

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

We would like to now proceed with Doctor Ghattas Sayej, who will be speaking on the prehistory of Palestine. Good afternoon, everyone. First of all, I would like to thank the organisers for this meeting, for inviting us to present and.

00:00:17 Speaker 1

Present our perspective as our as Palestinian scholars, which is based on archaeology, evidence not in the.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

Secondly, our tried to highlight the longest period of history, which extends for almost 1 and half million years ago, within this time 10-15 minutes, so please forgive me the goals of this research are divided into 4 main categories. The first.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Tracing the early movement of human out of Africa toward parasite.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

The second, presenting the various divisions of the prehistoric periods.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

3 presenting urban and urbanism and the birth of writing 4.

00:01:01 Speaker 1

Discussing some of the challenges Palestinian archaeologists are witnessing while conducting their scientific research, not only in prehistory but also within the biblical periods.

00:01:12 Speaker 1

According to the theory of human evolution, hominins gradually evolved from app like ancestors about four million years ago.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

Home happiness appeared between 2.5 to 1.8 million years ago, which is the first bead of hominins.

00:01:28 Speaker 1

The first appearance of hominin, known as Homo habilis, was discovered in East Africa between 2.5 and 1.8 million years.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

The first famous sight to record these discoveries is Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

The global climate change forced Homo habilis to move around, searching for food to survive.

00:01:49 Speaker 1

By the emergence of human like body, the hominids about 1.8 to 1.5 million years ago, this human was able to walk and runs better than the preceding hominids, and moved out of Africa searching for food to survive.

00:02:07 Speaker 1

The movement was either toward the northeast Palestine and thereafter the rest of the world or towards the northwest Morocco, and thereafter to the European continent.

00:02:20 Speaker 1

Homo habilis lived as hunter gatherers, societies, the strategic location of Palestine as a natural corridor between Africa and western Asia, made it possible for animals and hominids to gradually move toward the Levant and thereafter to the rest of the old World.

00:02:36 Speaker 1

Most researchers agree that the first migration out of Africa occurred approximately 1.7 to 1.5 million years.

00:02:44 Speaker 1

Homo erectus migrated through waves of moving tribes, bringing with them their stone tool industry known as the Acheulean.

00:02:52 Speaker 1

This industry is characterised by carrying stone choppers, the main interest of prehistoric Palestine began randomly after the appearance of many different lithic artefacts, particularly stone axes by the Western visitors and pilgrims. At the end of the 19th century.

00:03:09 Speaker 1

And by picking up various lithic artefacts from surveys in valleys and archaeological site.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

However, the beginning of scientific research in this field did not begin before the 1920s.

00:03:23

Those.

00:03:23 Speaker 1

Various excavations, most of which took place in multiple caves in Palestine, showed many layers of archaeological remains that exceeded dozens of metres which had a fundamental role in dividing the prehistory of Palestine as we know it today.

00:03:39 Speaker 1

The use of writing during the Bronze Age ended the previous period and the new complex phase of urbanism started.

00:03:49 Speaker 1

I forgot to tell you that one of my colleagues apologised. He couldn't attend today. That's why I have to rewrite the entire presentation this morning and include Paul Benson in addition to prehistory. So I was expecting 1.4 million years ago and now I have.

00:04:04 Speaker 1

To take the rest.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

Of course so.

00:04:06 Speaker 1

I would I will do my best.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

And here are some examples. I just will give you some some highlight examples. The site of your idea is located approximately 3 kilometres South of the Villa Lake.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

This site was excavated in the 1960s.

00:04:27 Speaker 1

Very primitive artefacts were uncovered such as large hand axes and scrapers. This site dates to 1.4 million years ago and thus is the oldest archaeological sites in the southern Levant.

00:04:41 Speaker 1

The site of Gisele Benatia coup is located in the southern part of the Golan Heights.

00:04:46 Speaker 1

It extends along the edges of ancient Lake Lisan and is considered the natural passage for human and animals throughout millennia.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Evidence of using fire was documented. The site dates back to 900 years, 900,000 years ago.

