

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 18 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

18 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:

It rained much of the night, with a lot of lightning and thunder, and it was still raining this morning. So, it was impossible for us to go out to the site today. However, we anticipated this from Sunday's weather report, so we were prepared to do other things. Several stayed back at the hotel to do pottery and object registration. The rest did other things at the hotel or took our bus to Amman.

This was my day to make the annual pilgrimage up to the Department of Antiquities to drink tea with Director General, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Khraysheh. Khalil (of the DoA and also on the TeHEP staff) and I met with him for about twenty minutes, and everything was quite good. He seemed pleased with the state of our joint agreement (of course he would be with TeHEP funds now in the DoA bank account for site restoration). We drank a lot of coffee and tea, chatted about the progress at the site this season, and departed. Everybody happy, and me looking for the restroom! Welcome to Jordan.

Before we went to the DoA, Hussien, Leen, Steve Mc, Ken, David and I had paid a visit to the Jordan Geographic Center (actually a military-controlled function) to look for 1950s aerial photos of our area so we can see what the site features looked like before all the farming. We showed them

the exact location, but they had difficulty finding the maps for those coordinates. Their system is woefully archaic, entirely manual, with no viable system of retrieval apparent. In short, they didn't find them. They kept bringing out boxes of photos, but they never got to the exact location. So, they're working on it ("Everything is under control; we are professionals!" Right!). We're now waiting for a phone call from them to give us the word that they found the right ones. Welcome to Jordan.

After our 'geographic' experience, Hussien, Leen and I headed for the DoA appointment scheduled for 11am. The others with us took a taxi to meet up with the rest of the group who'd taken our big bus over to the Super Safeway in Amman to do a little shopping. We continued to wait for Dr Fawwaz until almost noon. The others finished at the Safeway, ate lunch, dropped by the DoA to pick up Leen and Hussien, then headed over to the Amman Citadel Museum. When Khalil and I eventually finished at the DoA, we took his car to get something to eat on the way to the Museum to meet up with the rest of the gang. Since Leen and Hussien (who were already at the Museum) hadn't had a chance to eat anything, they took a taxi to meet Khalil and I for lunch at a little place where Khalil likes to eat. After lunch, Khalil took Leen, Hussien and I over to the Museum in his car. The rest of our group was coming out as we were going in. So I hurried to the Museum, looked at some pottery forms I'd been thinking about, then we all went back to the bus in a driving rain. Did you get all that? Welcome to Jordan!

Your donations are critical for us now in our final two weeks. We've still got a lot of work to do, and our numbers are dwindling as folks begin to return home a few here and there. We'll now need to hire many more local workers. Thanks for your prayers and support.

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.tallehammam.com.