

A Chalcolithic Settlement in the Jordan Valley

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'name (i. e., hypostasis) of Baal'; compare also the stereotyped biblical collocation of 'baalim and ashtaroth.'^{19b} If the great Punic goddess *tnt pn b'l*—whose name is usually rendered 'Tanit, face (i. e., hypostasis) of Baal,' but by Albright (*AJSL* 41 [1924-25]: 81 n. 2), perhaps more correctly as 'the (gracious) gaze (lit., 'setting of the face'; i. e., again, 'hypostasis') of Baal'—is identical with one of the ancient Phoenician deities, that one is again far more probably Astarte than Anath. The latter is altogether only meagerly attested in the first millennium. Inasmuch as she does not, like El-Milk-Dagan and Athirat, belong to the older generation of the Canaanite pantheon, which is already in process of being eclipsed in the Ugaritic epics, her decline is to be accounted for rather by the diminished war-mindedness of the later Phoenicians and Egyptians.

(To be concluded)

A CHALCOLITHIC SETTLEMENT IN THE JORDAN VALLEY

NELSON GLUECK

Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî is located at the southern tip of that part of the Ghôr of the Jordan Valley, which is north of the confluence of the Jordan and Jabbok rivers. Being practically level with the ground, this extensive site could hardly be distinguished from its surroundings were it not for the great masses of sherds which litter its surface. The main mass of pottery indicates the presence of a very flourishing community there particularly during the Upper Chalcolithic Period, between approximately 3400 and 3200 B. C.¹ Of distinctive pattern, this chalcolithic pottery presupposes age-old skills developed and transmitted under a dynamic civilization.

^{19b} It should be noted, however, that while the Ugaritic texts clearly do not regard Anath as Baal's consort, the evidence that they do so regard Astarte is, thus far, scant and indirect. Apart from the single occurrence of the combination 'Astarte, name of Baal' (see above), she is only brought into relationship with Baal in III AB a 28. (Also *ibid.* 1. 35, if the restoration of Bauer, *Die alphab. Keilschrifttexte von Ras Schamra*, p. 59, is correct; in NK 28, however, I prefer the word division of Goetze, *JBL* 60 [1941]: 369.) However, just this one passage is very significant. Firstly, because Astarte here seems to be an ally or sympathizer of Baal: if ll. 29-30 have been interpreted correctly, she refers to Yamm as 'our captive.' And secondly, because she rebukes Baal 'by name,' a cryptic expression that may hold the key to her epithet of 'name of Baal.' That she does not figure more prominently in the extant portions of the Baal epic may be because Baal's association with her only begins near the end of the story. Prior to that, his preference seems to have run to cows (I* AB 5: 17 ff.; IV AB; RSh 6: 22-3, 29 ff.).—Three other female figures associated with Baal are somewhat shrouded in mystery: namely, Flashie(?), daughter of light(ning?); Dewie, daughter of shower (cf. the stereotyped parallel-sequence *tl/rbb*); and Earthie, daughter of *y'bdr*. They are explicitly designated as his daughters in V AB 1: 22-25 (Earthie is omitted here, but included again in 3-4: 3-5), and attempts which have been made to make the word mean something else break down against NK 25-27; where the eldest member of the trio may be described as Baal's daughter (*b[th]*), and Baal is certainly described as her father. [She apparently turns up again in Achaemenian Egypt—in an Aramaic text written in demotic characters!—as the consort of Baal; see Bowman, *JNES* 3 (1944): 227 ff.]

¹ Wright, PPEB, Table of Related Deposits I.

As a result of the recent archaeological exploration of the east side and also of parts of the west side of the Jordan Valley by the joint expedition of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, it is now possible to demonstrate that the chalcolithic civilization in the Jordan Valley, hitherto represented by finds at el-'Adeimeh and Tell Ghanâm, and by excavations at Teleilat el-Ghassûl, Jericho and Beth-shan, was wide-spread, well-established and obviously built up on a well-developed system of irrigation agriculture. The further spread of the chalcolithic civilization in its various phases is indicated by finds previously made at Khudeirah, 'Affûleh, Megiddo, Gezer, Mughâret el-Wâd, Wâdî Ghazzeh, in the cave in Wâdî Salḥah in Galilee and the caves of Umm el-Qal'ah and Umm el-Qatâfah in Judah.² Its traces have been best preserved in lowland regions, but evidence is mounting that it was extensive in the highlands also.

Most of the sherds from Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî belong to large, coarse, flat-bottomed jars with ledge-handles. The hand-made ware is generally brownish-red in color, has numerous grits and often has a gray core.³ The most common type of decoration consists of bands of scalloping or finger indentations, often appearing as raised bands. These latter look like twisted ropes encircling the bodies and particularly the shoulders and necks of the vessels. The scalloped or finger-indented decorations are incised or impressed into the outer surface of the body of the vessel, the top or outer edge of the rim and the edge of the ledge-handles.

Most distinctive are the ledge-handles found on this site. They are (with a few exceptions which can be assigned to EB I) long, narrow, thick ledge-handles decorated with scalloping along their outer edges. They have almost always been stuck on the sides of the vessels. The scalloping is usually done with some sort of a tool, such as a stick or quill, although some examples are thumb-indented.

