



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Hazor under Achaemenid Rule: Exploring Administrative and Cultural Dynamics in the Levant

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Abstract

Hazor, one of the Levant's largest archaeological sites, has traditionally been studied for its Bronze and Iron Age remains, with limited focus on its Persian-period artifacts. Although Yigael Yadin's earlier excavations uncovered significant Persian-period finds, including cemeteries, these discoveries were largely underexplored. Since the 1990s, new excavation efforts led by Prof. Amnon Ben-Tor and Dr. Igor Kreimerman have uncovered two distinct Persian-period layers, with features such as a large cemetery on Tel Hazor's northern slopes, residential structures, open areas, and monumental administrative buildings. These findings suggest Hazor may have served as a major regional center or administrative hub. This lecture reassesses Persian-period Hazor within the broader context of the Achaemenid conquest of the Levant in 539 BCE, examining questions of administration and the ethnic-political identities of Hazor's inhabitants. It also explores Hazor's potential connections to the administrative center of Kedesh and the city-state of Tyre. By analyzing material evidence, architectural forms, and settlement patterns, this study situates Hazor as a vital node within the Persian imperial network, offering insights into the Levant's organizational and cultural dynamics during this transformative period.

Keywords

Hazor, Persian Period, Achaemenid Empire, Administration, Architecture

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