

## CHAPTER XXI

### SOUTH-INLAND PALESTINE IN THE MB II B - III

Although this region was intensively occupied in the MB and has been frequently excavated, the sequence there is not as complete as that of the Northern Region. The most important sites of this region in the Middle Bronze Age were Jericho, Gibeon and Tell Beit Mirsim.

#### Jericho

This site has been excavated by three different expeditions in the last century.<sup>1</sup> The recent excavations by Miss Kenyon have yielded the most important results. The large number of Middle Bronze Age tomb groups excavated offered the opportunity of obtaining a clearer chronology than that based on the excavation of Tell Beit Mirsim.

The tombs at Jericho have been noted for the large number of MB III burials they contained. Despite the thought and care taken by Miss Kenyon in excavating these tombs, some mixing of materials was inevitable and the latest phase of the MB III has probably suffered. Only a few burials could be assigned to that group. In addition, the chronological range of many types is extended by this mixture; thus the bowls with flared neck extend to the MB III B at Jericho, where they are only MB III A 1 in the north.

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<sup>1</sup>These were the excavations of Sellin and Watzinger, published in 1913, Garstang's excavations in the thirties, and Kenyon's in the fifties and sixties.

In addition to the carefully excavated tombs of the recent excavation, there were a few well-defined groups from the earlier publications as well. These we shall use as part of the chronology; the more poorly excavated chamber tombs of Garstang will be used only for comparative material.

#### The MB II at Jericho

##### The MB II B

Although the discovery of a fenestrated axe in an amporiskos of EB IV date demonstrated a relationship between the EB IV and the MB II A, there was no evidence of MB II A occupation at Jericho.<sup>1</sup>

Clear evidence of MB II B 1 occupation was found in a tomb from the west side of the mound by Sellin and Watzinger. This contained a globular juglet with pulled-out bar handle, bevelled-in rim and flattened base. A large dipper has a similar handle and very wide body. There may be a handleless jug as at Ras el Ain, or the large broken pot is a fragment of a juglet. One carinated bowl is of MB II type, as is one convex bowl with side handle and spout, as at Sidon in the MB II.<sup>2</sup> The complete juglet is a diagnostic shape of MB II B 1.

##### The MB II C

Tombs assigned to this phase are a burial in K 6 found by Garstang and Kenyon's tomb K 3.

The tomb in area K 6 (Fig. 453 a-c) contained one ovoid juglet with a ridge below the rim, rather like juglets found at Tell Farca.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Sellin and Watzinger, Jericho, pp. 116-118, figs. 104-105, plate 22, 2 a.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 71, fig. 43

<sup>3</sup>See fig. 159 a and b.

There are a single tall pitcher with rim-shoulder handle and a globular shoulder-handle jug, with a large handle.

Tomb K 3 contained similar juglets, five pitchers, carinated bowls and convex platters with flat bases (Fig. 394-395). One rather globular handleless jar was found. Although the pottery of both tombs is clearly MB II, and rather crude when compared to contemporary pottery at Megiddo, it contains many features characteristic of MB II C. The juglets with the ridge just below the rim are characteristic of the last part of MB II, as is their well-developed ovoid shape. The rims of the pitchers are simple or very slightly pushed out. None of the platters have the heavy triangular or carinated rims of the MB II B.

#### The MB III Sequence at Jericho

Many more tombs came from each phase of the MB III at Jericho. Since the extensive excavation of tombs was away from this mound, this may account for part of the difference in numbers; the cave-like tombs of EB IV were only rarely reused in the MB II. Single burials were more common in the tells.<sup>1</sup>

#### The MB III A 1 (Group i)

Tombs assigned to this phase from volume I were A 1, J 3, B 46. From Volume II, there were J 3, A 34, phases 1-2 and B 48, phases 1-3 (Figs. 396-402).

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<sup>1</sup>Kathleen Kenyon, Excavations at Jericho; Volume One; the Tombs Excavated in 1952-54 (London: British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, 1960). The Middle Bronze Age tombs are discussed on pages 263-518; Kathleen Kenyon, Excavations at Jericho; Volume Two; The Tombs Excavated in 1955-58 (London: British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, 1965). Middle Bronze Age tombs are discussed on pages 167-478. An index of tombs is found on pages 723-25. Hereafter, tombs will be cited only by illustration number here or by tomb number.

The description of group i closely matches that of Megiddo Group A. Small globular bowls have short flared necks (Fig. 398, f, g); platters have inverted rims (Fig. 396) and necked bowls occur (Fig. 397 1; 398, d). Piriform juglets with ring, stump or near-button bases are common (Fig. 399). Craters with tripod-loop bases frequently occur (398 1, m). Rare types include the platter with ring base, cylindrical juglet and lamp.

Though some plastic decoration is found on other forms (Fig. 401 c), none of the juglets is decorated.<sup>1</sup>

The MB III A 2 (group ii, early)

Tombs assigned to this phase include M 11, phase 1; A 34, phase 3; J 54 ancestral; H 6 ancestral; J 54 final; and D 22 (Figs. 403-406).<sup>2</sup>

Group ii was divided into three parts by the excavator. The early part of the group is distinguished from group i mainly by the appearance of the outward-carinated or flared-carinated bowl. As the convex bowls with flared rims parallel Megiddo A, the introduction of the flared-carinated bowl (Fig. 403 o) parallels Megiddo group B.<sup>3</sup> In addition, we may note the footed bowl or jar with short collar seen at Tell Farca in this period<sup>4</sup> which becomes the early pedestal vase in the next phase (Fig. 405 c, d).

The MB III B 1 (group ii, middle)

Tombs assigned to group ii, middle, include B 48 phases 4-6, J 37, D 6, D 9, B 50 phase 1, and G 46 (Figs. 407-414).

The middle of group ii is distinguished qualitatively by the

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<sup>1</sup>No early Yehudiyya ware was found in context at Jericho.

<sup>2</sup>These are Kenyon's groups. <sup>3</sup>Above, p. 932. <sup>4</sup>Above, pp. 965-66.

prominent appearance of early pedestal vases (Fig. 407 1-q). These betrayed their origin in the flared-collar bowls not only by their shape, but by the simple banded decoration seen on later khabur cups.<sup>1</sup> The developed pedestal vase appears here for the first time as well (Fig. 411 f), but it is rare as were flared-carinated bowls with recessed center.

Otherwise, this phase is characterized by a decline in the number of deep bowls with flared-necks and large carinated bowls as well as juglets with ring bases.<sup>2</sup>

For purposes of chronology, the most important feature of this group is the first appearance of MB III B Yehudiyya punctate decoration. This occurs in all-over chevrons (not illustrated) and two horizontal zones filled with punctate decoration (Fig. 412 i, j). This group certainly ended in the MB III B 1.

#### The MB III B1 (group ii, late)

Tombs include G 37, P 23, P 1, J 14 phase 1, and B 50 (Figs. 415-418).

The latest part of group ii is marked mainly by quantitative rather than qualitative changes. The pedestal vase become common in the plain form without cordons. Piriform juglets with developed button bases also become common. The developed pedestal vase with cordon appears for the first time. Declines are noted in simple carinated bowls, early pedestal vases, ring-based juglets, and globular and necked bowls.

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<sup>1</sup>Below, pp. 1194-1196.

<sup>2</sup>Vol. I, tombs G 37 and G 46. The continuation of bowls with short neck and juglets with ring bases after this time may be due to mixing.

Yehudiyya ware in this phase is even more clearly associated with the Tell ed-Dab<sup>ta</sup> sequence. There was one example of transitional Yehudiyya ware, with the four pairs of poorly drawn triangles (Fig. 417 g). A second juglet from the same tomb had four vertical zones (Fig. 417 h).

The MB III, B 1 (Group iii, early)

Tombs assigned to this group include B 51, A 34 phase 5, P 17, A 46, A 134 and J 19 (Figs. 419-427).

The early stage of group iii is marked by the first appearance of bowls with upright sides and the first appearance in any numbers of cylindrical juglets. Plain pedestal vases increase in numbers, while early types continue to decline.

Yehudiyya juglets in this phase include a number of the simply decorated Palestinian types, with single bands of ornament (Fig. 423 i-k, 424 a), and one juglet with vertical zones, all MB III B (Fig. 419 f). There was one juglet with elaborate painted Yehudiyya decoration, straight and wavy horizontal lines enclosing several spirals on the body (Fig. 419 g).

The MB III B 1 (group iii main)

Tombs assigned to this phase or group are G 82, P 19, J 20, J 42, D 13, P 21, J 45 layer 5, A 38, A 34, B 35, B 3 and A 46, last burial (Figs. 428-436).

Although the second half of this group is very large, it is marked by only a quantitative change. The straight-sided bowl has become common as did the pedestal vase with cordon at the neck. More piriform juglets have button than stump bases.

Yehudiyya juglets include at least four with one or two zones of punctate ornament (Fig. 434 f-i). There are also pedestal chalices of northern type (Fig. 430 a).

#### The MB III B 2 (group iv)

Tombs assigned here are J 45 layers 4-1, G 73, J 9, J 14 phase 2, G 1 ancestral, J 12, and J 1 (Figs. 437-445).

Group iv is again defined mainly by quantitative changes. Faience vessels, primarily simple jars, are new however (Fig. 445). Cylindrical juglets are very common, as are pedestal vases with cordons. The number of plain pedestal vases declines, as does that of piriform juglets, especially those with stump and pointed bases. Globular bowls with necks or flared collars seem to die out within group iii. (These are MB III A types that may have been present so late only because of mixing).

An important correlation with the MB III B 2 of the north is provided by the carinated chalice with an exaggerated profile from tomb J 1 (Fig. 439 a).

#### The MB III C (group v)

Tombs that belong to this group include A 136, J 39, M 11 phase 2, G 1 final, H 6, H 11, H 18 and H 22 (Figs. 446-450).

Group v, the MB III C, is distinguished by the disappearance of piriform juglets which are replaced completely by the cylindrical juglets. There are fewer carinated bowls and pedestal vases, though other types continued. No trumpet-footed vessels were found at all in J 7 and the final burial of G 1, indicating some further development.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Kenyon, Excavations at Jericho, Volume One, pp. 268-301; Kenyon, Excavations at Jericho, Volume Two, pp. 173-202. These are the main summaries used for this dissertation.

Jericho and the MB III

The large number of MB III groups at Jericho is the foundation of Kenyon's chronology of Megiddo. It is somewhat ironic, then, that many features of MB III chronology are clearer at Megiddo than they are at Jericho.

The clearest correlations between Megiddo and Jericho are between the three major divisions of the MB III, A, B and C. It is quite clear from the types of bowls with flared necks and flared-carinated bowls that Jericho group i corresponds to the MB III A 1 and group ii early corresponds to the MB III A 2.

The introduction of late Yehudiyya ware, along with the possible occurrences of transitional Yehudiyya ware in group ii middle, indicated that this group already was MB III B 1. This date is reinforced by the occurrence of Late Yehudiyya ware and Transitional Yehudiyya ware in group ii late.

Since group iv still contains piriform juglets, it still corresponds to the MB III B, certainly the later part of that period, the MB III B 2.

Group v, with no piriform juglets, clearly corresponds to the MB III C in the north, which is also characterized by this major change.

Correlation of the middle groups (ii middle - iv) with the northern phases is more difficult. Most of the Jericho groups belong to these phases. However there was a major difference between the tombs at Jericho and those of the north. The pedestal vase, which developed from the collared bowl, is the major drinking vessel attested in these groups. In the northern region, the major drinking vessel is the carinated chalice. Both types had a trumpet foot. One of the pedestal



chalices from group iii (Fig. 430 a) appears to belong to the earlier type with more moderate proportions.<sup>1</sup> The type from group iv had the more exaggerated profile with a narrow waist which characterized the MB III B 2. We should, therefore, assign the groups ii middle - iii main to the MB III B 1. This period was overdivided by Kenyon into two large groups, four subgroups altogether. As we have seen, however, most of the distinctions between the subgroups were quantitative; the difference between these groups is a matter of emphasis.

There should have been some mixture as well in these groups. It was common practice to push earlier burials off to the back or the side of the tomb. When gaps occurred between the stages of reuse in the tombs, roof fall provided some stratigraphic evidence. However, these tombs did not contain continuous periods of occupation, but groups of points in time limited by the next level. Since close observation of stratigraphy in tombs can limit but never eliminate the problem of mixing, MB III B groups overlap somewhat; there may even be a few objects from group i in tomb groups assigned to iii for example. Some rare, later occurrences should be discounted.

#### The flared-neck jar

This type of vessel will be important in the discussion of Syria and Transjordan. Examples of this type occurred in tomb B 51 of group iii early (Fig. 420 h), J 45 of group iv,<sup>2</sup> and a wide variant from the destruction debris (Fig. 454 h), with painted bands.

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<sup>1</sup>Although pedestal chalices of this general type were found in Megiddo D, the MB III B 2, the best parallel was MB III B 1, fig. 336 o.

<sup>2</sup>Kenyon, Excavations at Jericho, Volume Two, fig. 230, 11-12.

TABLE 42

## A STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF THE JERICHO GROUPS

Group	Tomb A 34	Tomb B 48	Tomb H 6	Tomb B 50	Tomb J 14	Tomb J 45	Tomb G 1	Tomb M 11	Tomb P 23	Tomb J 42
i	1-2	1-3								
ii-Early	3		ances- tral					1		
ii-Middle		4-6		1						
ii-Late				(2)	1				e.	
iii-Early	4			(2)					1.	
iii-Middle						1 or Early				1
iv					2	4-1 or main use	ances- tral			
v			final				final			2

The general origin of the type is well illustrated by the early pedestal vases and collared bowls from earlier groups at Jericho (Fig. 398 f-g). An early form of this type was seen in group i with grooves around the neck, a type known from the north (Fig. 398 e).

#### Weapons

The battle axes of Jericho include the type with narrow blade, concave cutting edge, moldings and vertical braces at the socket (Fig. 402). The type is found in groups i and iii. A second type found by Garstang has a wider, flatter blade and a hook below and in front of the socket that replaced the bracing.<sup>1</sup>

Daggers from Jericho are simple; most are tanged, with a flat midrib and rivets on the tang. The pommels are globular.<sup>2</sup> Knives with curved blades are also known, normally with rivets in the blade. They also have globular pommels.<sup>3</sup>

#### Garstang's Jericho

Important materials from tombs and the town were excavated by Garstand in the 1930's. We cannot assign all of these materials to the Kenyon groups, because the excavation was not up to modern standards and the publication was incomplete.

#### Tomb 9

This tomb contained pottery typical of group ii mid to late.

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<sup>1</sup>John Garstang, "Jericho: City and Necropolis", Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology, 19 (1932), pp. 3-22, plates I-XLV. Plate XXXVII, 994, from Tomb 9, of the MB III B 1.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate XXXIX; Kenyon, Excavations at Jericho, Volume Two, p. 237, fig. 111.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid. Note also the socketed spearhead, number 16.

Since one juglet has incised and punctate triangles on the shoulder, there may be some material of MB III A as well, though this simple type occurs in group iii also (Fig. 423 1).<sup>1</sup>

Early pedestal vases have wide mouths;<sup>2</sup> more developed forms of the pedestal vase are absent. Yehudiyya painted decoration is present on a juglet with horizontal bands and wavy lines. A flared collar crater has tripod-loop base and painted horizontal bands.<sup>3</sup> The most interesting object is the head rhyton with punctate hair and beard, made of a pedestal vase.<sup>4</sup>

Most important of the weapons from this tomb was an axe with a broad thin blade, molding at the socket and a hook in front of the socket.