Pl. 8: 1-10 illustrates some of the scalloped ledge-handles found at Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî. (Nos. 1, 3-5, 8, 9 have been photographed upside down.) Isolated examples of scalloped ledge-handles have been discovered in Beth-shan XVIII, Jericho VIII and Ghassûl, but Wright correctly points out that these "must be considered as introductory attempts at decorating the ledge-handle and thus certainly antedate Beth-shan XVII."⁴ It is during Beth-shan XVII, however, that scalloped ledge-handles there generally replace the characteristic, post-Ghassûlian loop-handles with thickened attachments, which, to be sure, may continue into the period of Beth-shan XVII.⁵

To judge from the large number of fully developed scalloped ledge-handles at Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî, its main period of occupation would seem to be subsequent to Beth-shan XVIII and Jericho VIII (with both of which, however, its origins are to be connected), and roughly contemporary with Beth-shan XVII and XVI. Among the Tell

² Wright, pp. 14-41.

³ Koepfel, *Teleilat Ghassûl* II, 73; *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology* 23 (1936), 86.

⁴ Cf. Wright, PPEB 46; TG I, pl. 40: 3; AAA 22 (1935), pl. 41: 6; 23 (1936), p. 87 and pl. 32: 29B, 42B: 29; FitzGerald, *Museum Journal* 24 (1935), pl. 2: 13.

⁵ PPEB 46.

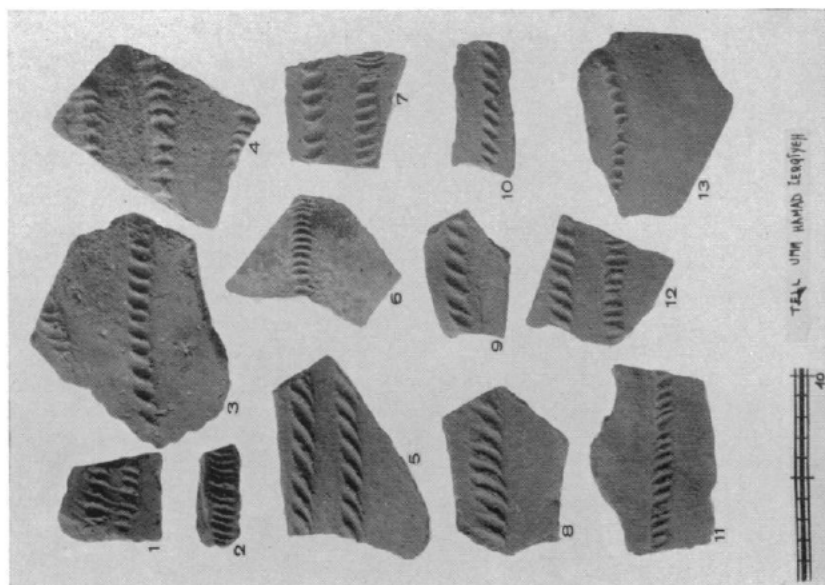


PLATE 7

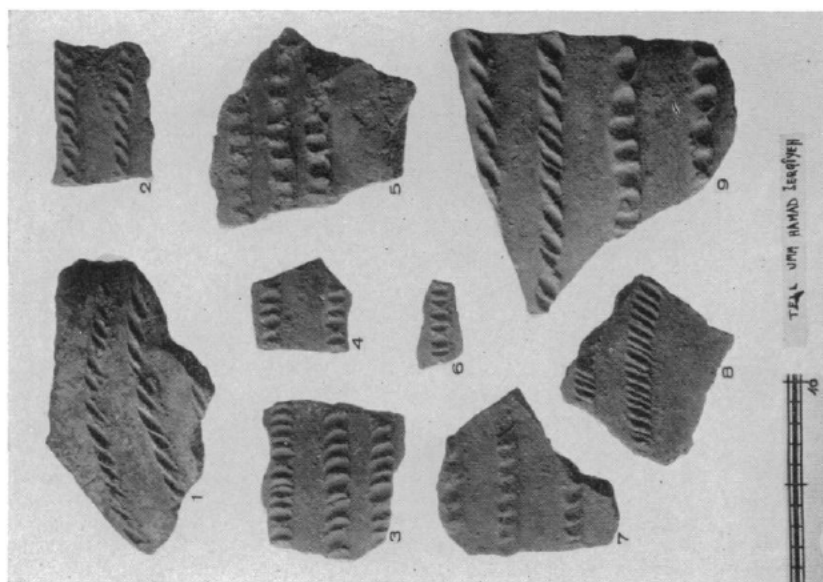


PLATE 6

Umm Hamâd Sh. scalloped ledge-handles, I have found none with the pronounced pushed-up tendency evinced in Beth-shan XVI, pl. 2: 5. This tendency came to the fore with the pushed-up type of ledge-handle characteristic of EB Ib.⁶ Actually, there seems to be a difference between the scalloped ledge-handles of Beth-shan XVII and those of Beth-shan XVI, the former being narrower than the latter. It is certainly true that the T. Umm Hamâd Sh. scalloped ledge-handles are narrower than those of Beth-shan XVI as published.