00:05:03 Speaker 1

Next please.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

The first excavation in Mount Carmel Cave were conducted in the 20s and continued irregularly until the 80s.

00:05:13 Speaker 1

Multiple layers provided important evidence of a human remains.

00:05:18 Speaker 1

A huge amount of human and animal bones, as well as lithic artefacts, were uncovered.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

Mount Carmel Caves are among the most important archaeological sites in the southern Levant.

00:05:29 Speaker 1

These caves have rich archaeological remains from the Lower Palaeolithic until the Markovians a time span of half a million years of a human.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

Solution.

00:05:38 Speaker 1

Some epiphytic sites or the metallic mesolithic, as you wish to call it, is shopper gave no doubt.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

Dorothy Garrett excavated Chukka Cave in the 20s. She revealed evidence of an unknown culture dating back to the Late Stone Age, which preceded the agricultural era. This culture was named after the valley as the Natufian culture.

00:06:02 Speaker 1

This culture emerged as a sin incidental society and succeeded in domesticating the dogs, which is the first non evidence of domesticating animals.

00:06:11 Speaker 1

Music sites.

00:06:13 Speaker 1

I chose Jericho, of course.

00:06:16 Speaker 1

The first permanent settlement was developed near insult tones, pink in Jericho around 8000.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

500 BC.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

This culture relied on agriculture and domesticating animals.

00:06:27 Speaker 1

The famous Jericho Tower and Jericho Walsh belonged to this period. Jericho is also known as the first fortified settlement in the world.

00:06:38 Speaker 1

I would move toward the characteristic period and we have today. Later the switch sides, which is one of the largest Celtic sites in the South End event.

00:06:48 Speaker 1

This site, among many others, have revealed major cultural changes in the archaeological record.

00:06:54 Speaker 1

New craft production, settlement patterns, symbolic expressions, art period, technology, Mortuary and ritual practises became prominent.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

This site has also provided a new understanding of the Calcasieu Cult and religious practise.

00:07:12 Speaker 1

The Bronze Age in the Levant is known as the birth of urbanism. The appearance of city, state societies, and the adoption of writing by adopting writing as a form of communication, the historical periods began.

00:07:27 Speaker 1

The Iron Age.

00:07:29 Speaker 1

I have chosen some of these sites and Palestine became home to many ethnic groups called the Israelites, among others and the Philistines. The Israelites settled the central highland in what is known today as the West Bank, whereas the Philistines or the sea.

00:07:44 Speaker 1

People settled along the southern coast of Palestine. They introduced iron weapon Chariots and new ways of producing wine.

00:07:56 Speaker 1

If we move toward the Hellenistic period, we have Sebastian and Jerusalem as an example.

00:08:03 Speaker 1

The Hellenistic period in Palestine started when Alexander the Great conquered Palestine in 333 BC and subsumed it into his Macedonian empire.

00:08:13

Yeah.

00:08:14 Speaker 1

If we move toward the Roman, excuse me, I just have to go through everything to come to my conclusion.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

The Roman conquered Palestine for almost 404 centuries, and of course everyone knows the the the architecture and the design and and the status of the Roman Empire everywhere. So we have also that in Palestine.

00:08:36 Speaker 1

The Beast Santine and the birth of Christianity.

00:08:40 Speaker 1

Emperor Constantine the Great converted to Christianity in the 4th century and thereafter more than half of the empire stipulation, half converted to the new religion, and I have taken example from a Jerusalem from Bethlehem and Madame Map in Jordan which is the oldest non map.

00:09:00 Speaker 1

Shows the entire area of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, as well as Jordan River, with the fish turn around and go upwards is the oldest snap that we know about.

00:09:14 Speaker 1

Challenges. Here we go. This is my conclusion. I'll try to sum up as fast as I can.

00:09:21 Speaker 1

To summarise my presentation, I will hide some challenges scholars are witnessing while conducting scientific research and priestly.

