

THE 1953 SURVEY IN THE YARMUK AND JORDAN VALLEYS.

The circumstances of the archaeological survey launched by the Department of Antiquities in the Yarmuk and Jordan Valleys, at the beginning of 1953, under the joint direction of James Mellaart and of the present writer, have been exposed several times (1). The present report aims to complete those previously issued in the Annual, especially regarding sites or details, that do not figure in Nelson Glueck's unrivalled survey (2); for this reason, the notes taken on about thirty places visited in 1953 have been cut off. This study having been written down in 1954, this accounts for the lack of reference to important recent publications and excavations, such as those of Tell ed-Duweir, Samaria, Jericho and Tell Deir 'Alla. Anyhow, the material will be available for archaeologists more familiar with later periods than the present writer.

A. YARMUK VALLEY. SOUTH BANK.

TELL JAMID. (3)

To the material from this well known **Early Bronze I-II** town can be added thirty-one stone artefacts, typical of this peculiar period (Pl. XVI, fig. 1).

Tabular scrapers: 4. They show steep retouch all around the edge; unfortunately, all four are broken.

— Blond and mauve flint, thick crust on upper face; the hole seems to be genuine (Pl. VII, fig. 1).

— Blond-coloured flint (Pl. VII, fig. 2), chocolate flint (Pl. VII, fig. 3), brown flint (Pl. VII, fig. 4).

Cananean blades: 15. They are all made of blond-coloured flint. The edges are roughly serrated and show traces of working; quite often, chips have fallen off; four show a lustrous edge, one has lustre on both edges. The largest measures 65 mm. long, 29 mm. wide and 8 mm. thick, the smallest are 27 mm. long, 21 to 15 mm. wide and 5 to 3 mm. thick; one has a thickness of 6 mm. One blade, pinkish-coloured, measures 23 mm. long, 18 mm. thick and 3 mm. thick. These blades seem to have been used as knives or sickle blades.

Cananean blades with blunted back: 5. These are clearly sickle blades. Steep retouch appears on the lower face, with a serrated working edge. The material is blond flint. The longest is 85 mm., with a thickness of 5 mm. (Pl. VIII, fig. 1). One has a strong sheen (Pl. VII, fig. 8).

Notched blades: 3.

— Blade with faceted striking platform, scraper retouch on the ends; blond flint; thickness: 6 mm. (Pl. VIII, fig. 2).

— End of a blade, made of black flint, with fine steep retouch on the edges; thickness: 4 mm. (fig. Pl. VII, 6).

— Blade of mauve striped flint; thickness: 8 mm. (Pl. VII, fig. 7).

Retouchoir or lame de dégagement, made of light-coloured flint, with deep steep retouch (Pl. VII, fig. 5).

Borers: 2. Plain striking platform, light mauve flint (Pl. VII, fig. 9; Pl. VIII, fig. 3).

Flake, grey flint, crust partly preserved, worked as a sort of scraper; length: 88. mm., width: 40 mm., thickness: 12 mm.

MAQARIN.

On the terrace overlooking the junction between Wadi Meidane and Wadi esh-Shallala, a number of flints were collected. Very few are well finished and the artefacts look like the waste of a flint working-place. Thirteen pieces are worth recording.

1°. Flints with a yellowish patina: Lower Paleolithic.

— **Acheulian biface**; greyish flint, patina only on one face. Broken; actual length: 80 mm., width: 70 mm., thickness: 25 mm.

— Three bulky **flakes**, 140 mm., 120 mm. and 9 mm. long.

2°. Flints presumably Upper Paleolithic.

— Two **points**, creamy flint, one with a faceted platform, 85 mm. long, the other with plain striking platform, 55 mm. long.

— **Point**, bluish flint, faceted striking platform, length: 65 mm.

— **Point**, whitish flint, plain striking platform, length: 65 mm.

3°. Flints presumably Neolithic.

— **Pointed blade**, bluish flint, faceted striking platform, 90 mm. long.

— Unfinished **axe**, creamy flint, length: 85 mm., width: 45 mm., thickness: 20 mm.

— Half of a **pick** in violet-coloured flint, 120 mm. long, 25 mm. thick.

