

TEL AVIV

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**In Memory of Giorah Drori, Son of Rachel and ArieH of Kibbutz Givat Oz,
Who Fell in the Yom Kippur War.**

EXCAVATIONS AT TEL KEDESH (TELL ABU QUDEIS)*

Ephraim Stern and Itzhaq Beit ArieH

Tel Kedesh, lying about midway between Taanach and Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley, is an almost circular mound, covering an area of approximately 10 dunams and rising about 6–7 metres above its immediate surroundings (Fig. 1; Pl. 1:1). At its northwest is a cluster of small springs used by the shepherds of the nearby villages to water their flocks; it is the existence of these springs which apparently led to the permanent settlement of this spot in antiquity. The surrounding soil is heavy and swampy and was rendered fit for cultivation only in recent years when a drainage channel was dug in the vicinity.

Excavations were carried out in 1968 by an archaeological team from Tel Aviv University directed by the authors¹. A trench about 25 m. long and 5–10 m. wide was dug on the western slopes on the tel exposing eight occupational strata (Fig. 2)². Surface finds elsewhere on the mound, however, point to the existence of additional occupational levels. Following is the stratigraphy determined by our excavations:

<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date</i>
I	Early Arabic	8th–9th centuries C.E.
II	Late Roman	1st–4th centuries C.E.
III	Persian and Early Hellenistic:	5th–3rd centuries B.C.E.
IV–VI	Israelite Monarchy	10th–8th centuries B.C.E.
VII	Israelite I	12th century B.C.E.
VIII	Late Canaanite	14th–13th centuries B.C.E.

* The following is a revision of an article first published in *Excavations and Studies* (Stern and Beit ArieH 1973).

1 Excavation of the site was first proposed by Prof. R. Givon. Excavations were initiated by Prof. S. Yeivin, then Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Tel Aviv University, and continued for two short seasons in March and July 1968. Some 20 students from the department participated. The expedition enjoyed the hospitality and assistance of Kibbutz Givat Oz, and especially of two of its members, Rachel and ArieH Drori. Finds were registered by Menuha Astrahan; Architect E. Netzer was surveyor; H. Burger served as photographer (some of the finds were photographed later by A. Hay). Drawings of finds are by Naomi Schechter. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to all participants.

2 The northern part of the tel was rendered unsuitable for archaeological excavation by military trenches dug on the eve of the Six-Day War.

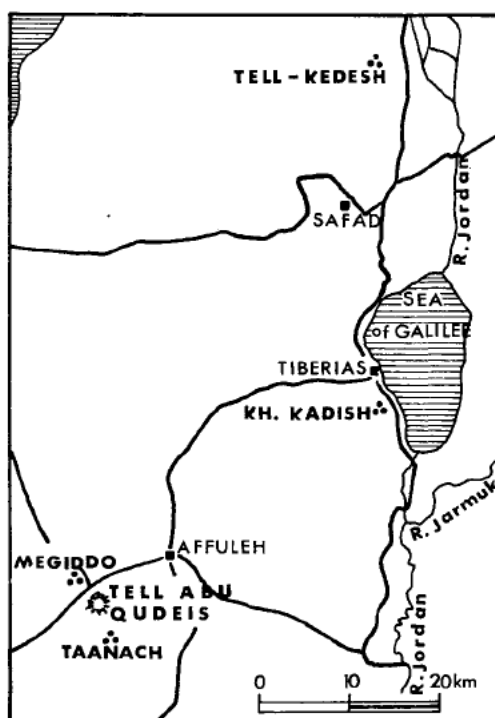


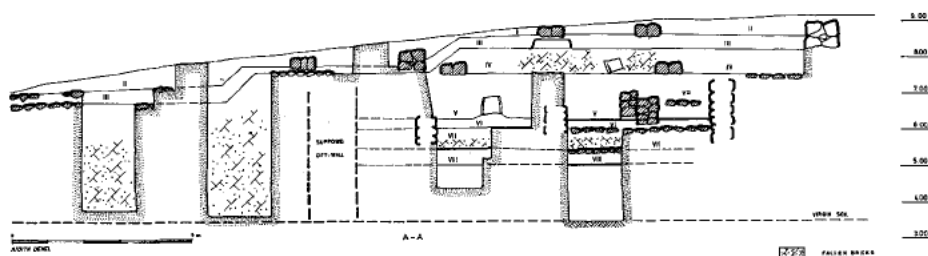
Fig. 1. Location of Tel Kedesh (Tell Abu Qudeis).

Structural remains and artifacts are described below in chronological order, ranging from the earliest to the latest.

STRATUM VIII

Only two squares (C7–C8) were excavated in this stratum. Because of the accumulated mortar and mud encountered approximately 5–6 m. below the surface of the tel, only the upper layers of debris lying under the Stratum VII floor were excavated (Fig. 2) and no floor or building levels were reached. Nevertheless, it may be assumed that this was the earliest occupational layer, since the lowest point reached was a mere metre or so above the level of the surrounding terrain.

Although pottery finds were scanty, Stratum VIII may be dated by a small fragment of an imported Mycenaean vessel; otherwise, there were only a few sherds from bowls and cooking-pots, the bowls having the flat disc base (Fig. 9:21; Pl. 2:21) common at the end of the Late Bronze Age (cf. *Hazor III–IV*:Pl. 271) and the cooking-pots (Fig. 10:14–15) the typical triangular “axe” rim of this period. Stratum VIII is therefore dated to the 14th or 13th century B.C.E.



STRATUM VII

Also in this stratum only two squares (C7–C8) were excavated (Figs. 2; 3); in both a clay floor was reached at 5.5 m. In square C8 we also encountered the foundation courses of a stone wall with abutting floor on which a complete ibex antler (Fig. 3) was found, probably belonging to one of this species which had been hunted in the water- and pasture-rich area around nearby Ramat Issachar, which was inhabited by these animals until recent times. Stratum VII was destroyed by a great fire which left a thick layer of grey ash and fallen brick on all excavated floor sections (Fig. 2).

Because of the small area excavated, the pottery finds in Stratum VII were also meagre (mainly sherds of bowls and cooking-pots), yet extremely interesting. The bowl rim of Fig. 9:20 is unusual, apparently still reflecting the Late Canaanite tradition. At any rate, it is not at all similar to any of the bowl rims of Strata VI–IV. The cooking-pot (Fig. 10:13) with its elongated triangular “axe”-rim is likewise transitional, continuing on the one hand the tradition of the earlier period (cf. the cooking-pots in Fig. 10:14–15), while approaching the form of the Israelite period (Fig. 10:4–12). Apparently, its base was rounded and tapering. Both vessels date to Iron Age I. The juglet (Fig. 10:19) is also distinctive in its trefoil spout, which is the dominant spout of the Iron Age (*Megiddo II*:Pl. 81:10–11).

The stratum itself yielded no further pottery, but its ceramic picture may be completed by the pottery collected on the surface of the tel, e.g. the rim of a krater with zigzag melope decoration (Fig. 11:4; Pl. 2:10). Continuing the Late Canaanite tradition, this decoration is common on various types of bowls and kraters of Iron Age I (Strata VIIA–VI at Megiddo). The colour in this period is distinctive, usually violet-red (*Megiddo II*:Pls. 78:18; 85:2, 4). Also typical of the period is a flask (Pl. 2:15) painted with reddish-brown concentric circles (cf. Amiran 1969:Pl. 93). Similar vessels were found at Megiddo in tombs dated to Iron Age I, i.e. the 12th century B.C.E.³

The above assemblage therefore suggests that Stratum VII is to be dated to the 12th century B.C.E., probably its first half, and that it is contemporary with Stratum VIIA at Megiddo.

