

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IN THE NEAR EAST

MB II IN PALESTINE

Chronological Table

All dates in this table are approximate. In the earlier periods, shifts of up to *c.* 100 years are possible, in the later periods (starting with the Late Bronze Age), up to *c.* 50 years.

Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period	8000–6000 BC
Pottery Neolithic Period	6000–4500 BC
Chalcolithic Period	4500–3300 BC
Early Bronze Age I (a–b)	3300–2900 BC
Early Bronze Age II	2900–2700 BC
Early Bronze Age IIIa*	2700–2400 BC
Early Bronze Age IIIb (IV)	2400–2200 BC
Intermediate Early Bronze-Middle Bronze Age (Middle Bronze Age I)	2200–2000 BC
Middle Bronze Age IIa	2000–1750 BC
Middle Bronze Age IIb	1750–1600 BC
Late Bronze Age I	1600–1450 BC
Late Bronze Age IIa	1450–1300 BC
Late Bronze Age IIb	1300–1200 BC
Iron Age I	1200–1000 BC
Iron Age II	1000– 586 BC
Babylonian and Persian Periods	586– 332 BC

MBA = 2000–1550 BC
PERIOD OF MIGHTY
CANAANITE STATES

MBA II A 2000-1750

MBA II B 1750-1550

CORRELATION WITH EGYPT

PALESTINE MB I

=

THE MIDDLE KINGDOM (XII DYN.) ca. 1991-1786

PALESTINE MB II

=

THE SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD
(XIII-XV DYN.)

AND HYKSOS DOMINATION IN EGYPT (XV-XVII DYN.)

Middle Bronze II in Levant

- **MB II – 1750-1550**
- The Second Intermediate Period
HYKSOS domination in Egypt



HYKSOS KINGS IN THE NILE DELTA (LOWER EGYPT) = XV DYNASTY

Hyksos – term used by a Greek historian Manetho for A DYNASTY OF foreign rulers in Egypt

