

DIG

SIGHT NEWSLETTER



THE FOURTH EXPEDITION TO LACHISH, 2016

The Institute of Archaeology at Southern Adventist University joined The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to co-direct excavations at Tel Lachish in southern Israel this past June

and July. The major question posed

by *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* is what happened after the establishment of kingship in Judah by Saul and David in the 11th – 10th centuries BC. “Following seven seasons of excavation at Khirbet Qeiyafa relating directly to the establishment of the monarchy, we are now interested

in how the Kingdom of Judah expanded,” said Michael G. Hasel, co-director of the expedition and director of the Institute of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University. In order to answer this question, the goal of the expedition was to reach Levels IV and V corresponding to the earliest occupation during the Iron Age. Since Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, is said to have refortified the city of Lachish (2 Chron. 11:5-12), one

question which guided the expedition was to investigate the fortification system. Previous expeditions had not discovered such a wall system, and both Levels IV and V remain largely unknown, except for a few small exposed areas. “Finding, documenting, and dating Levels IV and V in a larger exposure will give us the missing link to the earlier history of Judah in the region,” says Hasel.

The summer of 2016 was the fourth sea-

son of excavation at Lachish. The Institute of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University, joined The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to co-direct excavations at Tel Lachish in southern Israel this past June-July.

“During the 2013-15 seasons, we had begun to uncover the destruction of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, who invaded Judah in 586 BC (Level II) and the destruction by Sennacherib in 701 BC (Level

III,” said Martin G. Klingbeil, associate director of the Institute of Archaeology and co-director of the project. “Now the question remained, what was under these levels from the earlier periods?” Areas AA, BB, and CC were all expanded this summer when over 100 participants worked at Lachish from South America, North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Students and staff came from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University, as well as a number of consortium institutions such as Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines), Universidad Adventista

de Bolivia, Oakland University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. The project was the largest excavation project in Israel.

Area AA excavations by Southern Adventist University united the area of elite houses north of the palace courtyard by removing the large balks between squares and came down to Level IV in three of the four previous squares. “It was exciting to finally find the floors of Level IV after excavating for



The Fourth Expedition to Lachish team, staff, and volunteers at Tel Lachish this past summer. Photo credit: Zach Kast/The Fourth Expedition to Lachish.

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over two meters in three seasons,” said Katherine Hesler, a square supervisor and archaeology student at Southern. She discovered several sling stones and red-slipped and irregular hand-burnished pottery, which helped identify the surface of Level IV. Even more significant was the discovery of over 20 olive pits in two of the excavated units that were sent to Oxford University for radiometric dating. The dates of these samples will help determine the historical sequence of occupation levels at the site. Further to the east, two new squares were opened, revealing the massive Babylonian destruction of Nebuchadnezzar. Huge storage jars from Level II were found, together with sling stones, arrowheads, and a spear point. The next Level III destruction of Sennacherib was also rich with materials dating to the eighth century BC. In one square an Egyptian scarab seal of the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty was discovered. It confirms the date of the occupation of Level III.

Area BB excavations continued exposure of a large Late Bronze Age Canaanite temple first identified in the 2015 season. The temple, located near the fortification line, is the third temple from this period found at Lachish. During the British excavations in the 1930s, the Fosse Temple was found at the base of the site, and Tel Aviv University discovered another temple west of the palace-fort. These buildings date to the early period of the judges before Israel had a king. Several Baal-Reshef figurines were found in the temple. These Canaanite gods are mentioned in texts found at Ugarit, Syria. One of them had a headdress covered in silver.



Student Josh Yang and volunteer Gail Aagaard holding a juglet found in Area AA. Photo credit: Zach Kast/The Fourth Expedition to Lachish.

Two large bronze cauldrons were also discovered as foundation deposits. They were so well preserved and unique that they will go on display in the Israel Museum. Finally, the proto-Canaanite inscription that was found in 2014 near the temple is now fully published in a preliminary report ([link](#)).

