

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 2011 SEASON OF THE MADABA PLAINS PROJECT: TALL JALŪL EXCAVATIONS 2011

*Paul Gregor, Paul Ray, Randall Younker and Constance E. Gane*

## Introduction

The 2011 season at Tall Jalūl and the Jalūl Islamic village, conducted by Andrews University, took place between 7 May and 17 June 2011. The excavations on the *tall* were directed by Randall Younker, Constance Gane, Paul Gregor and Paul Ray, of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University. The excavation in the Islamic village was directed by Reem al-Shqour<sup>1</sup>. Around 40 faculty, students and volunteers joined more than 20 Jordanian workers during the excavations this season<sup>2</sup>.

Excavations at the site of Tall Jalūl began in 1992, with excavations in the Jalūl Islamic village beginning in 2008. For background information on Tall Jalūl, the Jalūl Islamic village and the history of the excavations at the site, see Gane *et al.* 2010; Gregor 2009; Gregor and Gregor 2009 and 2010; Herr *et al.* 1994, 1996 and 1997; Younker *et al.* 1993, 1996, 1997, 2007 and 2009; Younker, Gane and Shqour 2007; Younker and Merling 2000; and Younker

and Shqour 2008.

## Results of the 2011 Season at Tall Jalūl

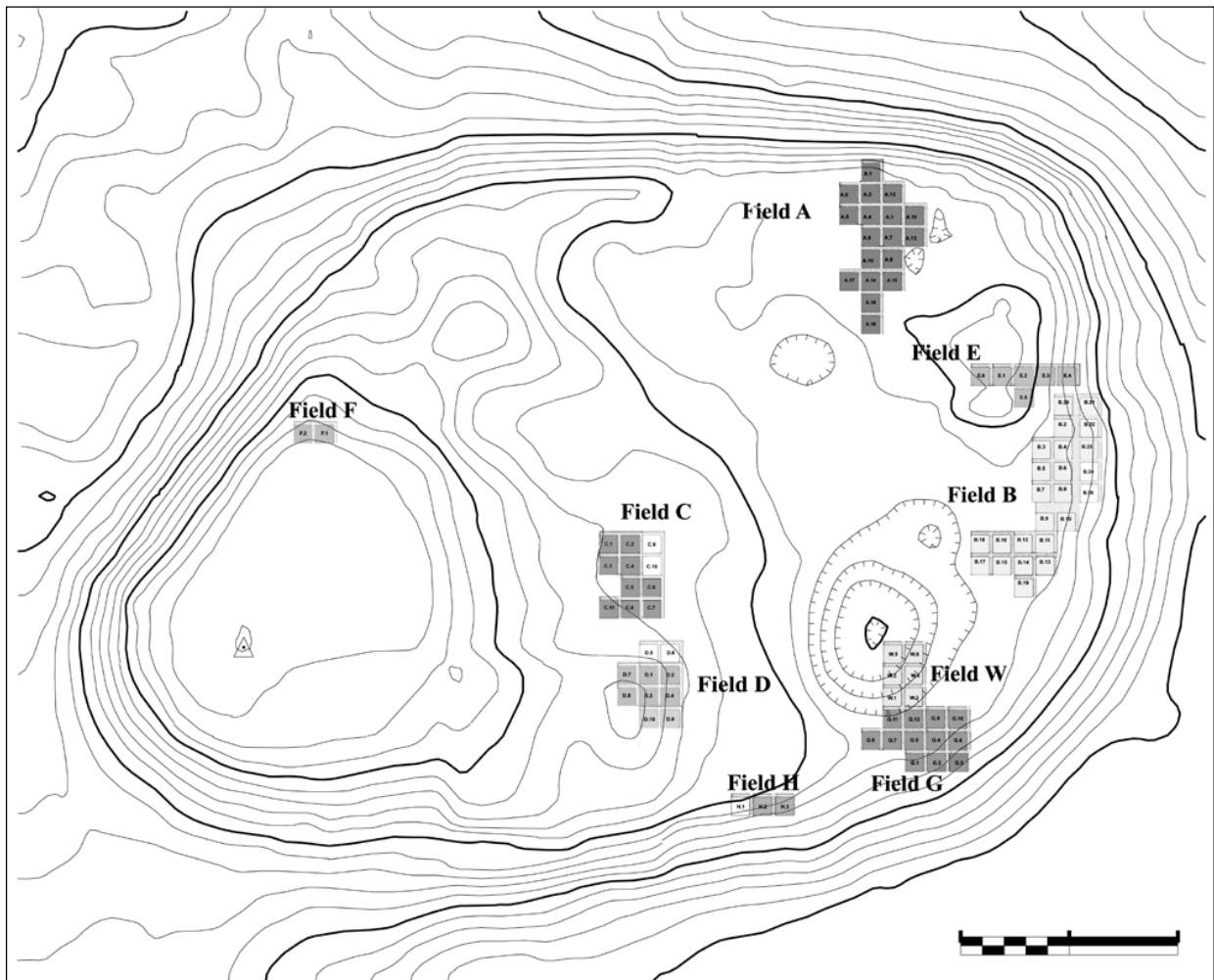
The 2011 season was designed to wrap up the first phase of excavations at the *tall*, in preparation for the publication of the excavations and discoveries that had been made up to this point. Excavations in Fields A, B and E on the north and east sides of the *tall* (**Fig. 1**) were completed some time ago, with excavations in more recent years concentrating on the southern and western sides (the latter just below the acropolis). Excavations on the *tall* during the 2011 season were conducted only in Fields C, G and W (water system).

