

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 8 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

8 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:

What started out looking like a pretty easy day turned out to be a rather long and tiring one! It was a day off, but a group of us headed to a site named Khirbet Iskander. The site was occupied during the EBA and IBA, and has been considered by most scholars as the only fortified IBA (2350-2000 BCE) city in Jordan. Not! (Hammam is much bigger during the IBA, and fortified.) It's located on the highlands to the east, about 30km S of Madaba. It's a beautiful setting, and we had a great time there walking amongst the ruins with Jordanian archaeologist Adeib Shmais (who's also on the TeHEP team; he came to Albuquerque last May for our pottery read). It was interesting to compare features of that site with ours. We saw an EBA city wall there, with a gate that looks almost exactly like our EBA gateway that we're presently excavating.

Before going to Iskander we'd met up with Adeib in Madaba, along with David Graves and Scott Stripling and some of their "Roman" team. Adeib took us to one of the local museums to show us pottery from Iskander. Very instructive.

After Iskander, we headed further S to Dhiban (biblical Dibon), for a look at that very impressive tall. After that we headed back to Madaba for some lunch, then we headed to the airport to pick up 25 new folks coming in for the dig. By the time we got back to the hotel it was getting close to 7pm. A few more arrived later in the evening, so our numbers have dramatically increased. We should move a lot of dirt this week!

Attached is a photo of the Egyptian scarab seal we discovered in the debris from Tomb 55. I've now identified it as late Middle Kingdom, most likely Hyksos (second half of the MBA). In other words, from the time of Abraham and Lot. That timeframe is mostly determined by the style of the topside of the scarab, in how the wings and head are carved. That dating fits perfectly

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with the many MBA pottery forms from the tomb.



Tomorrow we have orientation for all our new people. So I need to get to bed. Love 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!

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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](http://www.tallelhammam.com).**