

SIXTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF
THE EASTERN HILL OF JERUSALEM.

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§ 1. *General Progress.*

WORK was resumed on "Ophel" in the end of April, and since then we have been busy "filling in" for the most part. "Filling in" is a welcome item in the Excavator's programme when he is "snowed under" with materials to write up and photograph. It gives him the opportunity of sweeping and cleansing and classifying in preparation for the reception of fresh discoveries. My work of filling in, however, is robbed of this pleasurable anticipation, since it has not been possible to buy up this narrow strip of land and leave these ancient walls exposed to view.

Meanwhile, I have filled up the space between the Walls, but I built up the door-way of the "Great Cave" and left it empty. Part of this large dump came from the Cave itself, having been put there by Capt. Parker. The only real interest I had in the work of filling up was to watch the Dump very carefully for any small objects that might have been passed over, when the men removed it from the Cave. They had to work in semi-darkness and the filling in was wet and lumpy. It would have been pardonable, therefore, if small objects had escaped their notice. Nothing, however, of any importance has turned up, except a few Hebrew inscribed Jar Handles.

I have been particularly keen to watch for more Hebrew Ostraka, and impatient to see whether the Ostrakon which we found in the Great Cave was a solitary instance, or, as on-lookers are apt to think, one of many, the rest of which had been overlooked.

I have handled and myself washed carefully every likely scrap of pottery found in the Dump, but have not had the luck to find another Ostrakon. Very few scraps of pottery, in fact, were left in the Dump. The men had collected practically every sherd as they emptied the Cave, and every sherd was carefully examined at the time.

My workmen therefore deserve credit for having secured the solitary Ostrakon that fell to our luck.

§ 2. *The Contents of Field No. 9.*

The section which I have just reburied is by far the most interesting part that has been uncovered during our operations. At the suggestion of Dr. Masterman I have got a professional photographer to make a panoramic view of the remains of the Inner or Jebusite Wall in Field No. 9, showing the later accretions. (See Plate I.)

In the Photograph, A—B is the section of the Rock Scarp on which the Jebusite Wall stood.

The point A is just above the entrance to the Great Cave. The surface of this scarp is only 14 feet below the present level of occupation. The Jebusite Wall was built some 6 or 8 feet back from the outside edge of the scarp, and one or two courses of it are still *in situ* on the top of the scarp. The block C is of large dimensions and obviously belongs to the original Wall. Above these one or two courses, however, the masonry is Arabic.

The Arabs used the old Wall as a foundation for a house, or houses. The point E marks the corner of one of these houses and E—E' marks the twelve feet breadth of an Arab street, which goes down to the surface of the scarp.

Another Solomonic Repair.

In making this street the Arabs pushed out the three bottom courses of the Jebusite Wall. The masonry fell in three courses and lay in such a position, as suggested it had been part of a half-arch, that spanned the space between the Walls and carried the street across it. This fallen masonry is shown on Plate II (K), but it has been removed in Plate I. It was not an arch. It was simply the three lowest courses of the Jebusite Wall that had been pushed out to make way for the street; and the interesting fact about it is that the lowest course and part of the second consisted of stones with Solomonic dressing.

There had, therefore, been at this point another repair by Solomon on the walls of the City of David, his father. The large block marked D (Plate I), also bears Solomonic dressing, and is the only block of this repair by Solomon left *in situ*.

The south side of the Arab street is outlined by the Wall of another Arab house. The cistern (F) of this house was built on to the face of the ancient Wall and rests on its three lower courses.

The plaster is late Arab plaster, and is noteworthy for the fact that the coat beneath the finishing coat is full of carefully chosen round pebbles. These pebbles serve as a key to fix the finishing coat upon.

Pebbles of this nature, all of a similar size as here, were used for keying the final coat of plaster in the storerooms of the Roman house which I uncovered in Field 7. The plaster, however, was different. In this cistern it is full of potsherds broken small. These give the surface a reddish appearance. This plaster is so hard that the men declared it had been mixed with oil. Their tools could scarcely break it.

This cistern, therefore, has preserved to us beneath it the three lowest courses of the ancient Jebusite Wall *in situ*, G—G (Plate I). Under the southern edge of the cistern the rock dips for 8 to 10 feet. This dip was built up by the Jebusites, just as we see similar defects in the rock filled in with masonry in the present Walls of Jerusalem (Plate I, H—H). At this point, therefore, we had a good long stretch of the ancient Jebusite Wall *in situ*, and the section that filled the dip in the rock, H—H, is about 12 to 14 feet in height. Unfortunately, in Plate I, the filling in had concealed all but the three or four uppermost courses of this fine example of Jebusite masonry, before it was photographed. It was shown however on another photo in the January *Quarterly Statement*.

The Outer Walls.

Opposite to the Inner or Jebusite Wall, parallel to it and about 27 feet out, runs the Outer Wall with the later Outer Wall assigned to the Greek period on the top of it (Plate II, P—P). Before filling in I spent a few days in getting down to the lowest foundations of this older outer wall. We have spoken of it as the "Hezekiah" Outer Wall. There is no doubt that it is an outer wall of the period of the Kings. It may be even earlier than Hezekiah. It is sufficient to say that it must belong to the period of the Kings.

Opposite to the mouth of the Great Cave I had already exposed this "Hezekiah" Wall down to 23 feet below the surface. Fourteen of these twenty-three feet were masonry. The upper 9 feet is accumulated debris. I have now continued down to 30 feet or more and have exposed about 7 to 8 feet of the foundation of this wall, finding, as I expected, that it rests on debris.

The stratification between the walls contains a complete mixture of pottery from about 8 feet below the present surface down to at least 20 feet.