00:09:29 Speaker 1

Terminology in prehistory in Palestine, particularly, the Palaeolithic period consists of features derived from Europe, not from the.

00:09:36 Speaker 1

Event.

00:09:37 Speaker 1

Is this behaviour the right way to understand the?

00:09:40 Speaker 1

1st, we can debate this issue.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

Second most English speaking archaeologists have concentrated their research in the southern Levant. I mean Palestine and Jordan, whereas French speaking, archaeologists have conducted their research in the northern Levant, Syria and

Lebanon, Communication and exchange of terminologies between these two major schools have been limited.

00:10:03 Speaker 1

Thus, in turn has geared the gap in understanding the archaeological record of the event as a whole.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

Israeli scholars have renamed the well known archaeological sites by using Jewish names. They have also used new Jewish names for their newly discovered ones without considering the original names of the areas which have been known for centuries.

00:10:26 Speaker 1

This issue has worsened the gap between the archaeological data and the native people of Palestine.

00:10:32 Speaker 1

Palestinian scholars publish most of their research in foreign languages, and a handful in Arabic. Palestinian students have the right to find literature in their mother tongue, and we owe them this.

00:10:46 Speaker 1

Our understanding of the Paleozoic period is limited mainly to studying the lithic artefacts.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

We know the prehistoric people use organic materials such as bones, skin and wood, but unfortunately we do not find many of these tools due to their decomposition over time. Therefore, our knowledge about these periods is limited and depends mainly on lithics.

00:11:08 Speaker 1

And to make it even more complicated, our knowledge is based on a few excavated sites and service collection.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

Which do not represent reality.

00:11:20 Speaker 1

When it comes to the biblical research.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

Archaeological investigations in Palestine began as early as the 19th century, as Western scholars sought to confirm the historicity of the Bible and later on to establish connections for the Jews to the.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

The British were most prominent in this regard of.

00:11:38 Speaker 1

Course.

00:11:39 Speaker 1

The Palestinian Exploration Fund was established in 1865, is specifically for the study of Palestinian history and archaeology.

00:11:48 Speaker 1

The goal of this exploration was to collect as much information as possible about the composition of the Bible and uncover the Georgia Christian roots of the Holy Land through Archaea.

00:11:59 Speaker 1

These activities coincided with the growing interest of American and other aeroplane missions to Palestine and as a result, foreign activities in the field of archaeology were initiated. The Americans established the American Palestine Exploration Society in the 80s, seventies.

00:12:18 Speaker 1

Which was then renamed the American School of Oriental Research ASOR in nine.

00:12:24 Speaker 1

Friends and founded the French School of Biblical Studies in 1882. The Germans established the German Society of Oriental Research in 1898. The British again expanded their institutional presence in Palestine by establishing the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem in 1912.

00:12:43 Speaker 1

These institutions have supported, sponsored and conducted most of the archaeological record carried out in Palestine over the years.

00:12:52 Speaker 1

Their research and publications aimed to strengthen the role of the biblical perspective in the rewriting of the history of Palestine, without taking into consideration the cultural heritage of those who still live in the Holy Land.

00:13:06 Speaker 1

And my conclusion.

00:13:08 Speaker 1

I would like to emphasise the following.

00:13:11 Speaker 1

Palestinian archaeologists are conducting their research based on evidence, not myth.

00:13:16 Speaker 1

The Bible is the holy Book, not a tourist guide. We cannot conduct archaeological research to confirm the historicity.

00:13:23 Speaker 1

Of the Bible.

00:13:25 Speaker 1

Palestinian archaeologist should publish more than Arabic for the coming generations and make that accessible in the mother tongue.

00:13:33 Speaker 1

Palestinian authorities should conduct new archaeological investigations using modern technology, which gives a broader understanding of the uncovered data.

00:13:43 Speaker 1

Joint projects between national and international institutions enrich the results and form a common understanding of the terminologies, regardless of which school scholars belong to English, French or whatever. Thank.

00:13:55 Speaker 1

You.