

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 21 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

21 January 2010

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

[GLOSSARY 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 had a dozen or so mid and high school students from Amman (with some friends and family) come down to work with us today, and we made quite a bit of progress, even though our regular team is down in numbers. We were quite glad to see them!



EXPLAINING THE MBA FORTIFICATION SYSTEM



DR. C HOLDS CLASS IN SQUARE LA 28P

Several of us returned to the hotel earlier than the others for one of our special final pottery reading sessions (several to go; we've got a lot!). We read the tomb pottery and the dolmen pottery over about a three hour period, and what interesting results! Tomb 55 had mostly MB2 (time of Abraham) pottery, with a few LB2a forms (time of Moses and Joshua). That

fits nicely with Tall el-Hammam being Sodom, and with it also being Abel Shittim where Moses and the Israelites camped for a good bit of time before crossing the Jordan over to Jericho and Gilgal. Remember, the Israelites buried the last of their rebellious wilderness wanderers while encamped on the Plains of Moab (the same area occupied by the Cities of the Kikkar). Perhaps they buried one of them in our Tomb 55 with a few funerary vessels, including a lamp. All interesting to consider!



DR. C DISCUSSES BALK STRATIGRAPHY WITH KHALIL ADEIB JEHAD AND HUSSEIN

The pottery reading results from the dolmen were really amazing. It contained vessels from the Chalcolithic Period, EB1, EB2, EB3, and IB. This will be a tremendous addition to our knowledge and interpretation of dolmens, and will, I think, make quite a splash when we publish it later this year.



ALLAN AND DICK TAKE DOWN A BALK AND FIND A JAR



A LITTLE DIRT REMOVAL

I've put together little PowerPoint on our balk in Square LA.28P. I won't attach it to this update, but I will send it on a special edition update in a while. Hopefully you'll be able to open it. It's just over 1.5 MB, so some may have difficulty receiving it. But I think those that do will enjoy it. Just click through it at your own speed. I think you'll find it instructive and maybe even a little fun!

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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For detailed information about the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, visit the official TeHEP website: www.tallelhammam.com.