





Sodom: Discovery of a Lost City

a presentation of the

Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project

a scientific endeavor of

Veritas International University
School of Archaeology

Santa Ana, CA USA

and

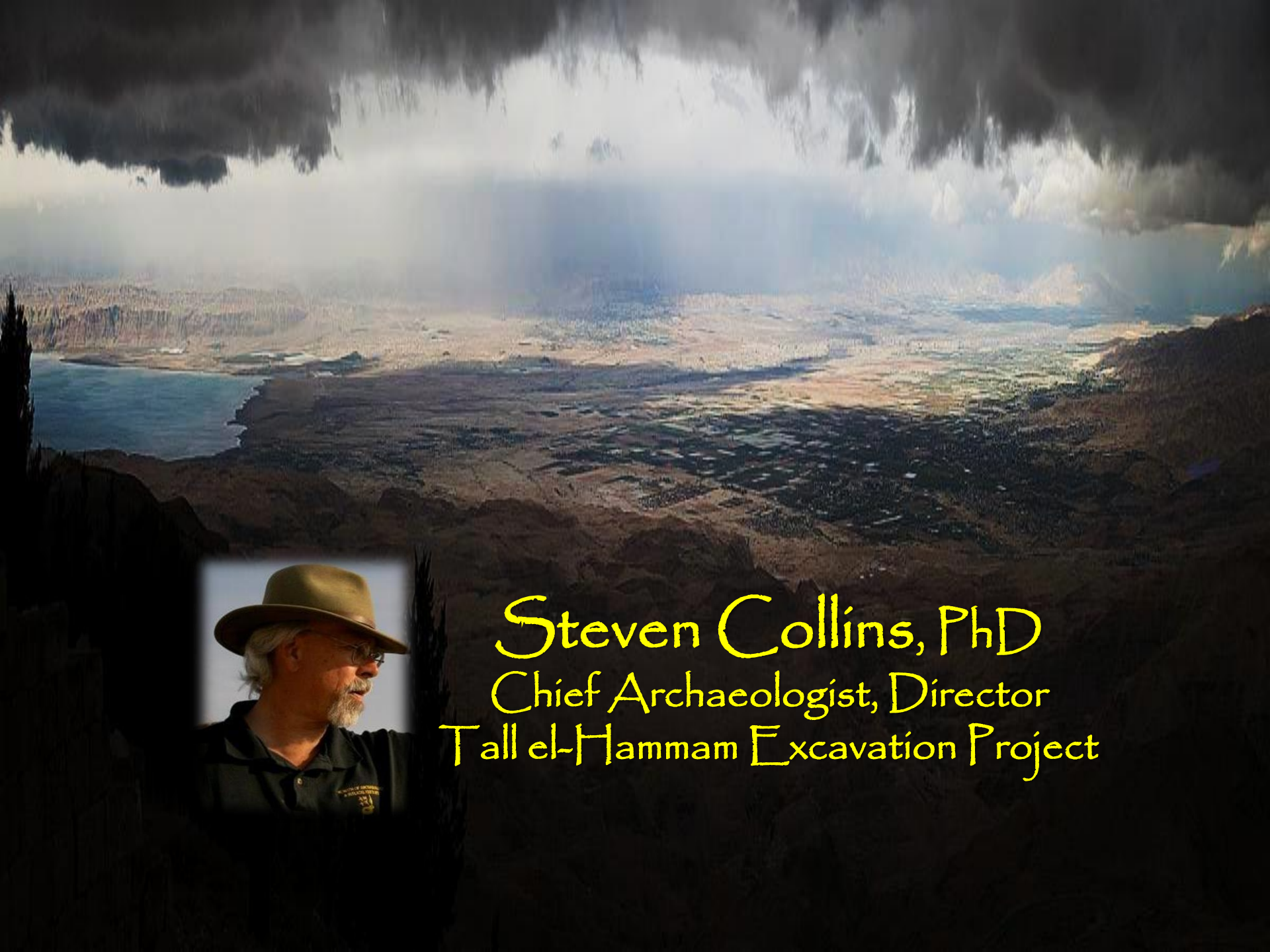
Trinity Southwest University
College of Archaeology

Albuquerque, NM USA

under the auspices of the

Jordan Department of Antiquities

© 2024 Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project



Steven Collins, PhD
Chief Archaeologist, Director
Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project

www.digsodom.com

Get TeHEP email updates by
texting *digsodom* to 22828.





THE FASCINATING
OF THE

DISCOVERING
THE CITY OF
SODOM

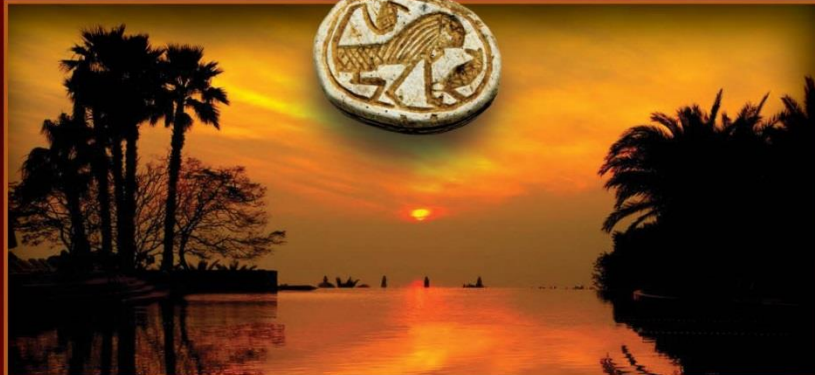
DR. STEVEN COLLINS
DR. LATAYNE C. SCOTT



THE FASCINATING
OF THE

DISCOVERING
THE CITY OF
SODOM

DR. STEVEN COLLINS
DR. LATAYNE C. SCOTT



THE FASCINATING, TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT'S MOST INFAMOUS CITY

DISCOVERING
THE CITY OF
SODOM

DR. STEVEN COLLINS
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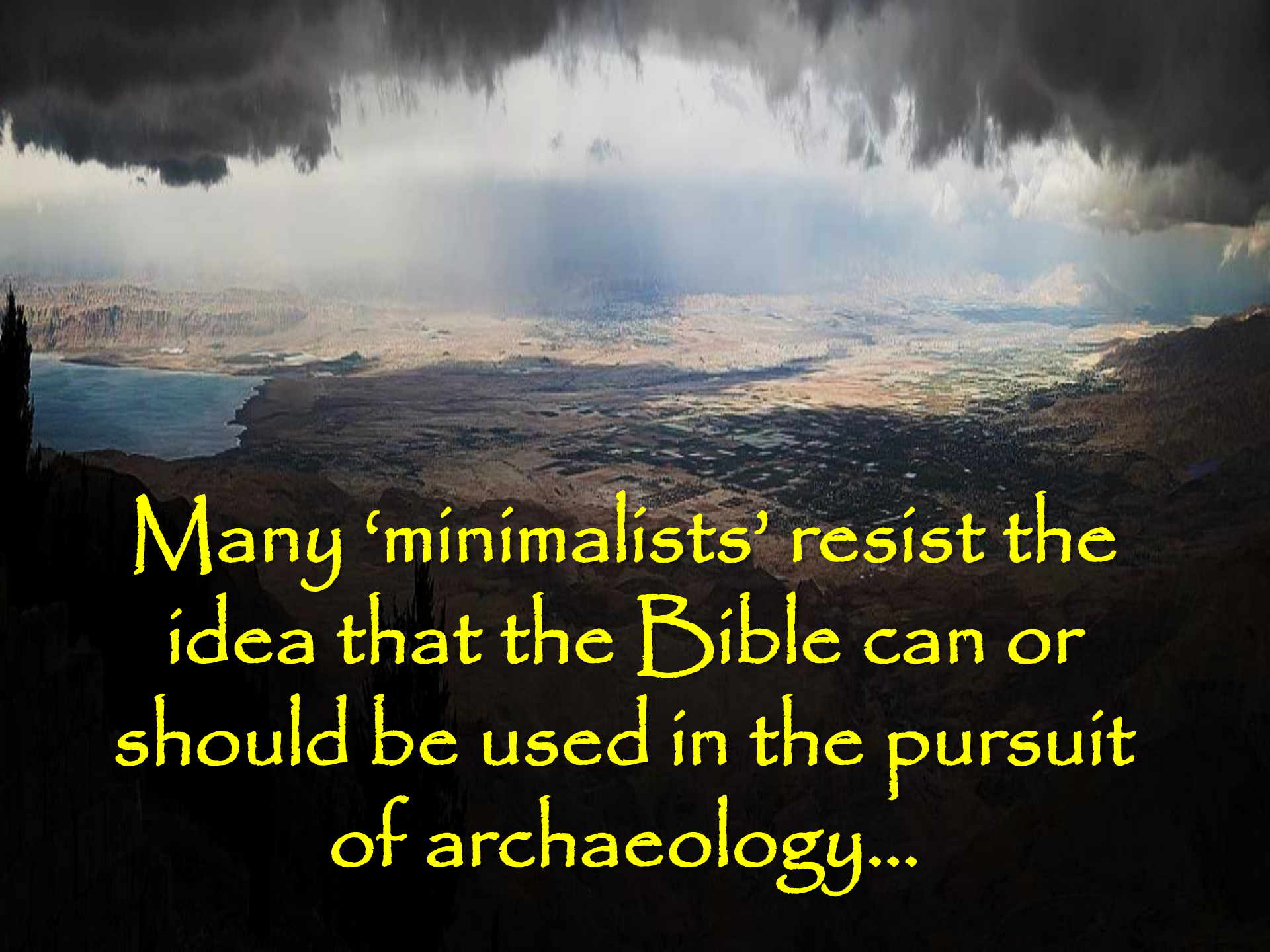
We no longer
live in a Bible-
friendly world.

Niels Peter Lemche:

“The patriarchal narratives are...fiction, not reality. That world does not represent a real world. It stands outside the usual representation of time and space. As a matter of fact...neither the narratives nor their world can be dated to any precise period.”

Israel Finkelstein:

“Combination of archaeological and historical research demonstrates that the biblical account of the Conquest and occupation of Canaan [by the Israelites] is entirely divorced from historical reality.”

A dramatic landscape featuring a large body of water on the left, a dark, stormy sky with heavy clouds, and a vast, flat plain extending to the horizon. The foreground is dark and rocky, suggesting a high vantage point. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

Many 'minimalists' resist the
idea that the Bible can or
should be used in the pursuit
of archaeology...

