

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 5 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

5 January 2010

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

[GLOSSARY OF CHRONOLOGICAL TERMS FREQUENTLY USED IN TeHEP UPDATES:

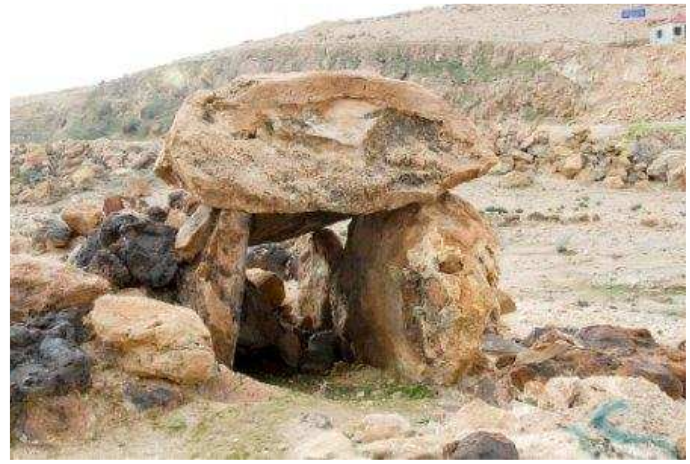
Chalcolithic Period = Copper/Stone Age, 4400-3300 BCE; EBA = Early Bronze Age, 3300-2350 BCE; IBA = Intermediate Bronze Age, 2350-2000 BCE; MBA = Middle Bronze Age, 2000-1550 BCE; LBA = Late Bronze Age, 1550-1200 BCE; IA1 = Iron Age 1, 1200-1000 BCE; IA2 = Iron Age 2, 1000-586 BCE; IA3 = Iron Age 3/Persian Period, 586-332 BCE; HP = Hellenistic/Greek Period, 332-63 BCE; ERP = Early Roman Period, 63 BCE-168 CE]

Hello All:

First thing this morning Hussien, Steve Mc, Mike, Ken, and I set out for a section of the nearby terrain that we hadn't covered yet in our dolmen/tomb survey. We identified many new tombs, several of which seem undisturbed. We didn't find any new dolmens, but we did begin taking photos of previously surveyed dolmens in the extensive Hammam Dolmen Field, which now has nearly 400 registered dolmens. By the time we're finished with this survey this season, we're thinking that the number will be over 400. And that doesn't include areas where perhaps hundreds more have been obliterated by military activity, road and highway building, and the construction of hundreds of acres of housing developments. The high concentration of these funerary monuments (generally dating from the Bronze Age) reveals a highly developed society with elaborate death rituals built around families and clans. Because death was an ever-present event in the ancient world, dealing with it was often an elaborate, significant, and frequent occurrence for every family.



ONE OF HUNDREDS OF DOLMENS NEAR HAMMAM



YET ANOTHER DOLMEN



DR. C ON DOLMEN WITH HAMMAM IN THE BACKGROUND LEFT & RIGHT

After a couple of hours, we rejoined the main group “in the trenches” back on lower Hammam. The weather was, again, spectacular, and the digging was exciting. We think we’ve got an EBA gate, and it’s coming quite nicely. We’ll have a photo when its all cleared out. The fortification systems never cease to amaze us with their size and complexity.



NEARBY TOMBS



STEVE MC AND HUSSEIN EXAMINE A TOMB

During pottery reading yesterday and today we got a chance to look carefully at the pottery that came from Tomb 55 and Tomb 56. Amazing. And we were greatly surprised that much of the material is Late Bronze Age 2a. Now, we don’t have any LBA stuff on

either the upper or lower tell at Hammam proper. But now we have some tombs that we know were re-used during the LB2a (14th century BCE, the very timeframe in which Moses and Joshua brought the Israelites to Abel-Shittim, which is Tall el-Hammam). Gary and I have been working on this, and we've got a lot to say. But not now because I'm just too pooped to talk about it.



PROBE NEAR AREA R



PROBE IN THE BANANA PLACE

There's so much going on around the site that it's hard to wrap your mind around it all, but we're trying our best.



NEW TRENCH IN LOWER HAMMAM

We really need your prayers and continued financial support. Thanks so much to those of you who keep stepping up and doing your part. We just can't thank you enough.



SPRING-FED OASIS IN NEARBY WADI



OLEANDER BLOOMING IN A NEARBY WADI

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.