

EXCAVATIONS IN JORDAN 1960/1961

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The 1961 season of excavations in Jerusalem of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and the École Biblique et Archéologique de St. Etienne has only just been completed. A full assessment of the results is thus not yet possible. But it is already clear that the season's work was most successful, and we are extremely grateful to the Department of Antiquities for permission to undertake this work, and to the Director, Dr. Awni Dajani, for his constant interest in the excavations.

The Old City of Jerusalem occupies only a part of the area of the earliest city. Running south from the present line of the city walls are two spurs, the eastern, flanking the Siloam (or Kidron Valley), known to archaeologists as Ophel from the name given to it by Josephus, the western today known as the hill of Nebi Da'ud, by Josephus called Mount Zion. It was in the area of these two ridges that most of the excavations were carried out, for here modern buildings present least obstacles.

In this first season, most of the work was concentrated on the defences. A line of wall running along the eastern crest of Ophel, above the Silwan valley, has long been known; it was first discovered by Warren in 1867, portions of it were excavated by Macalister between 1923 and 1927, and in 1955 a junction of the wall on this line with the wall of the Haram esh-Sherif was uncovered in the construction of the new road to the Dung Gate. Here, the wall is obviously late, being built against the Herodian wall of the Haram enclosure, but the portions exposed obviously included many earlier stages.

This wall has for long been taken as forming the eastern wall of the town on Ophel, with portions of the wall ascribed to the Jebusite and Davidic periods. On the west, an indication of the limits of the early town was given by the wall found by Crowfoot in 1928, in use down to the second century B. C., but ascribed by him in origin to the Bronze Age. The town enclosed by these walls would have been situated on the summit of the narrow ridge, a mere 100 metres across at the narrowest point.

Such a town seemed improbable as a Jebusite-Canaanite town that defied the invading Israelites for some three hundred years down to 1000 B. C., or as the capital of the Kingdom of David and Solomon. Moreover, a major objection to the ascription of the eastern wall was their relation to the water supply, the spring variously known as Gihon, the Virgin's Fountain or Ain Umm el Daraj, in the Kidron Valley. This is the only natural water supply of earliest Jerusalem (with Bir Eyub further south beyond the limits of the ancient town), until water was brought in by aqueducts. The existence of the spring is the reason why archaeologists consider that the earliest town must have been on the eastern hill. A number of channels carried the waters of the spring within the walls of the town, the latest being the Siloam tunnel, cut by Hezekiah in face of the

Assyrian menace in 700 B. C., and still functioning. The earliest is a system of shafts and galleries from the slope of the hill to the west of the spring. But the place at which the final shaft comes to the surface is well outside the line of the wall on crest of Ophel. This seemed to be a very unlikely position.

The main excavations of the expedition therefore consisted in a wide trench stretching down the slope of the hill from the remnants of wall ascribed by Macalister to the Jebusite and Davidic periods towards the spring in the valley. The object was to test the date of the structures on the crest, and to ascertain whether there were any further defensive walls lower on the slope. We acknowledge with gratitude the permission to undertake this work given by His Excellency the Minister for Awqaf Affairs, for the area in question was Awqaf property.

The excavations were exceedingly arduous. The slope of the hill was very steep, and most of the layers consisted of tumbled debris. Almost two months passed before we penetrated through the successive layers of debris to reach intact layers beneath.

The evidence from the intact layers was revolutionary. In the first place, the tower ascribed to David and Solomon turned out to be nothing of the sort. It is to be dated to c. 150 B. C., to the Post-Exilic period when Jerusalem had shrunk back to the summit of the ridge. The so-called Jebusite bastion that adjoined this tower turned out to be only a tumble of ruins. The basis of these ruins was the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 588 B.C., and there was vivid evidence of the ruins of little houses, with their lanes, staircases and domestic installations such as tabuns; above were the layers of collapse of the later walls on the crest.

