

ANATI: PRE-FLOOD ARCHAEOLOGY (III)

I would like to complete the material in Anati today for the pre-Flood society. We begin on page 241 in the section, "The Economic Basis of the Earliest Town in the World."

Pre-Flood Jericho

Notice first on page 242, top: "This walled city...is one of the biggest puzzles of Near Eastern archaeology."

Then page 243, second paragraph: "Kathleen Kenyon, the British archaeologist who directed the excavations at Jericho during the last few years and who discovered the Pre-pottery town, estimates that Jericho had over two thousand inhabitants at the time of that (early) culture...."

Skipping a paragraph: "The Pre-pottery town was surrounded by an enormous defensive wall built of massive stones, some of them weighing several tons. Behind the wall lived a very wealthy community in a monumental city which, in that epoch, was certainly considered one of the marvels of the world. The fortifications included one, and perhaps more, massive round towers, which are a model of sophisticated architecture. While most of the people of Palestine and the rest of the world still lived in tents and huts, the inhabitants of Jericho had succeeded in building a tower many feet high"—because, of course, the top is gone so one knows not how high it actually was—"with an internal passage through which guards could climb a solid stone staircase and reach the top"—I take it in a circular fashion. "At the foot of the surrounding wall, Kenyon discovered an even more astonishing detail: the town and wall were encircled by an artificial moat"—in which they could place water, or it was a dry moat; he does not state which. In other words, a dry moat might be as effective as a moat filled with water depending on your slope and how easy it would be for anybody trying to cross to be shot at from the tower or the wall.

To the top of page 244: "The people of Urban Jericho did not yet know how to make pottery...." In other words, they were limited in the amount of heat they could generate. And if any of you want to know more about pottery making, it would be well worth your time to read Rosenthal's work on pottery in the library published in the Penguin series. Continuing this paragraph: "...and their material culture was of a kind similar to that of other descendants of the Natufians"—remember that this is the cultural level of the Mesolithic—"who were incipient agriculturalists still largely dependent on hunting and gathering." In other words, we have an illustration of a general level of accomplishment of the family of man as a whole in this region, and yet seeing here an illustration of the fruitful mind of a particular individual who conceived of making a city with walls for defensive purposes long before any other known town excavated anywhere was like this. So it is amazing to find such a gigantic site as Pre-pottery Jericho.

The Fortifications—Offensive or Defensive?

Continuing the first paragraph on page 244: "Considering that the other known contemporary groups were much less numerous than the people of Jericho, the gigantic military structures of Jericho are very puzzling, and their significance escapes us at first." He continues this same topic in the next paragraph: "To spend all that energy in building these military works, the people of Jericho must have feared an attack by outsiders." And yet they cannot conceive of why farmers or bedouins should have been a threat!

They're looking at it the wrong way. The concept of the archaeologists is that it was merely defensive. The answer to the question, I think, is obviously different when we consider the rest of the story of Jericho—that is, it was also offensive. It was a place of retreat but from which an offensive could be launched. And it was also a place to which the groups that were in Jericho would be able to return without fear of being punished for what they had done.

Now if we read the story of Cain in the Bible, we recognize that the Bible attributes to Cain the building of a city (Gen. 4:17). This I think is quite significant! Josephus attributes to Cain the building of the first city with a massive wall and, at the same time, trade, cutting land into plots, and organizing his family in a city geared so they could in fact raid and plunder other areas much like the robber barons of the Rhineland. You can see these beautiful castles on the Rhine. Those weren't for defense, they were for offensive purposes. These robber barons would come out of their castles and block any trade on the Rhine. In other words, you'd pay them tribute and they'd then guarantee safe passage through that area! The concept that these fortifications at earliest Jericho were strictly defensive is not at all true. They were means of protection for individuals who were offensive in aim and purpose.

#### A Guide to Pre-Flood Chronology

The only conclusion that one could come to on the basis of the evidence of Josephus, the Biblical record, and archaeology--recognizing the mistakes and/or the assumptions that lie behind geological and archaeological dating--would be that pre-Flood, Pre-pottery, Natufian-cultured Jericho with these massive defensive walls (at a time when trade is essentially to begin in the cultural horizon called the Neolithic) could hardly be other than the city that Cain built! He first built a town, said Josephus, by the name of Nod in the Land of Wandering. And then he built a town in honor of his oldest son which was called Enoch. The Biblical record gives that name and Josephus describes it.

