

THE CITY OF DAVID

DISCOVERIES
FROM THE
EXCAVATIONS



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INTRODUCTION

Jerusalem's past has fascinated generations of students, scholars, and amateurs. Since ancient times, Jews, Christians, and Muslims have written countless texts documenting Jerusalem's rich history.

The city is built on several hills, "...the mountains that are round about



Aerial View of Jerusalem

Jerusalem" (Psalms 125:2). The Kidron Valley separates the city from Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives to the east, and the Hinnom Valley borders the city on the west and south, curving round to the east to join the Kidron Valley.



The main excavation areas in the City of David.

To the north lie low rolling hills. The Central or Tyropoeon Valley cuts through the city from north to south, separating it into two main hills: the Western Hill-including the present-day Jewish Quarter,

Armenian Quarter, and Mount Zion-and the Eastern Hill, consisting of the Temple Mount, the Ophel, and the City of David. The latter is a narrow spur that slopes down from the Temple Mount. At the foot of its eastern slope flows the Gihon Spring, the city's sole perennial water source.

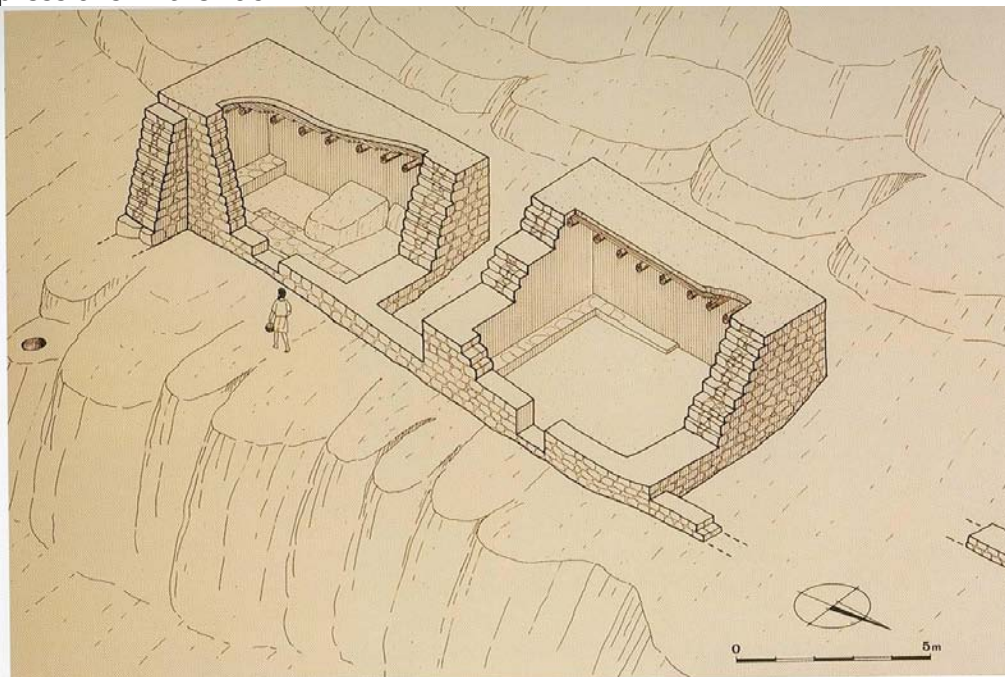
Although the pilgrims who came to Jerusalem over the generations regarded the present Old City as the site of biblical Jerusalem, archaeological research has shown that the City of David is the historical core of ancient Jerusalem.

The City of David excavation project (1978-1985), under the direction of the late Prof. Yigal Shiloh, was carried out on behalf of the City of David Society, which was founded by the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Israel Exploration Society, the Jerusalem Foundation, and a group of South African sponsors headed by Mr. Mendel Kaplan, the principal initiator of the Society and the excavations.

The archaeological excavations at the City of David have uncovered chapters in the history of Jerusalem from the Chalcolithic period up to and including the Muslim period. This exhibition focuses on the discoveries from the inception of settlement on the Eastern Hill up to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

THE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD AND EARLY BRONZE AGE, 3500-2500 BCE (STRATA 21-19)

Evidence for the earliest settlement in the City of David may be found in Chalcolithic potsherds from Stratum 21 which were washed into natural depressions in the rock.



Reconstruction of the buildings.

The existence of an unfortified settlement in the Early Bronze Age I (Stratum 20) is

attested by architectural remains built on the bedrock of the eastern slope above the Gihon Spring.

In Area E, two dwellings built on bedrock were discovered. They have exceptionally thick stone walls, with benches built along their interior. These houses are similar to the "broadhouse," which was common at various sites in the country during the Early Bronze Age.

The city-wall of the Middle Bronze Age IIB (Stratum 18) was constructed east of these dwellings.



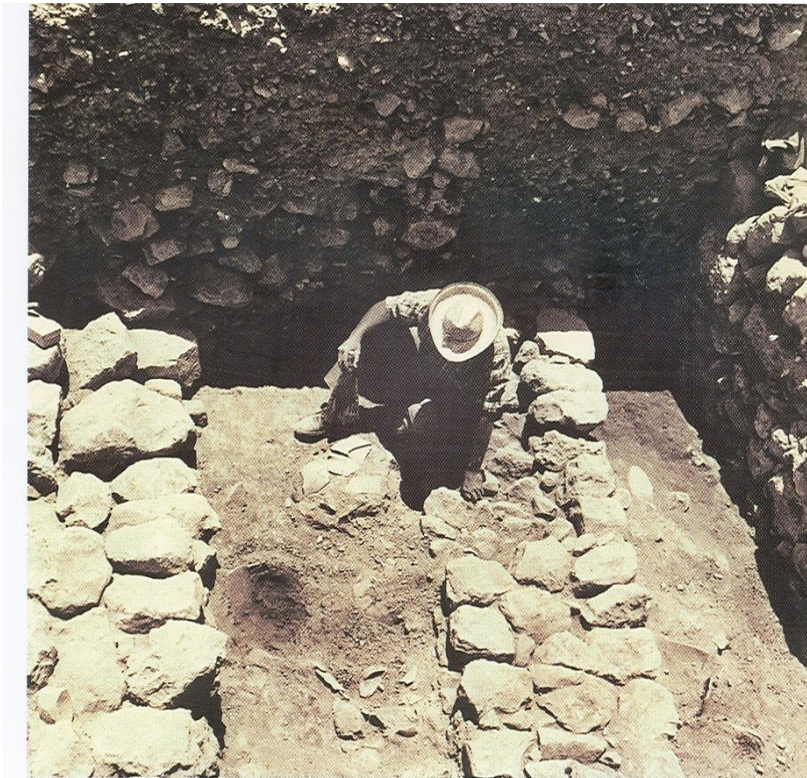
One of the two buildings in Area E, looking from West to East. The city-wall of the Middle Bronze Age "cuts through" the building.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IIB, 1800-1700 BCE (STRATA 18-17)



