

FOUR
MAJOR
DISCOVERIES

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Part 1

SODOM & GOMORRAH

Jonathan, if you think you're really going to sleep on those ashes, you have another think coming....

This has to be the eeriest ghost town on earth, an oven by day, and at night the stark silence of death.

This whole region reeks of some ancient curse. This is also the deepest spot on earth. It dips down between Israel and Jordan, 1300 feet below sea level, to what is known as the Dead Sea. Virtually nothing grows here. The shore is utterly desolate and in summer it bakes like an oven.

Around the shore stand the stumps of ancient trees, encrusted in salt. There is a beauty here. It is bizarre.

Among these statues of salt one can discern all sorts of shapes: such as a chicken, with its wings opened, or an old man, with his head and shoulders and even his beard.

In this Dead Sea no fish can live. The waters are 28 per cent salt, six times saltier than the ocean. Any careless fish that ventures from the River Jordan down into this evil lake chokes to death and is pickled. The ancient Greeks reported poisonous gases rising from all parts of the sea. The Arabs say that in olden times no bird was able to reach the opposite side. Birds, as they flew across the water, would suddenly drop dead into it.

In this water, one cannot sink. When you jump in, you feel as if you are being thrown out again.

It was too much of a temptation. I just had to show off. So in I went – and lay back on the water like a floating cork, to read a book. The scorching sun dries your skin almost at once. The thin crust of salt which the water has deposited on your body makes you look quite white. You must rinse this off quickly or risk severe burning.

It is hard to believe that this whole area was once like a beautiful garden, and exceptionally fertile.

CRITICS: “A FABLE”

The legendary cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are said to have flourished here. The names of Sodom and Gomorrah and three sister cities of the plain were known only from the Bible, so the critics labelled the stories concerning them as fables, pure and simple.

But, in 1975, archaeologists excavating an ancient royal palace in Ebla, Syria, uncovered 2,000 inscribed tablets. And tablet 1860 mentioned these same five cities. They were listed in the identical order given in the biblical book of Genesis. And what is more, they named the very same kings ruling them, as stated in the Bible.

For example, the tablet states that the king of Gomorrah at that time was a man named Birsha – precisely the name given in the Bible. The Khammurabi Stele from ancient Assyria likewise confirmed the biblical record.

And it went further. It gave a parallel account of an actual event related in the Bible – the battle between the kings of these 5 cities and 4 invading kings.

Yes, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah did exist... until the day the death balls fell from the sky. The Lord rained down brimstone and fire (burning sulphur) upon them.” (Gen. 19:24)

WHAT HAPPENED

Sodom and Gomorrah, we are told, were hotbeds of perversion and dangerous cities to visit. They were noted for their official endorsement and open flouting of homosexuality and bestiality. Also their treatment of strangers. The old Book of Jasher relates incidents involving travellers who happened to stop overnight. They were forcibly detained, then deprived of food. Their progressive, agonising starvation became a source of amusement to the citizens.

Lot, a nephew of Abraham, moved into Sodom to live. The afternoon before the fiery judgment, came two strangers. Lot invited them to lodge in his house overnight. That evening they disclosed their errand and urged Lot to leave the city. A band of homosexuals banged on the door, demanding that the visitors be surrendered to them. The fast-action account is charged with emotion. Lot’s family had to be literally pulled out of the city for their own safety, leaving behind two sons-in-law, to whom Lot’s pleadings were as from one gone mad.

The rain of fire and brimstone (sulphur), which came down from the sky, utterly destroyed those five evil cities.

REMAINS NOT UNDER THE SEA

People have been searching for a long time for the remains of these cities. There have been speculations that they might lie under the water of the deep section of the Dead Sea. The book of Genesis tells us that the cities – Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zoboim and Zoar – sat on a fertile watered plain near the Valley of Siddim (the present Dead Sea). The region was like the garden of Eden. (Gen. 13:10).

The Bible records a battle between the kings of these five cities and four invading kings. It tells us that the kings of these five cities went out of their cities (which were on a plain) and joined battle with the invaders in the vale of Siddim (Gen. 14:8). You notice: they went OUT of their cities and into a nearby valley. The cities were on a plain – but the battle was in a valley, the Vale of Siddim.

That valley is now drowned by the waters of the Dead Sea, or Salt Sea (v.3). “Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar [bitumen] pits and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills.” (Gen. 14:10).

Today, from the floor of this valley now covered by the Dead Sea, sometimes pieces of bitumen break off from the sea bed and float up to the surface. So this is the drowned valley of Siddim. But the cities are not drowned. The Bible does not tell us that those cities were in the valley, no. It says the cities were on a plain (ch. 13:12). The plain was near the valley. So people who are looking for the cities under the sea somewhere will never find them. The Bible says they were on a plain near the valley.

Josephus (first century) wrote that the lake “throws up black lumps of bitumen in many parts of it. These swim at the top of the water...” (*Wars of the Jews*, iv,viii,4). Then he added, “there are still the remainders of that divine fire, and the traces of the five cities are still to be seen.”

Did you notice? The bitumen pits were submerged, but not the ruins of the cities.

Josephus informs us that in his day the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah were exposed. They were not hidden under the waters of the Dead Sea. As a matter of fact, the water level today is not much different from that of his

day. There is on record from Roman times an incident which bears this out. Two deserters had fled and their pursuers eventually caught sight of them clambering up the rocks on the other side of the sea - where they had waded across.

Today again, the water is very shallow here. Actually a modern channel cuts through here, which links these two sections of water.

This indicates the water level then was comparable to that of modern times. Hence the remains visible then should still be traceable to some extent.

The bottom line is, we must look for Sodom and Gomorrah not under the water, but somewhere on dry land nearby, as in the days of Josephus.

The Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea, but there is no outflow from the sea. Thus, over the ages, the level of the sea had risen to cover the flat plain to the south, and scholars hopefully suggested that the cities lay beneath these shallow waters.

More recently, however, the Jordan waters have been siphoned off for irrigation purposes. This lowered the lake level and largely exposed the southern plain, but there was no sign of any ruined cities there.

NOT EAST OF THE SEA

Then on the east side of the Dead Sea archaeologists excavated the remains of Numeira and Babedhra, two of five ruined cities in that area. They unearthed a thick layer of black ash, which they cautiously suggested may have been from the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah.

If we are going to look for cities mentioned in the Bible, it would make sense to follow the biblical clues – and not make up our own. Anyway, careful examination of the remains of these cities show them to be typical of those destroyed in war. They've found wood and other flammable materials in varying stages of decay, and this is not compatible with the destruction of the cities of the plain as described in the Bible. Also there is no evidence whatever that sulphur (brimstone) was involved in their overthrow.

CLUES

So where were Sodom & Gomorrah? I submit that locations of these long-sought cities have now been found. There is a satellite photo of the Dead

Sea. Early cities were laid out geometrically in the shapes of circles or squares, surrounded by walls. They might later expand in different directions, but the original founding cities were symmetrical in shape.

Near the southern end of the Dead Sea is a mountain, called Mount Sodom. This long, narrow mountain is a salt dome - totally made of salt. And, right behind it is the square shape of an ancient city. The mountain is called Sodom. Could this city have been Sodom?

We have discovered five sites which have one thing in common - and in all the world, just these five sites share this common feature. Within the perimeters of these sites, everything has been totally burned and turned to ash. Around the world lie the ruins of thousands of ancient cities - but not one of these has been totally turned to ash. According to the Bible, five cities which lay in this area were destroyed by falling brimstone and turned to ash.

Of these five cities, Sodom is always listed first. Presumably, it was the largest of the five. And of the five sites we have found, here is the largest, right next to Mount Sodom. Nearby is the smallest of the sites. And the Bible relates that when Lot fled Sodom, he wanted to go to Zoar, which was close by and was just "a little city". Again, this site has been totally turned to ash. However, the second largest, and best preserved site is to the north. It lies between Masada and the Dead sea. Since Gomorrah was listed second in the biblical account, these ashen remains would have to be Gomorrah.

MY FIRST VISIT TO THE RUINS

As we go into these ruins now, I shall tell you of my night in the scariest ghost town on earth. A friend from Western Australia had just been with me to an archaeological site in Turkey. We were now bound for Israel.

Because Trevor had booked his flight with Jordanian Airlines, he would have to travel via Amman, in Jordan. So I said to Trevor: "When you reach Jordan, then come overland across the Allenby Bridge into Israel. I shall fly direct to Israel and wait in Jerusalem for you for two days."

We planned then to go to Sodom & Gomorrah together, before travelling on to Egypt. So Trevor flew down to Amman and tried to cross the border into Israel.

And you know what? The border was closed! It was a Jordanian holiday. Poor Trevor!

The next day he again tried to cross the border - and the border was closed. It was an Israeli holiday.

He tried for a third day to cross the border - and the third day the border was closed. It was another Jordanian holiday.

I particularly wanted Trevor to accompany me to Gomorrah because I desired to explore inside some of the buildings. You know, there are still remains standing here totally turned to ash.

If I were to enter any of those open chambers, I had planned to tie a rope around my waist and have Trevor hold it. It would be dangerous to go in there alone, with everything turned to ash. You never know when the roof might collapse. If that happened, then with the rope (I hoped) Trevor could find me quickly and try to get me out.

Well, on my tight schedule, I could wait for Trevor no more than two days in Jerusalem. So I went into Gomorrah alone.

It was about two hours before sunset. The shadows were lengthening across the brown desert. Sharply, they betrayed the shapes of ashen white buildings. I could make out city walls.

Over 12 years, biblical archaeologist Ron Wyatt had driven by at a distance, at least 30 to 40 times - without being aware of what he saw. Then one day, it was as if the scales fell of his eyes - and suddenly, what he had assumed to be something natural, now looked like the shapes of city walls and buildings!

So he stopped and trekked over to this desolate area. The contrast between the brown stony desert and the white of the city that has been turned to ashes is clearly distinguishable. They are noticeably separate and quite distinct from each other.

Anyway, I tried to find a place to sleep here on this ash. That's all there was - only ash. In the lower levels, a street or two had been invaded by some ancient flash flood. Brown stones had washed in from the desert - and my thoughts were on scorpions that might emerge at night from such spots. It could easily happen - you're asleep, you throw out your arm, and a scorpion's sting returns the greeting. So I determined to avoid these lower areas, for the night.

On the other hand, careful searching of the higher levels for a place to sleep revealed tracks of wild desert animals crossing the city from all directions. Best not to sleep too close to those tracks. Eventually, after an hour of exploring, I came upon a large block of ash that had fallen from a structure. The animal tracks went past on one side of it. So I plopped down on the opposite side.

It was all ash, everywhere. Nothing but ash.

I lay down alone to sleep on the ashes.

Did I say “sleep”? No way: It was like sleeping in a coffin with the lid shut. Have you ever tried to sleep cut off from all sound? When you go to bed tonight, take notice. We are so used to muffled sound, whether traffic, people, wind or insects. We are accustomed to sound in the background. If there is no sound, you will wake up. The silence wakes you up. That night it was like a tomb - deathly silent. I must have tried 20 or 30 times to go to sleep here on these ashes, that night, but kept waking up. I was so tired, I'd drop off to sleep, but awaken again, almost straight away.

Each time I would look up - and there were the stars almost in the same position. Eventually the moon came up over the Dead Sea behind me, and then rose over this desert. It cast eerie shadows on the shapes of buildings that stood there, totally made of ash. What a weird feeling this was, all alone under a full moon in this city of the dead! I tell you, how I longed for morning.

The sun came up over the hills blazing hot. In no time I started sweating. Soon the plain was a furnace. As the sun climbed higher, the temperature rose to 49 degrees Celsius in the shade. One could explore no longer than about 30 minutes at a time. The dehydration was rapid.

Actually, people have died of thirst in mere hours in this desert.

After just half an hour I would find myself searching for a small spot of shade - to sit down and drink, drink, drink. Sometimes it would take an hour before I felt ready to brave the heat again. Heat reflected up from the ashes.

I stared at a structure in front of me. Quite clear were the square shapes on the two sides of a structure ahead of me. A five storey building had been totally turned to ash. There were numerous other structures to be seen. This place had suffered tremendous destruction.

Periodically there are openings in the walls, entrances to the city, where you see the actual streets. These wide avenues have the forms of buildings on both sides, and they lead to other side streets. The large piles of ash make walking difficult. These were Canaanite cities, according to the Bible. And the Canaanites' cities were constructed with double walls, just as visible here, with buildings atop them. Such is the character of this ruined city.

What you are looking at is ash - ash from some tremendous fire. Although there has been a great deal of wind erosion, there is overwhelming evidence that these ashen remains were once mighty and beautiful cities.

You might ask, "How could these buildings have stood up for 3,900 years, if they were turned to ash?" The answer is that substances burned with brimstone (or sulphur) have a remaining ash that is heavier than the original substance. These remains are solid. They are heavy. This is all ash.

ASH... BUT ANY MORE EVIDENCE?

But now for the clinching evidence.

When we went in there, we knew we had found bits that were burnt to ash, but we needed evidence that would convince other people. Ron went in first. Then he prayed that he would find such evidence. When he went in the next time it had just rained and the overlay of loose ash was washed off. And there was the evidence he had prayed for - balls of burnt sulphur, lying everywhere in the ash, like cherries in a cake.

