

Joshua 2



<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/dig/tall-el-hammam-2/>

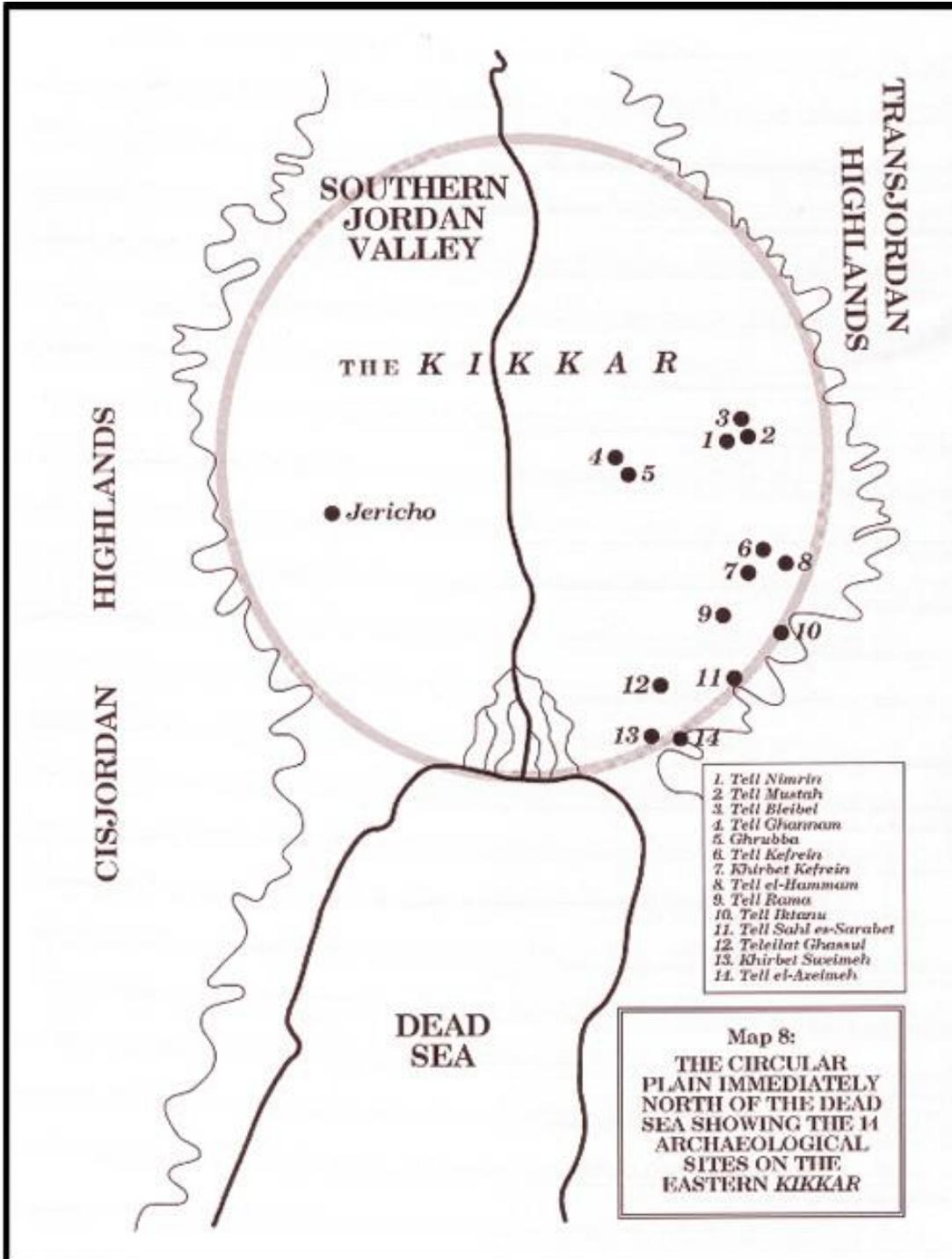
“**Tall el-Hammam**, located eight miles northeast of the mouth of the Jordan River as it enters the Dead Sea, was one of the largest Bronze Age cities in the S Levant during the Bronze Age. It anchored a major city-state that is likely identified in the Bible as the Cities of the Plain (referred to as Kikkar in Genesis 13-19). Hammam is a perfect match for Sodom itself. Along with its extensive megalithic field of stone circles, menhirs, and dolmens, the landscape of **Tall el-Hammam** has also been identified as:

- Abel Mizraim (Genesis 50:11) of Joseph’s era, and
- **Abel Shittim, the final camping sites of Moses and the Israelites before they crossed into Canaan (Numbers 33:49).**

