

Has God Spoken?

Lesson #10

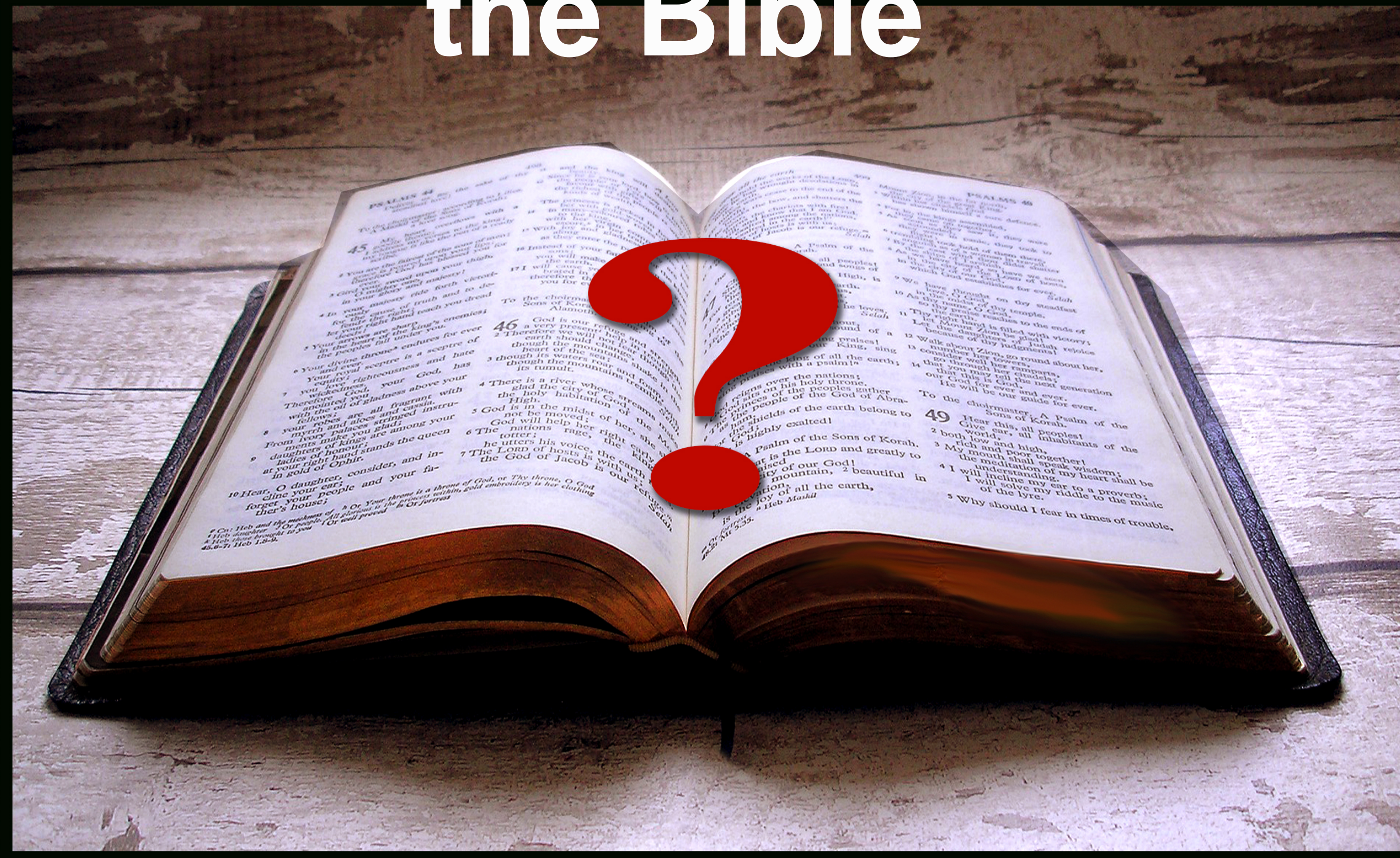
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Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

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# Archaeology and the Bible



# Has God Spoken?

**Gen. 3:1**, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’”

**Gen. 3:2**, “And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

**Gen. 3:3**, “ ‘but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” ’ ”

# What Does Archaeology Contribute?



## **The liberal view:**

**“Archaeology did not illumine the times and events of Abraham, Moses, and Joshua. Rather, it helped to show that these times and events are largely unhistorical. The more we know about the Bronze and early Iron Ages, the more the Biblical portrayals of events in this era appear to be a blend of folklore and cultural memory, in which the details of historical events have either disappeared or been radically reshaped. The stories are deeply meaningful, but only occasionally historical. Archaeological research has—against the intentions of most of its practitioners—secured the non-historicity of much of the Bible before the era of the kings.”**