Balls of burning brimstone fell out of the sky, the Bible says. And if you look up your dictionary, brimstone is sulphur. It happened again, the third time I went in. This is very dry desert, but it had just rained. Ron's prayer had been answered. Now, so was mine. And what Ron had seen, now I was able to check out.

By nature I am a skeptical person. I don't like to take anyone's word for anything. But it rained again for me. And, there they were - millions of balls of burnt brimstone lying all over the ash. You could see them in the moonlight. They were glistening in the wet ash - and we picked some up and put them in our specimen bags. There is sulphur inside the capsules and around that is a burn ring embedded in ash.

Numerous geologists have been consulted regarding the capsules containing once-burning sulphur at Sodom and Gomorrah. (These balls of

sulphur are found at all five city sites.) So far, it has been impossible to find any other instance anywhere on earth of these being found.

We have been to volcanoes, in fact every type of place we can find where there is sulphur. On this planet you have sulphur in three different forms: in layers as a result of volcanic activity, you also have it in crystal form (which you can see in museums). But, friends, there is only one region in which we have found sulphur in this form. Nowhere else in the world have we found balls of sulphur of a pressed-powder consistency, in a capsule, surrounded by burn rings embedded in ash. Not anywhere.

This may be the ultimate proof that the lost cities of Sodom and Gomorrah have now been found.

DESTROYED BY A VOLCANIC ERUPTION... OR WHAT?

One may ask, "Could the cities have been destroyed by a volcanic eruption?"

An interesting question. There are two reasons why this appears not to have been caused by a volcanic eruption.

Firstly, consider Vesuvius. In Pompeii, the city destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, you see ash covering over a city. The ash came down and smothered everything. The buildings were dug out from under that ash - but they were still all stone. On the walls of some of these stone buildings you could still see murals and there were casts of people, also as stone. But in Sodom and Gomorrah, everything was turned to ash. The ash is not covering the cities. The cities themselves are ash - buildings, people, everything.

Ron found a portion of a skeleton. It had the human form, but it was composed of ash. One could even see the marrow in the ends of the bones. But it is turned to ash. I don't think we will find many artefacts. Certainly no treasures.

Some of the team took in electronic equipment. And they found what they thought was a cache of gold. Flakes and pieces of this object were tested in a laboratory and were found to be gold salts - the by-product of vaporised gold. Everything totally destroyed.

The second reason why I believe this could not be volcanic is that we have not found balls of sulphur such as these, surrounded by burn rings, embedded in ash, anywhere else on earth, except at these five sites.

We believe these sulphur balls fell from the sky (and resulting fire burned at a temperature of 4-5,000 degrees - that's quite a lot hotter than 49 degrees, isn't it?).

And then everything was turned to ash - houses, furniture, people - and then the flames were smothered out by the ash.

But the heat continued to radiate and formed the skin one finds around the sulphur balls. It kept radiating heat and vitrified the ash around it, so we have these burn rings.

The Bible says that "the Lord rained brimstone and fire" on the cities. And how does rain fall? In drops, of course. This burning brimstone did fall in drops, which ignited everything they fell on. From each drop, burn rings went out.

I picked up another death ball, to examine it, aware that it crashed out of the sky 3,900 years ago. It was burning fiercely. This very piece was falling from the heavens the day that Lot and his family were dragged to safety out of Sodom - the same day that Abraham looked out and saw the region going up in smoke as a furnace. This same ball was burning that day. Can you imagine millions of these coming down out of the sky?

THE METHOD OF DESTRUCTION WAS MERCIFUL

Do you know what must have happened to those citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah - with those millions of balls of brimstone raining down? They would have been asphyxiated, before they could ever burn to death. They would have been rendered unconscious. Of that, there is no doubt in my mind.

If God did this, as the old records state, then He was merciful. These cities were a danger to the world. They were totally perverted and corrupt. He had to remove them. But He did it mercifully. The sulphur balls would have first rendered them unconscious. He was a God of judgment, but also a God of mercy.

Sodom and Gomorrah are an example for the final judgment day. That's what the Bible says... that there will be fire and brimstone coming down

from the sky. The first time God destroyed the world, it was a sea of water that covered the earth. This time it will be a sea of fire.

That will be the final destruction - and out of the ashes of the old will emerge a beautiful new world. Because our Creator plans to bring things back to the way they used to be. And He wants people He can trust, for that new world - those who are committed to Him and are willing to become like Him. That's the only way we can get there.

He does not want people who will mess up that new world. As much as He would like to save everybody, that cannot be. So He is preparing men and women who will get their hearts right for Him, who will become friends of the Messiah He sent to rescue us, each one. Then He can trust them to be part of the coming new earth.

WHY NOT FOUND UNTIL NOW?

You may ask, why were not Sodom and Gomorrah discovered until now? That's another interesting question.

Perhaps here is the answer. Biblical prophecies suggest that man's rule of this planet is soon to be interrupted.

The Creator of this planet has also interrupted history in the past. One of these key interventions was with Sodom and Gomorrah.

Currently there are many doubts about the truth of Scripture - and this is the reason why certain biblical events are going to be verified by physical evidence just when they are needed.

If the true location of these major interventions had been known all along, they would probably have been looted by now, with no evidence left.

So in His love and mercy, God was (in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah) blinding men to the evidence right before their eyes, to provide the evidence at the right time - at the point in history just before the next, greatest intervention of all.

It seems to me that what the Lord is emphasising by helping us find these remains now, is that He will destroy the lawless. It is not an empty threat.

THE SODOM APPLE

By the way, you remember how I referred to the tremendous in this desert? How parched was my throat... and how I just had to crawl into the shade and drink, drink, drink?

Very little grows naturally here. Now, just try to imagine this: you're desperately longing for something wet - something to drink. Your throat is dry. Your tongue hangs out. It is swollen.

And you suddenly come upon this beautiful looking plant in the desert. To your great joy there is some fruit on it. Oh, wonderful, you think I'm going to enjoy this. So you pluck it off the vine. You open your mouth and take a big bite - longing for beautiful, sweet, cool juice.

...and your mouth is full of... dust. This is the Sodom apple (*citrullus colocynthus*). And it has dust inside. It appeared beautiful to the eye, but once touched with the lips it turned to ashes.

Perhaps there's a lesson here...don't be fooled - things in this life are not always what they appear to be. Our world promises to satisfy your desires with sweet things... one pleasure after another. But when you have it all there is still an emptiness. So we chase from one thing to another, never quite satisfied. The brightest attractions ultimately turn to dust.

When all the time our Maker has placed in your heart a little space that He only can fill. I can speak from experience, having been there myself. Only in God Himself can one find unending joy that never leaves you empty with your mouth full of dust.

Part 2

THE RED SEA CROSSING

The desert pushed right down to the water's edge. And as Sayid, our Egyptian friend, packed the sleeping gear on to the roof rack, Paul watched the sun climb over the sea.

If we were not mistaken, there was something quite startling down there on the floor of the Red Sea. But this whole saga began much, much earlier... in that land of romance and mystery, ancient Egypt.

There is compelling evidence that in the third millennium B.C. Egypt sprang up suddenly, fully developed, with a fantastic ready-made civilisation. Great cities, enormous temples, pyramids of overwhelming size, colossal statues with tremendous expressive power, luxurious temples and tombs.

Until the invention of electric lighting in 1890, we possessed only candles, torches and oil lamps - light sources which smoked and left sooty deposits on ceilings. Likewise the Greek and Roman world used torches and oil lamps for illumination - and wherever passageways are still standing between ancient buildings, traces of smoke can be found on the ceilings.

However, no trace of smoke is found in any Egyptian pyramid, nor in the undisturbed tombs of the Pharaohs, which are beautifully carved and painted in several colours. Work of this precision and delicacy requires the equivalent of daylight. (Some tunnels and passageways are too complex for a mirror system to have brought sufficient light into the inner chamber.)

Egypt... The very name evokes feelings of romance and mystery. Some 3,500 years ago, in the most glorious era of her history, Egypt was the granary of the world. She was eminent in science, the arts, luxury and magnificence. Egypt was, in a sense, the U.S.A. of that era - the super power of the world.

SLAVES' BABY BECOMES PRINCE

In 1526 B.C. there was born a baby who was to dramatically alter that status. Moses was born to Hebrew parents in humble surroundings. But

God had grander plans for him. By a miraculous set of circumstances, he grew up, trained by his mother, as “the son of Pharaoh’s daughter”.

Because of his relation to the throne, he had all the might and wealth of Egypt at his fingertips. He became a great statesman and general. Yet his mother had taught him that the thousands of slaves working in the brick-pits were his people, and that his destiny was linked with theirs.

The time came for Moses to make his decision. He could choose to become king of what was the world’s greatest empire, or to be numbered among the sweating and grumbling slaves.

FLEES FOR HIS LIFE

His sympathies aroused for the Hebrews, he rashly killed an Egyptian and was forced to flee to Midian.

Obviously, this was a place where the Egyptians had no control. But where was it?

It was in Midian that Moses encountered the burning bush. There, God told Moses that he was to bring forth the Hebrews out of Egypt. “When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain.” (Ex.3:12).

Notice, Moses was told to lead his people back to a mountain in Midian, the mountain where God first spoke to him. This is later called Mount Sinai. From studies of ancient Egyptian history, it becomes clear that Midian is not in the so-called “Sinai Peninsula.”

All through the Sinai Peninsula there is tremendous evidence of the ancient Egyptians having control of the area. The inscriptions tell of their mining operations there. They mined turquoise and copper. Slag heaps still remain from their smelting operations.

But does the Bible throw any light on the matter? It does: “For this is mount Sinai in Arabia.” (Gal. 5). Did you notice that? Sinai is in Arabia. And in Saudi Arabia, there is no evidence of Egyptian occupation. It was a safe place for Moses to go when he fled Egypt. And it was this safe place to which God told him to bring the Hebrews.

Since Mount Sinai lies in Saudi Arabia, then the crossing through the sea to Mount Sinai had to be the Gulf of Aqaba portion of the Red Sea and not the Gulf of Suez as commonly thought.

THE SLAVES' JOURNEY FROM EGYPT

Now let's begin the events of the Exodus journey, beginning with the time the multitude left Egypt until they crossed the Red Sea. We shall systematically take each step of their journey.

Firstly the Israelites travelled from Rameses to Succoth (Ex. 12:37). There was a city with a similar name (Raamses - Ex.1:11). However, this was distinct from the land of Rameses which was the Delta region - the land given to Joseph's family to live in by the Pharaoh. This was called "the land of Rameses and "the land of Goshen". And here the great population of the Hebrews lived.

"And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. (Gen.47:11) "And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly." (Gen.47:27)

Eventually, when the time came for the Exodus, the slaves left their home in Rameses (Goshen) and proceeded to leave Egypt "proper". They assembled in Succoth, which was very near, yet outside of the boundary of Egypt "proper".

Succoth had to be a place large enough for this tremendous amount of people and flocks to assemble. "Succoth" is a Hebrew transliteration of the Egyptian "Tjeku" mentioned in Egyptian documents as a border station; it was also known as "Tharu".

In ancient Egypt there was a line of guarded fortifications along the canal which connected the Gulf of Suez with the Mediterranean Sea. This canal is known to have existed anciently, by satellite photos and infra-red photos, which still show its pattern. At the border, the point where one would leave Egypt proper and go into the Sinai desert, there was a fortress and a bridge.

"The isthmus of Suez was of the greatest consequence also from a military point of view - it was doubtless fortified in very early times. Probably here stood the great fortress of Taru, often spoken of as the starting point for the expeditions into Syria,..." (Adolph Erman, *Life in Ancient Egypt*, p.28)

"The line of fortifications which was intended to keep back these Bedouins of the Delta, is met with as early as the time of the Middle Empire, and is

still standing. It consisted of a wall strengthened by small towers...; this formed an obstruction which the slaves who tried to escape from Egypt, and the bedouin who wanted to pasture their cattle on the fields of the Delta, found difficult to pass. At this time we meet with a defensive work of another kind, namely a canal, which presumably connected the lakes of the isthmus together.

“At the point where a bridge crossed this canal were strong fortresses on both sides; the great fortress which defended this bridge was the fortress of Tharu which is so often mentioned as the starting point of the military expeditions.” (*Life in Ancient Egypt*, p.537)

This was located near the Delta where the Israelites were living. Tharu was where the Egyptian army assembled in preparation for their military expeditions to the north. Armies consisted of a great deal of men, horses and chariots which required a large area to assemble properly.

Moses well knew Tharu, called Succoth in the biblical account - it was here that he organised people for their journey. They left Egypt proper once they crossed this line of fortification, just as the Lord had promised.

“... and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land Egypt.” (Ex.13:1). The term “harnessed” indicates they went out not as a mob of fleeing fugitives, but as a well-organised body. The Hebrew word *chamushim* (translated “harnessed”) means “in ranks”.

Remember, Moses, as “the son of Pharaoh’s daughter”, was the heir to throne of Egypt. As such, he underwent training with the priesthood and the military. (“Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22). Undoubtedly Moses was thoroughly trained in all aspects of military leadership and would have known well how to assemble large numbers of people for travel.