The **Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project (TeHEP)** was featured recently in an article on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*. In that article, Dr. William Dever (Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona), aimed the following criticism at TeHEP Director, Dr. Steven Collins:

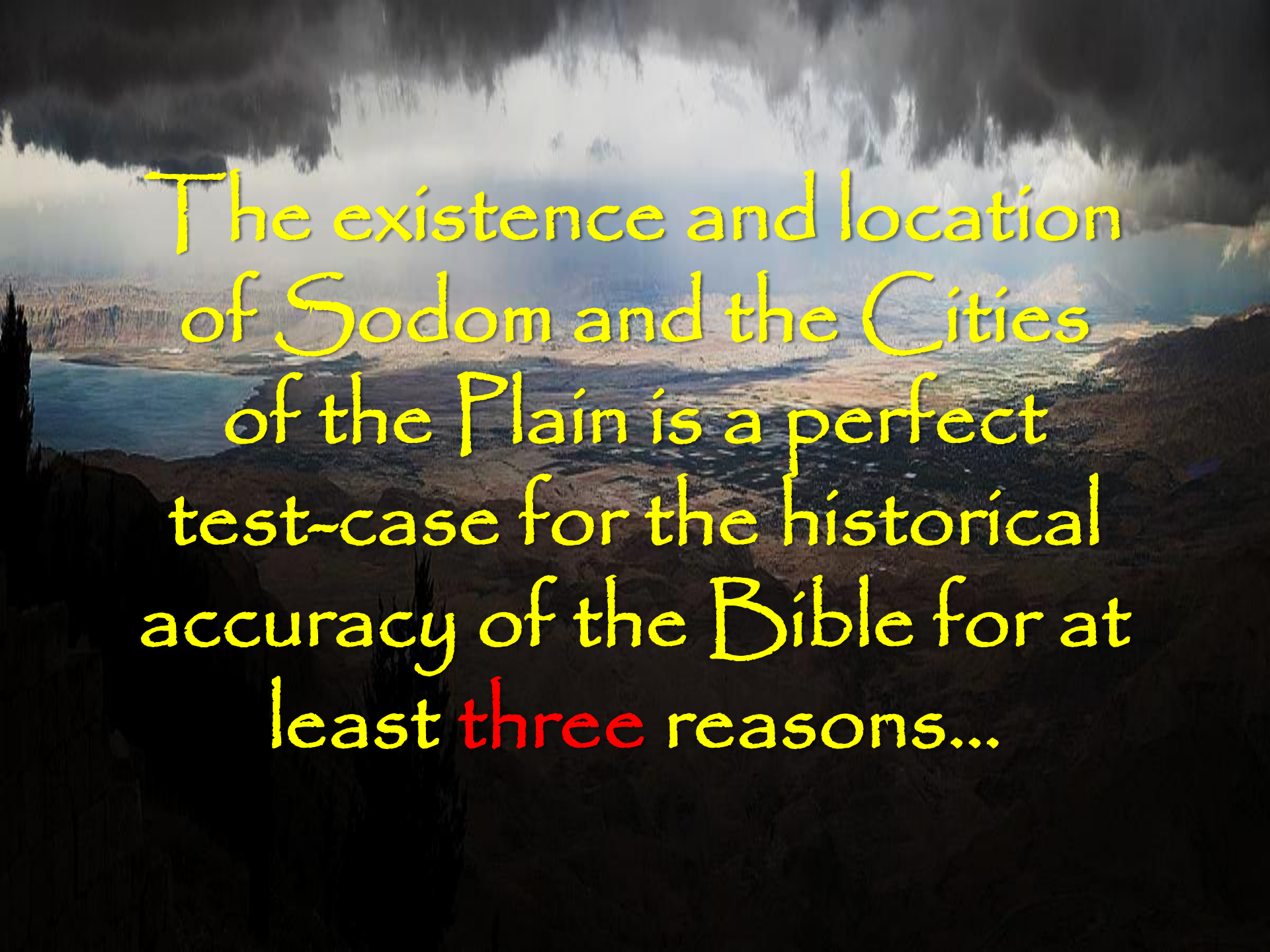


“No responsible scholar goes out with a trowel in one hand and a Bible in the other.”

Dr. Collins' response to Dr. Dever and other
"minimalists" in the academic community:



"No responsible scholar digging in the Holy Land goes out without a trowel in one hand and a Bible in the other!"

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a dark, stormy sky with heavy, grey clouds. Below the sky, a landscape unfolds. On the left, there is a body of blue water. In the center, a city is visible on a plain, surrounded by a low wall. The right side of the image shows a dark, rocky cliffside. The overall mood is dramatic and somewhat ominous.

The existence and location
of Sodom and the Cities
of the Plain is a perfect
test-case for the historical
accuracy of the Bible for at
least **three** reasons...

A dramatic landscape with a dark, stormy sky and a body of water in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

First...

The vast majority of scholars
(including, archaeologists,
historians, and theologians)
seriously doubt or dismiss
their existence altogether.

A dramatic landscape with a dark, stormy sky, a body of water, and a valley below. The text is overlaid in a yellow, stylized font.

Second...

Scholars who *do* believe in their existence have searched in vain for the Cities of the Plain in the southern Dead Sea area, reinforcing the doubts of the skeptics.

A dramatic landscape featuring a wide river or valley, mountains in the distance, and a sky filled with dark, heavy clouds. The scene is captured from a high vantage point, looking down into the valley.

Third...

If a legitimate, scientifically rigorous investigation into the whereabouts of these missing cities actually succeeded in finding them, it would be a huge confirmation of biblical historicity.

An aerial photograph of an archaeological excavation site. The site features several large, rectangular pits and walls constructed from rough-hewn, light-colored stone blocks. The ground is dry and sandy. Numerous workers, wearing hard hats and work clothes, are scattered throughout the site, engaged in various tasks. Some are standing near the walls, while others are working in the pits. There are also some pieces of equipment, like a tripod and a table, visible in the upper left corner. The overall scene depicts an active and organized archaeological dig.

RIGHT PLACE

RIGHT TIME

RIGHT STUFF

An archaeological excavation site featuring a large, rectangular stone wall structure. The wall is built from irregular, light-colored stones and is situated on a dirt surface. In the background, a black SUV and a white pickup truck with a metal rack are parked on a dirt road. The surrounding area is a dry, hilly landscape with some sparse vegetation and a few small structures in the distance.

RIGHT PLACE:
The Geography of the
Cities of the "Plain"

Why
Genesis 13:1-12

?

Genesis 13:1-12 is the only narrative passage among the Sodom tales marking out the location of the Cities of the Plain by using well-known geographical data points, and it was written specifically for the purpose of directing readers to the location of Sodom.

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev...and Lot went with him...From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai...Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of Yahweh, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar...So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east...Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.”

kikkar

Genesis 13:1-12

kikkar (disk, circle)
in Old Testament
Hebrew refers most
often (55 of 68 times) to
a talent of metal or a
circular, flat loaf of bread.

A satellite image of a coastal region, likely the Gulf of Mexico, showing a large body of water and a narrow strip of land. A green oval highlights a specific area on the land, containing the text "hakikkar" and "The Disk".

hakikkar
"The Disk"



Image © 2006 MDA EarthSat
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

© 2006

Go



Karameh

PISGAH

**THE KIKKAR
OF THE JORDAN**

The Mouth
of the Jordan

er-Riha
Yeriho

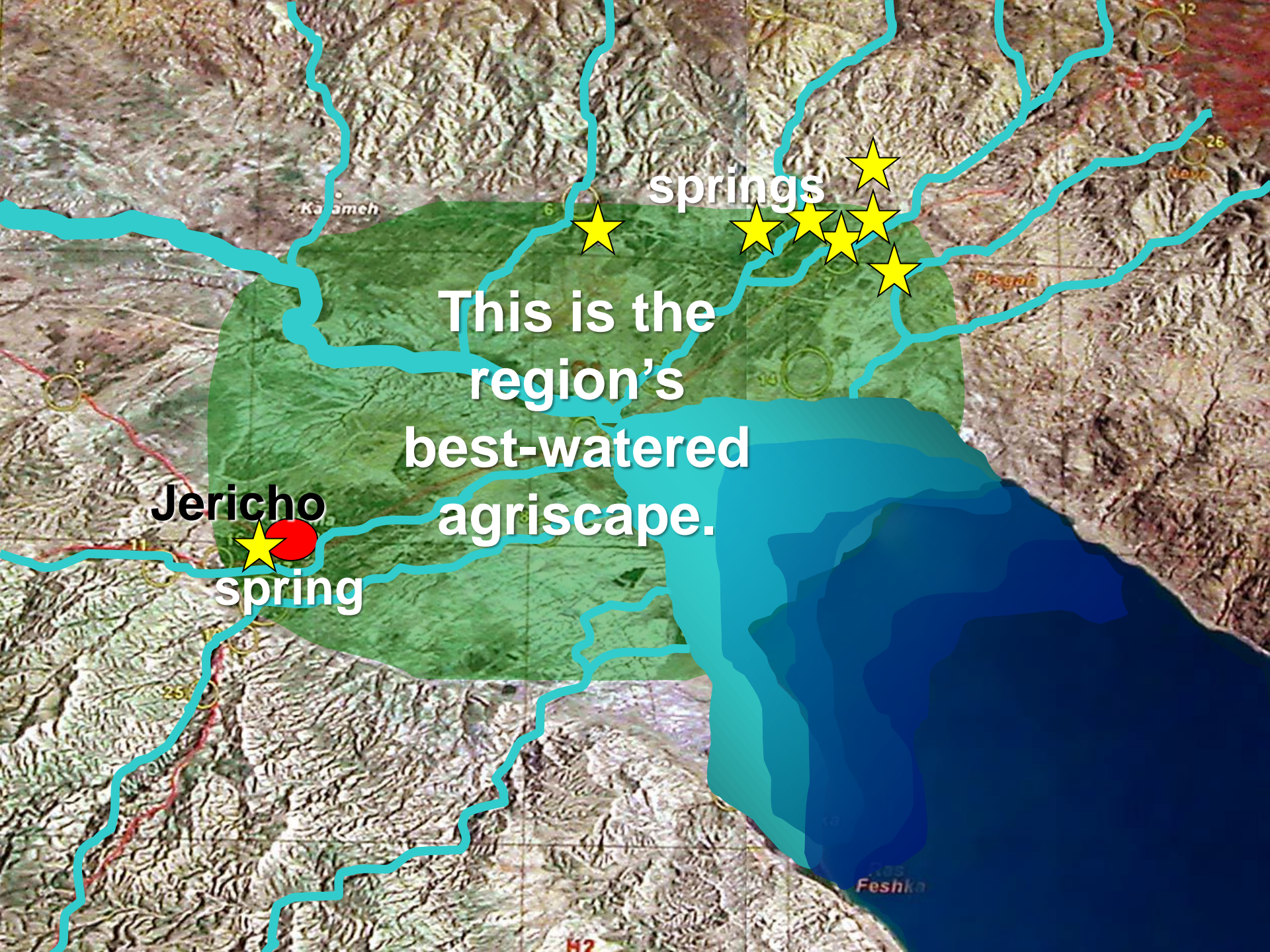
Ein
Feshka

Ras
Feshka

H2

The *kikkar* of the Jordan was well-watered...

- like the garden of Yahweh (single river; springs)
- like Egypt (annual river inundations depositing water-laden silt).



springs

This is the
region's
best-watered
agriscapes.