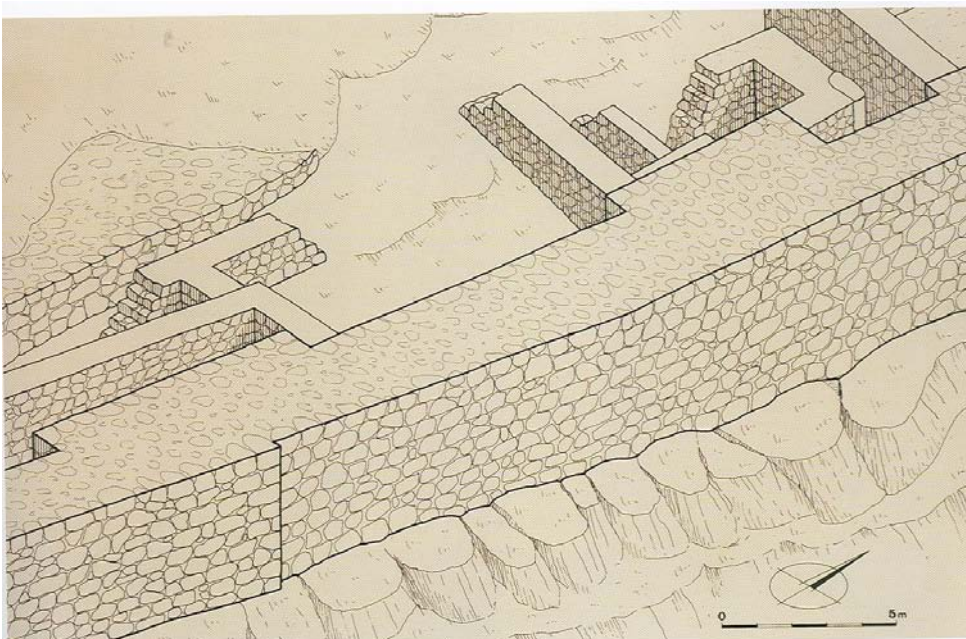
Two jugs. Pottery (AA 1986-1733, 1777).

The City of David excavations present a clear picture of the fortified city in the 18th century BCE. The line of the wall on the eastern slope determined the line of subsequent fortifications up to the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE, as it exhibits a clear stratigraphical sequence consisting of earlier strata, contemporary occupation levels, and later strata.



The city-wall, which was built of large stones and measured up to ca. 2.5 meters wide, is the major discovery of Stratum 18. The wall in Area E was exposed to a length of ca. 30 meters. Three stages of structures, floors, and pottery relating to the interior of the wall date its construction to the 18th century BCE.

Pottery vessels as they were discovered on one of the floors. Left: the city-wall; right: a later wall.



Reconstruction of the main buildings and city-wall of the Middle Bronze Age.



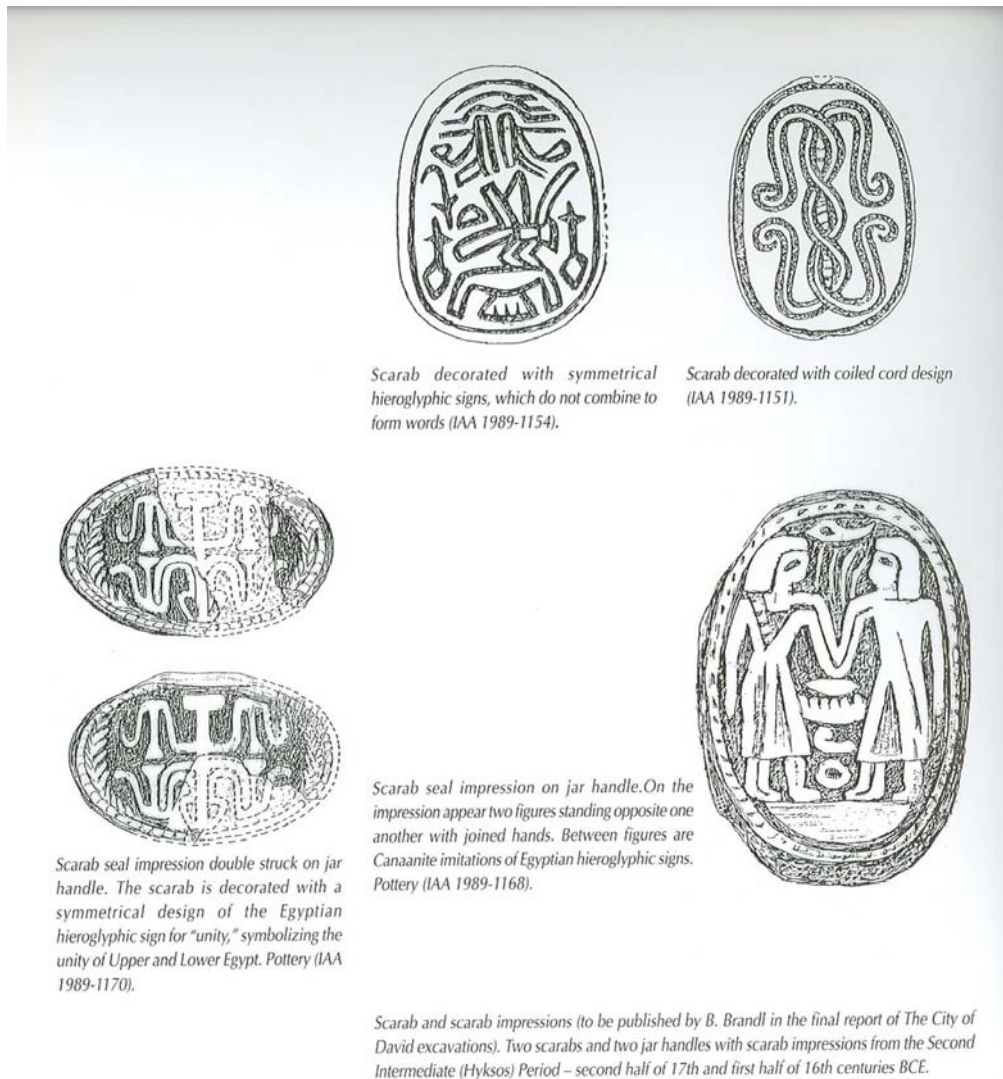
THE LATE BRONZE AGE, 1400-1200 BCE (STRATUM 16)

Until the City of David excavations, there was only sparse evidence for the existence of a Late Bronze Age settlement: Six clay tablets, containing letters in Akkadian, the *lingua franca* of the times, written by King 'Abdi-Hepa of Jerusalem and sent to the Egyptian pharaohs Amenhotep III and Akhenaten, were found in the archive of diplomatic correspondence at Akhetaten (modern-day el-Amarna) in Egypt; and tombs were found in the vicinity of Jerusalem whose contents are typical of the period. The City of David excavations have now uncovered archaeological remains inside the city-limits which attest to extensive building activity at the northern end of the eastern slope during Stratum 16, dated to the 14th-13th centuries BCE.

A sophisticated engineering system of massive foundation walls, running both in the direction of the slope and across it, created a series of "boxes" containing stone fill. This foundation construction protruded beyond the contours of the natural topography, creating an additional 250 square meters to the built area. Shiloh's expedition discovered the lower part of the "stepped stone structure" (preserved to a height of ca. 18 meters), which was erected on the foundation of the series of "boxes" and dated by Shiloh to the 10th century. Scholars today agree that these two components form one integral unit. The entire construction served as a stepped stone platform base for the Canaanite citadel and acropolis of Jerusalem in the Late Bronze Age.

