

Where is the Real Mount Sinai? (The Journey Continues) | with Tim Mahoney

(May 12, 2023)

Frank:

Ladies and gentlemen, where is the real Mount Sinai? There have been more than a dozen mountains proposed. Does any one of them show more promise than any other? Well, we're going to get into it a little bit today, actually a lot. today. We're also going to talk a little bit about the evidence for the Exodus itself. Because quite frequently, you hear minimalists, archaeological minimalists, claiming, the Exodus never occurred, or it occurred in a different century than when we think it occurred, if it occurred at all. What's the evidence for it?

Well, my friend Tim Mahoney is an award-winning director. He's done six feature films, and one of them is going to be in theaters this Monday and Wednesday nights, May 15, and May 17. And his website is PatternsOfEvidence.com. That's where you can get tickets to this. But we're going to talk a little bit about the film today. What's in it? Here are some of the films, these documentaries he's put together: Patterns of Evidence Mount Sinai, Part One and Part Two. Part Two comes out May 15 and May 17 in theaters. He's also done the Red Sea Miracle, Parts One and Two. He's done the Moses Controversy and the Exodus. And Tim is the founder of Thinking Man Films and Media.

He's out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He just got over two feet of snow there, just about a week ago. And he does international documentaries. The film that he has been working on for 20 years is the one that is coming to theaters this Monday and Wednesday nights. We had Tim on about six or eight months ago when Part One came out. But now Part Two is coming out. So, we're going to hear what mountains he actually evaluates here in Part Two of Mount Sinai. And it's always great having Tim on. By the way, he's got a great website PatternsOfEvidence.com. You have to check it out. Tim, how are you?

Tim:

I'm great. Thanks, Frank, for having me on.

Frank:

Oh, absolutely. You're digging out of snow and it's May. What's going on up there, man? You're in Minnesota. Why do you still live in Minnesota when you get snow in May? Aren't you ready to move to Florida, or what?

Tim:

Yeah, well, my daughter did actually. My daughter and her husband said we're done with this. We're going to Florida. So, they left. But the rest of us are here. And that's the challenge. When



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all your relatives are in an area, it's hard to know where you belong anymore. Especially when there's this much snow.

Frank:

Now you actually did a documentary about coming home. And now You're probably thinking of moving your home, right? Like, let's get out of here. [Laughter] Well, let's go back 20 years, 2003. This is where this kind of started for you, this sort of fascination with the Exodus. What happened in 2003 that said, you know, I have to really make some documentaries about this?

Tim:

Well, I'll tell you, it actually started a little bit before that in 2002, when I had heard that there were people that had come out of Saudi Arabia, and they had taken photograph. And I had seen those photographs. And they were showing evidence of altars, pillars. The Bible talks about Mount Sinai having Moses had built an altar there and there were pillars. They talked about a golden calf altar and a graveyard for people who had been killed worshipping the golden calf. All of that fascinated me. And now I have been given the opportunity to talk with this couple. And it was Jim and Penny Caldwell.

Frank:

Yes, I know Jim and Penny. I've talked to them myself. They're great people. Yeah.

Tim:

Yes. And we had met with them over the phone the first time. And there's another person by the name of Dr. Leonard Moller. And Dr. Moller was a DNA research scientist. He had been in another film earlier that I saw. And as I was watching that film, I really felt that in my heart, that the Lord was saying, that's the man that you need to talk to. And I called him up in Sweden. And I said, Dr. Mohler, I'm working on a movie on the Exodus. And he just interrupted me, and he said, yes. I was trying to explain to him, that I said, I'm working on this movie, and he goes, yes. And I said, what I wanted to ask you was, would you come to Minnesota so we could meet and talk about making a film? And before I could say it, he said, yes.

And then later he told me when he came to Minnesota, that the Lord had already told him that someone would call. And he was to say yes. Wow, he was saying yes before I even asked the question. And he came. And at that same time, we get this other connection with the Caldwells. Now, here's what's really interesting, Frank. Jim Caldwell, he and his wife, for people who don't know, Jim worked in the oil industry. And they thought they were just going to go there for a little while, and make some money, make some really good money and come home.

Frank:

In Saudi Arabia?