— **Tranchet**, made of mauve flint, 25 mm. thick (Pl. VIII, fig. 4).

— **Chisel** in whitish flint, 15 mm. thick (Pl. VIII, fig. 5).

TELL QURS. (4)

The top of the small steep hillock called Tell Qurs, near the flowing of Wadi es-Sijn into the Yarmuk, was a strong position overlooking the valley, a little distance downstream Tell Jamid.

The pottery. Nelson Glueck recorded **Early Bronze I** and **Iron II** remains. Only the former period appeared in the 1953 collection:

— Two **hole-mouth** jars, with square lip, made of brown clay, thoroughly smoothed; diameter of rims: at least 20 cm., thickness of wall: 12 mm.

— Two **combed** sherds, pink clay with a greyish core.

— **Band slip** (grain wash) decorated sherds, buff ware.

— Shapeless coarse sherds.

The stone industry: twenty nine artefacts:

— Rectangular **axe**, made of white yellowish limestone, with smoothed edges; length: 110 mm. maximum width: 75 mm., thickness: 30 mm.

— Triangular chipped **axe**, with a curved working edge, in mauve flint; length: 100 mm., maximum width: 75 mm., thickness: 30 mm.

— Five broken **axes** or **adzes**, one of chert, 110 mm. long, one of mauve flint 70 mm. long; the three others measure 80 mm., 65 mm. and 55 mm.

— **Nucleus**, possibly used as a scraper, made of chert, 95 mm. long.

— Three narrow **hatchets**, in blond flint, only one complete (Pl. IX, fig. 1).

— Seven **side-scrapers** or “**racloirs**”, on thick flakes, often crusted on the back: three of blond flint; 70 mm., 69 mm. and 50 mm. long; one of chocolate flint, 55 mm. long; one of chert, 75 mm. long; two of bluish flint, 60 and 50 mm. long.

— Double **borer**, made of mauve flint, length: 60 mm.

— Two **blades**, one in blond flint, 53 mm. long, the other in mauve flint, 35 mm. long.

— Seven **flakes**, made of blond or mauve flint.

— Perforated **weight**, made of basalt, broken (Pl. IX, fig. 2).

SHEJERAH.

A terrace overlooking the Yarmuk and opposite Shejerah Railway Station yielded five flints, who also seem to belong to a **Neolithic** assemblage:

— Small mauve-coloured **axe**, almond shaped (Pl IX, fig. 3).

— Another similar **axe**, blond in colour, unfortunately broken.

— Broken **axe**, light brown with creamy patches; length: 80 mm., width: 40 mm., thickness: 25 mm.

— Pointed **blade** with a faceted striking platform, carelessly worked, made of chocolate flint, 70 mm. long.

— Notched **flake**, probably used as a borer, in mauve flint, 70 mm. long.

AQRABAH.

One kilometer and a half north of Aqrabah, just opposite El Kuwaiye, the Yarmuk turns with a very sharp bend around a rocky spur, from which good watch could be held across the valley.

It supports remains of buildings made of basaltic boulders and strewn with sherds, which could very well go as far back as **Early Bronze I-II**:

— **Hole-mouth** jar, with thick rounded lip, brown clay; diameter at the rim: at least 20 cm., thickness of wall at the rim: 15 mm.

— Part of red-burnished **loop-handle**.

- Three **combed** sherds, pink clay with a grey core.
- **Band slip** (grain wash) decorated sherds.
- Coarse sherds, among which flat bottoms.

One piece of pottery in hard red ware seems **Roman**.

WADI KHALID.

Three flint **side-scrapers** or "racloirs", possibly **Upper Paleolithic**, were found near Wadi Khalid Station:

- Blond-coloured, made on a flake, 10 mm. long.
- Made on a black blade, 77 mm. long.
- Managed on a rectangular black flake, 60x60 mm., 25 mm. thick.

JISR EL HASHARA.

A group of ten artefacts, collected near the El Hashara bridge over the Yarmuk, seem **Neolithic**.