*Field C: Building Complexes* (Paul Ray, Andrews University)

Excavations in Field C (**Fig. 1**) were begun in 1994 and focused on the remains of a pillared house, parts of which covered the original four squares (C.1 - 4) of the field. Unfortunately, owing to stone robbing, the western wall of this

1. Reem al-Shqour, Research Associate in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, will present a separate report on the 2011 season at the Islamic village.
2. We wish to thank Dr Ziad al-Saad, Director General, and his staff at the Department of Antiquities of Jordan for their support of the project this season. We would also like to thank Barbara Porter and Chris Tuttle of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) for their usual assistance. Finally, we appreciate the help of Hanadi al-Taher, of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, who served as our departmental representative. Staff for the 2011 season included director Randall W. Younker and co-directors Paul Z. Gregor, Paul Ray and Constance E. Gane. Reem al-Shqour directed the excavations at the Jalul Islamic village. Theodore Bergh served as assistant to the director. Sabal Zaben was pottery formator and helped with a number of logistical issues. The field supervisors this season were Paul Gregor (Fields G and W) and Paul Ray (Field C). Paul

Ray also served as object registrar; Christie Chadwick was the pottery registrar. Paul Ray and Carina Prestes served as architects, and Stephanie Elkins and Erika Fortin as photographers. Jacob Moody oversaw GPS readings on the *tall* and at the Islamic village. Square supervisors for Field C included Christie Chadwick, Audrey Shaffer and Jennifer Shrestha. Square supervisors for Field G were Abalarido Rivas and Jeffrey Hudon. Square supervisors for Field W included Paula Arrais, Tiago Arrais, Carina Prestes and Denis Fortin. Square supervisors for the Islamic village were Elisabeth Lesnes and Jacob Moody. Volunteers included Miguel Albarran, Jehieli Calderon, Maria Collazo, Arnold Deene, Seneque Edmond, Zoe Feliciano, Claribel Feliz, Erika Fortin, Rebekah Gauthier, Danilo Giordano, Sergio Soto-Gonzalez, Madeliz Guterrez, Jake Heffington, Carlos Marrero, Courtney Merchant, Lyxelis Navarro, Mary Peoples, Vladimir Popovicheff, Nanyeli Quiles, Efrén Reyes, Hector Rubert, Ramona Silsbee and Yomara Torres.



1. Topographic map of Tall Jalul, with excavated fields.

building was removed not long after it went out of use. In an effort to locate the southern end of the building, a new square (C.5) was opened in that direction in 1996. Not only was this side of the building found, but parts of two walls of another building were also exposed. Hence, while the general shape of pillared house has been known since the late 1990s, with most of it excavated to bedrock, the intriguing nature of the new building, lack of personnel and other logistical issues dictated that operations in this field move laterally, to the south. Work has been concentrated in this part of the field for the last few seasons, where a large ‘public’ building has been excavated.

During a short three-week mini-season in

2010, which focused primarily on other sections of the *tall*, the supervisor of this field, who has also functioned on and off as site architect, was drawing walls in this part of the field and discovered that the balk of one of the northernmost squares had eroded over the decade that had elapsed since it was last worked, exposing several stones that appeared to be part of a wall. Theorizing that this could be part of the previously unexcavated northern wall of the pillared building, plans were made in the 2011 season to completely uncover the last remaining section of this structure.

The objectives for Field C in the 2011 season were therefore to clarify the architectural plans of the two major buildings<sup>3</sup> previously found in

3. One wall of a third building was found in the field to the south-east of the pillared house, in Square 6; another

was found west of the pillared house, in Square 3, and was presumably associated with another building.

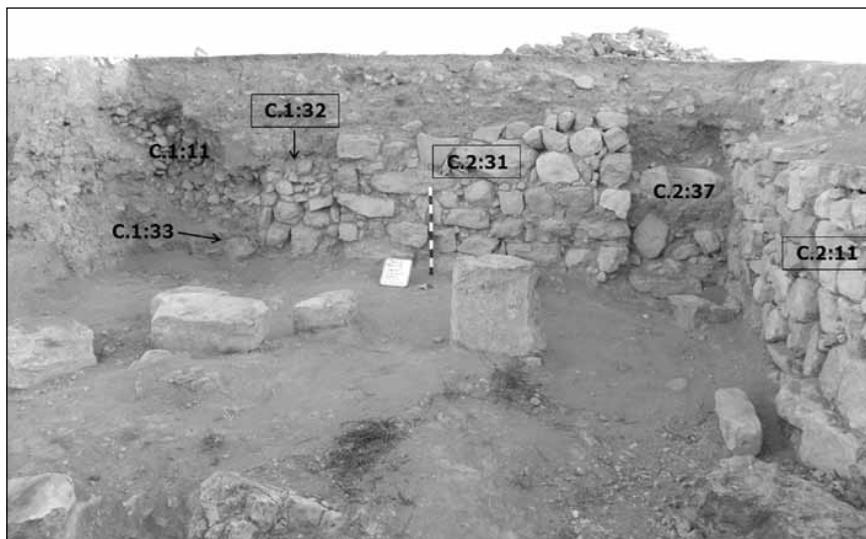
the field: the pillared house at the northern end and the public building at the southern end.