- 1. The role of archaeology in biblical study and validation.**
- 2. Examination of a number of key discoveries. We could clearly spend a lengthy time on each of these, and I will spend some time on two or three, but each of these can be further investigated in a number of resources.**

### **3. Resources:**

**Randall Price with H. Wayne House, *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology***

**Price, *The Stones Cry Out***

**Titus Kennedy, *Unearthing the Bible, 101 Discoveries That Bring the Bible to Life***

***Excavating the Evidence for Jesus*; due out March 15, 2022**

**Joel Kramer, *Where God Came Down***

**[sourceflix.com](http://sourceflix.com)**

# **The Role of Archaeology**



**John 3:12, “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”**

**Mark 2:5, “When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’**

**Mark 2:6, “And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,**

**Mark 2:7, “ ‘Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ ”**

# **Remember Archaeology is**

- a. an inexact science**
- b. limited in what it can prove**

**“The purpose of biblical archaeology is to recover material remains of man’s past, not to ‘prove’ the accuracy or historicity of the Bible. Nevertheless it is important to note that Near Eastern archaeology has demonstrated the historical and geographical reliability of the Bible in many important areas. By clarifying the objectivity and factual accuracy of biblical authors, archaeology also helps correct the view that the Bible is avowedly partisan and subjective. It is now known, for instance, that, along with the Hittites, Hebrew scribes were the best historians in the entire Ancient Near East, despite contrary propaganda that emerged from Assyria, Egypt, and elsewhere.” (Preface, *The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology*)**

**“The creation and Flood epics were edited in his day and have descended to us in the form that they took under his reign. Copies of these epics, dating about 640 b.c., were found in the library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh. Hammurabi’s black stela from the city of Ur was inscribed in both the Semitic and Sumerian languages. Hammurabi is famous in large part for his code of laws discovered in 1901–2 by Jacques de Morgan at Susa, where it had been carried by Elamite raiders. This famous code offers interesting parallels to pentateuchal laws, preceding them by at least three centuries and adapted to an urban irrigation culture in contrast to the simple agrarian culture of Palestine.”**

***~The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary***

**“All that I have ever said is that in all of my archaeological investigation I have never found one artifact of antiquity that contradicts any statement of the Word of God.”**

**~Nelson Glueck, one of the greatest Biblical Archaeologists of all times, and no conservative.**

# **Creation**

**In the excavation of Ninevah and the library of King Ashurbanipal of Assyria, 668–626 BC, they found a set of seven tablets called the “Creation Epic” that listed six days of creation and one day of rest.**

## **Creation**

**On the latter basis people argue that the Bible is just revised pagan myth. However, scholars, such as A. R. Millard state:**

**“All who suspect or suggest a borrowing by the Hebrews are compelled to admit large-scale revision, alteration and reinterpretation in a fashion which cannot be substantiated for any other composition from the Ancient Near East or in any other Hebrew writing.”**



## **Tower of Babel**

**A monument describing the Tower of Babel was discovered in the region of Ur of Chaldees. It speaks of King Ur-Nammu who was told by the gods to build a tower, and then they got mad, destroyed it and confused the languages.**

# **Tomb of the Patriarchs Cave of Machpelah**





So the people crossed opposite Jericho (Josh. 3:16).

**JOSHUA'S CAMP**

**AMBUSH**

**ISRAEL**

**Plains of Moab**

**WILDERNESS**

Beth-aven?

Bethel?

Nisya

Gibeon

Jerusalem

Ophrah

Wadi Auja

et-Tell ← Wadi Jaya

Wadi Nueima - Makuch

Way of the Wilderness

Zeboim Valley

Jericho

Gilgal?