- Three strong crude **axes**, with a battered butt, one made of whitish flint, 35 mm. thick (fig. 3, 4); the two others, blond-coloured, were broken and reused: one is 100 mm. long, 50 mm. wide and 50 mm. thick, the other 90 mm. long, 80 mm. wide and 40 mm. thick.
- Limestone rectangular axe, broken; its measurements are 80 mm., 70 mm. and 35 mm.
- **Pick** made of mauve flint, broken; length: 65 mm., width: 35 mm., thickness: 25 mm...
- Fragment of **hatchet**, blond flint, with careful fluting retouch (Pl. IX, fig. 5)
- Mauve-coloured **flake**, perhaps used as a scraper, 57 mm. long.
- Angle **burin** on a notched blade, made of dark violet flint (Pl. IX, fig. 6)
- Two whitish flint **blades**, 48 mm. and 44 mm. long.

MUKHEIBA.

Near Mukheiba Police Station, three flints, possibly **Neolithic**, were collected.

- **Scraper** on a thick flake of blond flint; length: 90 mm., width: 55 mm., thickness: 26 mm.
- End blade **scraper**, mauve flint, 95 mm. long. 25 mm. thick.
- Thick **flake** with crust on upper face, mauve white speckled flint, 70x70 mm., 22 mm. thick.

MISRAH.

Four kilometers south of El Mukheiba village, the hamlet of Misrah was at the level of the projected irrigation ditch; the spelling is Misrah on the 25.000 map, Mazra El Mukheiba on the 100.000 map, but the place is also known as Mukheiba el Tahta.

A little above the south side of the hamlet, stands Sleiman Nassif's house. Close to it, in a field belonging to the same labourer, there are a few ruins. The most conspicuous are fragments of black basaltic columns, some of them upright. They belong to a building

with two rows of at least four columns each, running east-west; between the two rows lies a passage three meters wide, and between each column there is a distance of two meters. The diameter of the columns varies from about 52 cm. to about 43 cm. Towards the south-western corner appears the upper part of a vault, also running east-west.

South of this complex, the upper part of a column was lying upside down; it included a square capital (Pl. XV, fig. 23). The latter was 25 cm. high and 55 cm. wide; on the upper face, a square hole had been dug to bind it with the beams of the ceiling. At each angle, a volute relates the capital to the ionic style; on one side appears between the volutes a coarse human face, with round eyes, schematic nose and mouth, and hair figured by deep crisscross engravings.

In field were scattered **Roman** sherds, which probably give a clue to the date of the building, which could very well be a small rural temple.

TELL EL FAKHRAT. (5)

South of Um Qeis, runs the deep gorge of Rod Ain Um Qeis, which falls into the Wadi el 'Arab. Tell el Fakhrât overlooks this valley, not from the east, as seems to say Nelson Glueck, but from the western bank. No new Khirbet Kerak sherd was discovered on this site, but quite a number of **Early Bronze I-II** sherds, together with **Roman, Byzantine** and **Arabic**.

Among the flints, several belong to the former period.

- Three cananean **sickle blades** with serrated edges and worked ends, one in blond flint, 62 mm. long; one in blond flint, with a lustrous edge (Pl. X, fig. 1); one in grey flint with strong lustre on the two edges and on the ridges (Pl. X, fig. 2).
- Three rough blades, one in whitish flint, 75 mm. long; one in light grey flint, 55 mm. long; and one in blond and mauve flint, 50 mm. long.

EL 'ADASIYAH. (6)

The Yarmuk falls into the Jordan in a flat country, where can be spotted, near the large El 'Adasiyah village, two tells. The surface sherds all belong to late periods, **Roman, Byzantine** and **Arabic**.

B. JORDAN VALLEY. EAST BANK.

I. From the Yarmuk to Wadi Yabis.

TELL ESH SHUNAH. (7)

Tell esh Shunah, on the northern bank of Wadi el 'Arab, is known by soundings, which have been published previously (Pl. XVI, fig. 3, 4, XVII (layer 14), XVIII (layer 17), XIX, fig. 1, 2 (layer 19).

TELL SUWAN. (8)

Tell Suwân is a low site, north of the junction between Wadi el 'Arab and the Jordan. (Pl. XVI, fig. 2). The sherds picked up are **Hellenistic** to **Arabic**, but none could be assigned to the Late Neolithic described by Nelson Glueck.