Also noteworthy are two surface finds, a pithos rim (Pl. 2:1) and a pithos handle (Fig. 11:8), both apparently from the same vessel. This type of pithos is well known

³ Both types of vessels (i.e., the painted bowl and flask) were found together also at Megiddo (*Megiddo Tombs*:Pls. 70–73, especially Pl. 73:3, 8, 9).

from other sites in northern Israel and considered characteristic of the beginning of the Israelite settlement period (12th and early 11th centuries B.C.E.); such vessels were found, for instance, at Khirbet e-Tulil and in Stratum XII at Hazor (Aharoni 1957:21–

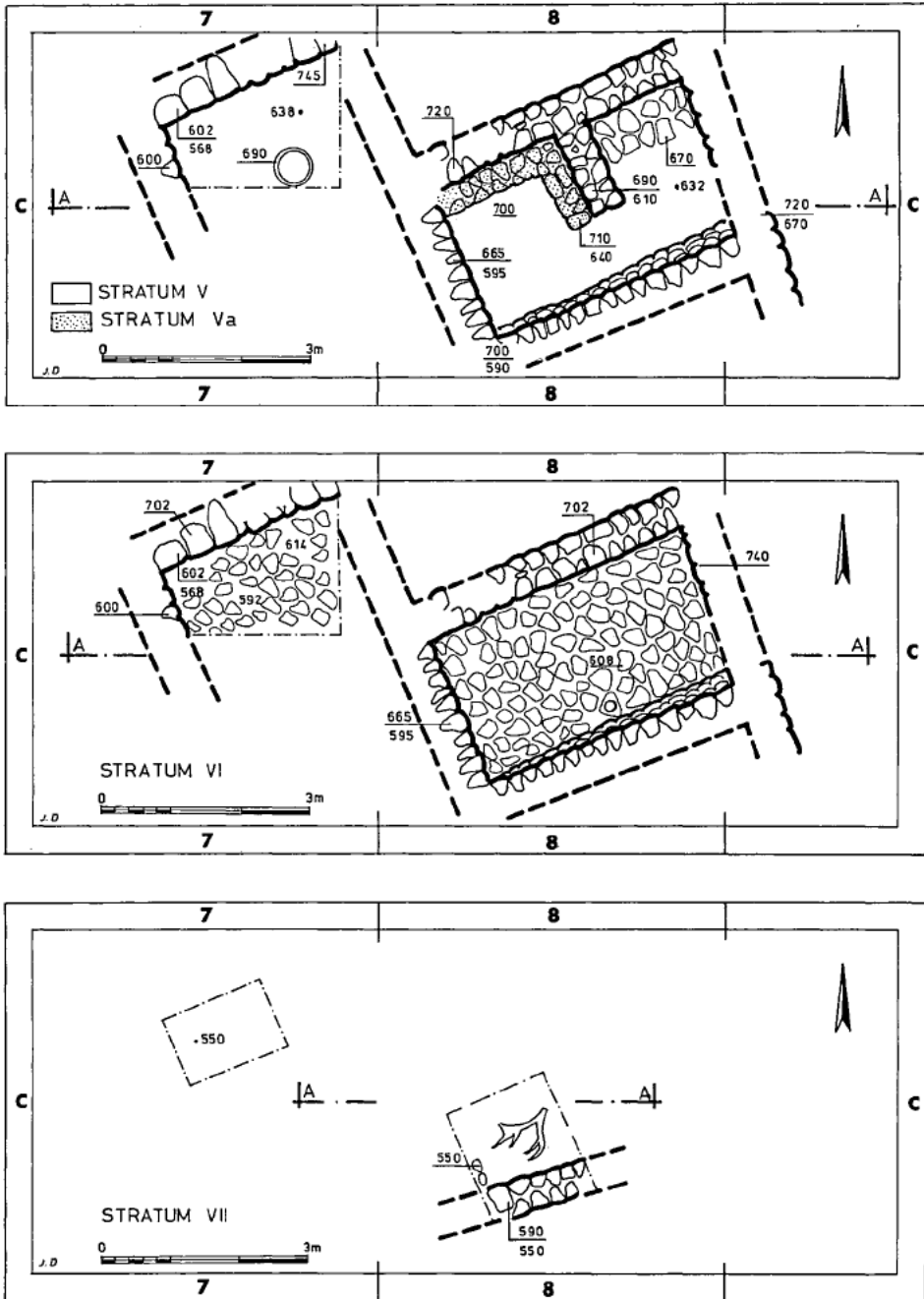


Fig. 3. Plan of Strata VII, VI, V.

23; Pl. IV:1-2; *Hazor III-IV*:Pls. 167-168; *Bethel*:63; Pl. 56; Callaway 1969:8-9; Fig. 5; Callaway and Cooley 1971:11-12).

STRATUM VI

Remains of Stratum VI were found only in Squares C7-C8 (Figs. 3; 4), about half a metre (level 6.00) above the ash- and fallen-brick debris of the earlier stratum. A rectangular stone-paved room was exposed in Square C8, while part of a room, also stone-paved, was uncovered in Square C7. The two rooms, separated by a common wall, evidently belonged to a single large structure which extended beyond the excavation limits.

STRATUM V

In Stratum V the builders utilized the foundations, almost unchanged, of the earlier stratum, apparently still protruding above the surface at the time, indicating that there was only a short interval between Strata VI and V. The compacted *huwar* clay floor was raised by approximately 30 cm. in this level, and the rectangular room in Square C8 was divided by a central partition wall (Fig. 3); the second room (Square C7) contained a clay baking oven (*tabun*), its exterior faced with potsherds. In a later phase, Stratum VA (Figs. 2; 3), the floor level of the rooms in Square C8 was raised a second time. Benches were added along the north and east walls of the western room; stone-paving and two stone-faced silos were added in the eastern room. Since the second room in Square C7 was not altered, it may be assumed that these changes were all made during the lifetime of the original structure.

STRATUM IV

Stratum IV was rebuilt according to an entirely different plan at a level nearly one metre higher than Stratum V (level 7.5 m.; see Fig. 2). The remains of a large structure were found and partially excavated in Squares C7-C9, exposing a large hall (Fig. 4). A four-horned limestone altar (Fig. 5; Pl. 1:2) was found on the west side of the hall where a number of jar bases had been stuck into the clay floor. East of the hall part of smaller room (Squares C8-C9) was uncovered, while to its south was a paved area which probably had served as an open courtyard. The dimensions of this hall – and particularly the presence of the horned altar – suggest a cultic function for the building.

The limestone altar is 45 cm. high, 28 x 25 cm. at the base and 34 x 34 cm. at the top. This type of altar is well known from the Israelite strata of other sites, e.g. at Tel Dan (Biran 1974); at neighbouring Megiddo in Strata V-II (*Megiddo Cult*:12-13; Pl. XII; *Megiddo II*: Fig. 102; Pl. 254:1-2); at Gezer (*Gezer II*:424; Fig. 507); at Lachish (*Lachish V*: Pl. 27:3); at Arad (Aharoni 1968); and Beer-sheba (Aharoni 1973: 255; Pl. 71A).

Stratum IV, destroyed in a violent conflagration, was completely covered by a deposit about one metre thick of pulverized brick and ash (Fig. 2).

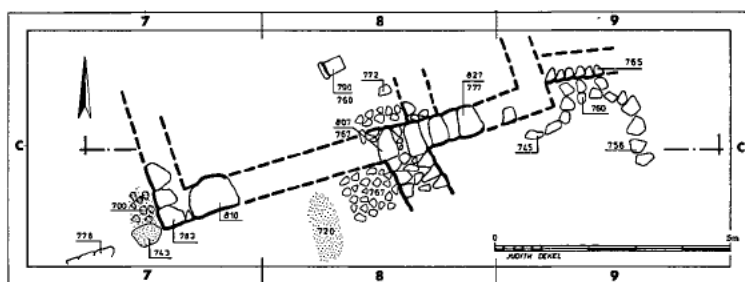


Fig. 4. Plan of Stratum IV.

The building remains of all three Israelite strata (VI–IV) were found only in Squares C7–C8–C9), viz. from the summit to about half-way down the slope. Although Squares C5–C6 were excavated to level 3.5 m., i.e. the level of Stratum VIII in Square C8, no building remains were found, but only deposits of burnt-and-powdered brick and ash mixed with sherds from the period of the Israelite Monarchy, apparently resulting from the fire that destroyed Stratum IV and spilled down the slope of the tel. Presumably the three occupational levels of the Israelite Monarchy period were located on the summit and upper part of the tel. Somewhere near the middle of the slope (between Squares C7 and C6) the city wall of this period is probably buried (see Fig. 2, where conjectured wall is marked). The enormously thick layer of fallen brick and ash (rising as high as 3–4 metres) deposited near the foot of the slope probably resulted from the collapsed remains of this wall.

