

Is the Bible reliable history?

Supporting Eyewitness Testimony
& Corroborating Physical Evidence



The CSI Test



- How do investigators solve a case?
- How do they determine whether or not a witness is trustworthy?



The CSI Test

- To get at the truth, an investigator will gather the following:
 - Supporting Eyewitness Accounts or Testimony
 - Corroborating Physical Evidence
 - Compelling Circumstantial Evidence

A Simple Example

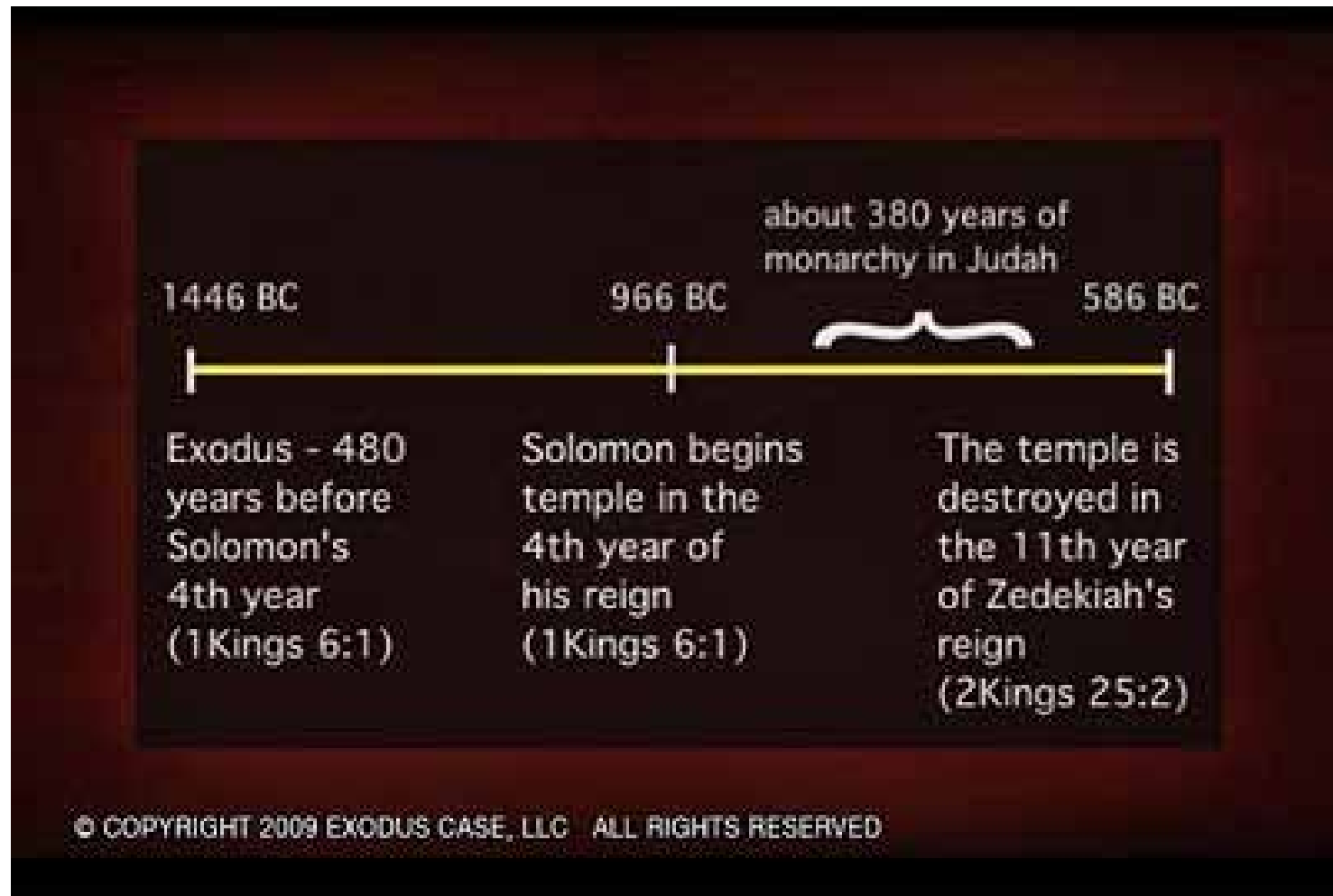




Enter into Evidence – The Exodus

- How do we know that the Bible is a reliable witness to history?
- Let's put it to the CSI Test! Does the following exist:
 - Supporting Eyewitness Accounts / Testimony
 - Corroborating Physical Evidence
 - Compelling Circumstantial Evidence

Some Background







Claim to be Examined

- Biblical Assertion: Egypt suffered 10 miraculous plagues brought on by God to free the Israelites

“So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.” – Exodus 3: 20

- Biblical Claim to be tested:
 - What happened: 10 Plagues took place
 - When did this occur: @1446BC
 - Where did this occur: Egypt
 - Who was involved: Egyptians and the Israelites

Entered into Evidence



- Supporting Eyewitness Testimony: *Ipuwer Papyrus*



Entered into Evidence



- Supporting Eyewitness Testimony: *Ipuwer Papyrus*

1. **Plague of Blood** (Exodus 7: 19 – 24)

Ipuwer Papyrus 2:5-6, says: "Plague is throughout the land. Blood is everywhere."

Ipuwer Papyrus 2:10, says: "The River (Nile) is Blood. Men shrank from tasting...and thirst for water."

2. **Plague of Hail and Fire** (Exodus 9: 22 – 26)

Ipuwer Papyrus 9:23: "The fire ran along the ground. There was hail, and fire mingled with the hail."

Ipuwer Papyrus 2:10: "Forsooth (*Help Us*), gates, columns, and walls are consumed by fire."