The first points that emerged were therefore that the existing walls on the crest were of comparatively late date. The next problem was to establish where were the earlier walls. As we gradually penetrated through the layers of debris, we began to come upon massive structures just below the crest, in use down to the 7th., century B. C. These we traced further and further down the slope. It is clear that their purpose was to extend the comparatively narrow crest of the hill by building up terraces to support further buildings.

It was not until the last days of the excavations, and at the very easternmost end of our trench, that we reached anything that could be a defensive wall. The first indications were the slight remnants of a wall of the 10th., century B. C., which could possibly be of the Davidic period, but more clearance is necessary to be certain of this, for only a small portion of the western face lies within the area so far cleared. Still more interesting was the fact that beneath lay a very much older wall, massively built of rough boulders. It lay slightly in advance of a scarp in the bed-rock, and between it and the scarp was a filling containing sherds of early in Middle Bronze II, perhaps about 1800 B.C. Here we perhaps have the wall of the Canaanite town. But more clearance needs to be carried out for this to be a certainty; again it is only the western face of the wall that has been cleared and we have not yet reached its base.

St. John of Jerusalem. The excavation of this area is not yet complete. All that can be said so far is that the evidence suggests that the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre may indeed have been outside the walls.

A final site in which the expedition was concerned was one excavated by the Department of Antiquities outside the south-west corner of the Haram esh-Sherif, for which advice was given by the expedition. Here, remains of a massive wall had been revealed by the foundations of a new school. The excavations of the department showed that the wall was part of a monumental structure of unknown extent. Between it and the rebuilt wall of the Herodian Temple, was a road earlier in date than the wall in question; to the South and some 4m. lower, was a colonnaded enclosure. The further clearance of this monumental enclosure is one of the outstanding problems of the later history of Jerusalem.

The 1961 excavations of Jerusalem have thus been exceedingly successful. They have settled many problems. But they have raised many others, and it is to be hoped that the excavations of subsequent years will provide the answers.

Dr. Kathleen Kenyon

THE SEVENTH SEASON OF EXCAVATION AT DOTHAN

The seventh season of excavation at the site of ancient Dothan, 10 Kilometers south of Jenin, was carried on during April and May, 1960. In summary, the main activities of the seventh season included the uncovering of more of the Solomonic period administration building (10th-9th century B.C.), the excavation of additional areas from the 9th-8th century B.C., and the excavation of the Late Bronze-Iron I tomb (1400-1100 B.C.), first discovered at the end of the previous season. These aims were carried out, and included the discovery of a thousand objects in the Late Bronze-Iron I Tomb.

The Solomonic period administrative building was first discovered in the fifth season (1958), and further rooms were uncovered in the sixth season (1959). Many storage jars, all of the same size, were found during these two seasons. They may represent standard measures used for the collection of taxes in wheat, oil, and other commodities. There still remained the question of the disposal of the wheat and other grain after it had been measured in the standard measuring jars. The answer came during the seventh season, with the discovery of several stone-lined storage bins. In the ninth century B.C., level we found a bin 2.85 meters in diameter and nearly two meters deep. In the eighth

The most significant find in the Iron Age levels was an ostrakon in level 1, bearing three letters ... R S B ... The date of level 1 is indicated by the pottery as after 721 B.C., running into the period between 700 and 650 B.C. Professor W. F. Albright has evaluated the ostrakon as follows : "The new ostrakon is in a characteristic seventh century Aramaic cursive hand. The characters are very well formed and resemble most closely the letters on the Calah Aramaic list of names from the first half of the seventh century... Certainly the script is in full (though scarcely needed) agreement with your pottery dating. It again illustrates the conquest of North Israel by Aramaic after the Assyrian Conquest (personal communication, spring 1960).

Further evidence of the occupation of Dothan during the Middle Bronze Period (2000-1500 B.C.), was found in the uncovering of another section of the Middle Bronze Age city wall on the middle slope of the mound. Several storage jars just inside the city wall gave evidence of the re-use of the city wall following Middle Bronze times. It appears that this wall was also used in Late Bronze times. and possibly in Iron I as well.

