



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Why the Wadi GhazzeH matters for understanding the Middle to early Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean

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## Abstract

During the Middle and Late Bronze periods, the Wadi GhazzeH (southern Levant) was home to three settlements, Tell el-'Ajjul, Tell Jemmeh and Tell Fara South. All were the subject of early British excavations (1926–1938) and Tell Jemmeh and Tell el-'Ajjul, limited fieldwork thereafter. Rich finds revealing Tell el-'Ajjul as a major commercial hub for international trade during the Middle Bronze period have since resulted in an almost exclusive research focus on the settlement despite the often incomplete and confusing manner in which the site was recorded, and a complex stratigraphic sequence that continues to thwart attempts to understand Tell el-'Ajjul's important role in regional affairs. A re-examination of the largely unpublished contemporary material from the Tell Fara South fieldwork has recently changed this picture, offering a new perspective on both the history of Tell el-'Ajjul and the Wadi GhazzeH during this time. This paper presents the view from Tell Fara South, proposing all three settlements functioned as an integrated and distinct landscape (rather than just Tell el-'Ajjul), and that the context for understanding their importance is their close proximity to the Wadi GhazzeH as a gateway and corridor linking the Eastern Mediterranean with the Arabian Peninsula.

## Keywords

Wadi GhazzeH, Middle Bronze, Tell el-'Ajjul, Tell Fara South, Arabian Peninsula

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