...if an ox gores a slave, male or female, he shall pay thirty shekels of silver to the master."



2 Kings 15:20
"...every man of means had to pay fifty shekels of silver..."

Why would a scribe in David's time note these different values? He wouldn't!

Toledots



And

Colophons

Gen 5:1 "This is the written account of Adam's line..."

Gen 6:9 "This is the account of Noah..."

Gen 25:19 "This is the account of Abraham's son Issac..."

DATING BIBLE IS COMPLEX

- Original does not exist. Only copies and copies of copies
- Origins of Bible
- Oldest Hebrew Bible is Leningrad Codex 1000 CE
- 300 CE Masoretic Text
- New Testament documents all written in Greek
- 325 CE New Testament contents
- 400 CE Vulgate Bible
- 1500 CE Protestant Bible emerges
- 1600 CE King James Bible written in English

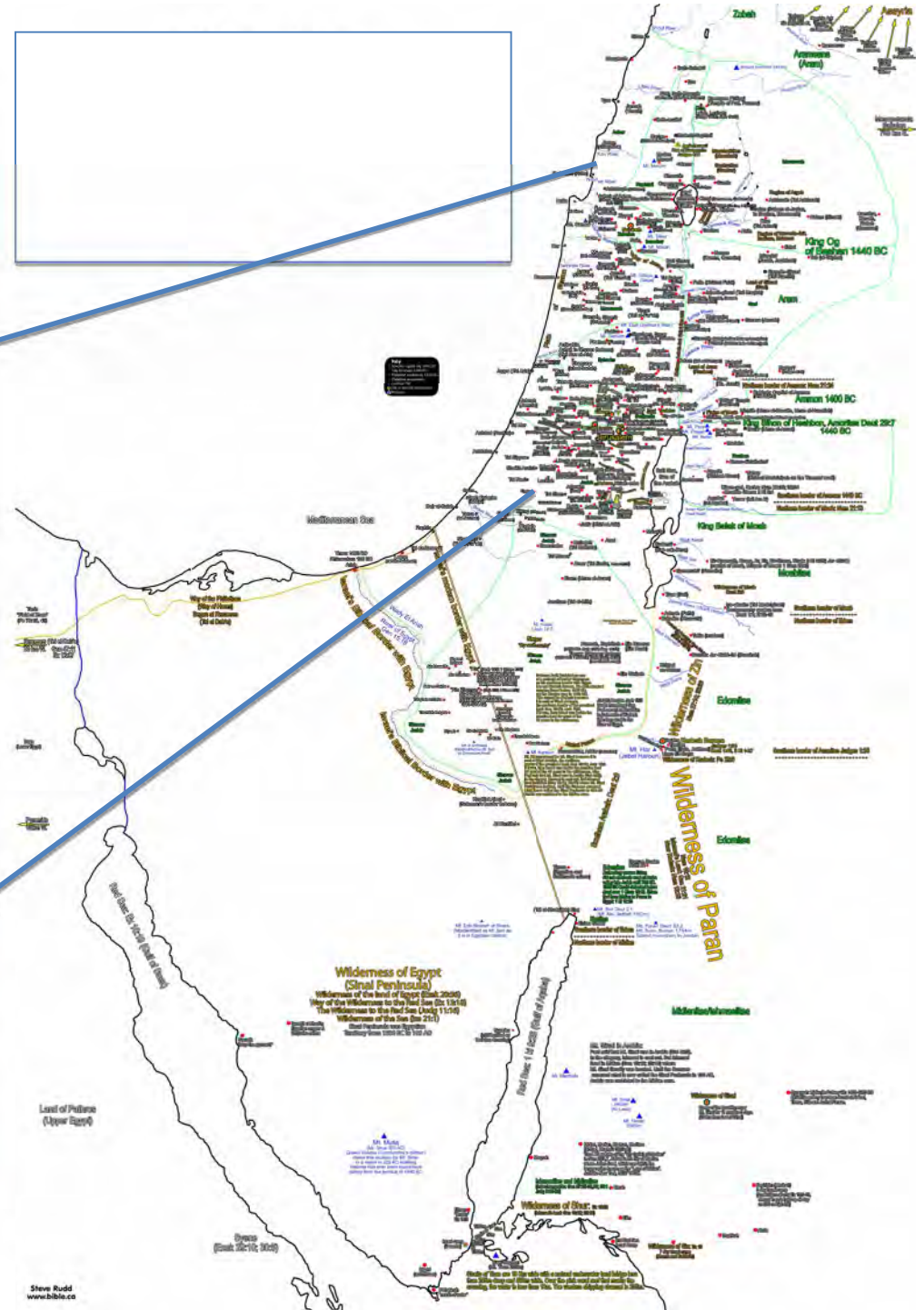
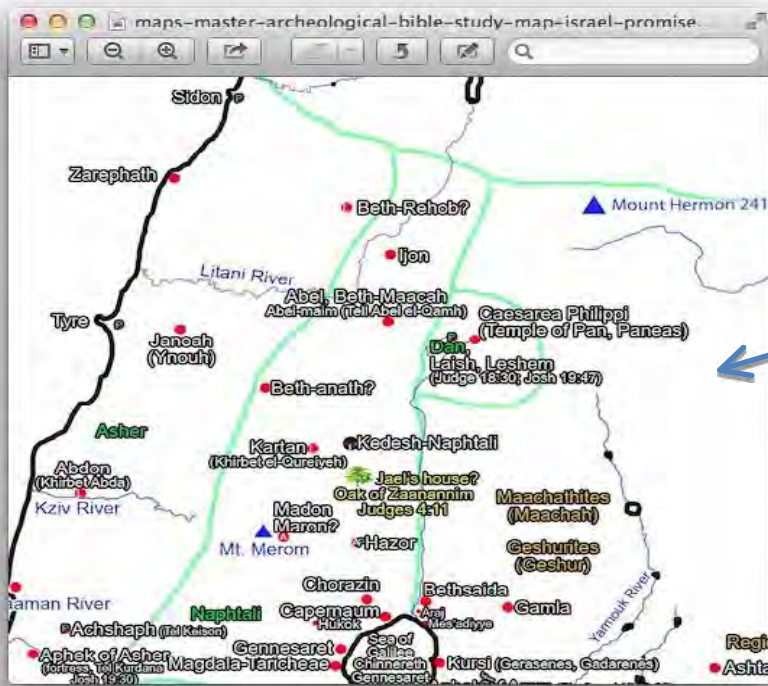
How do we know today's Bible is written as the original? We Don't!