Flints are common, as suggested by the name of the site, but of rough fabric, with unprepared striking platform; three of them however deserve a short account:

- **Blade** of white chert, cananean technic, 50 mm. long.
- **Blade** of blond flint, 43 mm. long.
- Thick blade of blond flint, possibly used as a **scraper**, 50 mm. long, 55 mm. wide and 30 mm. thick.

TELL EL MADRASA.

Tell el Madrasa is a very low tell, north-west of the crossing between the I. P. C. pipe-line and the Jisr esh Sheikh Hussein road. A small hamlet occupies the summit. The pottery is **Roman** and **Byzantine**.

MAKHRABA.

Not far south-east from Tell el Madrasa, below Makhraba village, flows a spring, where Hassan Abu Hawad collected a fair number of flints, which seem to be **Upper Paleolithic**, with unprepared striking platform. Besides numerous typical pieces, ten artefacts must be selected.

- Two blade **scrapers**, managed on the end of the blade and rather steep or “busqués”; blond flint, 56 and 52 mm. long.
- Chisel-like **blade**, made of violet flint (Pl. X, fig. 3).
- **Burin**, made on a thin flake of blond flint (Pl. X, fig. 4).
- Blade, perhaps used as a **borer**, light mauve flint, 55 mm. long.
- **Borer**, in violet flint, with steep retouch (Pl. X, fig. 5).
- Two square **flakes**, possibly used as scrapers, one in violet flint, 52 mm. long, one in blond flint, 35 mm. long.
- Two small **cores** or “nuclei”, one of blond flint, 30 mm. high, the other of dark brown flint, 40 mm. high.

TELL FENDI. (9)

Tell Fendi lies south of Wadi Ziqlab, between the river and the Jisr esh Sheikh Hussein road. It is low but extent; a modern farm is built on its southern end. Almost all the finds belong to Nelson Glueck's Middle Chalcolithic, an undifferentiated Ghassulian, which we are inclined to synchronize with **Late Chalcolithic**.

The pottery. The paste is crude, usually buff, sometimes whitish or pink. The outer face of the vessels is generally red-washed; inside, the red wash appears frequently as a band around the rim, but sometimes covers all the inside. Several sherds are made of a white well levigated clay. The main shape is the plain hemispheroidal **bowl** with rounded lip (Pl. X, fig. 1-6). One rim seems to pertain to a **hole-mouth cooking-pot** (Pl. XI, fig. 7). Vertical pierced **ear-handles** appear at the rim (Pl. XI, fig. 1) or on the body (Pl. XI, fig. 8) of the vessels, but the earlier tradition of **loop-handles** with flattened section and widened attachment is still represented by two fragments. Excavation may expose a lower **Early Chalcolithic** deposit as the horizon of these loop-handles and of some of the plain rims. Coherent with the surface material are

flat bases, one of which, 80 mm. in diameter, meets the body by a slow curve. Raised bands with thumb impressions and traces of red wash are found on two thick storage jars (Pl. XI, fig. 9, 10). Two wheel-made jugs, in dark red clay, belong to the Roman period (Pl. XI, fig. 11, 12).

The flaked stone industry. The lithic industry looks rather poor. Three tools, roughly made, have an unprepared striking platform:

- **Blade section**, rectangular, with crust on one side, light mauve flint, 30 mm. long.
- **Flake**, thick, with crust on one face, light mauve flint, 46 mm. long.
- Crusted large **flake**, mauve with white veins, 90 mm. long and 25 mm. thick.

KHIRBET SHEIKH MOHAMMED. (10)

South of Khirbet Sheikh Mohammed village, stands a large tell, strewn with quantities of sherds. The bulk of the pottery is **Iron I-II**:

- **Hole-mouth** jars (Pl. XI, fig. 16, 17) (11); **bowls** with inverted rim (Pl. XI, fig. 18); **jugs** with thickened rim (Pl. XI, fig. 19); **pots** with an everted rim (Pl. XI, fig. 20); pinkish, whitish or black clay.

A **loop-handle** of dark-red burnished ware may be **Early Bronze I-II**, but an important group of crude ware, red to yellow, seems more likely to be **Arabic**.

It includes **jars** with everted neck and a red slip inside the rim (Pl. XI, fig. 13) or raised decoration (Pl. XI, fig. 15), thick **storage-jars** or stands, who bear also raised bands (Pl. XI, fig. 14), and **loop-handles** with elongated attachment and a flat or triangular section.