In the northern part of the field, two of the previously opened squares (C.1 - 2) were worked. The north balks of each of these squares were removed, exposing the northern wall (C.2:31) of the pillared building (**Fig. 2**). It was a free-standing wall with entrances (C.1:32 and C.2:37) at each end (west and east respectively). The ceramics found on the floor (C.1:23 and 24 = C.2:19 = 28) associated with the wall date to the Iron Age II (7th century BC), which confirms the dating from earlier seasons for the earliest phase (field phase 9) of this building. The western entrance (C.1:32) of the north wall was blocked during the Persian period re-use (field phase 8) of the building. The eastern entrance (C.2:37) was left unexcavated in the hope of preserving the continuity of the northern and eastern walls without further consolidation at this time. A large flat stone at the very bottom of this entrance may have served as its threshold, but without further excavation this remains a hypothesis. To the west of the blocked western entrance (C.1:32), the remains of a robber trench (C.1:11) excavated to remove stones from the western wall can still be seen in the north balk of Square C.1 (**Fig. 2**). Within the robber trench are numerous small to medium-sized boulders and cobbles, which probably belonged to the upper portion of the Persian period wall blocking this entrance. To the west of the blocked entrance and in front of the robber trench, as seen in the balk, is one large stone (C.1:33) which

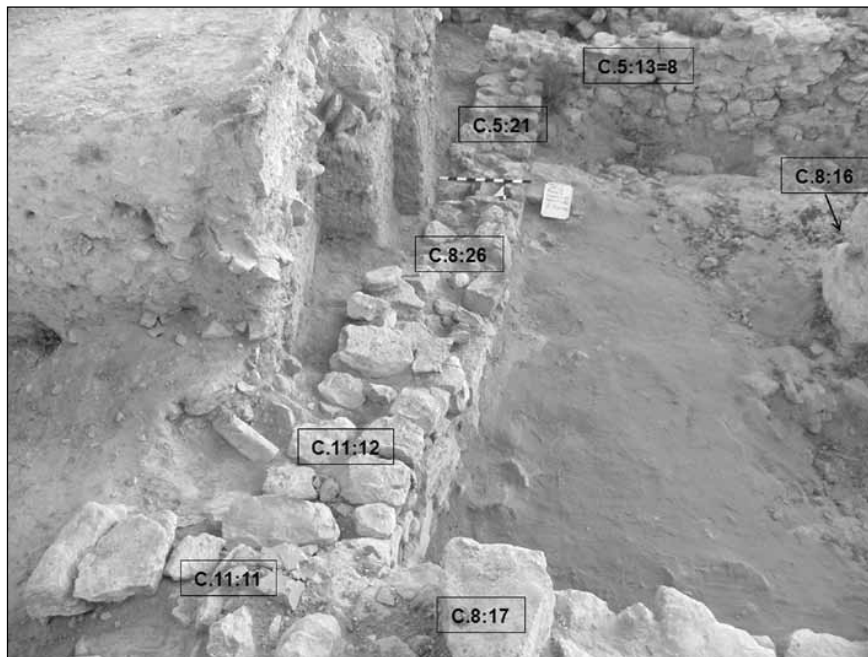
may have been a remnant of the robbed western wall of the house.

In the southern, public building (in Squares C.5 - 8, 11), the southern wall (C.8:17) was more fully exposed by the removal of part of the south balk in Square 11. The newly revealed section of the wall (C.11:11) is now seen to form a bonded corner with the western wall of the building (C.11:12). Removal of the east balk of Square 11 exposed the remainder of the western wall of the building complex. This wall (C.5:21 = C.8:26 = C.11:12) is now fully exposed and forms bonded corners with the north (C.5:8 = 13 = C.6:21) and south walls (C.8:17 = C.11:11) of the building. Hence, three walls of the public building are now fully exposed (**Fig. 3**). On the east side of the building, a small stretch of the wall (C.7:14) was found, although the south-eastern corner where it should tie in with the southern wall has not been located. The rest of the east wall appears to have been robbed out. The absence of a door in any of the three completely excavated walls suggests that the entrance(s) to the public building were in the eastern wall, on one or both sides of the partition wall (C.7:12 = C.8:16) between the two large rooms of the complex. The pottery, as in previous seasons, suggests an Iron Age II C / Persian period date for this building.

In addition to completing the excavation of the two major buildings in Field C, the space between the southern wall (C.5:44 = C.6:19) of a third building (east of the pillared house) and the public building to the south has now been completely exposed. Above this, in earlier



2. Wall C.2:31 and related features in Field C, Squares 1 and 2.



3. Newly excavated walls in Field C, Squares 8 and 11.

seasons, at least two Iron IIC / Persian period cobble stone streets (C.5:37 = C.6:8 and C.5:39 = C.6:11) belonging to field phase 4 were exposed. Wall C.5:44 = C.6:19 of the eastern building appeared to meet the east wall (C.2:11 = C.4:10 = 20) of the pillared house at an awkward, curved angle. While the two walls seemed to be connected, there were a number of large stones lying exposed near this potential 'join'; it is therefore possible that some of these stones had simply fallen from one or both of these walls during an earthquake, with the joining of the walls actually being an illusion. After the lower part of the east balk of Square 5 was completely removed, the decision was made to disassemble part of wall C5.44 = C.6:19 to see whether the two walls actually joined. In so doing, it became clear that the two buildings were indeed bonded together. It would appear that the eastern wall of the Iron Age II pillared building was definitely re-used, forming the western wall of the new building to its east when it was built in the Iron II C / Persian period. The dating of the latter building is based on the ceramics found in the foundation trench (C.6:28) of its southern wall (C.5:44 = C.6:19).