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Tim:

Yes, in Saudi Arabia. I'm sorry. Yes, they went to Saudi Arabia. And they thought they were going to come home with all the money they made and buy a hardware store, and work in the hardware business. And well, that didn't happen. And Jim and Penny started hearing about this location. There's other parts and back parts of this story. And they started searching for Mount Sinai on their own. And that led them to Jebel al Lawz. And this is where a lot of this footage and photographs came from, from this couple over the course of a number of years, photographing all this.

So, here we are, our first phone call. And Jim tells us that he made it to the peak of the mountain. And I can't remember exactly the date. I want to say September 17, but I might be wrong. But he made it there to one peak. And he says it was my birthday. Jim, it was on his birthday. And then he made it to the second peak a little while later on his other birthday. And Leonard Moller paused. And what's interesting about this was that, when we found out what the date was, that both men were born on the same day. Both Jim and Leonard Moller, were born on that day, that gym made it to the top of the peak. Not only that, they were born the same year.

And I thought, well, that's kind of interesting. How often does that happen? Two men on the other side of the world, both are passionate and wanting to explore this location of Mount Sinai. Well, we ended up meeting another person by the name of Dr. Glen Fritz, and he had some connections with tour groups. And we were able to connect with people within the Saudi government. And we were able to get a tour in 2003, in May of 2003. May 1st is when we went in. And we gave him the locations that we wanted to go to. And the Caldwells, when we got there, they couldn't believe it. Because it was so difficult when they were living there to go to these places.

Frank:

Wow.

Tim:

The first three days were great, until we got to Jebel al Lawz. And that's when this great, wonderful trip that we thought was impossible became very, very difficult. So, that's when the authorities of the area came out and told us you've got to get out of here. You're not allowed here. But we were supposed to be there because the government said we could be there. It was a big problem. And I was somewhat the center of attention, because I was the guy with the camera. And once they found out that we were there, and there's a connection to Moses, that in 2003 was not a good thing.

Frank:

And you had permission to be there from the authorities, but the local authorities when you got there, shooed you off?

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Tim:

Yes. Yeah, it was confrontational. That began two hard weeks for us. Because, you know, we were supposed to be in this area and in different sites. And every time we were around there, we were being followed and being told to move, and it was a big problem. And it was very stressful. I did some amazing photography. And that's when I first started filming this film, which we now call journey to Mount Sinai.

But the challenge was that for everyone's safety, the guide felt that you've got to give me this footage. You know, this is bigger than what I thought it was. And the concern the Caldwells had was real. This was a site that was off limits. And you know, when Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams went there. And then this began with Ron Wyatt early on when he got there, and he got arrested. So, these sites were fenced. They had guards. This was a very difficult place. Then it became a very controversial location to look at.

Frank:

Well, we're going to see why it's even considered as the real Mount Sinai. Doesn't everybody know that Sinai is in the Sinai Peninsula? I mean, that's been the traditional site for centuries. Why would we ever suggest that Mount Sinai could be somewhere else? Or Saudi Arabia? We'll talk about it right after the break. You're listening to "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" with me, Frank Turek, on the American Family Radio Network. Back in two.

Where is the real Mount Sinai? What evidence do we have that there even was an Exodus. We're talking to documentary filmmaker, Tim Mahoney. This is I believe, Tim, this is your sixth documentary in this genre about Exodus. And this one is going to hit theaters Monday night, May 15, and Wednesday night, May 17. If you go to PatternsOfEvidence.com, ladies and gentlemen. You can figure out where it is in your area. And it's well worth seeing. I saw a rough cut about a month and a half ago.

And Tim, you're saying it's even better than the rough cut. And the rough cut was good. So, the final version is going to be even better. You can take small groups to it. You can take your Bible study to it. You can take homeschool kids, or any kids. You can take adults. It's for everyone. You're going to love this documentary. But before we get into the documentary, Tim, so you're in Saudi Arabia 20 years ago, 2003. You're shooed off. You've got to give them your footage? They won't let you take the footage out. Is that right?

Tim:

Yeah, that's what ended up happening. And we did get some still photography, but all the footage that I had taken over the course of several weeks, because I thought that this movie was going to be like done in 2003. And I had amazing film, you know, to show. And, you know, when I came home, I actually was very sick. I ended up in the hospital. I don't know what happened to me, if I ate something. And whatever it was, I was very, I would probably use the word, I hate to use the word depressed, but depressed would probably be the word. Because it was [unintelligible].

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Frank:

Yeah, maybe oppressed. Who knows?