Jericho
spring

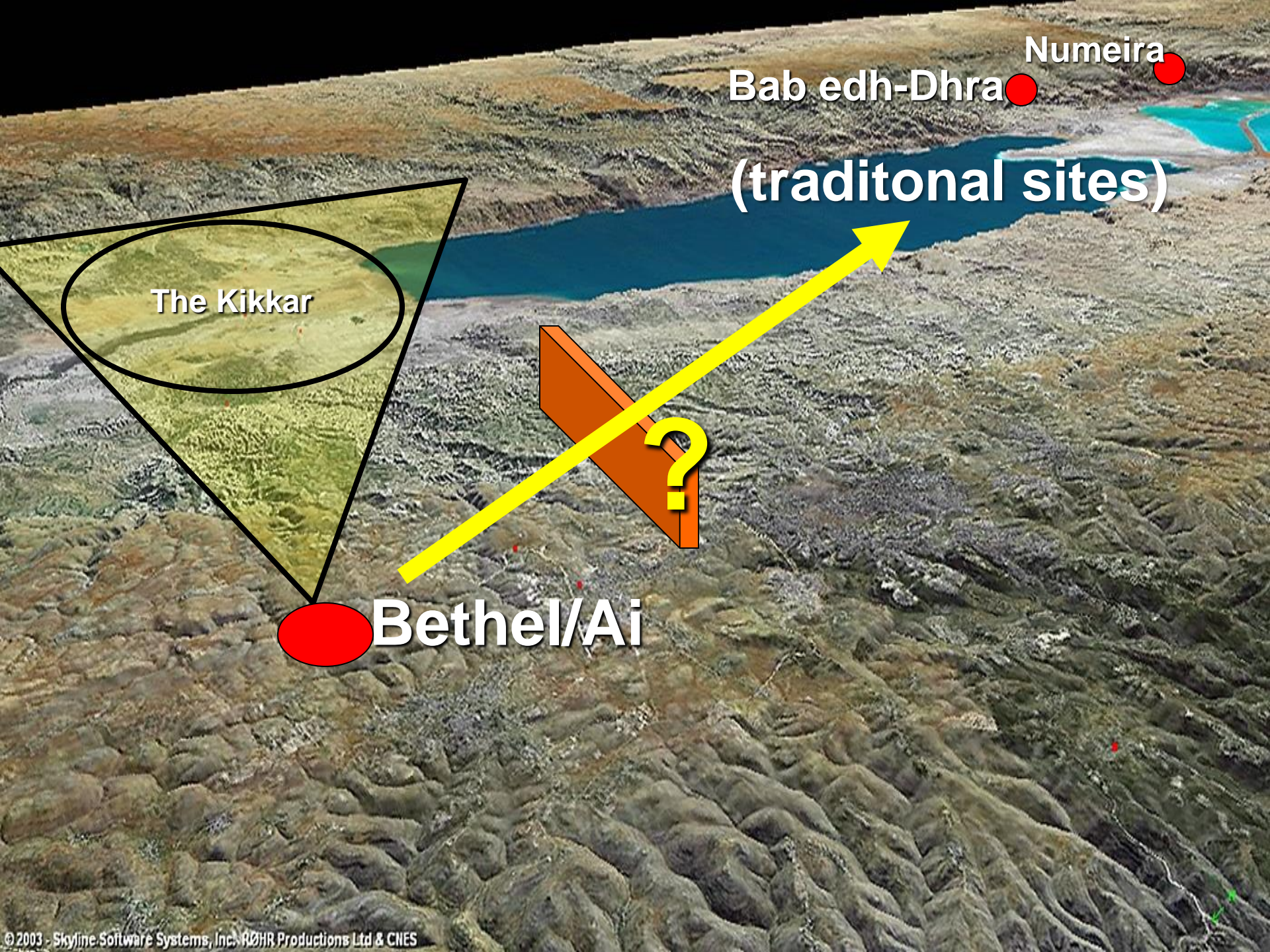
Kasameh

Pisgah

Feshka

H2

Lot viewed the entire Jordan Disk from the area east of Bethel/Ai (above and WNW of Jericho); the entire *kikkar* is, in fact, visible from the highlands just east of Bethel/Ai.



Numeira

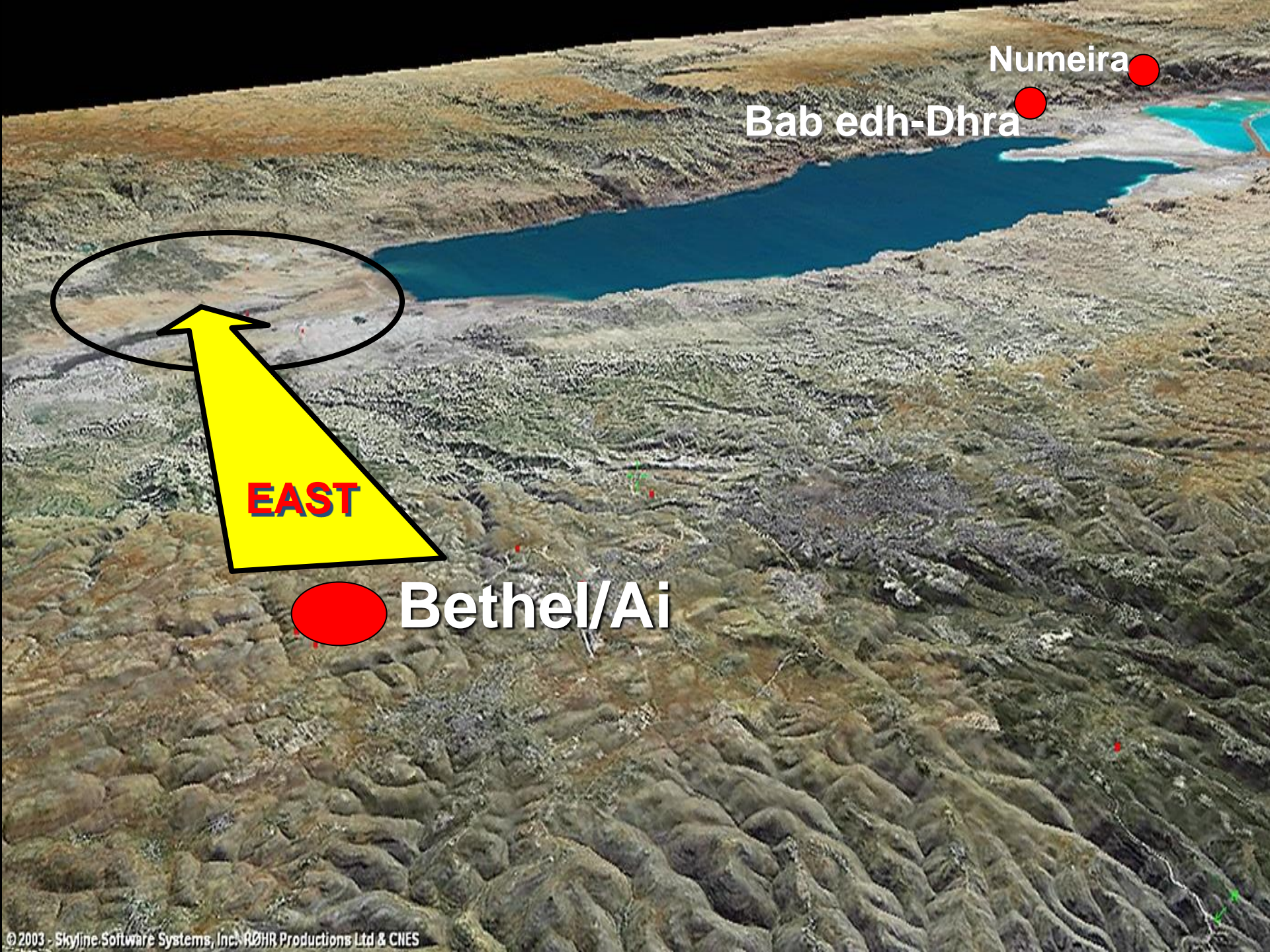
Bab edh-Dhra

(traditonal sites)

The Kikkar

Bethel/Ai

Lot traveled eastward
from Bethel/Ai,
pitching his tent
toward Sodom.



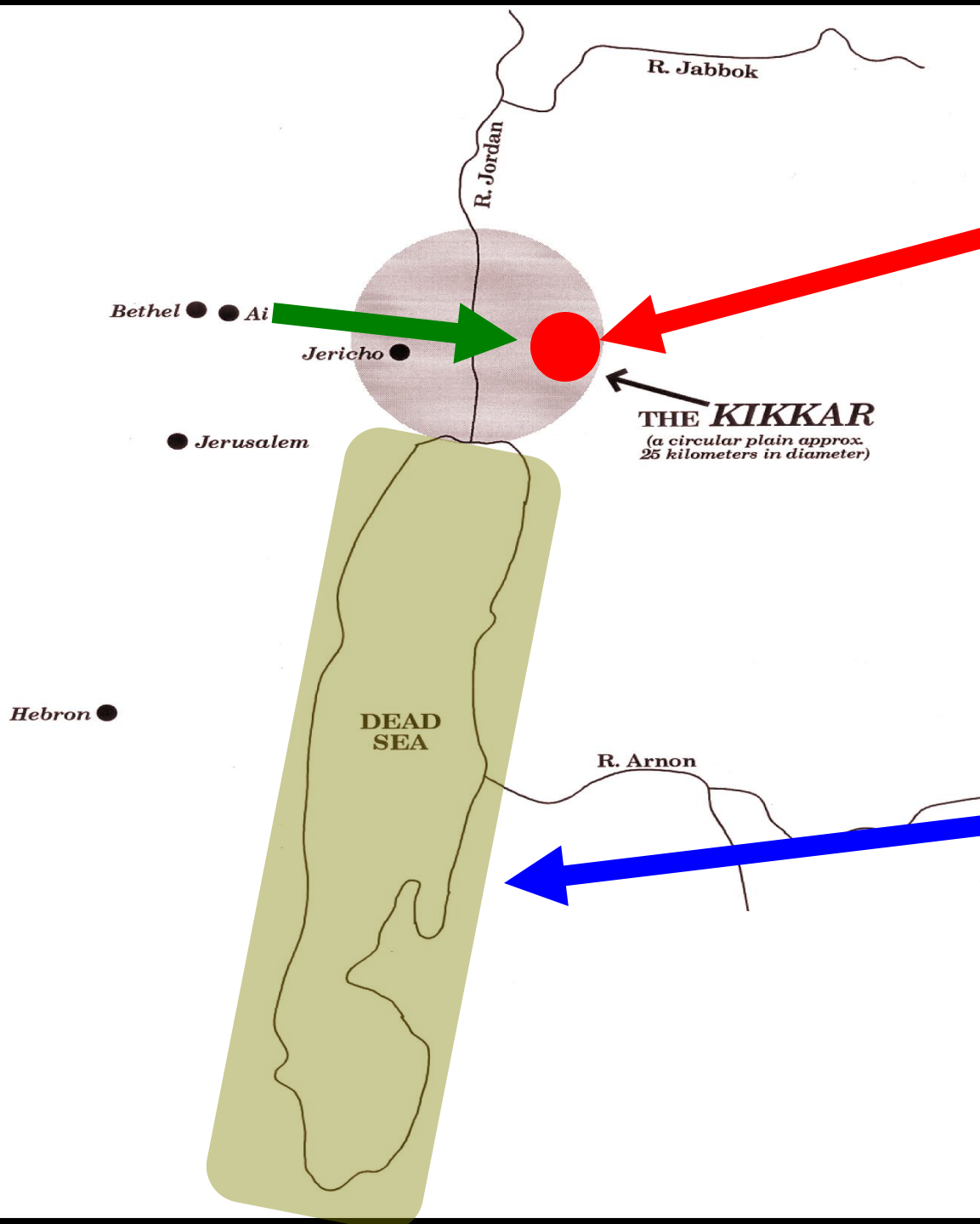
Numeira

Bab edh-Dhra



EAST

Bethel/Ai



SODOM
can only
be here,
east of
Bethel/Ai.