This season's excavations in Field C wrap up the first phase of excavation on this part of the *tall*, answering all of the remaining questions associated with the two major buildings in this field.

*Field G: Pillared Building* (Paul Gregor, Andrews University)

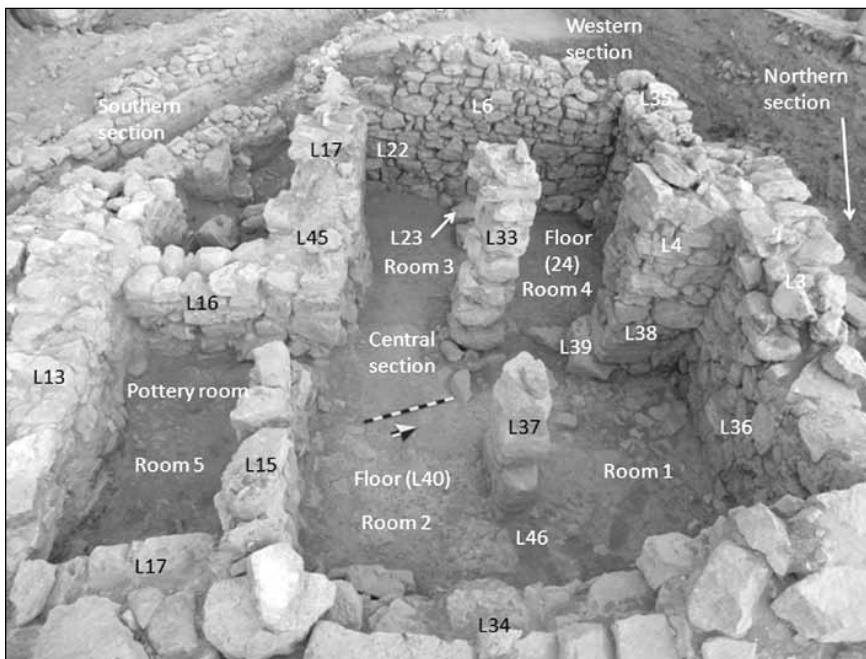
During the 2011 season of excavation at Tall Jalūl, two squares were excavated in Field G. Work continued in Square 9 which was opened in 2009 (**Fig. 1**). At that time work was conducted in this square for only a few days, at the end of the season. In spite of the short period of excavation, two occupational phases were discovered. The Persian period was represented by Wall G.9:2 and 7th century BC occupation by Walls G.9:3 and 4. Two additional occupational phases were discovered during the 2011 season, dating to the 9th and 8th centuries BC; these were represented by both walls and floors. This season a new square (G.12) was opened, east of Square 11, where a water channel had previously been revealed, and north of Square 5, where the pillared building was located together with the water channel (**Fig. 1**). Square 12 produced four consecutive phases dating to the 9th, 8th and 7th centuries BC, and the Persian period. These four occupational phases are represented in both squares, interrupted by destruction and abandonment layers.

#### Occupational Phase 1 (9th century BC)

Phase 1 in Field G was present in both squares, where remains of the pillared building were discovered. The entire building complex

was constructed during 9th century BC and consists of several sections (**Fig. 4**). The northern section, which consists of one large room, was found in Square G.9 and is supported by a pillar (G.9:28) located in the middle of the room. This rectangular room is surrounded by two long walls, one on the north (Wall G.9:31) and one on the south (Wall G.9:36), and by two short walls, one on the west (Wall G.9:19) and one on the east (Wall G.9:34) (**Fig. 5**). The eastern

wall also functioned as part of the eastern section of the city wall. The room is approximately 6 m long and 3 m wide. All of the walls were made of roughly hewn, medium to large limestone boulders, stabilized with smaller chink stones, laid in two parallel rows to create walls 1 m thick. The only exception to this construction technique is the southern wall, which separates this room from the central section of the building and is 0.6 m wide. This room was con-



4. Field G: central section of the building, looking west.



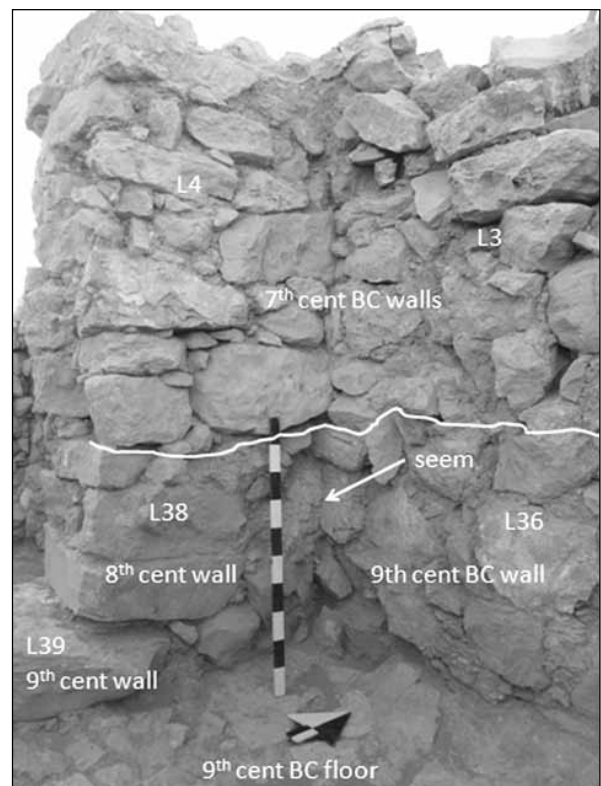
5. Field G: building complex, looking south.