Tim:

You know, I ended up buying a camping trailer. And I camped one year for over 100 days. Not straight, but I mean, I was just getting out into the woods staring at a campfire. And I was asking God, what am I supposed to do now? And trying to figure all this out. And I think there was a spiritual dynamic to this because there is a different feeling and a different sense when you go into certain countries. And maybe I had a spiritual oppression or something that was following me. And a fear, by the way. There was a level of fear that I had. I had to work past that.

And by this time, I hadn't even made the first film on the Exodus. I had dived into an enormous pool of the Bible, when it comes to searching for things. And eventually, I would develop this first film. Which you know, we have a lot of people who are critical of the Bible. They say there's no evidence for the Bible. And the thing that was cool about, you know, what you and I are doing, is that we're looking at science to actually reveal God acting in history, God acting in nature, and in the universe. And the patterns are there.

And I love the pattern of evidence approach that we've taken, because it's given me an opportunity to say, well, what does the Bible say? Even when critics have been dismissive of it, you can put the pattern up, and then you can just say, hey, it doesn't measure up. And that's what we ended up finding in the very first film, was a pattern for the arrival of the Israelites, for their multiplication, for their enslavement, for the judgment of Egypt, the Exodus out of Egypt, and the conquest to the Promised Land. There's a pattern there that matches the biblical text. But people have been ignoring it because it's earlier in time.

Frank:

Yeah, you point that out quite well in a previous documentary, that the right century to be looking for the Exodus, is actually in the 1400's BC, not the 1200's BC. And so many scholars say there's no evidence for the Exodus because they're looking in the 1200's, rather than the 1400's. And when you look at the 1400's, wow, all this evidence just pops out. But let's go back Tim to the location of Mount Sinai. Helena, who was the mother of Constantine named the traditional location in the middle of the Sinai Peninsula. Do you happen to know, I mean, you evaluated that in Part One, as a potential site, obviously. It needs to be considered. What does it have going for it as the traditional site? Or let me put it this way. What does the traditional site of Mount Sinai have with regard to evidence that it is the true Mount Sinai? Evidence from the Bible, how good is it?

Tim:

Well, I actually created something called the Mount Sinai scorecard to help me and help the audience. And you can download this on our website. But the real thing that location has is tradition. And it also has toponyms. And toponyms are place names or the names of locations

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that people give to them. So, there's a number of names that are following us out of Egypt, where people can say, look, here's the name for this Elam. Or here's a name for this, Sukhov. They see connections to the names, and they tie those names to where the traditional Mount Sinai is. That's probably the strongest evidence that they use.

But the challenge is, were those names just given because Queen Helena proclaimed this and then they backfilled all the names? That is the big question because, there's another issue, if you look at it that has to do with distance and time traveled. The Bible says it took 45-60 days, I mean, depending on how you interpret it for the Israelites to reach Mount Sinai. And the challenge is that the traditional Mount Sinai isn't really that far away from where they would have departed, as far as the travel time. So, they have to have, it's about 20 miles a day, by the way, is the average that people could walk.

And then there's the issue of water. So, one of the big challenges is that the Bible has a larger group of people in the Exodus, that says there's like 600,000 men. If you add women and children, that could be two to three million people. Well, then the question would be, is there enough space for that many people? And where would they get the water? You know? And so, these are big questions. Then people say, well, there's no way that you could have that many people in the desert. But if you take a literal look at it, of that amount. That has to do with a term, I think it's called elef. It's a Hebrew word for thousand.

And that particular number shows up in other parts of this journey. And it looks like there was a lot of people there. And so, when you look at the traditional Mount Sinai, which I did. In fact, I was accused of only looking at Jebel al Lawz, because that's where I started. And the whole reason why I took this new approach was that Egyptologist David Rohl said, you've only really considered one location. You're not being fair. And I thought, okay, then let me do this. I'm going to look at multiple mountains.

We ended up looking at the traditional Mount Sinai. There's another one called Jebel Saniyah. And that one is just northwest of the traditional Mount Sinai, where there are these inscriptions. Proto-Sinaitic inscriptions, which in our earlier film, were connecting to the early writing of the Bible. And some people are interpreting these inscriptions. And they're saying that they're related to the Exodus, and that there's references to manna, and there's references to other things. So, they're saying, they believe that this other mountain Jebel Saniyah, which sounds like Sinai, and there's another mountain, I think right next to it, Horibah, that they think, well, that's where it is. It's not down there at the traditional site. It's closer to these mines.