The fact that Moses was indeed a general in the Egyptian army seems to have been a well-known fact. Josephus writes about this in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, (Book 2, Chapter 10). As a military man, once again, Moses knew Tharu and it was here that he organised his largest “army” ever for travel.

From this assembly point they travelled to Etham. “And they took their journey from Succoth and encamped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness.” (Ex. 13:20)

Etham was “in the edge of the wilderness”. What wilderness was this? The answer is in the Exodus account: “But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.” (Ex.13:18)

It was the Wilderness of the Red Sea, the mountainous land of the mid and southern Sinai peninsula. This was along a route that was commonly taken in those days by both caravans and the army, and it was called “the southern route”. This route was taken because it was safer than travelling along the coastal “northern” route, where the Philistines were. Etham was not a singular location but a region. We know this because they were in Etham before they crossed the Red Sea (Ex. 13:20). And they were still in an area called Etham after they crossed the sea (Num. 33:8).

Etham was, therefore, a designation of the land that lay around the mid-northern edge of the Gulf of Aqaba. It was while they were in Elham on the western side of the sea that God told Moses: “Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon. Before it ye shall encamp by the sea, for Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, they are entangled in the land, the wilderness has shut them in.” (Ex.14:2,3)

To be “entangled in the land” they would have to be travelling through an area with mountains all around, hemming them in. This is before crossing the sea. Such a region would terminate at a place by the sea which was large enough to hold perhaps two or three million people, as well as their flocks.

There is a beach of tremendous size on the gulf of Aqaba at Nuweiba, and the only passage to it is through an 18 mile long wadi (dry river bed) system.

So from Etham they changed their direction of travel (“that they turn”) and went south, through a system that must have appeared an endless maze to them. Hemmed in to the left and right, they could only travel in one direction - and the only path through that wadi leads to the enormous beach - so big it can be seen on satellite maps.

On the north end of the beach area are the remains of an ancient Egyptian fortress - further evidence that Egyptian territory extended all the way through the Sinai peninsula. We believe this was Pihahiroth.

As they were now encamped between Migdol and the sea, Migdol could be either the mountains to the west, which would make a perfect barrier,

enclosing them on the beach, or it may have a watch-tower atop one of those mountains. (The name “Migdol” means tower or fortress.)

The Egyptians had watch-posts all through the Sinai Peninsula. It is documented that they flashed messages from tower to tower by day and night, using reflected light. Perhaps this was how Pharaoh knew exactly where the escaped slaves had gone. On the opposite shore, in Saudi Arabia, precisely across from where they camped by the sea, is another ancient structure. All alone on the beach, it may have been a Midianite fortress, dedicated to Baal; we believe this was Baalzephon. The phrase “over against” seems to mean opposite from in respect to being across a body of water. (As, for example, in Deut. 32:49: “...in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho” - meaning, across the Jordan River from Jericho)

On a map, you will notice that the Red Sea is quite large. Extending from Ethiopia and Yemen in the south, it separates northern Africa from Arabia. At its northern end, it splits into two arms - the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba. “The wilderness of the Red Sea” through which Israel travelled (Ex. 13:18) was the land between the two arms of the Red Sea.

We learn also that “King Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.” (Kings 9:26). This is definitely speaking of the Gulf of Aqaba because we know where Eloth (Eilat) was. It is the same Red Sea across which Moses led the escaping Hebrews. The Red Sea of Moses’ day was the same Red Sea we know today - the main body of the lower Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba.

From speculation that the Israelites had crossed the Gulf of Suez, names from the Exodus story were inserted on maps by guesswork. But since chariot parts have now been found, not in the Gulf of Suez, but in the Gulf of Aqaba, all these maps need to be re-drawn.

In reality, there is no Sinai Peninsula. That is a misnomer. The Biblical name for this area was, rather, the wilderness of the Red Sea. And Mount Sinai? It is not here, but in Saudi Arabia. That much is now certain.

ORDER OF EVENTS

1. They left Egypt

Popular assumption has the Hebrews crossing the sea to safety in the Gulf of Suez. This would mean that the Hebrews would still be on Egyptian soil as they faced the Red Sea, ready to cross. You will notice from the map that Egypt borders the entire western shore of the Gulf of Suez. So wherever the Hebrews camped along that coast, waiting to cross, they would still be in Egypt.

However the book of Exodus tells us that when the Hebrews found themselves trapped before they ever crossed the Red Sea, they were already out of Egypt. The “children of Israel went up harnessed [in ranks] out of the land of Egypt.” (Ex.13:18)

That is why, when they eventually were trapped beside the Red Sea, some of them complained to Moses, their leader: “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?” They asked why Moses had carried them forth “OUT of Egypt?... we did tell thee IN Egypt, saying, let us alone.” (Ex. 14:10-12)

2. They travelled along the southern highway.

From their homes in the Nile Delta (the region known as Rameses, or Goshen), the Hebrews had first assembled at Succoth, a border station near the delta. Here they were “harnessed”, or placed in ranks.

From this vicinity, there were two highways to their ultimate destination, Canaan.

Route A - “the way of the land of the Philistines”, via the Gaza strip - the shorter route.

Route B - “the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea” - the longer, southern route.

The Hebrews took Route B. Josephus, the Jewish historian, records that they headed southward from Egypt. The book of Exodus concurs that “God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;... but God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.” (Ex.13:17,18)

Where was this “wilderness of the Red Sea”?

On a map, you will notice that the Red Sea is quite large. Extending from Ethiopia and Yemen in the south, it separates northern Africa from Arabia. At its northern end, it splits into two arms - the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf

of Aqaba. The “wilderness of the Red Sea” through which Israel travelled was the land between these two arms of the Red Sea.

In biblical times, as today, both the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez were known as the Red Sea. It is recorded that “King Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.” (1 Kings 9:26)

This is definitely speaking of the Gulf of Aqaba, because we know where Eloth (Eilat) was. It is the same Red Sea across which Moses led the escaping Hebrews.

The land between the gulfs of Suez and Aqaba, the land between these two arms of the Red Sea, was appropriately termed “the wilderness of the Red Sea”. In biblical times, there was no region designated as “Sinai peninsula”. The biblical name for this area was, rather, “the wilderness of the Red Sea”.

3. Their route led through the desert (wilderness).

The southern highway took them by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea - the area between the two arms of the Red Sea. (And remember, they had not yet crossed any Red Sea.)

4. Then they turned off the highway.

After they had travelled a certain distance, “the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn... (Ex.14:1,2)

Leaving the highway, the Hebrews turned aside - through the Wadi Watir, a wide and wild mountain gorge, a natural roadway from Egypt.

5 They were “entangled in the land” (Ex.14:3)

The trail led them through an area with mountains all around, which seemed to hem them in. Pharaoh concluded that they had lost their way. “They are entangled in the land,” he said.

The Egyptians had watch-posts all through the Sinai peninsula. It is documented that they flashed messages from tower to tower by day and night, using reflected light. Perhaps this is how Pharaoh knew exactly where the escaped slaves had gone.

Had the Hebrews continued along the highway, they could soon have been well out of Egyptian dominated territory and on their way toward the Promised Land. Why, then, were they told to “turn” aside into a cul-de-sac?

Here is the reason, as given in the Scripture: The Lord told Moses, “Pharaoh shall follow after them, and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord” (Ex.14:4) and “that my name may be declared throughout all the earth” (9:16)

A showdown was looming that would vindicate the power of the Creator over the arrogance of the greatest human power on earth.

6. **“Shut in”, they camped “by the sea”** (Ex.14:2,3)

With 600,000 men (Ex.12:37), plus women and children, there must have been at least 2 million people on this march.

The Wadi Watir leads in one direction - to a wide expanse of beach on the Gulf of Aqaba which could easily have held the multitude, their flocks and also Pharaoh’s pursuing army - separating the 2 groups by several kilometres.

This beach at Nuweiba is so large (7 km by 3 km), it can be seen on satellite maps. It is the only place that matches all the requirements of our checklist. At this beach, they found themselves “shut in”.

PHARAOH’S ARMY OVERTAKES THEM

The Egyptians overtook the Hebrews :encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth before Baalzephon” (14:9) On the north end of the beach area are the remains of an ancient Egyptian fortress - another evidence that Egyptian territory extended all the way through the Sinai peninsula. We believe this was Pihahiroth.

Pharaoh’s army entered from the same wadi, which is the only entrance on to the beach. This dry river gorge is located midway of the beach. Once the army entered the area, the Hebrews’ only means of escape would have been to the south. But the mountains to the south extend all the way to the sea; they had no way of escape, or so it seemed.

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show you today, for the Egyptians

whom you have seen today, you shall see them no more again forever.”
(v.13)

INTERVENTION

The cloud that the Hebrews had followed from Egypt now descended between the two camps, enveloping the Egyptian force in darkness, but radiating light to the Hebrew camp.

As night fell, a “strong” east wind blew upon the sea, dividing it into two walls. Between these two walls of water, the Hebrews ventured the 13 kilometre (8 mile) distance to the opposite shore.

HOW DEEP WAS THE WATER BARRIER?

It is often imagined that the barrier of water was a shallow “sea of reeds”, perhaps not much deeper than a swamp. Something that would hardly require a miracle to cross.

Well, how deep was it?

The Bible describes it thus:

“... a way in the sea, and a path in the **MIGHTY WATERS**;...” (Isaiah 43:16,17)

“... led them through the **DEEP**,...” (Isa.63:11-13)

“... dried the sea, the waters of the **GREAT DEEP**;” (Isa.51:10)

“... The **DEPTH**S... the **HEART OF THE SEA**... the **MIGHTY WATERS**...” (Ex.15:4,8,10)

British Admiralty charts show the Gulf of Aqaba arm of the Red Sea to be a 5,000 foot (1,600 metre) deep trench. That’s positively “DEEP”. The western shoreline drops steeply underwater into this “canyon” at a slope of 45 degrees. Our diving forays confirmed this fact.

However, at the precise location on the Nuweiba beach, the deep trench is spanned by an underwater land bridge. This pathway we estimated at 900 metres in width. And from the Egyptian end, it slopes at a gentle angle of six degrees underwater until midway across it gently slopes back up again, to the other shore – at a much shallow depth than the water on either side of this bridge.

This bridge appears to have been formed by washouts meeting from two directions - from the western and eastern shores. I cannot shake off the feeling that in the closing stages of the great Flood, when the waters were rushing off the land and carrying silt with them, into the newly expanded ocean basins, that these washouts invaded this spot.

Perhaps it was at this time that God, in His foreknowledge, divided the Gulf with this path across the sea. Isaiah (c.700 B.C.) reminds us that the Lord made a path in the mighty waters.”

CLIFFS OF WATER

As the trapped Hebrews faced the sea, the LORD caused the sea to go back by a STRONG east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left.” (Ex.14:21,22)

On each side the CLIFFS OF WATER were more than 1,000 feet high - skyscraper height. Only a MEGA HURRICANE could have exposed that deeply covered land bridge and pushed and held two walls of water 600 metres high. What else but a miracle could have done that? But a wind of that scale - would it not surely have blown the Hebrews away as they attempted to come through? Probably so. Except for another factor, alluded to in the Scripture, which changes the popular conception of the event.

My answer is this: the walls of water eventually stood up without the wind. Notice Exodus 15:8 - “floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.”

The dictionary defines “congeal” as to change from a fluid or soft to a solid or rigid state. Strong’s Concordance notes that congeal comes from the Hebrew gapha (pronounced kaw-faw), which means to shrink, i.e. thicken (as unracked wine, curdled milk clouded sky, frozen water).

In a certain part of the hot Iranian desert, villagers have built parallel stone walls close together, through which the wind will blow. Then, toward night, as the temperature drops, they pour water on the ground between the walls. The night wind freezes the water and provides natural refrigeration.

In the U.S.A., along the Arizona Interstate 40, south of Flagstaff, road signs point to “Ice Caves”. Here, where water has seeped down a

mountain into a natural tunnel and the wind blows through, in this hot desert country the water is turned to ice. Pioneers used these ice caves to refrigerate food.

These minor examples of the effect of wind blowing on water merely indicate a law of nature in action. But at the Red Sea crossing, this was accomplished on a supernatural scale - where a "STRONG" wind blowing on walls of water as tall as skyscrapers FROZE THEM SOLID. This could be nothing less than a miracle. Surely the Lord is in control of the forces He created.

Once the water had "congealed", standing up solid, the wind could drop allowing the Hebrews to pass through. Then the cloud separating the Hebrews from their pursuers was removed, and the Egyptians saw their quarry escaping. They went down on to the sea bed after them - 600 of Pharaoh's "chosen" chariots and "all the chariots of Egypt, plus 251,000 men." (Josephus).

THE ICE WALLS COLLAPSE

Then, with a heart-chilling roar, the two walls of frozen water (which we may assume had been thawing and thinning since the wind dropped) suddenly collapsed upon them. "The waters covered the chariots." (Ex.14:29).

The monarch and the nation's army were in that place of fearful danger by their own choice. They had destroyed themselves.

It seems to me that these linked events - the waters standing up like two walls, and the timing of the waters' return so as to save every Israelite and destroy every Egyptian - could have occurred only by a direct, miraculous intervention. No wonder the neighbouring nations grew alarmed.