Area CC continued to focus on the northern fortification line, where a series of defensive city walls were excavated. The 2014-15 seasons uncovered a series of walls from Level I (Persian period), Level II (seventh-sixth centuries), and Level III-IV (eighth-ninth centuries). Further downslope a large stone wall dating to the Middle Bronze Age (Level VIII) was exposed. But the highlight of the 2016 season was the exposure of a wall between Levels IV and VIII. The associated red-slipped and burnished pottery and its location immediately beneath the Level III-IV mud brick wall suggest that it dates to Level V. A number of collected organic samples from the associated floor were sent to Oxford University for dating. We are eagerly awaiting the results, which could confirm a date to Rehoboam, who is said to have re-fortified Lachish, along with other guardian cities in the Shephelah (2 Chr. 11:5-11).

New Gate Excavations took place as a separate excavation under the direction of Saar Ganor on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and the National Parks Authority. The northern half had been excavated by the third expedition led by David Ussishkin in the 1980s, and the southern half was left for future excavators. The southern half of the main city gate was uncovered in February as part of the preparation to further develop Lachish as a national park for the State of Israel. A team of IAA staff and many others took part in the excavation effort. The southern half of the six-chambered gate revealed three well-preserved chambers or rooms with plastered mud



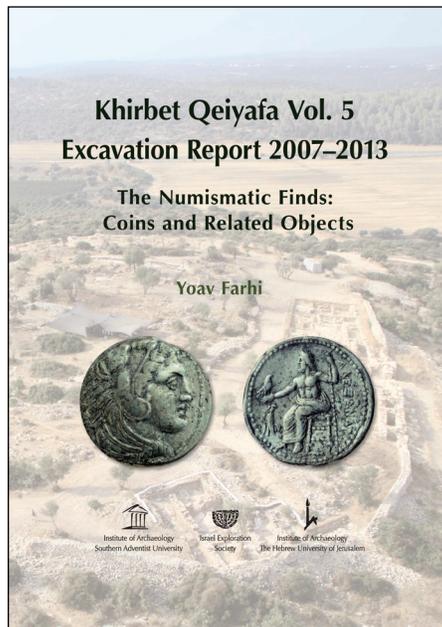
Square supervisor Katherine Hesler working with volunteers Megan Winegardner, Dr. Edwin Reynolds, and Catalina Hannah in square Od 25. Photo credit: Zach Kast/The Fourth Expedition to Lachish.

brick walls over two meters high in places. The first chamber had a number of benches for people to sit, complete with armrests. This is illustrative of the elders “sitting in the gate” during the biblical period. The most rewarding and unexpected discovery was in the last chamber, where a small cultic shrine was found with altars. It dated to the eighth century, when the biblical text indicates that the Israelites were engaged in worshipping foreign deities just prior to the reforms of Hezekiah. The shrine was intentionally destroyed and desecrated. Two horned altars were found, but the horns had been removed. In addition, a stone toilet was revealed on its side inside the inner chamber. This surprise find reminded excavators of the biblical statement relating to the reforms of King Jehu, “They demolished the sacred stone of Baal and tore down the temple of Baal, and people have used it for a latrine to this day” (2 Kgs. 10:27). Numerous lamps, bowls, and *lmk* jar handles indicate that this desecration of the shrine took place in the eighth century BC, which means it may have been destroyed by Hezekiah prior to Sennacherib’s campaign. Future analysis and publication of the gate will be completed by excavation director Saar Ganor.

This next summer the project will continue from June 15 to July 21, 2017, as more secrets of this ancient royal city of the Bible, buried beneath the sands of time, are uncovered. *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* invites you to join a growing number of institutions who, in mutual teamwork, are trying to uncover the answers to some of these research questions. For more information, see our website at southern.edu/lachish. 🍷

PUBLICATION OF KHIRBET QEYafa VOLUME 5

The Institute of Archaeology is pleased to announce the publication of *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 5. Excavation Report 2007-2013: The Numismatic Finds: Coins and Related Objects* by Yoav Farhi.