#### Tomb 12

This tomb contained both early pedestal vases with wide mouths and more developed types with narrower mouth and cordon. It thus belongs to the MB III B generally. Most noteworthy from this tomb is the lower portion of a cylindrical juglet with a ring or disc base.<sup>5</sup> We will see the type again at Ras Shamra (Fig. 541 c).

#### Tomb 22

Tomb 22 contained the more developed pedestal vase, a large number of cylindrical juglets and a faience vase. One piriform juglet

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<sup>1</sup>Garstang, "Jericho: City and Necropolis, Second Report", plates XXX-XXXVII, plate XXX, 6.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate XXXI, 8, 9, 11, 12.      <sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate XXXIII, g.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate XLIII.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., plates XXXIX-XL, see plate XXXIX, 8.

has a horizontal band of punctate ornament on the waist with three triangular zones below.<sup>1</sup> Its date should correspond to group iv, possibly v as well.

#### Tomb 19

Layer C of this tomb belongs to group iii, since it contained the truly developed pedestal vases with cordons.<sup>2</sup> Later burials in layer B could be of group iv or even v, as no piriform juglets were found in them.

#### Tomb 31

Tomb 31 may have begun earlier than tomb 19 as it contained a jar with a tripod-loop base.<sup>3</sup> Developed pedestal vases with cordons are present as is a flared-neck jar with low base. Since faience vases were found, the end of tomb 31 should be put in group iv.<sup>4</sup>

#### Tomb 4

The upper layers of tomb 4 contained Late Bronze age pottery, while level C contained mostly MB materials. This MB pottery includes developed pedestal vases<sup>5</sup> and a flared-neck vase with tripod-loop

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plates XLI-XLII, see plate XLI, 1.

<sup>2</sup>John Garstang, "Jericho: City and Necropolis, Third Report", Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology, 20 (1933), pp. 3-42, plates I-XXXIV; see p. 6, lll.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 10, fig. 4, 9.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 14, fig. 5. On p. 9, fig. 3, Garstang claimed that the first scarab was to be read Wadjkheperre<sup>c</sup> (Kamose); Rowe concurred in the reading. However, the scarab is not well made and the hieroglyphs are improperly arranged. The scarab should best be regarded as a fortuitous combination of often used signs.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., plate XVI, 11-12, with no cordons at the bases.

base and painted bands.<sup>1</sup> Some pendant solid triangles were painted on it; this was later an important monochrome Late Bronze motif. There were two piriform juglets with horizontal bands of punctate decoration, and a faience vase.<sup>2</sup> Since cylindrical juglets outnumbered piriform juglets as well, the end of this tomb can be dated to group iv.

#### Tomb 5

The mass of pottery from tomb 5 is still more difficult to date. Very many Middle Bronze pots were found below a Late Bronze deposit. Pedestal vases and piriform juglets are particularly common.<sup>3</sup> The vases appear to be largely of the early type.<sup>4</sup> Juglets include some with painted bands, horizontal punctate bands and vertical zones of punctate decoration. This last is probably an Egyptian import.

Two painted pots are of special interest. One is a flared-collar vase with tripod-loop base and horizontal bands with wavy lines painted on it. The second is a pedestal vase with carinated body decorated with bands, wavy lines, slashes and small concentric circles. The date should fall between group ii mid and group iii.

#### The town; the tower area

We have already discussed the burial within the town that was MB II C in date. Other burials contained pedestal vases of MB III B type (Fig. 451).

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plate XVI, 10.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate XVII, 4-5; see p. 26, fig. 9.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate XXV.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plates XXX and XXIV, 4-5.

"The kilns"

These so-called kilns were rooms which had substantial traces of burning. Garstang was uncertain about their relationship with the so-called palace store rooms.<sup>1</sup> The pottery found in these rooms included pedestal goblets,<sup>2</sup> and the flared-neck vase with cordon, which are contemporary with the types found in the "palace storerooms".

"The palace storerooms"

Irregular chambers abutted on a thick, rectilinear wall (Fig. 452), Garstang took this wall to be part of a palace. Since these rooms contained so many pithoi, he believed that they were the "palace storerooms". The rooms were irregularly shaped, however, and had direct access to the street. Since they contained so many pithoi, Miss Kenyon considered them basements of a large house block.<sup>3</sup>

Save for confused upper strata which contained mixtures of Late Bronze Age materials, these rooms contained pottery of the MB III B from the later groups. The fully developed pedestal vase with cordon at both neck and base is common (Fig. 454 d, f). There were also flared-neck vases (Fig. 454 h), fully developed carinated chalices (Fig. 454 m, p), and shoulder-handle jugs. Both piriform and cylindrical juglets were found, with the latter in the majority. Of particular interest are two zoomorphic rhyta, variants of the pedestal vase (Fig. 454 w).

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<sup>1</sup>Kathleen Kenyon, "Notes on the History of Jericho", Palestine Exploration Quarterly (1951), p. 119.

<sup>2</sup>John Garstang, "Jericho: City and Necropolis, Fourth Report", Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology, 21 (1934), pp. 99-136, plates XI-XLIV; plate XVIII, 18, 26, and 32.

<sup>3</sup>Kenyon, "Notes on the History of Jericho", pp. 107-113.

A strange variant of the dipper has a tripartite handle, pedestal base and painted decoration in wavy and straight horizontal bands with solid triangles above a plastic band at the waist.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the best parallels are the wooden juglets found in the tombs.

This fully developed pottery is late in the MB III B, probably group iv. Subsequent investigation by Miss Kenyon showed that this house block was destroyed by fire; the pottery is thus an important group of the later Middle Bronze Age.<sup>2</sup>

### The defenses

Garstang assigned a wall to the EB IV. After this wall, a series of ramparts was built at the base of the mound, made with fill and plastered over. A wall was built on the summit of these embanked fortifications.

This embanked fortification was traced in three stages on the west side of the mound. The second of these stages was steeper than the first. In the third stage, a substantial retaining wall was constructed outside the embankment.<sup>3</sup> This retaining wall had a brick defensive wall on top of it.<sup>4</sup> The retaining wall and defense wall addition were traced around much of the mound by Kenyon.<sup>5</sup> She felt that the entire series of embanked fortifications had begun in group iii.

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<sup>1</sup>Garstang, "Jericho: City and Necropolis, Fourth Report", pp. 99-136, plates XXV, 20.

<sup>2</sup>Kathleen Kenyon, Archaeology in the Holy Land (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1960), pp. 187-88.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 178, fig. 43.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., section on pp. 108-109 <sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 40, fig. 3.



Tell Beit Mirsim

When first published, the sequence at Tell Beit Mirsim was the fundamental basis of Palestinian chronology. Since then, however, large numbers of sites have been published, some in considerable detail. These require changes in the sequence as it was outlined by Albright at Tell Beit Mirsim.

The excavation was carried out before the time when the importance of debris was fully realized. It was an excavation of the "architectural" type, but was carried out as much by pottery typology as strata.<sup>1</sup> This somewhat circular approach to excavation is rather harmless where the stratigraphy is straight-forward; where the levels were as destroyed and robbed as Tell Beit Mirsim G and F, however, the resulting complexities may be too much to unravel.

The site is located just southeast of Tell ed-Duweir one of the southernmost sites of the south-inland region. Of Albright's phases, four belong to our period, G, F, E and D.<sup>2</sup>

## Occupation Phases

"Level G"

Pottery illustrated from "level G" includes carinated bowls of MB II type with horizontal burnish above the keel, vertical burnish below (Fig. 455). There are convex bowls with everted rims and jars with

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<sup>1</sup>William F. Albright, Tell Beit Mirsim II: The Bronze Age; Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, 17 (1936-37), pp. 8-10.

<sup>2</sup>A single biconical juglet was found in H; it had a two-strand handle. The type is similar to those from Nahariyya (see above p. 991) in the MB II.B. Its presence here could be due to mixture; Albright, Tell Beit Mirsim I a; The Bronze Age Pottery of the Fourth Campaign; Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, 13 (1931-32), p. 103, plate 3, 13.

band-painted decoration. In one case the painting is a band of cross-hatching on a storage jar (Fig. 455 i). Some other pots that could belong to the next phase will be discussed there. The date of G appears to be MB II B-C.

#### "Level F"

In addition to materials of G date, which were likely to continue anyhow, F contained new elements that we have not considered MB II, but MB III A (Fig. 456 a-c). There were flared-carinated bowls of MB III A 2 as well as an open carinated bowl.<sup>1</sup> A convex platter has a red cross in the center. This has been mentioned at Tell ed-Dab<sup>e</sup>a and will be seen again at Tel Aviv in the MB III A.<sup>2</sup>

Sherds include Cypriote White Painted IV-V Cross-Line Style.<sup>3</sup> Other sherds include the painted style of Palestine, alternate straight and wavy lines, that began in the latest MB III A 2.<sup>4</sup> One sherd is probably bichrome.<sup>5</sup> The date for F at Tell Beit Mirsim is clearly at least partly MB III A.

#### "Level E"

The next phase clearly continues into the MB III B. Trumpet-footed vases of developed type, often burnished, are particularly common (Fig. 457). One carinated chalice is of northern type; the profile is rather exaggerated, indicating a late date (i.e. MB III B 2, fig. 457 r).

<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plate 5, 3.      <sup>2</sup>Above, p. 77; below, p. 1062.

<sup>3</sup>Albright, Tell Beit Mirsim I a, p. 70, found in 191, well below F in S E 24; see plate 22.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate 22, 5, 8, and 10.      <sup>5</sup>Ibid., plate 22, 5.

Both piriform and cylindrical juglets occur; one piriform juglet has two simple bands of punctate ornament (Fig. 458). Faience vessels, especially lentoid flasks, are already present. The date of E should be MB III B 1 and 2.<sup>1</sup>

#### Level D

Most of the pottery types found in E continue into D, but there are many fewer burnished vessels and piriform juglets. The trumpet-footed vase is rarer but present. Cylindrical juglets form the vast majority of the juglets (Fig. 459-60).<sup>2</sup> Phase D probably continues into MB III C.

#### The fortifications

A wall was ascribed to phase G with later addition to it of a bank. This was made of hard clay or layers of gravel and earth, and may have had a wall on top of it. Still later, the bank was strengthened by a retaining wall. A gate with a single pair of piers preserved was associated with this retaining wall; there may have been more gates originally.

It would appear that the first embankment is to be dated to the MB III B, as sherds of "Level E" type were found below it; a pit with phase D type sherds was found dug into it.<sup>3</sup> The second stage of the

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 75-82. Faience vessels were characteristic of Jericho IV, or MB III B 2; these were the jar shape (Fig. 218 h). The lentoid flask may begin earlier at Tell Farca North, however (above, p. 967).

<sup>2</sup>Albright, Tell Beit Mirsim I a, pp. 83-84.

<sup>3</sup>Kenyon, "Palestine in the Middle Bronze Age", pp. 104-06; A. Eitan, "Tell Beit Mirsim G-F--The Middle Bronze A Settlement", Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, 208 (1972), pp. 19-24; Yigael Yadin, "The Tell Beit Mirsim G-F Alleged Fortification", Bulletin

fortification in the MB III B - C would then be associated with level D. The site was violently destroyed at the end of that "level".<sup>1</sup>

### Gibeon

The tombs found at Gibeon (el Jib) contained pottery and objects from the EB IV to the MB III C. Though many of the tombs contained mixed deposits, many of the various periods are distinguishable.

### The Sequence

#### MB II B 1

Pottery from the MB II B 1 came from tomb 58. A prior interment of the EB IV was found. Finds of the MB II included two small, well-shaped handleless jars with simple rims, a larger jar with a cordon at the neck and two short-socket convex spearheads (Fig. 461). The MB II B date of these simple jars is clear.<sup>2</sup>

#### MB II B 2 - C

Early deposits from tomb 45 could be assigned a date in the MB II. A number of platters with bevelled-in rims or vertical rims and red-burnished carinated bowls (Fig. 463 a-f) were found. There is also a dagger with three widely spaced veins.

Tomb 31 contained only an amphora with flattened base, rectangular axe with notch, and a well preserved dagger with part of the hilt and globular pommel. The blade has spaced veins (Fig. 462).

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of the American Schools of Oriental Research, 212 (1973), pp. 22-24. Both Eitan and Yadin date Albright's wall to F or even early E. This is MB III A in date.

<sup>1</sup>Albright, Tell Beit Mirsim Ia, pp. 35-36.

<sup>2</sup>James B. Pritchard, The Bronze Age Cemetery at Gibeon. Museum Monographs (Philadelphia: University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 1963). Materials are henceforth cited here only by figure number in this work or tomb number in the publication.

MB III A 1

The rest of the deposit in tomb 45 can be assigned to the MB III A 1. Bowls with the short flared neck are characteristic of this phase, especially where there are no flared-carinated bowls. The date is especially clear in a large group like tomb 45 (Fig. 463-464). Carinated bowls are mostly in ordinary wares with some buff or cream slipped examples. Piriform juglets are either nearly biconical or ovoid with a slight shoulder.

There was a bronze axe with narrow convex blade, socket with bracing and molding on either side, and also a curved knife (Fig. 464 c and d).

Tomb 14 contained similar materials but few pots, including buff carinated bowls and part of a piriform juglet.

MB III A 2

Tombs assigned to this phase are 11 and 22.

Flared-carinated bowls mark the MB III A 2 in both of these tombs. The group in tomb 11 was small and was not of great importance. Tomb 22 contained ring-based piriform juglets (and biconical juglets). One juglet has a shoulder handle with three strands. Another has a ridge-rim, punctate standing and pendant triangles and an applied snake for handle decoration.<sup>1</sup>

MB III B 1

Tombs assigned to this phase are 18, 22 A, 36, 39. The most important change in this group is the appearance of the simple pedestal

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<sup>1</sup>Above, p. 1005. Platters, carinated bowls and shoulder-handled jars are about the same as at Jericho.

vase which tended to have a large body, small base and a fairly wide mouth or low neck (Fig. 465 e). Another type characteristic of this period is the flared-neck carinated bowl with ring base. Other types, such as the juglets, remained the same, though the simple carinated bowls are missing. One cylindrical juglet has disc base (Fig. 465 k).

#### MB III B 2

Tombs assigned to this phase include 10, 12, 13, 19, 35, 42, 44 57 and later deposits in 30 and 36 (Fig. 466-471).

The developed pedestal vase, with high foot and follar, often cordons at the neck and base, distinguishes this group. Dippers are still well-proportioned or ovoid with pointed bases. There was one flared-neck jar with a low foot (Fig. 468 d) and one footed chalice (Fig. 468 h) with the sharply carinated later profile. Piriform juglets have button bases; they include two with punctate decoration (Fig. 466 c, and Fig. 468 i). One of these has a single band of punctate ornament, the other two horizontal zones above and below the waist. This last is characteristic of Late Yehudiyya decoration in Egypt.<sup>1</sup> A crude double juglet has even cruder incised ornament (Fig. 471 a).

#### The MB III C

Tombs assigned to this period are 20 and 21.