This site overlooks the crossing of the Jordan just opposite Beth Shan and held accordingly an important strategical position.

II. From Wadi Yabis to Wadi Zerqa.

TELL ABU HABIL. (12)

The soundings on Tell Abu Habil have already been published.

TELL AL HANDAQUQ. (13)

Tell el Handaquq is a long rocky spur, behind which extends a sloping plateau, on top of which were found a number of sherds. The site offers good natural protection. All the material collected belongs to **Late Chalcolithic** and to **Early Bronze I-II**; one sherd is of Tell Umm Hamad Sherqi type with multiple raised bands. Nelson Glueck also found Esdraelon ware and some Middle Chalcolithic. A flint **blade**, mauve with white veins, measures 52 mm.

TELL ABU FESH. (14)

Tell Abu Fesh is a small tell, whose sharp contour is visible on top of a rich terrace overlooking the Jordan, north of Wadi Kufrinje. (Pl. XIX, fig. 3). The rim of a large **Middle Bronze II** storage jar was found on the surface (Pl. XII, fig. 13) (15).

TELL EL QELAYA. (16)

Tell el Qelaya is opposite the former site, on the south side of Wadi Kufrinje, west of Kereimeh village. The occupation of this small settlement was supposed by Nelson Glueck

to go back to **Early Bronze I**, and the 1953 finds seem to confirm this early occupation : rough red-slipped ware, sometimes with raised decoration. As noticed by Nelson Glueck, the presence of **Late Chalcolithic** is possible.

Part of a **sickle blade**, made in chocolate flint with cananean flaking, shows fine retouch on the edges, one of which has a slight sheen (Pl. X, fig. 6).

TELL ES SA'IDIYEH EL GHARBI. (17)

On the terrace west of the high mound of Tell es Sa'idiyeh esh Sherqi, more remains of **Early Bronze I** were collected: indented ledge-handles, bowls with inverted rim, pattern burnished sherds, hole-mouth jars, jars with an everted neck, Lamps with several spouts may be dated to **Middle Bronze I** (K. Kenyon's EB-MB). We failed to recognise the spot where Nelson Glueck found two **Early Chalcolithic** (K. Kenyon's Pottery Neolithic B) sherds.

TELL ES SA'IDIYEH ESH SHIMALI.

On the north bank of Wadi Kufrinje, on a marl, "qattârah", hill, opposite Tell es Sa'idiyeh esh Sherqi, (Pl. XIX, fig. 3), a **Late Chalcolithic** site was located: jars with everted neck and a raised band at the junction of the neck and the body, hole-mouth jars, flat bases, vertical loop-handles and ear-handles with elongated attachment. All this material being coated with a calcareous crust, it is impossible to ascertain if part of this pottery is not **Early Bronze I**. Other finds were **Roman** handles and yellow **Arabic** ware.

TELL ES SA'IDIYEH EL TAHTA. (18)

West of Tell es Sa'idiyeh el Gharbi, on a terrace among the "qattârah" slopes leading to the Zôr, a small **Late Chalcolithic** site with Ghassulian affinities, was excavated. The main feature is the remains of a tomb, which confirms Nelson Glueck's idea that these slopes were used as cemeteries by the inhabitants of Tell es Sa'idiyeh.

TELL EL QOS. (19)

Tell el Qôs is a rocky hill, surrounded by cliffs on every side, except northward, where a slope leads to the neighbouring hillocks; this access is closed by a strong stone wall, so that the site is of the "éperon barré" type.

Late Chalcolithic was not encountered, but the 1953 finds include a few **Early Bronze I-II** sherds:

- **Bowl** with inverted rim, orange clay with a pattern-burnished red surface (Pl. XII, fig. 1) (20).
- **Hole-mouth jar**, with a thick rim, buff clay, red slip.
- **Jars** with an everted neck.
- **Incised decoration** on the shoulder of a jar, made of red clay with a white slip (Pl. XII, fig. 2).
- **Raised indented bands**, with finger impressions (Pl. XII, fig. 3, 4).
- **Band slip** (grain wash) decoration on jars.
- **Ledge-handles**, plain, with red slip (Pl. XII, fig. 5) (21).
- **Pushed-up ledge-handle**, with patches of red slip (Pl. XII, fig. 6) (22).