Front cover of *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 5*. Cover design: Israel Exploration Society.

The final analysis of over 600 coins and additional related objects.

Due to the sheer quantity, relative rarity, and limited number of comparable finds at other excavation sites, the numismatist data and

This volume is a joint publication venture by Southern Adventist University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Farhi has been the numismatist (or coin expert) on the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavation since the project's origination. The vast majority of Dr. Farhi's data was collected through the use of a metal detector, and the implementation of this fairly uncommon practice at Khirbet Qeiyafa yielded a wealth of information unavailable through other means.

This volume presents the

correlative analysis in this publication are highly significant.

The earliest coins found date from the sixth century BCE, and the latest coins found date from the time of the British mandate. Almost all coins relate to three distinct phases in the history of the site. These three phases all occur after the Iron Age occupation. They span through the Late Persian-Early Hellenistic period

(late fourth-early third centuries BC), the Hasmonean period up to the destruction of the Second Temple (first century BC-first century AD) and the Late Roman and Byzantine period (fourth-fifth centuries AD). When examined alongside comparable single-period occupation strata, no other site has provided such a wealth of small materials that can be so precisely dated. Due to this unique situation, the findings are particularly useful to understanding this region's transition from the Persian to the Hellenistic period. For ordering information please visit israelexplorationsociety.huji.ac.il/Qeiyafanumismatic.htm.



Yoav Farhi. Photo credit: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

OLSEN BECOMES NEW MUSEUM COORDINATOR

The Institute of Archaeology welcomes Cherie Lynn Olsen as the new Museum Coordinator of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. Daniel Perez, who served three years as Museum Coordinator, was recently accepted into a PhD program in archaeology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Perez's contributions have left the museum in a strong position for future growth and development. He was especially influential in the oversight of the new exhibit design "A World in Miniature."

No stranger to the university, Olsen graduated from Southern in May 2014. In four years, Olsen completed a triple major in theology, archaeology (Near Eastern studies), and archaeology (Classical Studies) along with a minor in history. During her time at Southern, she served as a museum docent for four years and worked as a museum lab assistant for two years.

Her undergraduate honors thesis focused on the early establishment of museums and their related exhibition philosophies. In 2011, Olsen participated at Khirbet Qeiyafa on her first excavation. She met her husband, Thomas, during that season. Thomas has helped to develop and maintain the Institute's database software for several years.



Cherie Lynn Olsen. Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Coordinator.

Olsen has continued working in the field as a square supervisor for three seasons at Lachish. This May, she will graduate with an M.A. degree in English (Literature) from Northern Arizona University. Olsen is passionate about archaeology as a tool to inform reading of the biblical text and bridge gaps between the ancient and modern worlds. "We are thrilled to have Cherie Lynn join us as a member of our team at the Institute of Archaeology," said Michael G. Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Museum.

"Her skills will help us continue to reach our university and wider Chattanooga community."

FALL SEMESTER MUSEUM LECTURES

“THE 2016 SEASON AT TEL LACHISH: EXCAVATING A BORDER CITY ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM”

As part of the 2016-17 Lynn H. Wood Museum Lecture Series, Dr. Michael Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern



Michael Hasel. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

Adventist University, presented on October 10, 2016 a lecture titled “The 2016 Season at Tel Lachish: Excavating a Border City on the Road to Jerusalem.” The well-attended presentation summarized the findings of this year’s excavation season, highlighting a number of special finds, and concluded with an invitation for students to participate in the 2017 summer excavations at Tel Lachish, which will be the last digging season for Southern Adventist University at this important biblical site. ✍

“VISION MAKES THE WORLD GO ‘ROUND: THE WORLD IN LIGHT OF ANCIENT VISUAL SOURCES”

In line with the recently opened exhibit on ancient Near Eastern seals in the Lynn H. Wood Museum, Dr. Izaak de Hulster from the University of Helsinki, Finland and the University of Göttingen, Germany, presented the second museum lecture for this academic year on November 15, 2016 titled “Vision Makes the World go ‘round: The World in Light of Ancient Visual Sources.”



