

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 30 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

30 December 2009

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:

As we prepared to go out to the site this morning, the weather seemed a little 'iffy', but we forged ahead. Rain was forecast for sometime today, but it was warm enough, even quite pleasant.

While the main part of the team went to work in their respective trenches on lower Hammam, six headed for the hills to the east to excavate a tomb that we've had on our radar for the past few seasons, but never had the time to 'attack' it. But today, our Tomb Raiders were rearin' to go. We never know which tombs have been robbed out in antiquity (or modern times) and which haven't, so it's always a shot in the dark. At this point I haven't gotten all the details of what happened over there today, but I'm sure Steve Mc and Ken S will fill me in on the proceedings before too long. All I know at this point is that they only found a few pottery sherds, and that the tomb had several chambers, and may be more intact toward the deeper part of it. So, we await the outcome.



EXCAVATING A NEARBY BRONZE AGE TOMB

The highlight of the day was Abu Musa's invitation for the entire team to have lunch at his house. When we got there, everything was prepared and on the tables in a special enclosed patio area. He'd prepared very nice dishes of lamb and chicken, both on rice with nuts and special spices. It was excellent, but I don't know what the name of it was. It looked like Maglooba ("upside down") but was different in several respects. It was a great experience for our folks.



LUNCH AT ABU MUSA'S



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH...

About the time we were to return to the digsite, it began to sprinkle. So we all scurried either onto the bus or went by foot back to our main trench to pack out all the equipment. By the time we got the tools put away back at Abu Ahmed's mosque, it was raining lightly but steadily. So, our workday was cut short by about an hour, but that wasn't too bad. I think everybody was tired and in need of a little break anyway.

Hopefully the weather will be back to beautiful tomorrow. This little rain will help to keep the dust down.

Digging the Bible,

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



SOME OLD, SOME NEW

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

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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.