The use of scalloped, thumb-indented ledge-handles continued through the end of the Chalcolithic Period and perhaps down into EB Ia, as evidenced possibly by those of 'Affûleh.⁷ Additional examples belonging to EB Ia apparently are those of Megiddo VII-V (= XIX).⁸ I do not include Beth-shan XV, pl. 6: 18, which, according to FitzGerald, "may perhaps be regarded as a transitional form between the indented type and the 'pushed-up' handle which becomes common in the levels above."⁹

The scalloping which marks the chalcolithic ledge-handles of Tell Umm Hamâd Sh. is also a common form of decoration on the outer edges of many rims from this site, as seen from the examples on plates 10 and 7:—

- Pl. 10: 1 Scalloping on outer edge of thickened, out-turned rim, with two raised, scalloped bands on wall below it.
- 7A: 2 Cf. AAA 23 (1936), Jericho VII, pl. 34: 19 and p. 99. *Museum Journal*, 24 (1935), Beth-shan XVI, pl. 1: 3; TG I, p. 103: 53. 54.
- 10: 2-5 Additional examples of scalloped rims, with one or more raised, scalloped bands below the edge of the rim. These, too, are thickened rims of vessels without intermediate necks. For the general profile of these rims cf. AAA 22 (1935), pl. 41: 4 from area 188; 23 (1936), pl. 32: 24A from Jericho VIII; PPEB 18, fig. 4: III.
- 10: 6 is the only sherd on this plate which does not have a raised, scalloped band or scalloped bands below scalloped outer edge of rim.
- 10: 7-10 is the same as 10: 1-5, except that they belong to finer, thinner walled jugs and jars.
- 7A: 4 (drawing 37) with scalloped outer edge of rim, has an indented band impressed into the surface of the wall below it.
- : 6 Slightly collared rim scalloped on outer edge. Cf. Beth-shan XVI, pl. 1: 2. 6 (and pl. 1: 5 where scalloped band is just below outer edge of slightly collared rim); PEFQS 1936, p. 154, pl. 2: 35. 36.

Slightly raised, single bands of scalloping decorate some of the sherds:—

- 7A: 1 Outturned, plain rim, with slightly raised, indented band below it (drawing 35).
- : 3 Scalloped band.

⁶ Cf. Wright, PPEB 60. 66.

⁷ PEFQS, 1936, pl. 2: 29. 30; cf. Wright, PPEB 43.

⁸ The "thumb-indented" ledge-handle at Megiddo extends through Stages VII-IV (= Stratum XIX). One wonders, however, whether some of these ledge-handles from Megiddo may not rather belong to the type of Beth-shan XV, pl. 6: 18 than to the pronounced scalloped type of Beth-shan XVII-XVI and T. Umm Hamâd Sh.; cf. Wright, PPEB 44. 66.

⁹ *Museum Journal*, 24 (1935), 11.