And then there's a third mountain we looked at in the beginning, which was Hashem el-Tarif. And archaeologist, Bryant Wood, who is in some of my other films, he points to that one. And he thinks that's on the right trade routes. And there's right crossing points there. And that's considered also a holy mountain. And so, that was the first film. Now, this second film, I'm looking at Har Karkom, in the Negev. And this was made popular by Emmanuel Anati, an Israeli archaeologist.

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When he was surveying the area, he came upon this mountainous area that had 1000s of inscriptions. And then he found something that he connected to the Bible. There were these 12 pillars of standing stones. And he knew enough to know that the Bible talked about that. And he thought, I'm at a holy site. I believe, and he actually wrote a book. And he says, he believes that he's found the mountain of God in the Negev of Israel. So, I went to that location and filmed with a scholar, Deb Hearn. And that's in the second film that we're going to be showing May 15 and May 17.

In some of these locations, Frank, I don't know if you've had an opportunity to go. But you know what it's like. Until you get to go someplace, you really don't know if you're looking at books what it is. By going to this film, some of people will never be able to go to Israel, or to Jordan, or to Saudi Arabia. I'm going to take you there in this film. And in the cinema, I'm going to take you there in an immersive experience. Because I've seen this on the big screen, and it actually looks so much different than it does on our TV in the edit suite. It becomes alive. And that's why I want to encourage people to see this film in the theater.

Frank:

Yes, go to PatternsOfEvidence.com and the Mount Sinai Part Two film: Patterns of Evidence Mount Sinai Part Two, is going to be in the theater this Monday night and this Wednesday night. Well, it might be during the day too. I don't know if they're showing matinees or not. But anyway, you could see. Go to PatternsOfEvidence.com to see it there. Now, Tim, so you look at three possibilities. Why does anyone suggest that the real Mount Sinai is in Saudi Arabia rather than the Sinai Peninsula?

Tim:

It goes back to where did Moses flee, and that is the ancient land of Midian. That's what the Bible tells us. And if you start to look at biblical texts earlier, you know, when Abraham told his sons, he sent them away. He sent them to the east. And one of his sons was named Midian. And so, to the east means to the east of the promised land. And that gives you a clue that there's a connection there. In fact, that's the reason why Moses fled to Midian. He was fleeing to a distant family, you know, relative. Very distant, but it was still some group of people that he would have been familiar with. And he flees there.

And when we looked at the archaeology, and when scholars started looking at this, they could see that it appears that Midian is, if anyone knows their maps, when they look at the Sinai Peninsula, there's a Y there. On the right hand side of that Y is the Gulf of Aqaba. Midian, historically, is on that right hand side, in what today is now Saudi Arabia.

Frank:

I was going to say so, if Moses after he murdered the Egyptian slave master in the book of Exodus as recorded there, he goes to Midian. And then that's where he is until the Lord calls him. That's where he sees the burning bush. That's where the Lord calls him to Exodus. And

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we'll pick this up on the other side of the break. Why are we suggesting that the real Mount Sinai is in Saudi Arabia much more after the break. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek. My guest today Tim Mahoney of Thinking Man Films. Go to PatternsOfEvidence.com to see the movie this week in the theaters. Back in just two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

I just got back from California after doing a conference with my friends Alisa Childers and Natasha Crain, called Unshaken. You can go to UnshakenConference.com. We've got a couple of more this year. One in Tucson, one in Nashville. But I was also there to speak with my friend, Jack Hibbs, Pastor Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills. We did a joint sermon together on transitioning, why everyone's transitioning. The only question is, who are you transitioning into? And the reason we did that, it's such a hot topic, as you know, the whole transgender movement. And we wanted to highlight the fact that I have an updated version of "Correct, Not Politically Correct: About Same-Sex Marriage and Transgenderism", coming out this Monday, May 15, at Amazon.com. That's where you can get it. It's called "Correct, Not Politically Correct."

We are in that book giving the natural law, scientific, common sense evidence that transgenderism, which is the new section of the book, is not good for individuals or the nation. We're not quoting Bible verses in there. So, if you want the reasons why transgenderism isn't good for individuals, or isn't good for the country, pick up a copy of the brand new edition of "Correct, Not Politically Correct." And we'll in the next podcast, talk more about this. But let me get back to my friend Tim Mahoney because his new movie is going to be out this Monday, May 15. It's going to be in the theaters May 15 and May 17. It's "Patterns of Evidence: Mount Sinai, Part 2." And Tim, just before the break you were saying that there's evidence that the real Mount Sinai is in Saudi Arabia, and it's centered on Midian. Why do we think Mount Sinai is in Midian, which is really Saudi Arabia?

