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Summer 2011

The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 32.3

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



The 2011 Excavations at Tall Jalul

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Andrews University continued excavations at Jalul during the 2011 season. The excavations on the tell were directed by Randall Younker, Paul Z. Gregor and Paul Ray. The excavation in the Islamic village (not reported on here) was directed by Reem al-Shqour, with Elizabeth Lesnes as the Field Supervisor. Around 40 faculty, including Dr. Denis Fortin, Dean of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University, and students from Andrews University, the University of North Carolina (Wilmington), and the University of Puerto Rico, served as square supervisors and technicians. Hanadi Taher was the representative for the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Excavations on the tell occurred in two areas this season: Field G, along the SE side of the tell along with Field W (water system), and Field C, on the west side, below the acropolis.

The goal for this season in Field G was to complete the excavation of a pillared building, found in earlier seasons, next to the city wall. As of this season, the building now exhibits four rooms: one on the south (where the pottery cache was found in 2009), two in the center of the building (E and W, respectively), and a northern room. It is possible that there was yet another room to the west of the two central rooms, but it appears to have been blocked off in the 7th century BC, being partially destroyed by the construction of the water channel, at that time. Earlier thought to have served as a tower at the corner of the city, the building now appears to be a domestic structure.

(cont'd on p. 2)

**INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
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NEWSLETTER**

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Pillared Building in Field G.

The east wall of this building appears to form part of the N-S stretch of the 9th century BC city wall. It joins the E-W stretch, found in 2007, forming the SE corner of the city wall. The east central room of the building is supported by two pillars made of flat stones; the western one is preserved to a height of over 2 m, built with 9 courses of large, flat stones, stacked on top of each other. The eastern pillar, preserved only to a height of a little over 1 m, has only 3 stones still stacked. The roof of the north room was also supported by a pillar of stacked stones, of which 5 are still standing. There is also a small N-S partition wall to the east of the pillar that divides the room into two parts.

Since the walls of the building are bonded to the city wall on the east side, and because ceramics dating to the 9th century BC were found under and against the foundation level of the city wall, and under the floor of the building, it would seem that its initial construction was at this time. However, the pottery on the floors of the building date a little later, to the 8th century BC, suggesting that the building was continually occupied during the 9th and 8th centuries BC. The building was destroyed during the later part of the 8th century BC. Several objects were found in the destruction layers, including a goblet, a roof roller and a figurine.

In the 7th century BC, the building was rebuilt and remodeled, probably in conjunction with the construction of the water channel immediately to the west and south.

Two additional squares were opened in Field W in order to see if the water channel, discovered in previous seasons, continued to the north. A small section of the channel was discovered and seemingly continues even farther to the north. In addition, a 7th century BC wall was discovered running parallel to a previously excavated section of the channel. It appears that the wall belonged to a building whose southern wall was robbed out.

Field W also revealed the presence of occupation during the 8th century BC. This is represented by a small wall and three plastered surfaces, with only the top



The Reservoir in Field W.

surface associated with the wall, the other two constructed probably earlier in the century. It is possible that these surfaces served as a street, running along the edge of the water reservoir that was discovered this season.

The reservoir is the earliest structure in the Field, and was plastered at least 4 times before it went out of use. It appears that the top of the reservoir's wall was under at least two of the above-mentioned 8th century BC floors. A small probe was dug into its floor, which is 35 cm thick and seems to have been built on bedrock. The time of its initial construction is unknown at present, but it existed during the 9th century BC and was probably used until the end of the 7th century BC.

The objectives in Field C were to clarify the architectural plans of the two major buildings previously found in the field; the pillared house in the north part of the field and the large "public" building in the southern part of the field.

The northern wall of the pillared house was exposed with the removal of the north balk in two of the squares. It was a free-standing wall with two entrances, one on either end. The ceramics found in association with the wall date

to the 7th century BC which confirms the previous dating of the earliest phase for this building. The western entrance of the north wall was blocked during the Persian period reuse of the building.

In the public building the southern wall was more fully exposed by the removal of the south balk of one square. The wall was seen to form a bonded corner with the western wall of the building. Removal of the balk, in a northern direction, exposed the rest of the western wall, which is now fully exposed, and forms bonded corners with the northern wall as well. Three walls of the public building are now fully exposed. On the east side of the building, only a small stretch of the wall has been found; the rest of the east wall appears to have been robbed out. The absence of a door in the other three walls suggests that the opening to the public building was on the east side. The pottery, as in previous seasons, suggests an Iron Age IIC/Persian period date for this building. In earlier seasons at least two cobblestone streets were exposed between the two buildings. (Randall W. Younker, Paul Z. Gregor and Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Dever Lectures

For some time the Horn Museum has been home to a genuine bedouin tent and other ethnographic artifacts. Dr. William Dever has recently considerably enhanced this material by donating a number of artifacts from his own collection, which the Museum has turned into a major exhibit, now known as the Dever collection. While Dever was at the Museum, on Oct. 21, 2010, he gave an orientation to the items he donated. Many of the pieces reflect the Bedouin way of life, others are from village and town life, but all reflect very long traditions that go back centuries in some cases; they “represent a way of life that is rapidly disappearing and in many cases is already gone.”