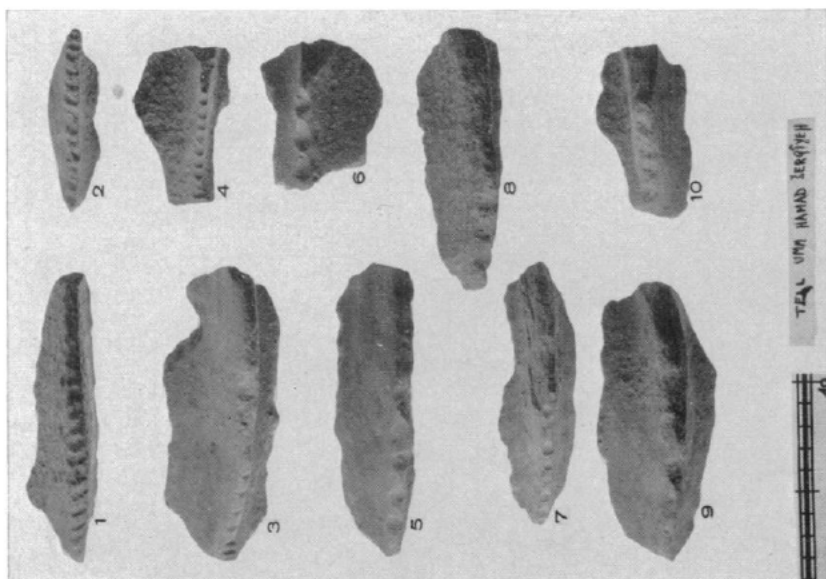


PLATE 8

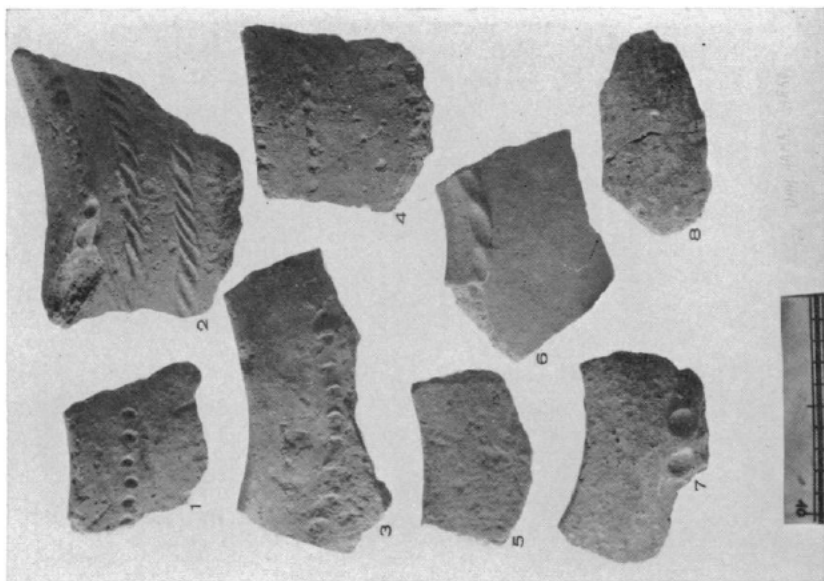


PLATE 7A

- : 7 Raised, indented band below hole-mouth rim. With these outflaring rims, below each of which is a single, raised, indented or scalloped band cf. Beth-shan XVIII, pl. 1: 20. 23; XVII, pl. 1: 16 (cf. Shipton, *Megiddo*, pl. 20: 23); XVI, pl. 1: 7. 13 (cf. Shipton, *Megiddo*, pl. 20: 18). 14, these three occurring also in Beth-shan XVII, as noted in *Beth-shan*, p. 8. Apparently all the examples in *Beth-shan*, pl. 1, with the exception of pl. 1: 3, show that on these particular vessels there was only one band of scalloped decoration.
- 9: 3. 10 A single, raised scalloped band is shown respectively on T. Umm Hamâd Sh., pl. 9: 3. 10, but these two sherds are to be assigned to MB I and probably come originally from T. Umm Hamâd el-Gharbî.
- 7: 6. 13 look somewhat like pl. 9: 3. 10, but unlike them are probably chalcolithic. They are brownish-red in color, in contrast to pl. 9: 3. 10, which are brownish-gray like all the MB I sherds found on T. Umm Hamâd Gharbî.

"The rope molding and raised scalloped bands around the rims, necks, and shoulders of the jugs and jars,"¹⁰ which are so characteristic of the chalcolithic wares of Teleilat Ghassûl, form the outstanding decorations of the Upper Chalcolithic wares of Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî, as can be seen from plates 6.7.9, in addition to the pottery from this site which has already been discussed. Incidentally, the scalloping is almost always made with a stick or quill or curved instrument of some kind, even with a specially toothed instrument, as, for instance, in the examples of pl. 9: 7. 12. Much less frequently one can speak of thumb- or finger-indentations,¹¹ which may be possible in such an instance, for example, as pl. 9: 2.

In many instances, it seems certain that these raised, scalloped bands extended at intervals from the rim practically down to the base of the vessel.

- 7B: 6 (See above, 7A: 2, for references).
- : 1. 3. 4 show raised bands of rope-molding above the bases of coarse storage jars. Cf. Beth-shan XVII, pl. 3: 9 and p. 8.
- 6: 1-9 (1 photographed upside down).
- 7: 1-5. 7-12
- 9: 1. 2. 4. 5. 8. 9. 11. (13-15 may possibly be the only bands of raised, scalloped decoration on their vessels).

Sometimes several raised, scalloped bands meet at an angle. FitzGerald reports such examples from Beth-shan.¹²

- 7: 3. 12
- 6: 1 in which several bands of scalloping nearly meet.
- 9: 1 where three raised bands of scalloping or rope-molding spread out from a single row.

This type of scalloping or indenting, whether raised or impressed, is characteristic of the Ghassulian in Lower Chalcolithic, is common in the

¹⁰ PPEB 18.

¹¹ *Beth-shan*, 7, where FitzGerald reports that "a conspicuous feature of the typical pot or jar from Level XVIII is the surrounding band roughly modelled or impressed with the fingers."

¹² *Beth-shan*, 8.

