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A THIRD SEASON AT JERICHO.*

CITY AND NECROPOLIS.

BY PROFESSOR JOHN GARSTANG, D.Sc., ETC.

THREE years ago, when Sir Charles Marston first enabled me to re-examine the site of Jericho, several problems of peculiar importance to students of Bible history were still awaiting solution. The earlier excavations, while throwing new light upon the archæology of the ancient city, indeed upon the culture of Canaan as a whole, had left the dating of several lines of defensive walls and ramparts in considerable doubt and a subject for technical discussion. One expert frankly stated his opinion that during the late Bronze Age (*c.* 1600-1200 B.C.), the period which under any theory should cover the entry of the Israelites into Canaan, the city of Jericho already lay in ruins.

Our first season's work found the solution of this initial difficulty. A stout wall of brick that lay along the western brink of the mound was seen in various unexcavated places to be overlaid by the remains of a second wall, following the same line. With this was associated a thinner screen wall of the same material. The stratification and details of evidence were examined and enabled us at the time to state a definite and agreed conclusion.

The main defences of Jericho in the late Bronze Age (*c.* 1600-1200 B.C.), followed the upper brink of the city mound, and comprised two parallel walls, the outer 6ft. and the inner 12ft. thick. Investigations along the west side show continuous signs of destruction and conflagration. The outer wall suffered most, its remains falling down the slope. The inner wall is preserved only where it abuts upon the citadel or tower to a height of 18ft.; elsewhere it is found largely to have fallen, together with the remains of buildings upon it, into the space between the walls which was filled with ruins and débris. Traces of intense fire are plain to see, including reddened

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masses of brick, cracked stones, charred timbers, and ashes. Houses alongside the wall are found burned to the ground, their roofs fallen upon the domestic pottery within.

There remained the question of the date when the walls and city were destroyed. In my own opinion, based upon a detailed examination of the stratifications related to the outer wall, this had probably taken place about 1400 B.C., the culture being that of the late Bronze Age before the infiltration of Mykenaeian wares. Our second season was devoted largely to this problem, and led us to examine another unexcavated area overlooking the spring on the eastern side. There, also, came to light further traces of conflagration and destruction; and several burned-out store-rooms of an extensive building yielded a welcome series of pottery types, the date of which would help materially to decide the matter. But at this stage, again, technical questions arose. Criteria for the precise dating of the pottery types were wanting, and to this end we determined to search for the necropolis in the hope of finding dated groups. In this quest we have not been disappointed.

The third season's work has been rewarded by results of unusual interest and value. Foremost may be placed the archæological materials recovered from the Bronze Age tombs. These were located in unbroken ground some 400 yards westward from the city mound, and they proved to be practically intact. In all 25 have been opened and cleared. They yielded 1,800 registered objects, mostly pottery vases, of which some 1,500 were in good condition and several hundreds without a flaw. Many of the specimens are new to the *corpus* of Palestinian types, while quite a number can claim a measure of artistic merit which throws new light upon the standard of Canaanitish culture.

The deposits cover the whole range of the Bronze Age down to 1400 B.C., the later groups being dated by royal Egyptian scarabs; they represent the various phases in the life of the city already recognized in our earlier explorations. The deep levels of the early Bronze Age in the mound are still largely beyond our reach, but here and there trenches or denuded spots have enabled us to trace the line of a protecting wall of this period, apparently the earliest of the site.

In the early part of the Middle Bronze Age, estimated elsewhere from Egyptian analogies to fall about 2000 B.C., the site was enclosed by a stout wall of large unbaked bricks which followed the brink of the mound, and enclosed an area of about seven acres. A strong tower, 60ft. in length, protected the gateway and the approaches to the spring on the eastern side. It contained three deep chambers in which we found helpful stratified deposits. A room at the foot of the tower gave us a finely carved bull's head in darkened ivory (4·75 cms. in height) in which again may be detected a Babylonian feeling.

The known pottery types of this period, hitherto limited though distinctive, have been greatly augmented by the recovery of nearly 800 specimens from the first tomb discovered in the necropolis. The pottery is distinguished by its variety of form, ranging from pointed juglets to standing vases with small side handles.

The Hyksos Period.