The ceramic finds are limited in quantity and date from the 14th-13th

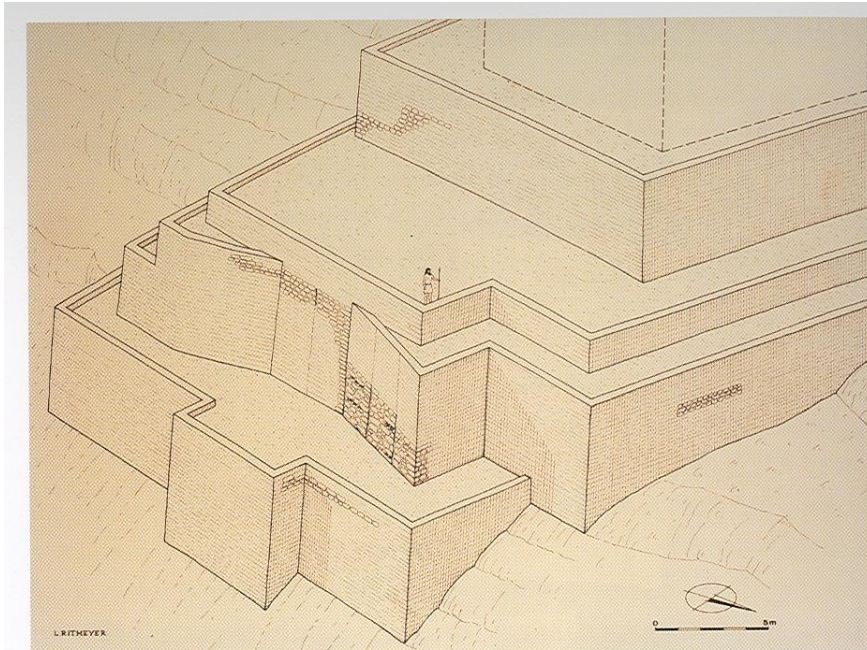
centuries BCE.



18

IRON AGE I, 1200-1000 BCE (STRATUM 15)

Scanty archaeological evidence for the existence of the Jebusite city conquered by King David came from the City of David excavations, which yielded poor-quality remains typical of the eleventh century.



Reconstruction of the retaining walls and fills.



The retaining walls of the "boxes" construction in Stratum 16.



The stepped stone structure.

IRON AGE II, 10TH CENTURY BCE (STRATUM 14)

Some idea of the town planning, residential quarters, public buildings, fortifications, and water supply systems of the First Temple period can now be ascertained from the remains exposed by the excavations in the City of David and its immediate vicinity. Later building activity erased much of the material from this period, and the presence of modern buildings in use today has placed much of the hill beyond the reach of archaeological investigation. Thus, hypotheses are still highly controversial and can only be substantiated by further excavation.

The transformation of Jebusite Jerusalem into the capital of the United Monarchy in the 10th century BCE is described explicitly in the Bible and becomes evident in the city plan of Stratum 14. After conquering the city and

changing its name to "The City of David," King David proceeded to transform it into the capital of his kingdom.

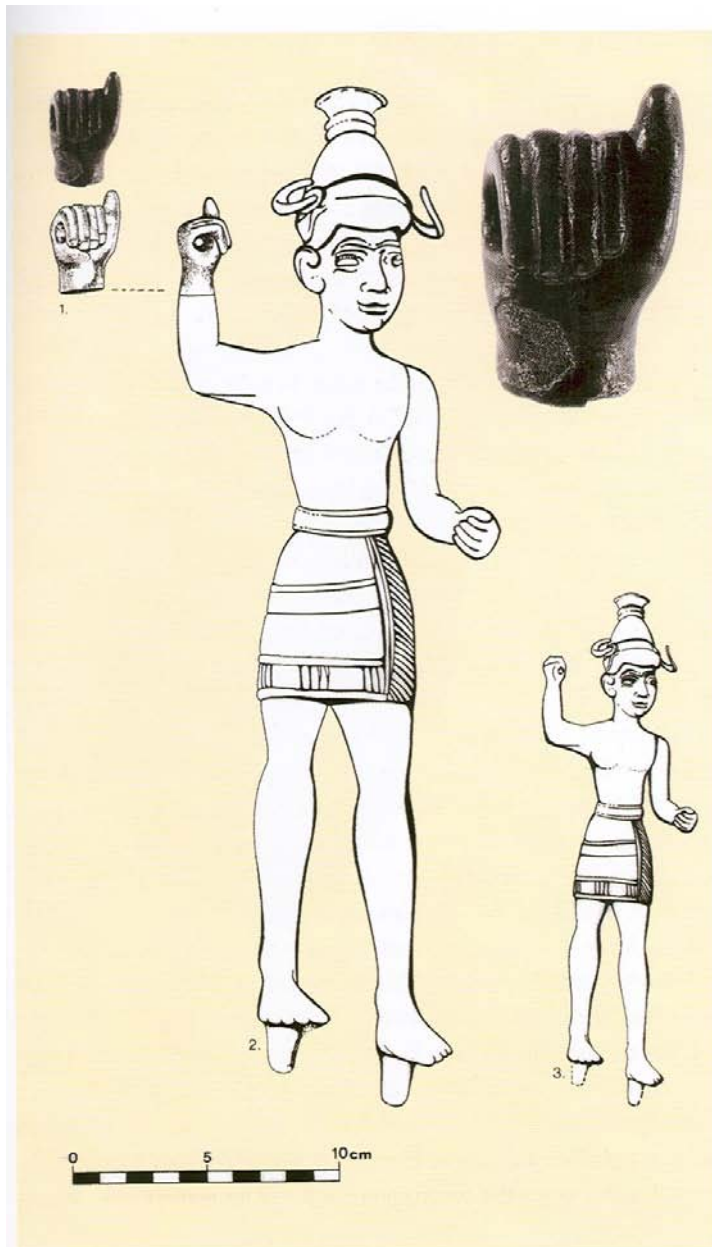
King David's name is not known to us from contemporary extra-biblical sources. However, the term "House of David" - probably indicating his royal dynasty or kingdom - was recently discovered in an Aramaic inscription at Tel Dan. The stele on which the inscription is engraved was in all probability erected by Hazael, king of Aram (9th century BCE), and subsequently smashed into pieces in the days of Yehoash (early 8th century BCE).

Solomon completed the task begun by his father by building the Temple and royal palaces. By preserving the plan of the Canaanite city (the lower city and the citadel) and adding the area of the Temple Mount to the north, Jerusalem was converted into a national center and became the new capital.

The city consisted of three main areas:

1. The lower city, which continued to serve as the residential quarter;
2. The Temple Mount and royal palaces, located outside the excavation area of the City of David, which were added in the 10th century BCE;
3. The area between the lower city (No.1) and the Temple Mount and royal palaces (No.2), where various scholars have proposed that the city's administrative-public center was located. The construction built by the Jebusites served as a platform and base for the fortification of Jerusalem's acropolis. The excavators believe that this construction was part of the northeastern corner of the city's citadel.

Notable finds from Area G include a bronze fist of a statuette and a fragment of a cultic stand modeled as a bearded figure with long flowing hair or a headdress.



◀ *Fist from a Bronze Statuette. The bronze fist was discovered in Area G, in a layer of fill dating to the 10th century BCE. The fist belongs to the right hand of a bronze statuette. The fingers are curled to form a round space that probably once held a scepter, weapon, or other such object. Near the wrist is a round depression that may have served as an axis, which would have enabled the wrist to be turned in different directions. The dimensions of the fist enable reconstruction of the full size of the figure, which was among the largest known of this type – about 38 centimeters (IAA 1986-2019).*



Two chalices. Pottery (IAA 1986-1785, 1786).

IRON AGE II, 9TH CENTURY BCE (STRATUM 13)

Very few remains from this stratum were found; they must have been largely destroyed by the intensive building campaign during the reign of Hezekiah in the eighth century BCE.

