

## TROY, SEA PEOPLE, AND VELIKOVSKY: "A CASE STUDY IN INFLEXIBILITY".

A Note by Eric Miller © March 15, 2013

Conventional ancient history has EVER been aware that great catastrophes have happened in the past. The critical issues are not whether there were catastrophes in the past but, rather, how big were they, when and where did they occur and by what cause or causes?

In his excellent *Homeric Troy and the Sea Peoples*, Cyclone Covey (1987) – entitled his second chapter, "Discontinuity and Memory" and uses an introductory quote from C.K. Chesterton (1908):

" . . . Everything has been saved from a wreck."

Covey is a professional historian. He discusses Velikovsky *en passant* in his book and, if he is correct, and presumably he is, demolishes him in a couple of sentences. Regarding Velikovsky's regard of eminent historians, he notes first Velikovsky's contempt for eminent professional Egyptologists:

. . . Immanuel Velikovsky's contempt for Manetho (Velikovsky's contempt extended to Breasted and all other great Egyptologists. (p. 45).

Covey refers to the same Egyptologists who well documented many catastrophes, it ought to be added. Indeed, in the Bronze Age, Covey quotes from "The Fall of the Mycenaean Empire" (pg. 66) which speaks of "depopulation on an almost unimaginable scale" and speaks of the end of it, with the Trojan War, as: "The Trojan War was a climatic catastrophe in the chain-reaction self-destruction of the Bronze Age. . ." and the descriptions include many natural disasters, including meteors, conflagrations, etc.

Covey continues:

To Velikovsky, the Sea Peoples invading Egypt were Persian subjects of Artaxerxes II, commanded by the same Pharnabazos,

opposed by the same Agesilaos of Sparta and Iphikrates of Athens who are familiar from the *Helenika* (Xenophon also wrote a biography of his friend Agesilaos. As Velikovsky well knew). From 1946 when Velikovsky first published his war-delayed 284 theses 'for the reconstruction of ancient history,' to 1977, when he published his 'Peoples of the Sea,' The Egyptologists he decried had sped light years past him while he remained immovably mired. A psychiatrist himself, he presents a fascinating case-study in inflexibility. By his 'reconstruction,' the Trojan War began in or after 747—he preferred after 700—and his Sea Peoples invaded Egypt in 374. The presence of Mycenaean pottery in Troy VI and VII and absence of 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>—century Late Geometric or Protokorinthian, did not faze him. He disdained the pottery sequence, except to declare Mycenaean and Geometric wares concurrent (Thesis III), skipping Protogeometric. He said the Hittite empire was really the Chaldean, the Battle of Qadesh the Battle of Karkemish (also mistaking Murshilish for Muwattallish), and Merenptah the pharaoh of the Babylonian Exile! Deleting a six-century Dark Age, Velikovsky boxed himself into a situation where Odysseus could have been touching at Classical Greek colonies before the Trojan War began. By construing Peleset (or Pereset) as Persians, Velikovsky gave the Philistines an unprecedented identity yet traced them, as the Bible says, from Caphtor (which he thought likelier Cyprus than Crete).

. . . We also feel dismay at the tendency of the late 5<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> century to recapitulate the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.” (pgs. 128-129).

Covey seems to gently rebuke V.s integrity by observing that Velikovsky knew that Xenophon wrote a biography of his friend, Agesilaos. (I am not certain about this).

In conclusion, so far as I know, Velikovsky has no credentials, whatsoever, about the intricacies of the Trojan War, the Sea Peoples, and the end of the Bronze Age, or the well-known catastrophes involved. The above quoted era of history is ESSENTIAL to Velikovsky’s entire argument—as he rearranges history to fit his preconceived planetary chaos construction.