NOT HERE!

An archaeological excavation site featuring a large, rectangular pit with walls made of stacked stones. In the background, a dark SUV and a white pickup truck with a metal rack are parked on a dirt road. The scene is set in a dry, hilly environment.

RIGHT TIME:
The Chronology of the
Cities of the "Plain"

The story of Abram
and Lot, belongs to the
Middle Bronze Age
(the biblical date).



3500 BC

EARLY BRONZE AGE

**Cities of the Plain
in Genesis 10**

2100 BC

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

Abram and Lot

1500 BC

1000 BC

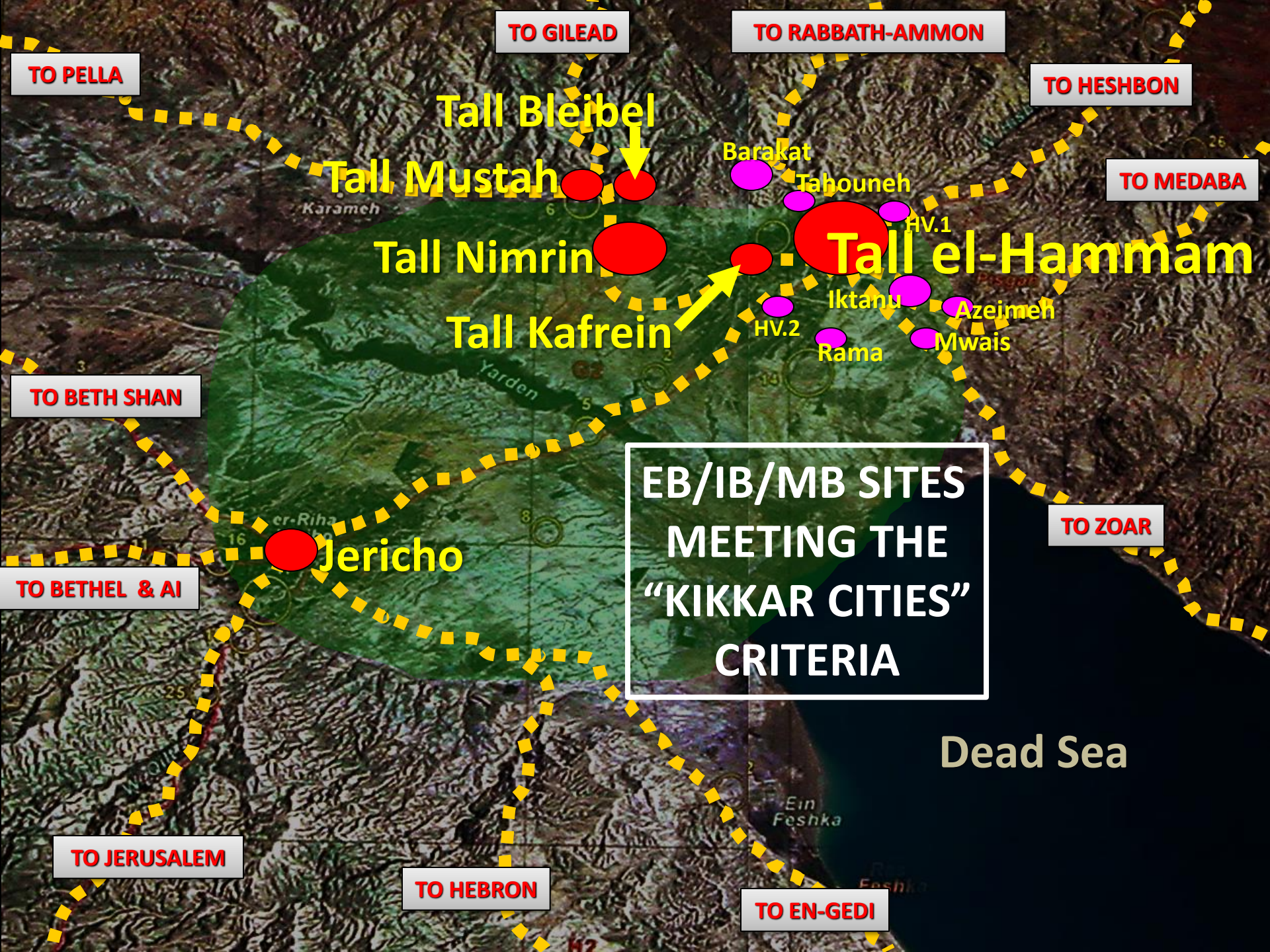


**EARLY
BRONZE
AGE**

**INTERMEDIATE
BRONZE AGE**

**MIDDLE
BRONZE
AGE**

**Timeframe for
Sodom &
Cities of the
Jordan Disk**



TO GILEAD

TO RABBATH-AMMON

TO HESHBON

TO MEDABA

TO ZOAR

TO EN-GEDI

TO HEBRON

TO JERUSALEM

TO BETHEL & AI

TO BETH SHAN

TO PELLA

EB/IB/MB SITES
MEETING THE
"KIKKAR CITIES"
CRITERIA

Tall Bleibel

Tall Mustah

Tall Nimrin

Tall Kafrein

Jericho

Tall el-Hammam

Barakat

Tahouneh

Iktanu

Rama

Azeimeh

Mwais

HV.2

HV.1

Yarden

Dead Sea

Ein Feshka

Karameh

er-Riha

Tall el-Hammam



EBA

IBA

MBA

An archaeological excavation site featuring several stone walls of varying heights and thicknesses, constructed from irregular, light-colored stones. The walls are set in a dirt-filled area. In the background, a dark SUV and a white pickup truck with a metal rack are parked on a dirt road. The scene is set against a backdrop of a dry, hilly landscape under a clear sky.

RIGHT STUFF:
The Archaeology of the
Cities of the "Plain"

The city of Sodom
itself was fortified
(Gen 19:1).

EARLY BRONZE AGE CITY WALL (3000-2500 BCE)