nected to the central section by a door located in the south-western corner of the room. The door was 1 m wide and was blocked by Wall G.9:35 during the 7th century BC (Fig. 5) The pillar, located in the middle of the room, was preserved up to 1.2 m in height with five stones sitting on top of each other. This pillar probably supported a central beam connecting the western and eastern walls, thereby providing adequate support for a second story or the roof of the building. East of the pillar, a door socket was discovered in situ imbedded in the floor of the room, surrounded by one flagstone to the south and two flagstones to the north, suggesting that the room was probably sub-divided at one time. This line of flagstones with a door socket may outline a possible wall (Wall G.9:29), creating a small back room on the eastern side of the north room. The floor (Locus 37) of the room was made of beaten earth, neatly spread throughout the room.

Part of the central section, which is located in the middle of the building complex, had been discovered the previous season (2009); it was completely uncovered this season (2011). The central part of building complex consists of five rooms (Fig. 4). For clarity we have assigned them separate numbers (1-5). Room 1 is located in the north-eastern part of this central section, while Room 2 represents its south-eastern part. Room 3 is located to the south-west, while Room 4 occupies the north-western part. Room 5 is also known as the pottery cache room, as an enormous quantity of pottery was found there during the 2009 season. This Room 5 is located south of Room 2.

Room 1 is 2 m wide and 3 m long, and is surrounded by three stone walls. One of these walls is a long wall (Wall G.9:36) on the north side; it is 0.6 m thick and built of roughly-hewn, medium-sized limestone blocks, with a fill of chinking stones. The eastern wall (Wall G.9:34), which is 2 m long, also served as part of the city wall and is 1 m thick, built of larger limestone blocks in the same fashion as the northern wall. The western wall (Wall G.9:39) is not well-preserved because the building was re-modeled during the 8th century BC, with this wall undergoing the most changes. Only a few stones are visible to indicate that it once existed (Fig. 6). The southern wall included a pillar (Locus 37), which was positioned in such a way

that the space between it and the western wall (Wall G.9:39) of the room served as a doorway, while the space between the pillar and eastern wall (Wall G.9:34) was filled with a narrow wall (Wall G.9:46) to enclose the area. The pillar is partially preserved with three roughly-hewn, medium-sized stones still standing, creating a pillar 1.5 m high. Room 2 is similar in size to Room 1 and is located between Rooms 1 and 5, to the north and south respectively. Room 3 is rectangular in size, and is located to the west of Room 2 and south of Room 4. It is a narrow room, 1.5 m wide and 3 m long, with its entrance on the eastern side. The room is surrounded by a long wall (Wall G.5:17 = G.4:45) to the south, constructed with medium to large boulders and filled with chink stones. It is well-preserved, in some places standing up to 2 m in height. The western wall (Wall G.12:22) is similarly constructed and is only partially preserved, being visible only in one corner where it is approximately 3 m high. The northern wall (Wall G.12:23 and G.9:40) served as a divider between Rooms 3 and 4 (Fig. 7). During the 8th century BC remodeling, it was almost entirely removed

