

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 26 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

26 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:

With fatigue and a couple of bugs going around, we were pretty thin going out to the site today. There are about 15 of us left, and I think 4 stayed back today for one reason or other.

But we did a tremendous amount of physical work trimming balks and installing nearly a thousand sandbags around our squares, balks, and on our vulnerable walls. Our Jordan DoA staff guys were pretty amazed at how good it looked, as this was the first time this has ever been done at a dig in Jordan. It's pretty common on the other side of the river, but evidently they've never seen the need to do it here. It's a great way to protect your excavation from erosion, and it stabilizes otherwise weak balk edges against collapse.



LEVELING UP FOR SANDBAGS



SANDBAGGING OUR BIG TRENCH ON LOWER HAMMAM

Tomorrow Mike will take photos from his tower, and they should look great. We've also got a lot more cleaning and balk trimming to do tomorrow before photos. Today was the coldest day we've had (still no real need for a jacket), but tomorrow is supposed to be sunny and much warmer.

Right now we're just taking one day at a time, as we're simply running out of energy after so many tough weeks in the field. It does wear on you. I'm trying not to think about either red or green chile, and to stay focused on the tasks at hand. Personally, I've only missed one day due to a little intestinal thing, but I am getting pretty tired due to the fact that I haven't taken a day off in almost 8 weeks. Even on days off I've always got paperwork, writing, or some kind of analysis to do, and usually put in a full day no matter what. But that's why I'm here, so no complaints! I greatly appreciate your prayers for God's sustaining grace. But when I think of those suffering in Haiti, I know that any problems we've got are minuscule!

God bless you all.

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.