Here was the greatest single disaster that ever befell a nation. In one blow the king, the priests of the Egyptian gods and the entire elite army of 251,000 men, had been totally destroyed - while the unarmed enemy did not suffer a single casualty.

A prophecy had been made: "For this cause I have raised thee [Pharaoh] up, for to show in thee my power. AND THAT MY NAME MAY BE DECLARED THROUGHOUT ALL THE EARTH." (Ex.9:16)

It cannot be denied that the news of their exodus from Egypt and the name of their God has been "declared throughout all the earth" - a precise

fulfilment of prophecy. Epic films have been made of it; the story has been translated into over a thousand languages.

But the prophecy meant more than this. Pharaoh had been “raised up” for the purpose of showing, by the extent of his fall, the puny and insecure nature of the greatest human power when measured against the power of the Creator.

This disaster to the flower of the Egyptian army and nobility was so overwhelming that Egypt succumbed to looting, disorganisation and anarchy for several years. There was no longer any royal power. Egypt was largely depopulated. And she was defenceless.

THE SKEPTIC HAS HIS SAY

“Get real,” laughed Jed Barker. “I tell you, they found nothing.”

After the Suez crisis, when all those bombed ships on the canal floor were cleared away, there was nothing. Just like the first time, when the French cut the canal. They found no evidence of ancient chariots, no horses, no remains of Pharaoh’s army.

“You know what I think?” said Jed. “The story’s just a myth. It never happened.”

Jed was not alone in his skepticism. On the nationally televised CBS special, “Ancient Secrets of the Bible”, Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of Humanistic Judaism, laid it on the line: “The idea that the Israelites passed through the Red Sea is crazy. The Bible says that there were 603,000 males, which means over 2 million people who passed through those waters.

“It most likely would have taken several weeks for those people just to cross. The whole idea is crazy... The story is not to describe history. The main purpose of the Exodus story as it was created by the pre-scribes who lived in Jerusalem was to glorify their God and to make their God look greater than any other god; and what they used was a series of old legends and distorted memories, which they put together to create this story, which has no relationship to history.”

Well, that’s an interesting statement. So is there anyway to find out the truth?

THE SEARCH BEGINS

Ron Wyatt had been working and diving along other parts of the Red Sea - and couldn't find anything. He had been searching and probing where many others had been searching over the years.

Then he went back to the book of Exodus and found clues previously missed. When Ron and his two sons found the large flat area at Nuweiba, they got out their diving gear.

THE STORY... AND THE FACTS

1. The Bible account states that the sea had crashed back over the Egyptian chariots (Ex.14:23-28)

The men went into the sea - and in the first half hour found the first chariot wheel. It was in eighty feet (about twenty-five metres) of water. In just a few minutes, Ron found another one.

These chariot remains were not in perfect condition and required careful examination to see exactly what they were. They were covered in coral, which made it difficult to see them clearly. Could it be that the coral was the agency the Lord had used to preserve them?

There were numerous wheels. Some were still on their axles, and some were off. There were chariot cabs without the wheels. So far, this coincided with the biblical account.

2. The ancient report states that the wheels came off the chariots. ("The Lord troubled the host of the Egyptians, and took off their chariot wheels." – Ex.14:24,25)

Have you ever heard it said that you cannot take the Bible literally? That it's just myth? Well, now we can see just how accurate was that detail inserted into the Scripture report. They found several six-spoked wheels, as well as an eight-spoked wheel. Ron removed the hub of a wheel which had the remains of eight spokes radiating outward from it.

He took this to Cairo to the office of Nassif Mohammed Hassan, the director of Antiquities with whom Ron had been working. Mr Hassan examined it and immediately pronounced it to be of the 18th Dynasty. When asked how he knew this so readily, Mr Hassan explained that the eight-spoked wheel was used only during the 18th Dynasty.

There followed a thorough research on the Egyptian chariot. According to several sources, it appeared that the discovery of four, six and eight spoked – wheels placed the Exodus in the 18th Dynasty. It was ascertained that only during the 18th Dynasty was this type of wheel used. Monuments can actually be dated by the number of spokes shown in the wheel.

Finally, Ron found a four-spoked gold chariot wheel, which looks almost perfect. The reason this one was so well preserved was that coral does not grow readily on gold. The wood inside the gold “veneer” was deteriorated, which made it very fragile. And for that reason there has been no attempt to retrieve it from the water.

Of all the archaeological sites I have ever worked, this location is the most mind boggling by far.

Why has no trace of Pharaoh’s lost army ever been found? The answer is simple. Until now, every searcher has been looking in the wrong place. And why? It seems that somebody read the Exodus account loosely, rather than scrutinising it for every word, every clue.

Writers and mapmakers followed more or less ad lib, like sheep. And we took it for granted they were right. The reality is that chariot parts have never been found in the Red Sea anywhere, except now, at this site.

3. The Scripture records that men and horses alike were drowned (Ex.14:26-28).

As my eyes scanned objects on the sea floor, strange shapes were everywhere. I looked closer at one spot. With a catch at my heart, I realised it was a man’s hand. Strewn along the sea bed were human skulls among the coral, and skeletons partly covered by coral. I shuddered as I held a man’s hipbone, a clavicle and parts of skulls. Yes, even a horse hoof. It was all too real.

I have now led several international expeditions to the site. There is no doubt that it happened exactly as the Scriptures say.

4. A column by the sea.

A Phoenician style column was found lying on the southern end of the beach. It was partially in the water and the inscriptions had been eroded away, or perhaps purposefully chiselled away. The authorities have since moved this column across the road and set it up in concrete.

The importance of this ancient column was not fully realised until much later. Certainly the column was not of Egyptian style.

Then another column was discovered on the Saudi Arabian side of the sea, almost exactly opposite the first column. This was identical to the first column – except that this one had the inscriptions intact, on the leeward side. The archaic Hebrew letters were eventually translated. The inscription contained the words:

MIZRAIM (Egypt); SOLOMON; EDOM; DEATH; PHARAOH; MOSES; and YAHWEH.

From this, one may deduce that King Solomon had erected these columns in honour of Yahweh (God) and dedicated them to the miracle of the crossing of the sea on dry ground.

After the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea, they went to Mount Sinai. Notice the map. There is no other option. The real Mount Sinai would have to be in what is now Saudi Arabia.

Now at last, discoveries show that the Exodus story tallies with the facts. The artefacts and skeletal remains are there; they cannot be argued away.

Moses, motivated by the grand mission for which his God had called him, refused the throne, the wealth and the splendour of the world's most pompous nation. Today his name is honoured.

THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF THIS DISCOVERY

This archaeological discovery has little relevance unless one can demonstrate a practical application to the present. But this I shall now do. In discussing the Exodus, in which the Hebrew slaves were delivered through the sea and the mighty political power that threatened them was destroyed, a biblical prophet links it to a later situation toward the end of world history.

Paul states that the Exodus rescue is an example for those “upon whom the ends of the world are come.” (1 Cor.10:1,2,11)

After the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, in which the world's super power was brought to its knees and the Hebrews were brought safely to the other shore, Moses led his people in a song of triumph (Ex. 15:1).

The Exodus deliverance from Egypt was so similar to the coming deliverance of those who choose God's way at the time of the end, that their song of triumph is called "THE SONG OF MOSES AND THE LAMB" (Rev. 15:3).

The Bible definitely links the Exodus event to the greater event at the time when the Lord returns to deliver His people... and to the mightier works of God that will lead to songs of praise in the near future.

Is it not appropriate that, after thousands of years, the evidence for this Exodus miracle has at last been discovered - at the time in human history for which it is marked as an example?

ANSWERING A CRITIC

Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of Humanistic Judaism, claimed on television that the event never happened. "It would have taken them weeks to cross," he sneered.

Easy to Say. But it does not take much effort to discover that this man forgot to sit down and do his arithmetic:

Width of underwater bridge: 900 metres. (But let's be cautious and say that only 750 metres (2,500 feet) of this width was used.)

Allowing 5 feet (1+ metres) per person side to side, would give space for 500 persons abreast.

With the length of the crossing at 8 miles (13 km), and travelling at 2.5 miles (4 km) per hour, it would take just over three hours for the front row of persons to cross over.

With 500 persons abreast, and a total of, say, 2 million people, there would be queues 4,000 deep.

Allow a distance of 5 feet (1.5 metres) from person to person, one behind the other. Also allow for half of these persons to be driving an animal at an extra 10 feet (3 metres) average space for each animal). Allow also for a quarter of the people in possession of a cart (occupying a further 10 feet/3 metres for each vehicle). All this would require a procession 9.6 miles/15.4 km in length.

Thus the final row of persons would be 9.6 miles/15.4 km, or 4 hours walking time behind the front row.

The final row would leave the western shore some 4 hours after the departure of the front row, and would take 3.5 hours to make the crossing.

Result: Total crossing time for 2 million people, plus animals and carts, would be just over seven hours.

Even if these figures require some adjustment, it is still safe to say that the time needed to make the crossing was by no means excessive.

SOME QUESTIONS

Here are a few questions folk have asked me.

1. Did the Pharaoh at the time of the Exodus lose his life in the Red Sea, or did he, as portrayed in the Hollywood film "*The Ten Commandments*" return to Egypt alone?

Some have assumed that while the Egyptian Pharaoh accompanied his armies, he did not enter the sea basin, but commanded his armies from the shore line. Thus he would not have been destroyed with them. Such a view does not take into account how he could have done this from such a distance in darkness (Ex. 14 : 20) Such an idea would make of the Pharaoh an absolute coward, which they were not. Extant inscriptions reveal that the Pharaohs led their armies into battle, (see Henry Brugsch-Bey, "*Egypt Under the Pharaohs*" translation by Philip Smith, 2nd ed. 1881, Vol. 1.P.304.)

The biblical writer David indicates that the Pharaoh lost his life at this time (Psalm 136: 14,15) It is true that in David's statement of the event the Hebrew is translated "overthrew" or "overwhelmed". But it is the same word that is used in Ex. 14:27 to indicate the total destruction of Pharaoh's armies. And we are informed that there was no one left of the Egyptian side to return home and report what had happened (Ex. 14:28).

2. How could the bones of Pharaoh's soldiers last for thousands of years on the sea bed? Also, should not the sea currents have whisked them off the underwater land bridge?

Ocean movements tend to be greater near the surface, but the sea floor is comparatively calm. Underwater archaeologists off Agay, France, discovered the wreck of a mid-10th century Arab ship up to 80 feet (25 metres) in length, accompanied by a boat 27-33 feet (8-10 metres) long.

The boat contained a skeleton of a man, aged about 35, with a sword and a cutlass sheath. (*History From the Sea*, ed. Peter Throckmorton, p.89) That skeleton was still intact after 1000 years.

I believe remains much older have been found. It appears that human bones can survive on the sea floor for an undetermined period of time, given suitable conditions.

One shudders to think what might be happening to the irreplaceable evidences of the destruction of Pharaoh's hosts in the Red Sea, now that Ron Wyatt has revealed the true site. This information would undoubtedly draw hordes of scavengers and treasure seekers well aware of the value that such ancient artefacts would bring. How can these survive?

The remains, fortunately, are largely covered with coral which not only has preserved them, but also helps to disguise their presence. And - fortunately - most of the remains lie at the Saudi Arabian side of the sea, which is out of bounds to tourists, divers, and so on.

(But we still hope to do work there, if the way opens up.) Any divers at the Egyptian side must now report to a local police officer - and no artefacts are allowed out of Egypt.

[3. Have you dived on the Saudi Arabian side where most of the Egyptian army remains should be found?](#)

Ron Wyatt, his son Ronny, Bob Murrell, Marty Plott and Rick Combs of the U.S.A., Wenhat of Egypt, and myself, were members of the party which recently made an attempt.

Previously the Saudis had imprisoned Ron for 78 days. We were going to hire a boat from Eilat in Israel to get us down there, but that could have caused trouble with the Saudis if we anchored it just off their shore (even though in international waters). So the Director of Antiquities in Egypt was to have organised a boat for us. Then, should the Saudis apprehend us, the Egyptians could handle the matter, Arab to Arab. However, the Director was quite ill when we arrived. So we attempted to handle it ourselves.

Everywhere we tried to hire a boat - whether in Egypt or Israel - owners shook their heads. Oh, they were keen enough until we mentioned our destination. Then the excuse was neatly, "The sea is too rough." One skipper, however, was honest enough to admit: "It's the Saudi gunboats.

Our vessel could be confiscated.” In any case, we shall be ready if the opportunity opens for us to dive on the other side.

4. I heard someone say that the wheels in the Red Sea are not Egyptian but Syrian?

The critic you heard has not been to see the wheels for himself. He has only seen a picture of one. So they are Syrian, he claims. Therefore, we could not have found remains from Pharaoh's Egyptian army.

If only our friend had checked the monuments of Egypt. He would have found this same 4-spoked wheel-style depicted there. Captured Syria chariots were dedicated as booty to the priests of Egypt who were closely linked to the army.

But, what is more, identical chariot wheels are shown on the monuments as also having been made in Egypt.

When Pharaoh went after the fleeing Hebrews "he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him. And he took 600 chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them (Ex. 14:6,7) It is dear from this that the Pharaoh took every chariot in Egypt - his own, those of his generals ('captains') and a group called his "chosen" chariots, which seem to have been in addition to his regular army ("all the chariots of Egypt").

