

THE NEW  
ENCYCLOPEDIA  
OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATIONS  
IN THE  
HOLY LAND

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**Volume 4**

THE ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY  
CARTA, JERUSALEM

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ISBN 965-220-209-6 (set)  
ISBN 965-220-213-4 (v.4)

Printing Number 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Israel

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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>a.</b> acre	<b>EB</b> Early Bronze	<b>Jn.</b> John	<b>MT</b> Masoretic text	<b><i>Qid.</i></b> <i>Qiddushin</i>
<b>AH</b> <i>anno Hegirae</i> , in the year of the Hegira	<b>Eccles.</b> Ecclesiastes	<b>Jon.</b> Jonah	<b>n.</b> note	<b><i>Qin.</i></b> <i>Qinnim</i>
<b>Am.</b> Amos	<b>ed.</b> editor (pl., eds.); edition; edited by	<b>Jos.</b> Joshua	<b>Nah.</b> Nahum	<b>q.v.</b> <i>quod vide</i> , which see
<b>'Arakh.</b> 'Arakhin	<b>'Eduy.</b> 'Eduyyot	<b>J.T.</b> Jerusalem Talmud	<b>Naz.</b> <i>Nazir</i>	<b>r.</b> reigned; ruled
<b>Avot</b> <i>Pirkei Avot</i>	<b>e.g.</b> <i>exempli gratia</i> , for example	<b>Kel.</b> <i>Kelim</i>	<b>n.d.</b> no date	<b>Rab.</b> <i>Rabbah</i>
<b>A.Z.</b> 'Avodah <i>Zarah</i>	<b>Eph.</b> Ephesians	<b>Ker.</b> <i>Keritot</i>	<b>Ned.</b> <i>Nedarim</i>	<b>rev.</b> revised
<b>b.</b> born	<b>'Eruv.</b> 'Eruvin	<b>Ket.</b> <i>Ketubbot</i>	<b>Neg.</b> <i>Nega'im</i>	<b>Rev.</b> Revelation
<b>B.B.</b> <i>Bava Batra</i>	<b>ESR</b> Electro Spin Resonance	<b>kg</b> kilogram	<b>Neh.</b> Nehemiah	<b>Rom.</b> Romans
<b>BCE</b> before the common era	<b>et al.</b> <i>et alii</i> , and others	<b>1 Kg.</b> 1 Kings	<b>Nid.</b> <i>Niddah</i>	<b>1 Sam.</b> 1 Samuel
<b>Beits.</b> <i>Beitsah</i>	<b>etc.</b> <i>et cetera</i> , and so forth	<b>2 Kg.</b> 2 Kings	<b>no.</b> number (pl., nos.)	<b>2 Sam.</b> 2 Samuel
<b>Bekh.</b> <i>Bekhorot</i>	<b>Ex.</b> Exodus	<b>Kil.</b> <i>Kil'ayim</i>	<b>n.p.</b> no place	<b><i>San.</i></b> <i>Sanhedrin</i>
<b>Ber.</b> <i>Berakhot</i>	<b>Ezek.</b> Ezekiel	<b>km</b> kilometer	<b>n.s.</b> new series	<b>sect.</b> section
<b>Bik.</b> <i>Bikkurim</i>	<b>f.</b> and following (pl., ff.)	<b>l.</b> locus	<b>Num.</b> Numbers	<b><i>Shab.</i></b> <i>Shabbat</i>
<b>B.M.</b> <i>Bava Metsi'a</i>	<b>fig.</b> figure (pl., figs.)	<b>Lam.</b> Lamentations	<b>Ob.</b> Obadiah	<b><i>Shev.</i></b> <i>Shevu'ot</i>
<b>BP</b> before the present	<b>g</b> gram	<b>LB</b> Late Bronze	<b><i>Ohal.</i></b> <i>Ohalot</i>	<b><i>Sheq.</i></b> <i>Sheqalim</i>
<b>B.Q.</b> <i>Bava Qamma</i>	<b>Gal.</b> Galatians	<b>lb.</b> pound	<b>op. cit.</b> <i>opere citato</i> , in the work cited	<b>Song</b> Song of Solomon
<b>B.T.</b> Babylonian Talmud	<b>Gen.</b> Genesis	<b>Lev.</b> Leviticus	<b>Par.</b> <i>Parah</i>	<b><i>Sot.</i></b> <i>Sotah</i>
<b>c.</b> <i>circa</i> , about, approximately	<b>Git.</b> <i>Gittin</i>	<b>Lk.</b> Luke	<b>PEF</b> Palestine Exploration Fund	<b>sq</b> square
<b>cat.</b> catalogue	<b>Hab.</b> Habakkuk	<b>loc. cit.</b> the place cited	<b>Pes.</b> <i>Pesahim</i>	<b>St.</b> Saint (pl., SS.)
<b>CE</b> of the common era	<b>Hag.</b> <i>Hagigah</i>	<b>m</b> meter	<b>Ph.D.</b> Doctor of Philosophy	<b><i>Suk.</i></b> <i>Sukkah</i>
<b>cent.</b> century	<b>Hal.</b> <i>Hallah</i>	<b>Mal.</b> Malachi	<b>Phil.</b> Philippians	<b><i>Ta'an.</i></b> <i>Ta'anit</i>
<b>cf.</b> <i>confer</i> , compare	<b>Heb.</b> Hebrews	<b>1 Macc.</b> 1 Maccabees	<b>Philem.</b> Philemon	<b><i>Tam.</i></b> <i>Tamid</i>
<b>1 Chr.</b> 1 Chronicles	<b>Hg.</b> Haggai	<b>2 Macc.</b> 2 Maccabees	<b>pl.</b> plate (pl., pls.)	<b><i>Tem.</i></b> <i>Temurah</i>
<b>2 Chr.</b> 2 Chronicles	<b>Hor.</b> <i>Horayot</i>	<b>Mak.</b> <i>Makkot</i>	<b>PPN</b> Pre-Pottery Neolithic	<b><i>Ter.</i></b> <i>Terumot</i>
<b>cm</b> centimeter	<b>Hos.</b> Hosea	<b>Makh.</b> <i>Makhshirin</i>	<b>PPNA</b> Pre-Pottery Neolithic A	<b>1 Thes.</b> 1 Thessalonians
<b>Col.</b> Colossians	<b>Hul.</b> <i>Hullin</i>	<b>MB</b> Middle Bronze	<b>PPNB</b> Pre-Pottery Neolithic B	<b>2 Thes.</b> 2 Thessalonians
<b>comp.</b> compiler (pl., comps.)	<b>ibid.</b> <i>ibidem</i> , in the same place	<b>Meg.</b> <i>Megillah</i>	<b>PPNC</b> Pre-Pottery Neolithic C	<b>1 Tim.</b> 1 Timothy
<b>1 Cor.</b> 1 Corinthians	<b>id.</b> <i>idem</i> , the same	<b>Me'il.</b> <i>Me'ilah</i>	<b>Proc.</b> Proceedings	<b>2 Tim.</b> 2 Timothy
<b>2 Cor.</b> 2 Corinthians	<b>in.</b> inch	<b>Men.</b> <i>Menahot</i>	<b>Prov.</b> Proverbs	<b>TL</b> Thermoluminescence
<b>cu</b> cubic	<b>in prep.</b> in preparation	<b>mi.</b> mile	<b>Ps.</b> Psalms	<b><i>Toh.</i></b> <i>Tohorot</i>
<b>d.</b> died	<b>Iron</b> Iron Age	<b>Mi.</b> Micah	<b>P.T.</b> Palestinian Talmud	<b>tr.</b> translator; translated by
<b>Dan.</b> Daniel	<b>Is.</b> Isaiah	<b>Mid.</b> <i>Middot</i>	<b>pt.</b> part	<b>Trans.</b> Transactions
<b>Dem.</b> <i>Dem'ai</i>	<b>Jas.</b> James	<b>mill.</b> millennium	<b>1 Pt.</b> 1 Peter	<b>Univ.</b> University
<b>diss.</b> dissertation	<b>Jer.</b> Jeremiah	<b>Miq.</b> <i>Miqva'ot</i>	<b>2 Pt.</b> 2 Peter	<b>UTM</b> Universal Transverse Mercator
<b>div.</b> division	<b>Jg.</b> Judges	<b>Mk.</b> Mark		<b>Zech.</b> Zechariah
<b>dm</b> decimeter		<b>ml</b> milliliter		<b>Zeph.</b> Zephaniah
<b>Dt.</b> Deuteronomy		<b>mm</b> millimeter		
		<b>Mo'ed Q.</b> <i>Mo'ed Qatan</i>		
		<b>Mt.</b> Matthew		