THE POTTERY

The pottery from Strata VI–V, although rather limited in quantity, clearly dates to the 10th–early 9th centuries B.C.E.; no differences could be detected between the pottery of the two strata, except perhaps for the cooking-pots (see below). The same applies to the architectural remains. Stratum IV, on the basis of the ceramic evidence, dates from the beginning of the 9th to the middle of the 8th centuries B.C.E. Thus, Strata VI–V–IV all belong to the period of the Israelite Monarchy, and their pottery may be treated as a homogeneous group.

Bowls: A relatively large number of bowls were found, many of which have parallels in Iron Age II (10th–9th centuries B.C.E.) at other northern Israel sites. An interesting specimen in the bowl with black and red decoration (Fig. 9:8), apparently a local imitation of a Cypro-Phoenician vessel. Also noteworthy are the bar-handled bowls (Fig. 9:13–15), one of which came from Stratum VI and the other two from the deposit of fallen bricks outside the conjectured city wall. The rounded bowl (Fig. 9:18) is paralleled by a similar one from the Iron Age tombs (Pl. 3:4). The delicate sherd from Stratum IV (Pl. 2:5) probably belongs to the family of Samaritan bowls, judging by its light yellow clay and red-burnished stripe.

Only in Stratum IV do later types begin to make their appearance. An outstanding example is the two-handled bowl (Fig. 9:2) which is common from the 8th century onwards, especially in the south of the country; so far only a very few specimens have been found in the north.

Cooking-pots (Fig. 10:1–12): Aside from the bowls, cooking-pots were the most common vessels. Despite the short time-span of the three Israelite strata, the development of the cooking-pots may be traced from one phase to the next: they lose their indentation at the neck in Stratum VI, and the “axe” rim of the earlier strata (Fig. 10:13–15) becomes flatter and longer, lying closer to the body of the vessel (Fig. 10:11–12). The carinated profile, however, remains unchanged. In Stratum V (Fig. 10:8–10) the former type continues (Fig. 10:9), but there is greater variation in the shape of the triangular projection, which in general is less protuberant. In Stratum IV some of the earlier forms continue (Fig. 10:4–7), but the first of the cooking-pots with two loop handles (Fig. 10:1–3) already appears, while the previously carinated body becomes rounded.

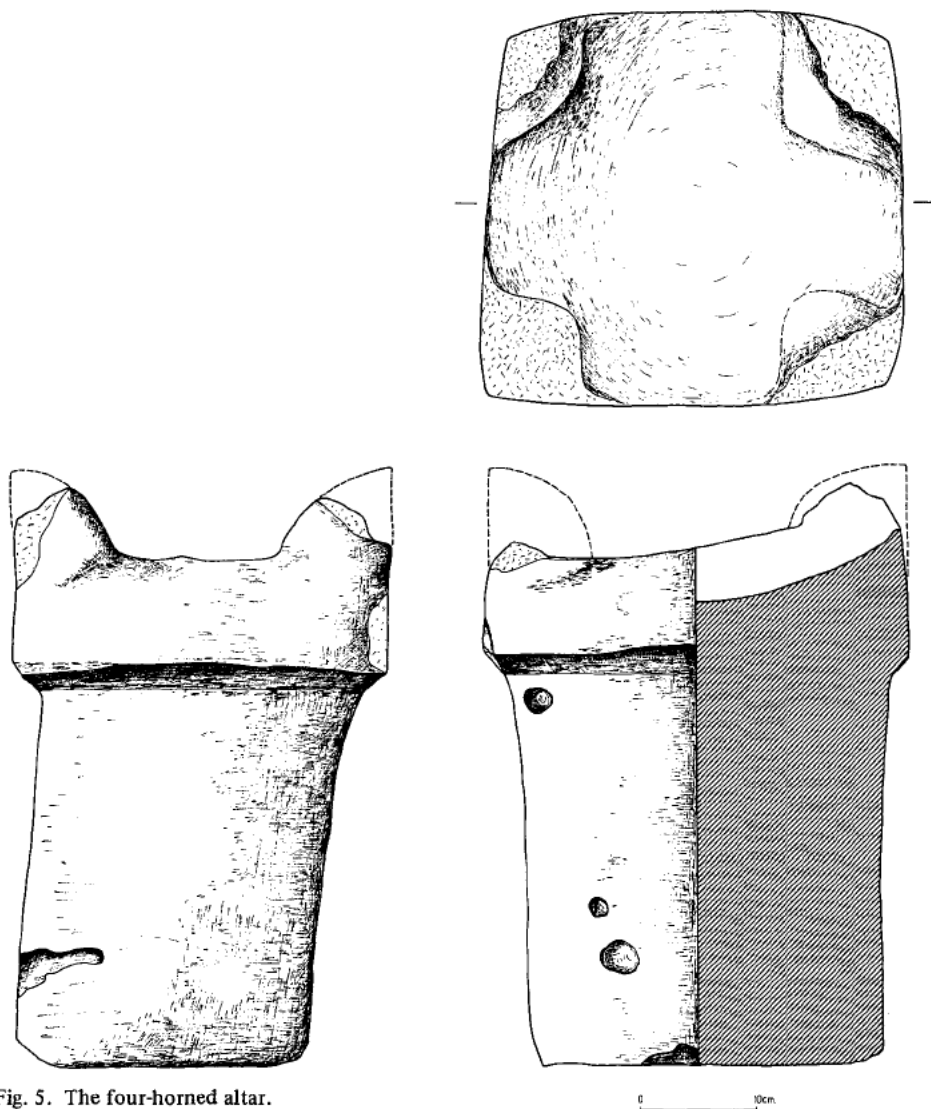


Fig. 5. The four-horned altar.

Comparison with finds from other sites in northern Israel shows the same sequence of development (Amiran 1969:Pl. 75), thus dating the cooking-pots from Strata VI–V at Tel Kedesh to the 10th–9th centuries and the two-handled pots from Stratum IV somewhat later (particularly the pot of Fig. 10:1). Since both types were found in the same stratum at Kedesh it may be assumed that only a very short period of time is involved, i.e., late 9th–early 8th century B.C.E. Furthermore, the two handled cooking-pots at this site are perhaps the earliest representatives of this type. Later in the 8th century and throughout the 7th century this type becomes more common, while the handleless pot with triangular rim is already on its way out.

Baking tray (Pl. 2:4): The sherds of the baking tray found in Stratum IV belong to a type common throughout Iron Age II. An identical tray came from Hazor Strata X–IX (10th–9th centuries B.C.E.; *Hazor III–IV*:Pl. 211:16) and similar ones from Megiddo Strata VI–V (10 century B.C.E.; *Megiddo I*:Pl. 31:152; *Megiddo II*:Pls. 85:10–11; 144:18).

Beer jug: The fragment of a strainer (Fig. 10:16) from Stratum V apparently belongs to the type of beer jug having a long curved spout, which is quite well known from Iron Age II strata in northern Israel. Such beer jugs usually have a trumpet base and are red burnished (*Megiddo I*:Pl. 8:175).

Juglets (Fig. 10:17–18). Both of these were found in Stratum VI. Juglet 10:17, with its ovoid body and pointed base, probably dating to the beginning of Iron II (early 10th century), continues the Early Israelite tradition, while juglet 10:18 exhibits characteristics such as the degenerative, pinched-in base, more distinctive of Iron Age II.

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS

Other finds, all common to the Israelite period, may be mentioned briefly:

The jar handles with potters' marks (Fig. 11:2–3, 5–7, 9) all came from Stratum IV. An interesting parallel to the potter's mark resembling the Hebrew letter *zayin* (Fig. 11:9; Pl. 2:14) is seen on a body sherd from Hazor Stratum VI dating to the first half of the 9th century (*Hazor III–IV*:Pl. 359:12).

Several "loom weights"⁴ of unbaked clay (e.g. Pl. 2:16) were found clustered together in Square C8 of Stratum IV (Fig. 4). The clay stopper from Stratum IV (Pl. 2:12) is made from a potsherd rounded at both ends; at comparative sites, many such stoppers are incised with a potter's mark (*Hazor III–IV*:Pls. 187:17–18; 359:6–7).

Two of the five spindle whorls found in the excavations (Fig. 11:14) are from Stratum IV. One of these, squat and convex, is made of black polished stone; the second is a rounded-off pottery sherd. The other three whorls (Fig. 11:11–13) were found in Stratum III (Persian period); two of these, of grey polished stone, are similar in shape to the spindle whorls of the earlier period; the third, of clay, most closely resembles the whorls of the Israelite period from Megiddo, thus indicating that the earlier forms of spindle whorls continued into the Persian period.