3. **Plague of Darkness** (Exodus 10: 21 – 23)

Ipuwer Papyrus 9:11: "The land is without light."

4. **Plague on Egyptian Livestock** (Exodus 9: 1 – 7)

Ipuwer Papyrus 5:5: "All animals, their hearts weep. Cattle moan."

5. **Plague on Egypt's Firstborn** (Exodus 12)

Ipuwer Papyrus 2:13: "He who places his brother in the ground is everywhere."

Ipuwer Papyrus 3:14: "It is groaning that is throughout the land, mingled with lamentations."

Ipuwer Papyrus 4:3: "Forsooth, the children of princes are dashed against the walls."

Ipuwer Papyrus 6:12: "Forsooth, the children of the princes are cast out in the streets."

Entered into Evidence



- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Amduat Wall Mural*



Entered into Evidence



- Compelling Circumstantial Evidence: *Dream Stela of Thutmose IV*



Entered into Evidence



- Compelling Circumstantial Evidence: *Dream Stela of Thutmose IV*



Entered into Evidence



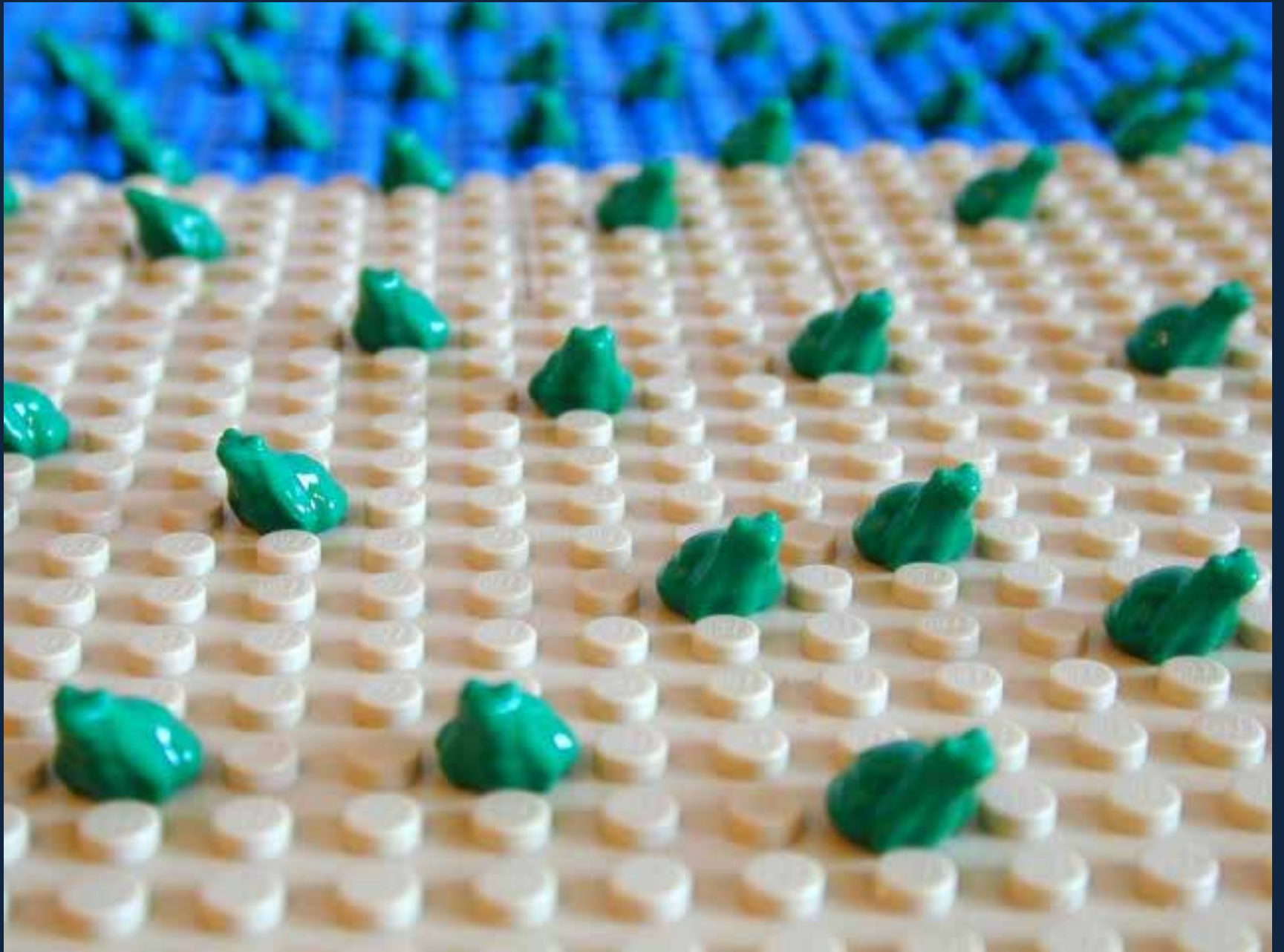
- Compelling Circumstantial Evidence? *Nisan 14, 1446 BC*





























Claim to be Examined



- Biblical Assertion: A parting of the Red Sea took place that allowed Israel to escape. The Red Sea later enclosed on the pursuing Egyptian Army resulting in their drowning

“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.” – Exodus 14: 27

- Biblical Claim to be tested:
 - What happened: Red Sea divided; Egyptian Army drowned
 - When did this occur: @1446BC
 - Where did this occur: Red Sea
 - Who was involved: Egyptian Army