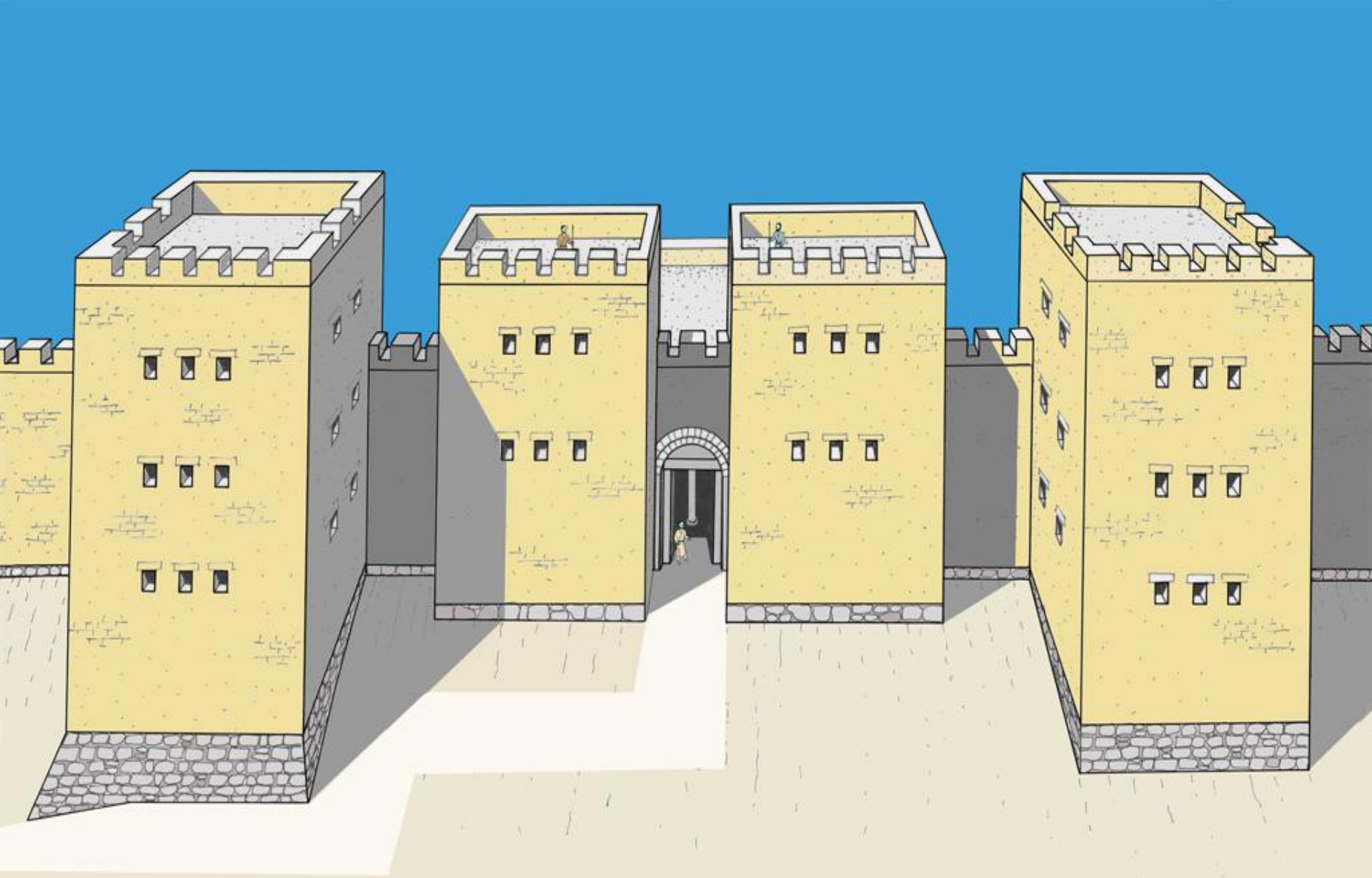




**MIDDLE BRONZE 2
DEFENSIVE
RAMPART
(Upper Tall)**



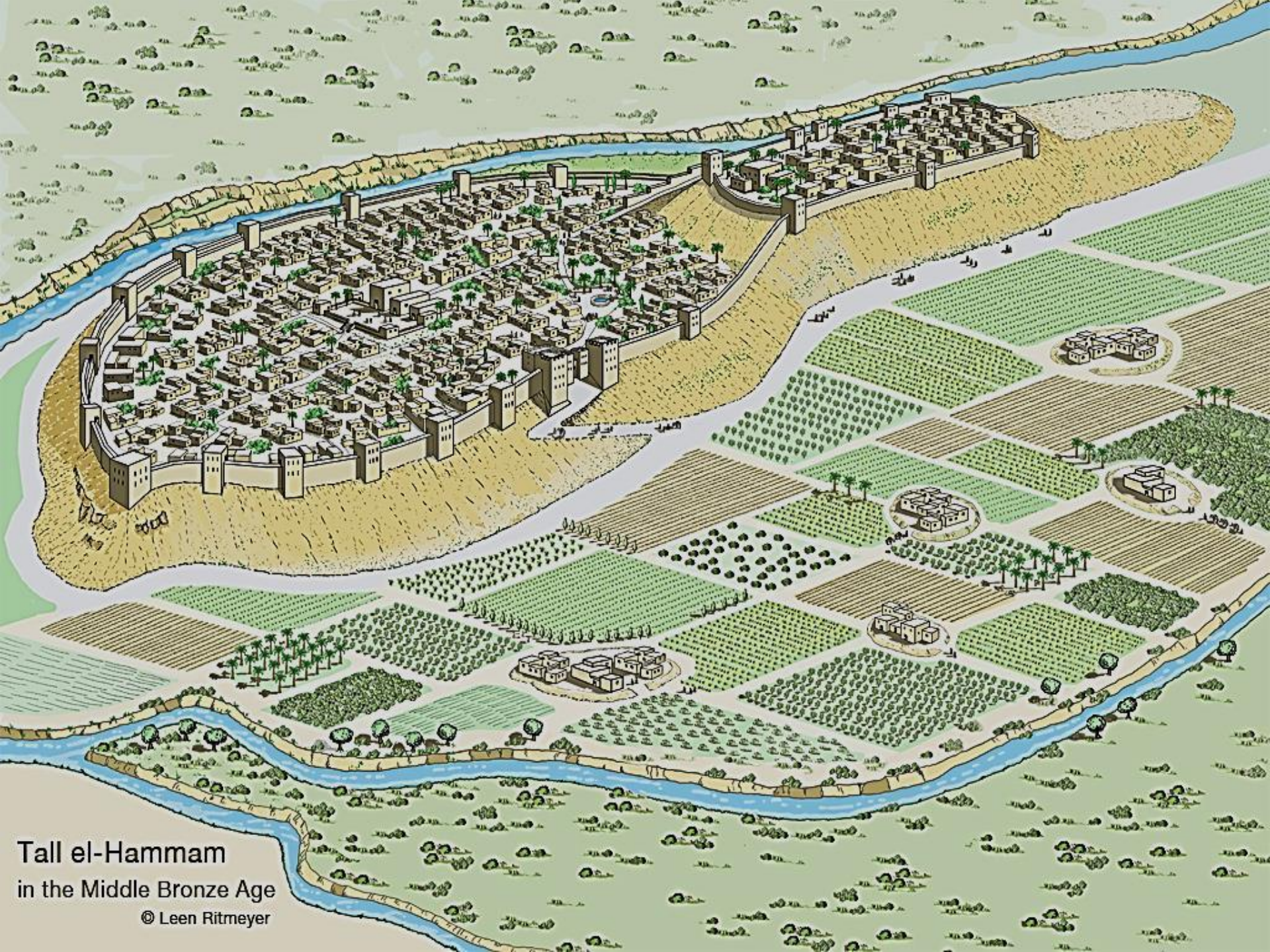




Tall el-Hammam

Reconstruction of the MB gate

L. Ritmeyer



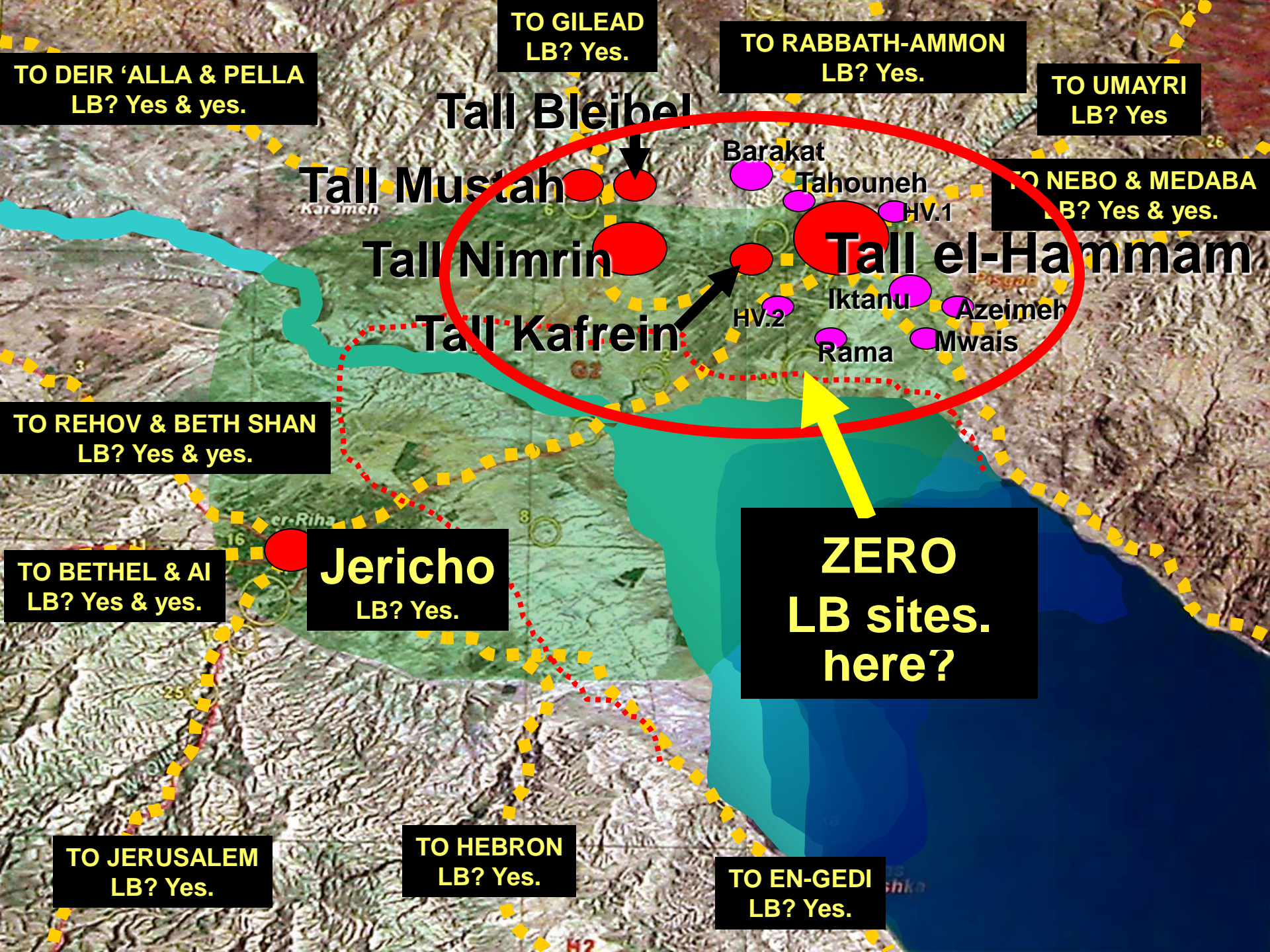
Tall el-Hammam
in the Middle Bronze Age
© Leen Ritmeyer







Terms of Destruction



TO DEIR 'ALLA & PELLA
LB? Yes & yes.

TO GILEAD
LB? Yes.

TO RABBATH-AMMON
LB? Yes.

TO UMayRI
LB? Yes

TO NEBO & MEDABA
LB? Yes & yes.

Tall Bleibel

Tall Mustah

Tall Nimrin

Tall Kafrein

Tall el-Hammam

Barakat

Tahouneh

HV.1

HV.2

Iktanu

Azeimeh

Rama

Mwais

TO REHOV & BETH SHAN
LB? Yes & yes.

TO BETHEL & AI
LB? Yes & yes.

Jericho
LB? Yes.

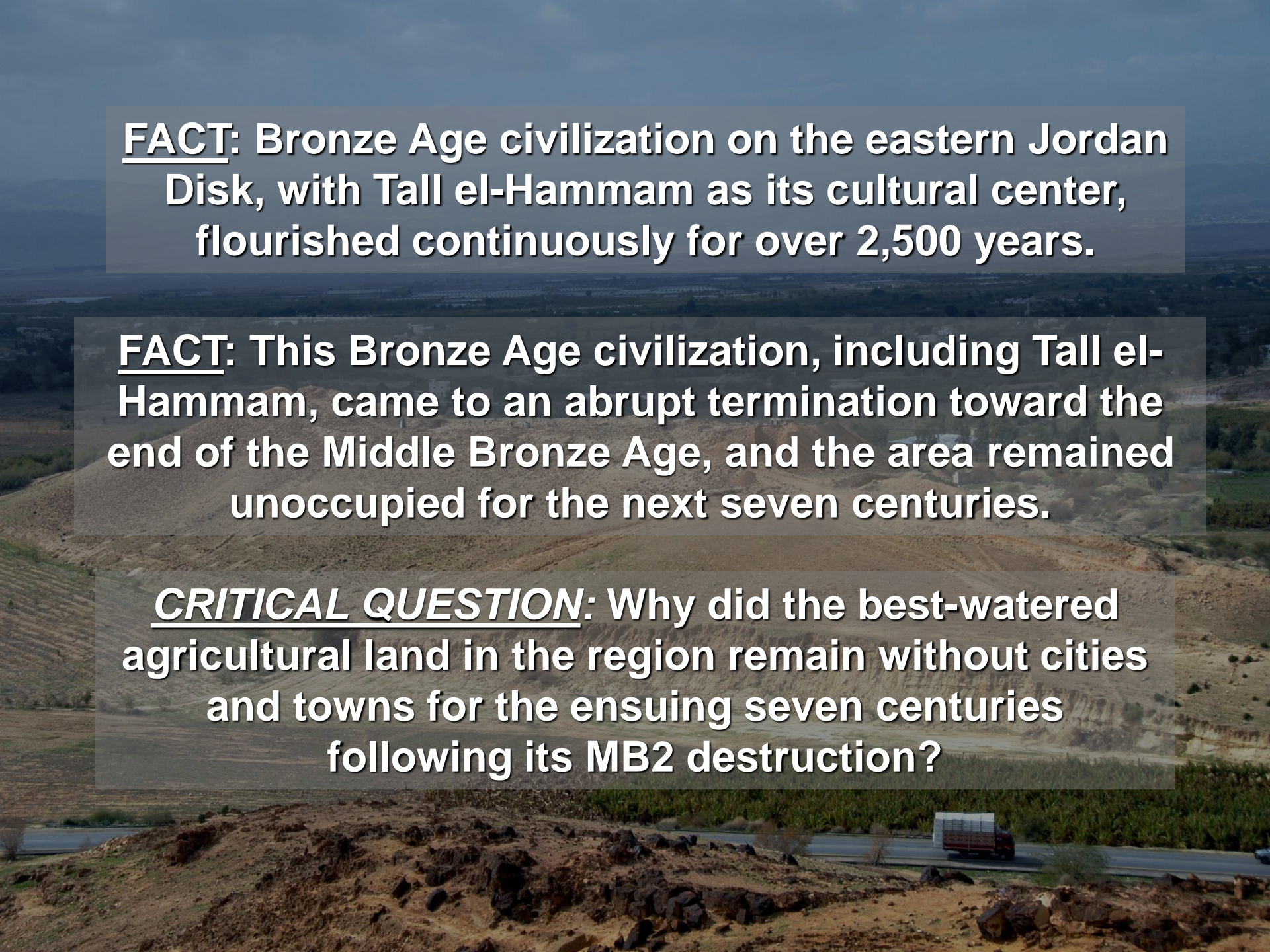
ZERO
LB sites.
here?

