

PATTERNS *of* EVIDENCE —EXODUS—

Study Session 1: Introduction

Questions:

1. Was there ever a time when you struggled to believe Christianity was true? How did you get through it or, how would you help someone else get through it?
2. Tim said in the film, “I know some people say you don't need any evidence, just have faith. But if there's no hard evidence for [the Bible], had I been believing in a lie all this time?” Do you think it's important to search for evidence to back up our faith? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever thought of the Bible as a *history book* before? Does calling it a perfectly reliable history book make you nervous in any way?
4. Do you think Jesus believed in the Old Testament? If the people, places, and events in Old Testament didn't exist or happen the way the Bible says, wouldn't Jesus have been wrong? Do you agree that this would be a problem for Christianity—to have a Savior who believed/taught something wrong?
5. Agree or disagree: We can continue to believe Christianity is true, even if the Old Testament record has fairytales.
6. There are many scholars that are critical of the Bible. How important is it to our faith that the Bible be trustworthy and accurate in all that it speaks about?

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Study Session 2: Arrival

Questions:

1. David Rohl is an agnostic (he's unsure whether God exists). Yet, he believes there is strong evidence for the Exodus. How does this make you feel about the Bible? Does it strengthen your faith at all?
2. Do you think it is possible mainstream scholars are wrong about the date of the Exodus?
3. Have you ever been extremely convinced something was true, only to find out with new information that you were wrong? Was it an easy or difficult process for you to go through?
4. Does any of the following evidence shown in the movie convince you we have found proof for the historical Joseph—and the arrival of his family into Egypt? If so, what piece(s) of evidence convinces you the most?
 - a. The palace building at Avaris with 12 pillars.
 - b. The 12 graves, one shaped like a pyramid.
 - c. The statue of a foreigner wearing a robe of many colors.
 - d. The missing bones.
 - e. The river named after Joseph.
5. Read Genesis 47:13-26. Here, the Bible describes how Joseph acquired all the land for Pharaoh. Does it comfort you to know that the Bible's description lines up so nicely with what we see in Egyptian history?
6. How do you think Joseph's brothers felt after Joseph brought them into the best of the land of Egypt, in the middle of a great famine? Describe a time in your life where you were overwhelmed by how God was guiding and providing for you.

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Study Session 3. Multiplication + Slavery

Read Exodus 1:1-7. This passage describes how the Israelites multiplied in Egypt.

Questions:

1. Imagine what life must have been like during this time of multiplication for the Israelites. What would excite you the most if you were an Israelite living in the land at that time?
2. Have you experienced a 'time of multiplication' in your life where God seemed to bless you spiritually or materially? What was your response to God?

Read Exodus 1:15-22. This passage describes how Pharaoh killed the Hebrew firstborn males.

3. Why do you think there is a dark history of people enslaving and depriving others of their human rights? Instead of depriving others, what are Christians supposed to do based on Philippians 2:3-4?
4. Which of the following evidence presented in the movie do you find most convincing?
 - a. Early Semitic settlers at Avaris thrived and multiplied.
 - b. It became one of the largest cities in ancient world.
 - c. Later graves show evidence of slavery.
 - d. The Hebrew names in the slave list.
 - e. The many infant burials.
5. If it were proven that Avaris is not the city where the Israelites settled, would you continue to believe in the Bible?

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Study Session 4. Judgment

Questions:

- Which of these following plagues would you personally find the most disturbing and why?

Water to blood	Flies	Hail
Frogs	Death of livestock	Locust
Lice or gnats	Boils	Darkness
- How does John 1:29 relate to Exodus 12:12-13?
- Many believe it would be difficult to explain the origin of Passover if there were no real event on which it was based. Do you think that the Passover celebration itself is evidence that the Exodus happened?
- Do you think Ipuwer was describing the ten plagues of the Exodus? If so, which of the following statements convinces you the most?
 - “Behold, Egypt is fallen to the pouring of water. And he who poured water on the ground seizes the mighty in misery.”
 - “The River is blood. If you drink of it, you lose your humanity, and thirst for water.”
 - “Gone is the barley of abundance, food supplies are running short. The nobles hunger and suffer. Those who had shelter are in the dark of the storm.”
 - “Behold, plague sweeps the land, blood is everywhere, with no shortage of the dead. He who buries his brother in the ground is everywhere.”
 - “Wailing is throughout the land, mingled with lamentations.”
 - “People are stripped of clothes. The slave takes what he finds. Gold, lapis lazuli, silver and turquoise are strung on the necks of female slaves.”
- Read Hebrews 11:1. Theologians debate the role of faith and reason. What’s your perspective? Do faith and reason work together? Or are they completely opposed to each other?

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Study Session 5. Exodus + Conquest

Questions:

1. There is evidence of Semitic people quickly departing from Avaris. Do you think this could have been the Israelites?
2. An Egyptian named Manetho wrote that a “powerful god” acted in Egypt's history. Do you think it’s possible he was writing about the Exodus event?
3. Read Joshua 6:1-5. Which of the following pieces of evidence convinces you the most that archaeologists have found Jericho?
 - a. They found a city at the right location with an impressive wall system.
 - b. The mud brick walls collapsed.
 - c. It was massively destroyed by fire.
 - d. The walls fell before the fire.
 - e. Houses were built on part of the wall that didn’t fall.
4. Mainstream scholars reject this as the biblical Jericho because they think it was destroyed much earlier than the Conquest. But some believe Kenyon misdated the pottery at Jericho. Do you think it’s worth investigating the work of these other scholars since everything else about the city seems to match the Bible’s description?
5. The Israelites crossed the Jordan in the spring (Joshua 4:19) and quickly took Jericho. Jars at Jericho were found full of unused grain from the spring harvest. Do you see a connection?
6. Archaeologists have also found that Hazor was burned with fire as the Bible describes (Joshua 11:10-11). They also found a cuneiform tablet with the name *Jabin*. Does this type of evidence strengthen your confidence in the Bible?

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Study Session 6. Conclusion

Questions:

1. Do you think the reason that mainstream archaeologists have found no evidence for the Exodus is because they're looking in the wrong time?
2. Do you find Tim's 'Wall of Time' helpful? Why or why not?
3. Without looking, can you name the six patterns of evidence discussed in the movie?
4. Tim said, "I know there's a lot of disagreement over the dating, but what strikes me is that if you put all the dates to the side for a moment, what emerges from the archaeology is this pattern that matches the Bible every step of the way..." Agree or disagree?
5. Which of the six patterns do you find most convincing?
6. What is your overall impression of the movie?
7. What is your biggest takeaway?