Michmash

Wadi Suwenit

Geba

N. Parat

Wadi Qilt

Ascent of Adummim

N. Og, Wadi Mukalik

(Beth)-Nimr

Beth-jeshimo

# **JERICHO**

**The most significant site**



# BRONZE AGE

## 3300–1200 BC

### EB–EARLY BRONZE

3000–1900 BC

Post-diluvian  
Patriarchs

### MB–MIDDLE BRONZE

1900–1550 BC

Abraham,  
Isaac,  
Jacob,  
Joseph

### LB–LATE BRONZE

1550–1200 BC

**LB-1** 1550–  
1400 BC

Exodus  
1447 BC

Conquest  
1407 BC



J Garstang (1876 – 1956)

## **John Garstang**

**Excavated in 1928, 1930.**

**Wrote the definitive work  
on Bronze Age pottery.**

**Jericho existed from  
a remote age.**

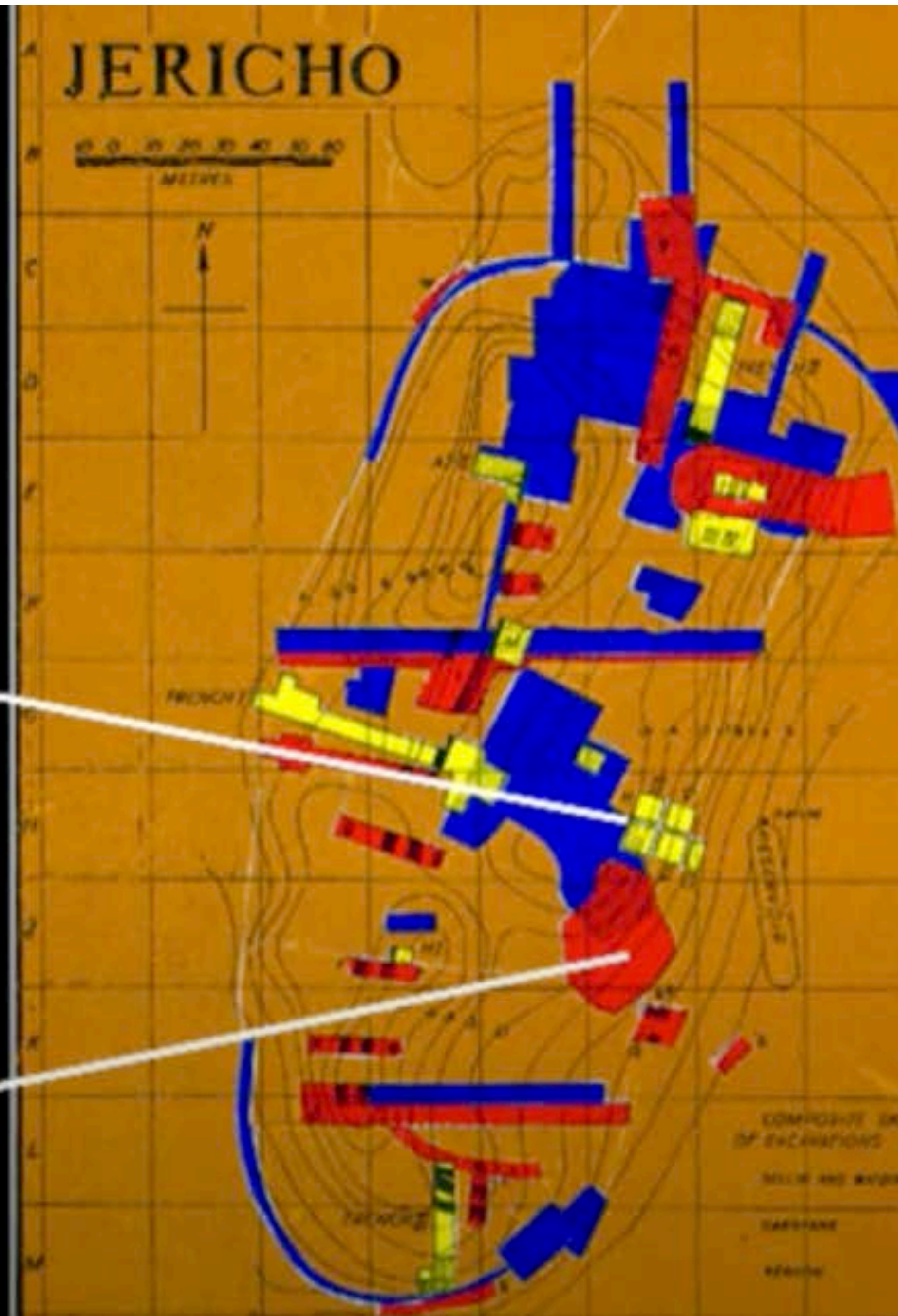




BLUE = AREAS  
EXCAVATED BY THE  
GERMANS, 1907-1909

YELLOW = AREAS  
EXCAVATED BY KATHLEEN  
KENYON, "H", 1952-1958.  
(JUST NORTH OF  
GARSTANG'S CITY IV)

RED = AREAS EXCAVATED  
BY JOHN GARSTANG,  
1930-1936 (CITY IV)



THREE OF THE  
FOUR MAJOR  
JERICHO  
EXCAVATIONS.  
SINCE THE 1990'S,  
ITALIAN  
ARCHAEOLOGISTS  
HAVE BEEN  
EXCAVATING THE  
SITE.