However, the bulk of the material was **Middle Bronze I**, with typical **envelope ledge-handles** (Pl. XII, fig. 7) (23).

Several jar rims seem to belong to **Iron II**; they are wheel-made, in red or black clay, with a white slip (Pl. XII, fig. 8-11) (24). A glazed rim, chocolate surface with a yellow band, is **Mediaeval Arabic** (Pl. XII, fig. 12).

TELL EL GHAZALA. (25)

The small and flat Tell el Ghazala, near the huge Tell el Mazar, lies in the midst of cultivated fields. (Pl. XIX, fig. 4). The main period of occupation is **Iron II**: sherds in black clay with red faces and a white slip, especially **jar** (Pl. XII, fig. 14, 15, 17) (26) and **bowl** (Pl. XII, fig. 16, 18) rims.

TELL EL KHESSAS. (27)

Tell el Khessas or Tell el Eksas is a small site. Most of the pottery is **Iron II**: **jars** with a high neck and elaborate rim, made of black clay (Pl. XII, fig. 19, 20) (28).

TELL DEIR 'ALLA. (29)

According to surface finds, the earliest phase of settlement should be **Middle Bronze II**: quite typical is the upper part of a large storage jar with flat loop-handles, made of red clay (Pl. XIII, fig. 1).

Iron I-II is well represented by **jar** (Pl. XIII, fig. 2, 4) (30) and **bowl** (Pl. XIII, fig. 3, 5) (31) rims, of reddish ware. **Roman** and **Byzantine** were also present.

TELL EL MEIDAN. (32)

The imposing Tell el Meidan overlooks the north bank of wadi Zerqa. The road actually crosses the river on a bridge east of the mound, and the place was no doubt already an important passage in ancient times. We missed the **Chalcolithic** and **Early Bronze Age** remains mentioned by Nelson Glueck and found mainly **Iron I-II** sherds.

TELL EL MUNTAH. (33)

As Nelson Glueck noticed, there is no sign on Tell el Muntah of Père Mallon's **Late Chalcolithic**, the earlier sherds being **Roman**.

TELL UMM HAMAD SHERQI. (34)

To the previous surveys and to James Mellaart's soundings, who reasserted the stratigraphical position of its **Late Chalcolithic** and **Early Bronze** cultures, can be added several surface flints, all of **cananean** type:

- **Tabular scraper**, made of blond flint, with faceted striking platform, and steep retouch; one corner is broken (Pl. X, fig. 7).
- **Sickle blade**, made of blond flint; the two edges are finely serrated, but only one shows lustre (Pl. X, fig. 8).
- **Blade section**, light mauve flint, 35 mm. long and 18 mm. wide.
- **Twelve flakes**, made of blond striped flint.

III. From Wadi Zerqa to the Dead Sea.

TELL GHANAM. (35)

South of Damiyah extends an arid zone, which seems to have been an archaeological void, until irrigation works in **Roman** period.

On the north bank of Wadi Nimrin, which is the continuation of Wadi Shu'eib, lies the low site of Tell Ghanâm. The remains which could be attributed to **Ghassulian**, according to Nelson Glueck, are not very characteristic: a **bowl** rim (fig. 7, 6) and a **hole-mouth** rim (fig. 7, 7). A large proportion of the sherds could as well be **Mediaeval Arabic** or more recent: very sandy and crude paste, white or red in colour, raised decoration, plain loop-handles. Only excavation could solve this problem.

Six flints of poor fabric, with unprepared striking platform, give slight evidence for dating:

- **Scraper** on a thick flake, 50 mm. long by 17 mm. thick, steep retouch on the upper face.
- Two **blades**, one of bluish flint, 60 mm. long, one of white chert, 67 mm. long.
- Three **flakes**, two in light mauve flint, 50 mm. and 38 mm. long, one made of white chert, 50 mm. long.