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- CIJ* *Corpus Inscriptionum Judaicarum* 1-2 (ed. J.-B. Frey), Rome 1936-1952 (see also Frey, *Corpus* 2)
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- AASOR* Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
- ADAJ* Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan
- AJA* American Journal of Archaeology
- AJSL* American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature
- 'Alon* Bulletin of the Israel Department of Antiquities (Hebrew)
- APEF* (see *PEFA*)
- 'Atiqot* Journal of the Israel Antiquities Authority
- AUSS* Andrews University Seminary Studies
- AWA* Advances in World Archaeology
- BA* Biblical Archaeologist
- BAIAS* Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeology Society
- BAR* Biblical Archaeology Review
- BASOR* Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
- BBSAJ* Bulletin of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem
- BIAL* Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology, London
- BIES* Bulletin of the Israel Exploration Society (Hebrew)
- BJPES* Bulletin of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society
- BMB* Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth
- BS* Bibliotheca Sacra
- BTS* Bible et Terre Sainte
- BZ* Biblische Zeitschrift
- CNI* Christian News from Israel
- CRAIBL* Comptes-rendus, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
- EI* Eretz-Israel
- ESI* Excavations and Surveys in Israel
- HUCA* Hebrew Union College Annual
- HUCMS* Haifa University Center for Maritime Studies
- IEJ* Israel Exploration Journal
- IJNA* The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration
- ILN* The Illustrated London News
- JAOS* Journal of the American Oriental Society
- JBL* Journal of Biblical Literature
- JCS* Journal of Cuneiform Studies
- JEA* Journal of Egyptian Archaeology
- JFA* Journal of Field Archaeology
- JNES* Journal of Near Eastern Studies
- JPOS* Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society
- JRAI* Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
- JRAS* Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
- JRS* Journal of Roman Studies
- LA* Studii Biblici Franciscani Liber Annuus
- MaB* Le Monde de la Bible
- MDOG* Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orientalischen Gesellschaft
- MUSJ* Mélanges de l'Université Saint Joseph de Beyrouth
- OLZ* Orientalische Literaturzeitung
- PEFA* Annual of the Palestine Exploration Fund
- PEQ* Palestine Exploration Quarterly
- PJB* Palästina Jahrbuch
- PMB* Palestine Museum Bulletin
- QDAP* Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine
- RAr* Revue Archéologique
- RB* Revue Biblique
- RHR* Revue de l'Histoire des Religions
- SHAJ* Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan
- TA* Tel Aviv
- TLZ* Theologische Literaturzeitung
- VT* Vetus Testamentum
- ZAW* Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
- ZDPV* Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins

TRANSLITERATION OF HEBREW		
Letter	Name	Transliteration
א	aleph	'
ב	bheth	v
ב	beth	b
ג	gimel	g
ד	daleth	d
ה	he	h
ו	vav	v, w
ז	zayin	z
ח	cheth	h
ט	tet	t
י	yod	y
כ	khaph	kh
ק	kaph	k
ל	lamed	l
מ	mem	m
נ	nun	n
ס	samekh	s
ע	'ayin	'
פ	phe	f
צ	pe	p
צ	tzadhe, sadhe	z, s
ק	koph	q
ר	resh	r
ש	shin	sh, s
ש	sin	s
ת	tav	t

TRANSLITERATION OF GREEK		
Letter	Name	Transliteration
Α α	alpha	a
Β β	beta	b
Γ γ	gamma	g
Δ δ	delta	d
Ε ε	epsilon	e
Ζ ζ	zeta	z
Η η	eta	ē
Θ θ	theta	th
Ι ι	iota	i
Κ κ	kappa	k
Λ λ	lambda	l
Μ μ	mu	m
Ν ν	nu	n
Ξ ξ	xi	z
Ο ο	omicron	o
Π π	pi	p
Ρ ρ	rho	r
Σ σ, ς	sigma	s
Τ τ	tau	t
Υ υ	upsilon	y, u
Φ φ	phi	ph
Χ χ	chi	kh
Ψ ψ	psi	ps
Ω ω	omega	ō

characterized by side scrapers and Levallois tools. No Mousterian sites have hitherto been found in the eastern Sharon; in the western part, the *hamra* layer containing Mousterian sites was overlaid by later strata. Only a single Mousterian site has been discovered, in a quarry, near Kibbutz Yaqum.

#### UPPER PALEOLITHIC PERIOD

No sites from the Upper Paleolithic (40,000–20,000 BP) are known in the Sharon. According to one hypothesis, several sites assigned to the later Epipaleolithic period may actually date to the Upper Paleolithic.

#### EPIPALEOLITHIC PERIOD (KEBARAN AND NATUFIAN CULTURES)

The Epipaleolithic period (20,000–10,000 BP) constitutes the final stage of the hunting-gathering economy that characterized humankind from its earliest existence. This stage marks the earliest appearance of domestication, agriculture, and permanent settlements. The earliest of the Epipaleolithic cultures is the Kebaran, to which the earliest mortars so far recovered are attributed. This culture, dated to between 20,000 and 15,000 years BP, is characterized by very small flint tools (microliths). Its later stage, characterized by an increasing number of geometrically shaped microliths (rectangles and triangles) is accordingly named the Geometric Kebaran (15,000–12,000 BP). The Kebaran sites discovered in the Sharon are hunter camps, some of them covering large areas (such as Hefzi Bah—c. 2000 sq m). In the eastern Sharon, the Kebaran sites include Binyamina, Herut, Zofit, Kefar Sava, and Ra'ananna; in the western Sharon they include the Hadera dunes, Hefzi Bah, Kefar Vitkin, Poleg, Qiryat Arieah, and Gath-Rimmon. The principal game hunted at these sites was gazelle, deer, cattle, and various other species. There

is no information regarding plant foods, as no floral remains are preserved.

The Natufian culture that followed the Kebaran is characterized by lunate microliths. It marks the appearance of the earliest permanent settlements, although only a single ephemeral site from this period has been discovered in the Sharon, near Nahal Poleg.

#### NEOLITHIC PERIOD

The domestication of several animal species was completed in the Neolithic period, and goat and sheep became the principal sources of food. The cultivation of several species of cereals and various other food plants further developed, too. Nevertheless, hunting and gathering still persisted and fishing was also of significance. The development of agriculture brought about the expansion of permanent settlements.