Only two tombs seemed likely to contain materials of the MB III C. The first also had Late Bronze materials, so some of the cups that could be of either date may belong to the LB as well. The jugs are much simplified; the dippers are nearly carinated. Tomb 20 contained only a

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<sup>1</sup>Above, pp. 76-77.

cylindrical juglet.<sup>1</sup>

Tomb 15; a mixed group

This very large group contained objects characteristic of the MB II C to the MB III B (Figs. 472-475).

The pottery from the tombs of Gibeon closely parallels the materials of Jericho and Tell Beit Mirsim, with an occasional change or import. The abundance of the pedestal vase clearly marked this site as belonging to the south-inland region. Occurrences of special chronological importance include the Early Yehudiyya juglet in tomb 22 of the MB II A 2 and the Late Yehudiyya juglets in the MB III B.

The rectangular axe with notch has already been noted in the MB II C in tomb 31, as has the convex-bladed axe with molding at the socket from the MB III A 1 (Tomb 45).

Veined daggers, one with the globular pommel, were noted in tomb 31 and 45. A plain dagger blade, possibly with a globular pommel, came from tomb 15 (Fig. 475 b). Curved knife blades were found in tomb 45 (Fig. 464 c) and 15 (Fig. 475 c and d). One of these certainly has a globular pommel.

Khirbet Kufin

Tombs in the side of a hill called Khirbet Kufin near Beit Ummar yielded materials of EB IV and MB II - III A date. Although the materials were mixed, they demonstrate the presence of MB II C - III A in the area.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Pritchard, The Bronze Age Cemetery at Gibeon, figs, 28-29.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Houston Smith, Excavation in the Cemetery at Khirbet Kufin, Palestine (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1962).

Pottery from the upper stratum of tomb 3, chambers 3-4 and 6-7, includes platters with inverted rims and one or two low ring bases. Two of these have painted rims (Fig. 478 a-d). Carinated and convex bowls have everted rims; some of these are red burnished (Fig. 476 a, 478 e-g, and 479 a-c). Dippers are short, but generally pointed (Fig. 476 e, and Fig. 477 g). Juglets included the ovoid type and the rather baggy shape of MB II B-C (Fig. 476 g, and 478 k). One squat piriform juglet was of MB III type (Fig. 477 a). One lamp was a type generally considered MB III.<sup>1</sup>

Weapons from chambers 3-4 include a dagger with spaced veins and two rectangular battle axes with the notches (Fig. 476 b-d). Chambers 6-7 contained later types, including the axe with ovoid section, narrow blade, molding at the socket and bracing (Fig. 479 l). The daggers were plain or simply bulged in the middle (Fig. 479 i-k).<sup>2</sup>

#### Kalandia

Pottery of the MB III B was discovered in a tomb at the refugee camp at Kalandia. Two pedestal vases of developed type with cordons and very squat piriform juglets date the tomb to the MB III B, though other material is less distinctive.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Kenyon, in Excavations at Jericho, Volume One and Volume Two, pp. 209-292, and 193-96 respectively, does not credit any lamps to group i in Volume Two. In Volume One, one shallow lamp with slightly folded nozzle was ascribed to group i (p. 290) and a number of sherds were used as lamps (p. 292). This use of sherds was documented at Tell Farca North also.

<sup>2</sup>We should note that the stone vessels (Fig. 479 e-h) are normal Egyptian types. We may contrast them later with the native Palestinian types of the later MB III.

<sup>3</sup>Awni K. Dajani, "A Hyksos Tomb at Kalandia", Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 2 (1953), pp. 75-77, plate XI.



Wadi el-Tin

Pottery from a cave in the Wadi el-Tin 5 km. south-southeast of Bethlehem included materials from the MB II - III B 1. It was a very large group, apparently with many burials.<sup>1</sup> MB II pottery includes a handleless jug of a type found at Ras el Ain,<sup>2</sup> short dipper juglets,<sup>3</sup> and possibly some of the carinated bowls.<sup>4</sup> Pottery of MB III A includes bowls with short, flared or straight necks,<sup>5</sup> platters with inverted rims, one with a red cross,<sup>6</sup> another with a tripod-loop base.<sup>7</sup> MB III B 1 pottery includes primarily early pedestal vases.<sup>8</sup> Most of the juglets are not distinctive of one period or the other, though there are no cylindrical juglets.<sup>9</sup> The most remarkable piece in the collection is a globular jug with a pulled-out band handle.<sup>10</sup> This is perhaps an imitation of a Cypriote jug.

Moza Illit

Mixed materials of MB II - III date were found in this tomb on the slope of Moza Illit near Jerusalem.<sup>11</sup> Pottery includes the globular jar with everted rim of MB II, the convex jar with short collar of MB III A 1 and simple carinated bowls. A vase with large mouth and low pedestal

<sup>1</sup>L. H. Vincent, O. P., "Une Grotte Funéraire Antique dans l'Ouadi et-Tin", Revue Biblique, 54 (1947), pp. 269-82; p. 271, fig. 2. The cave was used in earlier times as well.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 276, fig. 4, 4.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 277, fig. 5, 1 (with button base), 15, 16.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 279, fig. 6. <sup>5</sup>Ibid., fig. 6, 6, 8.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., fig. 6, 18. <sup>7</sup>Ibid., fig. 6, 20.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., fig. 6, 1-4. <sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 277, fig. 5.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., fig. 4, 3.

<sup>11</sup>Yvarda Sussman, "Middle Bronze Burial Caves at Moza", Atiqot (Hebrew Series), 3 (1966), pp. 40-43, \*5, plates IX-X.

is probably MB III B 1 in date, but no earlier than MB III B. Classic pedestal vases have cordons at the neck and base. One example has a tall neck and shoulder handle.<sup>1</sup>

Weapons include a rectangular axe and a simple dagger.<sup>2</sup>

### Bethel

This was also an essentially architectural excavation, carried out in 1934, 1954, 1957 and 1960. Fortifications, domestic buildings and possibly some public buildings of the "MB II B - C" were found as was pottery from the "MB II A". No well-defined groups such as tombs or deposits were published.<sup>3</sup>

### Fortifications

A very well-built wall of semi-dressed stones with some projection or tower was dated to the "MB II B", or the MB III B.<sup>4</sup>

A heavy glacis or embankment was laid against this wall. This bank was made of clay near the wall, stone rubble farther out. "MB II" sherds dated the glacis.<sup>5</sup>

One major destruction occurred followed by a renewal of the wall and embankment in the "MB II C" or the latest MB III B or C.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., fig. 2, 15.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., fig. 3.

<sup>3</sup>James L. Kelso, The Excavation of Bethel (1934-1960); Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, 39 (1968), pp. 4-9.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 11. There was another tower and a differently constructed glacis discussed, pp. 15-16.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid. A unique U-shaped gateway is discussed on pp. 13-15. It was apparently also destroyed.

The town

It would appear that one major construction is dated to the "MB II B". This phase was completely destroyed by fire.<sup>1</sup>

The second major phase of construction was dated to the "MB II C". It had two main phases of occupation separated by a destruction level of some importance. The structures of this phase were well built; they included a "patrician house" and a possible temple.<sup>2</sup>

Beth Zur

A city wall made of large polygonal stones was traced in two areas at Beth Zur and dated to the Middle Bronze Age. No evidence of an embankment was found.<sup>3</sup> Trumpet-footed vessels mentioned are clearly of MB III date.<sup>4</sup> Uncertainties about the stratigraphy made it impossible to date the wall very strictly, however, and it must be dated to the general time of MB occupation of the site, late MB III B or MB III C.

Khirbet el Mshash

Excavations at Khirbet el Mshash in the eastern Negev about equidistant from (east of) Beersheba and (southwest of) Tell Arad yielded remains of an embanked fortification and a settlement of the late MB III. The fortification was a curved wall preserved for some 220 meters, with a fosse.<sup>5</sup> There appears to have been a retaining wall inside the

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 23-27.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 26.

<sup>3</sup>O. R. Sellers, Robert W. Funk, John L. Mackenzie, Nancy Lapp, Paul Lapp, The 1957 Excavation at Beth-Zur, Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research (1968), pp. 4-6; O. R. Sellers, The Citadel of Beth-Zur (Philadelphia: the Westminster Press, 1933).

<sup>4</sup>Sellers, et al., The 1957 Excavation at Beth-Zur, p. 37.

<sup>5</sup>Yohanan Aharoni, Volkmar Fritz and Aharon Kempinsky, "Vorbericht über die Ausgrabungen der Khirbet el Mshash (Tel Masos), 1. Kampagne 1972", Zeitschrift für Deutsche Palästina-Verein, 89 (1973), pp. 198-224; p. 205.

ditch.<sup>1</sup> The fortification wall was presumably built on top of the embankment, though it is not mentioned.

The fortification was apparently constructed before the settlement inside, as the surface went below some of the house walls.<sup>2</sup> Pottery associated with the settlement includes MB III types, such as the cylindrical cook-pot with thumb-indented ridge near the rim, a band handled pitcher and a biconical shoulder-handle jug.<sup>3</sup> Although a cook-pot with rounded base had come into use by the end of MB III B, the flat-based type continues; biconical shoulder-handle jugs are characteristic of the later MB III B at Jericho (Fig. 454) and Ajjul (MB III C, Fig. 498 a-c). The late date given by the excavators for the foundation of the town is corroborated to the limited extent possible from the few pots published. There is no LB present.

#### Tell el Milh

As part of the same project, excavations have been undertaken at Tell el Milh, just east of Khirbet el Mshash.<sup>4</sup> This site had a similar fortification. The excavation has not progressed far enough to be sure of the complete sequence, but it appears to parallel that of Khirbet el Mshash, which was occupied only in the later Middle Bronze Age.<sup>5</sup>

Aharoni and Kempinsky referred to these sites as linked with Tell Jemma, Tell Farca and Tell el Ajjul. It may be that they were linked, since they were all founded at about the same time, with similar military features.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 206, fig. 3.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 209.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Above, pp. 1056-57, 1061 and 1185-93.

## CHAPTER XXII

### TRANSJORDAN IN THE MB II - III

Compared to Palestine, very little material has been excavated in the area east of the Jordan. We can only construct a very dependent sequence for that region based on the comparison of some groups with the sequence in northern and south-inland Palestine. Except for one tomb group in Amman and the material from Pella, we have only the remarks of Dornemann in his unpublished dissertation to assist with the groups from Irbid, Focara and elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

#### Amman

A single large tomb group has been published from Amman. From its size, it appears to have contained more than one burial, but the contents show a remarkable homogeneity. One of the interesting features of this group was the presence of materials that show northern influence. Bowls with low necks are present and related jars that may indicate that the earliest deposits were MB III A in date.<sup>2</sup> In addition, however, some taller jars with flared necks have low pedestals. These are MB III B types at Jericho. They resemble simplified pedestal vases to some extent.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Rudolph Henry Dornemann, "The Cultural and Archaeological History of the Transjordan in the Bronze and Iron Ages", Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation in the University of Chicago Library, 1970.

<sup>2</sup>G. Lankester Harding, G. R. Driver, B. S. J. Isserlin, and O. Tufnell, "Four Tomb Groups from Jordan", Annual of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 6 (1953), pp. 14-26. See fig. 7, 35, 37-38.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., fig. 7, 31-34, 36 and 41.

Most of the platters have ring bases and simple rather than inverted rims.<sup>1</sup> Dippers include both short and long types.<sup>2</sup> No jar has a tripod-loop base.

Most of the juglets are cylindrical; only five of nineteen examples are piriform. Two cylindrical juglets have simple horizontal bands on the body of the piece. One piriform juglet has the horizontal bands as well. The other decorated juglet has a horizontal band of vertical lines on the shoulder.<sup>3</sup> One tall jar has complex decoration consisting of bands with solid triangles, cross-hatching, rectangles, checks, straight and wavy lines.<sup>4</sup>

While a few pots are dated to the MB III A, most of the material is clearly dated by the jars with flared necks, platters and dippers to the MB III B - C. The fact that so few piriform juglets were found to the number of cylindrical juglets is also clear evidence of late date. The most important feature of this group is the presence of northern features such as the jar with flared neck. There are no pedestal chalices or pedestal vases of Palestinian type.

Pedestal chalices of northern type have been cited from other groups found at Amman. These three groups contained not only the chalices, but also piriform juglets, bowls and jars with flared neck with bands of paint (red).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., fig. 6, 2-13, 15, and 18.   <sup>2</sup>Ibid., fig. 8, 69-85.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., fig. 7, 58, 59, 63, and 64.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., fig. 7, 46. See also the flared-neck jars 41 and 40 with bands. One taller jar with shoulder handle on fig. 8 has wavy and straight bands, but it may be later, from the shape.

<sup>5</sup>Dornemann, "The Cultural and Archaeological History of the Transjordan in the Bronze and Iron Ages", pp. 42-44.

Since the published tomb is a rather large group, the lack of pedestal chalices from it may be chronologically significant. Only piriform juglets were mentioned from the other groups. It may be that these are earlier than the published tomb, though they are all MB III B (from the pedestal chalices).

Three unpublished tombs	MB III B 1
The published tomb (Major deposit)	MB III B 2

Sherd material of MB II - III date came from the citadel at Amman. There was, however, no clear evidence of an MB II date for the sherds involved.<sup>1</sup>

#### Pella

The site of Pella is across the Jordan from Beth Shan, at the edge of the Jordan Valley. Materials of MB II, III B and III C date have been published from this site.

#### Pottery Groups

##### The MB II B - C

Pottery of MB II date was found in some poor layers and in deposits in Area I. Pottery could be clearly identified only in Area I.<sup>2</sup> This includes bowls with thickened rims which have some pigment on the rims. This type is characteristic of Megiddo (Fig. 349 d-g). A convex

<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 39-40, 45-47.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Houston Smith, Pella of the Decapolis, Volume I, The 1967 Season of the College of Wooster Expedition to Pella (Wooster, Ohio: The College of Wooster, 1973), plate 27, platters 926, 496, 981, 982, bowl 924, pitcher 502, and probably dipper 918, pp. 159, 197-98.

bowl has an everted rim. There is a part of one pitcher and possibly a dipper as well.

The bowls with heavy rims and the flattened base from the dipper are clearly characteristic of the MB II B at Megiddo (Fig. 313).

#### The MB III B

No materials found at Pella could definitely be dated to the MB III A.

Materials of the MB III B were found in tomb 4 in area II A in the East Cemetery. Pottery includes both piriform and cylindrical juglets. There is one jar with flared-neck and a pedestal chalice of early type.<sup>1</sup> The date of the tomb should be MB III B 1.

#### The MB III C

Tomb 1 in II A illustrates materials from the end of the Middle Bronze Age and possibly the beginning of the Late Bronze Age as well.

Middle Bronze Age pottery includes tall dippers,<sup>2</sup> ovoid monophae and pedestal chalices.<sup>3</sup> Some of the very short dippers and platters with pronounced curve and pedestal bases are solely Late Bronze Age in date.<sup>4</sup> Many pots could belong to either age. These include the cylindrical juglets, platters with ring bases, cups and amphorae.<sup>5</sup>

One bichrome jug was in the group. It has horizontal bands of

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plates 61-62, see 223 and 224.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate 51 (plates 46-57).