Tim:

Well, the reason for that has to do with well, there's archaeology. There's pottery, actually. I mean, that became more clear. Yuris Ahrens and Peter Parr, I did an interview with them. They're mainstream archaeologists. Peter Parr was actually at Jericho with Kathleen Kenyon. And so, I went to England to film him. And he had been there in the site where there was, I think the pottery is called [unintelligible]. And we were at a particular location where they had the kilns, and they found the pottery. And there's even an event that he talked about with the Saudis, when they were talking about this. And they just had to acknowledge that, yes, the Midianites were here.

And not only that, but there are dwellings there that have for millennium, been associated with Jethro and his family. Now, as archaeologists will tell you, you have to be careful with traditions and understandings because there are wells of Moses in different places over there in the Sinai. And I've tried to be as objective as I possibly could be. But when you start putting the pattern together, when you look at the biblical context that says that Midian and the sons of Abraham

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went to the east, and then you see these connections with the history of the location, you start finding the connections between Jethro, and then the pottery. And that's the reason why I think others started to look at this location. But it had been forbidden for such a long time to get there. Even Frank Moore Cross, who was a Dead Sea Scrolls scholar, was very interested in that location.

Frank:

He was a Harvard archaeologist, too. And he was suggesting that the real Mount Sinai is in Saudi Arabia. And of course, the Apostle Paul says Mount Sinai, which is in Arabia in Galatians 4. And I don't think Arabia was ever considered to be part of the Sinai Peninsula or the Sinai Peninsula was ever considered to be part of Arabia. Arabia is what we now know is Saudi Arabia. It's on the eastern side of the Gulf of Aqaba. Those of you who know your geography, if you look at Mount Sinai, as Tim said earlier, if you look at the left of the Sinai Peninsula, if look to the left of the Sinai Peninsula, you've got Egypt. The right of the Sinai Peninsula, you've got Saudi Arabia. And so, Tim, you're saying that the crossing, the Red Sea crossing was across the Gulf of Aqaba. Am I correct about that?

Tim:

Yes. And that goes back also to biblical references. I think there's six times when the Gulf of Aqaba even is mentioned and documented. And the very, I think first time is when Moses talks about the Gulf of Aqaba. He calls it Yam Suph. And it's the southern boundary of Israel. So, Moses knew what he was talking about. This is the same Yam Suph that he talks about crossing, that the Israelites, the sea was parted. What's happened is that other scholars have said, well, there's multiple Yam Suphs. But not in the Bible. There's always the Gulf of Aqaba is the Yam Suph. Yam Suph is the sea that's in Hebrew. It's called Yam Suph. Yam means sea. And then Suph, some people believe it means edge or boundary, or the end of. Some people suggest it means reed, or vegetation. And so, that's the question when it came up. Is it the Sea of Reeds or is it the Sea of Boundary?

And if Moses is usage of it, it appears to me to be a Sea of Boundary because it's the boundary of the nation of Israel, the southern boundary. So anyway, if the Israelites crossed the Gulf of Aqaba, that puts them on the east side of the Gulf. And that puts them into what would be ancient Midian, and modern day Saudi Arabia. Those are just some of the few things you're going to learn about in this film. There's a lot that we've unfolded in this film that you have to see and visually be able to see it as well. We also looked at another mountain. It was a volcano. Sir Colin Humphreys from Cambridge, England, who is a material scientist and a person of faith, he's written books about the Exodus. He takes a naturalistic look. And he thought that maybe Mount Sinai was a volcano because of the fire, and the smoke, and the shaking. So, we went and filmed that location, further south of Jebel al Lawz. And we allow him to make his case for that location.

And so, I want to say something too. I've been at this for 20 years. And whenever we brought this up, there's some scholars that roll their eyes over their head and are like, not that. That's a

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Ron Wyatt idea or whatever. And they were dismissive of this because Ron Wyatt, for people who don't know him, he went in search for a lot of things: Noah's Ark, the Ark of the Covenant, the location of Mount Sinai, the Sea crossing. But there were scholars earlier on. And one of them was by the name of Charles Beke. He was an English scholar. He, I think, discovered the source of the Nile. And he was given an award by the National Geographic Society.

