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Cover art: (front cover) Depiction of pigeon in a jar in the mosaic pavement of a 6th-century church at Ḥorvat Be'er Shema^c (courtesy Y. Lender); *(back cover)* Nabatean bowl from Shivta.



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SOME THOUGHTS ON KHIRBET EN-NAḤAS, EDOM,
BIBLICAL HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY—
A RESPONSE TO ISRAEL FINKELSTEIN

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Abstract

Israel Finkelstein's recent comments in Tel Aviv regarding our paper on the Iron Age excavations at Khirbet en-Naḥas in southern Jordan contain numerous misinterpretations of the data. This short response outlines why those comments are erroneous. In particular, we describe why the formation of complex societies in Iron Age Edom did not occur under Assyrian tutelage.

THE SHESHONQ I CAMPAIGN AND THE 8TH-CENTURY- BCE EARTHQUAKE—MORE ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE SOUTH IN THE IRON I–IIA

Alexander Fantalkin

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Abstract

The article attempts to reconstruct the history of southern Israel (the Beersheba Valley, the Shephelah and the southern Coastal Plain) in the Late Iron I and Iron IIA. It shows that activity in the so-called 'Tel Masos chiefdom' commenced in the Iron I and peaked in the Early Iron IIA—parallel to the copper mining activity at Khirbet en-Nahas. Regarding the early phase of this time-span, the article proposes that the Sheshonq I campaign did not bring about the destruction of the Tel Masos chiefdom; rather, the major phase of activity in the south—in the Early Iron IIA—was a result of Egyptian involvement in the region. Regarding the end of the Iron IIA, the article rejects the notion that the Iron IIA–IIB transition should be affiliated with the earthquake mentioned in Amos 1: 1; it dates this transition to ca. 800 BCE.

PHOENICIAN ATLIT AND ITS NEWLY-EXCAVATED HARBOUR: A REASSESSMENT

Arad Haggi

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Abstract

During 2002–2003 underwater excavations, our team dated the artificial harbour at the ancient Phoenician settlement of Atlit to the first half of the Iron Age II. We accomplished this by ¹⁴C testing a number of wooden samples extracted from the submerged northern mole of the harbour.

In this article we question why such an artificial harbour was constructed just a few miles north of the main port city of Dor. We suggest that no harbour facilities existed at Iron Age II Dor. The quays at the southern bay of Dor, which served during the Bronze Age and during the Iron Age I, were blocked during the 10th century BCE and no alternative quay was built at Dor until the Persian period.

DATING THE APPEARANCE OF IMITATIONS OF ASSYRIAN WARE IN SOUTHERN PALESTINE

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Abstract

The article analyzes the extent and the date of imitation of Assyrian pottery in southern Palestine in the late 8th–7th centuries BCE. Contrary to the commonly-held assumption that imitations of Assyrian ware appeared in the last third of the 8th century and that a large variety of local vessels imitate Assyrian prototypes, we suggest that imitation began no earlier than the 7th century and that its extent is considerably more limited than has been suggested by other scholars.

COLUMBARIUM TOWERS AND OTHER STRUCTURES IN THE ENVIRONS OF SHIVTA

Yizhar Hirschfeld

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Abstract

This paper presents new evidence of pigeon-breeding in the Negev in the Roman and Byzantine periods. Field research conducted between 2000 and 2004 identified and studied four towers in the environs of Shivta. The towers were constructed for the purpose of raising of pigeons, which provided both meat and fertilizer. Each tower potentially housed 1000–1500 breeding pigeons, with an annual yield of up to 9000 chicks and 15 tons of fertilizer. Other buildings studied in the area were a masonry tomb that was part of Shivta's cemetery and an agricultural watchtower.