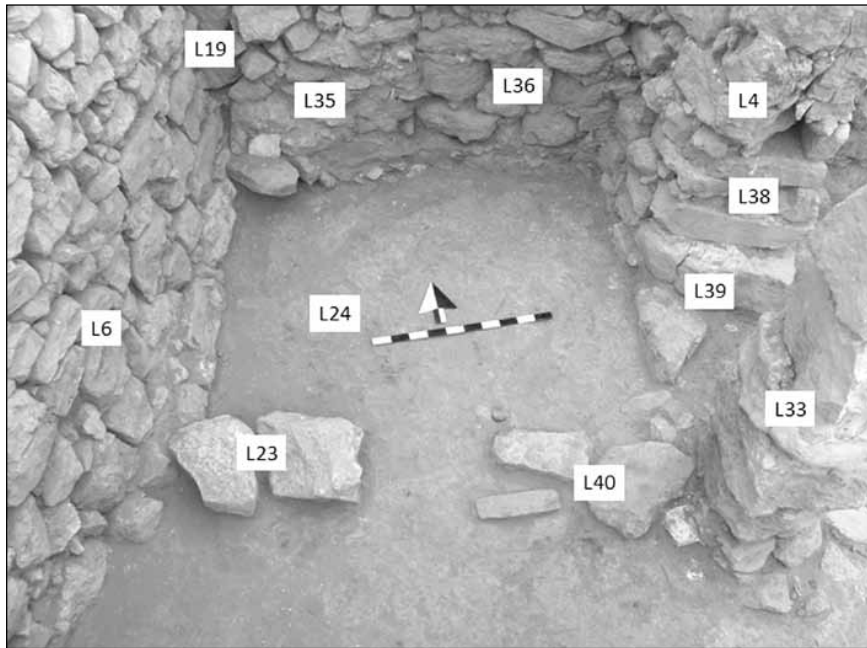


6. Walls in Room 1, representing all three occupational phases.

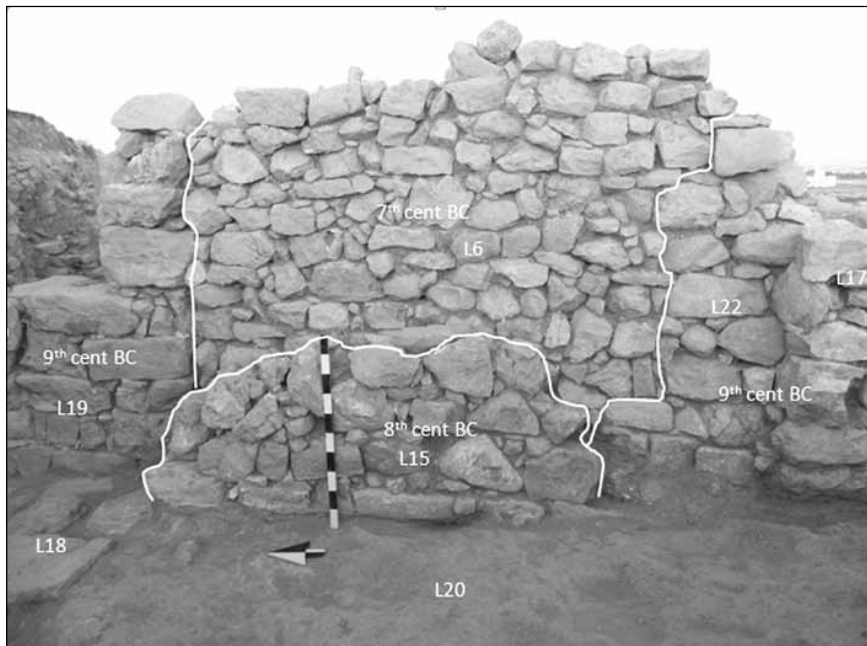
except for the first layer of stones, which are the sole reminder of its presence. There was a small entrance located in the middle of this wall which connected Rooms 3 and 4. Room 4 is almost square in shape, measuring approximately 2.5 m across. Another door was located in its north-western corner, connecting the central and northern sections. There is a possibility that the western wall of this room also contained a door-

way, connecting this and the western sections of the complex<sup>4</sup>. The central section, represented by five rooms, had a beaten earth floor filled with patches of small stones.

The western section was mainly revealed in Square G.12. Owing to the fact that a few flagstones of a floor were discovered (Loci 17 and 18), it is possible that it served as an open courtyard (Fig. 8). Much of this section was totally



7. Room 3, looking north.



8. Square G.12, looking east.

4. Room 5 was described in Younker *et al.* 2009: 30, as it

was fully excavated in the 2009 season.

obliterated by the later construction of the water channel during the 7th century BC. It is also possible that the western and southern sections were connected by a door. The southern section suffered greater destruction from the 7th century BC channel than the western section.

#### Occupational Phase 2 (8th century BC)

Sometime during the 8th century BC, the building complex was re-modeled. This is evident in both squares (G.9 and G.12). The 9th century BC floor was raised by a fill some 20 to 30 cm thick. The elevation of the floor is visible in the northern section, excavated in Square G.9 and represented by Locus 22. The size of the northern section of the building complex was reduced by a wall (Wall G.9:30) which was laid on a new surface. All the other walls in this section were re-used during this phase. Wall G.9:30 runs parallel to Wall G.9:31, used in the earlier phase, and is 1 m thick, consisting of large limestone boulders which were partially hewn (**Fig. 5**). At this time the space between the pillar (Locus 28) and Wall G.9:31, which belonged to the previous occupational phase, was filled and the pillar seemingly re-used to sub-divide this long room into two smaller rooms. The room was approximately 6 m wide (as it had been during the earlier phase), but its width was reduced to 1.8 m. Wall G.9:30 cuts through Wall G.12:19 and continues to the western section of the building complex. Its eastern part was robbed during the Byzantine or Islamic periods and it is not known how it originally connected with the eastern wall (Wall G.9:34).

The central section of the building complex suffered the most changes during the remodeling which occurred sometime during the early part of the 8th century BC. The five rooms which existed during the 9th century BC phase were reduced to 3 rooms in the 8th century BC. Room 5 (the pottery cache room) was left untouched and was still in use, with an elevated floor, as were all other rooms. The wall which separated Rooms 1 and 2 was removed, but the pillar (Locus 37) was now in the middle of the room and served as a support for the upper floor of the building. In this manner a larger, square room was created that was approximately 4 m long and 4 m wide (**Fig. 4**). Rooms 3 and 4 also went through significant changes. Walls G.12:23

and G.9:40, which separated these two rooms, were removed with the exception of their first courses. The floor was elevated to cover these remaining stones and a larger room was created. It is 3.5 m wide and approximately 2.5 m long. The eastern wall (Wall G.9:39) was removed and a new pillar (Locus 33) was erected. The pillar is entirely preserved, with its lintel still in place. In addition, a new wall (Wall G.9:38) was built which abutted against the northern wall (Wall G.9:36). The pillar (Locus 33) served to support the ceiling and upper floor. In this way, the room was accessible from both sides of the pillar. The door located in the north-western corner still existed in this phase, providing access to the northern section of the building complex.

Although the central section was connected to the western section by a possible door during the previous phase, at this time the entire section was blocked by Wall G.12:15, located in Square G.12 (**Fig. 8**). It was built of stones similar to Wall 30 in Square G.9. Wall G.12:15 was built on the existing 9th century BC pavement, and probably was connected with Wall G.9:30 at a right angle.

This phase ended abruptly during the last part of the 8th century BC. Burnt material, mixed with fallen bricks from the upper level, covered the floor throughout the entire building complex. The best preservation of this destruction was evident in the central section of the complex, especially in Room 5, where a large amount of pottery (dated to the end of 8th century BC) was found in 2009. As well as burnt material, the other rooms also contained a significant amount of pottery, very similar to that found in Room 5. In addition, an intact, small chalice (Object No. 869) and a fairly-well preserved, small cosmetic bowl (Object No. 868) were discovered.