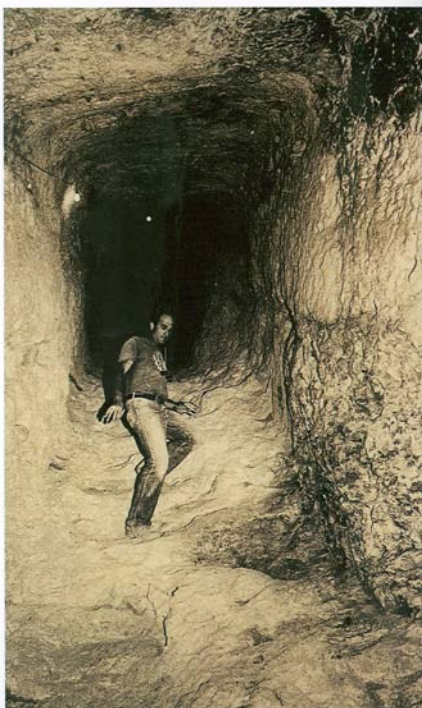
Cultic Stand. Fragments of a pottery cultic stand bearing a male figure, from Area G. Similarly decorated stands have been discovered in contemporary strata at other sites throughout the country. The stand from the City of David consists of three separate parts, which were assembled when the clay was leather-hard. The figure on the stand has long flowing hair or a headdress. The upper part of the body is naked and an additional pair of hands is attached to it. Although the figure's identification and precise function within the cultic context are unknown, the lack of any clearly divine attributes in its appearance or stance suggests that this is a human rather than a divine personage. If the two additional hands are interpreted as grasping the figure's wrists, this could be a portrayal of a bound captive. Alternatively, the figure may represent a participant in a ritual scene, the nature of which remains enigmatic (IAA 1986-2018).



THE WATER SYSTEMS

The Gihon Spring, which issues from the foot of the eastern slope of the City of David hill, in the Kidron Valley, has been the main water source serving the city's inhabitants since its foundation. Water flows from the spring several times a day and is abundant year round.

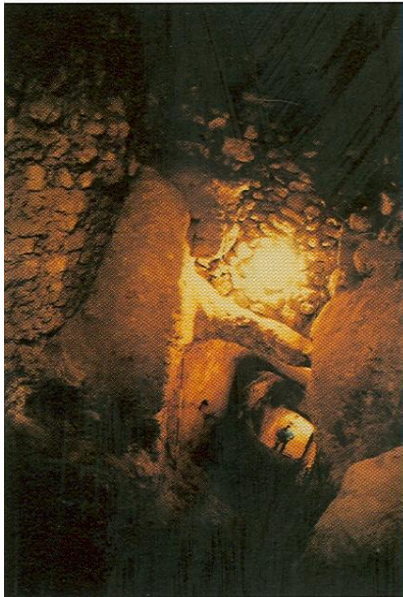
In order to prevent the water from flowing into the valley, it was necessary to collect it in pools that were probably built along the Kidron Valley and at the opening of the Central Valley southwest of the City of David. The topography at this low point enabled the convenient construction of these collection pools and the abundant flow of water into them.



Prof. Yigal Shiloah in the stepped tunnel.

Three water systems are connected with the Gihon Spring: Warren's Shaft, the Siloam Channel, and Hezekiah's Tunnel.

Warren's Shaft was discovered by C. Warren in 1867. Built according to the

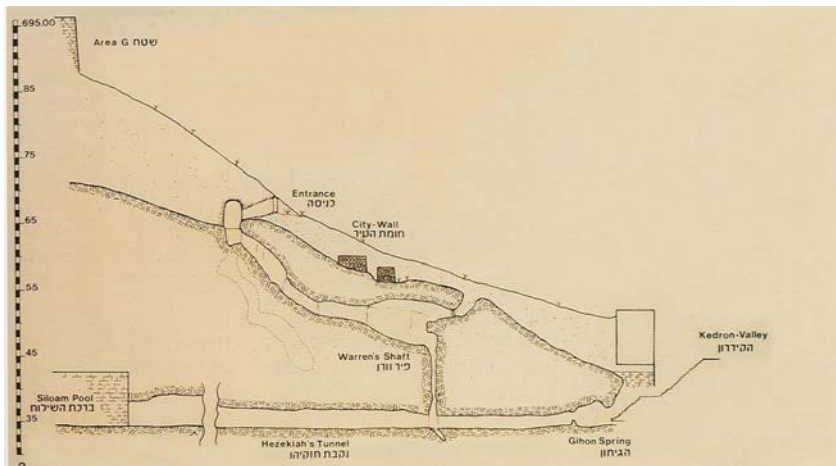


The stepped tunnel.

model of water supply systems used in royal centers in the 10th-9th centuries BCE, this system contained a broad entrance in the middle of the eastern slope, a partially hewn stepped tunnel, a vertical shaft, and a tunnel connecting the base of the shaft with the spring (this tunnel was later replaced by Hezekiah's Tunnel). Water was drawn from the top of the shaft. The entrance was located within the city-walls, probably close to the Water Gate.

The City of David expedition uncovered the components of the entire water system and cleared the shaft to its full depth - ca. 3 meters below the previously known base. The shaft and part of the horizontal tunnel were originally natural karstic caverns used by the early planners to construct their water system.

The Siloam Channel runs southward for ca.



Schematic section of "Warren's Shaft" and Hezekiah's Tunnel.

400 meters. Hewn partly out of the rock as a channel and covered with stones, and partly as a tunnel, it conveyed water from the Gihon Spring along the Kidron Valley to the collection pools at the

southwestern end of the City of David. Openings in the roof drained rainwater that flowed down the slope, while window-like openings on the side of the channel diverted water for irrigation of the fields in the Kidron Valley.

The main disadvantage of this system is that all its elements are located outside the city's fortifications, enabling inhabitants to use it fully only in peacetime.

Hezekiah's Tunnel was a closed aqueduct hewn out of the rock for ca. 530 meters, from the Gihon Spring to the Siloam Pool. Measurements carried out by the City of David expedition indicate that the difference in level between the

beginning of the tunnel, near the spring, and its end is only about 30 centimeters, thereby creating a very gentle slope.

The "Broad Wall" that enclosed the western hill and encompassed Mount Zion until the southern end of the City of David included the collection pools within the fortified city. This enabled an uninterrupted flow of water in a closed and defended aqueduct in both peacetime and wartime.

The relative chronology of the three water systems has been established by Shiloh as follows: Warren's Shaft is the earliest; the Siloam Channel is contemporary or a little later; Hezekiah's Tunnel is the latest system; it disconnected the Siloam Channel from the collection pools and continued to be used only to channel water for irrigation purposes. Since the Shiloh excavations, additional probes and excavations conducted at the site suggest that the system associated with Warren's Shaft should be dated earlier, to the Middle Bronze Age. However, decisive dating in this regard is yet to be posited. From the 8th to 6th centuries BCE (Strata 12-10), all three systems were fed by a single water source and were apparently used simultaneously.

IRON AGE II, 8TH-6TH CENTURIES BCE (STRATA 12-10)



Fragment of a monumental inscription engraved on the smoothed surface of a stone slab, probably dating to the 7th century BCE. Only 13 letters and 5 letter fragments have been preserved. The letter forms are similar to the script used in the Siloam Tunnel inscription and in the burial inscription of the Royal Steward. While the letters themselves are clearly legible, there are some difficulties in understanding the words. In lines 2-3, one may read: "in the seventeenth year...in the fourth month of..." (see Jer. 1:2-3). Alternatively, line 2 may be understood as meaning "satisfied with riches" (see I Chron. 29:28; Eccles. 4:8). This interpretation suits the surviving letters of line 1, רכז, which mean "to heap up, to gather" (see Zech. 9:3). Stone (IAA 1980-840).