HOW DOES THE BIBLE DIFFER FROM OTHER ANCIENT TEXTS?

- The Bible was written to remember and recall actual events, places and people.
- It is unlike all other ancient Near East texts. The Bible is grounded firmly in earthly history.
- It does not celebrate the power and traditions of ruling dynasties.
- Complex and clear vision of *why* history unfolded for the people of Israel.
- Unlike other ancient texts, the Bible was and is used to find places and people that were found nowhere else until verified by archaeology?

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KING SARGON

Isaiah 20:1 - "It was the year that the Tartan' came to Ashdod - Being sent by King Sargon of Assyria"

Sargon was considered a myth.

1843 Paul Emile Botta found Sargon's palace in Khorsabad, Iraq.

Among many inscriptions uncovered in the ruins was a specific inscription discussing Sargon's military actions against Ashdod, the same in Isaiah 20:1.

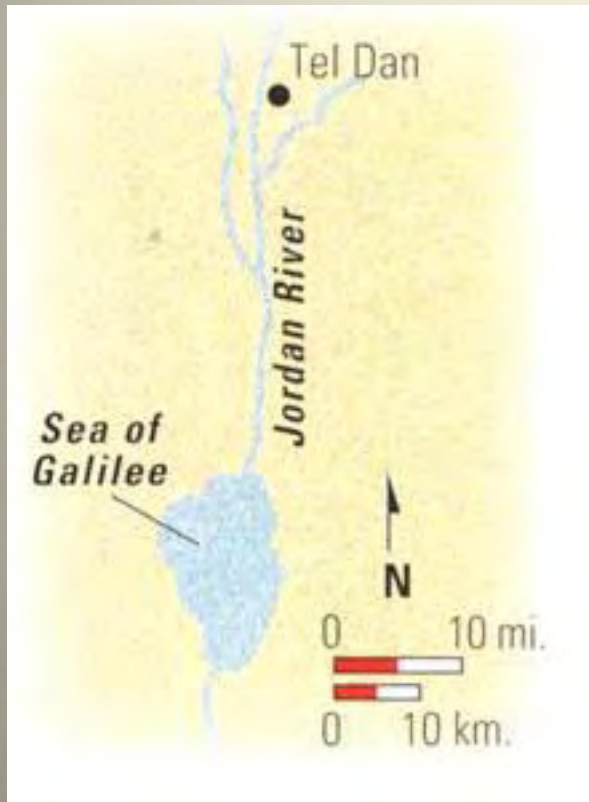
Sargon ruled from 2334—2279 BCE, founded the kingdom of Akkad.