Whose might these "600 chosen chariots" have been?

This group seems to have been too small to have been a division of the army. There is information that one Pharaoh had an army of 20,000 troops, which comprised four divisions. This implies that each division consisted of 5000 troops. We also know that the army took more than just soldiers.

And the evidence at hand shows that when Pharaoh's army set out after the fleeing Hebrews, they took with them all the priesthood of the gods of Egypt. After all, he had seen the power of the true God, the great "I Am". If the Egyptian army ever needed supernatural intervention by the hands of their so-called "gods" it was at this time. We believe that every priest of every god was summoned to accompany the army as they went after Moses and the Hebrew multitude.

The gold-veneered, four-spoked chariot wheel was discovered on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea crossing site. This indicates that whoever

was driving this particular chariot was at the rear of the army. It makes sense to us that a priest, who is not trained in battle, would be in this position at the rear of the army. Also, a gold chariot would not be practical for battle. Such chariots were more ceremonial. We know also the priesthood were given gold chariots, booty of foreign defeats.

An inscription of Thutmoses III relates: “He went forth, none like him, slaying the barbarians, smiting Retenu, bringing their princes as living captives, their chariots wrought with gold, bound to their horses.” In fact, we have many, many inscriptions of the kings of the 18th Dynasty receiving gold-plated foreign chariots either as spoils of war or as tribute received from conquered peoples.

There are inscriptions stating that these gold chariots were often dedicated to various temples and gods, which meant that the priests would receive these chariots.

While it is possible that the Pharaoh may have been at the rear of the army, extant inscriptions reveal that they led their armies into battle.

Part 3

THE REAL MT SINAI

Every year excited tourists climb the slopes of the so-called Mountain of God, photographing Elijah's cave and the monastery of St. Catherine, totally unaware that the REAL Mount Sinai lies across the Gulf of Aqaba in the ancient land of Midian. How could this be?

Unknown to most, the REASON this location was selected rests solely with the opinions of one man, the Roman emperor Constantine (c.280-337 AD).

During a fit of depression, he sent his mother Helena to the Middle East to discover some spots he had seen in visions. The Sinai peninsula was one such place she visited.

And 200 years later (in AD 527) the present Monastery of St. Catherine was erected there. When Queen Helena chose this mountain in the Sinai peninsula as the biblical Mount Sinai, the Christian world blindly assumed this to be true.

Instead of relying on visions of demons, Constantine should have consulted the pages of the Bible for clues to determine the TRUE SITE of Mount Sinai.'

TRADITIONAL SITE IS A BIG MISTAKE

Over the years many historians and scholars have realised that the TRADITIONAL site of Mount Sinai in the peninsula between the two gulfs of the Red Sea is MISPLACED and UNTENABLE.

Von Haven, a member of the Danish Expedition of 1761-1767, quickly realised the IMPOSSIBILITY of the site: "I have observed earlier that we could not possibly be at Mount Sinai. The monastery was situated in a NARROW VALLEY, which was NOT EVEN LARGE ENOUGH FOR A MEDIUM-SIZED ARMY to be able to camp in, LET ALONE THE 600,000 MEN THAT MOSES HAD WITH HIM, who, together with their

wives and children, must have come to OVER 3,000,000.” (Thorkild Hansen, *Arabia Felix: The Danish Expedition of 1761-1767*. Harper & Ros, N.Y.,1964, p.181)

Also the Sinai peninsula lay within the jurisdiction of Egypt and therefore the fugitive Israelites would AVOID it. James Montgomery notes that “...the land west of a line from the Wady of Egypt to the Elanitic Gulf (Gulf of Aqaba) has always belonged to the Egyptian political sphere, and actually that is the present boundary of Egypt....the South Arabians called the same region Msr, i.e. Misraim, Egypt.” (*Arabia and the Bible*, p.31)

As we have noted, the traditional location in the so-called Sinai peninsula didn't “come into being” until almost 2.000 years after the Exodus. The so-called Sinai (Jebel Musa) is simply a MODERN FORGERY.

ARE THERE CLUES TO THE TRUE MT. SINAI?

In the biblical account Mount Sinai is CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE LAND OF MIDIAN

1. Moses had fled from Egypt to MIDIAN. Here he came to the MOUNTAIN OF GOD, “even to HOREB” (Ex.3:1). It was here, at the burning bush that God told Moses, “When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain” (v.12).
2. Later, the Israelites were brought to Horeb, Midian, and the mount of God. (Ex.17:6; 18:1,5). It's the same place.

WHERE IS MIDIAN?

The location of Midian is pretty much accepted as being in Saudi Arabia: “Midian, a son of Abraham and Keturah (Gen.xxv:2; I Chr.i:32); progenitor of the Midianites. or Arabians dwelling principally in the desert north of the peninsula of Arabia. Southwards, they extended along the eastern shore of the Gulf of Eyleh (Gulf of Aqaba).” (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*, art.: “Widian”)

The explorer Charles Doughty passed through an area of northwest Arabia called the MEDAIN, “north of MEDIANA.” So the ancient name has stuck.

“MOUNT SINAI IN ARABIA”

In Galatians 4:25 the apostle Paul tells us: “Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia.” He identifies the location. How could we have missed that for so long?

Peake's Commentary on the Bible noticed it. Referring to Paul's passage here, it is stated: "Their mothers likewise represent the two dispensations. Hagar represents that given on Mnt. Sinai, and, Paul notes in passing the appropriateness of the fact that Mt. Sinai is in Arabia the land to which Hagar took her son."

HOREB IN ARABIA

If you examine a detailed map of this area, the WADI HOREB (or Hurab) can be seen to extend directly to the foothills of Jebel el Lawz, the highest mountain in the entire region.

LOCAL TRADITIONS OF MOSES AND JETHRO IN THE AREA

Importantly, the few explorers who have been through the NW area of Arabia found this area (Midian) to have a vast array of local traditions about Moses and Jethro in the area.

"From here my guide and I climbed up the cliff to visit the 'circles of Jethro' on the summit of Musalla ridge, from which we climbed down quite easily to our camp on the far side... A cairn marked the spot where Jethro is supposed to have preyed, and all around it are numerous circles." (H. St. John Philby, *The Land of Midian*, p.222)

Explorer Charles Dougherty writes of "...a tradition amongst their (the inhabitants of this NW Arabian legion) ancestors that 'very anciently they occupied all that country about Maan, where also Moses fed the flocks of Jethro the Prophet.'" (*Travels in Arabia Deserta*)

BUT WHICH MOUNTAIN WAS SINAI?

Can we now pinpoint the REAL Mt. Sinai with exactitude?

Here is another clue: "The Lord spoke to us in Horeb, saying, You have dwelt long enough IN this mount." (Deut. 1:6) The description indicates that the people were "in" a mountain range protected within its borders.

After the discovery of the chariot parts in the Gulf of Aqaba, Ron Wyatt went looking for a mountain on the eastern side of the gulf which would fit this description.

There was only one candidate, in his opinion - Jebel el Lawz. An aerial map showed this mountain to be in an almost semi-circular shape, enclosing an area of 5,000 acres - certainly quite large enough to accommodate 2 million people and their herds. It was also separated from the mountainous region which paralleled the Red Sea, by a desert, or plain area - which could be the desert of Sin(ai).

Jebel el Lawz was the perfect candidate. At 8,000 feet (2,600 m) it is also the tallest mountain in the region.

Those who have looked up at its massive granite slopes are awed by its sheer ruggedness and size. Philby punctuates his book with superlatives such as “the GREAT MASSIF of Jabal Lauz” and “the Lauz MASSIF”.

The site is located some 144 km by road from Tabuk towards Hagl. Then, soon after crossing a bridge, a dry wadi is followed west for 48.7 km.

Upon questioning a bedouin in the area, if this was indeed Jabel el Lawz, Ron's escort Ibrahim Salem Frich responded with “nahm, Jabel Musa henna!” (“YES, THE MOUNTAIN OF MOSES IS HERE.”).

Located fairly close by is a single, large oasis, which could have been the home of Moses' father-in-law Jethro.

The town of AI-Bad is here. And between this spot and the mountain is a desert area - and valleys in the mountain range through which Moses could have led his flocks, taking him to the "backside of the desert". Ron was convinced this mountain had to be the one.

THE BURNT TOP

The entire top of the mountain is blackened as if charred by some tremendous heat. It looks like it is made of coal. It looks exactly as if the very top portion of the entire top of the Lawz mountain had been evenly scorched.

Notice the biblical account: “And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire.”

Could this blackened peak be the result of God's own Presence resting upon it?

PLATEAU

Climbing the mountain, we find ourselves on top of a large, sheltered plateau. This plateau is easily large enough to accommodate the seventy elders who accompanied Moses up into the mountain at one point of time.

CAVE

Among other features of the site is a cave just below one peak. ("And he - Elijah - ..went.. unto Horeb the mountain of God. And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there." (1 Ki. 19:8)

SOLITARY TREE

On one of the peaks (above the cave) there are 2 extremely large boulders with a solitary tree growing between them. This strange tree which seemingly is growing out of the granite, is one of the first things Ron noticed when he first saw this mountain.

It is this tree which positively identifies the mountain. In an area with kilometres and kilometres of mountains, there is no mistaking this particular site. When you see the tree, you know you are there.

There is a reference to a tree on Sinai, in a book written about 650 AD, by a man who lived in and knew western Saudi Arabia. We know that Mohammed, who wrote the Koran, visited this area at least once. The speaker in this passage of the Koran is supposed to be God, or Allah, who refers to himself in the plural as he states: "We produced for you... a tree issuing from the Mount of Sinai that bears oil and seasoning." (*The Koran*, translated by Arthur J. Arberry, chapter (Sura) "*The Believers*", para.20)

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THE ANCIENT BROOK

On the face of the mountain, there extends evidence of an ancient stream, that originated high in the mountain. The waters spilled down through the southern part of the holy precinct, turning east and flowing to the edge of

the boundary markers (which we'll discuss soon), then turning and flowing north. The path is still visible today.

The biblical account tells us that when Moses destroyed and powdered up the golden calf, he "cast the dust thereof into the brook that descended out of the mount." (Deut.9:21)

Again, as we read the Koran, it appears that the peoples of this area knew the site of Mt. Sinai and this brook very well. "Moses.. said... 'I observe a fire...'. When he came to it, a voice came from the right bank of the watercourse, in the sacred hollow, coming from the tree: 'Moses, I am God'" (Ibid, Chapter "*The Story*", para.29,30)

This is an amazing description of a scene which perfectly fits the evidence from the site. The "sacred hollow" describes the area at the foot of the blackened mountain, which is protected on three sides by the mountains. The tree is certainly to the right of the river and again fits.

THE "BOUNDS" SET BY MOSES

The Bible story relates that God instructed Moses to "set bounds unto the people" (Ex. 19:12), a barrier so that the people would not approach the mountain.

The area of the "holy precinct", this section at the foot of the mountain, is enclosed by huge 18-foot diameter round columns. These cannot be seen except upon close examination, because over the intervening 3,400 years, soil and rock has accumulated around them, raising the ground level. Today, only the tops of a few can be seen, sticking up through the ground just a few inches. It was one of the columns that was partly excavated when Ron Wyatt and Dave Fasold were there.

Their construction is as follows: the outer wall, constructed of brick-sized rocks, is 18 feet (5 1/2 metres) diameter; and the construction is similar to the large Egyptian columns. Within this enclosed outer wall is another interior wall, several feet smaller. In between these 2 walls, other stones of the same size are placed vertically.

Their location can be seen quite easily, as the soil covering them drops off about 20 feet (6 metres) along their entire course. The evidence shows that they extended across from north to south in a fairly direct line, then turned and followed the dry river bed that cuts through.

(This riverbed begins high up in the mountain, comes down the side, and extends out eastward. "The brook that descended out of the mount" – (Deut.9:21).

The boundary columns then began again along the southern edge of the riverbed, went east, turned south and then westward, where they extended all the way to the southern side of the mountain.

Along this boundary erected by Moses, the Saudis have now placed a fence. They have also built a guard house. The sign by the guard house states that this is an archaeological site passed by royal decree and that it is unlawful to trespass, subject to penalty.

THE ALTAR FOR THE GOLDEN CALF

A dramatic event occurred while Moses was up the mountain receiving the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

The people built an altar for the worship of an Egyptian golden calf. "And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand; the tablets were written on both their sides... And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome; but the noise of them that sing do I hear. And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it." (Ex.32:15-20)

We can visualise Moses and Joshua looking out over the area from the plateau (partway down the mount), getting ready to begin their final descent. They look out over the uninhabited holy precinct, and just beyond the boundary columns, the people are in a great commotion, singing and dancing. And just beyond, nestled close to a small hill, is the golden calf altar. As they walk through the holy precinct, closer to the barrier, they can clearly see the golden calf high upon the altar.

Moses throws down the Tables of Stone just inside the Holy Precinct, but in the sight of the people. He keeps walking straight ahead, directly to Aaron and the altar. Taking the golden calf, he has it hurled into the fire, and ultimately it is melted down into a formless blob (showing what a

powerful god" it really is). Now he climbs on to the altar Aaron built and grinds the gold blob down into dust. He then takes a large pile of gold dust to the stream which flows from the mountain and throws it in the water at the place where the stream flows out of the Holy Precinct.