4 These objects are considered by many archaeologists to have been "heat accumulators" used for cooking and heating purposes.

Many grinding stones were found in Strata VII–IV. Most are dome-shaped and made of limestone; a few are of basalt. A granite pestle and mortar, presumably a pair, found in Square C6 of Stratum III (Persian period) may be distinguished from those of the Israelite period by shape as well as the fact that they were made of granite, which must have been imported from the south. The crudely carved limestone object found in Stratum IV (Pl. 2:20; Fig. 11:10) is perhaps an unfinished figurine.

STRATUM III – PERSIAN PERIOD

This is the first period of occupation at Tel Kedesh in which most of the mound was built up, although the structural remains were badly damaged by the intensive activity of Stratum II (see below and Figs. 3; 7). In Squares C7–C8 and D8 a number of *tabun* (baking ovens) were uncovered, apparently in an open courtyard. Structural remains were found in Square C9 (Wall W10 and section of floor) and in Square B8 (which was excavated only down to Stratum III), where another wall segment was found, its opening marked by a socket stone. In Square C7 there was nothing except a rubbish pit filled with ashes, debris and Persian sherds. Remains of the main building of this stratum were exposed in Square C5 on the slopes of the tel and include Wall W12, partly constructed from reused ashlar of the Israelite period, a socket stone marking the opening in the wall. A section of floor with a stone mortar (Fig. 6) lying on it was exposed south of this wall. These remains probably belong to several different structures which extended over the summit and down the slopes of the tel.

Since the pottery of the Persian period, including the finds from Tel Kedesh, has been dealt with extensively elsewhere (Stern 1973: *passim*), we shall mention here only a few of the local types: large bowls (Fig. 8:3–5); cooking-pots (Fig. 8:6); storage jars (Fig. 8:9–10); basket-handled jars (Pl. 2:13); amphorae (Fig. 8:12–13); holemouth jars (Fig. 8:11); juglets (Fig. 8:14–15); lamps (Fig. 8:16); impressed cane-and-wedge decoration (Pl. 2:3; Fig. 8:17). Imported Attic vessels (Pl. 2:6–8) were also found, as well as a group of sherds with painted decoration (Pl. 2:2).

STRATUM II – ROMAN PERIOD

Structural remains of the Roman period appeared throughout the excavated area (Figs. 2; 7), indicating that both the summit and slopes were fully built up at this time. Fragmentary remains of a large building containing a rectangular cement-lined basin with three descending steps were uncovered on the summit (Squares C8–D8); remains of another large room in Squares C6–C7 may have belonged to the latter building since the walls of both were oriented in the same direction and both were partially constructed of ashlar taken from earlier (mainly Israelite) strata. Especially notable is a large socket stone found in the lower course of Wall W8 (Fig. 7).

Most of the pottery finds were ribbed sherds from jugs and jars of the type shown in Pl. 2:9. A few of these sherds were painted with white stripes – a type of decoration common to both the Roman and Byzantine period – but most of the pottery belongs

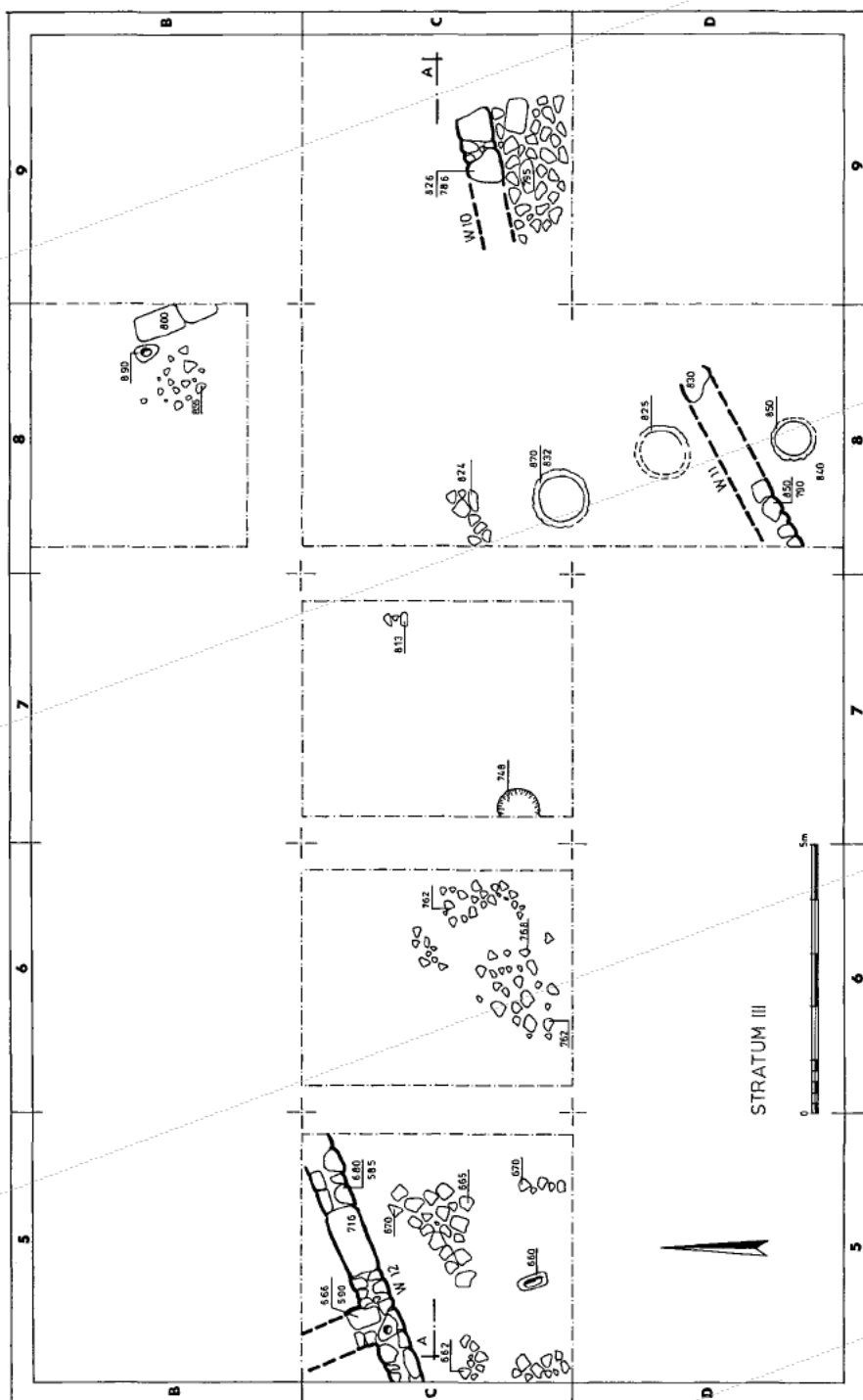


Fig. 6. Plan of Stratum III.

solely to the Late Roman period (2nd–4th centuries C.E.). A coin from the city mint of Dor (dating to 75/6–64/5) was found on the site, showing that the beginning of occupation in the Roman period could have been as early as the end of the first century C.E.