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate 48, 128, 63, 109 and 111, pedestal chalices plates 55-56, monophae.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate 46, 30, 50, dippers. Bowls are below in the same plate.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., plate 47, 50, juglets after 113, 52-54.



paint on the neck and shoulder. Also on the shoulder are four vertical panels with straight and zig-zag lines. The jug has a ring-base and shoulder handle. The handle is in two strands with horizontal slashes of paint in Middle Bronze Age style.

One rather mixed group of materials came from a stratum of II A; it was referred to by Smith as "predominantly Middle Bronze II".

Characteristic types include the tall dippers and piriform juglets of MB III B.<sup>1</sup> Pedestal chalices of MB III B - C were found as were jars with flared necks and cylindrical juglets.<sup>2</sup>

Late Bronze Age features include a black globular juglet and monochrome-painted sherds; one of these has a bird in a panel.<sup>3</sup>

No real sequence was discovered in the Middle Bronze Age remains of Pella. It is clear, however, that the place was settled in the MB II B. It was also clear that the area was influenced by the pottery of northern Palestine in the MB III B, as the pedestal goblets occur. Side by side with these goblets are the jars with flared necks which occur at Amman and which are so common in Syria. The bichrome jar cited above could be dated to either the Middle or Late Bronze Ages from the context; it is most probably Late Bronze Age from parallels elsewhere.<sup>4</sup>

#### Irbid

Two tomb groups from the citadel at Irbid include materials of

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plates 35-40, plate 40, 827.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plates 40, 825, 844, contain pedestal chalices, plate 36 and 736 has flared-neck jars; plate 40, 789 cylindrical juglet; 887, 890, 873, piriform juglets.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate 40, 726, is a globular juglet of LB I. Painted decoration occurs on sherds on plate 38; the bird is on 724.

<sup>4</sup>Below, pp. 1211-1212.

of MB III B. These are piriform and cylindrical juglets, a chalice without the pedestal base, bowls and a jar with painted decoration in bands.<sup>1</sup>

#### Fo<sup>c</sup>ara

One tomb, north of Irbid, contained materials of MB II - III date. Pottery of MB II date includes handleless jars of types found in MB II B Megiddo.<sup>2</sup> Pottery of the MB III includes jars with tripod-loop bases, one with red-on-white painted decoration.<sup>3</sup>

While a number of sites have been surveyed that contained materials of the MB II - III, they cannot be clearly dated from the information available at this time.

There is, however, clear evidence from this scattered collection of groups that the area of Transjordan was settled in the MB II B. It may be no accident that the groups that are datable to that period come from Pella near Palestine, Fo<sup>c</sup>ara and Mughair north or Irbid. Other groups were of MB III date; they contained evidence of important northern influence, in the chalices of the north of Palestine and the flared-neck jars of Syrian type.

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<sup>1</sup>Dornemann, "The Cultural and Archaeological History of the Transjordan in the Bronze and Iron Ages", p. 44.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 39. He noted Loud, Megiddo II, plate 12, 20-22, and 13, 1-2, as comparable pots in the MB II, also pp. 44-45 for the MB III.

<sup>3</sup>The most important finds in other places were Middle Bronze embanked or glacis fortifications at <sup>c</sup>Amman and Safut (ibid., pp. 49-52). Other large "groups" are discussed on p. 45. Surveys, especially of Glueck, are discussed on pp. 47-49.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### SOUTHWESTERN PALESTINE

This region consisted of the coast of Palestine from Tel Aviv to Sinai, the Philistine Plain and the adjacent Shephelah to the east, as far as Gezer and Tell ed-Duweir (Lachish).

There have been many important excavations in this region, including those at Gezer, Lachish, Tell el Ajjul and Tell Farca (south). Important excavations are in progress now at such places as Tell Jerisha and Jemma. In addition, many sites have yielded materials of Middle Bronze Age date; some of these are significant.

Despite the fairly intensive exploration and excavation in this area, only one site contained large amounts of material in well-defined groups from much of the Middle Bronze Age. Tell el Ajjul is thus the most important site chronologically in the region, despite major problems with the excavation and publication. Together with groups from cemeteries at Dhahrat el Humrayya and Tel Aviv, the tombs of Tell el Ajjul can be used to construct a sequence. Although there were important tomb groups as Lachish, Gezer and Ain Shems, these were not part of local sequences that could be considered complete.

As in the other regions, we shall construct a sequence of well-defined groups which will be used to date important features of the sites. The most important features to date in this region are the date when the sites were first occupied on a large scale, the date of their fortifications and the date when they were destroyed.

Tell el Ajjul

Tell el Ajjul is the most difficult site to use of all the major sites that included material of the Palestinian Middle Bronze Age. The problems with the excavation are well known; they will be mentioned below when we deal with the history of the settlement.

The problems we have in constructing a sequence do not involve the quality of the excavation, but rather the quality of the publication and the nature of the evidence itself. In addition to the large areas of settlement, large cemeteries were excavated of Middle and Late Bronze Age date. These were published in the normal manner of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt. Pottery was organized into a corpus;<sup>1</sup> as new forms were found, they were published in the respective volumes of the Gaza series.<sup>2</sup> Tomb groups were published by means of a register which referred to the corpus and the finds published in each volume.

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<sup>1</sup>J. Garrow Duncan, Corpus of Dated Palestinian Pottery, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 49 (London: University College, 1930).

<sup>2</sup>W. M. F. Petrie, Ancient Gaza I; Tell el Ajjul, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 53 (London: University College and Bernard Quaritch, 1931). Pottery is on plates XXXVII-L, the register is on plate LX and LXI. They are hereafter cited only by tomb number; W. M. F. Petrie, Ancient Gaza II; Tell el Ajjul, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 54 (London: University College and Bernard Quaritch, 1932). Plates XXVII-XXXVI contain pottery; plates LVI-LIX the register; hereafter they are cited only by tomb number; W. M. F. Petrie, Ancient Gaza III; Tell el Ajjul, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 55 (London: University College and Bernard Quaritch, 1933). Pottery is on plates XXX-XL, registers are on plate L, hereafter cited by tomb number; W. M. F. Petrie, Ancient Gaza IV; Tell el Ajjul, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 56 (London: University College and Bernard Quaritch, 1934). Pottery is on plates XLVII-LXI; registers on plates LXVI-LXVIII; W. M. F. Petrie, City of the Shepherd Kings, and Ernest J. H. Mackay and Margaret Murray, Ancient Gaza V, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 64 (London: University College and Bernard Quaritch, 1952). Pottery is on plates XXV-XXVIII, the register on plates XL-XLI, but no tombs are cited.

There were, however, difficulties with the corpora published from Tell el Ajjul not present in later BSAE publications from Egypt. First, the drawings were generally of lower quality than those from other sites (Figs. 489-503). Second, the corpus was often arbitrary; adjacent pots in the corpus often bore little resemblance to each other.<sup>1</sup> Finally, some pottery was not published at all in the corpora, though there are numbers in the registers that refer to them.<sup>2</sup> We can only guess at the original type by looking at adjacent types in the corpus, though the second problem mentioned makes this difficult.

The most important problem with the material from the tombs at Tell el Ajjul was that of regionalization. The trumpet-footed chalices of Northern Palestine and the pedestal vases of south-inland Palestine were almost entirely absent from these groups (Fig. 490 k). Juglets, however, especially Yehudiyya ware clearly show that these groups were contemporary with the Middle Bronze II - III elsewhere in Palestine.

#### The MB II

Although some isolated pots came from loci near the Palace that might be dated to the MB II,<sup>3</sup> the only clearly dated material of this

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<sup>1</sup>Duncan, Corpus of Dated Palestinian Pottery, type 23 includes both carinated and flared-carinated bowls.

<sup>2</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza I, tomb 411. Pottery not published includes 23 F 1 and 23 F 4, both carinated bowls and 60 H 13, a piriform juglet. From group C, unpublished pottery includes piriform juglets 60 H 9, 60 J 9, bowl 4 F, and 6 C 5 and 0 3, and jug 38 J 2, as well as cylindrical juglet 79 N 4. Pottery missing from tombs of group D includes 74 O 18, 33 B 8, 6 C 5, 6 O 3, 24 O 8, 53 P 9, 48 N, 23 G 5.

<sup>3</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza III, plate XXXIX, 67 u, from AK 730, the deepening of the rooms in area A, and LZ 9 1006. Other pots from that locus such as 19 F 2 at 1050 inches, 22 I 2 at 1060 inches, 23 K 12 at 1060 inches, 26 U at 1070 inches, 28 P 7 at 1070 inches, 34 Y 6 at 1050 inches, 38 B 3 at 1052, and 38 B 3' at 1050 inches, 38 N 2 at 1050 inches

date came from the Courtyard Cemetery. This cemetery was studied in detail by Olga Tufnell; most of the pottery was located, redrawn and published. She divided the tombs into six groups. The first three of these were MB II in date.<sup>1</sup>

The cemetery consisted of a small group of burials, some in shaft tombs, in the courtyard in the later "palace" at Tell el Ajjul. The bodies were discovered in various positions, mostly contracted, with the head south. Most bodies were found on the left side. Miss Tufnell noted a general loosening of the contracted posture from group one to group three, but there was only one undisturbed burial in group three (1418). There appears to have been a regularization of the head-to-south position at this time. but other statements about the burial position would be hazardous. The most interesting burial was that of the "warrior" from group 3 b (Miss Tufnell assigned the tomb to her group 2).

The man was buried on the back, with the legs flexed, knees up.i

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43 C 2'' at 1034, 51 P 5 at 1045, 51 P 9 at 1050, 53 D 7 at 1050 inches are published from levels well above the highest walls in the vicinity, which were mostly at 1000-990 inches, reaching as high as 1035 (see the plan on plate XLVII and the register of pottery on plates LI-LIII). One cooking pot, 32 E 9, was recorded in the register from LZ 9 at 920 inches; in the corpus, the level was given as 862. The 26 U pot is given a height of 1013 in the corpus, 38 B 3' was at 992, 38 N 2 at 990, 43 C'' at 974, 51 P 5 at 985 inches above sea level respectively. The 67 U pot was the only pot in the corpus from this locus that had the same level in the corpus and in the register. It should be clear that about 60 inches was added to the height of each object in the register. This 60 inches or thereabouts should be subtracted from the height of the 67 U pot as well; it was found far below the others (see below, p.1051).

<sup>1</sup>Olga Tufnell, "The Courtyard Cemetery at Tell el-Ajjul, Palestine", Bulletin of the University of London Institute of Archaeology, 3 (1962), pp. 1-37, pp. 9-12.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 9, fig. 2.

The right arm was upraised; it might have originally held an axe. The left probably held the dagger. The tomb itself was a chamber cut in the rock with a pillar in the center and a donkey burial in the dromos.<sup>1</sup>

About eighty pots in the Courtyard Cemetery were dealt with by Miss Tufnell. For this work, we have reassigned some of the tombs to other groups; one of the groups was split into 3 a and 3 b.

#### MB II A; group 1

Tombs assigned to this group are 1405, 1408, and 1409 (Fig. 480).

Pottery from this group includes a crude platter, a hemispherical cup with flat base, a nearly biconical tankard, three dippers and an ovoid amphora with flattened base and potmark.

The dippers have rather plump bodies, flattened bases and pulled-out bar handles. The crude shape of the bowl and the simple cup with unsophisticated base parallel early materials at Byblos as do the dippers (Figs. 241-242). The tankard type resembles the crude types from the MB II A 2 at Byblos as well as a few examples from the MB II B 1. There were no clear parallels for the ovoid amphora in the MB II A however, though the potmark is similar to marks of this date.<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps the most important parallel between this group and the MB II A 2 of Byblos is the torque (Fig. 480 c). Torques were found in the Byblos Deposits, but they have not been found in any closed MB II B or later deposits.

Although the group 1 of the Courtyard Cemetery is a very small group, it contains some clear similarities to materials of the MB II A at Byblos. These are not necessarily of the earliest stage, however.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Above, p. 846.

MB II B 1; group 2

Tombs assigned to this group are 1419, 1401 and 1405. Tombs 1421 and 1417 were removed from Tufnell's group (Fig. 481).

Innovations in this group include the first carinated bowl and a baggy juglet with two-strand handle. The shape of this juglet is very rounded as in the MB II B at Sidon (Figs. 481 g, 286). The platter is larger and deeper, with evenly curved side and rather bevelled rim. Two hemispherical cups have better shapes than in the previous group; one has a disc base. Although one dipper has a round lip, the dippers generally resemble those of the previous group, though the handles are not pulled out so far.

Although the group is as small as group 1, it clearly belongs to the MB II B, probably the first half (See Tables 43 and 68).

MB II B 2 (- C ?) group 3a

This is the largest group in the MB II of the Courtyard Cemetery. It contains tombs 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1418, 1420 and possibly 1415 (Fig. 482).

Many carinated bowls were in this group, with the classic red-burnished surface, burnished horizontally above the kink, vertically below. A single small platter has an inturned rim and interior burnish; the larger platter has a flattened or bevelled rim and two handles (Fig. 482 a, m). There are a tall pitcher and a tankard which is taller than the tankard from group 1. Dippers in this group include two examples with pointed or nearly pointed bases (Fig. 482 h, i). One crude shoulder-handle jug has simple bands on the neck and a pushed-out rim (Fig. 482 p); a tall handleless jug is similar to those from Ras el Ain (Fig. 482, 383m).



It is clear that material from this group is more developed than the pottery from the earlier groups. The similarities cited on Table 43 indicate a date in the MB II B, probably the later part of that period. The shoulder-handle jug with cream slip appears unique to Miss Tufnell; it may have been intended to receive the simple painted decoration of MB II B 2 type (Fig. 302-308 This would be unusual for a shoulder-handle jug).

#### MB II C; group 3 b

This small group contains only two tombs, 1421 and 1417, which contained the "warrior" and the donkey burial (Fig. 483 and also Fig. 504).

Although the group is very small and the tombs contained only a few pots, these differ from the pots of other tombs. The two wide platters are key to the date of this group (Fig. 483 a and d). They are convex, with clearly marked bases and inturned triangular rims. They are almost similar to MB III platters. The group also contains two dippers and an amphora. Weapons from tombs 1417 include a short-socket convex spearhead and a dagger with widely spaced veins. Both are characteristic of the MB II. The "warrior" burial with the donkey resembles tomb 1/12/5 at Tell ed-Dab<sup>c</sup>a with which it is virtually contemporary.<sup>1</sup>

The most important evidence for dating these groups are the torque, crude platter and cup from group 1, of MB II A date, the baggy juglet and carinated bowls from groups 2 and 3 a of MB II B - C date, and the platters with triangular inturned rims from groups 3 b of MB II C. The absence of the painted decoration characteristic of MB II B need make no difficulties for these dates, since the types usually decorated

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<sup>1</sup>Above, pp. 66-67.