And so, he started to explore this area. And you know what, I think he wrote a book about it. And he caused such a stir, because everyone believed that Mount Sinai had to be in the Sinai Peninsula. But as he looked at the biblical texts and the context of everything, he said, Mount Sinai is in Arabia. And you know, what? They took his award away for discovering the Nile. They were so offended by that, that they just felt he had crossed a line. So, this battle has been going on here about the possibility of thinking outside the box. But we're not thinking outside the box. We're actually thinking inside the Bible. And that's why I'm looking at these patterns.

Frank:

And you see so many patterns in this film, ladies and gentlemen, that when you look at it, you go, wow, how have we missed this to this point? Tim, there are some pretty dramatic discoveries around Mount Sinai, or around what you consider maybe to be the real Mount Sinai, and what I do as well, and now other people are coming to realize. It's probably Jebel al Lawz. One, and I think you probably have this in the scorecard. Ladies and gentlemen, if you go to PatternsOfEvidence.com, you can actually download the scorecard of six different potential locations for Mount Sinai.

And what Tim has done is, he's put what the Bible says that should be characteristics of the mountain, the real Mount Sinai, or the area around the mountain, and he puts little checkmarks, or little boxes on this scorecard. And you can check off when you see it in the film and say, oh yeah, it's got that, it's got that. One of the little boxes that the Bible says should be a characteristic around Mount Sinai is this Split Rock, that there should be a rock that Moses hits and a whole bunch of water comes out that maybe could refresh maybe a million or two million people. Now, we probably think, well, a rock was probably a little bolder on the ground. He just touched this thing and water trickled out. That wouldn't have watered or refreshed two million people. What kind of rock do we actually find not far from Jebel al Lawz, Tim?

It was an amazing sight because it's up on a pinnacle. It's like on a small, little rise. And then from there, it juts out into the sky. It looks like it was almost created. And in some cases, people looked at it, it's almost like a phallic symbol. When our Saudi guides looked at it, you know, they were impressed. We didn't tell them what it was. They just saw it from a distance, and everyone was looking at this rock. The Caldwells believe in their thinking that this was possibly a religious site. And this is also the location where there was a battle with the Amalekites. And they're connecting this with the site of Rephidim, where Moses was told that the Israelites actually said they're going to kill them. And the Lord told him to go to this rock and that he would strike it, and the water would come out.

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Tim:

Well, Jim and Penny Caldwell, when they were out searching these areas and photographing, and videotaping, they came upon this rock on the backside of the mountain. And it was, I don't know how many stories...seven stories, eight stories tall. And I actually went there in 2003 and was able to see it for myself. It's a giant split rock. And they were so impressed by the size of it. Now, I have shown photography of this rock to Uris Ahrens, who was also an archaeologist in Saudi Arabia. When he saw that rock, he goes, wow, that's impressive. Anybody at that time would have been drawn to that rock.

And that's what the Caldwells have connected with this split rock. And then around this area, there appears to be activity. I don't know what it is, if it's altars. There's also what the Caldwell's found, numerous what they would identify as sling stones. These large stones that are cut and they're made to be round. And looking for evidence of the battle. And so, there was dwelling places there. And you're going to see all that in this movie. We're going to take you there. You're going to be able to see what the Caldwells saw. We're going to be able to show you some of the sling stones. And you can decide for yourself if you think this is also another one of those connections to the biblical narrative.

Frank:

You also see signs of water erosion, dramatic water erosion coming from that rock and into the area around it. So, could be ladies and gentlemen, the split rock. You will see more if you go to PatternsOfEvidence.com and click on the movie coming out this Monday and Wednesday in theaters. You can see it there. We're back in two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

As I said in the last segment, ladies and gentlemen, I just got back from Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills, one of my favorite churches in America, with the great Jack Hibbs. By the way, you can see our sermon on Real Life with Jack Hibbs, that's on his YouTube channel. And I'm going to another great Calvary Chapel, this one in Old Bridge, New Jersey, my former stomping grounds, I didn't grow up far from there. That's Saturday, May 20th and Sunday, May 21. All the details on our website. Then TPUSA Faith Pastors Summit. That's going to be Wednesday, May 24th. And I'll be speaking. I'm actually moderating the panel there on May 25. That's Thursday, that's in Nashville, Tennessee. You can go to our website to learn more about it, or just go to TPUSA faith, you'll find it there. So, if you're anywhere near Nashville, love to see you there.