Since no one can venture beyond the barrier, no one who drinks the water can escape the pollution of the gold in it.

Thus far, the evidence at Jebel el Lawz fits the biblical description perfectly. Just outside the Holy Precinct, perhaps a mile or more from the base of the mountain, is an ancient altar, with 12 petroglyphs of cows and bulls. There is little doubt that this was the altar to the golden calf which Aaron had constructed, since it was obvious that the stones had been arranged.

But there was more exciting evidence: When Ron climbed upon the altar and looked over the top of it, something red and glimmering caught his eye. He saw that there was a slight puddle of water from the light, early morning shower, on the rock and it looked almost like a puddle of blood.

Carefully examining this, he saw that this part of the rock had a slight depression in it, which looked as if something had worn or ground it down. Then, as he looked even closer, he saw that the "blood red" colour reflected in the water was the result of tiny flecks of gold embedded in the entire worn area (6' x 4') of the top of the rock.

Was this where Moses had ground down the golden calf into gold powder, before making the people drink it? (Ex.32:20)

When Ron showed the petroglyphs to the archaeologist from Riyadh University, he was very excited. He said this ancient Egyptian style of petroglyph was found nowhere else in Saudi that he knew of. The horns of the cows and bulls were drawn in the Egyptian style, representing the gods Hathor and Apis.

Ron was congratulated on the discovery and the area promptly closed off. All photographs were confiscated.

A later visit by members of Jim Irwin's "High Flight team verified that the Saudis had enclosed the area with a 12 foot high, chain link fence and barbed wire, adding a large blue and white 4 foot by 8 foot sign in Arabic and English, to announce that it was a protected site of historical importance.

The same type fence encircles two entire mountains. The cost involved in the fencing alone shows that the Saudis are taking this site very seriously.

ALTAR AT FOOT OF MOUNTAIN

Outside the camp, under the mount, one can see the remains of an ancient foundation. Could this be the site to which Moses removed the worship tent after the golden calf incident? (“And Moses took the tabernacle and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of the congregation.” (Ex. 33:7)

Adjacent to it is an altar made of uncut stones. The Scripture mentions this altar of “unhewn” stone, “under the hill”. (Ex.20:25 33:7)

THE 12 PILLARS

The Bible records: “And Moses...buildded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Ex.24:4) The Hebrew word used is *matstsebah*. Could this be the origin of the word *massebah*, which denotes a one piece, standing stone pillar? (cf. Josh.4:8)

Discovered: In the Holy Precinct, to the far right and near the front (looking westward into the area) there is a semicircle of 12 large granite boulders, about 6 feet wide and 9 feet tall. (This is an estimate based on the drop in ground level.) These are, like the 18 foot boundary markers, covered by alluvial soil, washed into the area by seasonal showers and only the tops are visible. Ron saw these white pillars lying close to ground level, as the sun reflected off the white stone.

WHITE MARBLE SHRINE

Near the altar at the base of the mountain, are the remains of some type of shrine built of pure white, polished marble. It is round, with sets of double columns at even intervals. Its roof: a polished dome.

The pieces of the columns were about 21 inches in diameter, with one measurement taken as 20.6 inches, the royal Egyptian cubit.

When Ron and Dave were exploring the region, each separated by the interrogation team, Ron found a piece of white marble with an inscription on it in archaic Hebrew, which he committed to memory and buried, not

telling the Saudis about it. He believed that section would prove that Solomon had the shrine built, if he could ever get back there and retrieve it, or have it safely retrieved.

The bedouin themselves told Ron and Dave that there had been a marble building there, but that it had been dismantled and used in a mosque in Hagi.

CICRCULAR DWELLINGS

There are the remains of thousands of circular dwellings left behind from the multitude's stay at Sinai and Rephidim.

THE ROCK IN HOREB

Arriving on the opposite side of this mountain, we find an area which fits the biblical description of Rephidim, the last encampment of the Israelites before they reached Mount Sinai.

Here, in the desert, Moses was told to go to "THE ROCK" in Horeb (undoubtedly a well-known, or prominent, rock).

In Exodus 17:6, the Lord tells Moses: "Behold I will stand before thee, there upon the rock in Horeb, and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel."

Here stands the most amazing monument on this planet. On the western side of the Horeb range (the encampment at Mt. Sinai was on the east), in the midst of the plain, is a hill about 110 feet (34metres) high. Atop this hill towers a mighty rock, about the size of a 5 storey building. The total height, then, of this object, is about 16 stories. This giant rock is split through the middle. The split is large enough for a man to walk through.

But, here is the remarkable part: Water erosion channels come from the TOP of the hill - OUT OF THE ROCK! This rock displays the pattern of water erosion, with evidence that numerous streams came forth in several directions from this rock.

Today, there is no water in the region anywhere. For this reason, it has remained uninhabited all these years. But it is evident that great streams of

water once came from this split in the rock in several directions. The erosion channels continue out into the plain below.

ANOTHER ALTAR

About 200 metres from this rock, is another altar, similar in construction to the one in the Holy Precinct.

The Scripture says that Moses built an altar at Rephidim (Ez.17:15) And a very ancient altar is still there.

HOW HAVE ALL THESE REMAINS MANAGED TO SURVIVE?

Fortunately the remoteness and the desert conditions have preserved these remains, just where they were left 3,400 years ago.

I believe a divine hand has kept these from discovery until now, the age when they would be needed for a skeptical world. To this day they have been protected from discovery and looting.

THE OASIS OF ELIM

Back closer to the Red Sea crossing, we soon come upon another area which perfectly fits the biblical description of one of the stops of the multitude before they reached Rephidim.

“And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water and three score and ten palm trees, and they encamped there by the waters.” (Ex. 15:27)

The Saudis have recently walled up the wells, to prevent debris from falling into them.

LARGE BEACH AREA

Leaving Elim, we continue back toward the Gulf of Aqaba arm of the Red Sea. Across the sea, the large beach area on the Egyptian side can be seen. Just as the beach on the Egyptian side is certainly large enough to accommodate several million people, on this Arabian side also the beach contains a tremendous plain.

The record states: “Thus the Lord saved Israel that day, out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.” (Ex. 14:30)

SOLOMON'S MONUMENT NO. 2

When Ron Wyatt was a prisoner in Saudi Arabia, Ron directed his captors to this beach in a helicopter. Here he showed them a Phoenician-style column on the beach, with inscriptions in archaic Hebrew, stating that King Solomon of Israel had erected this column in honour of Yahweh to commemorate the crossing of the Red Sea on dry land.

Today, all that remains there is a marker, noting the location of that column, and while we do not know where they have taken it, we feel sure it is protected and will be located soon.

Perhaps the Saudis were nervous that such a monument bearing Hebrew characters, so close to shipping lanes used by Israel, could attract an Israeli “invasion” if its presence were to become known.

UNDERWATER LAND BRIDGE

As one looks out into the sea, one can see the end of the tongue of the underwater land bridge, leading across to this very beach where the column once rested.

PORTRESS: BAAL-ZEPHON?

Adjacent also one can see the restored remains of an ancient fortress, probably the Baal-zephon of the biblical account.

A CHECK-LIST

The biblical account gives us a CHECK-LIST of items that were left behind by the Hebrews on their march from Egypt to Canaan. We have discovered that the weight of evidence supports the story down to its minutest detail. If I were at present a skeptic, I would now have to look at my doubts and why I hold them.

On all fronts the critics are being found with egg on their faces, as discovery after discovery vindicates the inerrant accuracy of this inspired record.

SOME QUESTIONS:

Beyond the Red sea crossing

Q: In *The Ark Conspiracy* you claim to have found Rephidim, but no mention is made of Marah or Elim. I hope that lack of evidence of these two sites is not used by the critics (as is often the case) to try to discredit the sites which have been found.

Ans: We now have video evidence of Elim with its palm trees and wells, lying between the Red Sea and Rephidim, in Arabia. Marah has since been located also – and the way it happened is itself a fascinating story. But that can be told another time.

The evidence for these sites that stretch from the Red sea crossing to Mount Sinai fits just like a glove.

The discovery of the real Mt. Sinai will mean that the maps will HAVE to be changed.

This should create tremendous ripples in theological, scientific and geographical circles. Faced with such positive evidence that cannot be refuted the authorities will have to accept it and declare to the world that they have been WRONG in their previous allocations of these historical places.

Altar of the golden calf

Q: I was thrilled with the Mount Sinai discovery. The pictures of the golden calf altar were amazing. But what I want to know is, how could these petroglyphs around the altar still remain after all this time? Were they painted on or scratched on?

Ans: An area of the stone was washed with a substance that was absorbed by the rock about 1/8 of an inch (30 mm). A pointed tool was then employed that, when struck against the blackened rock to a depth of 1/4 inch (60 mm) left a white mark. The artist thus portrayed images of Hathor

and Apis, the Egyptian sacred cows, in dotted outline with their markings, six figures apiece.

Part 4

THE ARK OF NOAH

It was just before dark, when we pulled into the Kurdish town of Dogubayazit. Take away the cars, and this could have been the old American Wild West. There were some mean hombres here - and the air was tense.

After checking in at the Erzurum Hotel, I went out to purchase some food. Across the street stretched a line of small shops. Over one shop hardly much bigger than a bathroom, blared this huge sign: "Supermarket".

I approached expectantly... then froze. There in the window were three bullet holes. The thought came suddenly, "I don't need food tonight." Darkness was descending. And in minutes the street was empty of people.

We were asleep on the second floor, my colleague and I. About midnight Trevor gave a shout. "Jonathan, wake up, wake up." I laid low and listened. Armoured vehicles were in the street. Turkish tanks. Dogs were barking. "BOOM... BOOM... BOOM..."

It continued relentlessly.

"Heavy artillery," whispered Trevor.

We heard the occasional "pop" as the Kurdish townspeople returned the Turkish fire. Close by, something fell in the street.

The battle raged for three more hours. By daybreak, we learned that within a hundred yards of our hotel room, thirteen civilians had died.

This war in the wild mountains of eastern Turkey had been triggered by the Kurdish bid for independence.

WHY WE WERE HERE

But we were here because the town of Dogubayazit was the base camp for expeditions working on the Noah's Ark project.

Back in 1959, a Turkish pilot had been taking stereo photos for the Geodetic Institute of Turkey. On these photographs, a boat-shaped object was seen. It was resting on a hillside, about 12 miles (20 kilometres) south of big Mount Ararat.

Dr. Brandenburger, of Ohio State University, got interested. (It was Brandenburger, a world authority on photogrammetry, who had discovered the missile bases in Cuba, during the Kennedy era.) He carefully studied this photograph. "I have no doubt at all," he concluded, "that this object is a ship. In my entire career, I have never seen an object like this on a stereo photo."

An American expedition party went to the site for a day and a half. And blasted a hole in the side.

Although some timber-shaped stones came out, it was not expected that wood could have fossilized in just a few thousand years. (It can and it does. But that's another story.) The verdict was: nothing of archaeological interest.

Seventeen long years passed before anyone took more interest. This man was biblical archaeologist, Ron Wyatt. He soon realised that this boat-shaped object was too big for him to handle. It was longer than a football field, as big as a battleship - and almost completely buried in the ground.

He spoke to a small group of trusted friends. They decided to pray for an earthquake - one that would somehow expose the object for what it was, but would not injure anybody.

On November 25, 1978, local time, an earthquake pushed the object out of the ground (or, more correctly, dropped the earth from around it).

Its walls were now thrust up some 20 feet out of the earth. The villagers were no strangers to earthquakes. This one was considered abnormal. It was preceded by the sky turning silver. Everyone was in the streets, looking up at the strange sight. They were all outside. So nobody was killed.

The earthquake was described as "not normal", and a "mu'cise" (a miracle). People in the nearby village looked on this as a bad omen. Some said, "We're getting out of here." Twenty families packed up and left.

Following extensive testing at the site, Ron Wyatt began to suggest that this boat-shape might contain the remains of Noah's Ark.

“NOT ENOUGH WATER TO BRING A SHIP HERE”

“Oh, no,” retorted the skeptics, “this thing has to be a freak of nature.” (Get real. What else could it be - at 6,300 feet altitude?) “There is not enough water on earth to have produced such a flood as would be needed to place a massive ship up in the mountains.”

A valid comment, perhaps.

So let's consider. For starters, it's a fact that about 70 per cent of our planet's surface area is sea... and there is 18 times more water below sea level than there is dry land above it. It is well known also that most of the earth's mountains are of "recent" formation. If seabeds can rise and continents sink, there would indeed be sufficient water for a worldwide flood.

The Flood traditions of many ancient races tell us that, before the Great Disaster, a survival vessel was constructed - and that representatives of all land animal life were taken aboard.

”NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN ONE BOAT”

A common question is, how could all those animals have been squeezed in? The truth is, the Ark of the biblical account was enormous - longer than a football field, probably comprising over 32,000 tons, with sufficient internal capacity to house 494 double-decker buses.

Ernst Mayr (considered by some to be the leading American taxonomist) calculated that there are about one million animal species. Of these, 60 per cent are sea animals. And 70 per cent of the remainder are insects. There are less than 20,000 species of land animals (that's mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians).

Since the average size of all the land animals is no bigger than a house cat, you could fit two of each species in just 41 per cent of the Ark space.