POTTERY AND OBJECTS FROM THE MB II GROUP OF THE COURTYARD CEMETERY AT TELL EL-AJJUL

Group	Tomb	Reference-Tufnell	Object	Remarks
1	1408	Fig. 9; 1 2 3 4 5	Pottery: crude bowl simple cup globular tankard dipper-crude handle amphora	MB II A at Byblos MB II A at Byblos Early Lebea, Byblos Private Tombs, II B MB II A at Byblos
	1406 A	6 Fig 10; 9 10 11	dipper round mouth dipper dipper Torque	MB II A at Byblos
	1409	Fig. 9; 2 5; 1	simple cup toggle pin	
2	1405	Fig. 9; 5a 5b 5c	hemispherical cup baggy juglet	MB II B-C, Megiddo, Lebea-Ruweise MB II B-C, Lebea-Ruweise
	1419	Fig 10; 7 AG II; 21M <sup>3</sup> Fig 10; 8 Fig 5; 1	hemispherical cup large, deep bowl dipper toggle pin	MB II B-C Ras el Ain MB II B

	1401	Fig 10;19 20	deep bowl carinated bowl	See AC II, 21 M <sup>3</sup>
3a	1411	Fig 11;21 22 23	carinated bowl deep bowl with handles dipper	MB II B-C at Megiddo
	1412	Fig 11;24 25 26	carinated bowl handleless jug dipper	See above Ras el Ain MB II B (?)
	1420	Fig 11;27 28 29 30	carinated bowl convex bowl dipper side-handled jug	See above MB II B 2  Bands at neck MB II B 2
	1418	Fig 11;31 32 CPP 21 v	carinated bowl tankard convex bowl	Same as others Lebea-Ruweise tankards II B-C MB II B
	1413	Fig 11;33 34	carinated bowl pitcher	Same MB II B at Megiddo an early type Dh. el Humrayya and Amrith
	1414	Fig 11;34 a 34 b 34 c	carinated bowl dipper dipper	Same

TABLE 43 Continued.

Group	Tomb	Reference-Tufnell	Object	Remarks
3b	1421	Fig 10;12 13 AG II, 43E <sup>4</sup>	convex bowl, inverted rim dipper amphora	MB II late  Tell ed-Dab'a, Tel Aviv MB III
	1417	Fig 10;14 15 16 18 17	dipper, well made convex bowl, inverted rim amphora spearhead dagger  donkey	MB II late, MB III AG II 43 E <sup>4</sup> , Tell ed-Dab'a, Tel Aviv MB III short socket spearhead veined dagger, MB II B2-C (Megiddo, Tell ed-Dab'a F) Tell ed-Dab'a F

are rare or absent. Indeed there was the one jug (Fig. 482 p) that may have been painted.

After group 3 b in the MB II C, the Courtyard Cemetery seems to have fallen into disuse. In fact, there were almost no burials of MB III A date in the other cemeteries as well.

#### The MB III

It would be difficult to assert from the few poor burials in the Courtyard Cemetery that Tell el Ajjul was intensively occupied in the MB II. There may have been some way-station there, but no evidence of a town or any large collection of population was found. Even that was reduced in the earlier MB III. No groups in the Courtyard Cemetery could clearly be assigned to the MB III A.

#### MB III A - Ajjul MB III group A

Only two groups, 303 B and 1767 could be assigned to the MB III A from the excavations at Ajjul (Fig. 484 a-f, 485 a-d). Tomb 303 B contained a platter with ring base and inverted rim, carinated bowl with nearly vertical sides, two plump pointed dippers, an ovoid amphora and two piriform juglets. One of these has Early Yehudiyya decoration, pendant triangles and metopes filled with punctate decoration.

The date of the second group, 1767, is more doubtful. It contains a flared-carinated bowl, rounded dipper, pitcher with pinched lip and two piriform juglets. Neither of these juglets is decorated, so the group could belong to the MB III B as well as the MB III A.

#### MB III B 1 - Ajjul MB III group B (Courtyard Cemetery, groups 4-6)

This group consists of the last three groups of the Courtyard

Cemetery, group 4, with tombs 1404, 1406, and 1407; group 5 with tombs 1410 A and B, 1423 and 1424; and group 6 with 1410 C. Tomb 1416, from group 6, does not appear to belong with the other tombs; it is omitted.

Although the groups differed somewhat,<sup>1</sup> the distinctions do not appear significant enough to warrant separate treatment here. All of the groups share the carinated bowl and all lack the flared-carinated bowl with the high side that characterized Ajjul group C. No cylindrical juglets occur in these groups.

These groups contain a ring-based platter with simple rim (Fig. 488 h) and simple carinated bowls (Fig. 486 d, e; Fig. 481 a-d; Fig. 488 a). The two examples from group 4 have tall lower sides; one has a red slip. Dippers from groups 4 and 5 are tall and well-proportioned (Fig. 486 i-k; Fig. 487 e, k, l). There are no dippers in group 6. One platter with inverted rim is in group 5 (Fig. 487 i). A flared-carinated bowl from 4 has no bulge below the carination (Fig. 486 a). The piriform amphorae with flattened bases are not especially distinctive, now is a single pitcher from group 6 (Fig. 488 c). Juglets are all of the piriform type; they are both undecorated (Fig. 486 h; Fig. 487 g; Fig. 488 b) and decorated with incised and punctate ornament. These Yehudiyya juglets are all of late Yehudiyya type, including two examples with overall punctate decoration and one with the vertical sections or zones (Fig. 486 b, g; Fig. 487 f). The late Yehudiyya ware clearly dates the later groups of the Courtyard Cemetery to the MB III B.

MB III B 2 - Ajjul MB III group C

Tombs assigned to this group include II, 264, 333, 407, 411, 1214,

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<sup>1</sup>Tufnell, "The Courtyard Cemetery at Tell el-'Ajjul, Palestine", pp. 12-15.

1221, 1317, 1467, 1472, 1500, 1535, 1550, 1551, 1752, 1761, and 1902.

This group is the first large one in the Ajjul cemeteries. As we shall see below, the town and Palace I were founded in the MB III B;<sup>1</sup> this is most likely the date of the foundation of the town (Figs. 489-495).

Pottery from this group includes platters with ring base and plain rim (Fig. 489 a). Carinated bowls occur in the form with a vertical or almost vertical side (Fig. 489 d-g). The flared-carinated bowl without a bulge below the carination is common (Fig. 489 h, i); in some cases this has a pedestal foot. The flared-carinated bowl is also common in these groups (Fig. 489 k-l; 490 a, b, e-j). These have the bulge below the carination; in some cases, the upper sides are quite tall. One type of flared-carinated cup or bowl is of special importance; it always has the high side and was used in the same fashion as the pedestal chalice of northern Palestine, but it did not have the pedestal (Fig. 490 f, g, h, all of the 23 k series in the corpus). There was a single pedestal vase of south-inland type (Fig. 490 k). Pitchers and monophorae, with both rounded and ring bases, occurred in this group (Fig. 492-493). Amphorae, generally with simple or pushed-out rims, are piriform; they have flattened or rounded bases (Figs. 494-495). Dippers are generally well-proportioned and pointed, though a few examples are short and have rounded bases (Fig. 491 j-r); the presence of these clumsier types is probably due to mixture.

Cylindrical juglets appear in this group for the first time. They seem to outnumber piriform juglets, though some of these are not illustrated in the publication (Fig. 491 a-i). There was one example of

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<sup>1</sup>Below, pp. 1050-1058.

Yehudiyya decoration, a simple band on a cylindrical juglet (Fig. 491 d). One baggy juglet was decorated with a painted spiral (Fig. 491 c), as was the piriform juglet from 1551 (Fig. 503 d).

Although there may be some justification for separating some of the tombs in the list into a separate subgroup, the entire series of tombs in the group C appears to belong to the MB III B 2.

#### MB III C - Ajjul group D

Tombs 10, 15, 20, 21, 28, 36, 101, 246, 263, 307, 321, 322, 328, 362, 443, 456, 458, 491, 1462, 1506, 1526, 1531, 1708, 1762, 1810 were assigned to this group. This is the last and largest group of tombs in the Middle Bronze Age at Ajjul (Figs. 496-501).

The chief characteristic of this group is the same as that of the MB III C elsewhere in Palestine. The piriform juglets have entirely disappeared and are entirely replaced by cylindrical juglets. These are common and occur in some variety (Fig. 498 a-ee), including forms with flat and convex bases, with both sloping and carinated shoulders, both short and tall bodies. Handles include both the simple strap and the two-strand type. Decoration includes simple combing on the body of one juglet and radiating lines and panels of painted decoration on the shoulder of another (Fig. 498 cc).

Platters are the same as in group C (Fig. 496 a, c-f). Carinated bowls with vertical sides are more numerous and varied (Fig. 496 i-bb), though flared-carinated bowls continue (Fig. 497 a-i). Dippers continue to be mainly long and pointed; this feature is important in distinguishing between the MB and LB I at Ajjul (Fig. 497 j-y). Amphorae, monophorae and pitchers are similar to those in group C. There is some change in the shoulder-handle jugs. Many of these have rather sharp



profiles and a type with carinated shoulder became common (Fig. 499 a-j, e was especially common).

Sometime before the end of the Middle Bronze Age, possibly in group C, a single Egyptian jar of Expulsion date was buried in tomb 31 (Fig. 136 and Fig. 137). This is hardly a key synchronism, but it shows just how rare the import of Egyptian pottery was (Fig. 502).

#### MB III C - LB I transition

Tombs assigned to the transition include 16, 318, 408, 413, 415, 474, 1552, and 1908.

This group has a number of distinct characteristics. The carinated bowl with vertical side virtually disappears. The profile of the shoulder handle jug is softened so that there are no carinations.<sup>1</sup> While some pointed dippers continued in use, some very plump types are found.<sup>2</sup> Bowls with flat, out-turned rims, bulging sides and flat or disc bases appear.<sup>3</sup> Finally, there are Cypriote imports of White Painted V type.<sup>4</sup> No groups that contain bichrome LB painted ware could be clearly assigned to this group. From its small size, the group appears to have had a very short lifetime. The next groups certainly contain black globular juglets and Ajjul bichrome.

#### The Town and Palace at Tell el Ajjul

Any discussion of the occupation of Tell el Ajjul would be made immeasurably more difficult if Albright<sup>5</sup> and Tufnell<sup>6</sup> had not worked on

<sup>1</sup>Tombs 415, 418, and 1552.      <sup>2</sup>Tomb 1908.

<sup>3</sup>Tombs 15, 415, 424, 1552.      <sup>4</sup>Tombs 1908, 424, 408, type 89 A.

<sup>5</sup>W. F. Albright, "The Chronology of a South Palestinian City, Tell el Ajjul", American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures, 55 (1938), pp. 337-359.

<sup>6</sup>Olga Tufnell, "Tell el Ajjul", Entsiklopedyah la-ha'firot

it. Albright documented the inconsistencies and inadequacies of the Ajjul publications with considerable detail.<sup>1</sup> The problems involved all three stages of the effort, excavation, recording, and publication.

The excavation at Tell el Ajjul was of the architectural type. That is, large areas of architecture were cleared without reference to the stratigraphic features, such as debris layers, floors, pits and trenches, unless these were extremely obvious. The only levels noted with any regularity were the heights above sea level of the walls. Since stratigraphic disturbance was not noted in the excavation, no one can be sure that objects assigned to a "level" really belong to it. In other words, nothing can be proved from the levels at Ajjul about the history of pottery in the late Middle Bronze and early Late Bronze Age. Anything said about Ajjul must reflect on the history of the site as elucidated from comparisons elsewhere.

One of the most difficult problems with the recording was the fact that different systems of lettering loci were used in each volume, sometimes in the same volume (Fig. 505). In Ancient Gaza III, LA and E-T refer to the same area.<sup>2</sup> AT was used to designate two different areas in Ancient Gaza I on the plan on plate LIV,<sup>3</sup> which was, incidentally, oriented incorrectly. The north arrow should point east on the plan.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, Petrie decided from time to time that the assignment of levels in inches above sea level was inadequate. Thus he added nearly

Arkhe'ologyot be Erets-Yisrael, pp. 55-59.

<sup>1</sup>Albright, "The Chronology of a South Palestinian City, Tell el Ajjul", pp. 339-40.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza I, plate LIV.

<sup>4</sup>Compare Fig. 505, lower right area, with Petrie, Ancient Gaza III, plate XIV.

three hundred inches to the levels of objects from the re-excavation in area A, so that these would correspond in height to the appropriate level of the Palace. In the same fashion, forty inches were added to the height of objects from Q and fifty to those from P.<sup>1</sup> The same is true of other pots from this area; I suspect that some objects from area L received similar treatment.<sup>2</sup>

These difficulties notwithstanding, Albright and Tufnell have analyzed the occupations at Ajjul with very useful results. Miss Tufnell has had the advantage of Ancient Gaza V, which was not available to Albright. She has, moreover, made greater use of Ancient Gaza III and IV evidence from the town, whereas Albright concentrated on Ancient Gaza I and the Palace.

Their results differ; that is, Miss Tufnell reconstructs three phases of Ajjul in the MB III - LB I A where Albright has only two. She considered that "City I", area B-D, and the lower city in area E-T was the earliest settlement. Her second stage consisted of Palace I, the upper level in E-T, the road in T, hoards and burials in G below the burning level. The third stage consisted of Palace II, areas A, F, and P with the upper level of G (Fig. 506). Albright considered the lower level in E-T and G, with the "City I" or B-D, to be contemporary with Palace I, which Tufnell split into two phases.

Since the "levels" at Ajjul have less to link them together than

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<sup>1</sup>Albright, "The Chronology of a South Palestinian City, Tell el Ajjul", p. 356; Petrie, Ancient Gaza III, p. 11. Compare readings for 60 M 9' given the provenience AQ''1030 on plate XXXVIII, from which it comes out at AQ''730=1030.

<sup>2</sup>Above, p.1038, note 2. According to the levels given in the register, the pottery from this locus was found floating several feet in the air.

TABLE 44

A CORRELATION OF THE EXCAVATED AREAS OF TELL EL AJJUL AND THEIR DATE

Phase	Ajjul Town Areas			Palace	Cemetery Group	Key Materials
L B I A	A	E-T (Upper)	G (Upper)	(cenotaph) II	E	L B Bichrome, White-Slip I, Black Lustrous Juglets
	D E S T R U C T I O N					
MB III C	B-D	E-T (Lower)	G (Lower)	I	D	Cylindrical Juglets (740), Flared Carinated Bowls (23K)
	marl	marl			C	Piriform Juglets

those of Megiddo, our re-examination must be limited. The key issue is whether or not there is a second Middle Bronze Age level between "City I" and "City II" as Tufnell hypothesizes.

Southwest corner, areas A and B-D

The first areas excavated in the town were published in Ancient Gaza I, with some deepening of area A in Ancient Gaza III. Two areas were noted, A and B-D.<sup>1</sup> Loci assigned to the two phases overlap at the center of the plan. All clear occurrences of Ajjul ware, White Slip and Proto-White Slip pottery were assigned to City II, or A.<sup>2</sup> No pottery of these types was clearly attested from B-D loci, though one occurrence of Ajjul bichrome was well below the bottoms of A walls.<sup>3</sup> It could have come from a pit, however.

Key types of City I or B-D included about ten cylindrical juglets, two piriform juglets,<sup>4</sup> and the flared-collar carinated cup 23 K which is so common in this period at Ajjul.<sup>5</sup> The deepening of the rooms discussed in Ancient Gaza III yielded some piriform juglets, including 60 M 9' from AQ' 730 and 60 Q 0 from AQ' 740.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza I, plate LIV; Tufnell's plan rotates this 90 degrees counter-clockwise.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plates XXVIII, XXIX, XLVIII in loci A'' to Q 11'.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate XXIX, 17, from G, 626 inches above sea level.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate XLVIII, 60 N 5 and 68 B 6, incorrectly placed in the corpus on plate XLIX (improperly classified).

