

Memorandum on discussion with Prof. Garstang regarding the date of the fall of Jericho.

Last week I was pleased to learn that Prof. John Garstang of Liverpool University, the excavator of Jericho, was at the Oriental Institute. I went to his office and asked him if I would have the opportunity of hearing him lecture on Jericho while I am in Chicago. He handed me a book which he has recently published entitled "The Story of Jericho," suggested that I read it and said that he would then be glad to discuss with me any points in which I might be interested. I read the book and was impressed with its clear presentation of his discoveries regarding the history of Jericho from the earliest times. What particularly interested me was the question of the date of the conquest of the city. He states in the book that the condition of the walls is clear evidence that they fell down suddenly in a mighty cataclysm which could not have been produced by any human agency. The question on which there still remains considerable uncertainty is that of the date which this occurred. Regarding this authorities differ radically. Dr. Garstang is firmly convinced that it occurred about 1400 B.C.

I will briefly resume Dr. Garstang's arguments for the date of the fall of Jericho. He says that there were five cities built upon this site. This is not counting the unwallled neolithic settlement which existed, he says, for at least a thousand years prior to the erection of a wall at the place. This settlement ^{was} completely destroyed^{ed} an entirely new race built the first walled city about 3000 B.C. Skipping over the first and second cities, the third city was the greatest ever to occupy the site. It runs for about 500 years, from approximately 2000 B.C. to about 1500 B.C. Its wall enclosed the entire mound, and ran around its base. During the latter part of this period it was probably a provincial headquarters for the Hyksos kings, many of whose scarabs are found in its remains. After the Hyksos were driven out of Egypt the city was destroyed and lay in ruins for a time. Then it was rebuilt along very similar lines to those of the third city, except that this fourth city occupied a much smaller territory and its walls enclosed only the actual summit of the mound. The palace of the king covered the same foundation as in the previous city. The-beek-estates After a period of independence the city was annexed by the Egyptians under their conquering monarch, Tothmes III. Now Egyptian scarabs again begin to appear in great numbers. Prof. Garstang says that certain very splendid ones, with the Egyptian king's name on are signet rings given by the king to the official who represents him, just as the Bible tells us that the Hyksos monarchs gave a signet ring to Joseph. In the tombs outside the city he found a series of these signet scarabs extending on from Tothmes III through his successors, but stopping with the reign of Amenophis III.