Arrowheads, sickle blades, and various types of axes are the tools most characteristic of the Neolithic period. The domination of the assemblages from the western Sharon sites (Mikhmoret, Poleg, and Herzliya) by the two former tool types suggests a focus on hunting and gathering there, while in the then-forested eastern Sharon, forest clearing necessitated large numbers of axes.

**Prehistory:** D. Gilead, *Mitekufat Ha'even* 12 (1974), 32–35.

**Hadera:** A. Ronen and D. Kaufman, *TA* 3 (1976), 16–30; E. C. Saxon et al., *Paléorient* 4 (1978), 253–264.

**Hefzi Bah:** R. Gophna and E. Yeivin, *IEJ* 19 (1969), 235–236; D. Haker, *Mitekufat Ha'even* 12 (1974), 2–7; A. Ronen et al., *Quartär* 26 (1975), 53–72.

**Kefar Vitkin:** M. Stekelis, *L'Anthropologie* 72 (1968), 325–336.

**Ma'barot:** E. Braun, *PEQ* 121 (1989), 1–43; S. Dar, *BALAS* 9 (1989–1990), 46–52.

**Poleg:** I. Mezel, *TA* 5 (1978), 152–158.

AVRAHAM RONEN

## SHECHEM

### TELL BALĀTAH

#### IDENTIFICATION

Ancient Shechem, located at the hub of a major crossroad in the hill country of Ephraim, 67 km (40 mi.) north of Jerusalem (map reference 177.179) was an important cultic and political center. Biblical and classical references to the site converge to place it between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim in the central hill country. Vespasian's foundation of Neapolis, or "new city," in 72

CE, at the western opening to the same pass yielded the Arabic name Nablus, and many have sought the ruins of ancient Shechem there. However, what covers ancient Shechem is the village and mound named Balātah, at the eastern end of that pass. The slightly elevated 15-a. mound of Balātah is sited on the lowest flanks of Mount Ebal. It rises some 20 m above the 500 m contour passing through the village at the lowest point of the val-



Aerial view of Shechem (modern Nablus) between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, looking west.

Tell Balâtah, with Mount Gerizim in the background.



ley. Abundant water comes from springs emerging all along the north and east flanks of Mount Gerizim. It looks out upon a fertile plain to the east and south—one of the most pleasant in the central hills and one that constitutes a natural system of ancient settlement. The modern village runs up onto the southern one-third of the ancient mound, but the open two-thirds remains accessible for research.

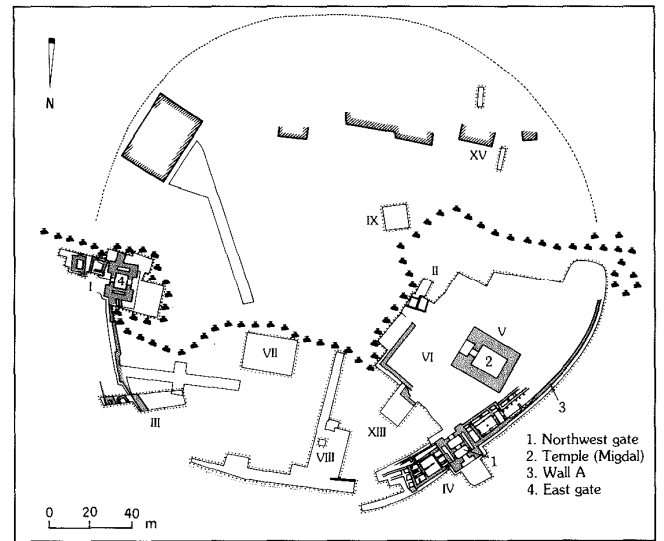
The road system from Jerusalem on the spine of the hill country divides at Balâtah to circumvent Mount Ebal. Its western arm gives access to the Coastal Plain and north to Samaria/Sebaste and Dothan. The eastern arm gives access to the Jordan River via Wadi Far'ah and north past Tell el-Far'ah (North) to Dothan.

H. Thiersch is credited with finding Tell Balâtah. In 1903, he observed a stretch of exposed fortification wall at the west of the mound and a heavy scattering of sherds. He put that together with the location of the *weli* called Qubr Yusef (Joseph's Tomb) at the eastern edge of the modern village, to confirm the identification. Not much farther east is the traditional location of Jacob's Well, connected with the story in John 4:1–42. Looming over the site is Tell er-Râs, on a forward salient of Mount Gerizim (q.v.), which contains the ruins of a temple dedicated to Zeus Olympus. The Hellenistic remains that constitute the uppermost strata at Tell Balâtah indicate the location of Shechem in Hellenistic times. It remains an open question how the name Sychar in John 4 fits with all of this, especially because there is a modern village called 'Askar on a Hellenistic and Roman ruin just to the north of Balâtah on Mount Ebal. Excavation has established, in any case, that Neapolis (= Nablus) flourished in Roman times (see below), whereas pre-Roman Shechem was at Tell Balâtah.