TELL EL HAMMAM. (36)

Tell el Hammâm is a flat topped rocky hill, with numerous ruins of buildings and potsherds. **Early Bronze I** is represented by **hole-mouth jars**, with a thickened rim; one has a red wash outside and inside the rim (Pl. XIII, fig. 14, 15). Most of the pottery is **Iron I-II**, wheel-made red ware: large **bowls** (Pl. XIII, fig. 8), necked **jars** with various rims, some very elaborate (Pl. XIII, fig. 9-13) (37). A **bowl** rim, made of hard red clay, corrugated inside, with an horizontal handle, is probably **Roman** (Pl. XIII, fig. 16).

TELL IKTANU. (38)

The large site of Tell Iktanû seems to have been occupied mainly during **Middle Bronze II**; its situation is a fairly strong one (Pl. XX, fig. 1). The pottery is abundant; the clay is light red or grey in colour:

- **Bowls** with globular bodies, flat and thick rim, and a raised finger-impressed or indented band underneath the lip.
- **Jars** with an everted neck and a raised band at the junction between neck and shoulder.
- **Ledge handles**, narrow and elongated, mostly envelope ledge-handles.
- Rope-like **raised bands** at the shoulder or on the body of large storage vessels.

The lithic industry is well represented by twenty artefacts, usually with a faceted striking platform:

- **Borer** on a pink-coloured flint blade (Pl. X, fig. 9).
- Two **burins**, one in chocolate flint (Pl. X, fig. 10), the other in cream flint (Pl. X, fig. 11).
- **Sickle blade**, grey flint, with blunted back by steep retouch (Pl. X, fig. 12).
- **Blade scraper**, mauve flint, with a yellow patina on one face, 43 mm. long.
- Two **blades** with a cutting edge, one in whitish cream flint, 50 mm. long; one made of pink-coloured flint.

- Cananean blade with a whitish patina, 37 mm. long.
- Flake with a cutting edge, of blond flint.

TELL IJRUFU. (39)

The very low Tell Ijrufa, or Tell Ejrafah, south of Wadi Rama, only shows **Mediaeval Arabic** sherds : painted ware with chocolate bands and chevrons on an ochre, dark red or white field; combed ware with undulated patterns; ribbed ware; glazed chocolate, yellow or green faced pottery.

C. JORDAN VALLEY. WEST BANK.

I. From Wadi Shubash to Wadi el Far'ah.

KHIRBET SHEIKH HAMID AL FATUR.

The high mound of Khirbet Sheikh Hamid Al Fatur, in the southern part of the Beth Shan plain, shows mostly **Byzantine** sherds on the surface, the other sherds being much weathered and untypical, although some may have been earlier.

KHIRBET KHESAS ED DEIR.

The very low site of Khirbet Khasas ed Deir is a rich **Mediaeval Arabic** settlement:

- Jars with everted neck and hole mouth jars with a narrow opening.
- Bowls with a narrow trumpet-like foot, and with inverted rim.
- Painted ware in chocolate on white, or black on red, sometimes lustrous.
- Glazed ware, green, yellow, chocolate or brown.
- Ribbed ware and pottery with relief décoration, moulded,

TELL ESH SHAMSIYE.

The shallow mound, covered by the Tell esh Shamsiyé hamlet, is an extensive site. **Roman**, **Byzantine** and **Mediaeval Arabic** are the occupation periods, according to the surface finds.

Nine flints were collected:

- Two blade sections of cananean type, one of blond flint, 28 mm. long, the other of pink-coloured flint, 22 mm. long.
- Flake scraper, rectangular, with steep retouch, made of blond flint, 48 mm. long and 30 mm. wide.
- Six flakes of buff, mauve or blond-coloured flint.

TELL EL HAMME. (40)

The huge Tell el Hamme stands at the mouth of a valley, which leads from the high country of Samaria to the Beth Shan plain. It belongs to the same line of fortified cities as Ible'am, Ta'annak and Megiddo (Pl. XX, fig. 2, 4).

Several sherds go back as far as **Early Bronze I-II**:

- **Bowls** with thick rim, one in red clay with a red burnished slip (Pl. XIV, fig. 3).
- **Globular bowls** with a red slip (Pl. XIV, fig. 1).
- Simple rounded **bowls**, one with an horizontal lug under the rim (Pl. XIV, fig. 2).
- **Stripes of red paint** on a cream or orange slip.