During the division of the monarchy, between 928 and 721 BCE, Jerusalem remained the capital of Judah. Following the Assyrian conquest of the Northern Monarchy, Jerusalem once again became the sole center of religious and national activity.

Stratum 12, dated to the 8th century BCE, exhibited extensive building activity. The residential area of the city spread to the western hill, and the fortifications were rebuilt to encompass both the old and new quarters. One of the

most important discoveries on the western hill was the "Broad Wall," measuring ca. 7 meters thick and exposed for a length of ca. 65 meters. This wall joined up with the southern end of the City of David, blocking entrance to the Central Valley. The plan of Hezekiah's Tunnel was incorporated into this system.

The city-wall on the eastern slope was uncovered for a length of ca. 120 meters. The wall, using the Middle Bronze Age wall as a foundation and core, was reconstructed and widened; it also served as a retaining wall for the terraces constructed on the slope above it.

An interesting feature evident only in Stratum 12 are several structures built on steps cut into the bedrock outside the city-wall. Most of these houses went out of use by the end of the 8th century BCE.

The final stage in the kingdom of Judah's history is reflected in the archaeological remains and signs of fire in five dwellings, which were destroyed with the city in 586 BCE. The destruction layers sealed a large quantity of finds, shedding light on the essence and character of various aspects of Jerusalem's material culture during this period. Together with domestic utensils, kitchenware, and diverse epigraphical material, two types of arrowheads were found: flat iron arrowheads typical of the Israelite period, and bronze arrowheads with three ribs and a shaft, known as "Scythian" arrowheads, used by foreign armies. The discovery of these arrowheads in the residential quarter creates a vivid picture of the battle that raged there. These remains of warfare and fire are the result of the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem in 586 BCE.

Since the eastern slope no longer served as a residential quarter after the destruction of the First Temple, the ruins there remained undisturbed and debris accumulated to a height of several meters.



Pottery assemblage from the House of Ahiel (to be published by J. Cahill in the final report of The City of David excavations).

THE HOUSE OF AHIEL

Two ostraca bearing the name "Ahiel," found inside and nearby this structure, have given this house its name.

The House of Ahiel is a large four-room house (roughly 12 x 18 meters) built in the southern part of Area G. The structure was well built, with corners, doorways, lintels, and steps constructed of dressed limestone ashlar. It is possible that one such ashlar bearing the inscription לבלטה ליעלי, found in the debris of the house, was once affixed to one of its walls.

In the western area of the house the ceiling was supported by two monoliths, while in the east two built piers served as support. Various service rooms and storerooms adjoined the house, and 37 storage jars were found in one of them. In an adjacent cell with an extremely thick plaster floor was a stone installation that served as a toilet. The installation was set in the floor above a cesspit, where eggs of parasites and phosphates were found.

Parts of the house's walls were preserved up to the level of the first floor's ceiling. Steps leading to the second floor or attic were also preserved.



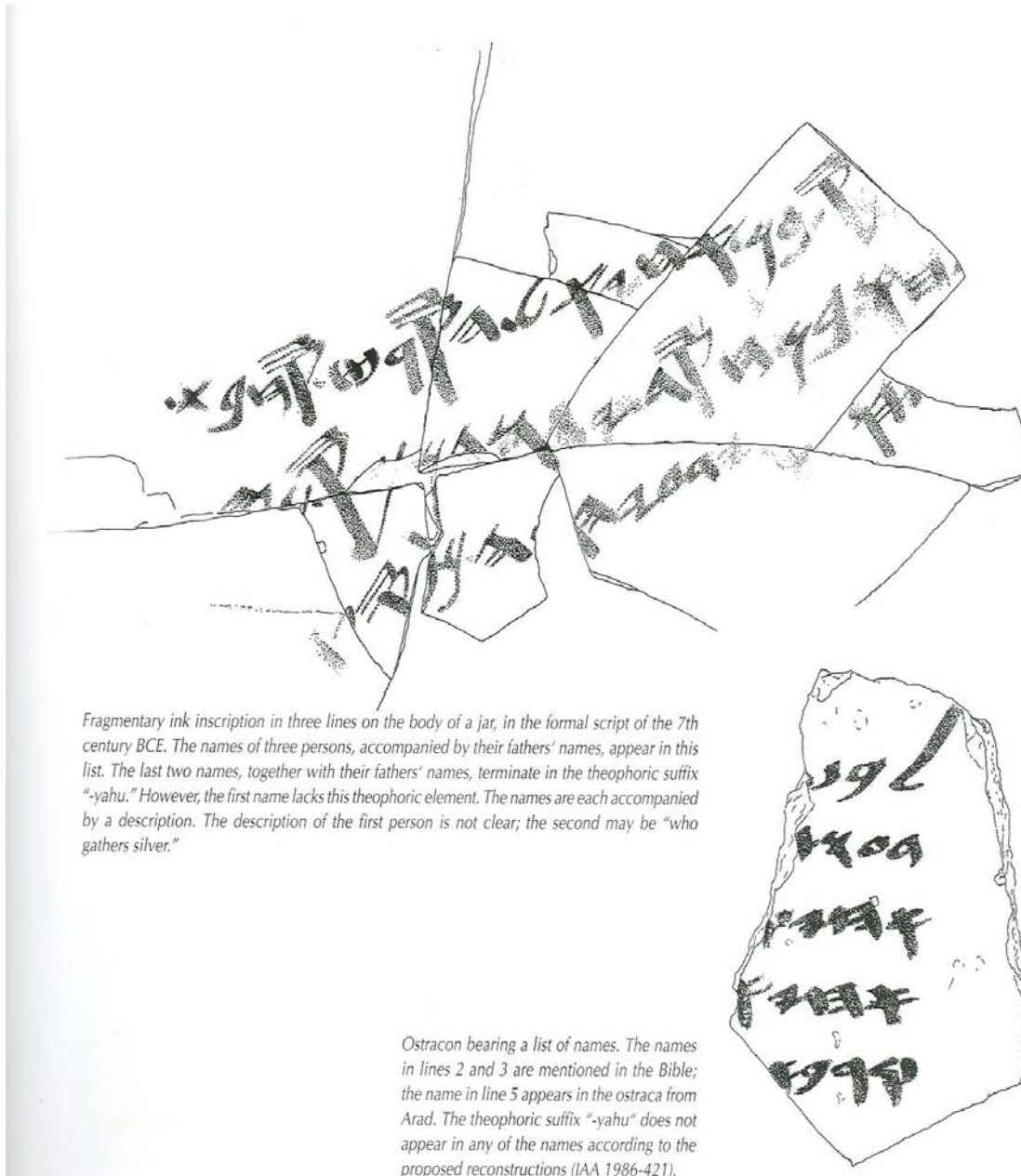
The House of Ahiel, looking from the southeast



The rear area in the House of Ahiel, with the toilet beside it.

Incision on a rectangular block of stone:
 / לבלטה לבלטה לי / ליטלי /
 This block is probably a weight inscribed with the name of the owner. Since two names appear, it is possible that the stone passed from one owner to another at some stage. Stone (IAA 1986-394).



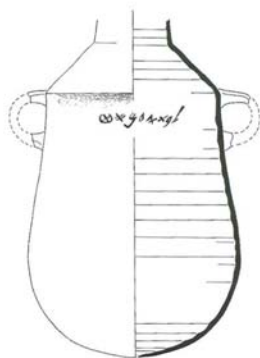


THE ASHLAR HOUSE

The Ashlar House, which rose above its surroundings in an east-west direction, was built on two terraces in Stratum 11 of Area E. The building is outstanding in its high-quality construction and impressive dimensions (12 x 13 meters). Its walls, preserved in places to a height of 3 meters, were built of exceptionally large stones, some of which were 80 centimeter-thick hewn ashlar. The floors were made of well-tamped crushed limestone, a typical feature of the period's ashlar construction. The basic four-room plan of the structure was used at this time both for dwellings and public buildings.