<sup>5</sup>None of the series 60 cited from City II are piriform juglets of the MB III type, for this number covers a wide variety of jugs and juglets.

<sup>6</sup>Note that Petrie added some 300 inches to the levels in the register.

Area E-T

Area E-T adjoined A-D on the east; they were in two levels separated by an ash layer as were A and B-D. Insofar as they can be traced, Ajjul bichrome painted sherds from this area were associated with City II, though one was found two feet below it.<sup>1</sup> In this area; the two levels tended to be superimposed rather than side-by-side as in the A and B-D areas.

Area G

The best evidence for area G was published in Ancient Gaza V. Here again, Ajjul bichrome occurrences were associated with the upper city of higher.<sup>2</sup> Characteristic types from the lower city included the cylindrical juglet.<sup>3</sup>

Areas L, P and Q

These areas adjoined the palace on the south and west.<sup>4</sup> Area L contained the pot most likely to represent an earlier phase of occupation at Ajjul, a "teapot" of Byblos Royal Tombs type.<sup>5</sup> There was no other evidence of earlier occupation that could be identified in the area however.

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<sup>1</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza IV, plate XLIV, 12 TDX 865 was low for City II, as were plate XLIV, 11, TDH 900 and plate XLV, 19, TR 860, which were unlocated. In addition, there was a series of E loci for LA; they were too high to belong to the E area and too low for the E locus in LA, which was later and did not fall into our period of consideration.

<sup>2</sup>Mackay and Murray, Ancient Gaza V, plate XXIX, 17, GBX 894, GFC 945 (which is rather high), 27, GGH at 928 inches, 25 GCL.

<sup>3</sup>Type 74 O.

<sup>4</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza III, plate XLVII.

<sup>5</sup>Above, p.1038, note 2.

Ajjul bichrome occurrences were associated with the upper level and were also found below it.<sup>1</sup> Pottery recorded from the P-Q areas was inadequate to date them. We can say that area P is later than Palace I, since it overlay the foundations.

### The palace

Albright pointed out the virtual absence of White Slip I and Proto-White Slip pottery from Palace I.<sup>2</sup> He further noted that there was no Ajjul ware clearly assigned to it though a table in Ancient Gaza II assigned sherds of this type to the immediate vicinity.<sup>3</sup> These loci were, however, outside the palace and likely to be later. Rubbish from the palace itself would form a heap on the ruins. Since a courtyard would tend to be slightly lower than corresponding rooms in the palace, at least partly for drainage, later levels would dip in that area outside the building itself. Thus material at the same height above sea level as the palace would probably be later. Stewart added the fosse to the construction of Palace I, with its attendant features, such as the tunnels.<sup>4</sup>

As Albright pointed out, Palace II corresponded to City II (area A); most Ajjul painted sherds were clearly associated with it.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza III, plate XLII, 29 LD 949, 30 LE 982, 33 LA 1000.

<sup>2</sup>Albright, "The Chronology of a South Palestinian City, Tell el Ajjul", p. 348; this type of pottery is usually called Anatolian in the Ajjul publications.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 348; Petrie, Ancient Gaza II, plate XLII.

<sup>4</sup>James R. Stewart, Tell el Ajjul; The Middle Bronze Age Remains, edited by Hanna E. Kassis; Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology, vol. 38 (Goteborg: Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology, 1974), pp. 11-12.

<sup>5</sup>Albright, "The Chronology of a South Palestinian City, Tell el Ajjul", p. 347; Petrie, Ancient Gaza II, plate XLII.

Although the evidence is often uncertain, there are a number of facts that can be generally relied upon. First, piriform juglets were found in the lower city or levels so far below the upper city that it would be difficult to assign them to it. Second, no sherd of Ajjul bichrome ware was assigned to B-D loci or areas of E-T that were not overlaid by the upper level. The few sherds found below upper city loci should probably be discounted; they were probably present due to pit digging or other disturbance. Third, no Ajjul bichrome pottery or White Slip pottery was clearly assigned to Palace I. Since both types of pottery clearly belonged to the upper city in areas E-T, it thus cannot be correlated with Palace I. Since Tufnell's suggested second phase depends upon this correlation, it should thus be discounted. Albright's suggestion, that there were two main occupation levels in this period, should therefore be adopted. The Middle Bronze III character of B-D, lower E-T, lower G and Palace I is clear. These all suffered a single destruction at about the end of the MB. Areas A, upper E-T, upper G, P and Palace II, on the other hand all share Ajjul bichrome and other Late Bronze pottery; they should be correlated.

Correlating the phases of Ajjul occupation with the evidence from the cemeteries is not too difficult. Rare piriform juglets in the lower city indicate that its foundation was in the MB III B, as do the 23 k flared-carinated bowls or cups. Since cylindrical juglets were very much more common, the date of the foundation should be in the MB III B 2 when cylindrical juglets consistently outnumbered piriform juglets. This phase is Ajjul C, the first stage when there were many burials in the Ajjul cemeteries; it was also the first stage when the 23 k cup appeared at Ajjul. The destruction of the lower city occurred in or at the end



of group D, the end of the Middle Bronze Age.

### Weapons

The most important group of weapons came from tomb 1015 in the so-called Late Bronze Age cemetery.<sup>1</sup> This is a group of MB II weapons that included a dagger with widely spaced veins and a globular pommel, two short-socket spearheads and a rectangular axe with notch in front of the socket.<sup>2</sup> The group of weapons as a whole are MB II; they occur with a single ovoid amphora with potmark.<sup>3</sup> Two developments are of interest in this group. First, the veined dagger appeared with the globular pommel, which was usually dated at or later than the MB II. Second, the rectangular axe had a rather flat blade, rather like a single example from Sidon. The spear and dagger are paralleled by those from the Courtyard Cemetery tomb 1417.<sup>4</sup>

A later group of weapons includes an axe with narrow blade, ribs around the socket (and in the middle of the socket), and a small hook in front of the blade. This axe was found with a dagger of the type that occurred in the Byblos Deposits, with several veins on the midrib; it has a knobbed pommel with a trapezoidal shape.<sup>5</sup> Pottery from this tomb, 1750, is not distinctive, but the stone vessels have baggy shapes, as do those of the MB III.

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, Tell el Ajjul; the Middle Bronze Age Remains, pp. 51-52.

<sup>2</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza II, plate XIV, 71-73.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate XXXII, 43 D 8.

<sup>4</sup>Stewart, Tell el Ajjul; The Middle Bronze Age Remains, p. 51; Petrie, Ancient Gaza II, plate XIV, 74-75; Tufnell, "The Courtyard Cemetery at Tell el Ajjul, Palestine", p. 26, fig. 10, 17-18.

<sup>5</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza IV, plate XXII, 245, 239, 240.

In addition to these weapons from well-defined groups, there were many blades from the town and from other tomb groups of MB III B - C date (tombs 8, 364, 457, 1231, 1532, 1543, 1551 and 1702 for example). These included flat dagger blades, with tangs and usually rounded points, curved knives and a dagger type with flanged hilt, intended to take a wood or bone inlay.<sup>1</sup> None of these came from a well-defined group, but two were assigned to loci in City I, or the MB III B 2 - C.<sup>2</sup>

#### Tell FarCa South

Remains of Tell FarCa south include material dated to the MB III B through LB I.<sup>3</sup> Since we have proposed that the expulsion of the Hyksos took place during the MB III B 2, none of the remains published here are necessarily Hyksos Age in date. Since the site was only first settled at the time of the expulsion, its identification with Sharuhén is thus rendered highly unlikely.

Tombs published in Beth Pelet I included Middle Bronze III groups from the 500 and 700 cemeteries. Petrie's distinction between "XVth Dynasty" and "XVIth Dynasty" is not always consistent, but is generally based on the difference between MB and LB materials; tombs assigned to "XVIth Dynasty" often contained the black globular juglet, series 68 in

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, Tell el Ajjul; The Middle Bronze Age Remains, pp. 54-56

<sup>2</sup>Petrie, Ancient Gaza I, plate XVIII, 33; Petrie, Ancient Gaza III, plate XVIII, 2.

<sup>3</sup>W. M. F. Petrie and Olga Tufnell, Beth Pelet I, British School of Archaeology in Egypt, 48 (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1932), plates LXIX, LXX and LXXI. In a very general way, materials assigned the date XVth Dynasty are MB III C and those called XVIth Dynasty are LB I, but there are some complexities as we shall see. In cemetery 600, tombs assigned to the XVIth Dynasty contain the 68 Z black lustrous juglets of LB I; in cemetery 500, the Dynasty XVI tombs appear to be MB.

the corpus. The so-called "Dynasty XV" or MB III B - C burials were mostly distinguished by the cylindrical juglets of the 74 o series found in them.<sup>1</sup> Almost no piriform juglets were found in these cemeteries.<sup>2</sup> The three graves in which they were found, 561, 579 and 714, dated the first settlement to the MB III B. The remainder of the tombs were MB III C and LB I A in date. Pottery from the MB III C tombs includes the open carinated bowls, flared-carinated bowls of the 23 series, especially 23 K, pithoi, dippers and cylindrical juglets. One tomb in the MB cemetery, 557, contained a black globular juglet of LB I A date.<sup>3</sup> Otherwise, these LB juglets were found in the 600 cemetery, only occasionally elsewhere. They mark the end of occupation at Tell Farca south; Base Ring I does not appear to occur at this site (LB I B).<sup>4</sup>

The most interesting feature of Cemetery 500 was the occurrence of bilobate tombs in the cemetery. These were almost all MB III C, with some copies made later in "Philistine" times.<sup>5</sup> One of these, 557, contained a black globular juglet of LB I A date.

The cemetery of "Hyksos" age published in the second volume was quite consistent. The most striking feature was the large number of cylindrical juglets and the upper absence of piriform juglets.<sup>6</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plates LXX and LXXI.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. Examples include 60 M 5 in tomb 579, 60 N 4 in 561 and 60 M 4 in tomb 714.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., possibly also 550, 555 and 559.

<sup>4</sup>See Petrie, Ancient Gaza I, plate L, type 89 for Base Ring I.

<sup>5</sup>Petrie and Tufnell, Beth Pelet I, plates XIII, XIV, XVII, XVIII. Some tombs had only a single chamber, 570, 545, 556, 565, 569, 563, 554.

<sup>6</sup>Eann Macdonald, J. L. Starkey and L. Harding, Beth Pelet II,

flared-carinated bowl with high sides popular in group D at Ajjul (23 k) was common here. This series of tombs is clear additional proof that a separate MB III C, with no piriform juglets, exists in Palestine.

As said above, the earliest evidence published for settlement at Tell Farca South is late MB III B. Loci from the "North End",<sup>1</sup> including ZZ, L, M, R, S, T, U, V and W, contained some walls and Middle Bronze Age pots, notably the series 23 k chalice or bowl. The fortification was explored at both the north and south ends. On the north, it included an embanked fortification with a fosse, and triple-pier gateway on the south. The area of this gateway yielded some evidence of MB III C occupation, including the cylindrical juglet,<sup>2</sup> and the 23 series carinated bowl.<sup>3</sup> A single Cypriote White Slip sherd is from this area and several more came from the adjoining locus F C, which included a MB III sherd as well.<sup>4</sup>

Evidence from the cemeteries and the tell agrees; Tell Farca south was settled at the end of the MB III B. It was given a massive fortification at this time or in the MB III C. Settlement continued into the LB I A, when the site was abandoned and not reoccupied for some time.<sup>5</sup>

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British School of Archaeology in Egypt, vol. 52 (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1932), plate XC, series 74. These are all in the 74 0 category--no juglets of the piriform series 60 were found at all.

<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plate LXVI A.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate LXXXIX in locus FE; all F loci except FC belong to this gateway.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate LXXXIX from FA and FB.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate LXXII, 10.

<sup>5</sup>There may be one Base ring juglet from Ibid., plate LXXXVII. It was classified under 65 R in the corpus, thus improperly placed. It came from locus FB in the MB gate. It could be Base ring II as well as I. It could also be from the pit FB (ibid., plate LXXXIX), since there

Tel Aviv

The harbor cemetery at Tel Aviv helped to illustrate the MB III A, which was so poorly represented at Tell el Ajjul. The cemetery was not a large one, containing at least twenty-four burials in eighteen tombs. Further, the pottery was not published with a complete register that would allow us to completely recover the groups. Since there was salt water present, the surfaces of many juglets may have deteriorated, so statements about the presence or absence of burnishing would be somewhat unreliable.

Despite these difficulties, a general idea of the date of this cemetery and most of the contents can be obtained.

Platters from this cemetery are convex, generally with an inverted rim and concave disc base (Fig. 509, 6-11; 507, 7-13). Three of them have vertical loop handles; two (one with the handles) have bands of red paint at the rim and red crosses across the centers. The convex platters with inverted rims are characteristic of the MB III A elsewhere,<sup>1</sup> while vertical loop handles occur in the late MB II (Figs. 385 and 482).

Bowls include the simple carinated type with a band of red above the kink; surface treatment was not indicated for some of these (Figs. 507, 8; 508, 5, 8, 9). The distinctive small carinated bowls of MB II are absent. There was also one open carinated bowl (Fig. 508, 6). Flared-carinated bowls occur, indicating that this cemetery continued into the

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is no 68 R from the gate. It was, therefore, probably from the pit and equally probably a Base ring II juglet from the Late Bronze II occupation at Tell Farca.

<sup>1</sup>J. Kaplan, "A Cemetery of the Bronze Age Discovered Near Tel Aviv Harbor", Atiqot, vol. I (1955), pp. 1-18, cited here by the figures; see above, p. 931.

MB III A 2 (Fig. 508, 12-14).<sup>1</sup>

Dippers are tall, well-proportioned and had pointed bases; one of these was dark-slipped (Fig. 506, 3-5, 14-16; Fig. 507, 14-17). Neither the monophora nor the amphorae, made in two conical pieces joined at the shoulder, are especially unusual (Fig. 508, 10; 507, 4-6). Handleless jars are common in this cemetery, all tall and piriform with rounded or pointed bases. These jars contrast with MB II examples which were more ovoid and had flattened bases and longer necks (Fig. 509 1-3). Decoration on these jars is somewhat unusual. Two of them have horizontal bands of incision, one in wavy, the other in straight lines. One of these has a large circle and cross painted on the side; other jars have vertical bands of painted ornament and segments of circles incised on them (Fig. 509 3, 5, 8).

Juglets are important for dating this group of tombs. These are almost all piriform; there was only one cylindrical juglet (Fig. 508, 2; Fig. 506, 1, 2, 12, 13; Fig. 507, 1-6). Most of these are piriform, a few biconical; none of them are ovoid. Bases are pointed or low stumps. One or two of the rims are of the trumpet-mouthpiece type, and one (Fig. 507, 5) was ridged. One juglet has the vertical zones of punctate ornament characteristic of Late Yehudiyya ware. In addition, one small jug may be a Cypriote import whose decoration did not survive.