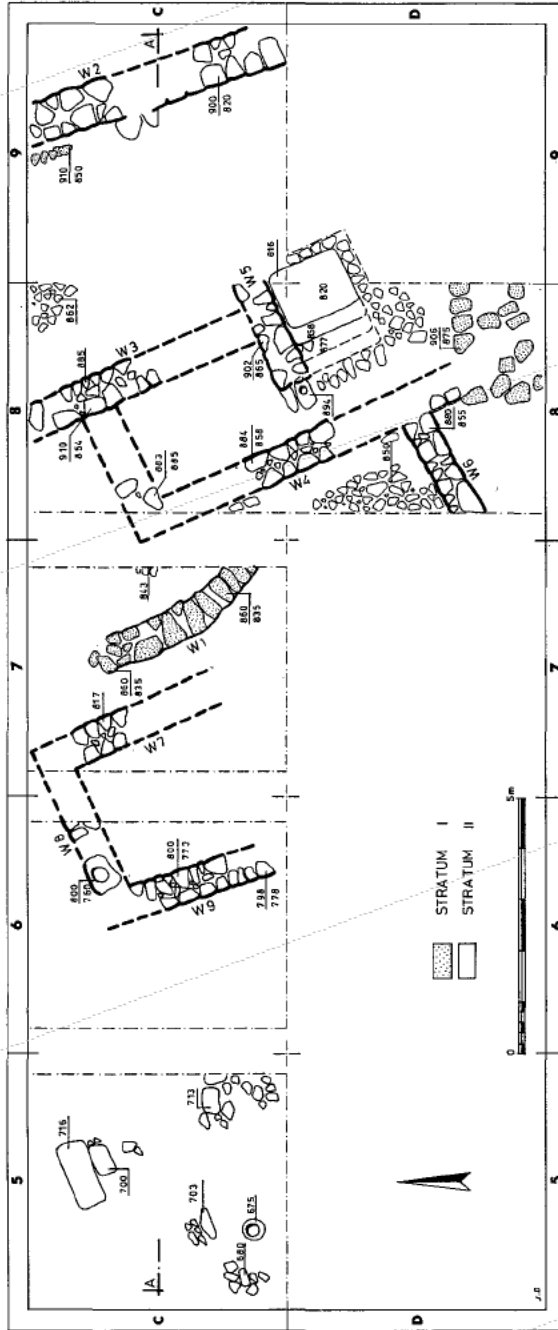


Fig. 7. Plan of Strata II-I.

Evidently the renewal of a flourishing settlement at Tel Kedesh during the Late Roman period was connected with the large Roman military base at nearby Legio,⁵ just as in earlier times the occupation of this site was intimately linked with the vicissitudes of neighbouring Megiddo.

The destruction of Stratum II may date to the Gallus rebellion (351 C.E.). At any rate, a coin was found on the tel from the reign of Constantius II (337–361 C.E.), whose army suppressed this rebellion.⁶

STRATUM I – ARAB PERIOD

Lying close to the surface of the mound, this stratum has been badly eroded and disturbed by recent tombs; from the few wall segments remaining (Squares C9, D8 and C7; Fig. 7) no plan is ascertainable. In fact, we do not know whether these fragmentary walls belong to one or several strata, although the pottery found both on the surface of the tel and in the building levels of this stratum attest to two separate occupational phases dating to the 8th century and 12th–13th centuries C.E. respectively.

The outstanding vessel from the earlier phase is an intact oil lamp (Fig. 8:1) of the Early Arabic period.⁷ Since 9th century Arabic pottery was found at neighbouring Megiddo,⁸ it is possible that the Early Arabic occupation at Tel Kedesh likewise continued into the 9th century, although the pottery evidence is not conclusive.

Among the surface finds were several sherds (e.g. Fig. 8:2) with violet-red decoration. Vessels decorated in this style were recently found in large quantities in the Crusader fortress Belvoir (Kokhav Hayarden), apparently belonging to the interval between the

5 The Roman military base at Legio was established in order to guard the main route from the provincial capital at Caesarea, to the Jewish centre in the Galilee, and hence the paved road from Legio to Sepphoris was of vital importance. Avi-Yonah (1962:45) was of the opinion that the base was established only after the Bar Kokhba rebellion (132 C.E.), when the Sixth Legion X Ferrata was stationed there; recent finds in the region indicate however that the military base existed prior to the rebellion. (See Lifshitz 1959; Hecker 1961).

If the theory that the Romans occupied Tel Kedesh prior to establishing the new centre at Legio is accepted, then there may be some evidence that the military base was built immediately after the destruction of the Second Temple. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the major flourish of Kedesh – as indicated by the pottery evidence – was in the 2nd–4th centuries C.E.

6 See Avi-Yonah 1962:151–158; we wish to express our appreciation to A. Kindler of the Kadman Numismatic Museum, who identified the coins. The numismatic evidence may be supplemented by the evidence from Megiddo, which in this period apparently served as a burial ground for the settlement at Legio. In one of the Megiddo tombs (T.5) were found similar types of pottery as well as a coin of Elagabalus (218–222 C.E.) (See *Megiddo Tombs*:127; Pl. 171:9).

7 Cf. the lamp from this period found at Ramle (Rosen-Ayalon and Eitan 1968:139–140).

8 Also found at Megiddo: A coin struck in Damascus by Sultan Ahmad ibn Tubun (868–883 C.E.) from Tomb 5 (*Megiddo Tombs*:127; Pl. 171:10).

abandonment of this stronghold by the Crusaders (1190 C.E.) and its complete razing by order of the Damascus caliph in 1200 C.E.⁹ (Naturally, this type of pottery may have been in use over a longer period of time). In any case, these finds indicate the existence of some kind of settlement at Tel Kedesh in Medieval times.

IRON AGE TOMBS

Two strata of tombs were exposed when a drainage channel was dug some 50 m. north of the tel. The upper stratum, lying close to the surface, contained tombs of the Roman period contemporaneous with Stratum II, while approximately one metre deeper was found a series of cist tombs of the Israelite period. Since both tombs layers were destroyed by the drainage works, the pottery was scattered,¹⁰ making it impossible to determine its original provenance. If nevertheless we have included a selection of this pottery here (Pl. 3), it is because of its important comparative value: all of the Iron Age pottery belongs to the 10th century B.C.E., thus indicating that the tombs of this period were used to bury the occupants of the Strata IV–V settlement at Tel Kedesh. A comparative analysis therefore reinforces our suggested dating of these strata based on the meagre ceramic evidence from the tel.¹¹

9 See Ben-Dov 1969:22, 27.

10 Many sherds and some vessels were salvaged by members of Kibbutz Givat Oz and are now stored in the kibbutz; we also managed to collect a few vessels protruding from the cutting.

11 Some of this pottery was photographed by us during a visit to Arieh Drori at Kibbutz Givat Oz, the results being somewhat non-professional.

FIGURE 8. POTTERY OF STRATA III (PERSIAN/HELLENISTIC) AND I (ARABIC/MEDIEVAL)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Photo see Pl.</i>
1	Lamp	205	I	C8	Pinkish clay, geometric relief design.	
2	Bowl	206/2	I	C6	Pinkish clay, grey core, triangle design on rim.	
3	Bowl	304/8	III	C5	Yellowish clay, pinkish core.	
4	Bowl	211/3	III	C6	Yellowish clay, yellow core.	
5	Bowl	109/1	III	C7	Yellowish clay, brown core, small white grits.	
6	Cooking-pot	402/38	III	D8	Pinkish clay, brown core, small white grits.	
7	Holemouth jar	206/1	III	C6	Pinkish-yellow clay, pink core, excellent firing.	
8	Bowl	118/1	III		Pinkish clay and core, excellent firing.	
9	Storage jar	2/1	Surface	C8	Yellowish clay, grey core, excellent firing.	
10	Storage jar	118/6	III	C7	Reddish clay, brown core.	
11	Holemouth jar	208/2	III	C6	Greyish-pink clay, grey core, excellent firing.	
12	Amphora	221/2	III	C6	Pinkish clay, brown core, excellent firing.	
13	Amphora	221/1	III	C6	Pinkish clay, brown core, excellent firing.	
14	Juglet	17	III	C8	Yellowish clay, pinkish core.	
15	Juglet	601/2	Surface	B8	Pinkish clay and core.	
16	Lamp	303/1	III	C5	Pinkish clay and core.	
17	Bowl sherd	21/6	III	C8	Yellowish clay, pinkish core, incised zigzags and dots.	2:3