In the second part of the Middle Bronze Age, which covers the Hyksos period in Egypt (c. 1800-1600 B.C.) the city underwent a notable expansion. Already, in the preceding phase, houses had been creeping outside the walls down the slopes of the mound, which was now surrounded by a massive rampart. This comprised a glacis of great rough-hewn stones, an upper defensive parapet of brick, and an outer fosse ; and the area enclosed was about 10 acres in extent. Local prosperity now attained its zenith, a fact clearly seen in the furniture of the newly excavated tombs. Pottery became more elegant in form, and more varied in design. Plastic art, of which examples are rare in the Bronze Age, is represented by a unique rhyton. This is a pedestal vase of local ware and form, modelled externally to represent the head of a bearded man and almost life size. So far as I am aware no similar specimens are extant. The Phaistos rhyton, which belongs to the same age, differs in that the hairs are indicated by points of paint, while in this case they are represented by pinholes.

The transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age culture is not well defined in the ceramic series, nor is it marked by any sudden change. It is true that the defences of the city, after the partial

destruction of its outer ramparts, retreated to the old lines upon the brink of the mound, while in the necropolis the grotto tombs gave way to simple graves from one to two yards deep. Otherwise the local arts were continuous, though bearing witness to a certain deterioration ; and we may assume that whatever punishment was inflicted on the city by the Pharaohs at the close of the Hyksos régime, the local population returned in part to the old site and resumed their former customs. Burial was still carried out by inhumation, for the most part in family or common graves, some of which were found filled with offerings and the débris of human remains to within a few inches of the surface. One tomb dated in its fourth layer to the joint reigns of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III containing more than 500 vases and the traces of more than 50 burials. The lowest levels show no traces of Egyptian influence, which thus makes itself felt in Jericho for the first time about 1500 B.C. It was apparently only at this time that the Pharaohs' rule became effective in the lower valley of the Jordan.

Thereafter the XVth century B.C. is well represented ; the "bil-bil" wares of Cyprus and their imitations made their appearance, as in Egypt, at this time ; but there is a conspicuous absence of Mykenaeian products and the distinctive art of the Tell-el-Amarna period. The series of scarabs, of which 94 were recovered from the various layers of these tombs, ends with the reign of Amenhetep III. They have been examined independently by Professor Newberry, who kindly travelled from Cairo for the purpose, and in his expert opinion they range through the Hyksos period into the early part of the XVIIIth Dynasty ; but comprise no specimens of the period from Akhenaton (Amenhetep IV) to Ramses II, inclusive of both those reigns. The evidence from the tombs thus all points to an interruption in the life of Jericho in the age of Amenhetep III. The Bronze Age city of Jericho perished at some date after 1411 and before 1375 B.C.

The Iron Age.

The next definite trace of occupation brings us to the Iron Age, about 1200 B.C., and in this respect the evidence from the city and the necropolis is also in agreement. Overlying and by the side of the palace area of the Bronze Age lies a well-marked stratum of the

early Iron Age ; its special features are a cobble-paved street ascending in steps to the top of the mound, and the foundations of a considerable building with stout walls of stone. Most instructive was a scarab showing a northern deity, a type of Hadad, standing upon the back of an animal, like the consort of the Mother-Goddess at *Hierapolis Syriae*. It appears probable from these indications that one of the Pharaohs, presumably Ramses III, established on the mound over the spring an outpost of northern mercenaries (Sherdens, or Philistines, or maybe Hittites), whose burial practices differed so radically from those of the old population ; and if the scarab bearing the name of Thutmose III found in the same pit prove to belong to that king's reign (of which there may be a doubt) it would appear that such a garrison had been installed when the city was first annexed.

The outer fortifications of the city, however, remained in ruins throughout this period ; and so far as our investigations have proceeded they were not restored until the second phase of the Iron Age, about 900 B.C., after which there is abundant trace of renewed activity and occupation, lasting, though fitfully, to the Byzantine epoch.

The work this season, as in the past, was done entirely by voluntary helpers, the repairing and general supervision in the camp and storerooms by my wife, photography and surveys by Mr. Harold Falconer, superintendence in the city work by Dr. Aage Schmidt, paintings by Mr. H. B. Gray, drawings by Boulos Eff. Araj and Miss Mabel Ratcliffe, registration and records by Mlle. J. Krausse, and the cataloguing by my daughter Meroë. Sir Charles Marston, the constant patron of these researches, was generously seconded on this occasion by Mr. Davies Bryan, in the interests of the University Museum, Aberystwyth. Other collaborating institutions were the Musées du Louvre, the University of Liverpool, which I represent, and the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. The series of antiquities accruing to the expedition will be deposited in these several institutions, the first selection remaining in the Palestine Museum, Jerusalem.

Full illustrated reports on these excavations are appearing in the current numbers of the Liverpool University *Annals of Archæology*.