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2009 Season at Tall Jalul, Jordan

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**Madaba**

Project Name: Tall Jalul Excavation.

Directors: Randall W. Younker, Constance E. Gane.

Duration: 18/5-2/7/2009.

Representatives: Bassam Al Mohammed, Husam Hjazeen.

Excavations on the tell proper were conducted in three fields this season: (Field C (east of the western acropolis); Field D (also east of the western acropolis but south of C); and Field G (in the southeast corner of the tell).

Field C

The 2009 season of excavations in Field C brought clarification on the nature of the Late Iron II/Persian walls that had been initially exposed in previous seasons. In 2009, two rectangular buildings were identified. The larger building is located on the west side of the field and occupied most of the excavation area. At least three building phases were detected for the west building.

To the north of the large western building was an alley that separated the western building from the Late Iron II/Persian period pillared house found in earlier seasons. (This pillared house was founded in the 7th century BCE and continued to be used throughout the Iron II Persian period.

The second building in Field C was found in the se part of the field; only the northwest corner of this building was exposed. A room in the northwest part of the building was paved with small stone cobbles. This building's north wall was robbed out in later antiquity.

Field D

Excavations in Field D on the tell continued clearing the rooms of the large Iron II/Persian period building that was found in earlier seasons (**Fig. 1**). In the course of clearing the rooms, a large amount of broken pottery was found, including a piece of Attic ware—typical of the Persian period. A number of small objects were also found including some well-preserved female figurines, typical of the period, and some animal figurines. The latter included horse fragments. Portions of a couple of rhytons were also found (small ceramic drinking vessels). One of these was in the shape of a camels head.

In addition to the architecture and small finds, a broken seal and a bullae (a piece of clay stamped by a seal) were found. The inscriptions were Ammonite and date to about the 7th century BC. That is, they were in use prior to the last use of the Iron II/Persian period building, showing that the building has an earlier history in the Late Iron II period—around the 7th century BCE.

Field G

The 2009 season in G continued the exposure of a city wall first found during the 2007 season (Fig. 2). This season, the city wall was traced across four 5 meter squares, meaning that at least 20 meters of the wall was exposed. The wall runs in a nw-se direction and dates to the 9th century BCE. To the north of the 9th century city wall (in the eastern part of the field), the south portion of a large Iron II (8-7th centuries BCE) building was exposed. This south portion contained a couple of small rooms that were located in the back of the building. One of these small rooms contained a considerable amount of smashed pottery that dated to the Iron II period (7th century BCE). The forms included cooking pots, decanters, oil lamps, bowls, storage jars, etc.

One of the most intriguing finds in Field G was a late Iron II/Persian period (6th-5th centuries BCE) water channel that ran from a large reservoir located in the south east part of the tell (Fig. 3). The water channel cut across the earlier Iron II building and exited through the early Iron II wall. The water channel apparently drained overflow from the water reservoir to a number of smaller reservoirs located outside the city wall to the east and south east. It would therefore seem that Jalul had an abundant water supply in antiquity during the Iron Age.

Besides the architectural remains of Field G, a number of small objects were found, including arrow heads, bone tools, and ceramic figurines including a number of female heads—possibly of Ammonite fertility goddesses.



Fig. 1: Overview of the 2009 excavations of the Iron Age IIC/Persian building in Field D (looking west)



Fig. 2: The eastern most section of the Iron Age II (9th century BC) wall in Field G (looking northwest)



Fig. 3: A view of the Iron Age IIC/Persian period water channel in Field G (looking east)