Although the handled platters appear to be of MB II type, flared-carinated bowls of MB III A 2 and the platters with inverted rims of the MB III are present as well. In addition, the ovoid juglets of the MB II are missing. One of these is an MB III B type. The date of the

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<sup>1</sup>Above, p. 931.

cemetery is clearly largely MB III A, with very little of MB II C or MB III B date. The table below contains the proposed chronology. The earliest tombs did not contain any flared-carinated bowls. Tombs of the second stage contained flared-carinated bowls. Tomb 5 contained the "Cypriote" juglet and 10 C the MB III B juglet.

Weapons include a simple tanged dagger and an axe. This is narrow, with an oval section, moulding around the socket and a hook in front of the socket (Fig. 510). The axe appears to be a transitional type between the narrow blade with convex or oval section of the MB III A and the flat, thin blades of later times.<sup>1</sup>

The chronology in Table 45 is based on the presence or absence of the flared-carinated bowl, with distinguished MB III A 1 from 2 and the presence of Cypriote or Late Yehudiyya pottery, which were distinctive of later materials.

TABLE 45

## A RELATIVE CHRONOLOGY OF THE TEL AVIV HARBOR CEMETERY

Tel Aviv Group	Tombs	Date
A	3A, 4A-C, 17	MB III A 1
B	15, 11 A, 16	MB III A 2
(C)	5	MB III A 2 (b)
	10 C	MB III B I

<sup>1</sup>Below, p. 1182.

Tomb 4 A-C contained a scarab which had a garbled inscription that might be read as the personal name of a king, Ra hotep; tomb 5 contained another scarab with similar signs.<sup>1</sup>

#### Dhahrat el Humrayya

Sixty-three graves of the Middle and Late Bronze Ages were found on the hill of Dhahrat el Humrayya about thirteen kilometers south of Tel Aviv. Fifty-six of these tombs had pottery;<sup>2</sup> the excavators divided the graves into three classes; A, MB III without Cypriote imports; B, MB III with Cypriote imports; and C, Late Bronze Age.<sup>3</sup>

A mixture of contracted and extended burial positions was used, which became exclusively extended in the LB. Early tombs 11, 44 and 49 had goats buried as sacrifices at the head or feet of the deceased.<sup>4</sup>

#### The MB II B

Two tomb groups contained material dated before the MB III A, tombs 62 and 21. Tomb 62 contained two jugs with globular to piriform shapes and bar handles (Fig. 511 b and c). The lip of one is pinched; the second may also have a bilobate lip. The second jug has painted decoration in a cross-hatched band as seen at Amrith in the MB II B 1 (Figs 296, 297).

Tomb 21 contained a handleless jug of the same general type as those from Ras el Ain and a convex platter with a ridge outside the rim (Fig. 511 d and e).

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<sup>1</sup>J. Leibovitch, "Description of the Scarabs Found in a Cemetery Near Tel Aviv", Atiqot, 1 (1955), 13-18; fig. 6, 4, with an n added in the middle, and 6, 8.

<sup>2</sup>J. Ory, "A Bronze Age Cemetery at Dhahrat el Humrayya", Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine, 13 (1947-48), 75-89; see pp. 75-76.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 77.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.



## The MB III A

The major distinction between the groups of the MB III A is the presence or absence of Cypriote imports. These provide a sharp contrast to the materials from the Tel Aviv cemetery, for they were found in large numbers in most graves of the cemetery. Otherwise, the descriptions of pottery could be interchanged.

Platters appear to be normal for the MB III A. They are convex, with ring or concave disc base and probably an inverted rim (Fig. 513 k-m). Simple carinated bowls occurred (Fig. 512 f and g). A dipper was tall and pointed (Fig. 512 e). This material differs somewhat from that of Tel Aviv. No decoration was mentioned on handleless jars at Dhahrat el Humrayya; the groove at the handles of amphorae occurs only rarely in graves of A.<sup>1</sup>

Piriform juglets are used almost exclusively, though there is one cylindrical juglet with a low ring base (Fig. 513 c). Piriform juglets, though both black and red as at Tel Aviv, are sometimes brown as well.<sup>2</sup> Occasionally they have a cream or greenish slip; in one case, this is painted horizontal bands and spirals (Fig. 513 d). The pushed out or trumpet mouthpiece rim is not present, except for a surface find.<sup>3</sup>

Class B, the group with Cypriote imports, contains some very crude faience juglets (Fig. 513 n).

Most of the Cypriote imports which distinguish B from A are Pendant Line Style jugs, although a few are painted in the Cross-Line Style as well (Fig. 513 a, b, g, i. h is Cross-Line Style).

Comparison with Tel Aviv indicates that group A, the phase without

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 86, tomb 52; p. 87, grave 61.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 82, grave 18. <sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 89, fig. 43.

Cypriote imports is probably contemporary with Tel Aviv B, the MB III A 2. The second phase, B, with the Cypriote imports corresponded to the MB III A 2 (b) at Megiddo or group B 2.

TABLE 46

## THE RELATIVE CHRONOLOGY OF THE CEMETERY AT DHAHRAT EL HUMRAYYA

Group	Tomb	Phase
Early A	61, 52	MB III A 2
A	5, 29, 49	
Late A	11, 63	
B	1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 18, 19, 30, 34, 37, 38, 45, 50, 55	MB III A 2 (b)
Late B	49	MB III B

Lachish

Middle Bronze Age materials from Lachish (Tell ed-Duweir) include both tomb and fortifications. Pottery from the tombs could be dated to the MB II B, MB III B and MB III C.

## Tomb Groups

The MB II B

Pottery dated to the MB II came from tomb 1513. This was a large mixed group with confused stratigraphic relationships. It contained material of EB III, EB IV and MB II B. The pottery of MB II date was

found in "group 2", which includes a pitcher with bent rim and a carinated bowl. "Group 3" contains an MB II carinated bowl, deep curved bowl with carination near the rim and three jugs with ridged rim, one with trefoil mouth. Some simple handleless jars of Megiddo MB II B type come from group 4. The MB II pottery from this cave belongs together, possibly deposited in a short period of time. No decoration has survived, however, but the carinated bowls, pitcher and jars all belong to the MB II B.<sup>1</sup>

### The MB III B

Groups assigned to this phase include 129 (mixed MB III A 2 (b) and MB III B), 145, 153, 157, 173, 1508, 1542, 4002, 4022, and 7014.

No groups could clearly be dated to the MB III A at Lachish. The distinctive features of the MB III A, *elaborate rim treatment on juglets and elaborate Yehudiyya decoration*, do not occur on juglets at Lachish.<sup>2</sup> Punctate decorated juglets that occur at Lachish can be paralleled at Jericho in group ii, mid to late (Fig. 514 a), and Tell ed-Dab<sup>e</sup>a in E 1 (Fig. 514 b and c) and D 3. The White Painted Cypriote import in 129 may be MB III B as well. The entire sequence of tombs is MB III B - C.

A second major point about the materials from Middle Bronze Age Lachish is that, despite its close proximity to Tell Beit Mirsim, none of the pedestal vases characteristic of the south-inland region occur at Lachish. The Yehudiyya ware clearly indicates that the MB III B groups at Lachish are contemporary with those of the south-inland region as do the rare occurrences of these pedestal vases at Megiddo and Ajjul.

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<sup>1</sup>Olga Tufnell, Lachish IV; the Bronze Age (London: Oxford University Press, 1958), pp. 256-258.

<sup>2</sup>See Fig. 289; the punctate decoration is all either of transitional or late type.

The pedestal chalice of the northern region did occur here indicating closer relations with the north than with nearby Tell Beit Mirsim. The boundary between the southwest region and the south-inland region must be between Lachish and Tell Beit Mirsim.

The groups assigned to the MB III B at Lachish contain the carinated bowls familiar from Gaza and Tell Farca south (Fig. 515). The tall bases and red pigmentation on the upper bodies found in the later groups of the Courtyard Cemetery are absent. Flared-carinated bowls and chalices are rare.<sup>1</sup> Pedestal chalices occur only in tomb 129. Convex platters do not have the inverted triangular rim found in the MB III A and earlier B. Indeed the convex platter with straight rim and a groove below (Fig. 515 d, second row, second from left) is characteristic of MB III B from Hama G southward. Dippers generally include standard MB pointed types.

Juglets include biconical, piriform and cylindrical shapes. The lack of special rim treatment has already been noted. Transitional and Late Yehudiyya decoration includes the four pairs of standing and pendant triangles and simple horizontal bands of punctate ornament. A Cypriote jug parallels the cemetery at Dhahrat el Humrayya and Tell ed-Dabca E 1. There are normal faience jars from this group from tombs 153 (Fig. 515 d) and 7014.

Tomb 173, assigned to this phase, was sealed by the glacis.<sup>2</sup> The well-proportioned baggy jug it contained is similar to one from Tel Aviv cemetery (Fig. 515 a, 508, 1); the rest of the pottery may be

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<sup>1</sup>Tufnell, Lachish IV; the Bronze Age, plate 68, 502 and 507, found in tomb 129.

<sup>2</sup>See Fig. 289; the punctate decoration is all either of transitional or late type.

later MB III A or early III B in date (Fig. 515 a).

### The MB III C

Tombs assigned to this period include 111, 119, 1502, 1546, 1547, 1548, 6027 (MB III B - C mixed), and 6028. Some of the pottery from the MB III B groups may belong here also, since many of them are mixed; in addition, some of the pottery from these large groups may be Late Bronze.

The main change in this group is the complete disappearance of piriform juglets. Cylindrical juglets occur alone, sometimes in large numbers. Tomb 6027 contained three piriform juglets and fourteen cylindrical; it is mostly MB III C in date. At Ajjul and Tell FarCa south, decoration on these juglets is very rare or absent (Fig. 516). Possible Late Bronze Age types in these tombs include an Astarte plaque mold from 6028 and a very convex platter with pedestal (Fig. 516 b).

The tombs at Lachish clearly indicate that intense settlement first began in the MB III B, probably late in that period, since most tombs belong to the late MB III B-C.

### The glacis

The embanked fortification at Lachish was the only part of the Middle Bronze Age town explored. It consisted of earth and plaster thrown against the side of the Early Bronze Age mound.<sup>1</sup> The date of this embankment is the main problem. We have already discussed the MB III tomb sealed under the glacis. Pottery from the fill contained a number of types characteristic of the MB III<sup>2</sup> (Figs. 517 and 518). There are

<sup>1</sup>Kenyon, "Palestine in the Middle Bronze Age", p. 101.

<sup>2</sup>Tufnell, Lachish IV; the Bronze Age, p. 55, fig. 74; Tufnell used MB I-II-III divisions, but her MB II included the MB III A as used here; see *ibid.*, p. 56.

carinated bowls, flared-carinated bowls and juglets. More distinctive is a Cypriote White Painted IV Cross-Line sherd.<sup>1</sup> This could be no earlier than MB III A 2 (b) and thus dates the glacis to a later period. There is also an interesting bichrome sherd;<sup>2</sup> it may be of the bichrome type that occurred in the MB. We have seen evidence of it at Megiddo and Tell Beit Mirsim. The date when the embankment was constructed was during or after the MB III A 2 (b).

Dating the destruction is a little more difficult. The sherds found imbedded in the burned debris were unconvincingly dated (Figs. 517-518). We may, however, take the construction of the "Fosse Temple" as a terminus ante quem for the destruction associated with the glacis. It must have been in the MB III C (since there were many tombs of that date) or earliest LB I A, as Fosse Temple I is LB I and LB I A Ajjul ware was found in the disused fosse.<sup>3</sup>

#### Gezer

A few finds and "groups" from Macalister's excavations at Gezer illustrate much of the MB II - III. As with most of the tomb groups we have discussed, these are not really associated with levels or stratigraphy of any kind, so the dates of various structures must be derived from the recent excavations.

#### The MB II B; III - 30

The MB II B was represented at Gezer by the tombs in III-30.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., fig. 3, number 174.    <sup>2</sup>Ibid., fig. 3, 125, also 143.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 6, table.

<sup>4</sup>R. A. S. Macalister, The Excavation of Gezer I (London: John Murray, 1912).

This is a series of stone cists with shared walls and contracted or partly contracted burials. One roofing slab was still in place. It was, perhaps, a development of the dolmen burials of Ras el Ain. The whole was surrounded by a brick enclosure (c.f. the enclosed cemetery at Tell ed-Dab<sup>ca</sup>). Contents include a handleless jar, a nearly globular tankard, broad-rim platter, a jug with trefoil mouth and a dipper with MB II B elaborate decoration (Fig.519). A tall jug with flat base and rather irregular shape is decorated with cross-hatched lozenges. Jugs of this date with similar decoration were found in a tomb at Qatna and in another from Beirut.<sup>1</sup>

Group III-30 was the only group from the MB II at Gezer. Isolated finds included a tankard of MB II C - III A type with painted bands. Excavators have said recently that much material of MB II date was found, but this material remains unpublished.

#### The MB III

Tombs assigned to the MB III include I cave 15-I, 15-IV, 28-II and some pottery from the town. The groups are very large and mixed, sometimes including EB IV, MB II or LB objects.

#### Tomb I

Materials of MB II and III A date are indicated by the presence of a veined dagger, juglets with ridge or trumpet-mouthpiece rims and juglets with Early Yehudiyya decoration.<sup>2</sup> There was a red-cross bowl

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<sup>1</sup>Below, pp.1137-38, Qatna. The example in the Beirut Museum is unpublished.

<sup>2</sup>Macalister, The Excavation of Gezer I (London: John Murray, 1912), plate LX, 6, 7; plate LXII, 43, and LXII, 49, respectively.

and one with elaborate ledges outside the rim.<sup>1</sup>

Materials from the end of MB III A and the start of B include a Cross-Line style jug<sup>2</sup> and a juglet with simple punctate bands.<sup>3</sup>

There is Late Bronze Age material present as well.<sup>4</sup>

Though much MB III B material is in this group, carinated bowls are the most common type; there are no pedestal vases.

#### Cave 15-I

Though earlier periods are clearly represented,<sup>5</sup> MB III A is the only phase of the MB provably present, indicated by a juglet with punctate bands and metopes.<sup>6</sup>

#### Cave 15-IV

This is not a very large group. Pottery of MB III B 1 date includes an early pedestal vase and wide mouth.<sup>7</sup>

#### Cave 28-II

Pottery of the very early MB III A, if not the MB II is represented in the "cave". Juglets and related types are not too distinctive in this tomb, but a single pedestal vase demonstrates that MB III B is present. A flared-carinated bowl with tall sides is of that date.<sup>8</sup>

Simple carinated bowls are most common, at least two with the pronounced

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plate LXI, 16; LXII, 46.    <sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate LXII, 51.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate LX, 12.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate LXIII, 74.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., plate XX, 3, 6.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., plate XXIII, 16.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., plate XXVI, 7.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., plate XXXVII, 2; plate XXXVIII, 14.



taper below the kink which is common on the coast.<sup>1</sup> A single globular stone vessel is similar to one from Khirbet Kufin; these types occur in the MB II and III A.

#### MB III C - Locus 3030 P

Pottery from this locus came from recent excavations at Gezer. Two cylindrical juglets were sealed down by a destruction level.<sup>2</sup>

#### The Town

Major structures in the town that have been clearly dated to the Middle Bronze Age by the recent excavations include the defense system and the so-called "high place".