The main activity on the lower slope this season was the excavation of the Late Bronze-Iron I tomb, first discovered just four days before the end of the previous season, after going through nearly 17 feet of stratification before reaching the stonelined pit which led to the vertical shaft on which the tomb opened. This season it was necessary to go through 22 feet of stratification to reach the fallen ceiling, which required two weeks. The remaining weeks were spent uncovering a thousand objects in the tomb.

The objects in the tomb were in four general levels, as follows, beginning with the earliest chronologically :

Level 4 : dating to Late Bronze IIA (1400-1300 B.C.), as indicated by Cypriote and Mycenaean ware, including a complete Cypriote "milk bowl", a second Cypriote bowl with wishbone handle, six "bilbils" six stirrup cups (false spouts), and other fourteenth century objects. Other objects included 56 lamps, 27 pyxis jars (pyxides), 24 jugs, 40 bowls, 18 pots, 15 chalices, and 3 pilgrim flasks.

Level 3 : dating to Late Bronze IIB (1300-1200 B.C.), as indicated by the continued use of Cypriote and Mycenaean ware, including two stirrup cups. Other objects included 31 lamps, 44 pyxides, 47 jugs, 38 bowls, 18 pots, 13 chalices, 7 flasks, and a funnel. Level 3 was separated from level 4 by a stratum of earth and limestone. In this period the tomb was widened by the adding of a crypt on the north wall and a second crypt on the south wall.

Level 2 : dating to Late Bronze IIB and Early Iron I (transition, 1200 B.C.), as indicated by the finding of both Late Bronze and Early Iron I pottery types. Level 2 was separated from level 3 by a thin layer of limestone, resulting from either partially fallen ceiling or limestone fragments from reworking the tomb. Objects in level 2 included 70 lamps, 59 pyzides, 50 jugs, 54 bowls, 12 pots, 13 chalices, 3 flasks, 4 craters, 2 *zirs*, and funnel.

Level 1 : dating to the earlier part of Iron I (1200-1100 B.C.), indicated by Iron I type lamps, bowls, pyxides, and other pottery. Objects in level 1 included 48 lamps, 43 pyxides, 34 jugs, 37 bowls, 4 pots, 12 chalices, 1 flask, 3 craters, and a jar stand. Level 1 was separated from level 2 by a layer disintegrated limestone and limestone chips.

Total objects of pottery found in the tomb were 205 lamps, 173 pyxides, 155 jugs, 169 bowls, 52 pots, 53 chalices, 14 pilgrim flasks, 8 craters, 5 zirs, 8 stirrup cups, 6 bilbils, 3 funels, a Cypriote "milk bowl", another Cypriote bowl with wishbone handle ; these with several others not here listed totaled 916 pottery objects.

In addition to the pottery objects, some fifty bronze objects were found, including parts of 12 bowls, 7 spearpoints, 18 daggers, 1 knife, 6 rings, 2 pairs of tweezers, a hairpin, and 3 miscellaneous objects. Of other materials there were 4 scarabs, 4 spindle whorls, a seal with a gazelle head incised, and a miniature hammer of bone, almost three inches long.

Skeletal materials were found in abundance, but it was often fragmentary. We could distinguish 84 skulls, with 14 in level 4, 17 in level 2, and 27 in level I. In many parts of the tomb floor the bone material was so fused together, often 15 centimeters thick, that one could not tell how many more dozens of skeletons had been buried there. Weapons had been placed in the tomb, a total of 25 daggers and spear points.

The floor of the tomb was reached by the last week of the excavation, after 989 objects had been removed. But in the vertical face to the east over 20 objects protruded, making a total of over 1000 objects uncovered in the tomb this season. It appears that approximately two-thirds of the tomb has been excavated and one-third remains.

Further significant objects in the tomb not already mentioned include two ring flasks, a zoomorphic pitcher in the shape of a cow, a bronze metal lamp in the shape of a pinched lip pottery lamp, and 3 seven-spouted pottery lamps, answering the idea that this is a late concept.