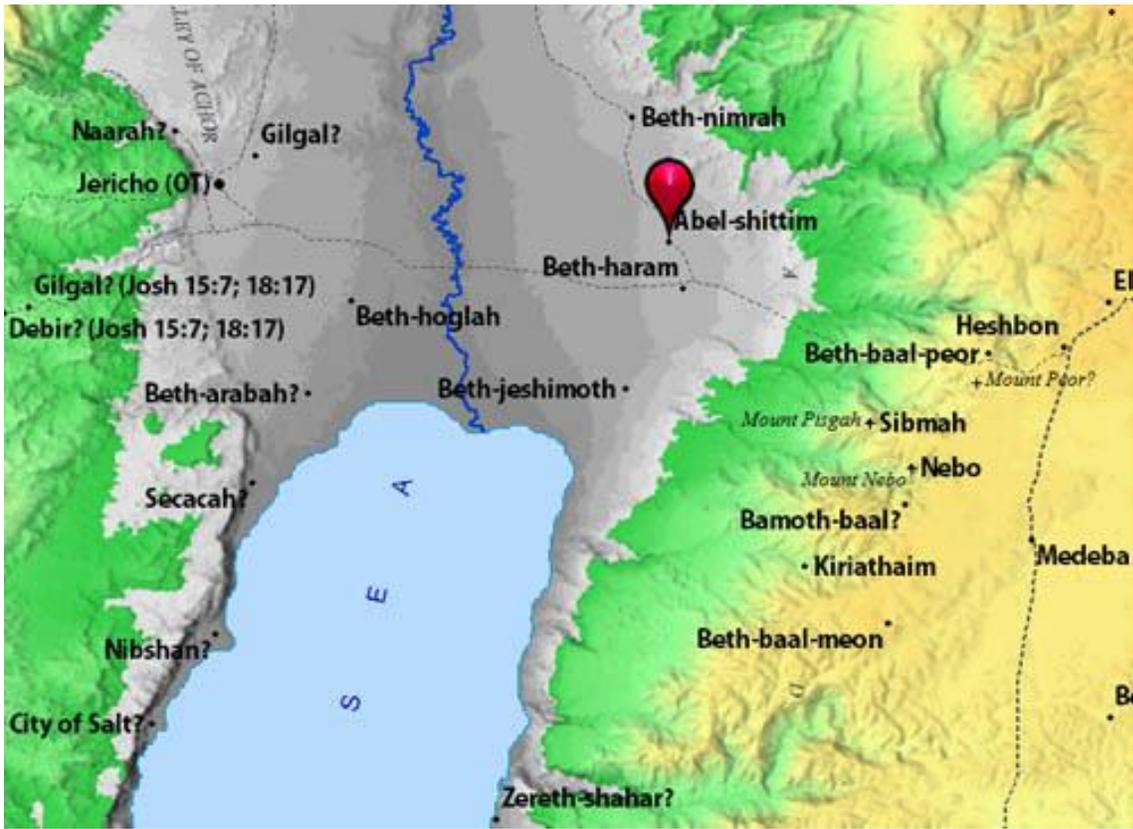


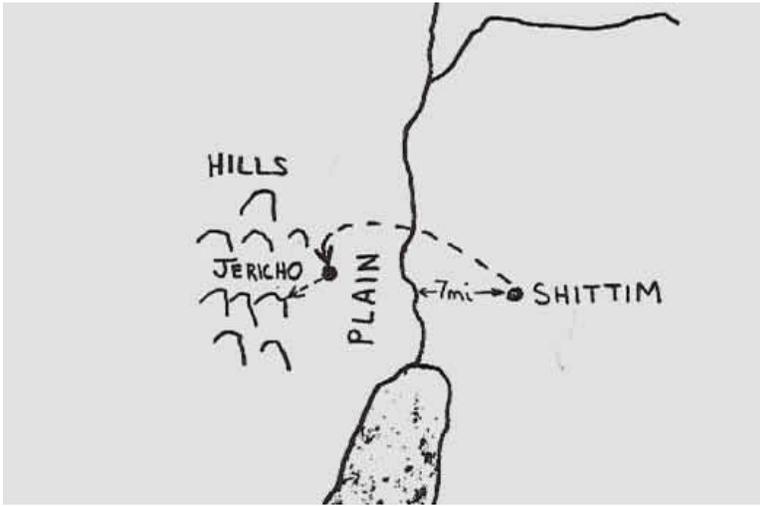
They found bones Saturday (Feb. 29, 2020) in the Middle Bronze Age stratification in the palace of Tall el-Hammam, or ancient Sodom at the destruction level..."I clarified a nicely-made mudbrick wall in the MBA palace complex's SW extremity in Square UA.2BB. Then, as we were going down in the destruction matrix next to the wall, made a grisly discovery: scattered human bone fragments including significant portions of two skulls. One skull has all but the lower jaw, the other has the full upper dentition with bone up

