

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 12 JANUARY 2010

# Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project

Trinity Southwest University,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

in a Joint Scientific Project with the

Department of Antiquities,  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

## TeHEP UPDATE

12 January 2010

*An Exclusive Report for TeHEP Alumni, Financial Supporters, and Friends*

### IGLOSSARY OF CHRONOLOGICAL TERMS FREQUENTLY USED IN TeHEP UPDATES:

Chalcolithic Period = Copper/Stone Age, 4400-3300 BCE; EBA = Early Bronze Age, 3300-2350 BCE; IBA = Intermediate Bronze Age, 2350-2000 BCE; MBA = Middle Bronze Age, 2000-1550 BCE; LBA = Late Bronze Age, 1550-1200 BCE; IA1 = Iron Age 1, 1200-1000 BCE; IA2 = Iron Age 2, 1000-586 BCE; IA3 = Iron Age 3/Persian Period, 586-332 BCE; HP = Hellenistic/Greek Period, 332-63 BCE; ERP = Early Roman Period, 63 BCE-168 CE]

Hello All:

We've now confirmed that Tall el-Hammam/Sodom is at least as old as we originally thought. Welcome to the Chalcolithic Period! We now have confirmed Chalcolithic occupation on the southern end of our LA.28 trench, outside the area encircled by the massive EBA fortification walls. This means that the city was continuously occupied for nearly 3,000 years before it was destroyed toward the end of the MBA (time of Abraham). This is a very exciting development, to say the least.

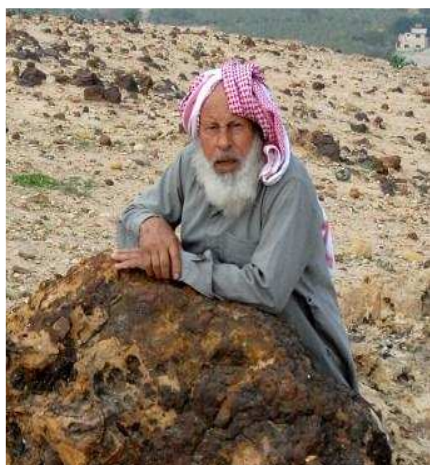


BRONZE AGE HOUSE WALLS

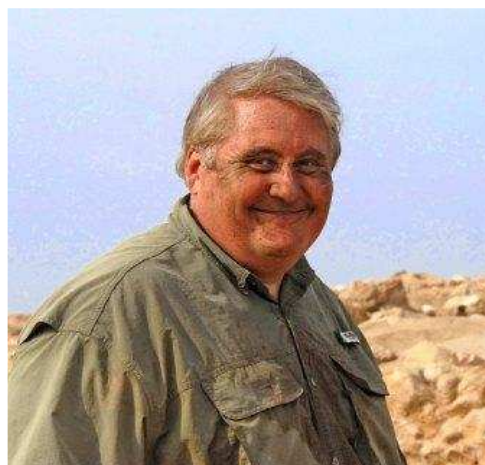


HAL'S SQUARE IN THE BANANA PALACE

The remains of Chalcolithic and EB1 houses are quite meager, consisting only of shallow foundations made of cobble-sized stones, about a half-meter thick, originally topped by a mudbrick superstructure with (likely) some kind of pole-and-thatch roof.



OUR FRIEND ABU AHMED



JEFF AFTER A DAY'S WORK

We've also got some kind of earlier structures in the same vicinity, perhaps dating back to the Neolithic Period. We'll have to see about that. But it's pretty exciting to see these extremely early settlement strata.

Excavation through the EB3 gateway is now exposing a cobble-and-plaster street or plaza that dates to phase earlier than the gateway itself. We've also got some mudbrick coming up outside the city walls that is very interesting, and entirely unexpected. We don't know what it is yet, but I think we'll probably have a theory by tomorrow.



OPENING UP A NEW PROBE ON THE NW SIDE OF LOWER HAMMAM

Huge thanks for your continuing financial support. We aren't out of the woods yet!

Oh, just a little note: Several of you have emailed asking us to put people on the distribution lists for the Updates. Please help us on this while we're in the field, and simply forward the Updates to your own distribution list(s). We're already inundated with work, and are really burning the candle at both ends trying to keep up with what's going

on here. So, help us out with this, please.

Digging the Bible,

Steven Collins, TeHEP Director  
Dean, College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University

P.S. Please forward this to whomever you like!

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**Donations can be mailed to: [TSU; 5600 Eubank NE, Suite 130; Albuquerque, NM USA 87111](#).**

**For detailed information about the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, visit the official TeHEP website: [www.tallelhammam.com](http://www.tallelhammam.com).**