## HISTORY

Prior to excavation, Shechem was known from texts that seem clear enough but require interpretation. Egyptian references in the later set of Execration texts and the Khu-Sebek inscription, both from the nineteenth century BCE, seem to designate both a city and a territory—in short, a city-state—in the Middle Bronze Age IIA. A number of the mid-fourteenth-century BCE Amarna letters point to a city-state center at Shechem ruled by Lab'ayu—a center that had an impact on Megiddo, Jerusalem, Gezer, the Hebron region, and Pella across the river, via the passes to the Jordan Valley. Biblical passages mentioning Shechem relate Abraham (Gen. 12:6), Jacob (Gen. 33:18–20, 35:1–4), Jacob's whole family (Gen. 34), and Joseph (Gen. 37:12–17) to the old city, but these stories are filled with curious ingredients and leave open many questions about the city. The same is true of

Tell Balâtah: map of the mound, excavation areas, and plan of the principal remains.



the reference in Genesis 48:22 to “one Shechem” which Israel (= Jacob) is said to have taken by force from the Amorites. Then there are references to the city or its setting in Deuteronomy 27 and in the Deuteronomistic histories in Joshua 8:30–35, Judges 9, Joshua 24:32, Joshua 24:1, and 1 Kings 12. Taken together, these passages make at least some things clear: that in Israelite lore Shechem was a prominent sanctuary center related to Israel's heritage through the patriarchs and hence was a place to return to; that covenant making and renewing were powerful ingredients in the religious significance of Shechem; that Canaanites and Israelites encountered one another here, but the encounter does not seem to have resulted in military conflict—at least at the time of the Joshua “conquest” (cf. Gen. 34); and that Shechem was so prominent that it was the place to go to establish one's right to rule the region (Abimelech in Jg. 9; Rehoboam and Jeroboam in 1 Kg. 12). It is thought to have been the capital of Solomon's first district (1 Kg. 4:8) and is named as the city Jeroboam built and occupied (1 Kg. 12:25), the first capital of the Northern Kingdom. Reminiscences of its prominence are found in Hosea 6:9 and Jeremiah 41:5. It was a city of refuge (Jos. 20:7) and as such part of the Levitic allotment (Jos. 21:21), and it is a key marking point on the boundary between



Tell Balâtah: aerial view, looking south.

Ephraim and Manasseh (Jos. 17:7). Mentioned as one of the districts that provisioned Samaria in the Samaria ostraca, presumably from the first half of the eighth century BCE, it appears in a cluster of names in Joshua 17:2 that closely approximate the roster on the ostraca and define Manasseh's allotment. Evidence that Shechem returned to prominence in the Hellenistic period comes from Ecclesiasticus 50:26 and from a critical assessment of Josephus' various references to the city and to Mount Gerizim, most notably in *Antiquities* (XI, 340 ff.), where it is said to be the chief Samaritan city.

## EXPLORATION

Because the texts mentioning Shechem speak of the environs as well as the city, there has been an impulse to explore the region around Shechem, as well as the city ruin itself. G. Welter excavated a Middle Bronze Age II structure on the slopes of Gerizim above Balâtah at Tanânîr (1931) and the Church of Mary Mother of God (Theotokos) on the summit of Mount Gerizim (1928). The American Joint Expedition (see below) studied the rock-cut tombs in Shechem's cemetery on the flanks of Mount Ebal, and modern road expansion has revealed others, one of them the cave tomb T-3 excavated by C. Clamer. The number of tombs identified is now about seventy. R. Boling of the American expedition reexcavated Tanânîr in 1968, and R. Bull excavated Tell er-Râs from 1964 to 1968. In 1964, the American Joint Expedition began a more systematic regional survey, intended to examine the Shechem basin as a system. Fifty-four sites were explored in this effort, and 29 more were explored by German and Israeli teams, notably by the Deutsche Evangelische Institut, prior to 1967; by the Israel Survey in 1967-1968; and by I. Finkelstein and A. Zertal since. In addition, a series of chance discoveries in Nablus have been salvaged archaeologically in the past fifteen years, filling out the archaeological history of the pass in Roman times. I. Magen is at work on the major Hellenistic settlement on Mount Gerizim, which spreads south and west from the summit, and various sites in Roman Neapolis (see below), and Zertal has excavated a probable Iron Age sanctuary and altar at el-Burnat on Mount Ebal (q.v.). The result has been to understand Shechem as a regional center, recognizing how the various points of access to the basin were guarded, how secure the population must have been to spread out into villages around the valley's flanks—where military posts and secondary market towns may be located—and what relationship Shechem may have had to such cities as Tappuah, Tirzah, Tubas, and Samaria.

## EXCAVATIONS

**THE AUSTRO-GERMAN EXPEDITION.** E. Sellin began a systematic excavation at Tell Balâtah in the fall of 1913. He returned in the spring of 1914. He focused first on the outcrop of fortification wall that Thiersch had noticed ten years earlier, tracing it northward to the northwest gate and south to where it gave out. He then found a second circumvallation inside the first and traced it to the gate. Sellin used long, 5-m-wide trenches from the mound's edge toward its center, to test the overall stratigraphy. He discerned four major periods in the site's history in the stratified buildings his narrow trenches revealed. He first dated them as Hellenistic, Late Israelite, Early Israelite, and Canaanite. In fact, they turned out to be Hellenistic, Israelite, Middle Bronze, and earlier—the earliest phase being equivalent to what he had found at Jericho, the Early Bronze and Chalcolithic periods.