At 23 to 26 feet I found nothing but Canaanite and Early Hebrew potsherds. Spouts of Canaanite lamps, complete ring-base lamps of the Early Hebrew period, Red pebble-ring-burnished ware of the same period, plain red of the Early Hebrew period, Canaanite finely burnished red fragments, are some of the specimens found. There were two or three fragments of the Maccabaeen period; but these cannot be regarded as safe evidence, as I am sure they came from the north bank of the Pit, which was a veritable dump for Rhodian Jar-handles at 15 feet depth. The men made solitary pilgrimages to this boundary whenever they wanted to earn bakshish.

At 26 feet however they turned out a complete mixture of potsherds and inscribed handles and lamps of the Maccabaeen and Seleucid times, and of Hebrew Post-exilic of the Persian period (5th century B.C.).

At 30 feet down they turned out Early Hebrew Red burnished jugs, red ring-burnished basin fragments, Jebusite handles and slabs, Hebrew heavy base lamps, and Early Canaanite burnished ware. One fragment of interest is part of a large, somewhat over life-size hand from a statue in green marble. Several references, therefore, seem obvious.

1. The space between the two walls was clear in Maccabaeen times down to a depth of somewhere over 23 feet beneath the present surface level of occupation. This means that the cave mouth was also open and the cave in use at that date (160 B.C.).

2. The Maccabaeans swept out the city and filled up the space between the Walls from 23 feet down or thereby up to within 10 feet of the present surface. We find Maccabaeen pottery of indisputable date at 23 feet down and we find the Maccabaeen stratum again at 8 to 10 feet down. The intervening space between 23 and 10 feet is filled up with a mixture of Early Canaanite, Early Hebrew and Post-exilic Hebrew pottery.

3. At 30 feet depth we find the deposit of debris and pottery which began to accumulate after this Outer Wall was built. As this pottery is all Canaanite and Early Hebrew, it seems an unavoidable inference that this outer wall was built in pre-exilic times either by Hezekiah or Manasseh, or some other of the Kings of Judah.

The Outer Face of the Hezekiah Wall.

As I have never been able to expose the outer face of the "Hezekiah" Wall in Field 9A, lest I should undermine the Greek Wall above it, before filling in I put the men on to the work of exposing the North end of it in Field 9. They have gone down to a depth of 18 to 20 feet but no trace of the built outer face is visible. The stones have all been removed for building purposes at a time when this face of the wall was very close to the foot-path. The filling, however, shows that this Hezekiah Wall was of the nature of an earth-filled rampart with double stone-built face. The filling consists mainly of earth and stones. A very small quantity of pottery was found; but as we have not sufficient guarantee as to where the filling of the wall ceased and later accumulation of debris began, no safe inference can be based on it.

Such pottery as we found is, I think, to be associated rather with the building of the later "Greek" wall.

In Field 7, however, the outer face of the wall is complete. The upper courses of masonry have been pressed out by the weight of accumulated debris above them; but otherwise the face is perfect.

We are meantime engaged in clearing away the sloping debris accumulated on the face of it from the Tower southwards so that the National Monument may be completely exposed.

The stratification here is not so interesting as it promised to be. There is an enormous accumulation of potsherds, but they are practically all Maccabaeen and late Hebrew pottery of the Persian period (5th century B.C.). We never got below the Maccabaeen until we have reached over 30 feet perpendicular depth down the face of the Tower.

This Outer Face of the Hezekiah Wall which we are now clearing is the part which joins on to the Great Tower and stands in front of the south step glacis. As I said before it runs flush with the face of the Tower.

Apparently there has been a great clearance of the City thrown over the top at this point, the main ingredients of which are this late Hebrew pottery and Maccabaeen.

I have now come to the conclusion that there was a very definite reason for the building of this outer wall. It was built to strengthen an assailable point, and it naturally had to be continued and joined

on to the Tower. The inner wall seems to have been quite unassailable from the north step bastion down to the south step bastion. From the mouth of the Great Cave, however, and southwards throughout the length of Field 9 the inner wall seems to have been very much more difficult to hold, and much more assailable. In fact, there is positive proof that this had been a favourite point of attack. Thus we find a Davidic repair of over 20 feet in Field 9, Pit C, and a Solomonic repair of 15 to 16 feet in Field 9, Pit A.

This seems to indicate that it was at this point that David himself gained admission to the lower city.

If Josephus is right in saying that David easily gained entrance to the lower city, but was unable to take the Akra, then it may be that this great tower marks the southern corner of the Akra; and that a wall ran westwards from the Tower, which served as the southern wall of the citadel and the northern wall of the lower city as well. I have all along felt that this was so, and that the present footpath running east and west between Fields 5 and 7 may mark the line of this southern wall of the citadel. This southern wall would have consisted of an outer and an inner face of built stones with a mass of earth and stone filling between. As a matter of fact in Field 7 during Dr. Macalister's time here we did find a wall, the use and purpose of which we could not explain. It was of a nature such as we should expect for the outer face of such a rampart, and it ran straight from the Great Tower almost due west or a little to southwest towards the Tyropoeon Valley.

Nothing of very striking importance has been found either in digging for the foundation of the "Hezekiah" Wall on its inner face in Field 9, or in exposing its outer face in Fields 7 and 9.

A number of four-lettered Hebrew inscribed handles (יהבט and יהבט); and a good number of Inscribed Rhodian jar-handles are amongst the most interesting finds. Some of the Rhodian handles bear abbreviated inscriptions on a very small neat stamp, which seem to be new. These are like those described by Reisner as "Monogram stamps" (*Samaria*, I, p. 315), though the letters are new. He found some as "Sub-stamps" attached to Rose-stamps, and others he found them unattached. I have not observed any instances in Dr. Macalister's collection from Gezer.