Let's go back to my friend Tim Mahoney, who's got a major motion picture coming to theaters May 15th and May 17th. It's about the Mount Sinai discoveries that he's made. And he's looking at three major possibilities for Mount Sinai. The one we're talking about right now is the one that the film covers as well, is Jebel al Lawz. Now, Tim, we've talked a little bit about pottery. We've talked a little bit about the biblical evidence which says Mount Sinai is in Arabia. We've also talked about the split rock of Horeb, which is several stories high, and there's evidence of water erosion there. What about the evidence for a golden calf altar? Is there such a thing? Because we know, according to the biblical text, there was one there?

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Tim:

Well, this is a big question. And there's been discussion about, you know, this golden calf altar. And you know, there's a lot of inscriptions of bulls and bull worship. And there's a connection that Joe Richardson, who's in the film, is one of the lead spokespersons on this area where he's been seeing a connection. And we're going to show you an example of what an inscription looks like in Egypt, of someone with their hands underneath a bull, underneath a cow or a bull. And then the same type of inscription that's there at Jebel al Lawz.

Now, what's interesting is that the Israelites had just made a covenant with God. They had all said, you know, we will be your people. And they agreed to this. And then Moses goes up to the mountain for a while, and he's gone for too long, I guess, because the Israelites started to get nervous about this. And they asked Aaron, they said, will you make us a God? We don't know what's happened to Moses. And for whatever reason, I've not figured this out, but Aaron decides to take gold, and he makes a golden calf. And this is a very interesting thing that I want to explore more. But this idolatry that was coming out of Egypt, followed the Israelites right to Mount Sinai, and they build this golden calf.

And when Moses comes down, he sees this, and he's distraught, and he destroys these 10 Commandments that God gave him. And then he tells the Levites, he says, get a sword and kill those people who are doing this type of worship. Now, Frank, I could have gotten into a lot more in my research. I couldn't put this all in the film. But whenever there's this type of idolatry, it's always filled with a certain level of sexual perversion. And the Bible's being polite in how it describes what was going on. But it says the people began to play. But in all the times and historically with this idolatry, it's always something that has to deal with this other stuff that goes on. And I didn't put that in the movie, but if you want to dig deeper into it, it's there.

And so, what we ended up seeing see, or what's the pattern that you could find there? And what people like Joel Richardson and others are pointing to, is that there are these inscriptions there. But what's, even to me more fascinating, because it's physical. And I've talked to the archaeologists. There's a massive graveyard that is, I think it's like 12 or 13, football fields, massive. And it's filled with standing stones. Now, the thing that's hard to imagine is, is that there's no communities. It's not like there's a city there. So, why in the world in the middle of the wilderness, in this out of the way place, is there a massive graveyard with these tombstones? And you're going to see that. When you come to the film, which is going to be, as we said, May 15th and May 17th, you're going to be able to experience and see what this looks like.

And then you're going to hear from Yuris Arhens. This is an absolutely fascinating location, because any archaeologists would like to examine that graveyard and see what they would find. And so, there are many different patterns of evidence that we're going to be revealing. Another one, which I found fascinating, was the source of water. Because even today, there's a stream that's pouring out of this mountain, at Jebel al Lawz. And there's this lower area. And it looks like it might have been a lake at one time.

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And then they found these manmade, like, filtering systems that are watered like wells. But they're enormous. They're like 18 feet. And there's numerous of these walls. In fact, since then, I've found five of them. I've seen five of them, I believe is what is showing in the archaeology. All these things connect together, are pointing to the fact that this potentially really adds up to being the location where the Israelites came to meet God.

Frank:

Yeah, and there's so much evidence surrounding this mountain, that we can't talk about it all here in this podcast. You're going to have to see the film. It's called "Patterns of Evidence: Mount Sinai, Part 2." It's coming to a theater near you, this Monday, May 15th, and this Wednesday, May 17th. And you can see it by going to PatternsOfEvidence.com and see where it is in your neighborhood.

By the way, I also noticed that, and Bob Cornuke, discovered this over 30 years ago, that there is what appears to be an altar there, Tim. The Saudis originally had a chain link fence around it, but you could see inscriptions of bulls, like golden calves anyway, in these rocks. And those inscriptions are still there, correct? I mean, you've been there. We're going there in November. By the way, those of you that are listening, you say, Frank, you're going there? Yeah, we've got a trip to Israel, and then the real Mount Sinai, which we think is Jebel al Lawz, but it's full. So, you can't join anymore. We filled it up quite quickly. But these inscriptions are still there, correct?