Pottery assemblage from the Ashlar House (to be published by A. de Groot in the final report of The City of David excavations).



Jar with inscription in ink: "לבת יעמא ט'". The woman to whom this jar belonged is identified only as "daughter of Ya'ama," without her personal name. This phenomenon is quite common. It is likely that "daughter of X," "son of X," and "wife of X" were informal names, used among people who knew one another well. The name Ya'ama seems to be hypocoristic, presumably from Ya'amasyahu (IAA 1986-384).



The southwestern corner of the Ashlar House

THE LOWER TERRACE HOUSE

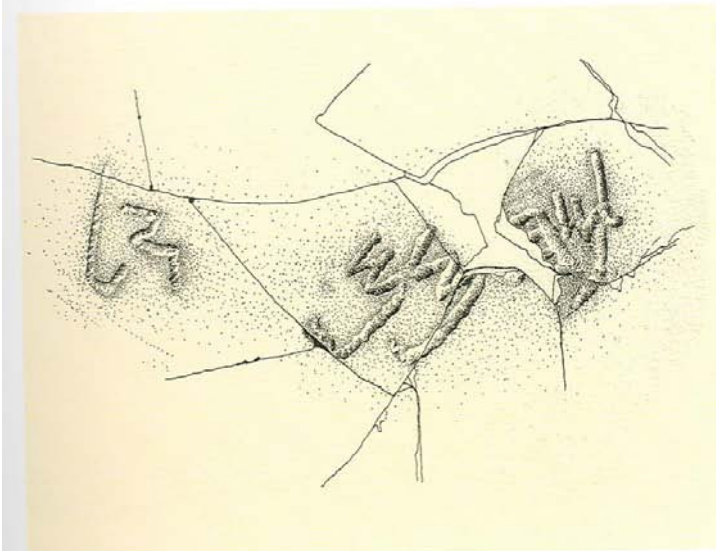


The Lower Terrace House.

The name given to this house derives from its location on the lower terrace, adjacent to the city-wall in Area E. The structure has three parallel areas built on a north-south axis, each on a different level following the natural rise in the bedrock. The eastern edge of the dwelling is incorporated into the inner face of the city-wall. This proximity enabled the eastern area of the building to be entered from the top of the wall, while another entrance led via a staircase into the central and western areas. Several floor levels containing a rich assortment of complete vessels were found in the house.



Pottery assemblage from the Lower Terrace House (to be published by A. de Groot in the final report of The City of David excavations).



Jar Fragment with inscription: "למחמם" – Inscription chiseled on the shoulder of a jar after firing. Since inscriptions beginning with the letter "lamed" generally indicate ownership, one would expect to find a personal name here. The word that follows does not seem to be a name and perhaps may be the title of a functionary in the kitchen. The two signs engraved to the left of the word seem to be a numeral and a measure. Pottery (IAA 1986-2022).

THE BURNT ROOM

The Burnt Room, north of the House of Ahiel in Area G, is so called due to the ravages of the fire that consumed its contents when the city was destroyed. The ashes were found ca. 50 centimeters above floor level.

The structure itself was preserved up to the second-floor doorway and was covered with thick white plaster. Remains of charred wooden beams were found in situ, leaning on a shelf built along the western wall and on a monolith that

was incorporated into the northern wall to support the ceiling.

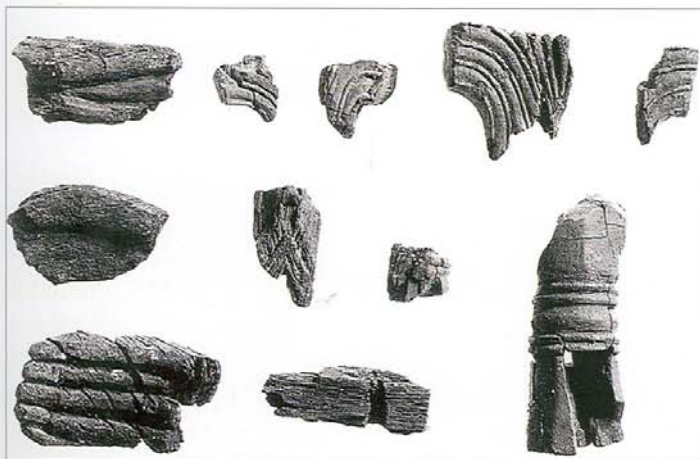
In addition to the ceiling beams, the room contained wooden furniture and decorations which were also found burnt. Bone and ivory inlays that once decorated the furniture were discovered together with dozens of "Scythian" (bronze) and "Israelite" (iron) arrowheads.



The Burnt Room.



Pottery assemblage from the Burnt Room (to be published by J. Cahill in the final report of The City of David excavations).



Worked pieces of wood (IAA 1986-652, 653).



"Scythian" (bronze) and "Israelite" (iron) arrowheads from the Burnt Room.

THE HOUSE OF THE BULLAE

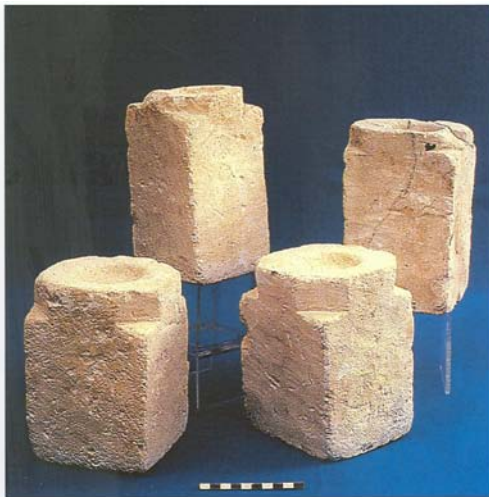
The House of the Bullae was excavated along a narrow strip, measuring ca. 8 meters long and 1 meter wide. It is bordered by a thick wall running north-south which supported the upper terrace, and by the eastern edge of Area G. The house received its name from the 51 bullae found in its northern corner. The bullae are impressed with the seals of persons bearing Hebrew names, and it is possible that this building served as an archive or some other public office.

About 25 pottery vessels, mostly complete, were found on the plaster floor of the building. The assemblage includes burnished bowls, cooking pots, dipper juglets, decanters, holemouth jars, stands, and storage jars. Of special interest

are four objects of soft limestone which apparently served as ritual stands.



The House of the Bullae.



Stone altars from the House of the Bullae (IAA 1984-101, 102, 103, 104).



Vase, Pottery (IAA 1984-83).



BULLAE

An assemblage of 51 lumps of clay which served to seal documents and letters was discovered in the "House of the Bullae." This is the first discovery of such an assemblage of Hebrew bullae bearing clear seal impressions in stratigraphical context. The bullae were found together, surrounded by a large amount of ash, in a corner of the floor in the building. The fire of Stratum 10's destruction baked the bullae, and hence they have survived in excellent condition.



