

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

Important Archaeological Finds of the Bible #6—The Solomonic Gates

1 Kings 9:15 says “Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted to build Yahweh’s temple, his own palace, the terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer.” This one verse in the Bible led to the discovery of three very impressive archeological structures.

Skeptics have at times questioned the story of King Solomon, some even suggesting that he never existed. The above verse, when examined considering archeology, is compelling evidence for the existence of King Solomon and his amazing accomplishments.

Yigael Yadin was an important figure in the establishment of Israel as a nation. He was a respected Archeologist, the second Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, and Deputy Prime Minister of Israel. Yadin excavated the ancient site of Hazor from 1955-1958. In this excavation he found THIS ↓ massive Six Chambered Gate.

The Hazor Gate



(Photo by Chip Thompson, 2018)

This city gate was unlike any other gate found in Israel from this time period. It was huge! It had massive defensive towers on the front, followed by six gate chambers. Yigael, dated this gate to the 9th century B.C., the time of King Solomon.

The invention of the Six Chambered Gate made it impossible for an invading army enter a city through the gate structure. Before each chamber was a gate – four gates in total. If an enemy entered this structure, hellfire and brimstone would reign down on them from above. If they broke through the inner gates, each successive chamber was a kill zone – three separate kill zones. It was suicide to enter one of these ancient gates.

What is a Six Chambered City Gate?



(Photo: by permission, Joel Kramer, Sourceflix.com)

When Yigael Yadin discovered this gate, he immediately used the MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOOL – the written text of the BIBLE. He learned from 1 Kings 9:15 that Solomon fortified Hazor in the 9th century B.C. Yigael correctly identified this as a “SOLOMONIC GATE.”

Because 1 Kings 9:15 says Solomon fortified Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer, Yigael next excavated Megiddo and guess what he found? He found a second SOLOMONIC GATE, identical to the Six Chambered Gate excavated in Hazor. Yigael was starting to see a pattern.

Then, when Yigael learned that a portion of a large gate had been discovered in Gezer, he immediately went to Gezer and with his pick drew on the ground what they would find when the gate was excavated. Yigael was right, another identical Gate to those found in Hazor and Megiddo was excavated in Gezer. There was no doubt in Yigael Yadin’s mind that these were SOLOMONIC GATES! They were constructed by King Solomon in the 9th Century B.C. just as the Bible says.

You might ask, why is this so important? Why does it even matter if Solomon existed? The answers to these questions have HUGE implications.

In 2 Samuel chapter 7 God made a promise to King David. Yahweh, the only true and living God, the God of Israel, said this to David, “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you,

who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you” (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

The son that God chose to build David’s eternal kingdom was SOLOMON. Solomon was not David’s firstborn, and he would not have been anyone’s choice to succeed David on the throne. Solomon was conceived in an adulterous relationship between David and a gentile woman named Bathsheba. As a type of Christ, Solomon means “peace.” During his reign, Israel existed in perfect peace – there was no war during King Solomon’s entire reign.

God’s promise to David was fulfilled nine Hundred years later when the “Prince of Peace” was born. Jesus was Yahweh God in the flesh, come to earth to die for the sins of the world. If Solomon never existed, then Jesus would not have been born and you and I would not have a Savior who could save us from the penalty of our sins.

Peter told the religious rulers of his day, “Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:11-12).

Here, I am standing in the Six Chambered Gate at Gezer



(Photo: by Chip Thompson, 2016).