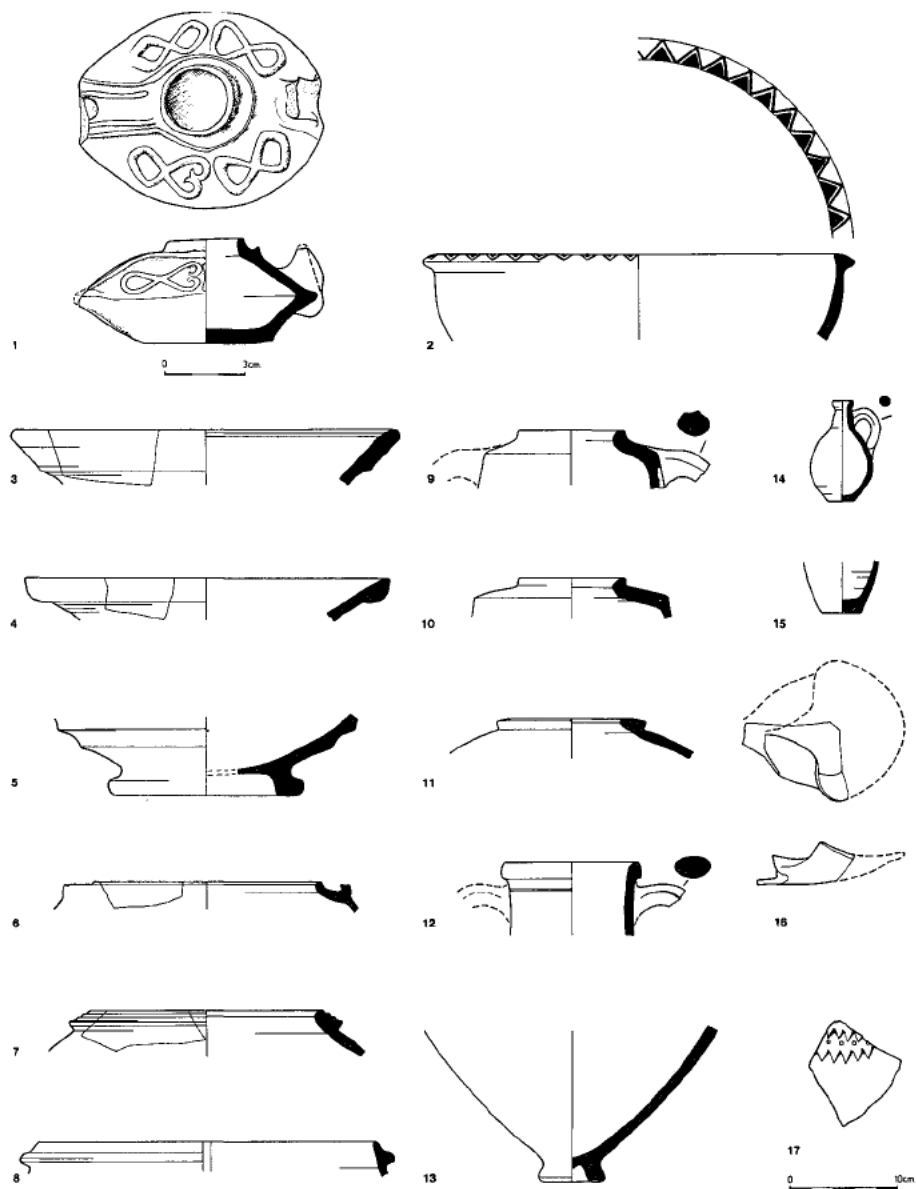


Fig. 8

FIGURE 9. BOWLS OF STRATA VIII-IV (IRON AGE).

<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Squares</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Photo see Pl.</i>
1	Bowl	123/1	IV	C7	Pinkish clay, grey core, white slip.	
2	Bowl	506/13	IV	C9	Pinkish clay, grey core, large white grits, medium firing.	
3	Bowl	52/1	IV	C8	Pinkish clay and core, red burnishing.	
4	Bowl	405/2	IV	D8	Reddish clay, brown core, red burnishing.	
5	Bowl	511/2	IV	C9	Pinkish clay, grey core, red slip; ring base.	
6	Bowl	504/6	IV	C9	Pinkish clay, grey core, interior and outer rim horizontally burnished.	
7	Bowl	28/8	IV	C8	Red clay, grey core, irregular red burnishing outside.	
8	Bowl	21/1	IV	C8	Brown clay, reddish-brown slip, brown core, black and red decoration on rim.	
9	Bowl	130/5	V	C7	Pinkish clay, grey core.	
10	Bowl	121/1	V	C7	Pinkish clay, grey core, small white grits.	
11	Bowl	130/11	V	C7	Reddish clay, grey core, small white grits, red burnishing.	
12	Bowl	131/7	VI	C7	Reddish clay, red core, red burnishing.	
13	Bowl	224/4	brick debris	C6	Pinkish-yellow clay, light grey core, burnished; bar handle.	
14	Bowl	1/3	brick debris	C8	Brownish-yellow clay and core; bar handle.	
15	Bowl	61/14	VI	C8	Light-brown clay, grey core, white large grits; bar handle.	
16	Bowl	131/3	VI	C7	Pinkish clay, dark-grey core, burnished.	
17	Bowl	52/1	IV	C8	Pinkish yellow clay, pink core, small grey grits, red slip.	
18	Bowl	131/2	VI	C7	Pinkish clay, grey core.	
19	Bowl	62/3	VII	C8	Pinkish clay, grey core, large white grits.	
20	Bowl	62/2	VII	C8	Pinkish-grey clay, grey core.	
21	Bowl	65/1	VIII	C8	Pinkish-grey clay, grey core, large white grits.	2:21

Stern and Beit Arieh: Excavations at Tel Kedesh

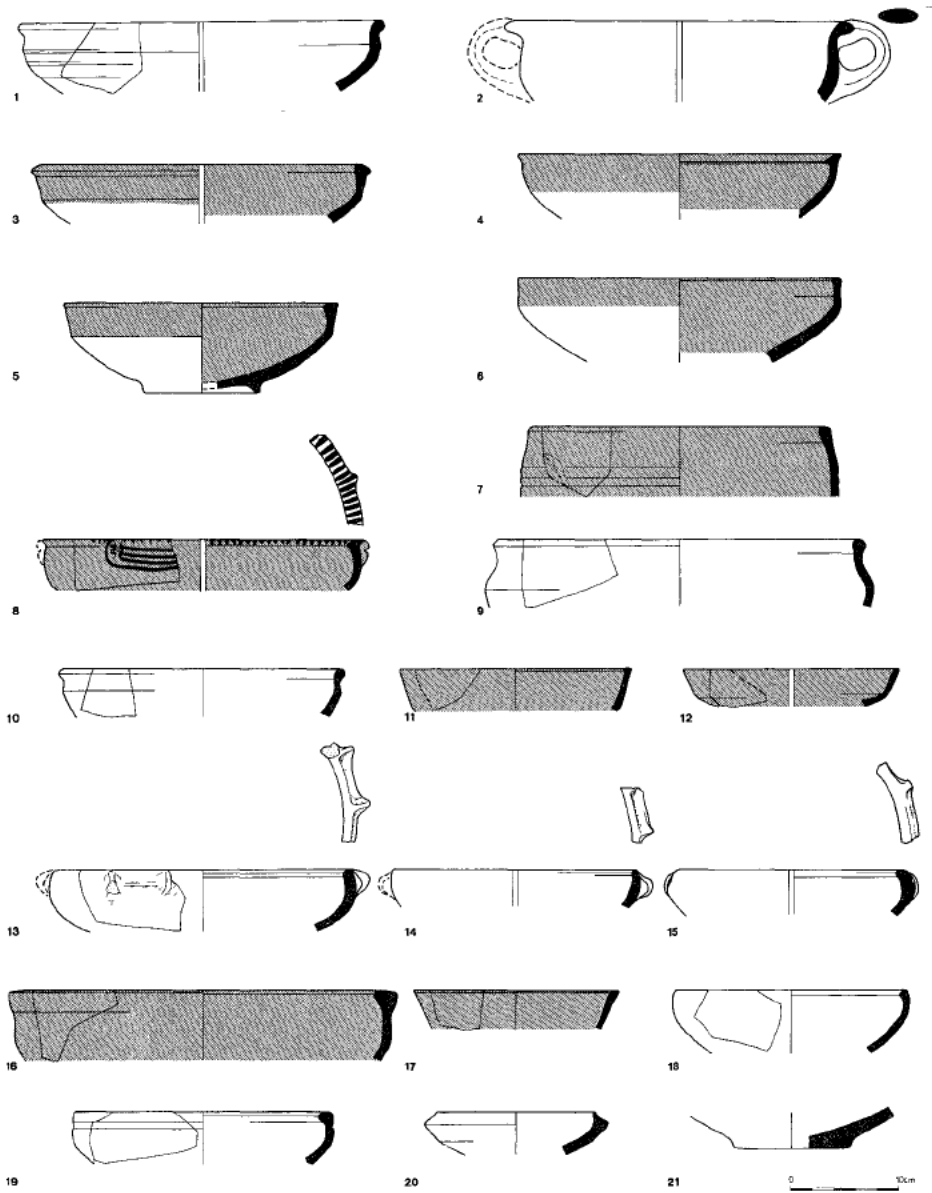


Fig. 9

FIGURE 10. COOKING-POTS AND JUGLETS OF STRATA VIII-IV (IRON AGE).

