

RJ Hall

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**Subject:** FW: TeHEP UPDATE 3 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

**3 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 started the dig week off with a bang by discovering that one of our nearby robbed tombs dates to the Middle Bronze Age (time of Abraham) based on the pottery scatter in the castout debris from the 'nightdiggers'. We decided to dig and sift entirely through the debris from the tomb, then work our way into them (there are two, side by side) to see what, if anything, is left inside. What we found in the castout was nothing short of amazing. Basically, the diggers were looking for gold (that's always their goal) and completely ignored the pottery. Of course, they used a pick (we actually found it under some of the dirt) and broke every vessel in the tomb as they dug through it.



SALVAGE OPERATION AT TOMB 55

TRUMPET VASE (BROKEN) FROM  
TOMB CLEAN-UP

Fortunately, we were able to find much of the broken pottery, representing at least 40 different vessels such as jars, bowls, juglets, and lamps (some may be repairable). This is a fantastic find because it gives us what we call an 'assemblage' of MBA pottery to compare with what we're finding at the main site just a few hundred meters away. We also discovered a wonderful Egyptian scarab seal (no photo yet, but later you'll see it). We've also located many other tombs in the same area, some of which seem to be untouched. But we'll have to wait and see on those. Tomorrow we'll finish cleaning out the two robbed tombs which may still contain some pottery, and perhaps we'll discover a blocked entry to another chamber missed by the nightdiggers.



MBA POTTERY FROM TOMB CLEAN-UP



GARY AND CARROLL START A NEW SQUARE

Work continued in our three other excavation areas, and we're making good progress on defining what may be an EBA gateway in our 5m thick EBA city wall.





TRENCH LA 28



TRENCH LA 28 AGAIN



MORE WORK IN TRENCH LA 28

Also, I want to share a little note we received from one of our TeHEP Home Team members (see below).



QUTAIBA'S TOTAL STATION AND LUNCH



REJECTS FROM A BAD "I DREAM OF JEANNIE" MOVIE

Enjoy the pics!

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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**Dear Friends,**

**I think the *TeHEP Updates* will make many of us determined to go on a dig and be a part of this history, now being written. I hope pastors, teachers, and professors will think about taking a group on this dig. It is a life changing experience. Three of our Fellowship have gone on the dig and they testify to it being one of the most powerful experiences of their lives.**

**Also, pray for this work and include it in your tithe program. It is one of the most worthy. Wish I could give them a million dollars. Praying I can.**

**Faithfully,**

**Dr. Joseph B. Kennedy, Sr., President & CEO  
The Society for the Advancement of Global Education, Inc.**

**You can make donations to TeHEP at the TSU shopping website: [www.shop.tsu-edu.us](http://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](http://www.tallelhammam.com).**