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The Institute of Archaeology & the Horn
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Spring 2020

The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 41.2

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Hasel Lecture

On October 16, 2017, Dr. Michael Hasel presented important findings and data from Lachish in a lecture entitled “David and Solomon’s Legacy: The Results of the Fourth Expedition to Lachish” as part of the Horn Museum Lectureship Series.

Excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa began in 2007, directed by Yosef Garfinkel of the Hebrew University and Saar Ganor of the Israel Antiquities Authority, and continued in 2008 and 2009. The excavation of Khirbet Qeiyafa, which dates to the time of Saul and David, was enlightening, and answered a lot of important questions that revolutionized the understanding of ancient Judah. One of the most significant of these was the discovery of some important inscriptions, including a jar inscription mentioning the name “Esh-baal ben Bedah.” The excavation at Khirbet Qeiyafa led to the formation of a regional survey project in the Socoh Valley in 2010. Not long after (2013), Hebrew University was granted a license to excavate at Lachish.

The first expedition to Lachish was the British expedition in the 1930s led by James Leslie Starkey, who spent 6 months a year excavating. The second was an Israeli expedition directed by Yohanan Aharoni of Tel Aviv University that took place over two seasons in 1966 and 1968. Aharoni focused solely on one area, the “Solar Shrine,” and dug through a series of strata from Level I (Persian) to Level VI (Late Bronze). The third expedition was led by David Ussishkin between 1973 and 1994. The fourth, Hebrew University expedition, of which Hasel was a part, began in 2013. The main goal was to dig down to Levels IV-VI to see whether or not there was anything from the 9th-10th centuries BC, in hopes of answering chronological questions about that period. A secondary goal was to remap the entire site. In addition, the Israeli government had allocated 4 million dollars to develop Lachish as a national park, leading to separate excavations

(cont'd on p. 2)



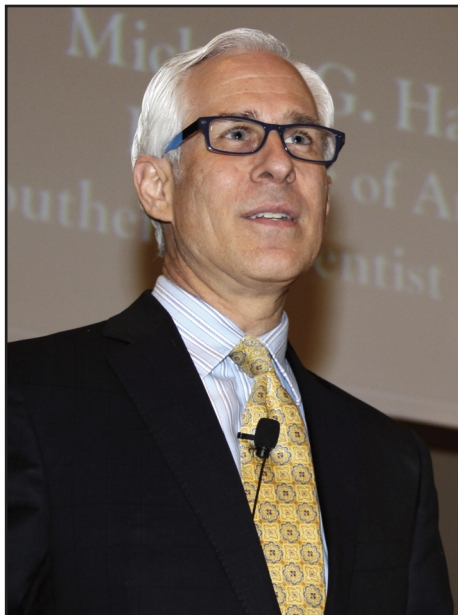
Lachish (courtesy of Richard Cleave).

conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority, in the Gate Area.

Previous expeditions uncovered the one of largest Iron Age buildings ever found in Israel, the palace, demonstrating that Lachish was a royal city, the second most important in Judah after Jerusalem. Biblical references support this view as well. For example, Jer 34:7, recounts the Babylonian campaign under king Nebuchadnezzar, stating that only two cities remained outside of Jerusalem: Azekah and Lachish.

The Hebrew University team excavated in Area AA, to be as close as possible to the palace complex in order to see what elite houses were like at the time. In most areas, they dug into Level VI, corresponding to the Late Bronze Age. In Area BB, a Late Bronze Age temple, named the Northeast Temple, was found, with a main entrance flanked by two pillars (one missing), and two towers (all robbed away), a room of grain (sent off for C14 dating), and a niche (the Most Holy Place). Special finds include a foundation deposit, a silver pendant, a scepter, a clay mask, two bronze cauldrons with handles, weapons (an axe, spearhead, and arrow), and smiting god figurines (possibly representing the Canaanite storm god Baal). Also found was a Proto-Canaanite inscription on the shoulder of a jar, providing another link to the development of the alphabet.

Following a long gap (1150-930 BC) in the settlement history of Lachish, Level V, corresponding to the 10th century BC, proved instrumental in answering a particular chronological question. According to 2 Chr 11:5-11, Rehoboam built towns for defense in Judah, including Lachish. When did he fortify these cities; before or after the campaign of Pharaoh Shishak? Previous expeditions to Lachish had never found this fortification system. A major contribution of the fourth excavation to the history of Lachish was to find and excavate the edge of the Rehoboam fortifications, and to reconstruct the entire system. Olive pits found on top of floors up to the Level V wall have been connected with the Level



Michael Hasel.

V fortifications. More recently, Level V domestic buildings with pillars have been found, abutting the Level V wall in Area BC. In Area AA, evidence for destruction of the site in this period was found. In addition, an ivory (pomegranate?) scepter was found on the floor here.