Now if we take this as a probability to start with, and then go on with the story, we will be able to arrive at a reasonable indication of the duration of the cultures in Palestine. This is so because, as I cited before, Cain would have had to die not later than approximately 1000 years After Man. As we know from the Bible, the lifetime of human beings could not be longer than a figure in the 900's; and Cain was already a mature man with a wife before Seth was born--because all the early events recorded about him in the Biblical record (Gen. 4:1-16) happened before the birth of Seth who was born after the death of Abel. So if this be the city that Cain built, then we have a period of time by which to measure, let's say, the approximate cultures that preceded it to the time that the city might have been built; and then we will take into consideration a few Jewish traditions with respect to what happened to him, and hence what might have happened to the city itself.

The next chapter in Anati tells us more about earliest Jericho; it is entitled, "The Neolithic Cultures." Pages 253-254: "Pre-pottery Neolithic lasted a long time at Jericho, and the excavators distinguished two major types of it, which they labeled "A" and "B." Pre-pottery A was at first an open settlement of habitations with curvilinear foundations of the same kind" as Mesolithic types. "Some of these habitations appear to be half-sunken houses with steps inside the entrance. At Jericho the Mesolithic level is dated by radiocarbon [erroneously, of course] at around 7800 B.C. The earliest Neolithic developed shortly thereafter. The first defense wall was built after the settlement had reached a considerable size."

Continuing in the next paragraph on page 254: "In one place, twenty-six levels of Pre-pottery B were found...." Now in the little book Earliest Civilizations of the Near East by James Mellaart which was published in 1965 (Anati's book was published in 1963), on page 34, we learn that "not less than twenty-two phases of building could be distinguished" for the Pre-pottery A culture. If we assign a period of 15 years for each of the levels, we see that this pre-Flood town flourished for over 700 years. (15 x 48 = 720 years.)

Thus if we say the town was established about 600 years A.M., and that it endured for 700 years, and then we see that there was a period of decline of some 350 years to the Flood, we have our total of 1650 years which was the entire duration of pre-Flood history! Thus you see how earliest Jericho can provide a guide to establishing an approximate chronology for the archaeological horizons of pre-Flood Palestine.

### Tahunian

On page 257 he describes other sites in Palestine that are of the same general cultural level.

Now on to page 258: "Until a few years ago, all the various types of Pre-pottery Neolithic were called Tahunian, after Wadi Tahun, in central Palestine, where a similar industry was first studied." This statement is helpful in understanding that if you read through other works you will see that the word "Tahunian" is used for what is here called "Pre-pottery Neolithic." The reason for not using the name Tahunian is because the pre-pottery cultures differed rather extensively from one another and are perhaps not as well labeled if just a single term is used.

Top of page 259: "The flint industry of the Tahunians still included some of the geometric microliths of the Natufians, but most artifacts had new forms." In other words, the Neolithic Tahunian included some of the microlithic Natufian Mesolithic culture. Going on: "Flint celts..."—a kind of axe head—"generally resemble some late Mesolithic tools of western Europe." In other words, the late Mesolithic of western Europe is characteristic of the Pre-pottery Neolithic in the Middle East. This gives us another indication that Europe was culturally retarded by comparison to the land of Palestine.

Beginning of the next paragraph: "In the Judean Hills, evolved phases of the Tahunian culture produced pottery similar in texture to that found at Jericho in the earliest Pottery level, as well as new types of stone objects." That's just a further generalized description.

Now on page 262 he describes cultures similar to the Tahunian which, in some ways, would very likely represent post-Flood cultural levels of a similar type. That seems to be the case as far as I have been able to take note.

This ends our study of Anati for this class. The rest of the book is concerned essentially with the post-Flood cultures. [For the remainder of the class Dr. Hoeh went into a more detailed discussion of the archaeology of pre-Flood Jericho.]