Entered into Evidence



- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Mycenaean Grave Stela*



Entered into Evidence



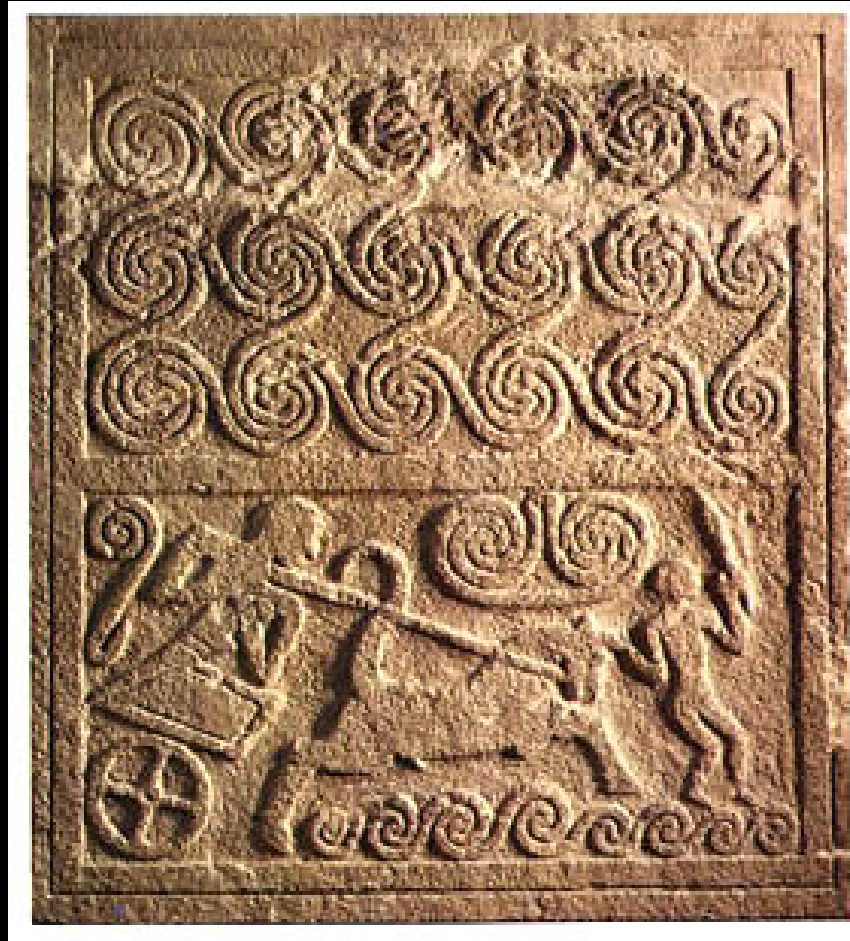
- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Mycenaean Grave Stela*



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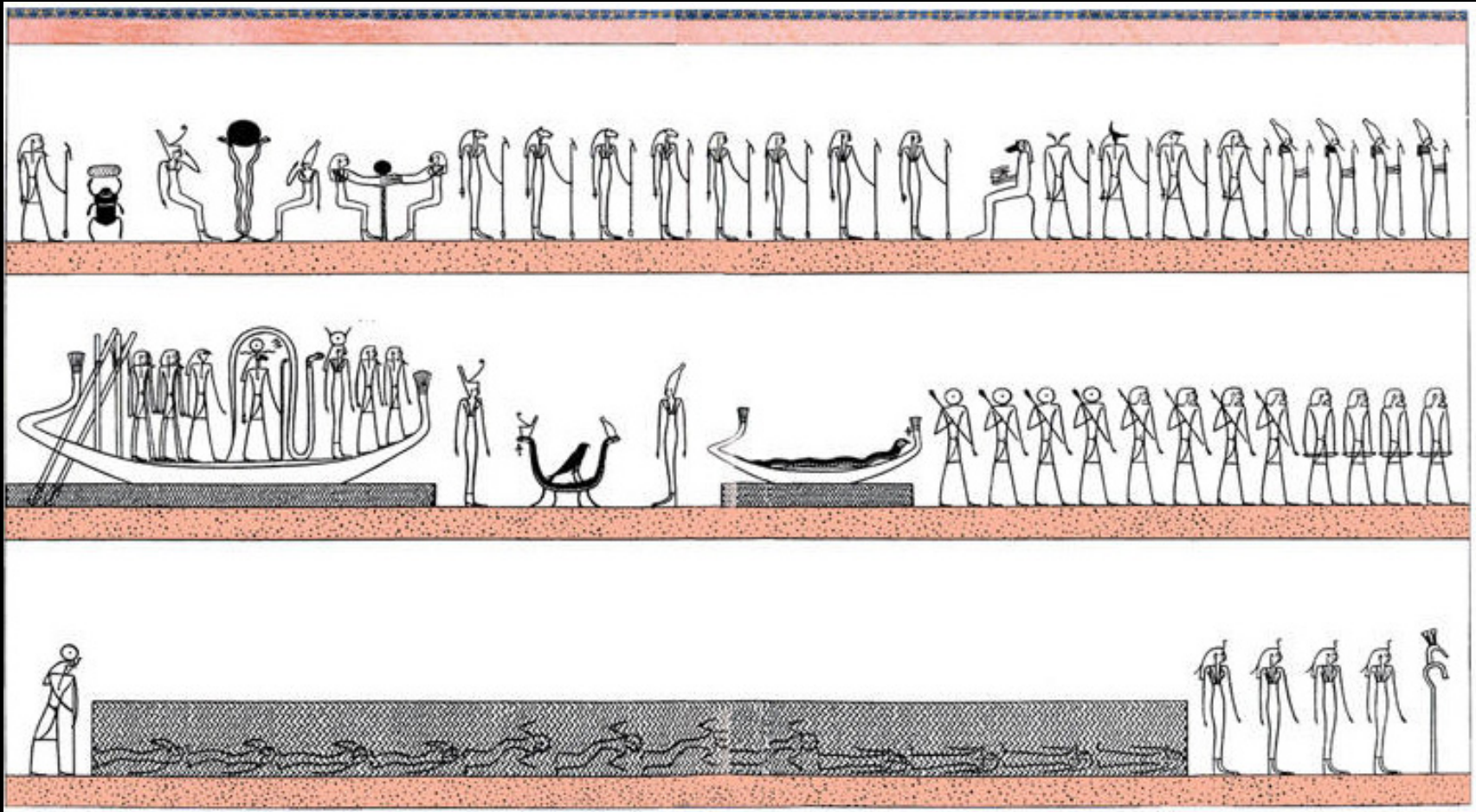
- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Amduat Wall Mural*