TO JERUSALEM
LB? Yes.

TO HEBRON
LB? Yes.

TO EN-GEDI
LB? Yes.

er-Riha



FACT: Bronze Age civilization on the eastern Jordan Disk, with Tall el-Hammam as its cultural center, flourished continuously for over 2,500 years.

FACT: This Bronze Age civilization, including Tall el-Hammam, came to an abrupt termination toward the end of the Middle Bronze Age, and the area remained unoccupied for the next seven centuries.

CRITICAL QUESTION: Why did the best-watered agricultural land in the region remain without cities and towns for the ensuing seven centuries following its MB2 destruction?

Tall el-Hammam 2007 Season

TeH Stratum MB2

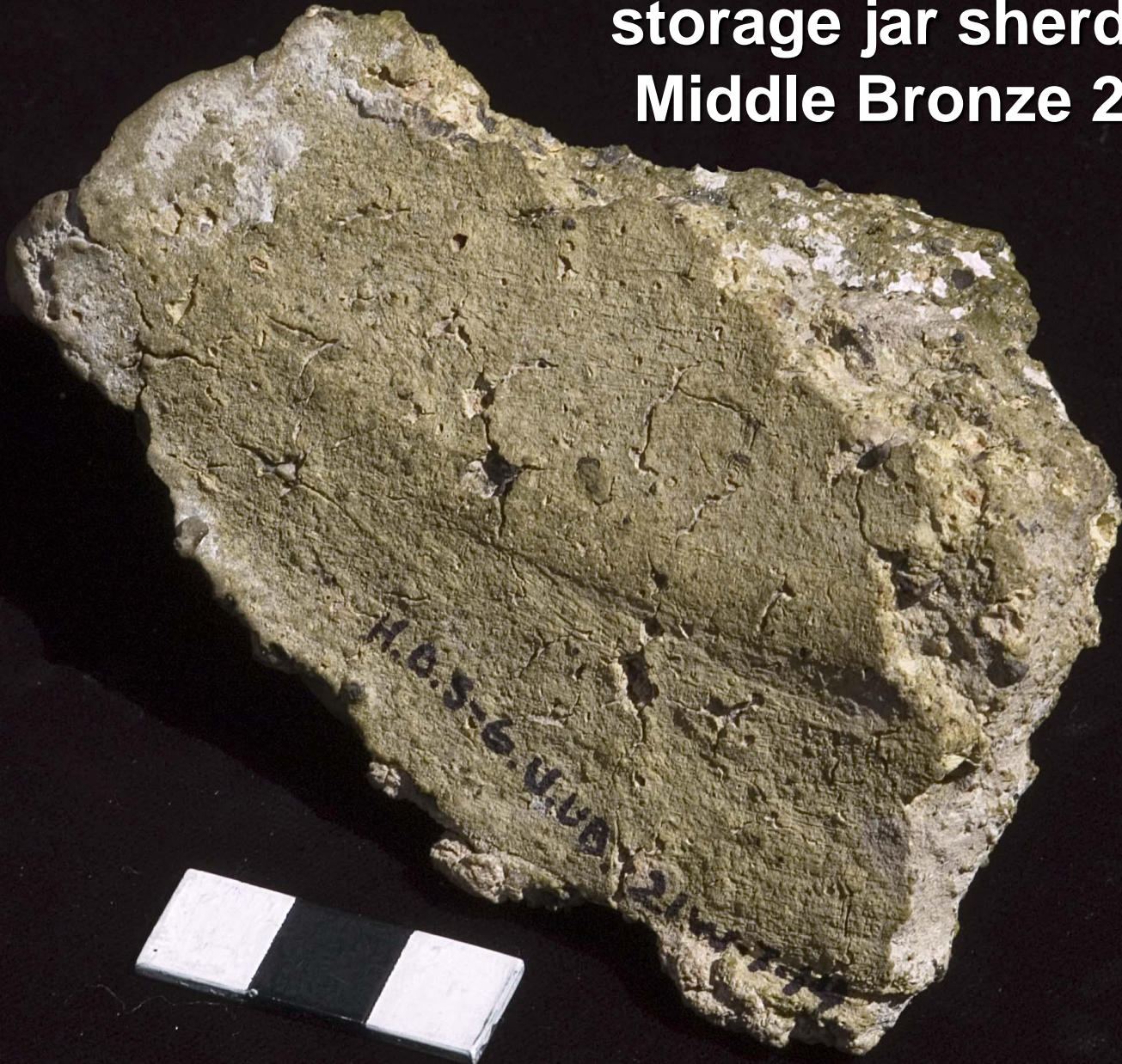
**a full
meter of
ash and
destruction
debris**

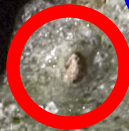
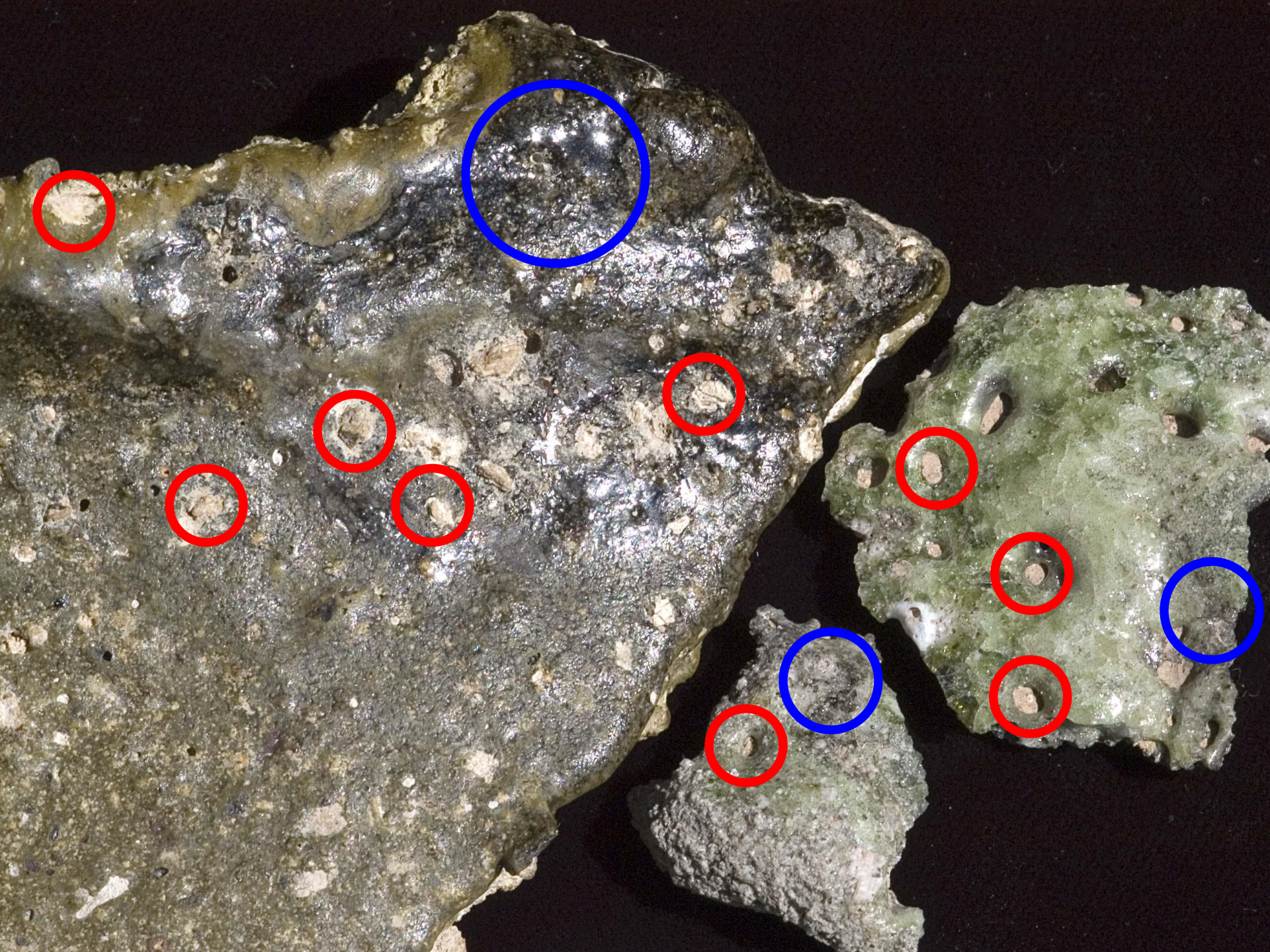




MB2

storage jar sherd,
Middle Bronze 2







MB pottery sherd

TRINITITE



HUMAN BONE SCATTER

**MIDDLE BRONZE AGE
DOMESTIC PLAZA,
SKELETAL REMAINS,
TERMINAL ASH LAYER**







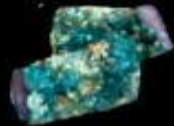
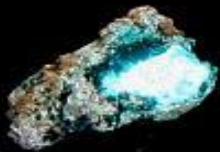








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**The
3.7kaBP
Kikkar Event**

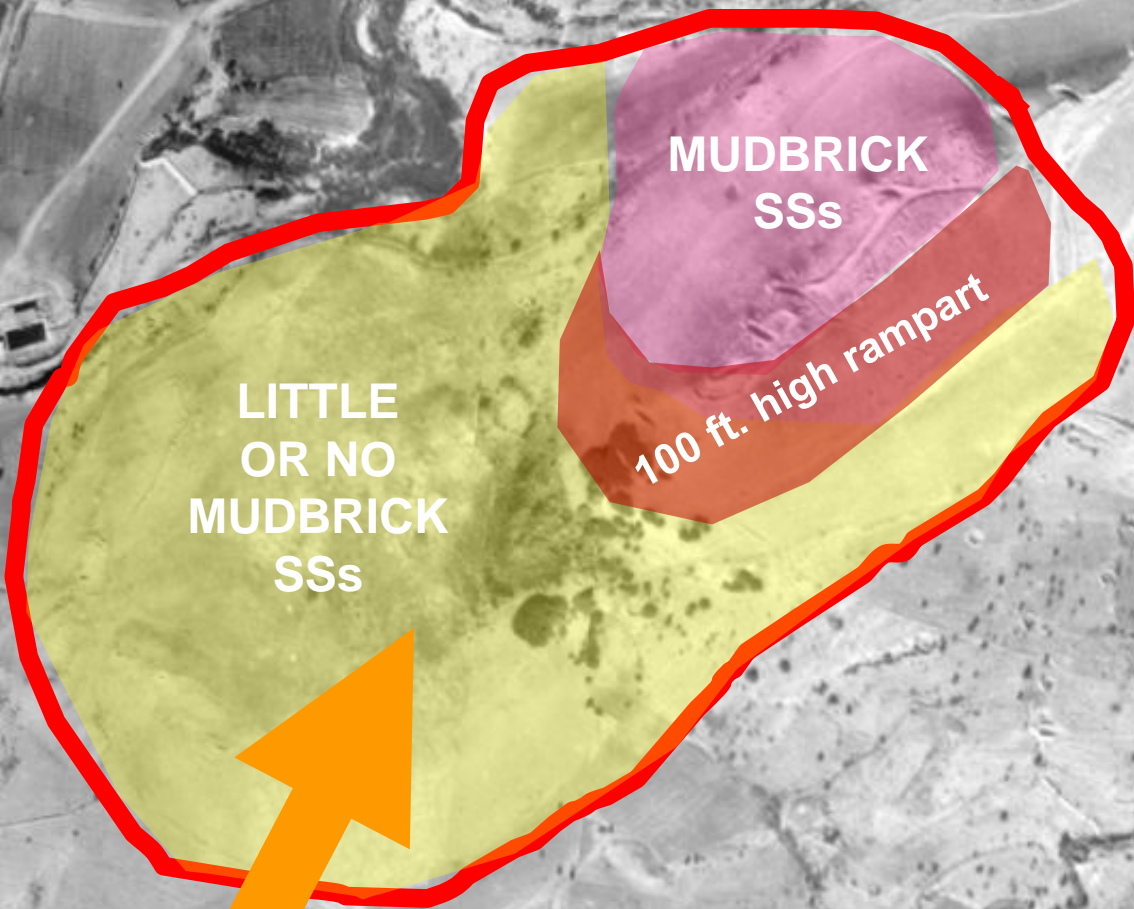


OPEN

A Tunguska sized airburst destroyed Tall el-Hammam a Middle Bronze Age city in the Jordan Valley near the Dead Sea