So I suppose the question is not how could all those animals squeeze in, but what did Noah do with all that extra space in the Ark?

WHAT WAS THE GREAT FLOOD?

Now, what kind of Flood was this? This much is certain. It was no gentle rising of water. The forces which triggered this disaster were probably so powerful as to have tipped the earth on its axis. The result would have been tremendous stress within the earth's crust. Cracks opened up -and fire and water burst forth.

In the explosion of the earth's crust, volcanic ash and hot water was blown high into the sky. The protective vapour canopy above the atmosphere began to collapse upon the earth. It poured down in such volume and force, that the result was disastrous.

Tidal waves of enormous height swept from pole to pole. Land masses and seas were churned up together.

Did you know that on every continent and in numerous places are vast "fossil graveyards" where creatures have been swept to their death in their millions? Thousands of elephants, penguins, palm trees, fish and plants are found mixed up together - arctic and tropical creatures, animals of the deep sea and the land, of the highlands and lowlands - are today found mixed together, over thousands of square miles, in single vast burials.

In fact, dinosaurs, coal and human relics are jumbled up together.

Land creatures and creatures of the deep sea all mixed and buried together in a completely unnatural way.

Fossils of countless animals have been found buried in swimming positions, many entire skeletons of non-aquatic dinosaurs have been discovered in a swimming position with the head thrown back as if in death throes. They drowned and they show evidence of rapid burial. This speaks of a colossal Flood.

Complete islands and mountains hundreds of feet high from the Artic Circle to tropical Burma, are composed entirely of animal and tree remains, swept together violently. On hundreds of thousands of hills, worldwide, are bone-filled chasms. Human artefacts are found mixed in. There was mass extinction in all parts of the world simultaneously - and sudden burial.

Millions of fossils perfectly preserved, frozen in action: these are evidence of an enormous catastrophe. We're not told about this, are we?

Here is something most crucial, that is not disclosed to the public. Tree trunks penetrate through several seams of coal (each layer, according to popular theory, millions of years old).

Did these trees stand on end for millions of years whilst awaiting burial? Surely the event was sudden and rapid and these layers - coal seams - were deposited rapidly by moving water.

Yes, water covered the whole earth. And the action was violent. Eventually, as the tectonic movements expanded, the sea basins and the flood waters retreated off the land and the water over the continents fell in stages to lower levels, leaving behind terraces which can still be seen today, in many places.

These high water marks on all continents are still comparatively “fresh” - they are not yet eroded away. Here is evidence that water has been on the continents recently.

AFTER THE FLOOD

The survivors of this Deluge gazed upon a different world. Barren wastes, bleak and sterile hills, and unbearable extremes of heat and cold, now greeted them. And new mountain ranges were being thrust up.

This Great Flood is the most universal racial memory of mankind. As the descendants of the Flood survivors dispersed around the globe, they carried the Flood memory with them.

For more than 2,000 years historians of several nations would record, that the remains of Noah’s big ship were visited by pilgrims. Some of these visitors souvenired pieces of bitumen from the wreck, with which they made amulets. Around 800 B.C., Assyrian visitors are reported to have entered the ship, which was three stories deep in the ground.

THE ARK DISCOVERED?

When I heard that a man called Ron Wyatt claimed to have discovered Noah’s Ark buried in the mud, I was skeptical.

According to some colourful tales, the Ark lay further north, on big Mount Ararat, partly hidden by ice in a canyon. Although not one of those stories had been authenticated, yet, emotionally I was attached to that Mount

Ararat idea. I did not want to believe that some other thing covered in mud at some other location was the Ark.

My skepticism was reinforced by an article in an Australian Christian magazine, which ridiculed Wyatt and his claims. The writer's objections sounded scientific enough - on the surface - so I gullibly accepted them. Eventually, however, I felt impelled to fly overseas and check out the facts for myself. Determined to get to the truth, whichever way it would lead, I confronted Ron Wyatt and hurled at him the objections to his "find".

MY INVESTIGATION BEGINS

I must now confess that in response to my objections, Ron was able to produce answers that made sense. There was some solid evidence that surprised me. So I finally led my own expedition to the site. And what we saw was stunning.

On the tops of hills in the area, Ron had found some big stone objects, with holes through them. These were similar to ancient sea anchors found on the sea bed near ship wrecks around the world.

These were essential equipment for ancient shipping. They were called "[drogue stones](#)". With their flat surface area, they created a drag in turbulent waters, to prevent a ship slipping sideways against a wave.

In calmer waters, they hung deep, sounding for the bottom. They could have been manipulated also to direct a vessel around an obstruction. These "drogue stones" in the Turkish mountains were more or less in eight curving lines leading to the boat shaped object. They were of the size that would have been required by a ship of the Ark's dimensions. Each carried a hole near the top, possibly for a cable or rope.

AN OBJECTION ARISES

Back to our boat shaped object. It was asserted by one critic that this was not the remains of a boat, but that the streamline shape was caused by lava flowing around an obstruction.

It is easy for a critic to play follow the leader and pose as an expert, having never been to the site oneself. Even the critics' favourite son, geophysicist

John Baumgardner won't buy this objection, but here the critics won't quote him.

Recorded on site on video, he said: "It has been proposed that this is some sort of a volcanic plug, or the result of mud flow around some sort of volcanic plug. First of all, the rock formation here at the centre is not volcanic and it has much smaller extent than the ship itself. There is no evidence for any kind of plug beneath this thing. There's erosion all the way around it and there's no sign of such a firm foundation that could produce this oval shaped object."

This is where an understanding of fluid dynamics can be crucial. For one thing, there must first be an obstruction that will cause this "streamline shape" to form. But there is none.

Then, if there was an obstruction at the top end of the site, it would not take the form the critic imagines. If this shape was formed naturally, the mud flow would hit the obstruction and pile up behind it, and then move outward in a bulb-like form around the obstruction. The lower portion of this flow would carry the sharp end where the flow came together again.

INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE

Several times scientists visited the site. They brought three different types of metal detector and found [patterns of iron at regular intervals](#), on each occasion. The pattern found by the metal detectors was recorded by laying yellow and pink tape along the lines of metal.

The metal detector scans showed a very distinct organised pattern of metal beneath the surface, consistent with the shape of a ship. These scans were done numerous times, using three separate types of metal detector, all of which confirmed the same results.

There are iron nodules in about 5,400 places which show lineal patterns, consistent with a shaped hull. The object is impaled by a large rock on one side. Around this rock the metal lines are bent and distorted - similar to what occurs when a car gets wrapped around a lamp post. The rock appears to be an intrusion, which has damaged the boat shaped object. The two do not belong together. (This feature we shall consider later.)

Subsequent radar scans of the full length of the structure were made lengthwise, crosswise and laterally along the sides. The ground-

penetrating radar showed, with refined detail, the same pattern picked up by the metal detectors. What the radar revealed was stunning.

The sub-surface interface radar scans revealed visual evidence of [organised structure encapsulated within the boat shaped formation](#) that was positively identified by the radar specialists as being man-made.

It revealed walls, cavities, and toward the front end two large round “tank” shapes, each 14 feet high and 24 feet across. There appeared to be metal bands around them.

In July, 1987, scans of the entire ship were undertaken, setting frequencies to reflect the structure at varying depths. We now had all the data we wanted.

The decks could be seen to be collapsed, but the internal structure, showing bulkheads, was the proper width, corresponding to the width of the Ark as given in the Bible.

On the south-west side near the front, the radar showed a very large door, which opened to a ramp system which led to the different levels of the ship. The door itself was gone, but the space was there. It was about eight feet wide.

The top and middle decks appeared to be completely open along their mid-sections, which possibly would have allowed light from above to penetrate through the entire ship. The top deck could not be reconstructed with much accuracy, due to the fact that it was collapsed almost completely. All that could be determined was where each level began and ended.

Ron returned in both April and May, 1987, again scanning the site with radar.

By adjusting the frequency of the signal and scanning the same location over and over, Ron was able to obtain data that would produce a three-dimensional image of the structure beneath the surface, allowing him to construct a model.

At the “rear” end four protrusions show up on the radar. It has been suggested that these may be stabilisers. The vessel did not have to travel anywhere. But it needed to ride out the many months of tempestuous, turbulent seas.

The team now has 1,000 feet of paper print-out from the radar scans.

WHAT HAS SURVIVED

The vessel is in a state of petrification and collapse. I say that with regret. It appears that what we have is the remains of the hull and the bottom deck area. The two top decks have collapsed. And what we appear to have is their rubble lying on top of the bottom deck.

There seems to be a pattern to this rubble. As one walks the length of the structure between the two sides, it may be perceived that the rubble rises in steps toward mid-point, then descends in steps. With the help of a computer one may visualise the possible original shape of the structure.

Since the boat-shaped object came up from the mud, the weather has been eroding the mud clinging to its sides – and vertical uprights resembling a [ship's ribs](#) have been appearing more prominently along the sides.

On the eastern side, we saw what looked like portions of rib timbers, which were fragmented but still in place, only discernible due to their shape and colour. When a section of the mud was shaved off, these verticals became clearer, as did horizontal lines which crisscrossed the ribs, in a type of lattice work pattern.

On the western side, the rib timbers had been exposed to weathering and had fragmented and were rapidly falling away, leaving only the empty spaces where they had once been.

The only way to distinguish the rib timbers on the side that still retained portions of them was from the colour difference of the fragmented ribs from the soil surrounding them. The exposed ribs were, for the most part, now reduced to very small fragments, but they still remained in place.

In summary, it can be stated that part of the remains have been assimilated into the enclosing mud shell and exist as a pattern of inclusions rather than physical items.

IMPRINT OF THE SHIP

Only the internal structure could have survived the weathering, which has been fragmenting everything on and near the surface. It appears that this was the place, at least, where the boat had landed, but decayed away and left its imprint.

A good example of how a ship can be completely rotted away, and yet leave its imprint in the surrounding sand, comes from the Sutton Hoo Viking ship, discovered in 1939.

The wood had completely rotted away. However, as the excavators carefully unearthed the treasures, they discovered corroded iron clench nails still in place.

“As they continued clearing from one end, Mr Brown was careful to see that the nails, which now began to appear in a regular pattern, remained in position. As the earth was removed bit by bit, the forward part of the ship emerged in rough outline... until, moving toward the center, they cleared to the eleventh frame, or rib, and reached what they believed was a burial chamber. The outline of the huge ship was perfect.

Every vestige of wood had rotted, but what remained was a perfect impression of the ship's hull, which had been in the sand for centuries. The earth was stained from the wood and the rusted iron clench nails that had once held the ship together remained exactly in place...” (*The Treasure of Sutton Hoo*, Bernice Grohskopf Atheneum)

This demonstrates that even when the wooden structure was completely rotted away, its presence could be detected by the coloration and stains left behind.

COULD THIS BE A ROMAN OR VIKING SHIP?

So what we have here in the Turkish hills is a ship. But could it be the remains of a Roman galleon, or a Viking ship, or some such thing? Yes, I have been asked such questions.

Well, may I say, for starters, that our ship is in a continental heartland location - hundreds of miles from the Mediterranean Sea.

For the ship to have got there, all that intervening land would need to have been under water. In historical times, this has not been so. It has always been land.

Certainly there is no need to invent some will-of-the-wisp boat that has never been recorded, when we already have an obvious candidate. The ancient world recorded a ship in this area - the legendary Noah's Ark. It is said to have floated into the area at a time when the waters did cover the mountains.

WHAT POINTS TO IT BEING THE ARK?

Now, to compare the [size](#).

The length of Noah's Ark, as given in the Bible, was "300 cubits". If Moses, the compiler of the account, was raised and educated in Egypt, he would undoubtedly be using the Egyptian cubit, to describe it. The royal Egyptian cubit was 20.6 inches.

Using this measure, 300 cubits would equal 6180 inches (515 feet or 158.46 metres). And the inside length of our boat has been carefully measured by two separate teams, to be 515.7 feet or exactly 515 feet. The length of the biblical Noah's Ark and the length of this boat are identical. And the average beam width likewise.

By now, we are convinced that this is the remains of Noah's Ark, and that this ship, as such, is the oldest man-made structure on earth. Further, it is in the exact condition that was to be expected.

But this wasn't what the world wanted to see. They were looking for a barge-shaped ship, still intact, or perhaps broken in half, but still wooden, not petrified. And they were looking for it on big Mount Ararat, even though this volcano had experienced several eruptions, the most recent in the mid-1800s, which was very similar to the Mount Helen's eruption blowing out an entire portion of the mountain.

So the skeptics have tried to minimise the data by saying that our boat is "approximately" the length of Noah's Ark. But this "approximate length" won't fly. The length of our ship is perfect. It's [exactly 300 cubits in length](#).

David Fasold aptly said: "For one to quibble away such a coincidence as a boat shape [upon the mountains of Ararat](#) 300 cubits in length with an [average 50 cubit width](#), and ascribe it to chance, is, in my opinion, to drive skepticism beyond limits."

VALLEY OF EIGHT

[Place names](#) are a record of history, and according to local place names, the eight human survivors of the Great Flood settled in this area of eastern Turkey in the Valley of Eight.

PLACE OF EIGHT

Archaeologists know that ancient place names are among the most imperishable of ancient things. Lost cities have been located by heeding ancient place names when they are unchanged after thousands of years.