#### Occupational Phase 3 (7th century BC)

After the 8th century BC destruction, the building complex went through significant changes. Fallen debris (approximately 1 m thick) from the upper floor was very extensive, indicating a near-total destruction of the entire building complex. Furthermore, the western and southern sections of the building were severely damaged by construction of the water channel which was built shortly after the destruction of the 8th century BC structures. The channel was



0.5 m wide and was built with small and medium-sized stones. The walls of the channel were 0.3 m thick and plastered on their inner sides. At some places the channel walls were preserved to a height of more than 1 m. The channel was built from the south-eastern corner of the city wall and, circumventing the central building section, cut through the southern and western sections. It then extends further north, passing by the eastern side of the depression of the water reservoir. The walls of the channel are well-preserved except at its northernmost section (in Field W), where they were partially robbed out. It lies just a few centimeters under the present ground surface.

During construction of the channel, the remainder of the western and southern sections of the building were filled and leveled with debris to support the outside walls of the channel and to create a new surface. The northern section was also abandoned and infilled to the same level. The central section of the complex was the only part which was reconstructed and used during the 7th century BC. Rebuilding occurred in all rooms except Room 5, which was abandoned and leveled, as were the other parts of this complex.

Walls G.4:15 and G.5:17 = G.4:45 became the southern wall of the 7th century BC building, which was re-used from previous phases. Wall G.9:34 was still used as the eastern wall, without any visible change. Pillars 33 and 37, located in the middle of the section, likewise continued in use (**Fig. 4**). The floor of the building was also elevated to the same level as the rest of the complex. The northern wall underwent extensive changes. The door which connected the central section with the northern part was blocked by Wall G.9:35; Walls G.9:36 and 38, from the previous phase, were replaced by Walls G.9:3 and 4 respectively (**Fig. 5**). The stones used in this phase were smaller and the structure itself was not as well-built as the previous one. On the western side, Wall G.12:15 was replaced by Wall G.12:6 (**Fig. 8**) which was built with a similar type of stone as the other walls from this phase. The entire structure was abandoned at the end of the 7th century BC.

#### Occupational Phase 3 (Persian period)

This period of occupation is not well repre-

sented in Field G. Evidence from this period of settlement was found in Square G.9, where only a poorly-constructed portion of a wall (Wall G.9:2) survived. Like Square G.9, G.12 produced evidence of Persian period occupation in the form of portions of two small walls (Walls G.12:3 and 5) associated with that settlement.

#### *Field W: Water System (Paul Gregor, Andrews University)*

Field W was carefully laid out on the south-eastern ridge of the large depression. Work in this field started during the 2010 season, when four squares were opened. The squares were opened in order to find the continuation of the water channel, anticipating that it would run straight to the depression where the remains of a water system were expected to be found. The excavation of these four squares brought the desired results and the continuation of the channel was revealed. However, it turned out that the channel does not run into the water system, but rather passes the depression on its eastern ridge, going further north. By the end of the season, 33.5 m of the water channel were exposed, but the northernmost section of the channel was destroyed by ancient stone robbers.

This season (2011), work continued in Field W. In addition to Squares W.2, W.3 and W.4, two additional squares (W.5 and W.6) were opened, situated north of Squares W.2 and W.4 respectively (**Fig. 1**). The goals of this season for Field W were to discover the possible continuation of the water channel in Square W.6, and to see if the water system existed in the great earth depression in Square W.5. After the second season of excavation, Field W yielded three occupational phases consisting of structures next to the water system.

#### Phase 1 (9th century BC)

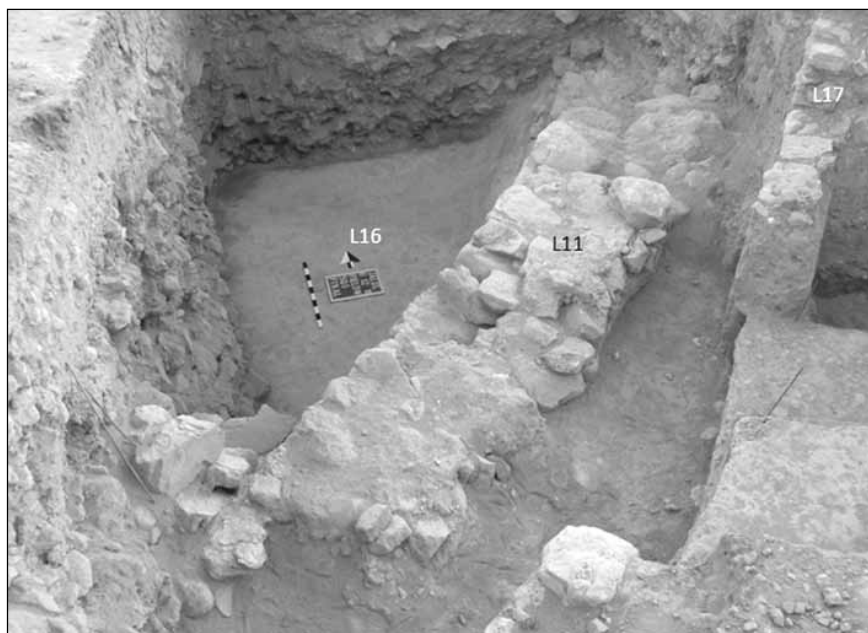
This phase was present in Squares W.2 and W.5, represented by floors and walls. Floor W.2:17, made of beaten earth and packed with pebbles (**Fig. 9**), was built over a fill which represents an abandonment phase of the 10th century BC. The pottery excavated under Floor W.2:25 was mainly Iron Age I, with the occasional presence of early Iron Age II sherds. Since the floor was not properly leveled it was covered with a fill and re-surfaced, thereby cre-