BIBLICAL KING DAVID

King David repeatedly identified in the Bible, especially in Book of Kings.

For decades scholars argued that King David was a myth.



Avraham Biran, 1993, basalt stone uncovered at Tel Dan, part of a stele providing triumph inscription of Hazael of Aram-Damascus.

Records 9th century BCE victories over the king of Israel and the king of the "House of David".



KING JEHOIACHIN – 598-597 BCE

King Jehoiachin known only from the Bible until 1930s.

2 Kings 24:12-15

¹² Jehoiachin king of Judah surrendered to the king of Babylon..... So Nebuchadnezzar..... carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon....."



Evidence of Jehoiachin's existence found in Iraq

Tablet: "10 sila of oil to the King of Judah....."

Why is this important?

Because

**ESTABLISHES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
A BIBLICAL PERSONALITY FROM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

AND

**ESTABLISHES THE CHRONOLOGY OF
EVENTS IN THE 6TH CENTURY BCE
WHEN JERUSALEM FELL TO
NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND THE
BABYLONIANS — BEGINNING OF
JEWISH DIASPORA**



BELSHAZZAR, LAST KING OF BABYLON?

- Belshazzar mentioned as a ruler in Dan. 5:1,22,29,30
- Dan. 5:1,30 "Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords"
- Historians 70 years later do not mention him, though other rulers at the time were mentioned.
- Historians discounted Bible accounts of Belshazzar, no evidence he existed other than Bible.
- Nabonidus cited as last King of Babylon.



However.....

BELSHAZZAR, LAST KING OF BABYLON? – CONT.

- 1854-clay tablets record Belshazzar eldest son of Nabonidus and co-ruler of Babylon 555-538 B.C.E.
- Dan 5:29 "Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel...that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom."
- Why Third??? Why not 2nd like Joseph in Egypt? --- For years Scholars had no idea... then....
- Another inscription uncovered in Babylon ruins - Records Nabonidus giving Belshazzar authority to rule: "Putting the camp under rule of his oldest son..."
- Belshazzar was second-in-command to Nabonidus.
- That is why Daniel was promised the position as 3rd highest ruler and not second.



PHARAOH SHISHAK

- Mentioned in the Bible, 1 Kings 14:25, demanding tribute during 5th year of the reign of Solomon's son.
- Shishak identified as Sheshonq I of 22nd Dynasty, 945-924 B.C.E.
- Campaign against Jerusalem recorded on a wall in the temple of Amun at Karnak.



The Bubastite Portal at Karnak, depicting a list of city states conquered by Shoshenq I in his Near Eastern military campaigns.

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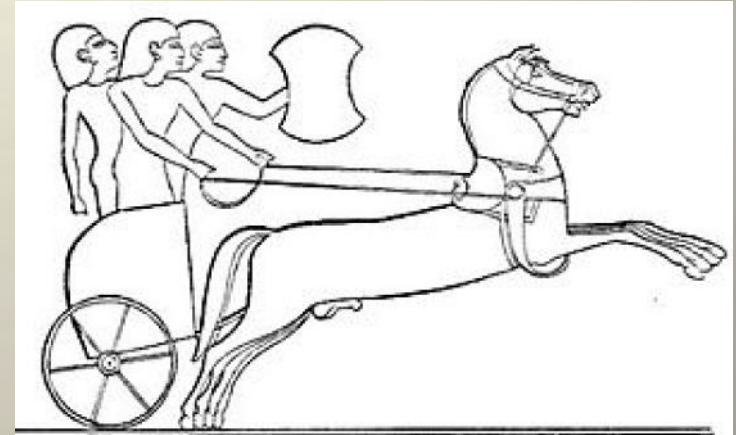
THE HITTITES

Hittites mentioned in Bible over 50 times.

First time Gen. 23:3 "Abraham rose from beside his dead, and spoke to the Hittites..."

No evidence of Hittites in text or archaeology

1st archaeological evidence in tablets found at the Assyrian colony of Kultepe—ancient Karum Kanesh.



Hittite empire one of the great ancient kingdoms.