Some of the finds belong probably to **Late Bronze II**, but most are **Iron I-II**:

Bowls:

- Bowls with a thick wall, made of yellow clay (Pl. XIV, fig. 4), of red clay with a white slip inside (Pl. XIV, fig. 5) or of red clay with a black core (Pl. XIV, fig. 6) (41).
- Carinated bowls with an everted rim, red clay and black core (Pl. XIV, fig. 7) (42).
- Bowls with a thin wall, slightly everted rim, red clay with a black core (Pl. XIV, fig. 8) (43).

Jugs with a narrow neck and sophisticated rim, red clay with a black core (Pl. XIV, fig. 9-11) (44).

Flask with a cupped mouth, made of red clay (Pl. XIV, fig. 12) (45).

Jars with a thick rim, mostly with a red surface and black core, but some of yellow, pink or white clay. A figure must certainly be reversed (Pl. XIV, fig. 13), for it obviously pertains to a footed vessel. The other jar rims show a great variety of shapes (Pl. XIV, fig. 14-20; Pl. XV, fig. 1) (46).

Jars or hole-mouth pots with sharp mouldings below the rim, same material as the former (Pl. XV, fig. 2-10) (47).

Handles of various types; red surface with a black core:

- A jar rim bears a piece of a loop-handle, originally balanced by a second one (Pl. XV, fig. 11) (48).
- Two hole-mouth jars have similar loop-handles at the rim; on the outer face of one, appears white slip (Pl. XV, fig. 12), on the other, red burnished slip (Pl. XV, fig. 13) (49).
- A loop handle, of coarse fabric, has a double ring, different from the MB type and also Iron Age (Pl. XV, fig. 14) (50).

A group of red lustrous sherds, such as a two handled cooking-pot or **juglet** (Pl. XV, fig. 15) are **Roman** and **Byzantine**. The **Mediaeval Arabic** period is represented by red white painted ware, ribbed ware and a few loop-handles with a characteristic **groove** (Pl. XV, fig. 16).

A saw or sickle blade, of yellow red striped chert, shows a slight lustre on both edges (Pl. X, fig. 13).

TELL ABY SUS.

Tell Abu Sus is an enormous site oriented east-west, with two summits; it stands on a rock table, overlooking the Jordan, which flows about a hundred meters below, and commands two fords, Makhadat Fat-Hellah and Makhadat Abu Sus; it is about forty meters high, but this is probably in part natural, and in part accumulation of archaeological debris (Pl. XX, fig. 3).

Some sherds are **Early Bronze I-II**: pattern burnished red sherds, among which **bowls with inverted rim** (Pl. XV, fig. 17), small **jugs** with everted neck, **red painted parallel bands**, large flat **bases**.

Besides a few sherds which could be **Late Bronze II**, the bulk is **Iron I-II** ware with red surfaces and black core; the most common shapes are elaborate **moulded rim jars** (Pl. XV fig. 18-22) (52).

A large number of sherds are **Mediaeval Arabic** : **white or red painted** pottery; whitish ware with red painted geometric patterns; red lustrous ware with **deeply incised** triangles and criss-cross designs; **glazed** ware, green and yellow.

Three flints were collected on the surface:

- **Blade or dagger** in blond striped flint, tip broken (fig. X, fig. 14).
- **Blade** made of light mauve flint, 36x16 mm.
- **Flake** of light mauve flint, 28 mm. long, 31 mm. wide.

KHIRBET ES SAKUT.

Khirbet es Sakut is a small site north of Wadi Malih. The sherds range from **Roman** to **Mediaeval Arabic**.

Between Wadi Malih and Wadi Far'ah, no site was visible in the narrow strip of land between the hills and the Ghor.

II. South of Wadi Far'ah to the Dead Sea.

TELL DEIR EL GHANNAM.

TELL EL METLAB.

TELL ABU KHURS.

A group of small low mounds lies south of Khirbet el Mefjer and east of Tell es Sultan, on the right bank of Wadi Nu'eima, from north to south: Tell Deir el Ghannam, Tell el Metlab, Tell Abu Khurs. All three only yield **Roman, Byzantine and Mediaeval Arabic** sherds.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN NOTES.

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