Izaak de Hulster. Photo credit: Seth Shaffer.

He connected biblical imagery to pictorial remains from the ancient Near East and frequently referenced the objects currently on display in the museum. The lecture was followed by an open house in the museum where visitors were able to directly engage with the speaker while looking at the seal displays.

The remaining two lectures for this year will continue to focus on ancient seals and the current seal exhibit. ✍

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS 2016

The annual meetings of the *American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)* are always an occasion for

archaeologists to interact with each other, compare notes on what took place in the field during the summer, and present new discoveries to the academic community.

This year the meetings took place in picturesque San Antonio, TX, at the La Cantera Hill Resort with over 1,000 scholars in attendance. *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* excavation project co-directed by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University hosted two

consecutive sessions on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 17, with nine papers being presented to an average of 80-120 people attending each paper. There was an introductory lecture on the results of the 2013-16 seasons at Lachish



The Alamo. Photo credit: Daniel Schwen.

ish (Yosef Garfinkel), a paper on the elite houses in Area AA (Michael Hasel) and a discussion of the seal impressions found in 2014 (Martin Klingbeil). Other papers dealt with the newly discovered shrine at the city

gate (Saar Ganor), the Area CC fortifications (Soonhwa Hong and Hoo-Goo Kang), the newly uncovered Late Bronze Temple (Itamar Weissbein), destruction processes at Lachish (Igor Kreimerman), the development of Lachish following the Assyrian Destruction (Shifra Weiss), and GIS mapping and modeling of the site (Daniel Perez & Jon Carroll). All presentations were of a very high quality and attested to the continued importance of the site. PDFs of the presentations can be viewed at southern.edu/lachish.

Dr. Klingbeil also participated in the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) meetings and presented a paper in the *Ancient Near Eastern Iconography and the Bible* session focusing on the iconographic aspects of the Lachish seal impressions. ✍

NEW EXHIBIT ON KHIRBET QEYAFA OPENS IN JERUSALEM

The Bible Lands Museum opened a major exhibit entitled “In the Valley of David and Goliath,” which focuses on the site of Khirbet Qeiyafa recently excavated by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University in the Elah Valley. The exhibit displays artifacts found during the project’s seven seasons, 2007-2013. The first museum exhibit on the site debuted at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum in November 2012, but according to Michael G. Hasel, a director of the project, “This exhibit is more extensive and is based in one of the three largest museums in the State of Israel. Here the two oldest Hebrew inscriptions ever uncovered are on display right across from Israel’s Parliament and the world-renowned Israel Museum.”

The exhibit focuses on the shrine models found in three different cultic areas uncovered at the site. They provide new evidence of religious practices during the early part of the Kingdom of Israel, during the reigns of Saul and David. In addition, other important factors are discussed, such as site fortification, social organization, and state formation. The excavators of the site have maintained that Khirbet Qeiyafa offers some of the earliest evidence for the establishment of the Kingdom of Judah during the time of David. This exhibit brings the basis of that argument to the public in the city of Jerusalem, which became David’s capital and still serves as Israel’s seat of government today. The conclusions have challenged scholars who either deny the existence of David and Solomon or who date the beginning of their kingdom hundreds of years later. The new exhibit does not take a definitive position on these issues, but simply presents the evidence and allows visitors to draw their own conclusions.

“The exhibition gives the public a chance to see these exciting finds that have made Khirbet Qeiyafa a key site in understanding the social and historical processes that took place in the early days of the



Aerial view of Khirbet Quiyafa after the 2011 season. Photo credit: The Hebrew University at Jerusalem & Southern Adventist University.

Kingdom of Israel,” explains Amanda Weiss, director of the Bible Lands Museum. “Visitors to the exhibition step into a world that once vanished, and witness a moving historic testimony of the everyday life of the residents who lived on the border between Philistia and Judah. We are proud to present this exhibition which gives people of all ages and from around the world the opportunity to go back 3,000 years in our history—to the time of King David.”