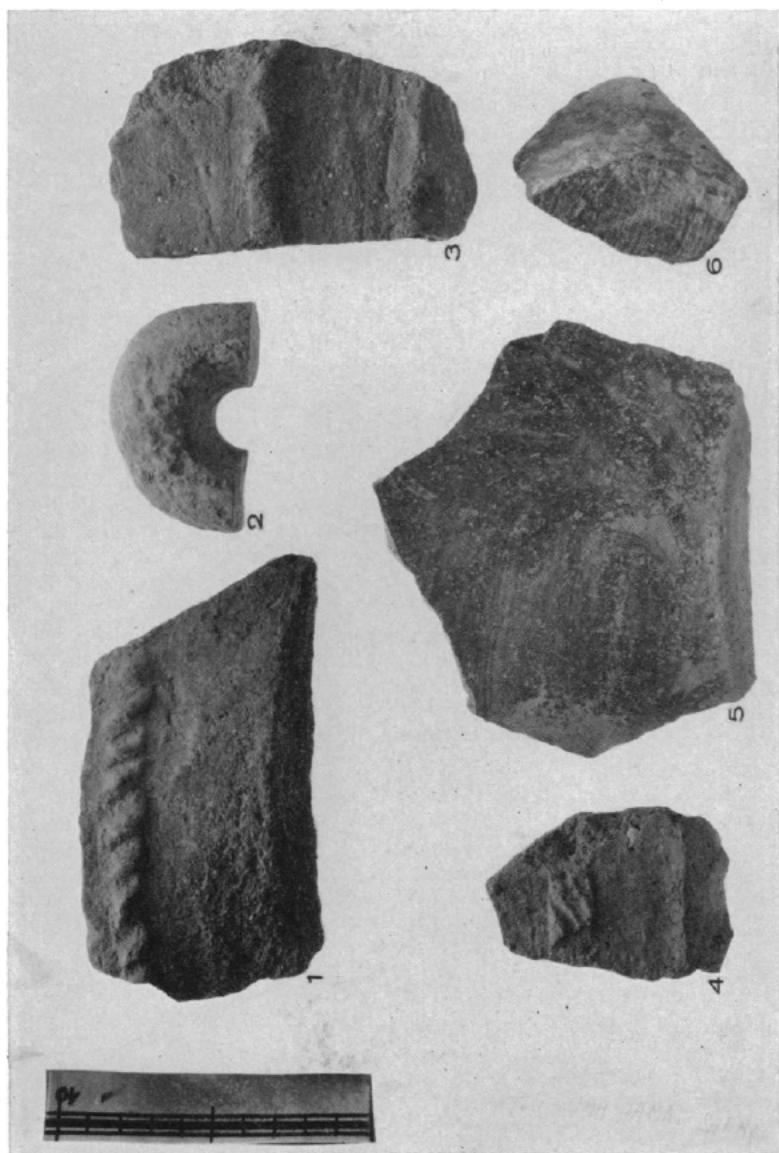


PLATE 7B

Middle Chalcolithic of Beth-shan XVIII (cf. pl. 1: 21.23-26 of Beth-shan), is prominent in the Upper Chalcolithic of Beth-shan XVII-XVI, loses its popularity during the course of EB I, and becomes extinct in EB II.¹³ All in all, it seems possible to say, to judge from the sherds thus far considered, that the main period of occupation of Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî is paralleled by Beth-shan XVII-XVI, and that it belongs particularly to the Upper Chalcolithic, dating approximately between 3400 and 3200 B. C.¹⁴

It is somewhat surprising that more material analogous to that of Tell Umm Hamâd Sh. and generally comparable to Beth-shan XVII-XVI has not been found at Jericho. Wright has already remarked that "there would seem to exist a gap in the occupation of the particular section of the tell dug at Jericho corresponding to the period represented by levels XVII-XVI at Beth-shan."¹⁵

Likewise, I am convinced that the gap which exists between Jericho IX and Jericho VIII could be filled if exhaustive excavations were undertaken there, and that it would no longer be necessary to regard the Chalcolithic as an "intrusive culture," "which comes suddenly and replaces the native neolithic of Jericho."¹⁶ Continuing the same line of reasoning, I find it unnecessary to assume, as Ben Dor does, that "as the stratification of Jericho shows an immediate succession of Level VIII after the neolithic of Level IX, we have to conclude that the neolithic culture of Jericho had a long duration and that its latest phase existed contemporaneously with the Ghassulian chalcolithic."¹⁷ We may rather assume with Wright "that a gap must exist in the intensity of the occupation at Jericho between layers VIII and IX."¹⁸ Taking these early sites together, we thus find continuous occupation from Jericho IX through Ghassulian, followed first by Jericho VIII and later by Beth-shan XVII-XVI and Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî, down to the beginning of EB marked by Jericho VII-VI. And I believe it will be possible to demonstrate in time that this is the uninterrupted history of the Jordan Valley as a whole from neolithic through chalcolithic down to EB I times. It may be that one site will belong to one period or age, and that the subsequent period will be represented on a site some distance removed from the first site, and that a third period will be represented by remains found on top of those of the first period on the first site.

Mat impressions left on the bases of some of the pottery from Tell Umm Hamâd esh-Sherqî form yet another indication of the chalcolithic character of most of its wares.

- 7B: 6 shows remains of a mat-impression on the broken flat base of a hand-made jar, with gray core between reddish-brown inner surface and dark grayish-brown outer surface. Cf. AAA 22 (1935), pl. 55a; TG II, pl. 83: 11.13-18; pl. 84: 1-13 (nos. 3.8.12 seem to have been pressed against grass- or hair-mats); I, p. 91 and pl. 39: 1-4 (no. 3 clearly built up on grass- or hair-mat); *Beth-Pelet* II, pl. 34: 10-12; Shipton, *Megiddo*, pl. 19: 19.20; 20: 27.28.

¹³ Cf. Wright, PPEB 61.81.