Founded around 1595 BCE
Disappeared soon after
1180 BCE

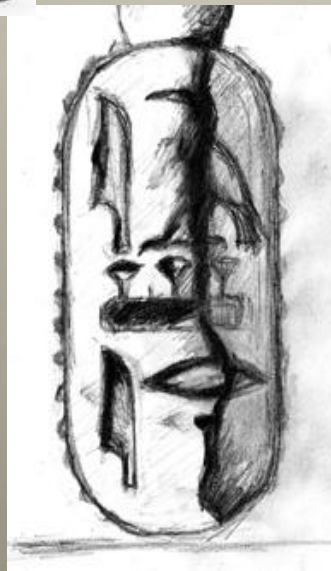
VICTORY STELE OF MERNEPTAH

- First non-biblical reference to Israel
- Israel Stele
- Found 1896 by Flinders Petri at Thebes
- Line 27 "Israel is laid waste and his seed is not"
- Also, several lines earlier:
"Not one is raising his head among the Nine Bows"—refers to Egyptian enemies
- Merneptah reigned approximately 1213-1203 BCE



However---

WAS MERNEPTAH STELE FIRST REFERENCE?



- Granite slab recently "rediscovered" in Egyptian Museum of Berlin in 2012
- Acquired in 1913
- Pharaohs recorded conquered places by "name-rings"
- 3 name-rings, first clearly identified as Ashkelon, second is Canaan
- Third ring is chipped but analysis supports "Israel"
- Slab dated to reign of Amenhotep III, 200 years prior to date of Merneptah Stele. Approx 1350-1213 BCE
- Many scholars did/do not believe Israel even existed until 7-10th centuries BCE (700-1000 BCE)

EBLA

- Ebla archive found in 1970s in northern Syria
- Clay tablets dating between 2500-2250 B.C.E.
- Early Bronze Age information on ancient Syria and Canaan
- Ebla was a kingdom with a King's List, royal ordinances, edicts and treaties heretofore unknown to historians.
- Biblical Patriarchs writing:
 - Bible critics long held name "Canaan" incorrectly used in early chapters of the Bible. They held Canaan only came into use much later. "Canaan" used in Ebla archives.
 - Genesis 1:2, word "Tehom"—the deep---late date word "proving" late writing of creation story. Tehom used in Ebla archives, 800 years before Moses.
 - Ancient customs described in Patriarchs also similarly described on Ebla clay tablets



MOABITE KING MESHA

- Mesha Stele discovered in Transjordan in late 19th century validate Bible descriptions.
- 2 Kings 3:4-27 gives testimony about war between Israel and Moab. Mesha Stele describes the same event.
- 1 and 2 Samuel record David conquering Moab.
- Territory retained into son of Solomon's time, 931 B.C.E.
- Mesha Stele affirms that Omri, king of northern kingdom of Israel conquered Moab.
- Records Mesha's victory over armies of Israel and liberation of Moab in 850 B.C.E.



RECENT TRENDS IN BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

- Since early 1970s shift in thinking and application:
 - Excavated finds not just used to illustrate Bible facts
 - Emphasis on wider changes in economy, political history, religious practices, population density and societal structures.
 - Development of unique social system, religion and spiritual legacy of Ancient Near East integral part of archaeological site development.
 - Methodology is creating a better, more comprehensive picture of societies and cultures that influenced Bible content and where influenced by the Bible.
 - Contributing to affirmations of Bible history and accuracy