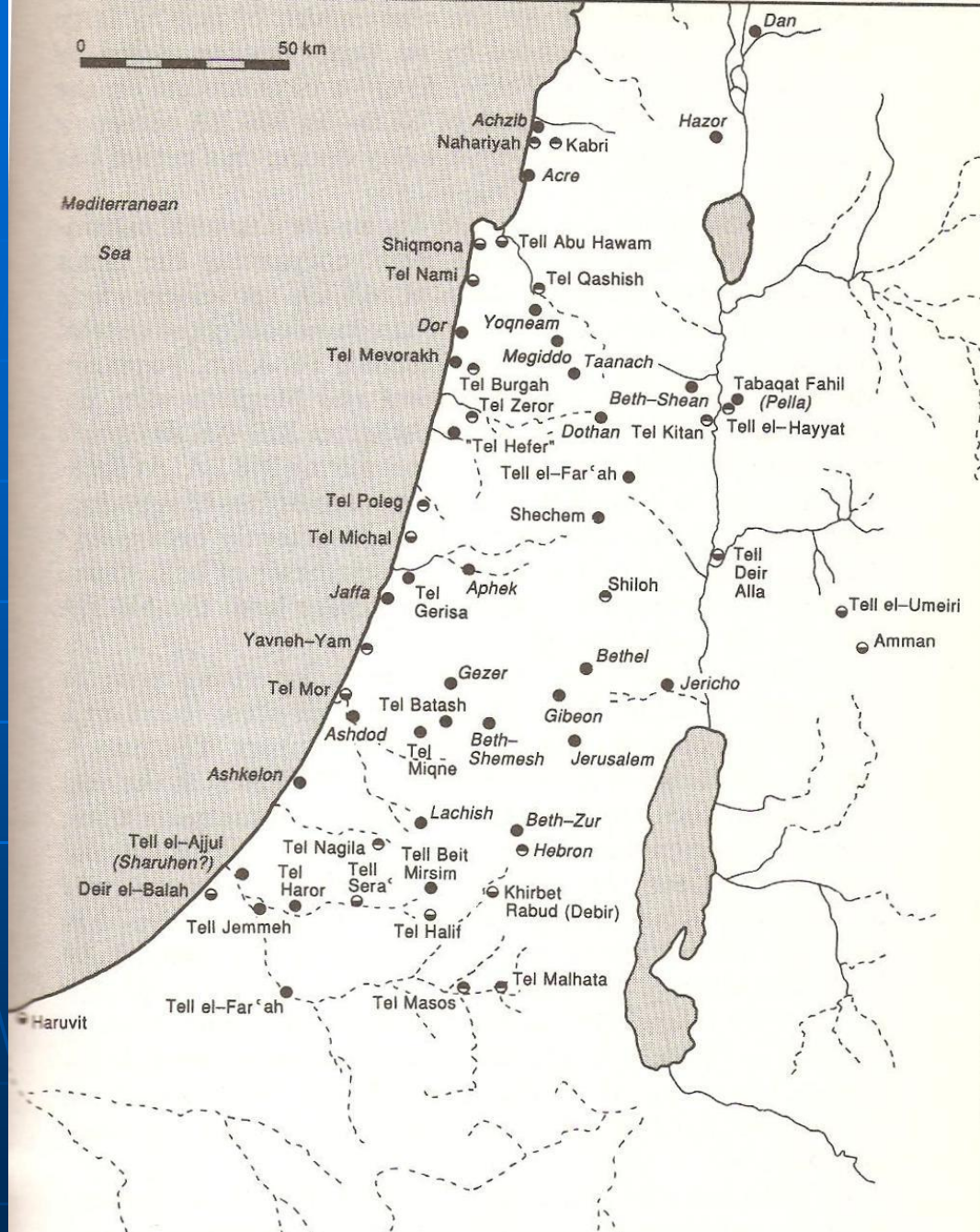
- Scarabs with names of XV Dynasty in Palestine, mostly Tell Ajjul
- Capital city of Hyksos – Avaris founded around 1700

End of Hyksos kings:
Hyksos expelled from Egypt by the king of XVIII Dynasty

SYNCHRONISMS WITH MESOPOTAMIA

HAZOR mentioned in Mari sources as important trade centre

- establishment of Hazor should not postdate Mari archives
- Mari destroyed by Hammurabi around 1756



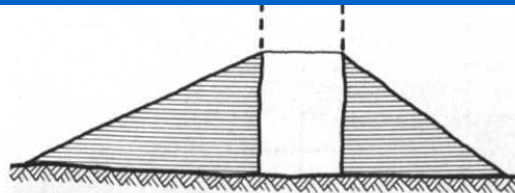
- sites occupied in both the Middle and Late Bronze ages
- sites occupied during the Middle Bronze Age only
- ◌ sites occupied during the Late Bronze Age only.