Sellin returned in 1926 and 1927 for four campaigns. He used his long, narrow trenches to explore the city's interior in the southeast and from the eastern perimeter inward. The former area, trench K, followed up on a remarkable chance discovery made by Balâtah villagers in 1908: bronze weaponry, including a sickle sword. From this trench also came two cuneiform tablets, one a witness list and the other a text W. F. Albright deciphered as a teacher's appeal for remuneration. The other trench, designated L, revealed fortifications on the east side of the city, which were traced to the east gate. Sellin had by now seen that the fortification system was in several phases and would be a complex puzzle to work out.

Much of the rest of Sellin's work was concentrated on the west of the mound, in what would prove to be the acropolis. Just inside the arc of the city wall, he discerned what he called the palace, extending on either side of the northwest gate, and the massive structure of the Migdal Temple and its forecourt, altars, and pillar sockets, enclosed within what he termed the temenos wall (wall 900). Work within the elbow of the temenos wall brought the Germans to the uppermost of a series of courtyard complexes; some soil in the interiors of rooms was scooped out, but work was carried no deeper. Welter was appointed to replace Sellin as director, but only produced some plans, although excellent ones, and explored Mount Gerizim, as noted above. The expedition failed to record find spots carefully, to report stratigraphy in any detail, and to bring the account of the work to a synthetic presentation. Sellin regained the directorship and mounted a final season in 1934. He worked on his final report until 1943. His records and his manuscript, along with many artifacts, were destroyed in Berlin during World War II.

**THE AMERICAN EXPEDITION.** The Joint Expedition to Shechem began in 1956 as the cooperative effort of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey and

McCormick Theological Seminary, in Chicago, under the direction of G. E. Wright and B. W. Anderson. Conceived as a teaching excavation for young American, Canadian, and European scholars, it took into the field teams of as many as thirty researchers, a well-conceived recording system, and a plan to combine the soil deposition technique being perfected by K. M. Kenyon at Jericho with comparative ceramic knowledge based on W. F. Albright's work. A major aim was to recover as much as possible from the materials unearthed by Sellin and Welter and to tie the mound's story together. Methods became more and more sophisticated as the expedition continued and many more institutions became partners. The excavation at Shechem was the first to introduce cross-disciplinary research, including an association with geologist R. Bullard. The expedition, chiefly through its director, G. E. Wright, kept to the task of relating textual evidence to archaeological finds. The expedition entered the field with a reconnaissance season in 1956, and worked in 1957, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, and 1968. In the fall of 1968, Boling reexcavated Tanânîr, and in 1969 J. D. Seger tied the acropolis stratigraphy to an area of fine houses just to the north of the acropolis (field XIII). Salvage and clean-up work in 1972 and 1973 were carried out by W. G. Dever, who made several important discoveries in Sellin's "palace" precinct. Work reached bedrock in two locations and identified a total of twenty-four distinct strata, from the Chalcolithic to the Late Hellenistic period. Four major periods of abandonment were interspersed, as shown in the following chart.

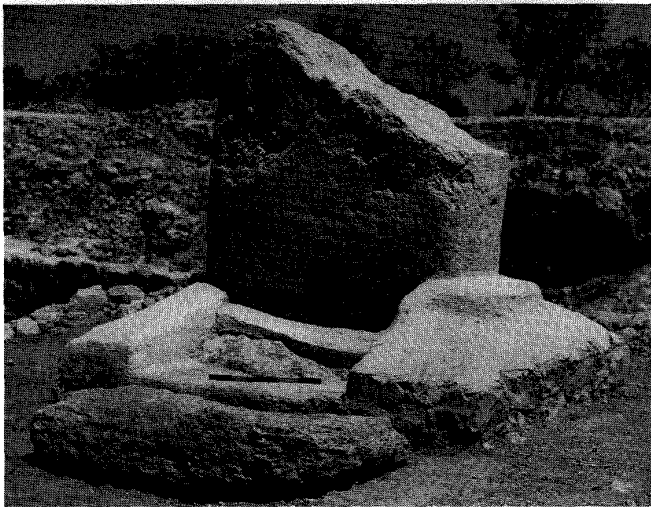
Period	Stratum	Dates (BCE)	Features
Hellenistic	I	150-128/107	Eroded; attested by sherds, coins
Hellenistic	II	190-150/128	Refortification on MB II lines; housing, fields I, II, VII, IX
Hellenistic	III A-B	250-190	
Hellenistic	IV A-B	331-250	
(ABANDONMENT, c. 475-331)			
Persian	V	600-475	Meager structures, Attic pottery
Iron II	VIA-B	724-600	Residential remains throughout, fortification on MB II lines; rebuilding of wall E, beginning in stratum IX; granary in field V
Iron II	VII	750-724	
Iron II	VIII	810-750	
Iron II	IX A-B	920-810	
Iron II	XA-B	975-920	Recovery; Shishak destruction
(ABANDONMENT, c. 1150/1125-975)			
Iron IA	XI	1200-1150/1125	Reused MB II fortification; new east gate tower; poor housing develops to good; temples 2A and 2B; LB IIA ends in destruction
LB IIB	XII	1350-1200	
LB IIA	XIII	1400-1350	
LB IB	XIV	1450-1400	
(ABANDONMENT, c. 1540-1450)			
MB IIC	XV	1600-1540	Wall B, east gate, temple 1B
MB IIC	XVI	1650-1600	Wall A, northwest gate, temple 1A
MB IIB	XVII	1675-1650	Wall C, earth embankment; courtyard complexes 909-910, 901, 902 in field VI
MB IIB	XVIII	1700-1675	
MB IIB	XIX	1725-1700	
MB IIB	XX	1750-1725	Wall D, courtyard complex 939
MB IIA	XXI	1800-1750	Housing, fields VI and IX
MB IIA	XXII	1900-1800	Platforms 968, 977(?); field VI
(ABANDONMENT, c. 3300-1900)			
EB I	XXIII	3500-3300(?)	Base fields V-VI, sherds in fills
Chalcolithic	XXIV	4000-3500(?)	Base field IX

