

After reading Dr. Garstang's book I ran over the issue of "The Biblical Archaeologist" for September, 1940 in which Dr. G. Ernest Wright presents a discussion of the date of the conquest of, largely in the light of the views of Prof. Albright. Prof. Albright, formerly thought that Jericho was destroyed about 1500 B.C., but now is quite convinced that its fall occurred nearer 1300. Wright discusses Garstang's arguments and gives certain statements in answer to them: (1) He denies the importance of scarabæ as evidence, since they were handed down as keepsakes and charms, and asserts that very few scarabs between the time of Amenophis III and Rameses II have been found anywhere in Palestine. Consequently he thinks that their absence at Jericho proves nothing; (2) He insists that the Mycenaean ware found in the neighborhood of Jericho proves that the city was not destroyed until after it had been imported; (3) One of the most common wares of the fourth city of Jericho, says Wright, is a form which he pictures in Fig. 7. He says,

"Albright argues cogently for a 14th century date for most of these vases and for much of the other pottery of City D from similar material of other sites which he has examined and dated with independent evidence."

(4) Wright maintains that other cities in Palestine were not conquered until about 1300 B.C. and later; (5) Wright points out that Prof. Nelson Glueck has found that not a single sizable town was in existence in the hill country of Transjordan between the 20th and 13th centuries B.C. Consequently if the biblical story is to be followed, a Jericho cannot have fallen until after the destruction of settled kingdoms in that area, which did not exist until about 1300 B.C.

After reading Wright's discussion, I today called on Prof. Garstang and told him I had a number of points which I would be interested to discuss with him. Since a number of these were not connected with the date of the fall I shall omit them from the present memorandum.

As soon as I had spoken to Prof. Garstang he stated that he has recently written a 2-page statement regarding the latest developments in the study of Jericho and that perhaps I would like to read it first before discussing my questions. I was astounded to find how this statement affected certain prominent portions of the book. He begins with the statement that Prof. Albright has recently declared, and other experts have followed him in deciding that certain pots found at Jericho and at Beisan, which are characterized by decoration in monochrome or shaded duochrome with linear or triangular devices is not to be dated before 1400 B.C.