¹⁴ Cf. PPEB 107.

¹⁵ PPEB 46.

¹⁶ AAA 23 (1936), 90.

¹⁷ AAA 23 (1936), 90.

¹⁸ PPEB 27.

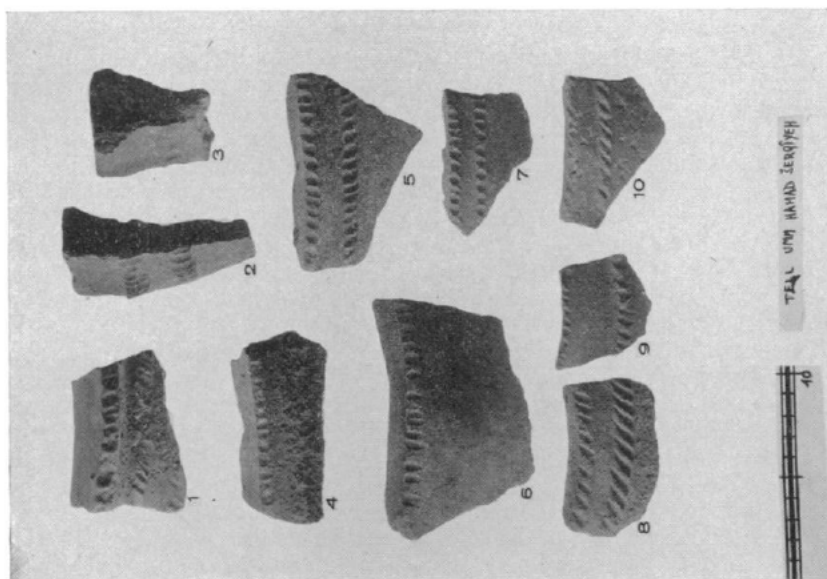


PLATE 10



PLATE 9

Tell Umm Ḥamād esh-Sherqī was also occupied in Early Bronze I, although not as intensively then as in the preceding Chalcolithic. This is indicated by fairly numerous sherds which clearly attest the occupation of this rich part of the Jordan Valley in this period.

Among the EB I wares is a comparatively large number of plain ledge-handles.

- 11: 1. 2. 4 show three of these ledge-handles *en face* and in profile. They can, for instance, be compared to the EB plain ledge-handles of Tell el-Mustāḥ, which commands an eastern entrance into the Jordan Valley via the Wādī Nimrīn (Sha'ib); cf. *Annual*, XVIII-XIX, pl. 9. 2. 6. While these ledge-handles could be earlier than EB I, as shown by the fact that comparable ones already appear in Beth-shan XVI, pl. 2: 1, they continue in larger numbers in Beth-shan XV, pl. 6: 15. 17. They also make their appearance in Megiddo, Stage V, predominate in Megiddo, Stage IV, and extend down into Megiddo, Stage III (cf. Engberg and Shipton, chart, col. 14c,d; Shipton, *Notes on the Megiddo Pottery of Strata VI-XX*, pl. 17: 9. 12 from Stratum XIX; AJA 39, 1935, p. 326), where they are roughly contemporary with their appearance at Beth-shan XIV, pl. 6: 10. 11; XIII, pl. 6: 8; and XII, pl. 6: 17. The plain ledge-handles of Tell Umm Ḥamād esh-Sherqī can, furthermore, be related to those of el-Ḥammeh (AJA 39, 1935, p. 324, fig. 4: 1-4. 6 and pl. 37a: 1), which site, as Wright (PPEB 62) points out in correcting my own wrong dating, is not to be dated later than EB I. These plain ledge-handles are also related to those of 'Aḫūleh (PEFQS, 1936, p. 154, pl. 2: 31. 32). Wright points out (PPEB 43) that "the 'Aḫūleh deposit covers the period from Beth-shan XVI through EB Ia, but comes to an end before the period which will be designated as EB Ib: i. e., before the introduction of the inverted rim-bowl, but after the introduction of the 'hole-mouth' jar with ridge below the rim."

Small, pressed-in loop-handles found at T. Umm Ḥamād Sh. also belong to EB. I.

- 11: 3 Cf. *Annual*, XVIII-XIX, p. 256, pl. 17: 15 from Tell el-Mustāḥ; AJA 39 (1935), p. 329, fig. 6: 11 from el-Ḥammeh; PEFQS, 1936, p. 152, pl. 2: 27 from 'Aḫūleh; AAA 22 (1935), pl. 31: 13; 19 (1932), pl. 12: 8. 11 and pl. 20b from Jericho.
- 12: 4-6 See above.

The painted sherds at Tell Umm Ḥamād Sh. can hardly be later than the beginning of EB and are probably to be assigned to EB I.

- 12: 2 with unevenly applied, dark reddish-brown bands of paint put over a cream slip; cf. Engberg and Shipton, p. 26, fig. 8: g. 1. m; AJA 39 (1935), p. 326, fig. 5: 18; PPEB 44. 45.
- : 3 has several bands of purplish-brown paint superimposed on a light, grayish-brown slip over the reddish-brown surface of the vessel. Between the thin reddish-brown surfaces is a gray core. The ware is coarse, with medium grits.
- : 1 like the others is hand-made. It is covered with a dark reddish-brown "grain-wash" (really a slip).
- 7B: 5 The same type of "grain-wash" (slip) as above. It is put on with a brush and covers the large sherd of a thin-walled, flat-based jug. Its ware is light grayish-brown in color, and contains numerous small and medium grits.