to half of the right eye socket. Next to the larger skull fragment was half a pelvis and a partial arm bone. Other disparate bones were scattered around the area amidst disintegrated mudbricks, bits and pieces of carbonized wood, and pottery sherds. Other human bone fragments had been encountered throughout the entire 1+m depth of the destruction matrix. Essentially, these bodies had been ripped to pieces and churned into the MB2 terminal destruction matrix. (Sorry we can't show any pics of this before it's published.)" (From: http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1105463482202&ca=86a0eebc-3f4e-444d-b366-01bc20ea6eac&fbclid=IwAR2iwPbdtkzvRzedZ3xIHfHTUXFIFrojV_BU6Jexjvh6gIEWFGLrTesVsOg)



https://biblearchaeology.org/images/archive/app_data/files/Slide-1.jpg









Remains of residences built up against the city wall

The base (retaining wall) of one of two walls going around Jericho. The mudbrick wall built on top collapsed.

Jericho



Retaining Wall

JERICHO

Mud brick wall of home attached to city wall

Mud bricks that remain from the homes that were attached to the wall of Jericho.
The stone retaining wall of Jericho is seen in the back ground.
Mud bricks would have stood on top this stone retaining wall



2:1 –

- Rahab's house was an inn, a tavern and a logical place for travelers (and, spies)
- Rahab's house would have been a source of information and cover
- The people are moving towards the Jordan in 3 days. The spies leave Moses and arrive in Jericho the same day. They hide in the mountains and meet Moses ready to cross the Jordan 3 days later.

2:2 –

- Jericho would have had a king who was the leader of the city-state of Jericho
- This king would have been answerable to a higher authority such as someone in Egypt
- The spies are detected, likely because Israel's camp is just across the Jordan and Jericho knows Israel is heading their way

2:3 –

2:4 –

- Rahab knows why the spies are there. She hides them before the king comes looking

2:6-

- The Gezer Calendar from 900 BC assigns the harvesting of flax immediately before the month of harvesting barley. Flax was harvested then in Feb/March
- Studies show that the Jordan Valley grew flax in irrigated fields as early as 1200 BC.
- Flax seeds yield linseed oil while the fiber produce 3d linen yarn. The yarn was made soaking the flax fibers until they were soft, drying them and bleaching them on the rooftops. They were then crushed and beaten and spun into yarn.

2:7 –

- The logical place for the kings men to pursue the spies is back towards the Jordan, so Rahab sends the spies the other direction into the mountains/hills

2:9 –

- Rahab's confession is the first of the Canaanites to convert. There was still grace and mercy available to those who would convert and join Israel.
- The Gibeonites also mention the very same thing to Joshua concerning the God of Israel and his deeds in 9:9-10.
- Rahab confesses that:
 - Israel's God has dominion over heaven and earth. She had been trained in Canaanite religion with their many gods, but here Rahab recites Israelite doctrine
 - YHWH is the only God and she uses the name YHWH (LORD) and not Baal, Asherah, Marduk, Ishtar.
 - Rahab's statement "in the heavens above and the earth below" has only appeared 3x before this and they were all in the context of affirming the single sovereignty of YHWH:
 - Exodus 20:4
 - Deut. 4:39
 - Deut. 5:8
- Rahab knew intimate knowledge and specific language from the writings of Moses while inside Jericho. Did she get it from travelers? Had it been broadcast from the wilderness?
- Rahab, a Canaanite, is one of four foreign women in Jesus genealogy:
 - Tamar – a Canaanite
 - Ruth- a Moabite
 - Bathsheba – Hittite
- All of Jericho had the opportunity to respond positively to YHWH

2:12 –

- "kindness" – *hesed* – means kindness, mercy, steadfast love, loyalty, faithfulness.
- They take an oath which was serious business. Consider the oath given to the Gibeonites

2:15 –

- "on" the wall or "in" the wall is the normal meaning of the Hebrew preposition (*b-*)
- Casement walls were two walls with fill in-between.
- The house could have been built outside the wall, but attached to the wall

2:17-

- The scarlet cord:
 - The spies used a rope (*hebel*) to escape
 - "this cord of scarlet thread" is *tiqwat hut hassani hazzeh*. "This cord" (*tiqwa*) would have been:
 - A cord the spies had brought along
 - Something readily available in Rahab's house
 - Something used by Rahab such as an advertisement or identification of her inn
 - "scarlet" (*sani*) is used in the Bible to describe textiles used to decorate the tabernacle, a bright color and special garments for the wealthy.