

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 15 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

15 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 Home Team:

Today was a day off, but in order to maximize Dr Ritmeyer's time here, he and I went out to the site to do the work necessary for him to do a section drawing of our Trench LA.28. Now generally known as our "big trench," it incorporates 10 6x6m squares making it 60m N/S and 2m to 12m E/W depending on which square you're in. Our goal today was to make all the observations, measurements, and preliminary sketches in preparation for a formal section drawing to be used in publications.

Since many of our team were on a fieldtrip to Jerash and Umm Qais and had our regular bus tied up, the hotel provided transportation out to the site in one of their vans. They do take care of us! The weather was, again, ideal. Zed (one of Abu Ahmed's sons) came to help carry our equipment and to assist us in measuring. For the next few hours Leen sketched and recorded on graph paper while Zed and I measured. Leen's expertise at this sort of thing was readily apparent. We traced the layers of deposition in the W balk (vertical section) from one end of the trench to the other, measuring the thickness and shape of each layer (locus) along with walls, installations, living surfaces, and other important features. When Leen gets back to Wales (he leaves Wed), he'll use the photographs, survey data, and balk and top drawings from the excavation of each square to help

finalize his section drawing.

When we got back to the mosque parking lot, Abu Ahmed had lunch brought in for us, and we all sat down together to eat a late lunch. After that the hotel van returned and took us back to headquarters. It turned out to be a pretty long day (longer than we anticipated), but we were very satisfied with what was accomplished. Tomorrow we'll head out again for our next "day off" to do some more sketching and measuring on another part of the wall.

Please keep us in your prayers and giving. We really, really need your support for this Project that is having a profound impact in the battle for the Bible's historical credibility.

Digging the Bible,

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

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

You can make donations to TeHEP at the TSU shopping website: www.shop.tsu-edu.us.

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.