In Level IV, corresponding to the 9th century BC, a street level with two or three phases was found, with finds including a ballistic and olive pits, plus a tabun (oven). In terms of Level III, corresponding to the 8th century BC, the time of King Hezekiah of Judah, a courtyard palace (with at least two phases), and a street between two walls or buildings was found in Area AA. Small finds include a large number of Judean pillar figurines; located in every excavated house in the elite zone. Also, a number of *l'mlk* jar handles, about 100 loom weights, and most notably a dipper juglet with a series of bullae inside, were found. These bullae feature two Hebrew names; the first reads *l'lyqm*, meaning “(belonging) to Eliakim,” and the second, *yhwzrh*, meaning “(belonging to) Yehozarāh.” This is quite intriguing as an Eliakim is known from this time period, as noted in 2 Kgs 18:17-18, where it speaks of Eliakim ben Hilkiah. In addition, another seal containing the name Yehozarāh (now housed in the Israel

Museum) reads “(belonging to) Yehozarāh ben Hilkiah, servant of Hezekiah.” In another Level III building, signs of destruction and/or warfare were found, including sling stones, arrowheads and spear points. Furthermore, a scarab seal bearing the name of Piankhi, the father of Pharaoh Taharqa of the 25th Dynasty in Egypt, was found.

Level II remains were found beneath two meters of destruction layers. This stratum, corresponding to the campaign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, in 586 BC, consisted of a number of houses all oriented the same way as the Level III courtyard, suggesting that the palace was still in use in Level II. Other finds include a jar filled with mostly iron tools, and one bronze tool, which also had a stamp seal on its handle, with the same name Aharoni found in 1968.

In the most recent excavations of Lachish, in February 2016, by Saar Ganor, the southern half of the inner gate of the city was excavated, with a 2.0 m high mudbrick-on-stone foundation. Another important find here was a shrine, with two four-horned altars, lamps, bowls, and chalices, as well as a toilet, which may have been placed there in a deliberate act to desecrate the shrine (cf. 2 Kgs 10:27).

As Dr. Hasel concluded, Lachish and the many significant discoveries found there have redefined the archaeological understanding of the 10th century BC, in Israel. Hence, one site can make a huge difference. (Dorian Alexander)

World of Jesus

Andrews University and the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum were thrilled to host the “World of Jesus Exhibit: How Art, Archaeology and Artifacts Illuminate the First Century,” from Sept 20-Oct 5, 2019. This traveling exhibit featured up to 70 artifacts and objects from the Roman period, focusing on the life and times of the historical Jesus and his disciples. The exhibit was assembled at the University of Pikeville,

Kentucky, under the direction of Tommy Chamberlin and the Associates of Biblical Research. Arrangements at AU were made by Dr. Constance Gane, with the assistance of Talmadge Gerald, Elizabeth Emswiler, and Chris Jenkins. The artifacts on display included first century carpentry tools, Roman weaponry, glassware, coins and pottery. The exhibit also featured many audio-visual guides and maps with descriptions of the items on display. The "World of Jesus Exhibit" was on display in the Chan Shun building and was seen by many students from around the Andrews University community and visitors in and around the Berrien Springs area. (Talmadge Gerald)



World of Jesus Exhibit Display.



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RANDOM SURVEY

Seals Found:

Several seals have recently been found in the Givati Parking Lot excavations, in Jerusalem. Two of the seals are from the late First Temple period, ca. 600 BC. The first one reads: *Elihana daughter of Gael*. The second reads: *Sa'aryahu, son of Shabenyahu*. More recently, part of a bulla (seal impression) and another impression on a pottery sherd, from the Persian period (536-333 BC), have been found. The latter shows a person (perhaps a king) sitting on a chair, with Babylonian symbols of the gods Nabu and Marduk.

Roman City Mapped by GPR:

Archaeologists have recently mapped the entire 30 hectare Roman city of Falerii Novi, 50 km (30 mi) north of Rome, using ground-penetrating radar. As a result, buildings such as a bath house, the forum, shops, a theater, and several temples have been located. In addition, major streets and the water system have been mapped out.

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Mummy Found:

Excavators at the 17th Dynasty necropolis of Dra' Abu el-Naga, on the west bank of Thebes, have found the remains of a teenage girl in a painted wooden coffin. The girl was found buried with a trove of ornate jewelry consisting of copper leaf earrings, a blue glass ring, and four necklaces made of semi-precious stone beads and pedants. Other grave goods consist of *ushabti*, two mummified cats; and a pair of sandals. The wealth of artifacts suggests that the occupant was from a high-class family, and the jewelry may have been her bridal trousseau.

Coin Hoard Found:

Recently a hoard of about 120 coins, many of them bronze, was found together with an iron lock inside a collapsed building at the Lechaion Harbor, in Corinth, Greece. The earliest coin dates to the mid-4th century, shortly after the death of Constantine the Great (r. 306-337 AD), with the most recent coins dating to Anastasius I (r. AD 491-518), but before he reformed of the coin system of the Byzantine Empire.

New Qanat Found:

A tunnel, with Bronze Age pot sherds in it, leading to a series of aqueducts, has recently been found near Rumeshkan, Iran. It is the entrance to a qanat, a system that taps underground water that runs beneath alluvial fans, channeling it downhill for domestic use.

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