PLAN OF MEGIDDO AT THE BEGINNING OF MB II

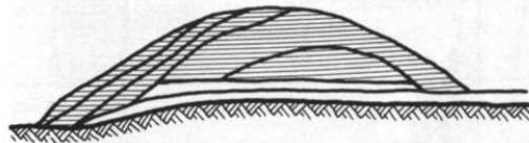


1. City plan, Megiddo Stratum XII. *Megiddo* II, Figs. 378, 398, 415.

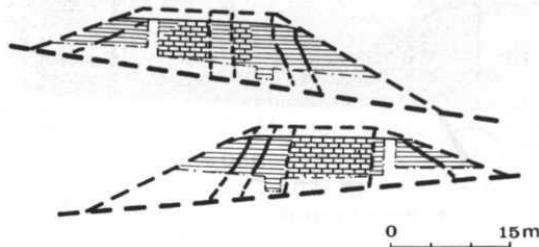
MBA II FORTIFICATION SYSTEMS: RAMPARTS



7. Rampart, schematic cross section, Tel Dan. *ZDPV* 91 (1975), p. 8, No. 7.



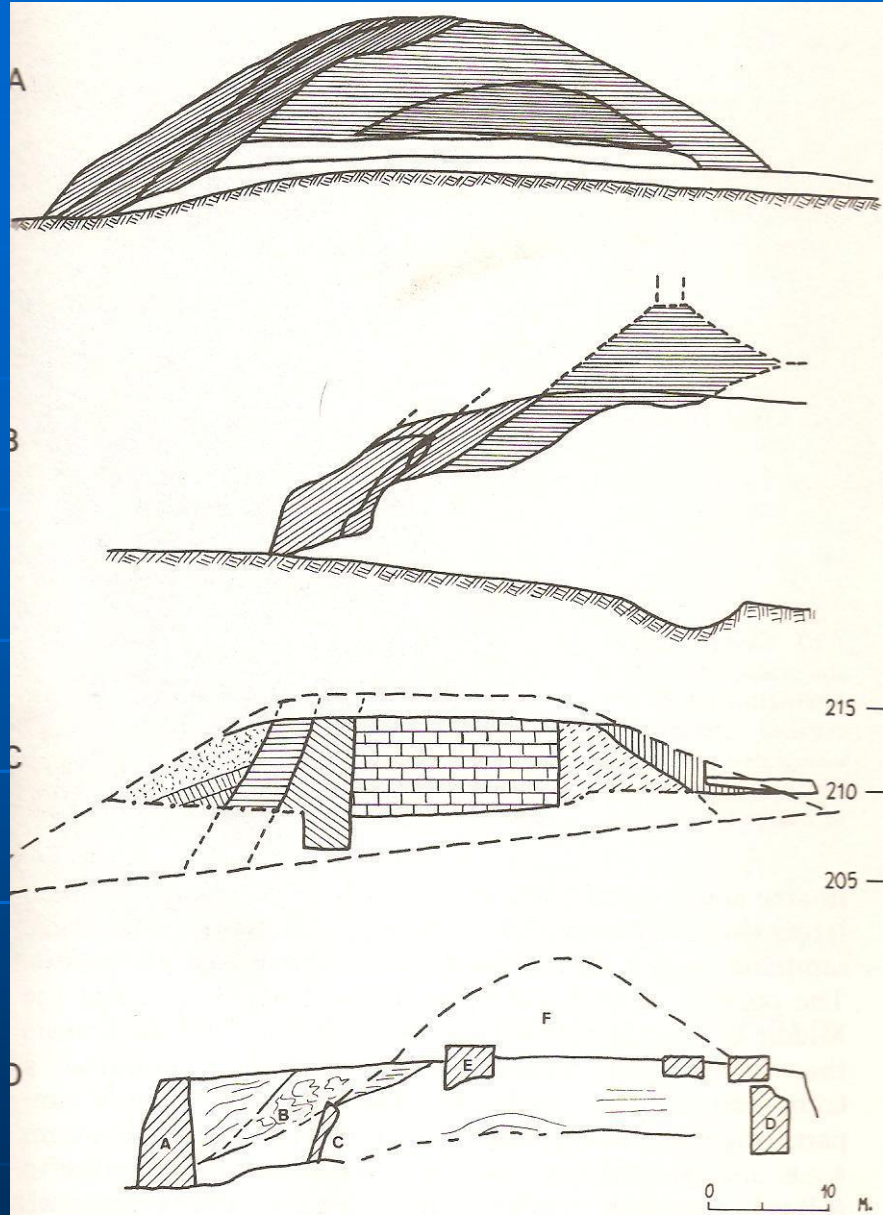
8. Rampart, schematic cross section, Tel Yavneh-Yam. *ZDPV* 91 (1975), p. 8, No. 5.



