



14th International Congress on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From the Iron Age to the Persian Period: Preliminary Results of the Excavations at Tell Bleibil in the South-Eastern Jordan Valley

AHRENS A. ¹*

¹ German Archaeological Institute, Orient Department, Berlin, Germany

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Since 2019, archaeological excavations carried out by Orient Department of the German Archaeological Institute have been taking place at Tell Bleibil, located in the south-eastern Jordan Valley (Jordan). The excavations have uncovered an exceptionally well-preserved casemate wall from the Iron Age IIB (late 9th century, ca. 840/820 BCE, radiocarbon dates based on a series of well-stratified and short-lived samples) which formed part of the fortifications of the settlement in the Iron Age. Within the settlement dating to this period (8th–7th centuries BCE), the excavations have revealed parts of probable storage facilities. After a massive destruction event towards the end of the Iron Age IIC, i.e. in the early 6th century BC, the site was abandoned and apparently resettled only after some time during the Persian period (most probably spanning the 5th–3rd centuries BCE). The architecture of this phase consists of simple house plans, but also included storage areas. Additionally, several Aramaic inscriptions were found dating to this phase. The excavations uncovered an extremely well stratified sequence from the late Iron Age and the subsequent Persian period. The lecture presents the features and finds uncovered so far and attempts to place the site in the larger historical context.

Keywords

Jordan, Iron Age, Persian Period, Jordan Valley, Transition

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Workshop

A15573AA - The 6th Century BCE: The Demise of the Iron Age Kingdoms in Transjordan

Type of paper

Oral presentation