Items donated include various copper and tin pieces, coffee pots, dishes, bowls; all handmade and hammered, a coffee roaster and grinder, several handwoven saddlebags for donkeys, handwoven and dyed basketry, a bread carrier, a handmade and extensively hand-embroidered dress, a tent hanging made of sheep’s wool, a baby swing cradle, a camel trap-pings headpiece made with blue beads and Ottoman-period coins, and a child’s hat made from an old Bethlehem wedding dress. Most of these pieces are 100-150 years old.

Later that evening, Dever presented a public lecture entitled “The Age of Solomon: Fact or Fiction?” Dever noted that modern revisionist scholars argue that there never was a United Monarchy, and that the biblical accounts are purely fiction, written during the Persian or Hellenistic periods, as the Jews were looking for a way to “find themselves.” On the contrary, says Dever, archaeology can show a lot in favor of both the biblical record and the existence of an ancient United Monarchy in the Iron Age.

1 Kings 9:15 mentions that Solomon carried out building projects at Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer. Indeed, six-chambered gates and casemate fortification walls, dating to the 10th century BC (the age of David and Solomon) were found at these



William Dever.

sites by archaeologists. In addition, at Megiddo two large palace complexes, from the same time period, were found. The masonry here is Phoenician-style, royal stonework, not just something the local residents could have accomplished themselves. The gate and city walls at these sites were monumental, something that could only be executed by an organized government, with resources, men and material to pull it off. Such monumental architecture is evidence of centralization. It would have taken hundreds of men a decade or more to build these types of fortifications. The revisionists argue that Israel in the 10th century BC would have been too small to be a state, yet Israel’s population has been estimated at 100,000 people at this time, which is not small. More importantly it is centralization, not size that defines a state.

Revisionists also argue that there couldn’t have been a state this early because no one could write, hence no record-keeping. Yet an agricultural calendar was found at Gezer, again dating to the 10th century BC, showing evidence that people were writing.

Thanks to the excavations at the City of David, quite a bit is known about Jerusalem during the Iron Age. Continual

occupation for over four millennia unfortunately precludes little or anything in terms of physical remains from the temple of Solomon. Nevertheless, there is considerable description of the building and its features in the biblical text, and there are parallels to Solomon’s temple found all over the Near East; over 30 examples are known. The best example is probably the temple at ‘Ain Dara, in Syria, with over 60 parallels between it and Solomon’s temple. The style of the building is Phoenician. The biblical account says Solomon used Phoenician artisans to build his temple as well.

In 1993 an inscription was found at Tell Dan that mentions the “house of David.” The revisionists at first tried to translate it differently, saying that it was not “David” but “Dod” (beloved). Then they argued that it was a forgery. But their arguments are waning and they aren’t as loud as they once were. This inscription shows that there was a David and he was well enough known that his enemies refer to his dynasty.

Dever ended the lecture by saying that all of these finds point to the fact that there was a David and a Solomon. (Jacob Moody)



RANDOM SURVEY

Ancient Baths in Turkey:

An ancient bath complex was found recently, located below the Imperial Baths at the site of Sagalassos, Turkey. While the 5,000 sq m Imperial Baths date to ca. 120-165 AD, and reflect a period of time when the city was the center of the Roman Imperial cult of all Pisidia, the newly discovered complex measures 32.5 x 40 m and dates to at least 10-30 AD, or perhaps slightly earlier, to the reign of Augustus or Tiberius. The town was inhabited until the 7th century AD, when it was destroyed by earthquakes.

Sabbath Boundary Stone Found:

A rock with the word שבת inscribed on it has been found near Timrat, near the Sea of Galilee dating to the Roman or Byzantine period, at which time there was a large community of Jews living in the area. This is the first Sabbath boundary stone, written in Hebrew, to be discovered.

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Statue of Pharaoh Found:

Archaeologists have recently unearthed the upper part of a double limestone statue of pharaoh Amenhotep III at Kom el-Hittan, the site of his mortuary temple, in Luxor. He is portrayed wearing the double crown of Egypt, and seated on a throne next to the Theban god Amun. The recovered portion is 1.3 x .95 m, the estimated original being ca. 3 m high. The temple, one of the largest in the Luxor area, is mostly destroyed. However, while little remains of its walls, it has yielded a wealth of artifacts, including two black granite statues of the king.

Tombs Found in Syria:

Six tombs, part of a family cemetery, dating to the Roman and Byzantine periods have recently been found in the city of Sweida, in southeastern Syria. Finds include ceramic lanterns and bronze bracelets and earrings. Earlier excavations at the site have uncovered a basalt pillar with a Nabatean inscription dedicated to a Nabatean god as well as two phrases in Greek and Latin referring to the god Jupiter.

Fortress Found on Cyprus:

Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a Late Bronze Age fortress that protected the harbor city of Bamboula, Cyprus. The city was an important trading center for the Middle East, Egypt and Greece from the 13th through the 11th centuries BC.

N E W S L E T T E R



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