Read more at www.haaretz.com/haaretz-labels/1.750309.

For more information on the new exhibit, please visit the Bible Lands Museum website at www.blmj.org/en/template/default.aspx?catId=2.



Khirbet Qeiyafa exhibit in the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem. Photo credit: Oded Antman



מוזיאון ארצות המקרא ירושלים
Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem
متحف بلدان الكتاب القدس

DIRECTOR'S LETTER: A SEASON OF GIVING



As this season is approaching, I cannot help but think of gifts. Gifts come in various ways and in forms we may not always think about.

As I celebrated in the past two weeks two landmark birthdays with our daughters, I could not help but think of the gifts that they have been to

our family. Gifts that have brought joy, love, laughter, and a depth of relationship that can never be replaced or underestimated. They have been gifts entrusted to us. They, in turn, have been gifts to others. In this season of giving, I would like to share with you a special story from our family. A story about a gift that not only saved our lives, but shaped our future.

Years ago, at the close of World War II, my father's family had prayer over a meal that might be their last. They had sliced up the last potato found in the basement of their small apartment in Frankfurt, Germany. My grandfather had prayed long before that meal, thanking God for the many gifts they had received over the course of the last six years. Life, health, survival. Now as they faced their last meal, they gave thanks again, for they recognized that every moment of life is a gift that cannot be taken for granted. They did not know where the next meal would come from, but they gave thanks for what had been given to them in the past.

The next morning the doorbell rang, and the postman was standing in the doorway. In his arms was a large package from America. No one in the family knew anyone in America, let alone think a package would be addressed to them. My grandmother was sure it was a mistake, but the postman insisted that it was addressed to them.

They took the parcel and placed it in the center of the living room. Before opening, it they carefully looked it over. Stenciled across the side of the box in large red letters was the word GIFT. They became alarmed. Who would send them a gift package from America? You see, the word gift in German, spelled in precisely the same way, means "poison." Had someone after the war sent them poison? Then Kurt, the oldest son in the family, said, "I remember that word from my English lessons from the soldiers. The word 'gift' in English does not mean poison—it means present!" That changed the picture completely. The package was opened, and inside were dried food goods that would last them for a month. Flour, sugar, nuts, dried fruits, and even a large black bag of M&Ms. Every month the packages would arrive from Lodi, California, where the Bunch family had decided to help another family in need. That gift and the subsequent packages saved our family from the ravages of war-torn Germany.

Today we celebrate life and the many gifts God has given to us. We thank you for the gifts you have provided for the projects that you have read about in these DigSight newsletters over the years. History is a gift that reminds us of how God has led us in the past. Thank you for making biblical history come alive through your gifts to the Institute of Archaeology. May this season remind us that the greatest Gift not only provided this world with life, but He promised it "more abundantly." Wishing you all the richest gifts for this season and the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ. ✍

Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.
Director, Institute of Archaeology

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Institute of Archaeology (donations will be applied to areas of greatest need)
- Archaeological Excavations Fund
- Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum
- William G. Dever Research Library

- Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

First name Last name

Address

City State Zip

Email

Card number Amount

Expiration Date (MM/YY) Security Code

Signature

- Check (made payable to "Southern Adventist University")
- I'm not prepared to give at this time. However, I would like to commit to a financial gift in the area marked above. Please contact me for payment arrangements.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

80-FOOT GATE AND SHRINE EXCAVATED IN ANCIENT CITY OF TEL LACHISH (*History*)

According to the Hebrew Bible, King Hezekiah, the 12th king of Judea, was the pious son of a godless father, Ahaz. Immediately upon succeeding his father on the throne, Hezekiah waged a war on idolatry, ordering all false idols—objects, animals or other deities people worshipped—to be destroyed. Now, archaeologists working in the ancient city of Tel Lachish in south-central Israel believe they have uncovered evidence of the king's war on idols...

[Click here to read more](#)



Photo credit: History.