Ted E. Bunch¹, Malcolm A. LeCompte², A. Victor Adedeji³, James H. Wittke¹, T. David Burleigh⁴, Robert E. Hermes⁵, Charles Mooney⁶, Dale Batchelor⁷, Wendy S. Wolbach⁸, Joel Kathan⁸, Gunther Kletetschka^{9,10}, Mark C. L. Patterson¹¹, Edward C. Swindel¹², Timothy Witwer¹³, George A. Howard¹⁴, Siddhartha Mitra¹⁵, Christopher R. Moore¹⁶, Kurt Langworthy¹⁷, James P. Kennett¹⁸, Allen West^{13,✉} & Phillip J. Silvia¹⁹

TALL EL- HAMMAM

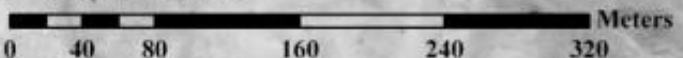


MUDBRICK
SSs

LITTLE
OR NO
MUDBRICK
SSs

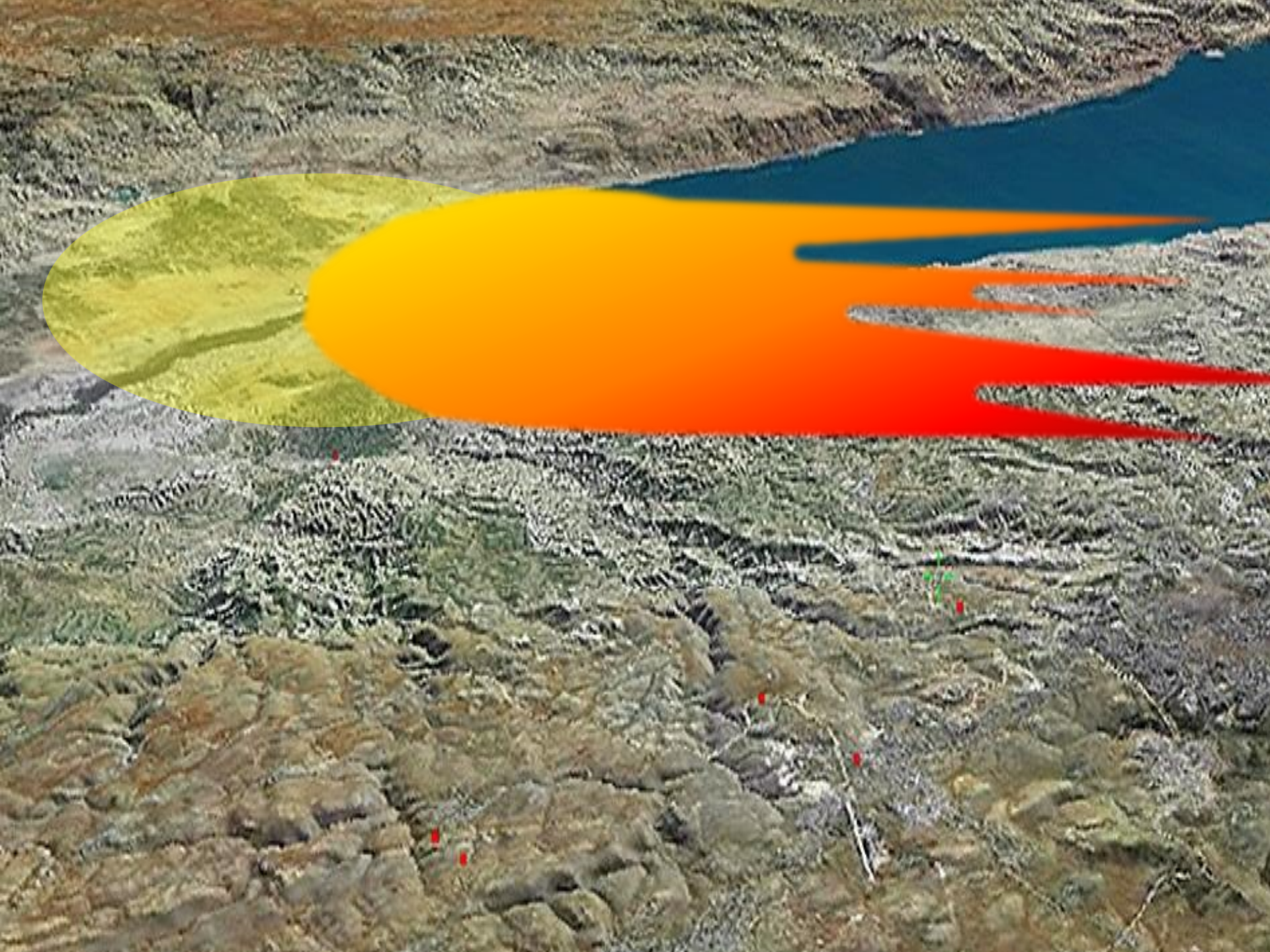
100 ft. high rampart

CONTOUR MAP
5-2-2009
G.I.S : Qutaiba











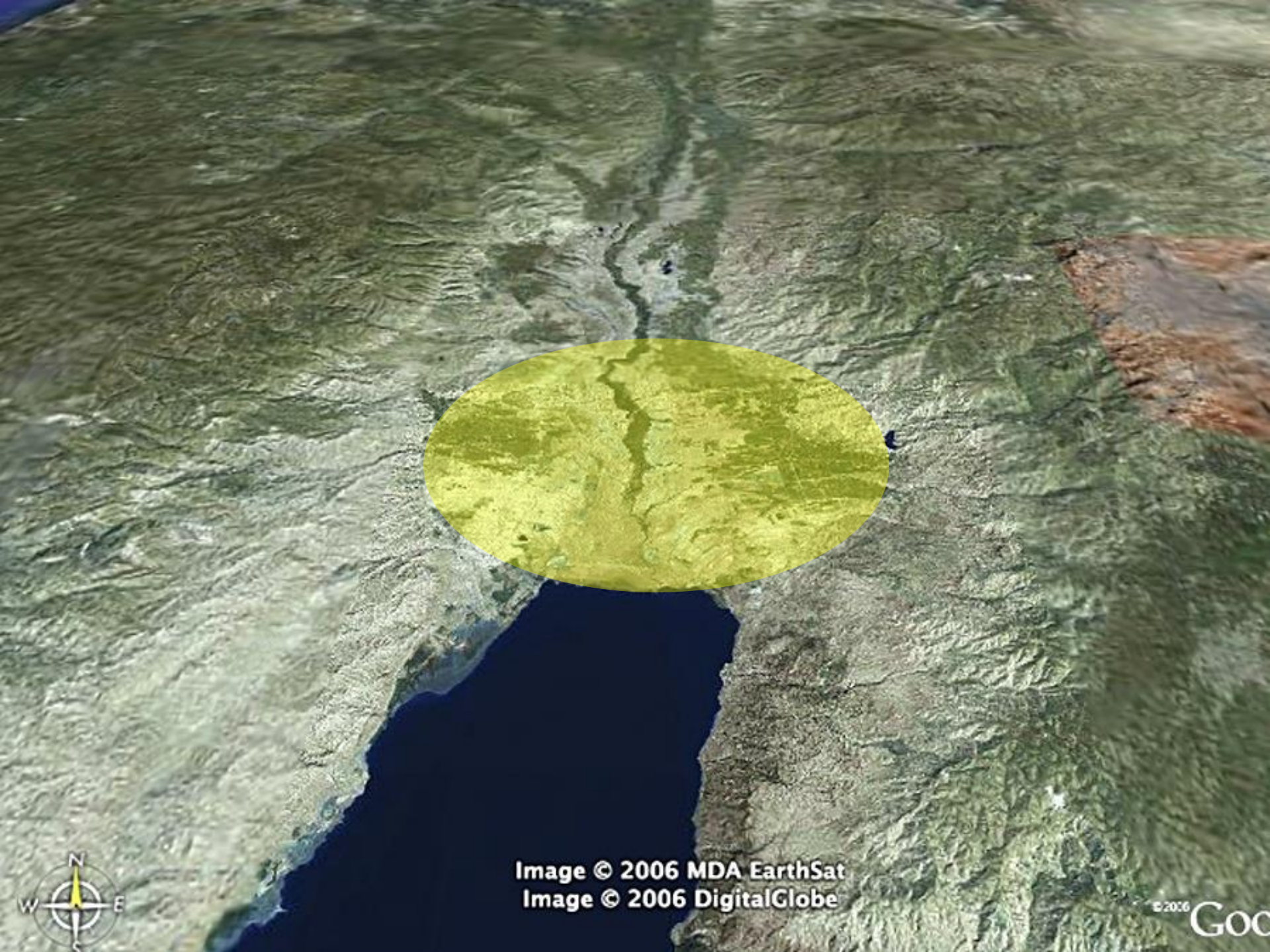


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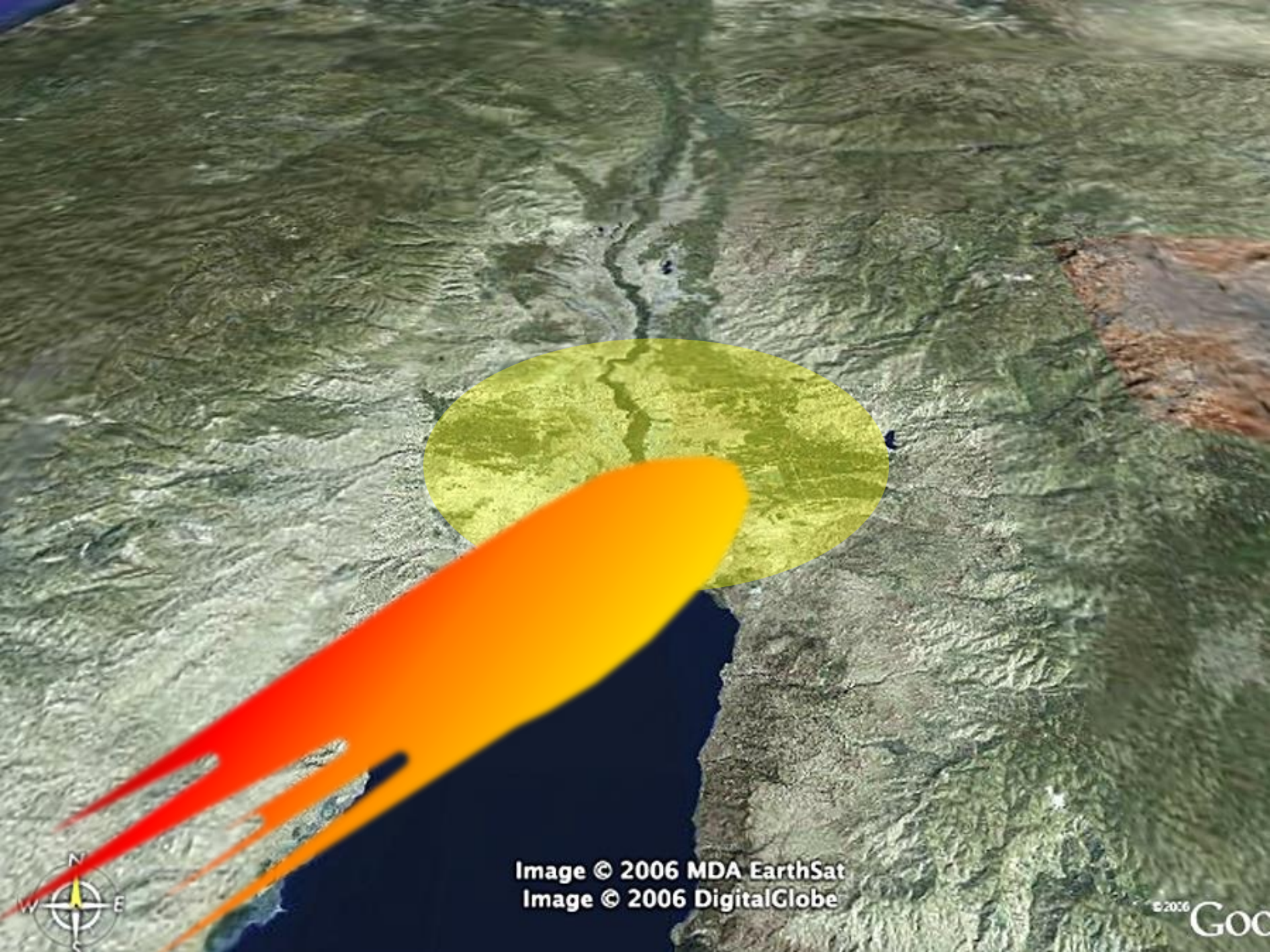


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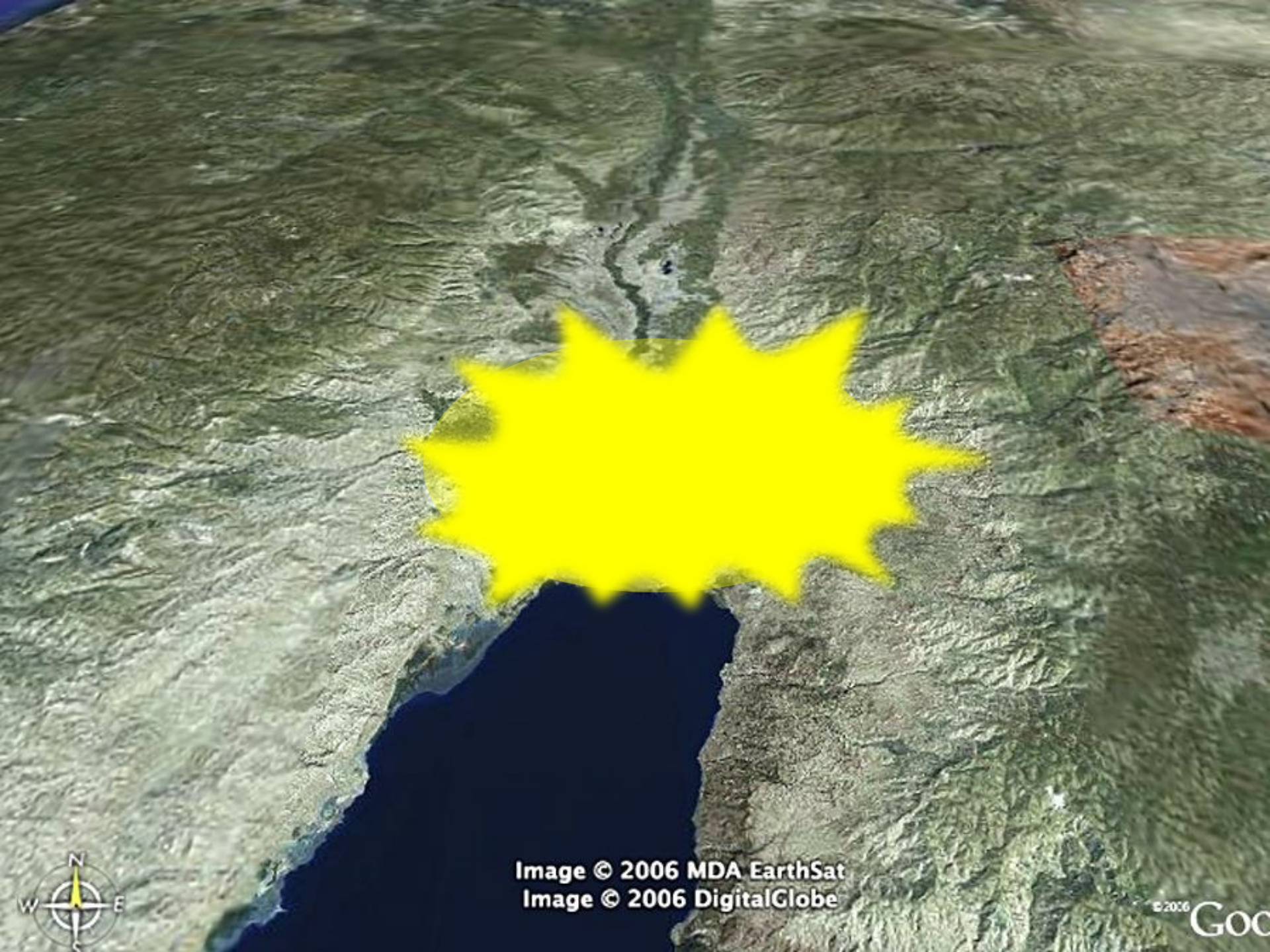


