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"Six Thousand Years of Jerusalem Archeology History", a Lecture by Ibrahim el-Fanni

Undated, typed and found in the Ibrahim el-Fanny Collection, this archival item documents a lecture on the history of Jerusalem and its monuments about six thousand years ago, passing through the Bronze Age, in which al-Fanni stresses the need to study the different eras of the city's history, and addresses the difficulties and challenges that may face it.

SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF JERUSALEM ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORY

Dr. IBRAHIM ELFANNI

For nearly century and a half ancient Jerusalem has been the focus of untiring archaeological exploration and historical study.

Dozens of larger and smaller excavation in the city and its environs, carried out by several generations, of archaeologists from many countries, have brought to light a rich variety of remains spanning six thousand years of the city history.

The evidence we have today for the topography of ancient Jerusalem includes defensive fortifications, public and religious building, private dwellings and residential quarters ingenious water supply systems, and crowded cemeteries spread over the valleys and slopes of the surrounding hills.

Systematic study of the remains of Jerusalem, past began in the mid 19th century.

T. Tobler was typical of the perceptive scholarly pioneers of this research.

The aim of the archaeological exploration of Jerusalem documented and investigated the still visible ancient remains of the city.

The first large -scale archaeological excavation in Jerusalem was carried out at the end of 19th century by F.J. Bliss and A.C. Dickie along the southern slope of mount Ophel and at the southern tissue of the tyropoeon valley.

Between the years 1961 and 1967, large scale excavation by Kenyon and Gordon Antiquities department marked the beginning of Modern , scientific archeological research ,this excavation were carried out in small areas at scattered locations mainly in Jerusalem , The chief objective to us to uncover new archaeological evidence which might provide answers to complex unresolved problems concerning the topography of ancient Jerusalem , in this excavation ,we are the first to discover remains of the early 2nd millennium B.C. E. City wall of Jerusalem at the lower part of the eastern slope of the city, also we discover the entrance to Warren's shaft, the city's ancient within the walled city.

The reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 sparked a dramatic surge of archaeological activity in the ancient city. Wide spread investigation of the ancient remains was initiated on a scale which overshadowed all such previous work. Excavations were conducted through out the entire extent of ancient Jerusalem, including places within the old city walls where the spade of the archaeologist had never broken ground.

Building and structural remains and the artifacts that have come to light in the course of the last twenty five years of intensive archaeological

reevaluate and summarize some of the key questions concerning the topography and architectural features of the city during various periods of its history.

The results of the twenty-five years are presented and examined in Jerusalem revealed.

The Bronze Age

The excavation on the eastern slope of the city revealed significant remains of the earliest settlement of the city.

Indicating a limited occupational presence in the chalcolithic period as early as the 4th Millennium B.C.E.

During the 3rd millennium B.C.E. Early Bronze Age, The first structures were erected on the bedrock of the steep eastern slope of the hill above the spring of Silwan.

In the course of these excavations along segment of the city wall of the beginning of the 2nd millennium B.C.E. was uncovered, this was part of a southern extension of fortifications first found by Kenyon in the 1960.

A succession of remains of Middle and Late Bronze Age settlements discovered in at the city as about the temple as described in the biblical narrative.

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These recorded events of the earliest history of Jerusalem still remain without satisfactory explanation from an archaeological point of view and perhaps manifest the need for reevaluating the cupellation of the historical and archaeological data.

The present work is an effort in that direction, it is a general presentation of the history of Jerusalem in all periods, although it is an outline, it is hoped it will lay the foundation for a major and comprehensive work.

Students of the history of Jerusalem in all period are confronted with tow kinds of difficulties .in the first place they realize that there are many gaps in the history of the holy city which have to be bridged, many ambiguities, and a host of problems relating to historical facts which have to be clarified and solved.

In the second place there is the all- important aspect of objectivity in the narration of historical events and their analysis- this difficulty is a natural one in the case of a holy city with the stature of Jerusalem.

Where the claims of the adherents of three world religions Christianity, Islam and Judaism, met and clashed.