To summarize : in the seventh season we excavated more of the Iron Age levels on top of the mound : level 1, 8th-7th century B.C. level 2, 8th century B.C., level 3, 9th-8th century B. C. ; and level 4, 10th-9th century B.C. In the slope area we uncovered more of the Bronze Age city wall, and on the lower slope the Late Bronze-Iron I tomb, in use from the 14th century B.C. to the 11th century B.C. The part of the tomb now excavated measures 7 meters in width, and so far is 3.70 meters from the door to the vertical face, where we stopped excavating in this seventh season. When the remaining third of the tomb is excavated, this latter dimension will be increased. One third of the thousand objects found in the tomb were intact, which is quite remarkable in view of the fallen ceiling, 1.50 meters thick, which represents many tons of weight.

Joseph P. Free

EXCAVATIONS AT EL - JIB, 1960

The fourth campaign of excavations at el-Jib, the Gibeon of the Bible, was carried out from June 15 through July 30 by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania with the cooperation of the American School of Oriental Research under the direction of the writer. The first major objective of the season was the enlargement of the second Industrial Area which had been tentatively identified as a winery. In this area which lies to the south of the great pool we excavated 21 plots, each 5 m., square, to bedrock. Twenty-eight jug-shaped vats which had been hewn from the rock were found during the season ; when these are added to those excavated in 1959 the total stands at 63 vats. The earlier interpretation of these rock cuttings as wine cellars was strengthened by new discoveries in the Industrial Area. Two of the vats were found to be coated with a hard gray plaster, which would have made it possible for the vats to have contained a liquid. That they had been used for holding wine in bulk, possibly in the stage of fermentation, is rendered probable by the discovery of two cuttings adjacent to one of the plastered vats. One is a shallow, circular basin, which could be interpreted as a wine press ; the other is a pair of cylindrical setting basins. Channels cut in the rock connect these three elements of the industrial installation. Although most of the vats appear to have last used in the Iron II period, several had been modified for use in the Roman period of occupation. To the east of the Industrial area a segment of the massive city wall of the Iron Age appeared and corresponds in thickness to the segments which had been discovered previously to the north.

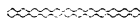
A sounding was made on the west side of the tell by Diana Kirkbride for the purpose of determining the stratification at a point where there was a heavy accumulation of debris. Here four principal layers of occupation were found. Below some Turkish burials there appeared a series of floors belonging to the latter part of the Iron II period. The earlier part of Iron II is represented by a slight deposit. Below this are floors and associated structures of the Iron I period, which is separated from the Middle Bronze II remains by a heavy deposit of ash. Sixteen storage jars from the Middle Bronze house were found crushed by the collapse of the roof. The central post of the house has been identified as an olive tree by the charred wood found in post hole.

Half of the season was devoted to the clearing of 18 shaft tombs which were discovered by a villager on the west scarp of the hill. Only one of these tombs had remained sealed since its final use ; the others had either been robbed or been filled with silt which had been washed in through crevices in the roof. Further damage had been done to the necropolis area by stone cutters who had used the area as a quarry for building stone. Although the tombs vary in size the general plan is uniform. Each has a cylindrical shaft, averaging 1.19 m., in diameter, cut into the rock to a depth which averages 1.83 m. At the bottom of the shaft a doorway, averaging .80 m. by .60 m., cut into

the side of the shaft, leads into the tomb chamber. The chambers are of various shapes but they have an average floor area of 4.79 square m. The roof is generally about 1 m high. These tombs produced almost five hundred catalogued objects exclusive of beads. It is probable that all the tombs had been cut in the middle Bronze I (Intermediate EB-MB) period. Five of them still contained material which could be assigned to this period, such as four-spout lamps, small barrel-like jars, and a javelin head with curled tang. Fourteen of the tombs had been used in the Middle Bronze II period. In one tomb, T 15, which produced 129 catalogued objects, three phases of use within the MB II period could be distinguished. It had been used for the burial of 14 people before it was finally sealed. The most distinctive of the tombs were the 7 which contained burials from the Late Bronze period, and a rich variety of painted pottery. Imported Bilbils and a delicately fashioned wishbone-handle bowl appeared along with the typical LB painted ware of Palestine. These well equipped tombs provided the first evidence for a LB occupation at el-Jib.