<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Cooking-pot	58/1	IV	C8	Brownish-pink clay, grey core, small white grits.
2	Cooking-pot	512/1	IV	C9	Brown clay, grey core, large white grits.
3	Cooking-pot	58/5	IV	C8	Brownish-grey clay, small white grits.
4	Cooking-pot	508/8	IV	C9	Brownish-grey clay, small white grits.
5	Cooking-pot	26/1	IV	C8	Brownish-grey clay, small white grits.
6	Cooking-pot	57/4	IV	C8	Brownish-grey clay, small white grits.
7	Cooking-pot	27/2	IV	C8	Brownish-grey clay, small white grits.
8	Cooking-pot	130/2	V	C7	Greyish-black clay, grey core, small white grits
9	Cooking-pot	558/5	V	C8	Greyish-black clay, grey core, small white grits.
10	Cooking-pot	59/5	V	C8	Grey clay and core, small light-grey grits.
11	Cooking-pot	61/3	VI	C8	Grey clay and core, small light-grey grits.
12	Cooking-pot	134/7	VI	C7	Grey clay and core, small white grits.
13	Cooking-pot	62/1	VII	C8	Grey clay and core, small white grits.
14	Cooking-pot	65/8	VIII	C8	Grey clay and core, small white grits.
15	Cooking-pot	65/4	VIII	C8	Grey clay and core, small white grits.
16	Jug: Strainer spout	559/5	V	C8	Pink clay and core, small grey grits.
17	Juglet	132/1	VI	C8	Light pink clay, pink core.
18	Juglet	61/1	VI	C8	Yellowish clay, grey core.
19	Juglet	62/5	VII	C8	Pinkish clay and core.

Stern and Beit Arieh: Excavations at Tel Kedesh

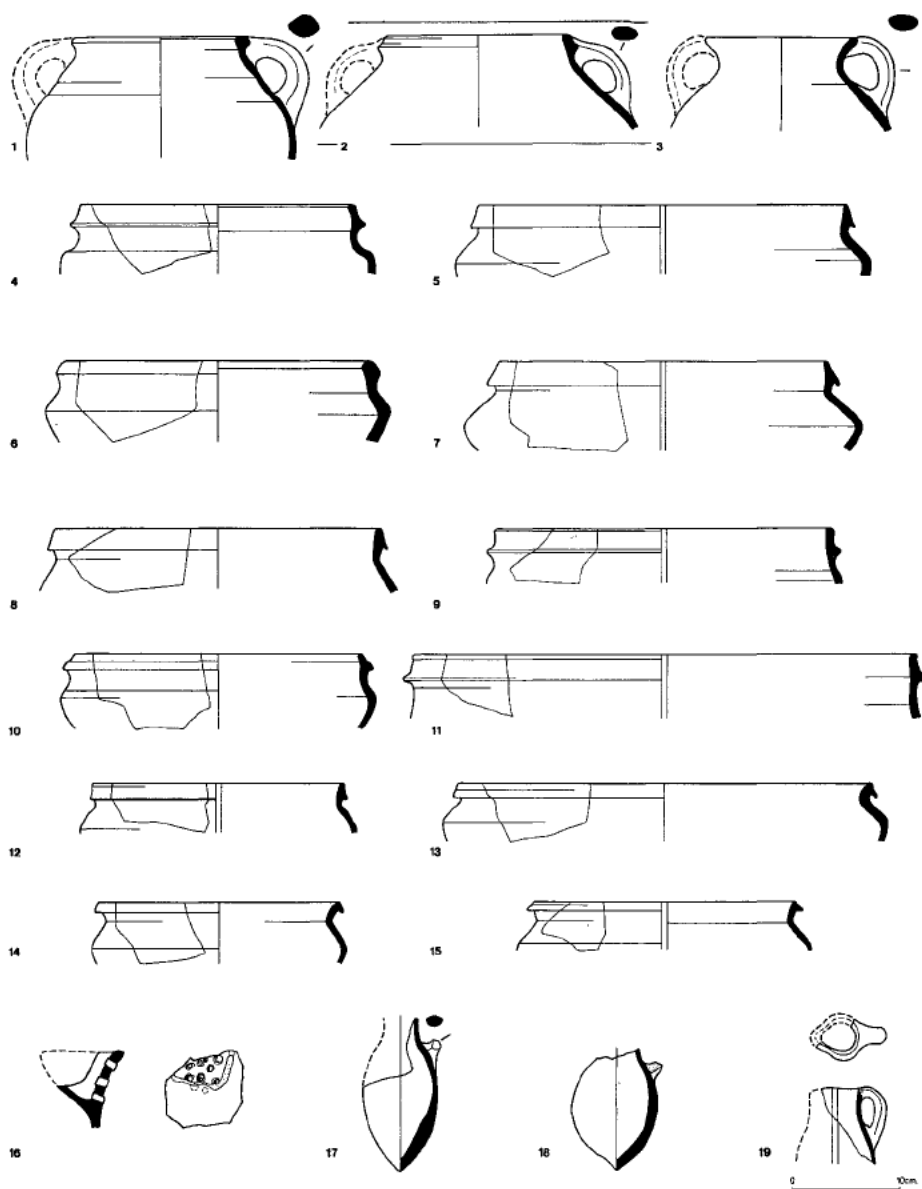


Fig. 10

FIGURE 11. HANDLES AND MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS OF STRATUM IV; VESSELS FROM IRON AGE TOMBS.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Stratum	Square	Description	Photo see Pl.
1	Baking tray	307/4	IV	C5	Brown clay, pinkish-brown core, small white grits.	
2	Storage jar handle	508/2	IV	C9	Impressed potter's mark.	
3	Storage jar handle	508/6	IV	C9	Impressed potter's mark.	
4	Bowl	101/3	Surface	C7	Brownish-pink clay, light grey core, red-brown decoration.	2:10
5	Storage jar handle	505a	IV	C9	Impressed potter's mark.	
6	Storage jar handle	28/2	IV	C8	Impressed potter's mark.	
7	Storage jar handle	558/2	IV	C8	Impressed potter's mark.	
8	Pithos handle	28/9	Surface	C8	Impressed potter's mark.	
9	Storage jar handle	207	IV	C6	Engraved potter's mark (<i>zayin</i> in Ancient Hebrew).	2:14
10	Figurine (?)	117	IV	C7	Limestone, engraved.	2:20
11	Spindle whorl	11	III	C8	Grey stone, polished.	2:18
12	Spindle whorl	213	III	C6	Grey stone, polished	2:19
13	Spindle whorl	113	III	C7	Clay.	2:17
14	Spindle whorl	28	IV	C6	Black stone, polished.	
15	Knife	T.1/4	Tomb		Bronze.	3:13
16	Storage jar	T.1/3	Tomb		Greyish-pink clay, grey core, large white grits, black encrustation	3:1
17	Juglet	T.3	Tomb		Pinkish clay, grey core, small white grits.	
18	Juglet	T.2	Tomb		Pinkish clay, grey core, small white grits.	
19	Juglet	T.4	Tomb		Pinkish clay, grey core, small white grits.	
20	Juglet	T.1/2	Inside Storage jar 16		Pinkish clay, grey core, small white grits	3:7

HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT AT TEL KEDESH

The earliest occupation of the site (Stratum VIII) goes back to the Late Canaanite period (14th–13th centuries B.C.E.). After the destruction of this settlement, occupation was renewed at the beginning of the Iron Age (Stratum VII), apparently coming to an end in a holocaust around the middle of the 12th century. Since typical pottery from the first Israelite settlement period was found on the surface of the tel, presumably there was some occupation between Strata VII and VI, although there is no evidence as to the nature of this period of habitation. Thereafter, the site seems to have been deserted until about the beginning of the 10th century (Stratum VI) when settlement was resumed, continuing almost uninterruptedly throughout the Israelite Monarchy up till the Assyrian conquest in the late 8th century (Strata V–IV), when the settlement was once again thoroughly destroyed and the tel abandoned.