**THE EARLY PERIODS.** Probes deep beneath the acropolis buildings, directly under the Migdal Temple and close to the temenos wall, yielded evidence of occupation in the late fourth millennium BCE, the beginning of the Early Bronze Age I. Pottery from this period turns up frequently in fills at Shechem, but there is very little architecture in the small exposures beneath the acropolis. This pottery also occurs in a few places visited by the Regional Survey.

An earlier phase, belonging to the Chalcolithic period, in the first half of the fourth millennium BCE, appeared just above bedrock in field IX, well inside the city and south of the acropolis area. Pebbled surfaces with what may be curved tent floors characterize the settlement. At no place on the mound are Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I (strata XXIV and XXIII) stratigraphically superimposed.

There is no stratigraphic evidence of the "Urban" period of the Early Bronze Age at Shechem, and no pottery from the Early Bronze Age II-III. At Khirbet Makhneh el-Fauqa, 4 km (2.5 mi.) south of Balâtah on the southeasternmost flank of Mount Gerizim, however, this pottery abounds; the region's Early Bronze Age town must have been there. Shechem has Middle Bronze Age I sherds in fills, but no occupation layers were found in the several excavation plots that were probed that deep.

**MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IIA (STRATA XXII-XXI).** The next clear strata belong to the Middle Bronze Age IIA, and the pottery suggests that the site was resettled at a point well into the Middle Bronze Age IIA, in around 1900 BCE. Under the acropolis, this period is represented by two rectangular,

*The migdal: the maṣṣeba (re-erected).*

Bronze phase. Thus ended a two-hundred-year period of prominence as a city-state, covering the centuries from 1750 to 1540 BCE.

**LATE BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE I (STRATA XIV–XI).** A gap in occupation of about a century is attested everywhere on the Shechem mound. Cave tomb T-3 on the slopes of Mount Ebal contributed pottery from this gap—the Late Bronze Age IA—and makes it all the more obvious that the mound itself lacks that distinctive pottery. Recovery came in about 1450 BCE. The northwest and east gates were both rebuilt, the latter with a new guard tower inside the position of the Middle Bronze Age IIC towers. The *migdal* was rebuilt, with a broadroom cella in use in two phases (2A–B), and an altar and a huge *maṣṣeba* were placed in the forecourt. A building with what may be an altar and what is certainly a *maṣṣeba* was in use inside the town, in field IX; it remained in use throughout the Late Bronze Age IB–II periods. It was rebuilt in the Iron Age I, but the altar and *maṣṣeba* were buried and covered with a new plaster floor, suggesting its nullification as a shrine.

The houses in field XIII characterize this period in the city's life. Recovery from the Egyptian destruction began with leveling operations and the construction of a brick kiln. The laying out of the first houses in a coherent plan followed. These initiatives represent the Late Bronze Age IB (late fifteenth century BCE). Stratum XIII reflects the zenith of this development: the Amarna Age (fourteenth century BCE). Parts of at least two fine houses fill field XIII, while the corner of an even more impressive structure, conceivably the governor's residence, juts slightly into the field. To stratum XIII belongs a rich and varied collection of complete pottery vessels that had been thrown into an underground chamber and will form the basis of the Late Bronze Age typology for Shechem being prepared by L. E. Toombs and R. S. Boraas; the vast majority of the objects from cave tomb T-3; the above-mentioned shrine in Field IX; a fine bronze figurine of a male deity found in Field VII; the two cuneiform tablets found in 1926 in trench K, along with the small corner of another found in field XIII in 1968; and the buttressed corner of a massive building in field III, at the eastern perimeter of the mound. These finds are evidence of the strength and independence implicit in the Amarna letter portrayal of the ruler Lab'ayu (see above).