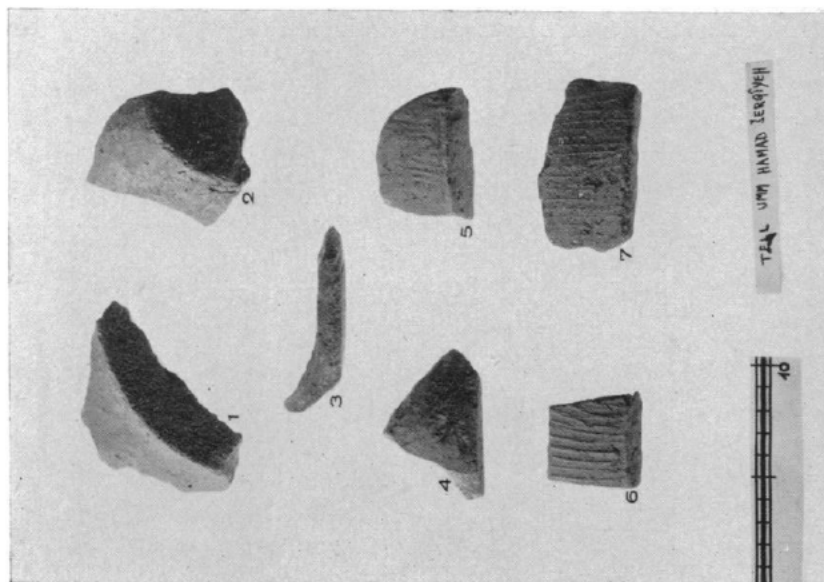


PLATE 13

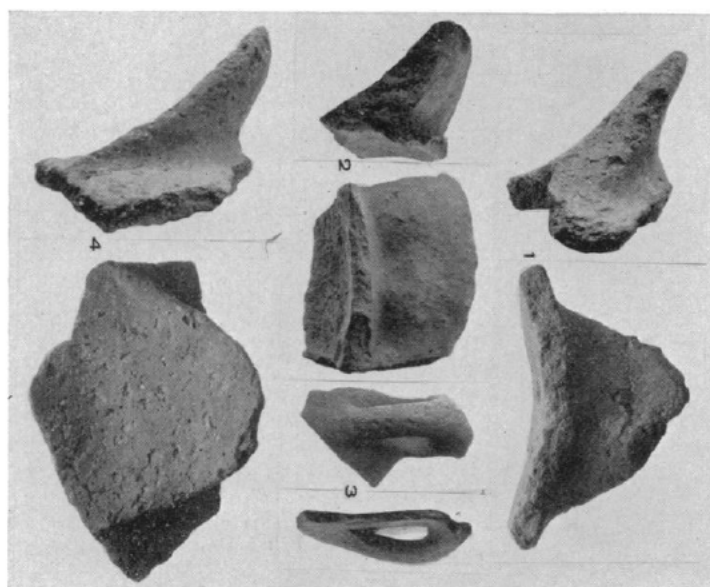


PLATE 11

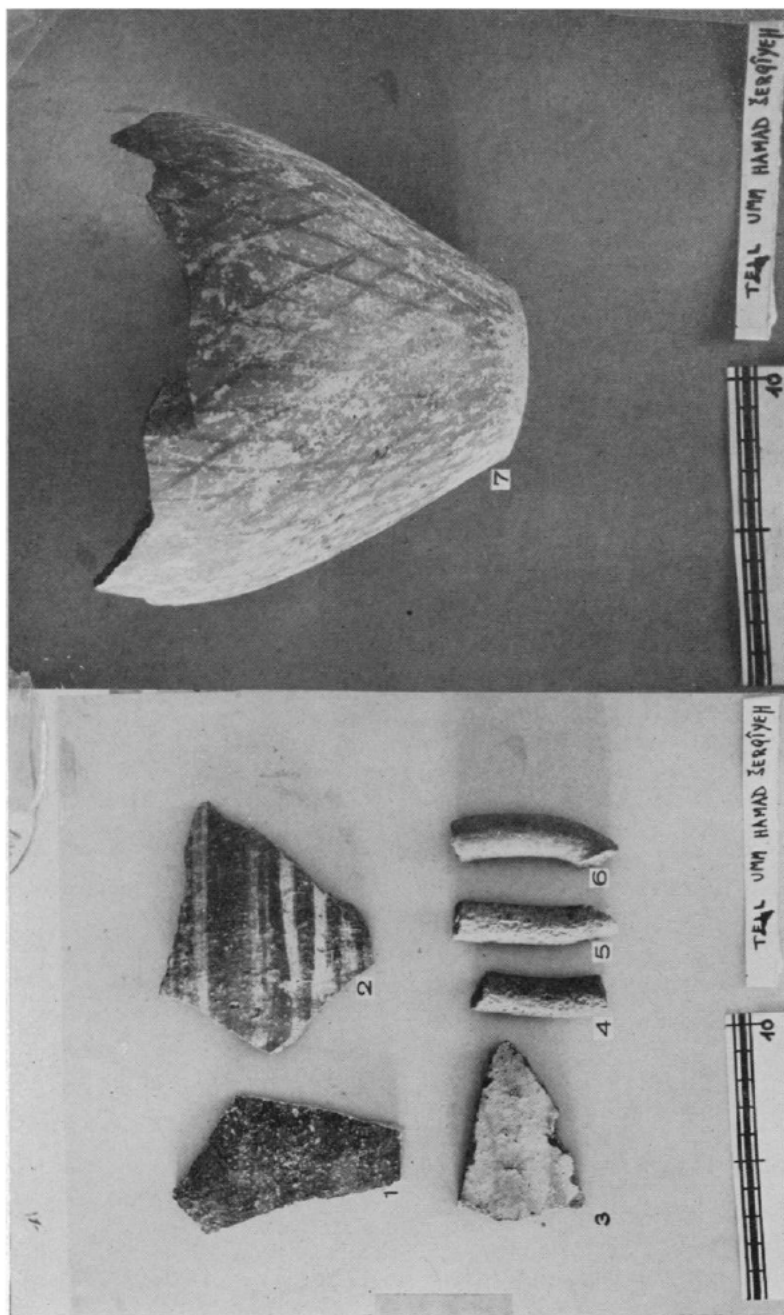


PLATE 12

The presence of lattice- or net-burnished ware at Tell Umm Ḥamād esh-Sherqī is further indication of the presence of a settlement there in EB I.

- 12: 7 found on the surface of this site, as were all of the rest of the sherds there, is from a fine, flat-based jug, covered with a reddish-brown slip, lattice- or net-burnished. It is very similar to a jug from Tell el-Mustāḥ which also was assigned to EB I (cf. *Annual*, XVIII-XIX, p. 261 and pl. 11: 2); cf. PPEB 96, Form IVa (A); AJA 39 (1935), p. 329 and fig. 6: 7 from Beth-yerah; AAA 22 (1935), pl. 36: 3 from Jericho VI, which is EB Ia, as pointed out by Wright, PPEB 45. Engberg and Shipton, fig. 6: 28F and p. 22 from Megiddo V; Guy and Engberg, *Megiddo Tombs*, pl. 82: 6, col. 28F; Shipton, pl. 16: 1; PEFQS, 1935, pl. III, bottom row, 3rd from right; *Syria* XVI, pl. 57, top row, 3rd from right. This slip-covered, lattice-burnished jug from Tell Umm Ḥamād esh-Sherqī has a string-cut base, over which are traces of the same reddish-brown slip which covered the walls of the jug proper. The ware is hard baked, light grayish-brown in color, and has numerous tiny grits.
- 7A: 5. 8 and possibly 7 belong to EB I, being hole-mouth rims characteristic of that period and related to other EB-I sherds from this site. Cf. *Annual*, XVIII-XIX, pl. 10: 2.