At the very close of the season there emerged at the northwest of the tell a portion of a building with walls 1.70 m., thick and a well-plastered floor. Its foundation had been laid in the Iron I period, probably early in the twelfth century. This important building will provide a principal objective for another season of work at el-Jib.

James B. Pritchard



CONDENSED REPORT OF THE 1960 BEITIN EXPEDITION

The Fourth campaign at Beitin (ancient Bethel) was conducted from May 26 to July 19, 1960 by the American School of Oriental Research and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Professor James L. Kelso was the Director and his assistant was Professor Theophilus M. Taylor. This campaign, like the former ones, failed to locate Jeroboam's Temple, but we did make a sensational find in uncovering the mountain top sanctuary of the earliest inhabitants. It was located at the north-west corner of the site. Here on the bare rock of the ridge we found the flint tools used in butchering the animals, the sherds of the broken vessels used in the feast and the blood of the sacrificial animals still staining the rocky ledge. (We used the American Federal Bureau of Investigation test for blood and checked an area over seventeen meters in length.). Part of the rock surface had been calcined by the sacrificial fires. No human bones were found, only animal ones. The earliest pottery was about 2500 B.C. Directly upon this bedrock a small temple was erected with its doorway opening to the East. This building was used in the latter part of Early Bronze and in Middle Bronze I. Just north of it was what appeared to be a large haram or sacred open area of Middle Bronze II B with a colonade along the south wall.

Directly upon the walls of the temple a new type of city-gate was erected in Middle Bronze II B. This gate-way was "U" shaped. One entered from the east, went westward through a narrow corridor, then turned south up four steps to a platform, then turned east up two more steps and finished the "U" pattern, finally going south again through the city wall and into what appears to be a temple-palace complex. This city-gate gave access to the northwest corner of the city. The gateway structure was a rhomboid, whose north wall was 11.64 meters, the east wall 9.7 meters and the west one 9.2 meters. The building had no south wall of its own but was built directly against the north wall of the city. The gateway was destroyed about the middle of the 16th century B.C. and never rebuilt.

The west wall of the city which terminated at this gate was similar to the north wall found in 1957. It was 11.5 meters wide with semi-dressed stone on each face and great interlocking stones for the core. The massive rock pile which interfered with our clearing of the gateway complex again interfered with a detailed study of the west wall. It had been built in two units, one going from the northwest corner of the city toward the south and the other coming up from the south. The two were not quite in line and we do not know whether or not the northern or poorer unit was a reconstruction. We found the same wall again much farther to the south where it went through the basement of an Arab house. We dug in the yard and found the complete wall in excellent condition. The earliest houses built against all sections of the west wall were MB II B.

During the 1957 campaign we had located the foundations of the south gate of the Roman city just south of the village's best spring. This season we worked on the steep hillside just north of the spring and sank a large test pit. At once massive Byzantine, Roman and Hellenistic walls appeared and below them a crude wall built in Iron I. This wall was sunk into a meter or so of ash and burnt brick. Directly below it appeared the south wall of the MB II B city and perhaps even one section of a gateway. The wall was still standing over 3 meters high although heavy burnings showed that fighting had been desperate at this point. Many broken water jars were everywhere and also better pottery, especially late Bronze, for the wall was not broken through until the beginning of Iron I.

One purpose of the expedition was to train future archaeologists; eight professors and about twenty-five college and seminary students served at least part time on the staff. Dr. Awni Dajani and Mr. Farah S. Ma'ayeh were most helpful. One feature of the summer was an audience with King Hussein who graciously invited our staff as well as that of the two other archaeological groups to his palace at Amman.

James L. Kelso