# Tell es-Sultan - Jericho

**1** Pre-Pottery Neolithic Tower and Town-wall (8500-7500 BC)

**5** EB III North-Western Tower (2650-2350 BC)

**6** Early Bronze III dwelling quarter in Area F (2650-2350 BC)

**2** Early Bronze II (yellow) city-wall (3000-2700 BC) and Early Bronze III (red) double city-wall (2650-2350 BC)

**7** Byzantine domestic units

**8** Early Bronze IIIB Palace in Area G (2450-2350 BC)

**3** Middle Bronze II rampart (1800-1550 BC)

**9** Middle Bronze I mudbrick wall in Area D (1900-1800 BC)

**10** EB IIIB Building in Area B (2450-2350 BC)

**11** Early Bronze III double city-wall (2650-2350 BC)

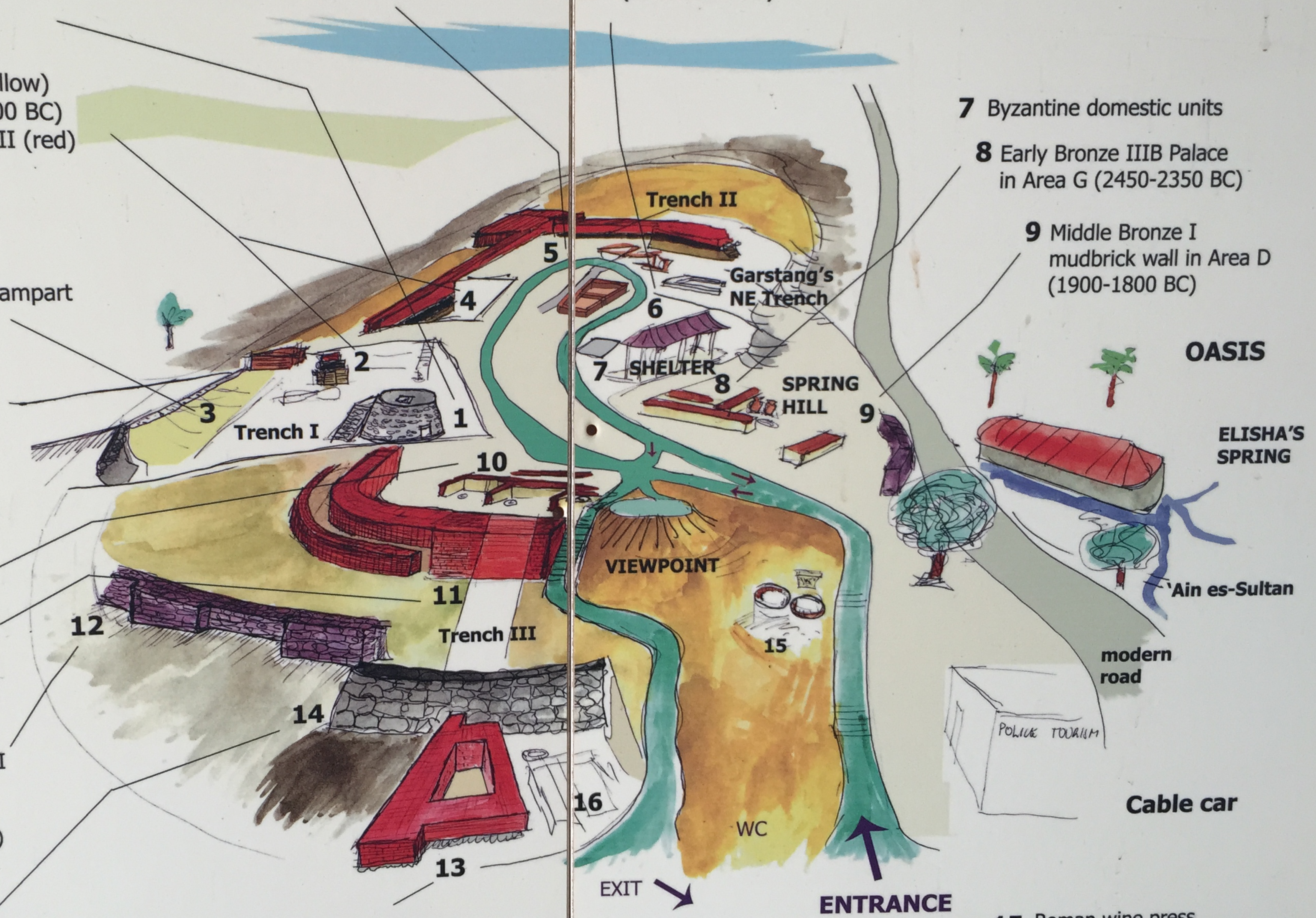
**12** Middle Bronze II stone wall in Area E (1800-1650 BC)