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- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Amduat Wall Mural*

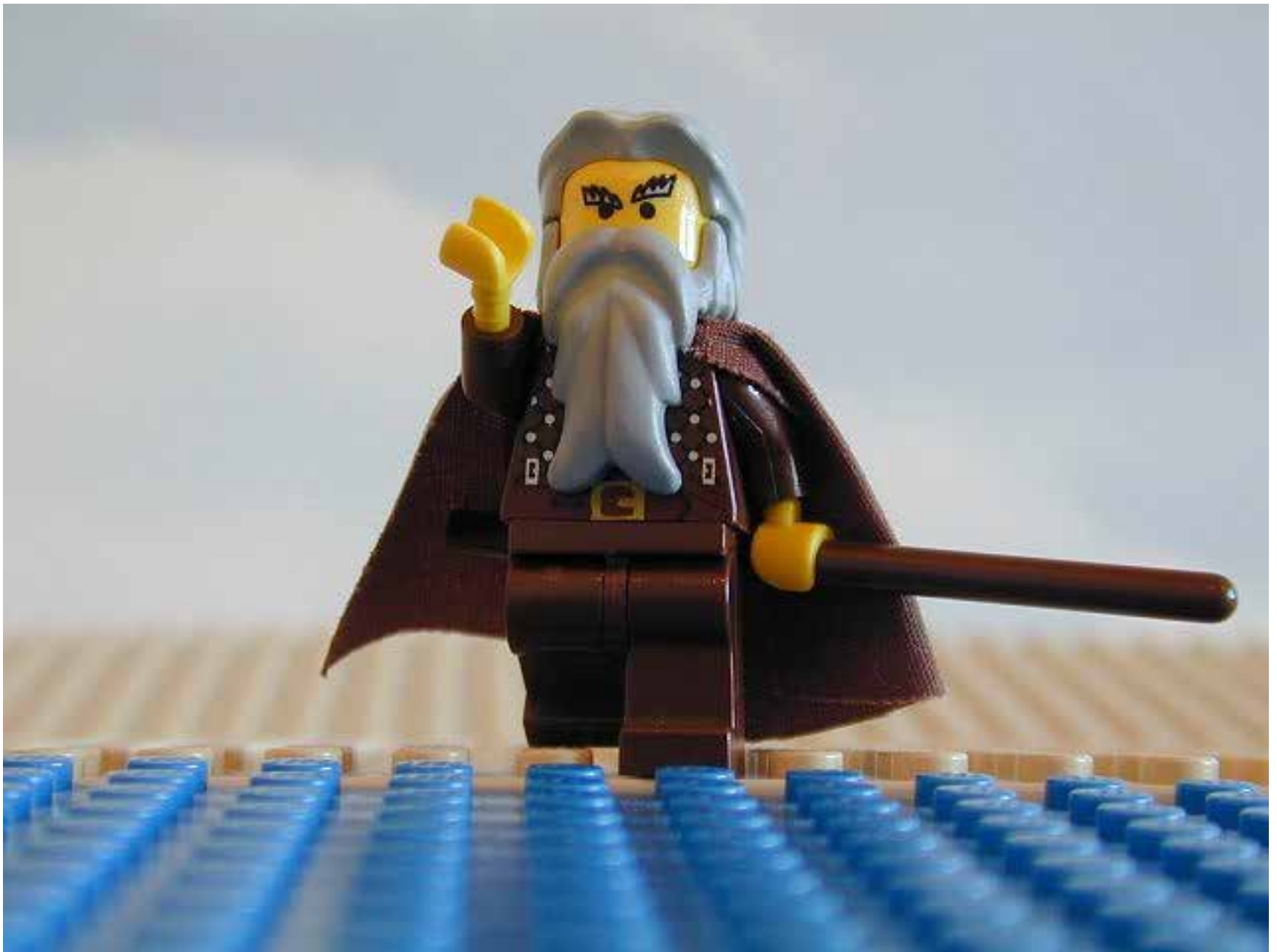


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- Compelling Circumstantial Evidence: *Amenhotep III and Tiye*





