

In conclusion, I believe this book has the potential to deepen the reader's appreciation for the process of retrieving the biblical text, provide handy tools and examples of responsible exegesis, and underscore important elements within biblical hermeneutics—particularly the need to continually revisit Scripture to correct and deepen one's views. Above all, I believe this volume will renew the reader's reverence and love for the divine author who continues to preserve his word and guide the humble seeker into greater and greater light.

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Herr, L. G., D. R. Clark., and L. T. Geraty. *Madaba Plains Project 9: The 2004 Season at Tall al-Umayri and Subsequent Studies*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2020. xiv + 374 pp. Hardcover USD 99.95.

This is the ninth in a series of volumes on the excavations at *Tall al-Umayri*. It is an in-depth analysis of the tenth season (2004) of excavations. *Tall al-Umayri* is located in the southern region of Amman, on the western side of the airport highway near the exit to the Amman National Park. The site is large and tall, surrounded by an artificial glacis, with remains from the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age (as well as some ephemeral remains from the Classical Periods) on the mound and earlier remains largely from the Early Bronze Age just off the tall in the valley to the west. Excavations were carried out by codirectors Larry G. Herr and Douglas R. Clark and were sponsored by La Sierra University in a consortium with several other colleges and universities.

The volume consists of three parts: an overview, *Tall al-Umayri* (a section focusing on the different fields excavated), and subsequent studies. Chapter one is an overview of the 2004 season—placing the site in its geographical context, mentioning goals for the season, and listing all of the members of the team. This chapter concludes with an extensive bibliography of the site, an important resource to include for a project that spans thirty years. Chapter two is written by Larry Herr and places the results of the 2004 excavation season within the context of the previous seasons of excavation. This placement is important because the *Umayri* team publishes each excavation season as its own individual volume. Publishing each season hypothetically leads to detailed information being available as soon as possible. However, with the logistics of publication, this is not always the case, and so the 2004 season was published sixteen years later in 2020. Thankfully, the directors have made much of the raw data available for all seasons at www.umayri.opendig.org (the site is currently down as of submitting this review for publication). So

as more seasons are published, previous interpretations have to be revisited, dating readjusted, and conclusions reinterpreted. This chapter is where much of that work is shown. Of particular importance is the stratigraphic chart (23), which has been updated through the 2008 season but uses information known from the site through 2017. This chart and the subsequent comments section are very important because they indicate the stratigraphic connections between the fields excavated and give updates on how the current chart has changed over time. This chapter concludes with a section on “Settlement Patterns at Tall al-Umayri,” placing the stratigraphy of the site within a larger regional and historical context of cycles of intensification and abatement.

The following four chapters are detailed descriptions of material from each phase excavated in Field A (The Western Citadel), Field B (The Western Defense System and Northwestern Domestic Area), Field H (The Southwest Acropolis), and Field L (The Southern Edge). Each chapter follows the same format, beginning with an introduction and then describing the material excavated by stratum. The introduction contains some important charts on the phasing and stratigraphy of the field, as well as the grid plan of the squares excavated. The description of each stratum is accompanied by a digitally rendered top plan and copious photographs. These top plans have changed over the years and now include more shading and texture; however, it would be beneficial if these top plans and photographs could be published in color. Some of the photographs are reproduced in color in the “Plates” section. Hopefully, in volume ten, these color plates will be incorporated into the text for ease of access.

The last section consists of four chapters focusing on pottery, sherds with secondary marks, objects and artifacts, and a Persian seal impression. The pottery chapter written by Larry Herr is always a highlight of each *Umayri* volume, with extensively documented parallel reference lists and much hand-drawn pottery arranged by stratum. It would be helpful to ultimately begin incorporating color in this chapter as well, either in the plates themselves or with accompanying color photographs. I know that this project has begun digitally drawing pottery using a 3D laser scanner and software program (Karasik, A., and U. Smilansky, “3D Scanning Technology as a Standard Archaeological Tool for Pottery Analysis: Practice and Theory.” *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35 (2008):1148–1168). So hopefully, the authors will take advantage of the newest version which allows for two-dimensional color images of the 3D model. It would be beneficial, now that there are many vessel types represented in many strata at the site, to have some plates showing vessel assemblages and how certain vessel types change over time at the site. The chapter on sherds with incised marks or repair holes by Gloria London is three pages long. It is essentially a list, with descriptions of the marks and how they were made. The chapter on objects and artifacts, written by Douglas Clark, makes some changes from the previous volumes. There is a new organization

of objects based on material instead of function. This change is welcome and allows for better ease of use and less need for interpretation. This chapter functions more as a catalog than the chapters of previous volumes, with summary paragraphs, detailed tables, high-quality photographs, and stippled drawings. There is a promise of more complete comparative treatments of groups of objects to come later. As with the pottery, it would be beneficial for color photographs or 3D images to be incorporated into this type of chapter in the future instead of in the plates at the end. The final chapter consists of two pages on a sixth Persian provincial seal impression from the site. There is a photograph of the seal, but it would be beneficial to have a drawing of the inscription as well.

This *Umayri* volume continues the scholarly tradition of the previous eight seasons' final reports. It is thorough and detailed in the information it provides on each of the fields excavated, the pottery, and finds discovered. It is a valuable resource for any scholar who specializes in the archaeology and pottery of the Southern Levant. It is also a useful tool for students learning about archaeology and attempting to understand the excavation process from beginning to end. It is encouraging to see these volumes change and adapt to new technologies over time, and I hope they will continue to do so in the future.

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OWEN CHESNUT

Horton, Michael. *Justification*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2018. viii + 399/527 pp. Paperback. USD 74.99 set.

Michael Scott Horton has written a significant book on the Christian doctrine of justification. He is currently the professor of systematic theology and apologetics at Westminster Seminary in California and editor-in-chief of *Modern Reformation* magazine. Some of his books include *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way* (Zondervan, 2011); *Calvin on the Christian Life: Glorifying and Enjoying God Forever*, *Theologians on the Christian Life* (Crossway, 2014); and *Rediscovering the Holy Spirit: God's Perfecting Presence in Creation, Redemption, and Everyday Life* (Zondervan, 2017). These two volumes are the fourth part of a series in dogmatic studies by Michael Horton.

In these thought-provoking volumes, Horton seeks to show "the way forward in constructive theology," by way of "renewal through retrieval" (1:11). The trail to "theological renewal," according to Horton, is in "drawing more deeply upon the resources of Holy Scripture, in conversation with the church's most trusted teachers (ancient, medieval, and modern) who have sought to fathom Christ's unsearchable riches" (1:11). To achieve this goal,