Tim:

Yeah, that's right. And you're going to be able to see those inscriptions. You're going to see like the first footage that was ever taken of them. That's in the movie right now. And, yeah, and it's wonderful. Now things have changed. And you now have freedom to actually go to these locations. And, Frank, why do you think that, I always ask questions, because I'm an interviewer as well. But to you, why do you think this is significant?

Frank:

Well, I think any archaeological evidence that deals with the Scriptures is significant, because it helps us believe that the Scriptures are true. It doesn't save us, because you have to go from belief that to believe in. But it gives us more confidence that what actually occurred in history, really did occur. And when you see the markers around this mountain, Tim. And you've done a beautiful job of illustrating it for people that have never been there and probably will never get to go there, I think the evidence that you present gives people comfort who do believe that the Scriptures are true. Because they look at this and they go, yeah, we see that, we see that, we see that, we see that. And that's what your scorecard does. You know, you've got all these things on your scorecard going, yep, I see that, I see that, I see that. That's what the Bible says. This is what we should find if this is the real Mount Sinai. So, it gives us confidence to believe that at least this passage in Scripture is telling us the truth, the Exodus.

And for those of you that don't know, Titus Kennedy and Stephen Meyer, and me, did a program on the evidence for the Exodus. We haven't had time to get into it here, but we talked about it.

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In fact, I talked about it on a podcast just a couple of weeks ago. But if you go back to 2020, and you look back in the archives. You've got to get our app to do this, friends. It's not going to be up on Apple, or wherever you listen to podcasts now.

Get the Cross Examined app, two words in the app store and go into archives. Look back in, it's probably March of 2020, if I'm remembering correctly. Look for the top 10 pieces of evidence from Egypt for the Exodus. That's what Titus Kennedy, the archaeologists, Stephen Meyer, and I covered in that podcast. But let me go back to you, Tim. What does it mean to you? Because you had a crisis of faith early on when people were saying how the Exodus never occurred and there's no evidence for the Exodus.

Tim:

I think that the Bible told the Israelites, and I think it's telling us as well, do not forget what God did by bringing you up out of Egypt. I believe it's over 150 times. This is a warning. And when I prayed about this, because I've spent two decades on this, I was asking God, what is this about? And I felt like God was saying, this is remembrance and forewarning. And so, what does that mean? Well, I can understand the remembrance. It's easy for us to forget what God did by bringing these people out. But what are we being warned of? And I think we need to be warned of the fact that it's easy to forget what God has done.

And in this film, it's easy to look at what all the troubles are. I could see that the Israelites were called to go to this mountain to worship God. And I also was struggling with fear in the last year. And I actually saw a pastor at a coffee shop, and he said, how's it going? And I said, I don't even know where to begin. And he looked at me and I felt the Lord speaking through him. He says, you need to spend more time in worship. With the type of things that you're doing, you need to spend more time in worship. And I believe that almost like worship is like an offensive weapon. It's also defensive because it allows us to take our eyes off...Remember that song "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus?" And I forgot the rest of it. But, you know, the things of earth will grow strangely dim.

Frank:

In the light of His glory and grace, yeah, right, right.

Tim:

I think that each one of us, here's what I've come out of this. Here's what I've learned. The Israelites were given a mission at Mount Sinai. We are on a mission. All of us need to go to the mountain. God has delivered us from bondage. We've gone through the sea. Now we're on a mission. And we have to say, Okay, what is that? What am I supposed to be doing? And then keep my eyes on him, not on the problems. And so, what I'm doing now is I need to spend more time in worship. So, I got my guitar out, and my wife and I just one evening, just like for an hour and a half, and all sudden, all the things that I was fearful of were gone. They disappeared, because I just felt the presence of God in my life. And I think the forewarning is that we need to learn how to worship the Lord, personally, not just once in a while.

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Frank:

That's a good word, Tim to end this on. You need to see the film ladies and gentlemen. It's called "Patterns of Evidence: Mount Sinai." Go to PatternsOfEvidence.com, and you can see the movie in your neighborhood this Monday, May 15, or this Wednesday, May 17th. Check it out. You won't be disappointed. Bring some friends. It's going to be a great discussion. All right. See you here next time, Lord willing. God bless.

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