KING SOLOMON-ERA PALACE FOUND IN BIBLICAL GEZER (*Haaretz*)

Monumental 3000-year-old ruins, Philistine pottery support biblical tales of Gezer's rise, and fall to a jealous pharaoh.

A palatial building dating to the era of King Solomon 3000 years ago has been discovered in the royal city of Gezer, though there is no evidence which of the Israelite kings lived there, if any...

[Click here to read more](#)



Photo credit: Tel Gezer Excavation Project, Steven M. Ortiz.

ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGISTS REVEAL PREHISTORIC MAN'S PLANT-BASED DIET (*Israel Hayom*)

Study reveals ancient humans' diet in Paleolithic era was mostly plant-based, countering common claim that ancient humans' diet was protein-heavy. Scientific journal dubs Israeli study as "earliest known archive of food plants."

[Click here to read more](#)

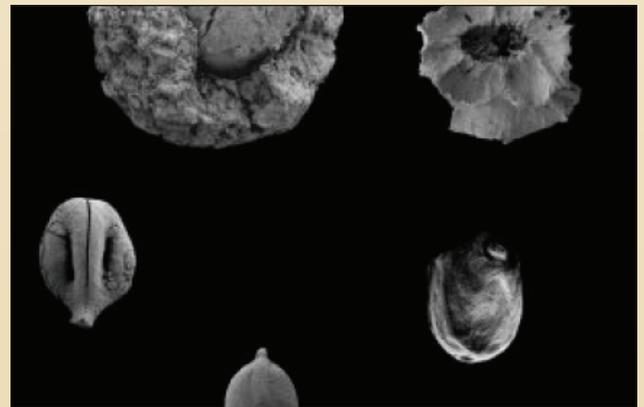


Photo credit: Yaakov Langzam.

MUMMIFIED KNEES ARE QUEEN NEFERTARI'S, ARCHAEOLOGISTS CONCLUDE (*The Guardian*)

A pair of mummified knees found in a tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Queens are most likely those of Queen Nefertari, the royal spouse of Pharaoh Ramses II, say archaeologists.

Thought to have died around 1250 BC, Nefertari was the favourite consort of Ramses the Great, and was famed at the time for her beauty...

[Click here to read more](#)



Photo credit: C. Turronei.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE FOURTH EXPEDITION TO LACHISH, 2017

June 18 - July 21, 2017
Tel Lachish, Israel

For more information, visit southern.edu/lachish

LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES 2016 - 2017

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
“The Search for YHWH’s Image in Light of Seals”
Brent A. Strawn, Ph.D. (Emory University)
Lynn Wood Hall Chapel

Monday, March 27, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
“Seals and Sealing from Tel Lachish: Impressions of Royal Power”
Martin G. Klingbeil, D.Litt. (Southern Adventist University)
Lynn Wood Hall Chapel

The museum lecture series is free and open to the public. For more information, or to view previous Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series presentations, visit southern.edu/archaeologylectures

**A WORLD
IN MINIATURE**

**CREATION COSMOS & ECOLOGY
ON SEALS FROM BIBLICAL TIMES**

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

DIG SIGHT

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Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 5

Excavation Report 2007–2013

The Numismatic Finds: Coins and Related Objects

Yoav Farhi



Institute of Archaeology
Southern Adventist University



Israel Exploration
Society



Institute of Archaeology
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The numismatic finds presented in this report, comprising more than 600 coins and related objects, reflect the life story of Khirbet Qeiyafa. They represent three main episodes: the Late Persian–Early Hellenistic period, the Hasmonaean period up to the destruction of the Second Temple and the Late Roman–Early Byzantine period.

The coins from the Late Persian–Early Hellenistic period are extraordinary in their amount, variety and rarity, many belonging to types hitherto unknown from controlled excavations. They include imported Archaic and Classical Greek coins, local coins from mints in Jerusalem, Philistia, Samaria and possibly Edom, as well as Phoenician, Macedonian and Ptolemaic coins.



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