9. Rampart, schematic cross sections, Hazor. *Hazor*, Fig. 11.



10. Rampart, schematic cross section, Tell Balata (Shechem). *Shechem*, Fig. 22.

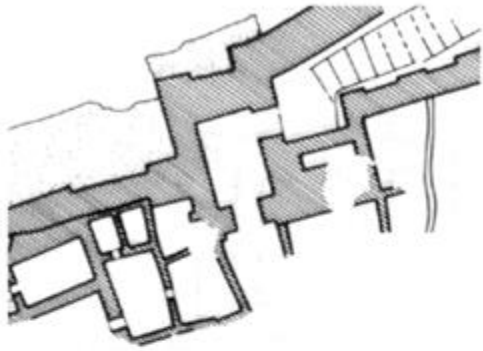


6.9 Sections through Middle Bronze ramparts: (A) Yavneh-Yam; (B) Jericho; (C) Hazor; (D) Shechem

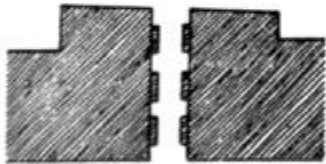
(A: retaining wall of second Middle Bronze II rampart; B: fill of second Middle Bronze II rampart; C: retaining wall of first Middle Bronze II rampart; D: inner wall; E: wall of temple; F: reconstructed contour of first rampart).

NEW CITY GATE TYPES POPULARIZED IN MB IIB

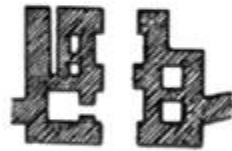
Middle Bronze II Gate Systems



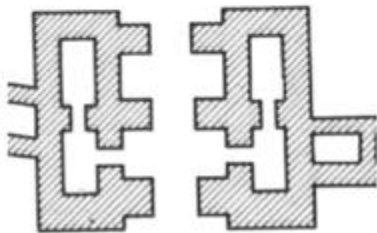
Megiddo St. XIII



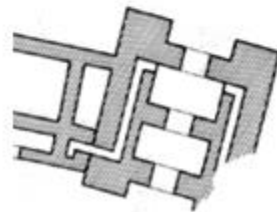
Gezer



Ain Shems (Bethshemesh)