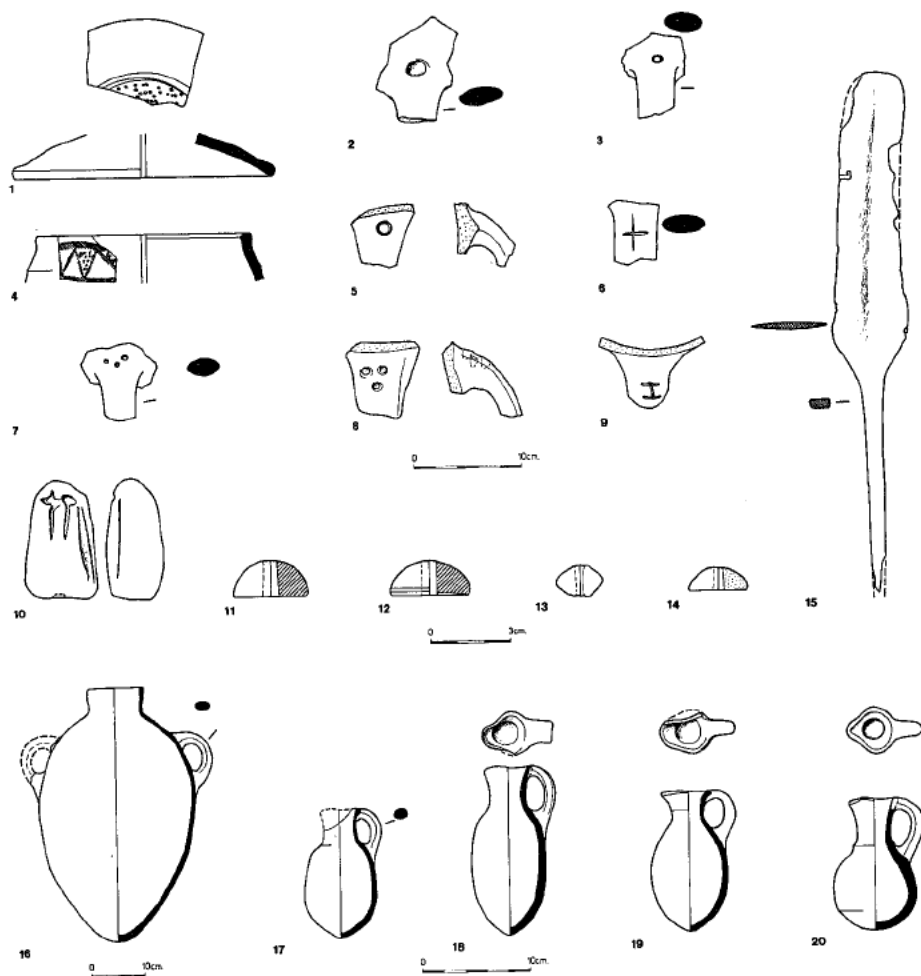


Fig. 11

In the Persian period (Stratum III) Tel Kedesh came to life once again and apparently this settlement was still in existence at the beginning of the Hellenistic period (late 4th or early 3rd century), when it was destroyed, perhaps in one of the events connected with the Diadochean wars. A new settlement (Stratum II) rose on its ruins only in the first century C.E. (after the destruction of the Second Temple) and continued to exist until the Gallus rebellion in 351 C.E.

The final settlement (Stratum I) dates from the Early Arabic period (8th century C.E.) although it may have been partly rebuilt in the Medieval period (12th–13th centuries).

Following is a comparative stratigraphic table for Tel Kedesh and Megiddo:

<i>Kedesh</i>	<i>Megiddo</i>
12th–13th C.E. pottery on surface.	–
I	Isolated finds from tombs.
II	Transfer of centre from Megiddo to Legio; at Megiddo: isolated finds from tombs.
III	I
–	II
–	III
IV	IVA
V	IVB–VA
VI	VB
VII (?)	VIA–B
VII	VIIA
VIII	VIII

The results of the excavations at Tel Kedesh bring to the fore once again the problem of whether or not this tel is to be identified with the *Kedesh* of Heber the Kenite (Judg. 4:11) mentioned in the battle of Deborah, as distinguished from *Kedesh Naphtali* (v. 6).

There are three sites in northern Israel having *Kedesh* as a component of their names: (1) Tel Kedesh (Tell Qedes) in the Upper Galilee; (2) Khirbet el-Qadish, near Tiberias; (3) Tel Kedesh (Tell Abu Qudeis), excavated by our team.

In the opinion of most scholars, Tell Qedes in the Galilee is not the Kedesh of the Deborah story, since excavations have shown that it was a large fortified Canaanite city; also, Khirbet el-Qadish is generally identified today with *Kedesh Naphtali*, since the biblical account clearly implies that it was located east of Mount Tabor. However, opinion is still divided over which site was the Kedesh of Heber the Kenite. A few scholars believe that *Kedesh Naphtali*, was intended in both verses, but others maintain that Judg. 4:6 refers to an entirely different place called "*Kedesh*" – and identify the latter with Tell Abu Qudeis.¹²

The latter assumption is supported to some degree by the findings of our excavations at Tell Abu Qudeis: first by the 12th century B.C.E. pottery of Stratum VII (the battle of Deborah presumably having been fought in the 12th century), and secondly – and mainly – by the cult site and altar testifying to an Israelite tradition of sanctity associated with this tel. Moreover, the Kedesh of Judg. 4:11 is obviously linked with the battle on the Kishon near "Taanach by the waters of Megiddo" (Judg. 5:19), and this description corresponds exceedingly well with the location of Tell Abu Qudeis.

12. For discussion of this subject, see Aharoni 1957:99; 1970; Garstang 1931:301; Saarisalo 1927: 82–84; Givon 1957:157–159; Mazar 1965; Kochavi 1963.

Description of Pottery Plates (Pls. 2-3)

PLATE 2

Miscellaneous Sherds and Objects: Late Bronze Age to Arabic Period.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Drawing see Fig.</i>
1	Pithos rim	59a/1	Surface	C8	Grey clay and core, large black grits.	
2	Body sherd	211/1	III	C6	Greyish-yellow clay, pinkish core, red-brown decoration, excellently fired.	
3	Bowl	21/6	III	C8		8:17
4	Baking tray sherd	312/5	IV	C5	Reddish-brown clay, greyish core, incised with lines and reed impressions.	
5	Bowl rim	52/1	IV	C8	Light yellowish clay, pinkish core, large grey grits, red burnished stripe.	
6	Lekythos	1/14	Surface	C8	Black base, white exterior.	
7	Bowl rim	206/3	IV	C6	Black burnished.	
8	Lekythos rim	201/14	III	C6	Black burnished.	
9	Body sherd of storage jar	201/8	II	C6	Black clay, pinkish core, decorated with white stripes, ribbed.	
10	Bowl rim	101b/3	Surface	C7		11:4
11	Body sherd	111/5	III	C7	Yellowish clay, pink core, red decoration.	
12	Stopper	128/3	IV	C7	Pinkish clay, grey core.	
13	Basket handle	108/2	III	C7	Yellow clay, grey core.	
14	Storage jar handle	207	IV	C6		11:9
15	Flask sherd	210/11	Surface		Pinkish clay, black core, decorated with red circles.	
16	Loom weight	417/2	IV	D8	Pinkish friable clay.	
17	Spindle whorl	118/3	IV	C7	Pinkish clay, grey core.	
18	Spindle whorl	11	III	C8		11:11
19	Spindle whorl	213	III	C6		11:12
20	Figurine (?)	117	IV	C7	Limestone.	11:10
21	Base of bowl	65/1	VIII	C8		9:21

PLATE 3

Finds from Israelite Tombs.

No.	Type	Description	Drawing see Fig.
1	Storage jar		11:16
2	Jug	Grey clay and core, large white grits.	
3	Jug	Grey clay and core, large white grits.	
4	Bowl	Pink clay and core.	
5	Chalice	Grey clay, large white grits.	
6	Flask	Pink clay, grey core.	
7	Juglet		11:20
8	Juglet	Black clay, black-grey core, large white grits.	
9	Flask	Pink clay, grey core.	
10	Juglet	Pink clay and core, highly fired, black decoration of concentric circles.	
11	Zoomorphic vessel	Pink clay.	
12	Zoomorphic vessel	Pink clay.	
13	Knife	Bronze.	11:15

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