#### The "high place"

This is a series of ten stone pillars arranged in a line, north to south, varying from 1.65 to 3.25 meters in height. In the center is a square stone with a square depression. The similarity of this group of standing stones to the Obelisk Temple at Byblos and the later temple at Hazor has been noted. As a result of the 1968 excavation, it was dated to the "MB II B" or the MB III B.<sup>3</sup>

#### The defenses

The recent expedition spent much effort in dating and exploring the elaborate defense system that Macalister exposed. This had two full

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plate XXXVIII, 6, and XXXIX, 8.

<sup>2</sup>William G. Dever, H. D. Lance and G. Ernest Wright, Gezer I, Preliminary Report of the 1964-66 Seasons, Annual of the Hebrew Union College Biblical and Archaeological School in Jerusalem, 1 (Jerusalem: n.p., 1970), p. 82, 3030p, 3030 and 3031.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., pp. 2-3.

walls with a retaining wall between; the main walls had towers and a triple-pier gate.<sup>1</sup>

As exposed in the excavation of tower 5017, the construction went as follows: first, the inner wall was built, dressed outside, left rough inside; a short distance outside the wall a dike of crushed limestone was laid, then the intervening space was filled with earth; another dike and fill were put outside that, then the further dikes and fill above to create a bank which was in turn covered with crushed limestone to make an impermeable surface. The whole was held in place by a retaining wall built some distance from the inner wall.<sup>2</sup> Thereafter, a second wall was built against the glacis and a second glacis constructed beyond.

The date of this fortification system, as indicated by the sherds found all the way to the wall bottom, was "MB II B", i.e. MB III B. The glacis was obviously of the same period or later, as was the outer wall.

Pottery was not published from strata earlier than level 8 behind the wall. A burial with piriform juglet in 8 A<sup>3</sup> indicates that the level was built in MB III B. Locus 3030 P, stratum 7 A, contained two complete cylindrical juglets, on a floor covered by destruction debris. These are MB III C or later. Dippers from the same level are well-proportioned and pointed, not like the irregular dippers of Late Bronze I.<sup>4</sup>

The violent destruction of the level was dated by the authors on

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., plan I.      <sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 41-42.      <sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate 31.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., plate 30, 14, 16 and 20.

the basis of three items of evidence. First, a cooking pot rim of "LB I" type was present. Since cooking pots come largely from debris, the chronology could not be that strictly regulated.<sup>1</sup> Second, there was a small sherd with bands of bichrome decoration found in the destruction debris.<sup>2</sup> Since bichrome did not entirely die out in the Middle Bronze Age, this is difficult to date to the Late Bronze Age with certainty. Finally, there was a sherd with polychrome decoration in red, dark red and grey on a white slip, called a poor variety. This is not Ajjul bichrome, but some other painted pottery.<sup>3</sup>

The date when 7 A was violently destroyed is thus either latest MB III C or LB I A in date, which is Dever's estimate. The historical dates given in the publication, Thutmose IV, seem to be almost a century too low, even for LB I A date.

#### Ain Shems

Most of the materials from this site came from a series of large mixed tomb groups. In some cases, these had deposits ranging from MB II B - LB II.

#### MB II B 1

Some of the most interesting materials from the site came from the "Tomb 2" or the "Second Cemetery" of Bethshemesh, the tomb 12 of Ain Shems V.

Two biconical jugs have pinched rims and two-strand handles. Both have low ring bases; one has a cordon at the neck (Fig. 520 c and d).

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 55 summarizes the LB evidence.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., plate 30, 22.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate 30, 24.

One has a cream wash with white grits in the fabric; the second is in a brown ware, wet smoothed, with the same grits.<sup>1</sup> A biconical tankard has a handle near the rim and a handleless jar has a pushed-out rim (Fig. 520 a and e). One handleless jar has an ovoid body, sinuous shape and cordon at the neck; the type resembled jugs of Ras el Ain (Fig. 520, 387 l, m).

#### MB III A - B

Tomb groups of this period are so mixed that a separate treatment for each phase is not really possible. Dates for these materials must be taken from better defined materials elsewhere.

#### Tomb 9

Pottery published includes red-cross bowls of the type that occur at Tel Aviv, open and ordinary carinated bowls, a tankard and well-proportioned dippers. Though materials of MB III A 1 are present, other periods are not excluded.<sup>2</sup>

#### Tomb 13

This tomb contained juglets with trumpet-mouthpiece rims (Fig. 522 g)<sup>3</sup> and a shoulder-handle juglet,<sup>4</sup> types of the MB III A. One

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<sup>1</sup>Elihu Grant, Bethshemesh, Biblical and Kindred Studies, number 1 (Haverford: Haverford College, 1929), plate 155, 163 b and 164.

<sup>2</sup>Duncan Mackenzie, Excavations at Ain Shems, Annual of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 (London: Palestine Exploration Fund, 1913), plate XVII, called the "High Place Grotto Sepulchre"; G. Ernest Wright and Elihu Grant, Ain Shems V, Biblical and Kindred Studies, number 8 (Haverford: Haverford College, 1939), pp. 31-32.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 51; Grant, Bethshemesh, pp. 115-33 and 125-58 b. This tomb was first published as tomb 3. Juglets of this type are on p. 125, 158 b and 127-604.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 131 number 690.

Cypriote jug is painted in the Pendant Line Style (Fig. 522 j) of MB III A 2 (b). There were open carinated bowls (Fig. 522 p), flared-carinated bowls (Fig. 522 t, v) and early pedestal vases (Fig. 522 c).<sup>1</sup> The date of this tomb includes both MB III A and B 1.

#### Tomb 17

This group is smaller than 13. It contains a red-cross bowl, both ordinary and open carinated bowls, a piriform and a biconical juglet. The date is MB III A 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Tomb 12

As we have seen, the earliest deposits in this tomb are of the MB II B. There does not seem to be much if any later MB II present.

In the MB III, there are red-cross bowls, open and ordinary carinated bowls. Some of the carinated bowls have either vertical sides<sup>3</sup> or high lower bodies (Fig. 521 b). Flared-carinated bowls are present (Fig. 521 x, y). One of these is like the 23 k bowl of Ajjul MB III B 2 (Fig. 521 w). One jar has a short, flared neck (Fig. 521 e). Juglets include both piriform and cylindrical examples, one with two simple bands of punctate ornament (Fig. 521 o). Unusual pots include a dipper juglet with ring base, three-strand handle and spiral tail and a shoulder handle juglet with serpent ornament (Fig. 521 h, i).<sup>4</sup> The date

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 125, 129, 700, and 701.

<sup>2</sup>Elihu Grant, Ain Shems II; Ain Shems Excavations 1928-1931, Biblical and Kindred Studies, number 4 (Haverford: Haverford College, 1932), plate XXIX.

<sup>3</sup>Wright and Grant, Ain Shems V, p. 51; Grant, Bethshemesh, pp. 137-60, tomb 24 or Second Cemetery. Carinated bowls are on p. 147, 157 d and 342.

<sup>4</sup>Above, p. 1022.

of this group is also MB III A - B 2.

There is no way of distinguishing pottery of MB III C in these large groups. Materials of this date were probably found in tomb 12 and on the mound.

## The City

### The "Herrenhaus"

Below level V was mixed material of the Early Bronze Age, EB IV and the MB II. This was not a level, but miscellaneous fill. Houses of level V seem to have been built directly on the rock.<sup>1</sup> This particular building was substantial enough to be given a title, but it was not at all palatial. It was in fact quite modest. Tomb 13 opened into room 1 of the building.<sup>2</sup> It seems to have been closed at or before the time that the "Herrenhaus" was built. The construction would thus date to the MB III B 1 or later.<sup>3</sup>

### The defenses

The wall, tower and gate were similar to those at Tell Farca and Shechem; the fortification was built sometime before the house, which in turn was dated to the time of MB III B 1 or later (pottery found in the house was still MB). The wall seems to have been built with slight offsets, somewhat comparable to the wall at Megiddo; the glacis may have been missed by Mackenzie.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Wright and Grant, Ain Shems V, pp. 8, 27.   <sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 31.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 18. There was also a child burial. One burial had a bowl used to cover the head of the deceased, as at Tell Ta'annek.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., pp. 18-23. The general typology of this wall and gate is the same as that of other walls in Palestine with embankments. There was some indication of two destructions, of V and IV from the fortifications.

The destruction

Level V was burned, the "Herrenhaus" showing particularly strong evidence of conflagration.<sup>1</sup> Whole pots found in the debris included simplified flared-carinated bowls and a classic pedestal vase. From another area of destruction, Wright cited Base Ring I and an Ajjul painted jar was found in the destruction debris of the "Herrenhaus".<sup>2</sup> From the very low quality of stratigraphic evidence available here, it is clearly impossible to date destruction levels together across the mound, especially in unconnected areas. That portion of the debris that contained the classic pedestal vase probably indicates a destruction in MB III. The "Herrenhaus" and City V were again burned in LB I A.<sup>3</sup> Dubious Base Ring I occurrences should be discounted for this destruction.

Tell Nagila

This site is located in the eastern Philistine Plain, nearly due north of Beersheba and some 19 miles east of Gaza. It was most densely settled in the Middle Bronze Age.<sup>4</sup> The town was settled in four of five "strata" (Area A) and was fortified (areas C and F) during this time,<sup>5</sup> with an embankment with a brick wall on the top, which had a further bank against it and a moat or fosse. Interesting finds include an

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 9.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 9; Elihu Grant, Ain Shems III; Rumeilah, Biblical and Kindred Studies, number 5 (Haverford: Haverford College, 1934), figs. 2-7, p. 15, room 596.

<sup>3</sup>Wright and Grant, Ain Shems V, p. 9. Ajjul painted sherds from this destruction were cited here.

<sup>4</sup>Ruth Amiran and A. Eitan, "A Canaanite-Hyksos City at Tell Nagila", Archaeology, 18 (1965), pp. 113-23; p. 115.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 116.

truly distinctive, however. Simple convex bowls, which are very different from the wide MB III type, seem similar to those from the Courtyard Cemetery group 3.<sup>1</sup> Amphorae and a handleless jar have shapes intermediate between the clumsy watermelon shape of the Courtyard Cemetery and the graceful ovoid shapes of the MB III.<sup>2</sup> A very well shaped tankard parallels those of the later Courtyard Cemetery and the later MB II at Sidon (Fig. 482 o). Dippers tend to be larger and their bases more pointed than those from the early Courtyard Cemetery groups.<sup>3</sup>

#### Ness Ziona

This is a group of MB III A materials. A tall pointed dipper and piriform juglet indicate an MB III date. There was a dagger with a pommel, and an axe with the narrow blade, molding at the socket and bracing characteristic of the MB III A.<sup>4</sup>

#### El Jisr

Located a kilometer south-east of Humrayya, the tomb at El Jisr contained some of the most interesting artistic discoveries from Middle Bronze Age Palestine. The date of the pottery seems to parallel that

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<sup>1</sup>L. A. Mayer, "A Bronze Age Deposit from a Cave Near Nebi Rubin", Palestine Museum Bulletin, 2 (1925), pp. 2-3, plates I-II; see fig. 482.

<sup>2</sup>Compare Mayer, "A Bronze Age Deposit from a Cave Near Nebi Rubin", plates I-II with fig. 480 h and fig. 509.

<sup>3</sup>Compare Mayer, "A Bronze Age Deposit from a Cave Near Nebi Rubin", plate I, v. 1721, with figs. 480-482. Note the alabasters on plate II, s 944.

<sup>4</sup>J. Ory, "Pottery of the Middle Bronze Age and Bronze Objects from Ness Ziona in the Wady Hanin (near Jaffa)", Palestine Museum Bulletin, 2 (1925), p. 10 and plate V.



of the Tel Aviv harbor cemetery. One flared-carinated bowl was of MB III A 2 date.<sup>1</sup> Amphorae with grooves at the handles seem to resemble the storage jars of Tel Aviv.<sup>2</sup> Dippers are tall and pointed.<sup>3</sup> The juglets are all piriform; two of these have trumpet mouthpiece pushed-out rims.<sup>4</sup> One piece of Yehudiyya ware has many vertical zones (the type with only four zones is MB III B).<sup>5</sup>

The most interesting feature of this deposit was the large group of ivory inlays found in it. These include humans, in Egyptian dress and poses, and some fragments of humans. Animals include striding lions, cattle and a baboon; there were also hawks. One fragment appears to be a lion with a mane all the way down the back. This feature is characteristic of Taurt figures who wear the skin of a crocodile; since these Taurt inlays are common in contemporary Kerma (K III),<sup>6</sup> this is best explained as a misunderstood Taurt.

#### Tell Mor

Material of MB III B date was found in the lowest level at Tel Mor, on virgin soil. The site is located slightly to the south of Yavne Yam and the group of sites near Dhahrat el Humrayya. Pottery includes a red-on-red bowl, which may help date MB III to this phase. The stratum was mixed, however, since it also contained true LB type bichrome. If this level had a span of time that included the period 1550-1500, it

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<sup>1</sup>J. Ory, "A Middle Bronze Age Tomb at el Jisr", Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine, 5 (1936), pp. 31-42, p. 36, number 25.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 34-35, figs. 1, 7, 4. <sup>3</sup>Ibid., plate XII.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 36, numbers 18 and 19. <sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 36, number 19.

<sup>6</sup>Above, pp. 560-561.

would account for the occurrence of MB III B and LB I A.<sup>1</sup>

#### Ashdod

A city gate with piers was found at Ashdod in the fourth season in stratum 23. Dothan made use of some store-jar and bowl rims to date the stratum; more reliable is the presence of rope decoration,<sup>2</sup> a two-strand shoulder handle,<sup>3</sup> and a sherd with brown-on-white decoration.<sup>4</sup> All of these were MB III, beginning in III B. The gate was most probably MB III B, though the mixed nature of fills precludes any definite statement; bichrome is present in a form that may not be Ajjul bichrome.<sup>5</sup> Materials of MB III B date are certainly present at Ashdod.

#### Yavne Yam

An embanked fortification of MB III date has been found at Yavne Yam, south of Tel Aviv. The very brief report mentioned "Sixteenth Century Cypriote Pottery" from one burial in the rampart. There was also some mention of "Hyksos pots". If the burial was made before the rampart was built, then a date in the MB III A would be excluded by the date of Cypriote imports at the end of that phase; "Hyksos pots" would be MB III B as well.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>M. Dothan, "The Foundations of Tel Mor and Ashdod", Israel Exploration Journal, 23 (1973) pp. 1-17. MB materials included p. 6, fig. 3, number 9 and possibly 5; see also p. 5. Later materials or possibly later materials included fig. 4, 1-3; see pp. 7-8.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., fig. 7

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., fig. 6-14.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 13.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., fig. 7-4. Dothan asserted that Tel Jemna was founded at this time as well.

<sup>6</sup>Gerhard Wilhelm, "Yavne Yam", Archiv fur Orientforschung, 23 (1970), p. 186; Gerhard Wilhelm, "Yavne Yam", Revue Biblique, 75 (1968), p. 402; Revue Biblique, 76 (1969), p. 56.

Tell Jerishe

In ancient Jaffa, or Tell Jerishe, excavations have apparently reached Middle Bronze levels of uncertain date.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>"Notes and News", Israel Exploration Journal, 10 (1960), pp. 121-22; "Notes and News", Israel Exploration Journal, 11 (1961), pp. 191-92.