Place names often record events that occurred in the locality. This is a scientific approach. Let's use it here.

Toward the end of the Flood, Noah sent out a dove and a raven or crow to test for the re-emergence of land. At first, with nowhere to stand, the crow kept returning. Finally it did not return. So says the old account.

And as it is, just one mile east of the Turkish recognised Ark site, stands a village - Kargaconmaz - whose name means "the crow will not stand or return."

Close to the remains of the old boat is a hill, whose name, translated, means "where the oars were reversed." Of course, one wouldn't believe that Noah's Ark used oars - but in a rowboat you reverse the oars and slow it down. This name is telling us, simplistically, that here "the boat slowed down".

At 6,000 feet altitude we have talk of a boat slowing down? What boat could have been floating over these mountains?

DO ANY ANCIENT RECORDS TELL?

Do [ancient civilisations tell us where to find Noah's Ark?](#) The Bible states that the Ark landed in the Ararat region. And our boat is in the Ararat region.

The record says it landed "on the mountains" - mountains, plural. Our boat is sitting on a mountain range.

It was said to be on a hill, not a tall peak. This object likewise lies on a hill, not a tall peak.

The Koran said that the Ark rested upon Al Judi. This boat shaped object now rests on a plain on a mountain called by the locals Al-Judi; its Turkish name is Cudi Dagi.

It was stated to be on the hill's west side. Indeed, this object is on the hill's west side.

The old traditions held that the Ark was alongside a large rock. Interestingly, this present object is alongside a large rock, and impaled on it as well.

If this is the Ark of which the Moslems spoke, then it has since been pushed sideways onto the rock by the alluvial mud flow that slid down to the east of it, resulting in the Ark being almost completely covered.

The Assyrian king Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 B.C.) claimed that the Ark's resting place was Nisi. Less than 500 yards from the boat wreck is a village now called Uzengili - and under it, according to older maps, lay Sar, or Nasar or Nisir.

The Ark was reported to be on a north-south axis. Our boat site is likewise orientated just ten degrees from north-south.

The Assyrians said you go down into it. This would make sense if the Ark had been covered with mud, as was this big boat in Turkey.

Then there is the size - 300 cubits long and 50 cubits average beam width. [Again, the clues match.](#)

WHAT ARTIFACTUAL EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FOUND AT THE SITE?

During one of the earlier radar scans, the governor of the Turkish province of Agri asked Ron Wyatt to scan the overlying rubble, to locate a piece of loose timber, which they could dig out to verify that it was timber. A sample was located by radar three feet below the surface. The governor had one of the soldiers dig it up and presented it to Ron for testing. At Galbraith laboratories in Knoxville, Tennessee, tests suggested that it could indeed be [petrified wood](#).

In June, 1991, in the presence of 26 witnesses, a [fossilised rivet](#) was found in the remains. Laboratory tests revealed the presence of a very sophisticated alloy of metals. The alloy included aluminium and titanium, along with other metals. (These rivets were located with metal detectors in 1984 and also photographed in the matrix without disturbing the outer materials.)

The overlying mud has broken through into some of the chambers. And where the side of the Ark has been damaged and is falling away, the mud inside the chambers is pushing some objects toward the outside. In 1991, Greg Brewer found the base of a [petrified antler](#) in the side of the ark. Since these animals shed their antlers once a year, here is evidence that at some time in the past, an animal with antlers lost them on the Ark.

Many samples of copralite ([petrified animal droppings](#)) are being pushed out where the side of the Ark is breaking away.

The Turkish Government sent an archaeological team to the site where [four intact metal rods](#), each about four feet long, were recovered. These are now in the custody of the Ministry of Mines and Minerals.

With the experience of over 12 years of research in some 30 countries, I am convinced that long before the so-called “Iron Age” human technology was “incredibly advanced,” with iron and even aluminum in wide usage.

So, even before we manage to get inside the vessel, a fair amount of evidence is being pushed or pulled out. This is promising.

From the ocean floor, from beneath the desert sands and from vine-choked cities in the jungles, a thousand forgotten secrets are coming to light.

[The Turks have built a visitors' centre](#). Plans exist for a possible protective dome to be erected over the ship, to preserve it from the harsh extremes of the local climate, then excavation will commence.

MONUMENT

Ascending the range behind what is believed to be the wreck of the ship of Noah, to a point about a mile further back and a thousand feet higher, are the remains of [a very ancient monument, believed to be at least 4,000 years old](#).

Reading the petroglyphs on this monument from left to right, was a hammock-shaped ridge, then a smaller hill, then a volcano, and, near it, a boat, with eight people inside, and two birds flying. (Are these the two birds mentioned in the Bible account?)

The features portrayed in this [petroglyph](#) are recognisable in the landscape as seen today: a hammock-shaped limestone ridge, then a smaller hill.

And there is a volcano, which rises to the right, out of sight until you climb the range. Was this where the ark landed?

Today the wreck of the ship is lower down the hill. It appears that a mud flow from the volcano eventually brought the vessel down, where it became impaled on this rock. Then the mud, still flowing, covered over the vessel - and it was ultimately lost to view.

ANCIENT HOUSE

Wyatt went exploring a wild, rugged valley down from the ark site. In a bowl depression he came upon a village - Kazan - which had long been known as the "Place of Eight". Across the road from this village were some ancient, deserted relics: stone fences, animal pens, and amidst them the remains of several structures including a house, another building and two stone markers.

Clearly, on this site, an ancient family had built a house, tilled the ground and there, finally, Noah and his wife had been buried.

NOAH'S GRAVE

In front of the very ancient stone house, Wyatt stumbled across two old weathered markers covered with lichen. Under the crust were clear incisions which were unmistakable - the iconographs clearly identified graves.

What Wyatt and his party had discovered was probably the first post-flood grave marker on this planet - that of Noah's wife, and, nearby, that of Noah himself.

The two grave markers bore the eight-cross symbols of Noah and his family above a petroglyphic portrayal of Noah's death on one marker and that of his wife on the other. Below a rainbow (associated with the flood account), on the left of the grave stone was the crest of a wave and atop the wave a boat. To the right of this were eight stick characters. Two larger figures (male and female), accompanied by three smaller men (their sons), and behind them three women (their sons' wives).

According to Genesis the eight human survivors of the Great Flood were Noah and his wife, their three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their son's wives.

The inscription on the first grave marker showed the woman crouching, head bowed and eyes closed, with the other seven walking away from her. She must have been the first of them to die.

The other marker depicted the man as well as his wife, with heads bowed, eyes now closed in death and the other six persons walking away.

Not long after his momentous discovery, Wyatt was shattered when Turkish authorities told him the graves had been dug up and that over 100 million \$US worth of gold and gemstones had been stolen.

Turkish authorities were seeking to recover these precious artefacts and track down those responsible for this outrage.

A PARALLEL – THE PIERCING

A rock has penetrated the wreck, piercing its side. And, as already mentioned, it has been rejected by many who sought for it. Rejected... and pierced in the side.

Does the parallel strike you?

Only in Noah's Ark could the pre-Flood world find any hope of survival. Most of them rejected the offer.

And later, when Jesus Christ told this planet that He had come to rescue mankind - that He was the only means of eternal life (our Ark of salvation, one could say!) - He, too, was rejected by most of mankind... rejected by those who sought life. And on the Cross He was pierced in the side.

A PROPHECY

Jesus prophesied that "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days" just before His Second Coming. (Matthew 4:37)

There is evidence that before the Great Flood man had attained a high level of civilisation.

“Men began to multiply upon the face of the earth.” There began an exponential curve growth of population increase.

A similar pattern can be charted for our day.

There was also widespread corruption and the earth was filled with violence.

I came across another ancient prophecy concerning Noah's day and ours. It predicts that skepticism will prevail just before God interrupts human history again:

“First, I want to remind you that in the last days there will come scoffers who will do every wrong they can think of, and laugh at the truth. This will be their line of argument: ‘So Jesus promised to come back, did he? Then where is he? He'll never come. Why, as far back as anyone can remember everything has remained exactly as it was since the first day of creation.’

“They deliberately forget the fact that God did destroy the world with a mighty flood, long after he had made the heavens by the word of his command, and had used the waters to form the earth and surround it.

“And God has commanded that the earth and the heavens be stored away for a great bonfire at the judgment day, when all ungodly men will perish.”
(2 Peter 3: 3-1 *The Living Bible*)

Doesn't that sound familiar? The writer makes a prediction that in the latter days a certain theory will arise - the theory that physical laws have gone on virtually forever, and have never been interrupted by the Creator of this earth. This theory, according to the prophecy, will emerge in “the last days” before Jesus Christ returns to earth.

The modern skeptic unwittingly fulfills this prophecy. Ignoring evidence, he “shouts down” the Great Flood and Noah's Ark. I say to my skeptic friends, “You should keep quiet. Then this prophecy would fail. But you are proving the Bible true. You're making this prophecy come true.”

Our world will be caught by surprise. The Creator has set a time to intervene. We are approaching it at breakneck speed.

The Bible reminds us that Noah's group “entered the ark, and the flood came”. It adds that Noah's Ark and Noah's day contains a message for those who will live just before the Second Coming (Matthew 24:37-39)

The Great Flood was an extraordinary intervention of God in history. Is it, then, not appropriate that the Ark be found, just as the God of the universe is about to intervene again?

It would be hard for a thinking person to ignore the prophecy that He is soon to intervene again, and that survival this time is through only one appointed rescuer, Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

Q. I have been told that the new State of Israel and the Ark appeared on the same day? If so, I would suspect this to be another sign of the end. Can the date be confirmed?

A. Noah's Ark became visible in the same month and possibly on the same day that Israel became a nation in 1948. I am more impressed by the fact that it became visible between landmarks and place names such as Al Judi (landing site for the Ark in the Sura Houd 11:44), Kargacomaz ("crow won't land"), Yigityatagi ("hero's anchorage") Ziyaret Dag ("to make a pilgrimage") and Nisar ("to present a sacrifice") on a slope called Masher Gunu ("judgment day").

Q. Andrew Snelling, in *Creation* magazine, says that this "boat shape" in the Ararat mountains is no more than "the approximate length of the biblical Noah's Ark." If it is the remains of the Ark, shouldn't it be precisely the right length? The book of Genesis says the Ark was 300 cubits long. How many cubits is your boat shape?

A. Dr. Snelling's Ark search buddies in the U.S.A., including John Morris, expected Noah's Ark to be 450 feet long. (This was assuming a cubit of 18 inches.) But the ship on which we are working in the Ararat mountains is 515 feet in length.

Those Ark searchers raised thousands of dollars from the public by promoting the wrong site for their expeditions. And some even used fake pictures.

Andrew, in his article, is attempting some damage control, by minimising our data. His "approximate length" won't fly. The length of our vessel is perfect. It is exactly 300 cubits in length... 515 feet.

Revisers who have changed the "300 cubits" of the Bible text to read "450 feet" in some modern versions, are in error.

Moses, the compiler of the Ark account, was raised and educated in Egypt. He would undoubtedly be using the royal Egyptian cubit, which was 20.6 inches. By the use of this measure, 300 cubits equalled 6180 inches, i.e. 515 feet.

Anyone who still might want to argue that the biblical cubit should be something other than the 20.6 inch cubit, should read *Locating the Original Temple Mount*, by Leon Ritmeyer. According to Middot, the pre-Herodian Temple Mount in Jerusalem has been found. If an 18 inch cubit was used, each wall would be only 750 feet long - but they are found to be over 850 feet long. This conforms to the Hebrew-Phoenician cubit of 20.6 inches.

In January, 1994, Richard Rives, Bob Murrell and myself explored underground, north of Old Jerusalem. We carefully surveyed tombs of the First Temple period. This included outer chambers, inner chambers and tomb recesses. We discovered that these were built to the standard measure of the 20.6 inch cubit. This shows that the 20.6 inch cubit was used as late as the time of Solomon.

At the base of Mount Sinai in Arabia, the twelve pillars erected by Moses were found by Ron Wyatt, still there, but now buried for most of their height. These, too, were found to be cut to the measurement of the 20.6 inch cubit.

Noah's Ark was 300 cubits long. Using the 20.6 inch cubit, this gives us a length of 6180 inches. This is a significant number: it is connected with the phi factor, which occurs throughout nature, and is found in the construction pattern of ancient buildings.

When David Fasold surveyed the Ark's remains, he found this phi figure recurring in the Ark's construction more than a dozen times. According to the Babylonian Flood Tablet X1, Epic of Gilgamesh, the Ark had a deck space of "ash lku" (the root of the English acre) - 44,100 square feet.

The biblical length was 515 feet. If you divide the deck area (one acre, or 44,100 feet) by the boat's length, then the average beam width would have to be 85.6 feet - which agrees almost precisely with the biblical width of 50 cubits, using the 20.6 inch cubit.

So here we have a boat shape on the mountains of Ararat. It is 300 cubits long with an average 50 cubit width. This is more than just a good

candidate for the Ark. We believe it could be nothing less than what is left of Noah's Ark.

You will probably have many more questions. And you will most likely find the answers to them in the big, heavy volume, *Discoveries: Questions Answered*. This is available through our website.

Jonathan Gray

<http://www.beforeus.com>