9. Squares W.2 and W.4, looking east.

ating a new floor (W.2: 23) made of lime plaster. On the northern side of Square W.2, the fill was 0.5 m high, while the southern side of the square revealed that these same two floors (25 and 23) joined together and were actually the same floor. Since Floor 23 was more level and made of lime plaster, it created a much smoother surface than the previous one. Both floors were constructed during the 9th century BC, displaying evidence for repair or remodeling. They probably represent surfaces created as walkways or streets.

Square W.5 revealed the presence of the same phase, with the discovery of the water reservoir which was partially exposed. As the earth depression where the reservoir was discovered measures more than 50 m in diameter at its rim, it is obvious that Square W.5 has revealed only a fraction of this feature. Four meters of debris have been removed so far. At this point, the wall (W.5:11 = W.2:19) is at least 2 m high and 1 m thick at the rim (**Fig. 10**). The inner wall is covered with several layers of plaster, which was



10. Reservoir.

also applied to its floor (W.5:16). The plaster was made of lime mixed with finely crushed stones. It is very compact, creating a hard surface which could have contained water for a long time. The reservoir surface was re-plastered at least four times and is 0.35 m thick in its final form. Dates for re-plastering are not known since the plaster did not contain any dateable material. The first layer was placed either on the paved surface or on the bedrock.

The reservoir was constructed by the 9th century BC, if not earlier, and was probably in use until at least the end of the 7th century BC. Floors W.2:23 and 25 seem to have been sealed against the highest stones of the reservoir's wall, suggesting that these floors and the wall belong to the same phase. The pottery which was found in the bottom of the reservoir was not abundant, but included the remains of holemouth kraters, pythoi, cups and bowls, all dating to Late Iron Age II. There is no evidence of destruction. Burnt deposits containing smashed vessels are totally absent, suggesting that this phase ended with a smooth transition to the next one.

#### Occupational Phase 2 (8th century BC)

The presence of the 8th century BC occupation continues in Squares W.2 and W.5, at which time the area surrounding the water reservoir was remodeled. A small wall was built on top of Floor W.2:23 (**Fig. 9**). Owing to stone robbing, only a fraction of this wall (W.2:12=28) survives. The wall continues into Square W.5 as Locus 17, where it seems to be slightly better preserved. It is made of a single line of small limestone rocks, stands up to 1 m high and is located about 1 m east of the reservoir, running along its rim.

Floor 23 from the previous phase was filled with soil 0.6 m thick in some places. A new floor (Locus 17) was constructed on top of the fill. It was made of compact beaten earth, containing small pebbles, and sealed against the short wall (Wall W.2:12 = 28 = W.5:17). The floor and the wall, which may also have served as a protecting ramp, were used as a walkway or street, making the approach to the reservoir safer and more accessible (**Fig. 9**).

Unlike Field G, which produced substantial evidence for the complete destruction of the 8th century BC settlement, Field W did not yield

any material to suggest that this phase ended violently. The reason for this might be found in the fact that this was a water reservoir that was not attached to any domestic or administrative structures.

#### Occupational Phase 3 (7th century BC)

After the 8th century BC phase, 0.5 m of fill accumulated on Floor W.2:17, above which the 7th century BC water channel was constructed. Even though the channel runs parallel to the reservoir, so far it is located about 6 m to its east. Square W.6 revealed a small section (Locus 10) of the channel in the north-east corner of the square, indicating that it continues further north. So far the channel has been excavated for about 40 meters. Up to this point it is not connected in any way with the reservoir, even though the pottery found in the bottom of the reservoir indicates that they co-existed.

In addition to the channel, a wall (W.4:10 = W.6:9) was found in these squares (**Fig. 9**). The wall runs east of and almost parallel to the channel. It was built of roughly-hewn limestone blocks laid in two rows. The stones are mainly small and medium-sized boulders filled with chink stones. It is approximately 8 m long and disappears into the east balk of Square W.6. On the southern side of Square W.4 it joins with another wall (W.4:17), creating the south-western corner of a building. The entire floor (Locus 16) of the building is paved with limestone slabs. The function of this building is presently unknown since only a limited area has been excavated. The building and the channel were built at the same level, suggesting that both were in use at the same time. In addition, preliminary reading of the pottery found on the floor dates it to the 7th century BC.

#### **Conclusions**

The results of the 2011 season have tied up a number of loose ends regarding the architectural integrity of the buildings in Fields C and G, bringing the first phase of excavation at Tall Jalūl to a relatively smooth conclusion. A number of artifacts with domestic (e.g. mortars, pestles, grinders, pounders, weights, stone bowls, whetstones), jewelry (e.g. beads), textile (e.g. spindles, spindle whorls, awls) recreational (e.g. rattle) and possibly cultic (e.g. figurine frag-

ments) functions were also found this season.

However, the latest part of the water channel and newly discovered section of the reservoir are features which require additional attention along with other, as yet unidentified, research questions. These remain to be tackled in the forthcoming second phase of excavation at the site.

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