A major destruction brought stratum XIII to an end, in about 1350 to 1300 BCE; recovery on simpler lines and suggesting less prosperity followed in stratum XII, which belongs roughly to the thirteenth century BCE. Stratum

*Cylinder seal and impression in the Middle Assyrian style, c. 1200 BCE.**Bronze figurine of a Canaanite god, LB IIA.*

XII gave way to stratum XI without evidence of destruction, but with the distinct indication of an intervening blanket of fill. Stratum XI then suffered massive destruction in about 1100 BCE; the artifacts representing the end of this stratum are clearly Iron Age I. That is, two significant destructions of Shechem took place—in the fourteenth century and around 1100 BCE—neither of which fits the standard chronological expectations of the time of the Israelite entry into the land, usually fixed in the late thirteenth century. Connecting stratum XI with the story underlying Judges 9 is plausible; the scene underlying Joshua 24 fits conditions on the acropolis in strata XII and XI.

**THE MONARCHIC PERIOD (STRATA X–VII).** The site lay virtually unpopulated during the eleventh century, and indications from the regional survey are that the whole Shechem basin was sparsely occupied. Residential areas in fields VII and IX reveal the gap and then show recovery in the form of walled working spaces and simple huts. The number of huts in the given space increased as stratum X developed; walls are fairly wide but not well constructed. A destruction ended stratum X, dated by the pottery to the last quarter of the tenth century BCE—presumably in connection with Shishak's raid in about 918 BCE. What he destroyed seems to have been only a modest, unwallied town, representing continuity with the traditional old covenantal site. The stratum IX town, however, may have recovered the line of the last effort fortification wall, E, from the Middle Bronze Age IIC and rebuilt a circumvallation on it. In stratum IX, the house walls are narrower, but carefully built of selected stones, and foundations for stairs suggest two-story houses. The layout now shows a planned use of space. Stratum IX represents

*Fruit press or dyeing installation found under the hearth of house 1727, Iron II.*



Ruins of the "four-room" house 1727 in field VII, destroyed in 724 BCE; note the large hearth in the central room.



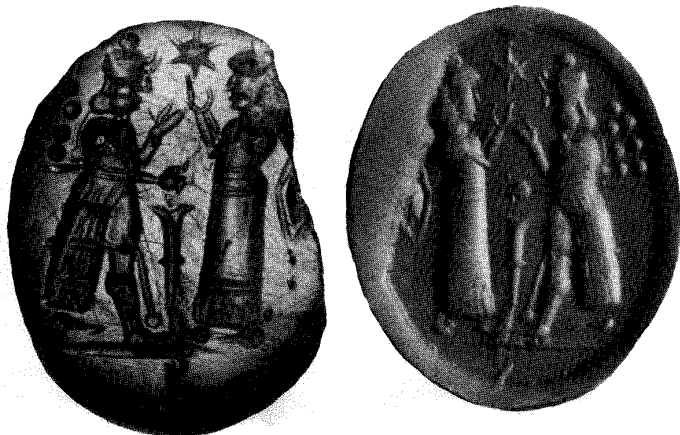
the late tenth and the ninth centuries BCE and becomes the tangible evidence of Jeroboam I's rebuilding (1 Kg. 12:25) and a return to city status.

Strata VIII and VII represent the eighth century BCE. Little remains of stratum VIII, but stratum VII is strikingly well preserved because of the destruction that brought it down. One residence, house 1727 in field VII, is of special interest. It is a fine example from the time of the Assyrian destruction (c. 724 BCE) of the typical "four-room" dwelling around a central room. The entire structure had a second story. A huge hearth in the central room points to a family trade of lime production or something requiring a large fire. The hearth supplanted an earlier vat-and-platter installation with a collecting jar, which suggests another household industry: fruit processing or possibly dyeing. Two rooms were added to this house along its southern edge, suggesting the expansion of the family. The room is adjacent to an open area where food was processed, probably in collaboration with the occupants of another house at the edge of field VII, to its south. A fine adorning seal of

Assyrian workmanship, lost by its owner in the debris of the house destruction, confirms the dating.

**THE ASSYRIAN OCCUPATION AND THE PERSIAN PERIOD (STRATA VI-V).** Stratum VI attests limited occupation of the site in the Assyrian period, covering the seventh century BCE. The remains from the Persian period (stratum V) are also scanty, although the artifacts suggest a cosmopolitan and relatively well-to-do population. Included are 158 sherds of imported Attic black-glazed ware in a variety of forms, incised triangle krater rims, a late sixth-century electrum coin from Thasos, a seal impression of a roaring lion typical of Judean sites in the Persian period, and a Persian seal impression of the king as archer, with Ahura Mazda's seal behind him. Stratum V represents roughly the years 600 to 475 BCE.

**THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD (STRATA IV-I).** In the late fourth century BCE, Shechem recovered once more. The tops of the old Middle Bronze Age IIC fortifications were exposed, huge quantities of earth were moved to



Assyrian adorning seal found in the ruins of house 1727, and its impression.



Hebrew seal: "(belonging) to mbn," 7th century BCE.