

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 23 DECEMBER 2009

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

23 December 2009

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 was another gorgeous day on Tall el-Hammam. The rain from early Tuesday morning really got rid of all the dust, and it was cool and sunny. Of course, the rain did mess up some of our formerly-clean balks (vertical sections or cuts), but they'll be pretty easy to fix once it dries out a bit. The day off the site allowed the soil to firm up quite a bit, and that made for nice digging.

Hussien and I were invited by Abu Musa to his house for lunch (of traditional Arab salads and pita bread). That relationship is bearing fruit, and we are now able to dig wherever we like with Abu Musa's blessing. That's very important. There is a bit of a kink, however. It seems that, even though they're from the same clan, Abu Musa and Abu Ahmed (our now-long-time friend) have some kind of friction between them. So, we have to be careful how we handle all this. Pray that we can exercise wisdom. Hussien's a big help with this, but I can see that it's already causing some stress for him.

Right now my stress is over the dig finances. We're still going to need about \$20K more to make it through the season cleanly. Please pray that our final days of 2009 are good ones in the donation department. End-of-the-year giving is always extremely important to TeHEP. Since we started

1/22/2010

almost a month earlier this year, we're trusting that our year-end gifts will come in as they have in the past. We're praying daily! It would be a tremendous blessing if 20 people would give \$1000 each. That would take care of it. Please help us if you can! Whatever you can give, that will be a huge help.

Right now our day laborers who help with stone and dirt removal and much of the more back-breaking work, are costing us 900JD (about \$1300) per week for 15 men. That's very cheap, but it mounts up. The DoA is supposed to provide about half of this, but we probably won't see that for at least a couple of weeks. In the meantime, all of that's coming out of our TeHEP funds. We've also had to pay our DoA staff remunerations in advance (\$4000), with more due in other compensation toward the end of the season to the tune of \$7000, plus our annual site-guard remuneration (\$2000). Then there are lunches for all at the dig site each dig day, equipment to purchase or repair, and a host of other odds and ends. We do our very best to save where and when we can. So far we've managed to cover most staff expenses, thanks in part to the manager of our hotel headquarters whose been very helpful. But there are always expenses that come out of the clear blue, like that of our (incoming) seismic refraction equipment, the rental cost of which just doubled for some reason. Anyway, we do the very best we can.

One of the worst things a dig director has to do is raise money. Frankly, I'm not crazy about it, but it has to be done. We don't do mass mailings, nor do we put out shameless emotionally manipulative appeals for money. All we ask is that folks think about the implications of what we're doing in terms of an investment in our culture and the future culture of our children relative to the Bible. If impacting how future generations view the historical credibility of the Bible is important to you, then give as you see fit. That's all we can ask. If you don't want to use the giving methods listed below, you can simply call Jeremy in the TSU office at 505-332-4253 and use your credit or debit card. We really need your help at this point.

Enjoy this photo of the big EBA and MBA city walls, taken today.



EBA AND MBA CITY WALLS OF SODOM

Christmas blessings to everyone.

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.