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What happens when
you ignore the biblical
text in the case of the
Kikkar geography?

Early Bronze Age Site Map



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The Sacred Bridge (Carta 2006)

Intermediate Bronze Age Site Map



BLANK !
(except for IKTANU)

The Sacred Bridge (Carta 2006)

Middle Bronze Age Site Map



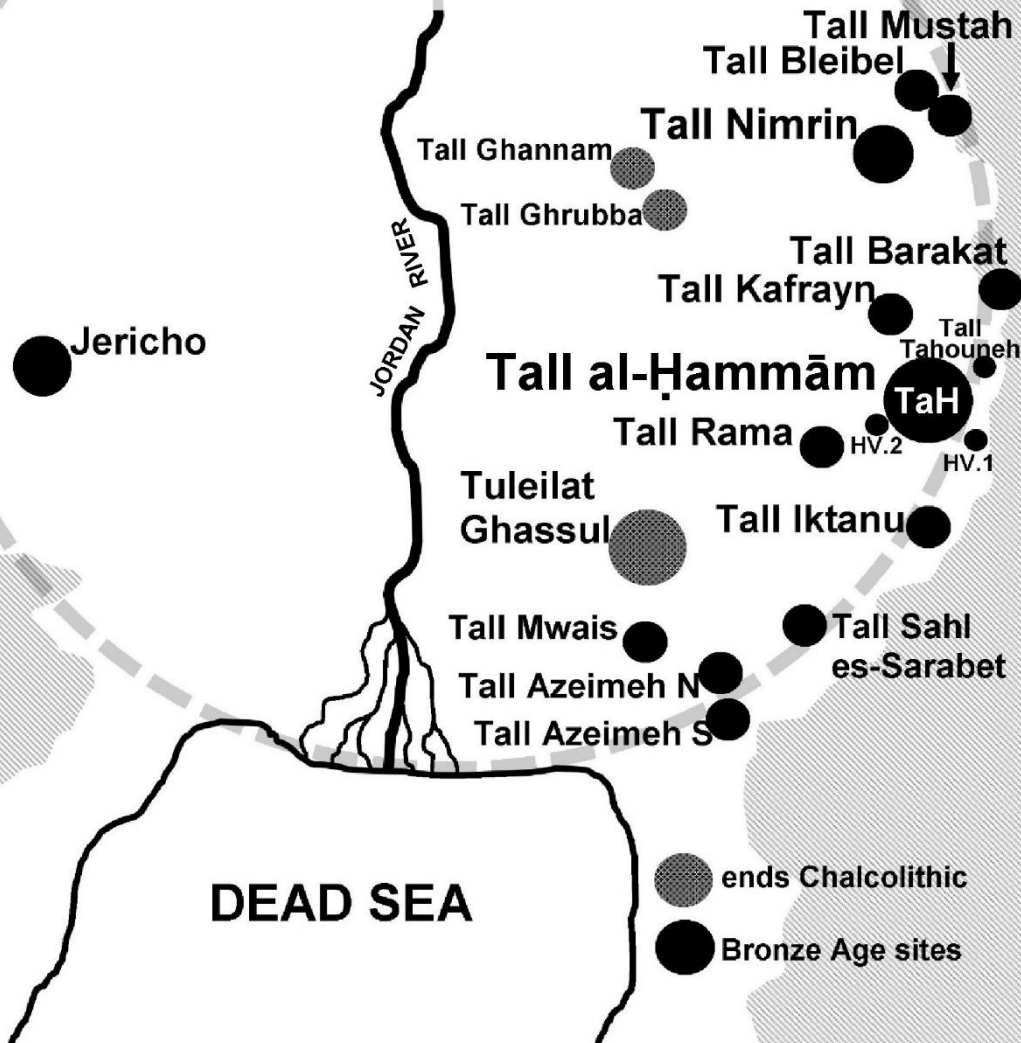
BLANK !

The Sacred Bridge (Carta 2006)

0km 5km 10km 15km

THE KIKKAR OF THE JORDAN

“The Land of the Kikkar”



Bronze Age
archaeological
sites in the
“Land of the
Kikkar”
(Gen 19:28)
identifiable
today as a
result of
TeHEP.

If in the past archaeologists
and Bible scholars had taken
the Sodom tales seriously,
they would have discovered
the civilization in the Land of
the Kikkar a long time ago.

They didn't, and they didn't.
We did, and we did.