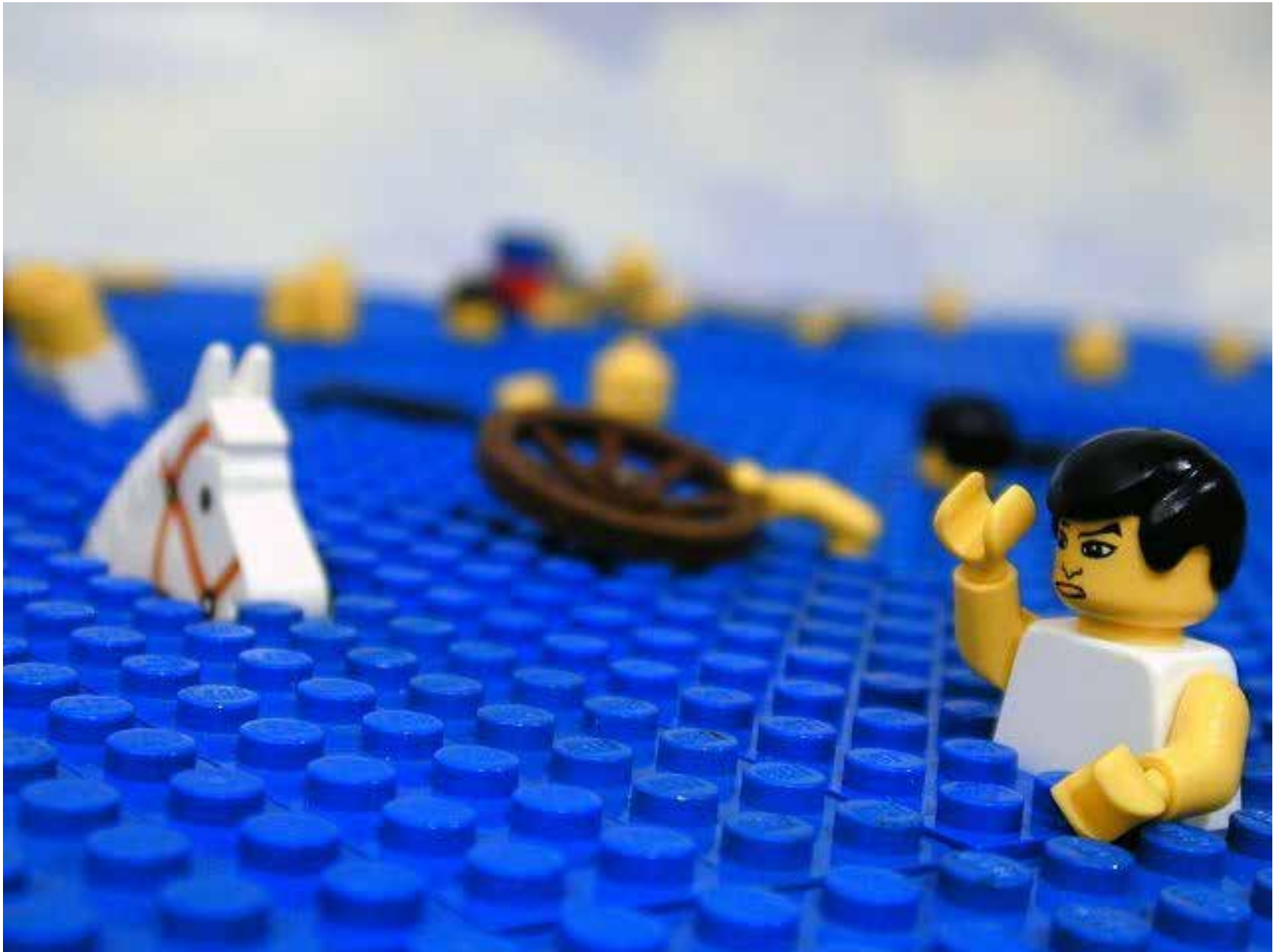














Claim to be Examined

- Biblical Assertion: A bronze serpent was lifted onto a pole in the Wilderness. Those who looked at it were healed.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live”.” – Numbers 21: 8

- Biblical Claim to be tested:
 - What happened: Serpent was lifted on a pole for healing
 - When did this occur: late 1400s BC
 - Where did this occur: Wilderness near Edom (Today's Jordan)
 - Who was involved: Israelites

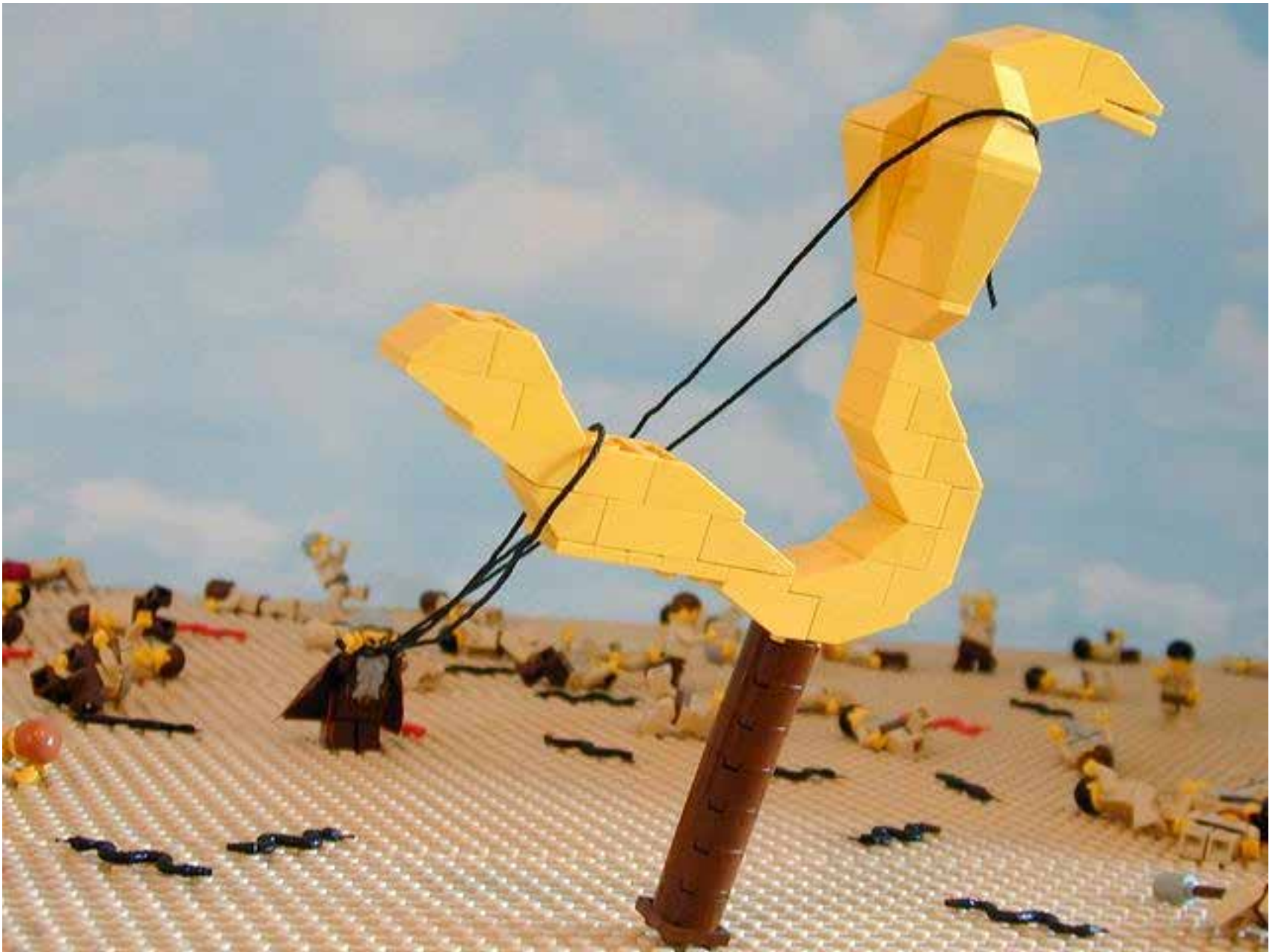
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- Compelling Circumstantial Evidence: *Asclepius (Medical Symbol)*