Hazor



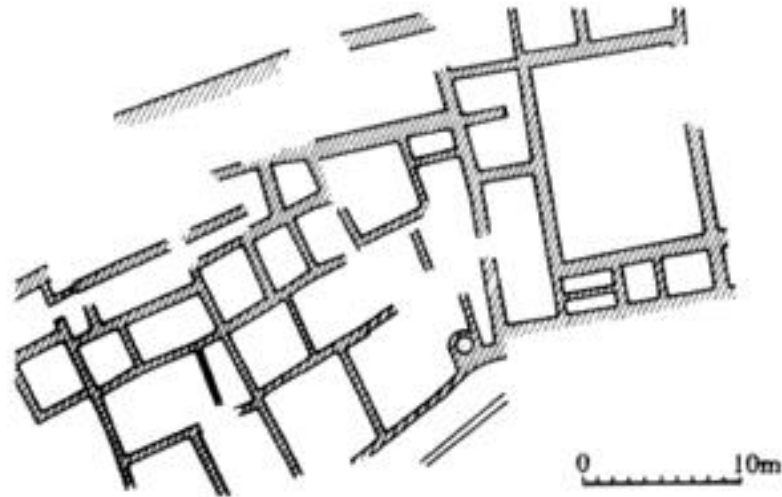
Shechem



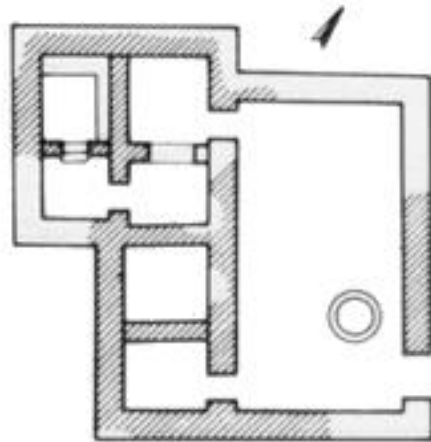
TEL DAN MB II CITY GATE



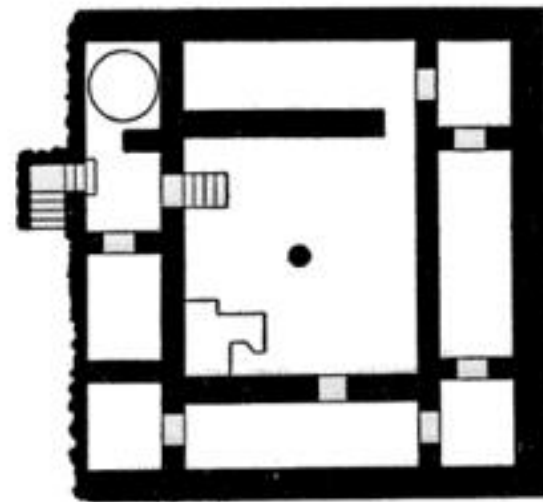
MB II Large Buildings (Palaces)