**14** Middle Bronze III Cyclopean Wall (1650-1550 BC)

**13** Middle Bronze II Tower in Area A (1800-1650 BC)

**16** Middle Bronze II houses in Area A (1800-1650 BC)

**15** Roman wine press (II-III cent. AD) and capital



Middle Bronze II rampart  
(1800-1550 BC)

EB IIIB Building  
in Area B  
(2450-2350 BC)

Early Bronze III  
double city-wall  
(2650-2350 BC)

Middle Bronze II  
stone wall  
in Area E  
(1800-1650 BC)

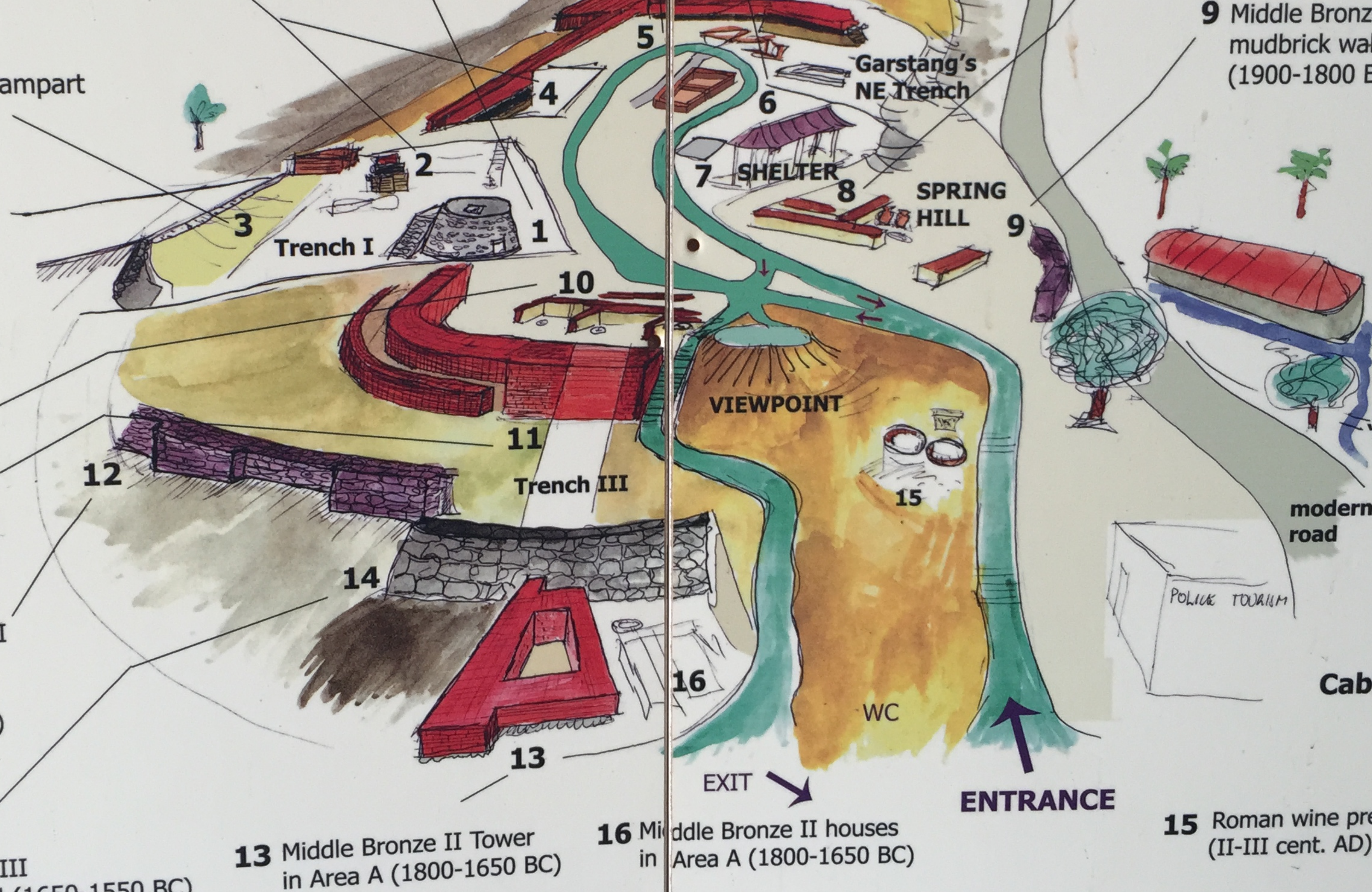
Middle Bronze III  
(1650-1550 BC)