לבניהו בן הושעיהו

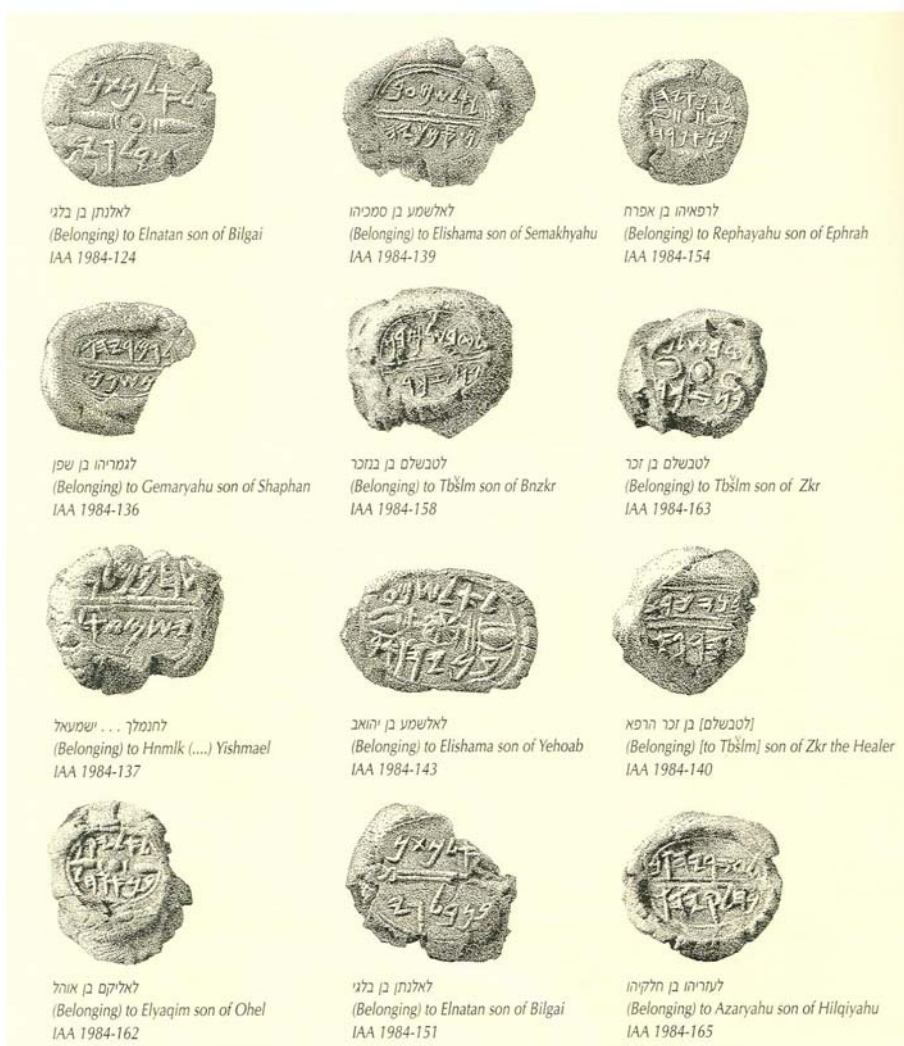
(Belonging) to Benayahu son of Hoshayahu

IAA 1984-160

Bullae were made of soft clay pressed onto a string tied around the papyrus, and then impressed with a seal. The backs of the bullae exhibit impressions of papyrus fibers on which they were pressed, as well as the impressions of the strings that tied the papyrus. The edges of

the bullae sometimes bear the fingerprints of a person who handled the seal. It appears that each of the witnesses of various documents sealed his name on a separate bulla. The documents themselves, written on papyrus, have not survived.

Each bulla has a seal impression with a two-line inscription, except for one bulla which had a different arrangement of probably three lines instead of two. The formula of the inscription is identical on all the bullae and appears in the usual style of 7th-century BCE Hebrew seals: "Belonging to...son of" (for example, "Benayahu son of Hoshayahu"); in a few cases, the "son of" is missing. Many of the names have the theophoric suffix "-yahu" (for example, Hilkyahu, Neryahu, Shephatyahu); it is noteworthy that none of the names in the assemblage of bullae found at the City of David has a non-Israelite theophoric component. The fact that two bullae bear the names "Gemaryahu son of Shaphan" and "Azaryahu son of Hilkyahu" - personages known to have been active in the courts of Kings Josiah and Jehoyakim of Judah, and mentioned in the Bible corroborates the stratigraphical and ceramic data.



FIGURINES

Figurines are among the most common finds of the Iron Age. Despite the biblical prohibition against the making of idols, there is hardly a site in Judah which did not yield this art form. The collection of about 1500 figurines from the City of David excavations is extremely varied and the largest found in this country. Their widest distribution was in the 8th century BCE.



Molded head of woman. Pottery (IAA 1986-406).



Woman's head. Pottery (IAA 1986-411).

Figurines were found in almost all the buildings and excavation areas in the City of David. Most of them were hand-made, and only a few were mold-made. Remains of white slip and paint are discernible on many of them. The figurines may be classified into three groups:

Human Figures.- The most common type is the pillar figurine, with a molded female head attached to a pillar-shaped body; the base is generally wide and concave. The arms hug the chest or an unidentified object, perhaps a baby. The "pinched" type figurines of this group have schematic faces without features, except for a pinched nose. Some of these are probably male figures that were part of the "rider" figurines, while others are the heads of pillar figurines.

Animal Figures.-Almost the entire range of ancient Israel's fauna is represented in the figurines, e.g., hyena, gazelle, ibex, hippopotamus, sheep, and cow. The animal figurines are generally schematic and most are of horses.

Furniture.-In comparison with the first two groups, figurines of this group are extremely rare. They consist of a hand-made rectangle of clay, to which four legs are attached at the corners. Some are defined as beds and some as chairs with short backrests.



*Woman's head, molded face.
Pottery (IAA 1986-1851).*



*Woman's head, face applied to head.
Pottery (IAA 1986-412).*



*Molded woman's head. Pottery
(IAA 1986-1901).*



*Head of horse. Pottery
(IAA 1986-2028).*



*Head of ostrich, part of zoomorphic
vessel. Pottery (IAA 1986-1887).*

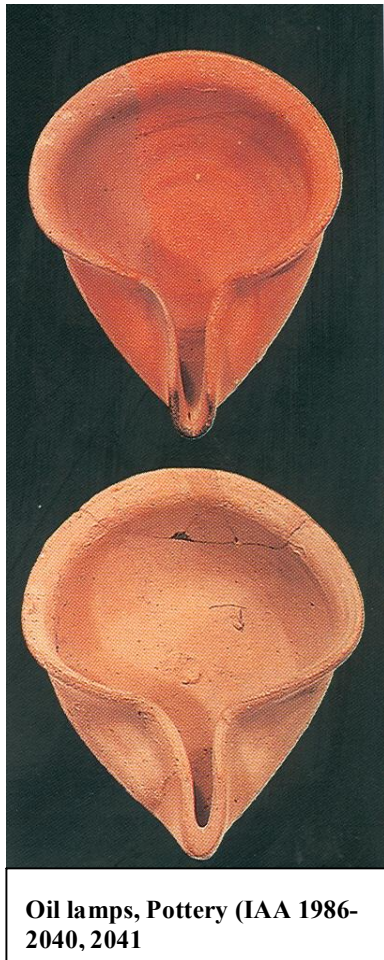


*Head of a bear (?).
Pottery (IAA 1986-1846).*

THE PERSIAN PERIOD, 6TH-4TH CENTURIES BCE (STRATUM 9)

In 538 BCE, King Cyrus of Persia permitted the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple. The returnees settled on the hill of the City of David, however excavations have shown that the western hill was not settled at all during this period.