- 13: 1-7 are flat bases of jars from Tell Umm Ḥamād Sh., nos. 5-7 show face-combing on the sides of the jars. They are all probably to be assigned to MB I, and in all probability came originally from the neighboring site of Tell Umm Ḥamād el-Gharbī, which is completely MB I. The folded, MB I ledge-handles found on Tell Umm Ḥamād esh-Sherqī also undoubtedly came from the Gharbī site. Cf. *Annual*, XVIII-XIX, pl. 5: 15; 4: 15; 2: 14. 15; 4: 11. 13; 6: 13. 14; 17: 9 and p. 261.

It thus appears that there is considerable evidence for an EB I settlement at Tell Umm Ḥamād esh-Sherqī, which, however, to judge from the relative numbers of sherds found, was much smaller than the extraordinarily large chalcolithic settlement of the site. It is possible that the upper chalcolithic settlement reached down into and finally merged with EB I. I am inclined, however, to think that the EB I settlement represents a distinctly new one, built probably on the ruins of the chalcolithic settlement, but not too long thereafter to be influenced by some of the pottery forms of its predecessor. In favor of this view of the distinctively new character of the EB I settlement is the fact that there are numerous other EB I settlements in the Jordan Valley which started on virgin sites.

LACHISH LETTER IV: 7-10

HERBERT GORDON MAY

We trust that the Lachish ostrakon, Letter IV, was clearer to the addressee than it is to us. Lines 7-10 bristle with unsolved problems. Among them are the unsyntactical sequence of *w'bdk* and *'dny*, the unusual *'yhw* (cf. O. T. *'ayyô*), the proper translation of *ky 'm* in this context, the meaning of *btsbth*, and the unsyntactical sequence of *bqr* (if imperative) and *wyd'* (3rd person). Is *yšlh* active or passive? Is the pronominal suffix on *btsbth* masculine, with Shemaiah as the ante-