Middle Bronze II Tower  
in Area A (1800-1650 BC)

Middle Bronze II houses  
in Area A (1800-1650 BC)

Roman wine press  
(II-III cent. AD)

Middle Bronze  
mudbrick wall  
(1900-1800 BC)



Garstang's  
NE Trench

Trench I

VIEWPOINT

Trench III

WC

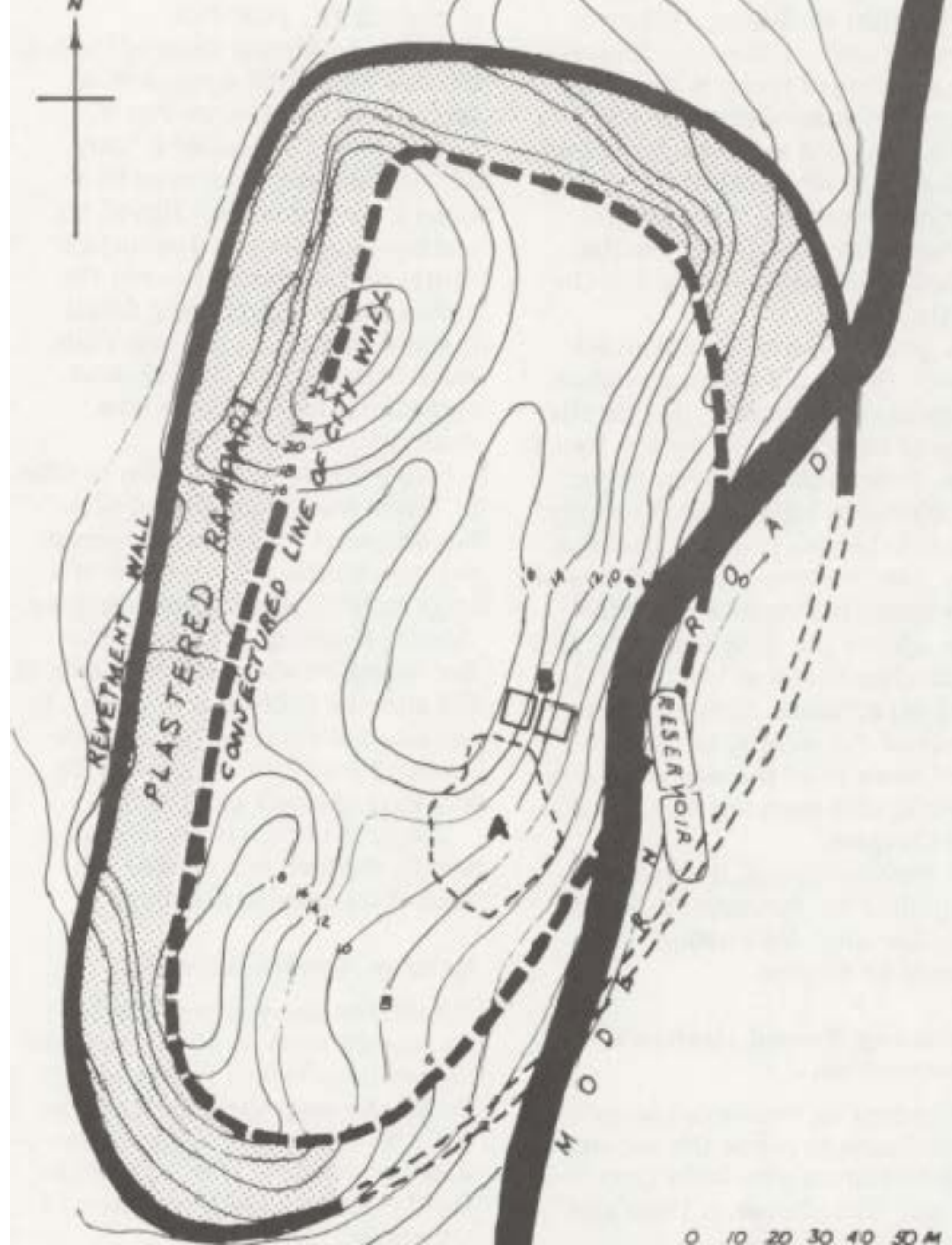
EXIT

ENTRANCE

modern  
road

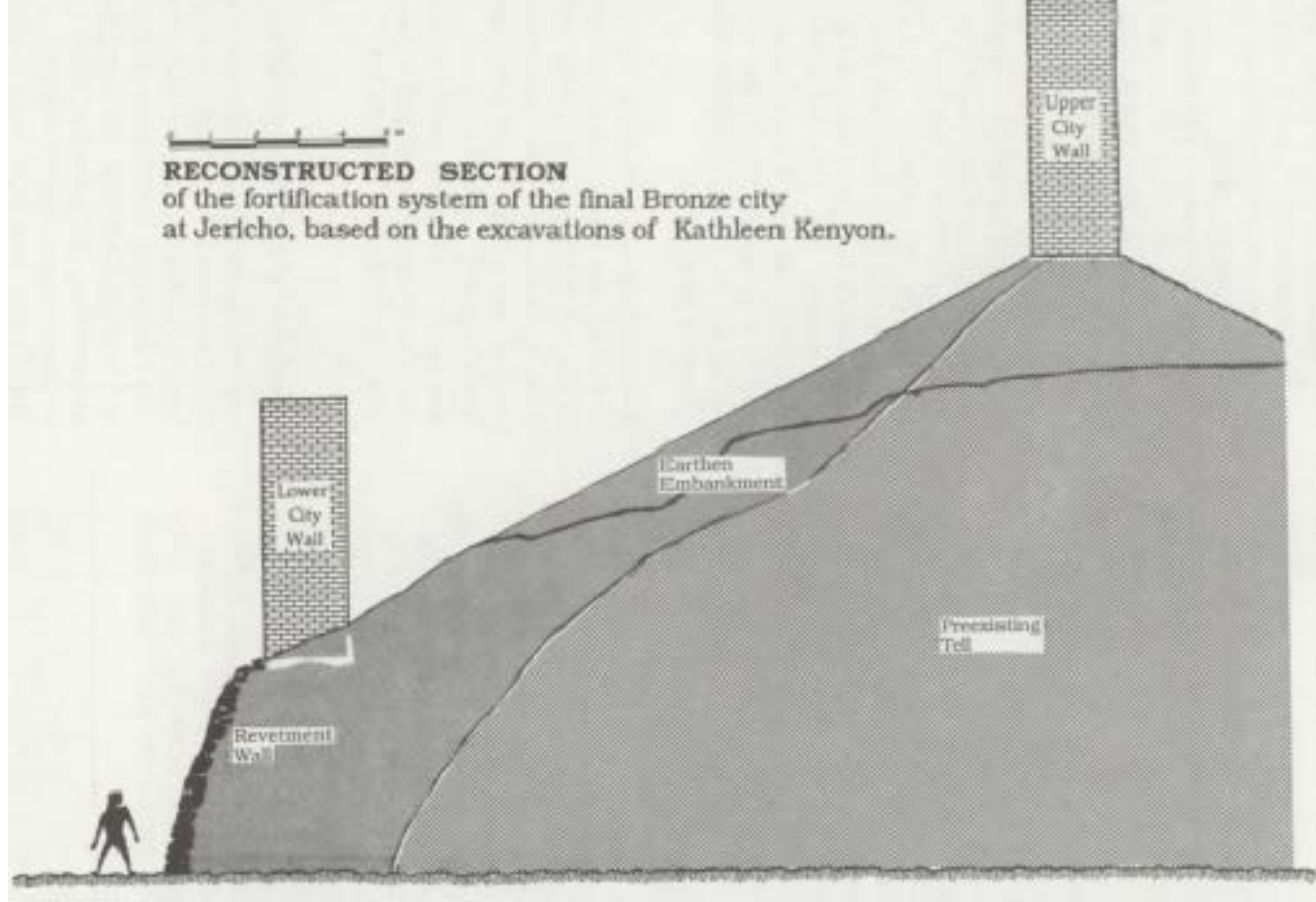
Cab

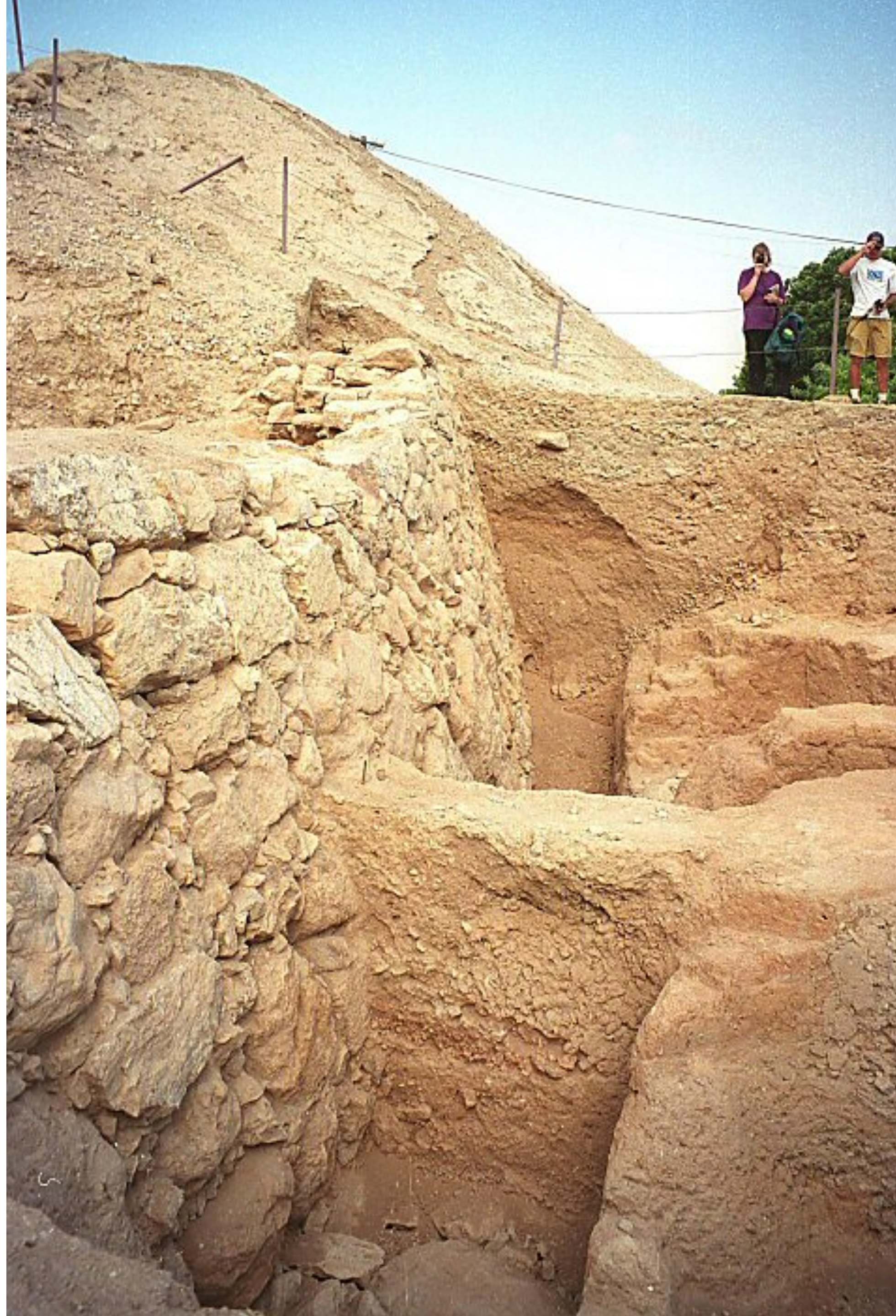
POLICE TOURISM





**RECONSTRUCTED SECTION**  
of the fortification system of the final Bronze city  
at Jericho, based on the excavations of Kathleen Kenyon.





Jericho, Tell es-Sultan mudbrick collapse in front of revetment



Jericho, Tell es-Sultan collapsed mudbrick wall with Bryant Wood



**The meticulous work of Kenyon showed that Jericho was indeed heavily fortified and that it had been burned by fire. Unfortunately, she misdated her finds, resulting in what seemed to be a discrepancy between the discoveries of archaeology and the Bible. She concluded that the Bronze Age city of Jericho was destroyed about 1550 BC by the Egyptians. An in-depth analysis of the evidence, however, reveals that the destruction took place at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century BC (end of the Late Bronze I period), exactly when the Bible says the Conquest occurred (~Wood, 1990).**

















تحتوي هذه الحفرة على  
بقايا من الفخار والسيراميك  
من العصور القديمة