Megiddo



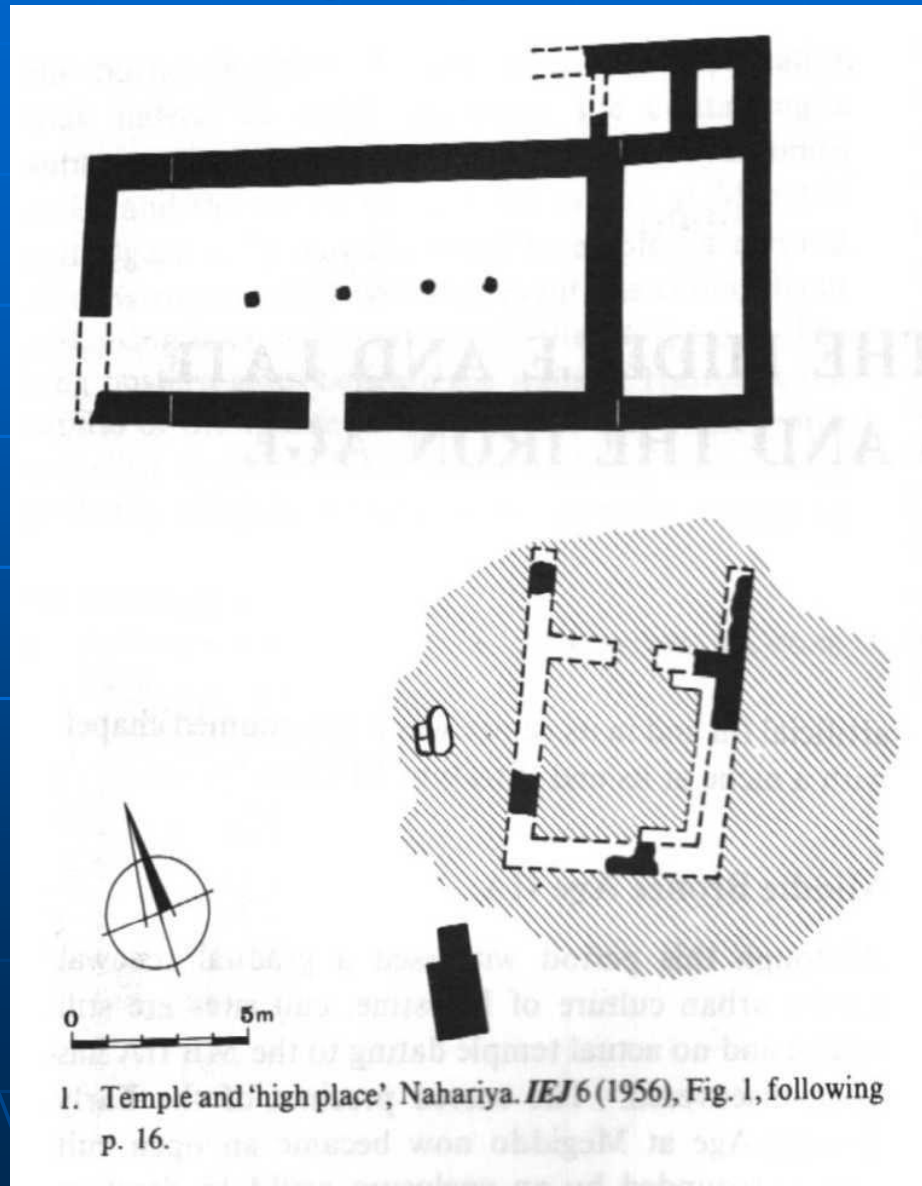
Tell Beit Mirsim



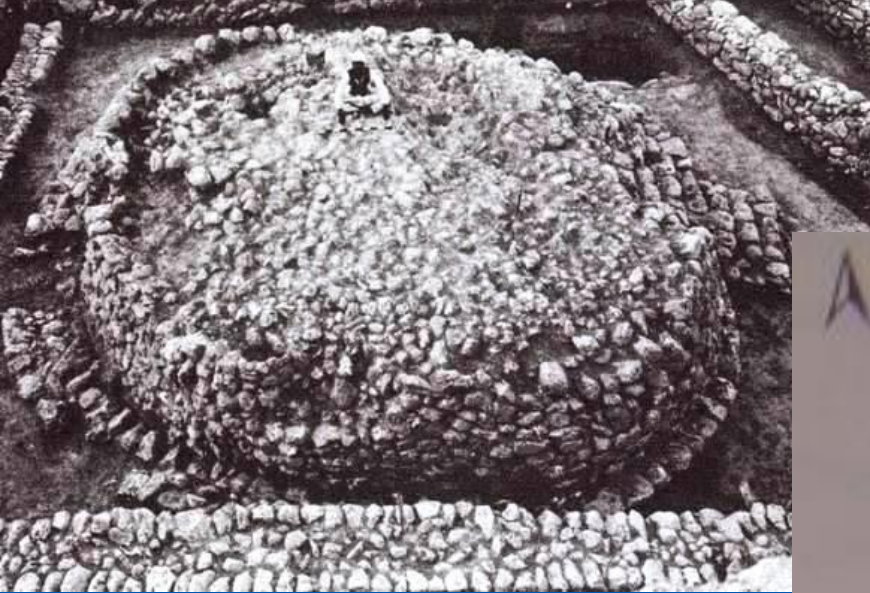
Mt. Gerizim

TEMPLES:

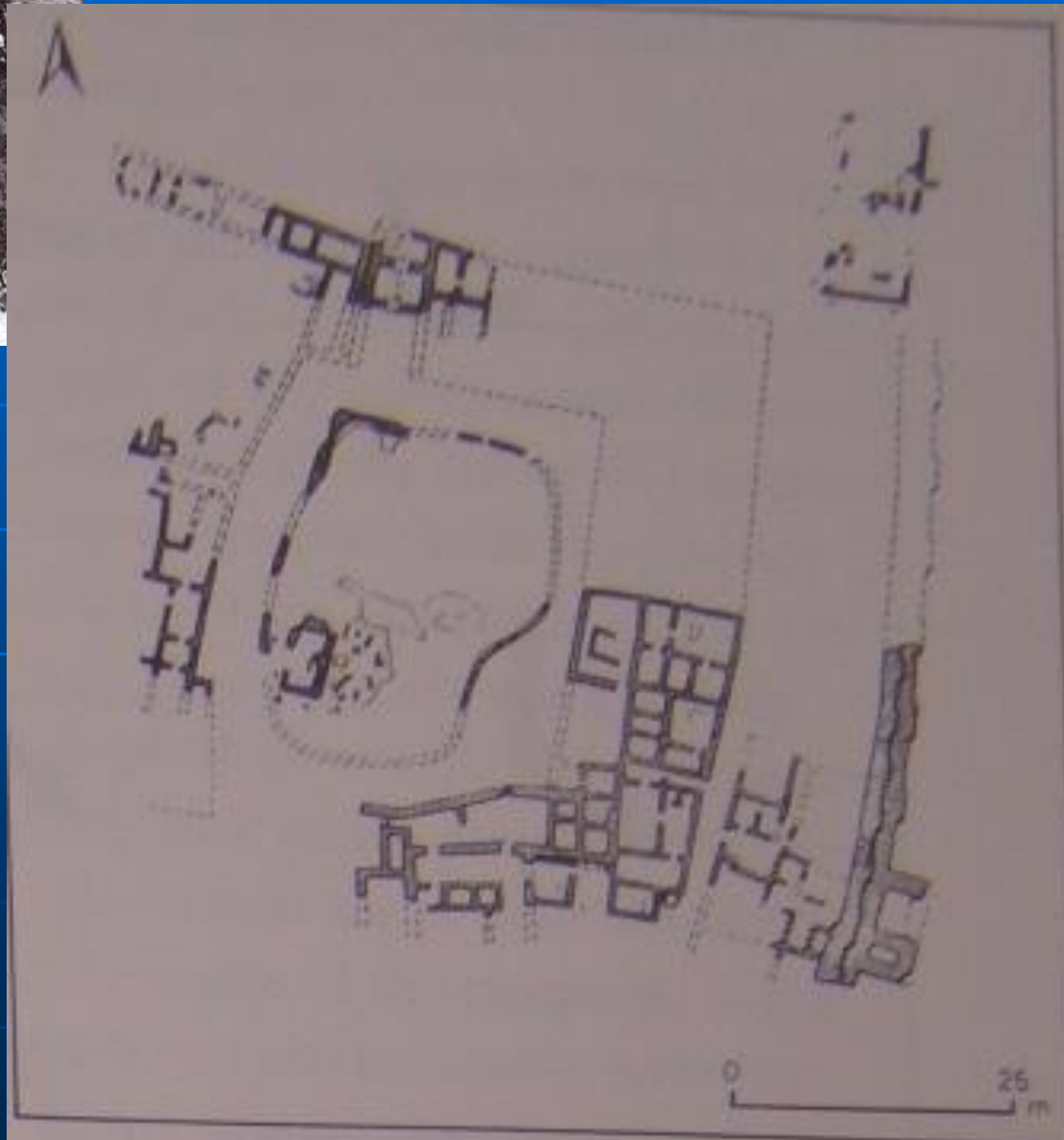
„HIGH PLACE” AND CULTIC STRUCTURES FROM NAHARIYA AND MEGIDDO IN MB IIA



CULTIC PLATFORM FROM EBA IN MEGIDDO



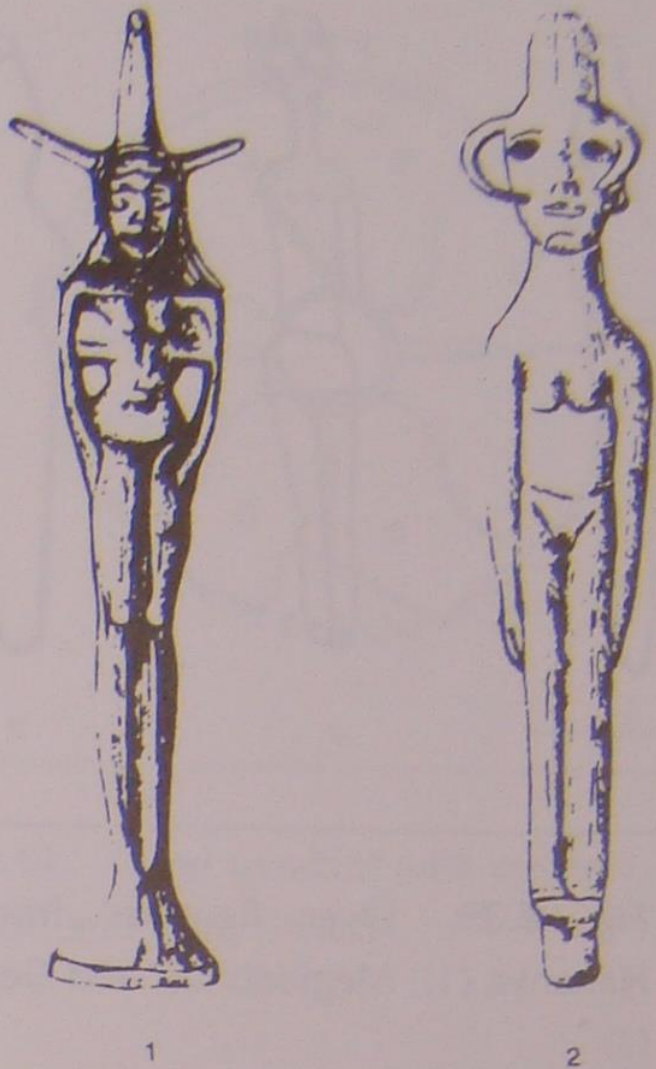