Biblical cities verified by Archaeology

EPH. 1:1 – EPHESUS - 1955

JOSHUA 11:1 – HAZOR - 1955

Num. 21:1 – Arad - 1974

2 Kings 19:36 – Nineveh - 1845

NUM. 22:1 – JERICHO - 1867

JUDGES 18:29 – DAN - 1966

Amos 7:12-13 – Bethel - 1927

ACTS 8:26 – GAZA - 1922

Matt. 17:24 – Capernaum - 1856

NEH. 1:1 – SUSA - 1884

JOSH. 12:2 – HESBON - 1968

Matt. 11:21 – Chorazin - 1985

JOSHUA 16:10

GEZER - 1902

ACTS 9:38 – JOPPA - 1250

EGYPT

GEN. 12:6 – SHECHEM - 1913

The Ancient Near East

0 300 Miles
0 300 Kilometers

SODOM

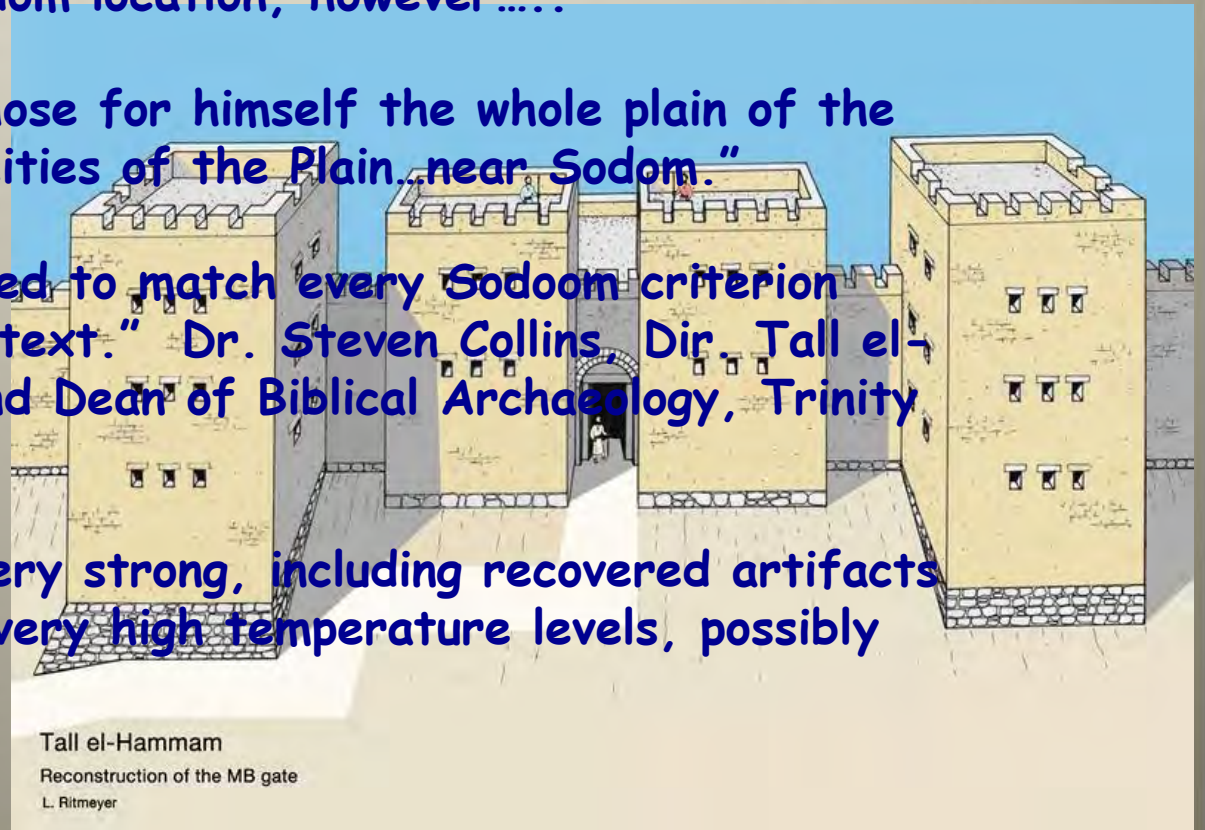
Mentioned earlier in presentation

- No confirmation of Sodom location, however.....

- Gen 13:1-12 ""...Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan...settled in the cities of the Plain...near Sodom."

- Tall el-Hammam "seemed to match every Sodom criterion demanded by the Bible text." Dr. Steven Collins, Dir. Tall el-Hammam excavations and Dean of Biblical Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University

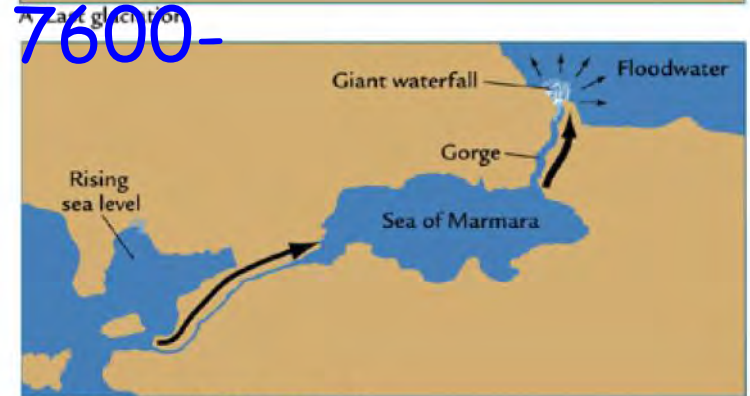
- Destruction evidence very strong, including recovered artifacts evidencing exposure to very high temperature levels, possibly from ancient "airburst".



Tall el-Hammam
Reconstruction of the MB gate
L. Ritmeyer

THE FLOOD

- Bosphorus formed between 7600-5600 B.C.E.
- Sumerian Kings List
- Epic of Gilgamesh
- Represented in oral records of cultures worldwide, including Japanese, American Indians, Aztecs



B Deglacial flood (7600 years ago)



FOSSILS TO MONSTERS AND GIANTS



Griffin from Greek
mythology



Skeleton of Protoceratops

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