

ANCIENT CYPRUS

Are the archaeological finds of Khirokitia the remains of the *“mighty host of progressive Mesopotamians”* who moved out of the Euphrates valley and settled upon the island of Cyprus about 5000 B.C., as described in the Urantia Papers?

by Stefan Tallqvist

I have been to Cyprus twice. The second time, in 1996, I lived in a hotel on the coast of Famagusta Bay, and while there I visited the nearby archaeological excavations of Khirokitia, a site which was part of a 7000-year-old civilization of Cyprus, described in the Urantia Papers on p. 896: *“From all over the fertile crescent the more adventurous peoples poured westward to the islands. These migrants cultivated both grain and vegetables, and they brought domesticated animals with them.*

“About 5000 B.C. a mighty host of progressive Mesopotamians moved out of the Euphrates valley and settled upon the island of Cyprus; this civilization was wiped out about two thousand years subsequently by the barbarian hordes from the north.”

There is a clear correlation between the information in the Urantia Book and the following text from the book *Cyprus Museum and Archaeological Sites of Cyprus* by Vassos Karageorghis (1988):

“A great and important part of the Cypriot contribution to the history of civilization goes back to prehistoric times. An already developed phase of Neolithic culture, probably imported from the neighboring countries of Asia, appeared in Cyprus around the beginning of the sixth millennium. More than thirty Neolithic settlements have been identified on the island. But most of our information about life in that period is derived from the settlement of Khirokitia, excavated between 1936 and 1939. The Neolithic inhabitants of this settlement, estimated at four to five thousand, lived in well-built circular huts with thatched roofs within well-organized



Khirokitia in 1996.

social groups. The Archaeological Service of Cyprus has excavated a large part of the settlement; the resulting finds give a unique picture of town planning and architecture in the Neolithic age. The houses, huddled close to each other, consist mainly of a circular room which was also used as a workshop. (The inhabitants used to bury their dead under the floors of some of their houses, or at some point near their dwellings. In Egypt houses known as “Tholoi” are still used as burial houses.) The lower part of the walls was constructed of stones, whereas the arched upper part was made of clay and bricks. The inhabitants of Khirokitia used to come down the slope of the hill to draw water from the neighboring spring. They hunted, tilled the earth, had already domesticated wild animals, practiced weaving, and used soft stones—later clay—to make utensils and figures. They had trade relations with Asia Minor and Northern Syria.”

When I visited Khirokitia in April 1996, I copied some passages from the guidebook, *Khirokitia, A Guide to the Neolithic Site*, by A. Le Brun:

“Discovered in 1934, the settlement was excavated by Porphyrios Dikaos on behalf of the Department of Antiquities between 1936

and 1946. Further investigations by the department were undertaken in 1972 and 1976. (The site is still being investigated and new finds are being made there). According to a number of uncalibrated Carbon 14 dates which range

from 5800 to 5500 B.C. , the island of Cyprus was first inhabited in the sixth millennium BC.

“The inhabitants of Khirokitia isolated their living space from the outside world with constructions which imply an important communal effort. There are few examples of such edifices in the Neolithic of the Near East.

“The settlement at Khirokitia was inhabited by farmers who cultivated wheat and barley as shown by the analysis of carbonized seed material. Grain was harvested with flint sickles hafted in wood or bone. Only the flint blades have survived. Saddle querns placed outside the houses were used for the grinding of grain. Meat from deer, sheep, goats and pigs was provided by hunting and stock breeding.

“The tools of the first inhabitants of Khirokitia are made of flint, bone and stone . . . as well as the more common utilitarian vessels there are fine stone bowls which demonstrate the high degree of skill that could be achieved in the aceramic Neolithic. All are made of igneous gray-green andesite which was easily acquired from

the banks of the Maroni River. Some are decorated with ornaments which reflect a keen artistic sense. These objects are exhibited in the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia and the district museum in Larnaca.

“Apart from a remarkable head model in unbaked clay, all other anthropomorphic representations from the site are stylized stone figurines. These provide no indications of the physical nature of the inhabitants. The study of skeletal remains is more useful and indicates that the people were short. The average height was 1.61 m for men and 1.50 m for women.

“The origins and decline of this highly original culture are still not clearly known. As was the case with all other aceramic sites Khirokitia suddenly came to an end. It was not until 1500 years later that the site was reoccupied by a ceramic culture.”

All of the archaeological information above seems to agree with the Urantia Papers' description of the Andites in the Mediterranean Isles on p. 896.

Let's summarize some of these correlations:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

“. . . uncalibrated Carbon 14 dates which range from 5800 to 5500 B.C”

“More than thirty Neolithic settlements have been identified on the island [Cyprus].”

“The settlement at Khirokitia was inhabited by farmers who cultivated wheat and barley as shown by the analysis of carbonized seed material. Grain was harvested with flint sickles hafted in wood or bone”

“They hunted, tilled the earth, had already domesticated wild animals. . . . Meat from deer, sheep, goats and pigs was provided by hunting and stock breeding.”

“The origins and decline of this highly original culture are still not clearly known. As was the case with all other aceramic sites Khirokitia suddenly came to an end.”

Possible further correlation:

“. . . (they) practiced weaving”

“(. . . The inhabitants used to bury their dead under the floors of some of their houses, or at some point near their dwellings. In Egypt houses known as ‘Tholoi’ are still used as burial houses.)”

“. . . anthropomorphic [of human form] representations from the site are stylized stone figurines.”

THE URANTIA BOOK

“About 5000 B.C. . . .”

“. . . a mighty host of progressive Mesopotamians”

“These migrants cultivated both grain and vegetables”

“. . . they brought domesticated animals with them.”

“. . . this civilization was wiped out about two thousand years subsequently [by the barbarian hordes from the north].”

“. . . weaving was still practiced in the days of Eden.” (830)

“. . . And this was the origin of the practice of burying noted and pious men and women under the floors of the places of worship.” (852)

“It was during this age in Crete that the mother cult of the descendants of Cain attained its greatest vogue. This cult glorified Eve in the worship of the ‘great mother.’ Images of Eve were everywhere. Thousands of public shrines were erected throughout Crete and Asia Minor.” (895) ■