This stratum of the City of David was less well preserved than the others, and the pottery ascribed to this period was found scattered throughout most of the excavation areas. Nehemiah rebuilt the city-wall on the summit of the hill, thereby reducing the city's area: the eastern slope was no longer within its fortified boundaries and became covered with the debris of earlier buildings and



retaining walls.

This Persian province, known in Aramaic as "Yehud Medinta," was granted the privilege of minting its own coins. The name of the province, "YHD" or "YHWD," and at times also the name of the governor of the province appear on these coins.

The City of David excavations uncovered a large group of official seal impressions of the province's administration. These impressions generally appear on storage jar handles, and only rarely on the bodies of vessels, and were probably used for taxation purposes. Judea was the only province in Palestine whose name appears in full on coins and seals.

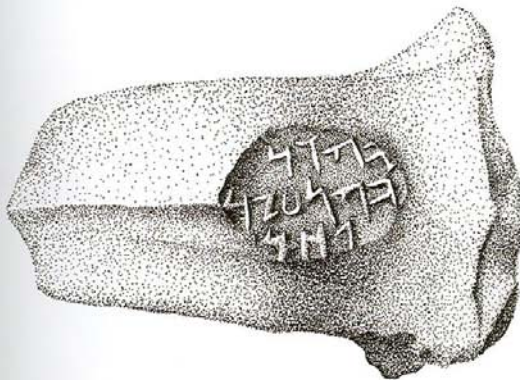
Some of the seal impressions bear the name of the province together with the name and title of the governor, either in full or abbreviated, in Hebrew or in Aramaic. The excavations also uncovered - for the first time in Jerusalem - seal impressions with the name "M[o]sa." It is assumed that these impressions identified produce coming from the royal estate at Mosa.

Another group of seal impressions depicts lions as well as motifs in Achaemenid style. It is

generally believed that these seals belonged to administrative officials in the province of Judea.



Ostracon. "loaves (of bread); [1] thousand; for Hananyah dough." The dough for a thousand loaves required an enormous amount of flour. It is therefore possible that this ostracon served as a label in a bakery (perhaps military). The use of the Hebrew words *בצק* (dough) and *ככר* (loaf) presumably indicates that Hebrew was the spoken language of the writer. Pottery (IAA 1986-2039).



Aramaic seal impression on jar handle: יהוד יהועזר פחוא. Pottery (IAA 1986-2036).

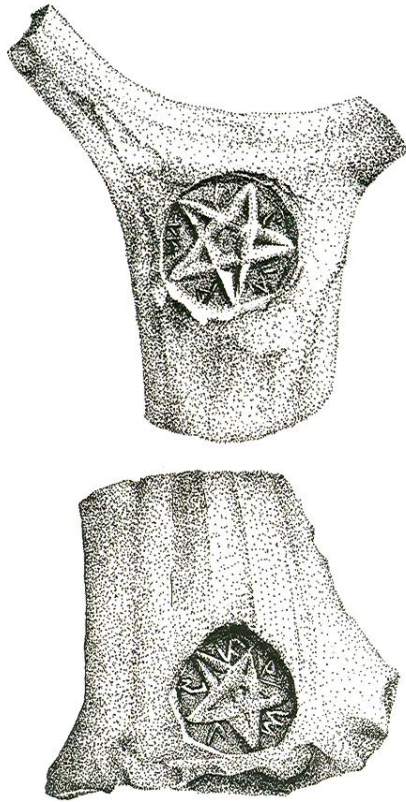


THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD, 4TH-1ST CENTURIES BCE (STRATA 8-7)

The settlement in Jerusalem in the early Hellenistic period (Stratum 8) was in all probability concentrated on the eastern hill.

During Stratum 7, Jerusalem became the capital of the Hasmonean kingdom and its civic center moved to the "Upper City" on the western hill. The city's "First Wall" was built at this time. According to the historian Josephus Flavius, this was the first of Jerusalem's three city-walls, though he erroneously ascribes it to the First Temple period. Parts of the wall were exposed in earlier excavations; in the City of David excavations, however, the wall was revealed in a stratigraphical context - above the Persian period and beneath the debris of

the end of the Second Temple period - thereby placing it in the Hasmonean period.



Two stamped handles with five-pointed star and paleo-Hebrew inscription "yršlm" (= Jerusalem). 3rd-2nd centuries BCE. Pottery (IAA 1986-1805, 2047).

Numismatic finds include Ptolemaic, Seleucid, and Hasmonean coins, including those of Alexander Jannaeus with the inscriptions "Yehonatan the King" and "Yehonatan the High Priest and the Council of the Jews," as well as of John Hyrcanus and Mattathias Antigonus.

Epigraphical finds include impressions of officials' names on the handles of storage jars, which apparently were used for royal administrative purposes. These handles have been found at other Judean sites as well. The impressions bear a five-pointed star and between its points the letters "YRŠLM" (= Jerusalem) in ancient Hebrew script.

Rhodian jar handles were also found in the city during this period. In the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE, the island of Rhodes exported wine in amphorae having two handles and a pointed base. One handle bears the name of the priest in whose term the jar was made (the eponym), and on the other the name of the manufacturer. Sometimes the name of the month appears together with one of the names. Stamped amphora

handles have been found throughout the Mediterranean area and appear in large numbers in the Hellenistic cities of Palestine. It is noteworthy that such imported amphorae were much more common in the City of David than in other parts of Jerusalem.



Stamped handles of imported Rhodian amphorae. Pottery (IAA 1986-1674, 1678, 1680, 1693, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700).



Coin of Alexander Jannaeus. 103-76 BCE. Bronze (IAA 22040).



Coin of Ptolemy V. 204-180 BCE. Bronze (IAA 22017).

THE HERODIAN PERIOD, SECOND HALF OF 1ST CENTURY BCE - 70 CE (STRATUM 6)

The "First Wall," built in the Hellenistic period, continued to be used in the early Roman period, until 70 CE. The City of David expedition uncovered the fortifications at the opening of the Central Valley which were part of the "First Wall," as well as several buildings separated by a narrow street in the area close to the Siloam Pool. The buildings were found covered with debris dating from the end of this stratum.

The destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, at the close of the Great Revolt against Rome, is evidenced by signs of a fierce fire and total ruin. A large

variety of pottery vessels, of types generally in use from the second half of the 1st century BCE until 70 CE, was found in this stratum. Other finds include the typical stone vessels of Jerusalem, coins of the Roman procurators from 11-26 CE, and a coin from Year Two (68 CE) of the revolt.

Remnant of a Bone Flute. The lower part of an unfinished flute made from the bone (metatarsal) of a cow's or ox's hind leg. The flute was found inside a recess of an ashlar wall facing the Kidron Valley. Though the context is not indicative, the stratum is securely dated to the siege and destruction of 70 CE. Hence, the flute may have reached this spot with debris that fell from the residential quarter higher up the slope. The instrument was intended to be a fipple flute, similar to the modern recorder. A plug is fixed in the upper opening, leaving a narrow channel that directs the air stream toward the lower edge of a window cut in its side. The vibrations created there oscillate the air column within the tube and produce the tone. The head of the recorder is beak-shaped to accommodate the player's mouth. In instruments of this kind the holes are not placed with precision. The player determines the actual pitch of the tones according to his particular tradition of blowing and fingering. Second half of 1st century BCE - 70 CE. Bone (IAA 1986-2054).







Coin of Herod Archelaus. 4 BCE-6 CE. Bronze (IAA 22162).



Coin of Ambibulus. 10 CE. Bronze (IAA 22164).



Coin of the Jewish War against the Romans. 67 C.E. Bronze (IAA 22219).