Claim to be Examined



- Biblical Assertion: Israelite spies encountered Giants in the Land of Canaan during the Wilderness Wanderings.

“And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “...The people whom we saw ... are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants)...”

– Numbers 13: 32, 33

- Biblical Claim to be tested:
 - What happened: Giants existed in the Land of Canaan
 - When did this occur: @ 1444 BC
 - Where did this occur: Canaan (Today's Israel)
 - Who was involved: Canaanite Tribes



Entered into Evidence

- Supporting Eyewitness Testimony: *Egyptian Execration Texts*



Entered into Evidence



- Supporting Eyewitness Testimony: *Anastasi Papyrus*





Entered into Evidence

- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Ramses II Relief*

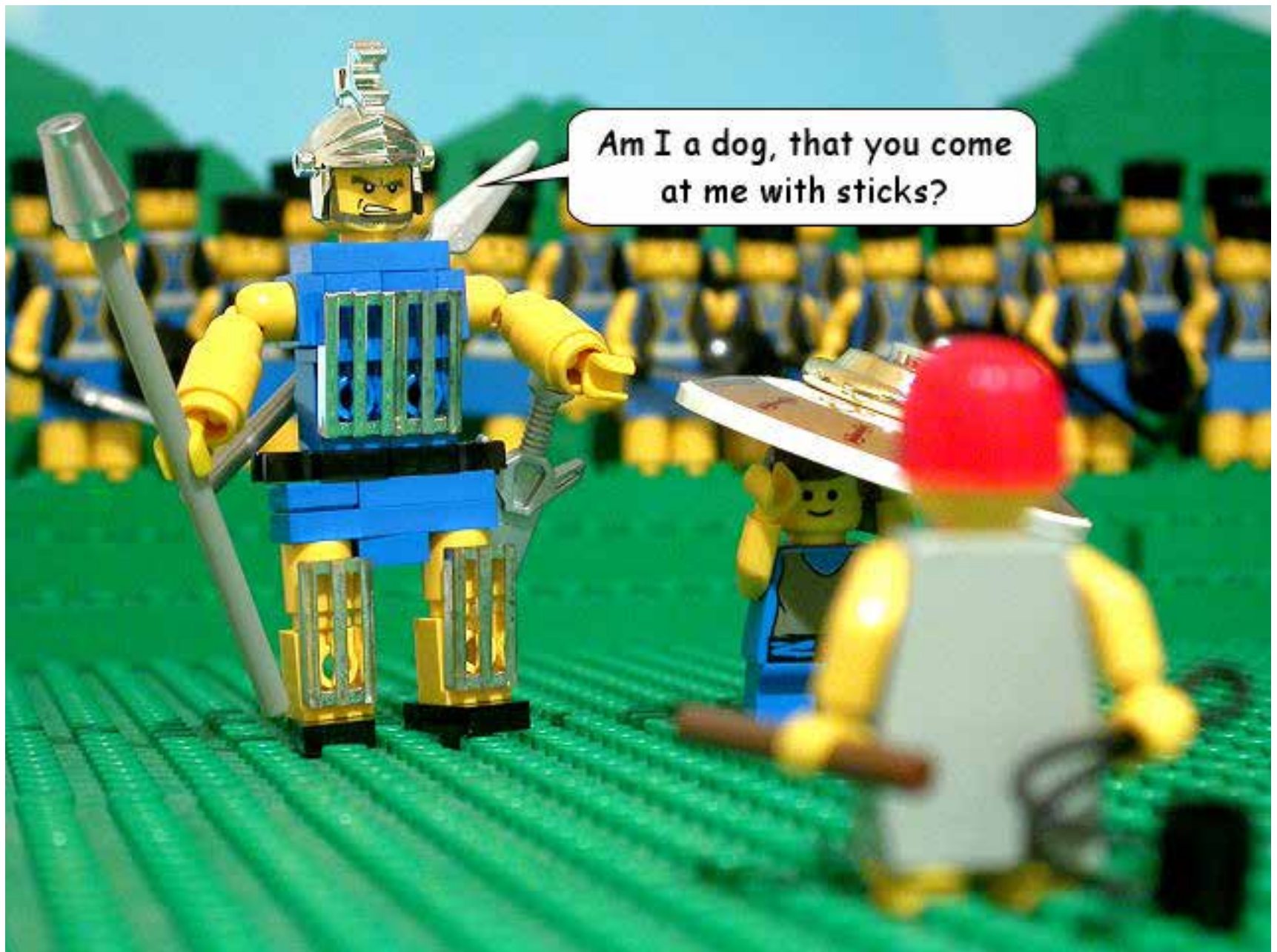


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- Compelling Circumstantial Evidence: *Evidence of Other Peoples of Enormous Stature in Antiquity*
 1. Evidence has been unearthed by archaeologists / paleontologists of other tribes besides the Anakim, who appear to have been of unusually tall stature: **Avvim, Rephaim, Emim, and Zamzummim**.
 1. Skeletal **remains unearthed** in both Gezer, Israel and at Tel Es-Sa'ideyeh, Jordan of people who were between 7' and 10' tall.
