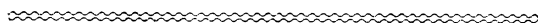


St. John of Jerusalem. The excavation of this area is not yet complete. All that can be said so far is that the evidence suggests that the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre may indeed have been outside the walls.

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**