 2. Bet **Guvrin** is also called "Beit Jibrim" of the "House of Gibborim" - in effect, all of these translate to the "House of the Giants".
 3. A 1st Century Roman historian by the name of **Pliny**, testifies that a 9' 9" high giant named Gabbaras commanded one of the Roman legions (Legion Adiutrix).
 1. Artifacts dug up by British archeologist, **Sir Flinders Petrie**, suggest people of enormous stature. He was digging at Beth-Paleth, some 18 miles south of Gaza (land of the Philistines).
 2. In 1928, the **Ras Shamra Texts** were found on the site of the ancient city of Ugarit (located in Syria). Written during the time of Joshua (i.e., 1400 BC), these speak of the existence of the "Rephaim" - said to be a race of giants.







Claim to be Examined

- Biblical Assertion: The walls of Jericho collapsed which enabled Israel to conquer the Amorite stronghold. The city was then set aflame by the Israelites (but was not looted).

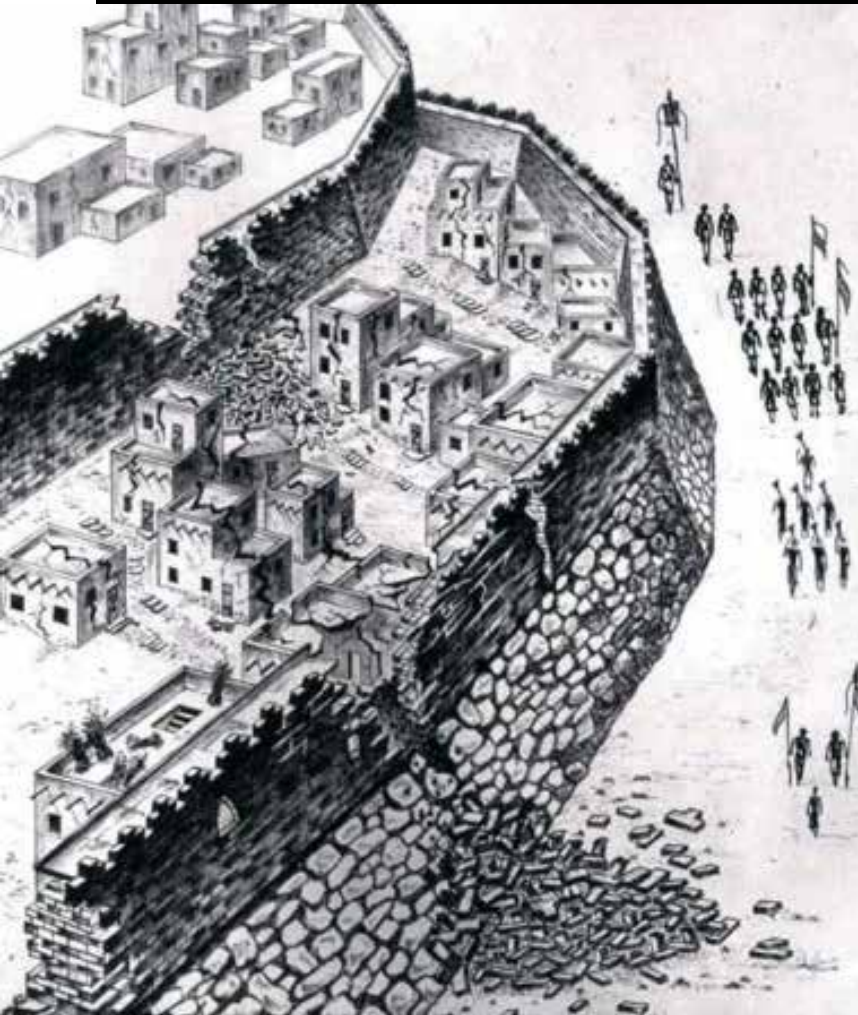
“...And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into *Jericho* ... and they took the city ... They burned the city and all that was in it with fire. ” – Joshua 6: 20, 24

- Biblical Claim to be tested:
 - What happened: Jericho's walls collapsed; city was burned
 - When did this occur: @ 1406 BC
 - Where: Ancient city of Jericho (West Bank in Israel)



Entered into Evidence

- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Jericho's Walls*



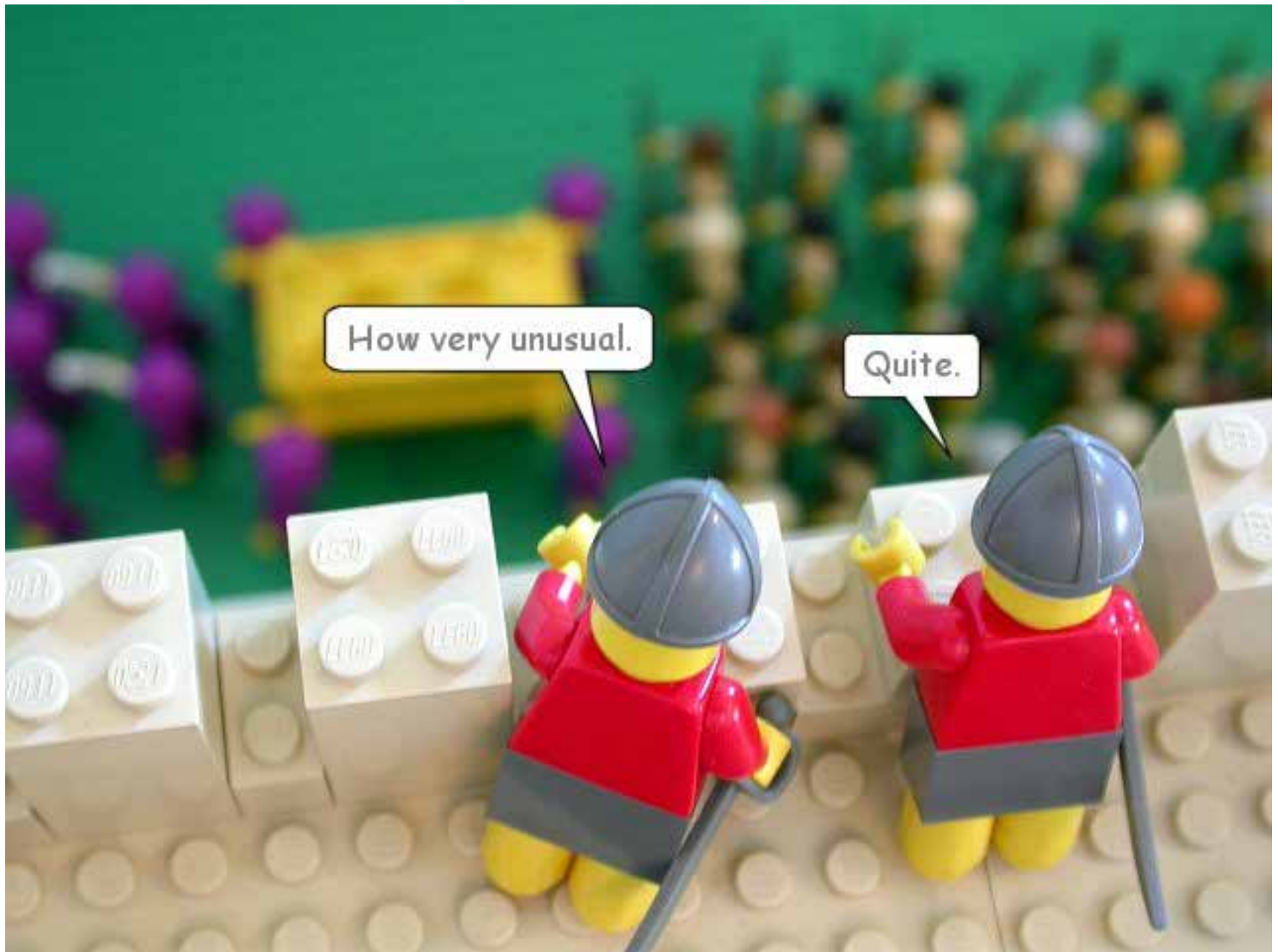


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- Corroborating Physical Evidence: *Jericho's Burn Layer*







How very unusual.

Quite.













Claim to be Examined

- Biblical Assertion: Israelites (i.e., the Hebrew Nation) conquer the Promised Land and force out many of the Canaanites.

"So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; ... And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon." – Joshua 10: 40 – 41

- Biblical Claim to be tested:
 - What happened: Canaan was conquered by Israel
 - When did this occur: @ 1300's BC
 - Where did this occur: Canaan (Today's Israel)
 - Who was involved: Israelites and Canaanites

Entered into Evidence



- Supporting Eyewitness Testimony: *Amarna Tablets*



<u>hal</u> -qu-mi gab-bi ^{amēlūt} <u>ha</u> -zi-a-nu-ti	51	All the <u>local rulers</u> are lost.
ia-a-nu-mi ^{amēl} <u>ha</u> -zi-a-nu a-na šarri bēli	52	Not a single <u>ruler</u> remains to the king, the lord.
li-din šarru pa-mi-š ú a-na ^{amēlūt} pi-da-ti	53	Let the king turn his attention to the <u>archers</u>
ù lu-si-mi ^{amēlūt} <u>sā</u> bu pi-da-ti	54	so that archery troops
šarri bēli-ia ia-a-nu-mi mâtât a-na šarri	55	of the king, my lord, go forth. None of the king's lands remain.
^{amēlūt} <u>Ha</u> -bi-ru <u>ha</u> -bat gab-bi mâtât šarri	56	The ' <u>Apiru</u> ' have plundered all the king's lands.
šum-ma i-ba-ās - šī ^{amēl} <u>sā</u> bē pi-da-ti	57	If the archery troops arrive
i-na šatti an-ni-ti i-ba-ā š-šī mâtât	58	this year, then the lands of
šarri bēli ù šum-ma ia-a-nu-mi ^{amēl} <u>sā</u> bē pi-da-ti	59	the king, my lord, will survive. But if the archery troops do not arrive,
<u>hal</u> -qa-at mâtât šarri bēli-ia	60	then the lands of the king, my lord, are lost.



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