CULTIC PRECINCT IN MBA IIA CITY OF MEGIDDO



VOTIVES FROM NAHARIYA



VOTIVES FROM NAHARIYA OPEN AIR CULT PLACE



0 1 2
cm

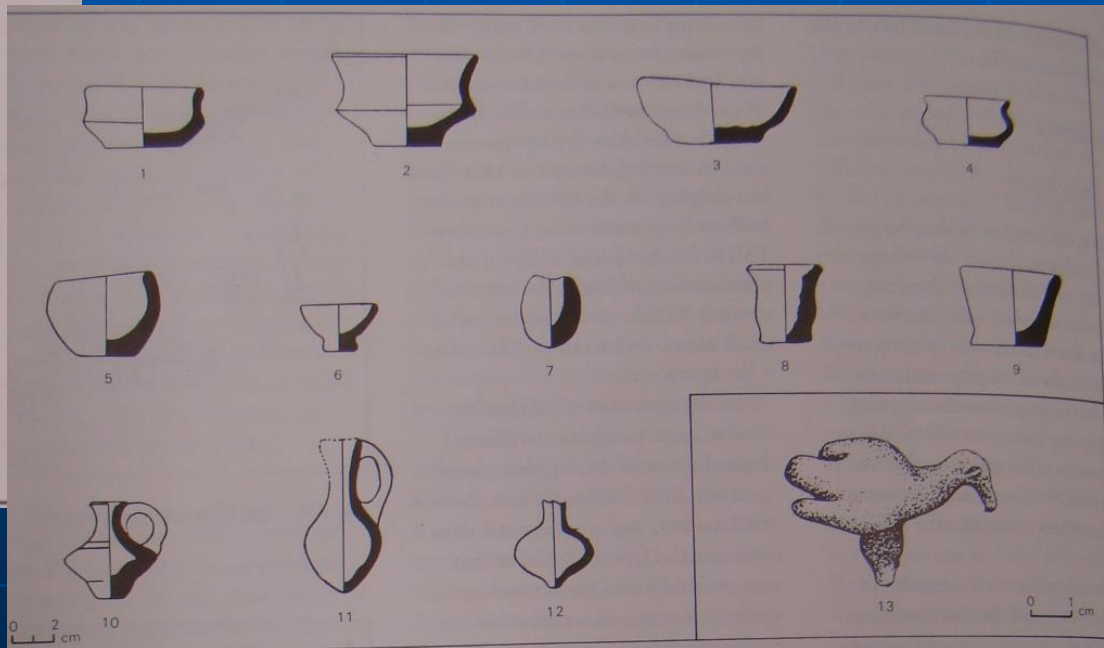
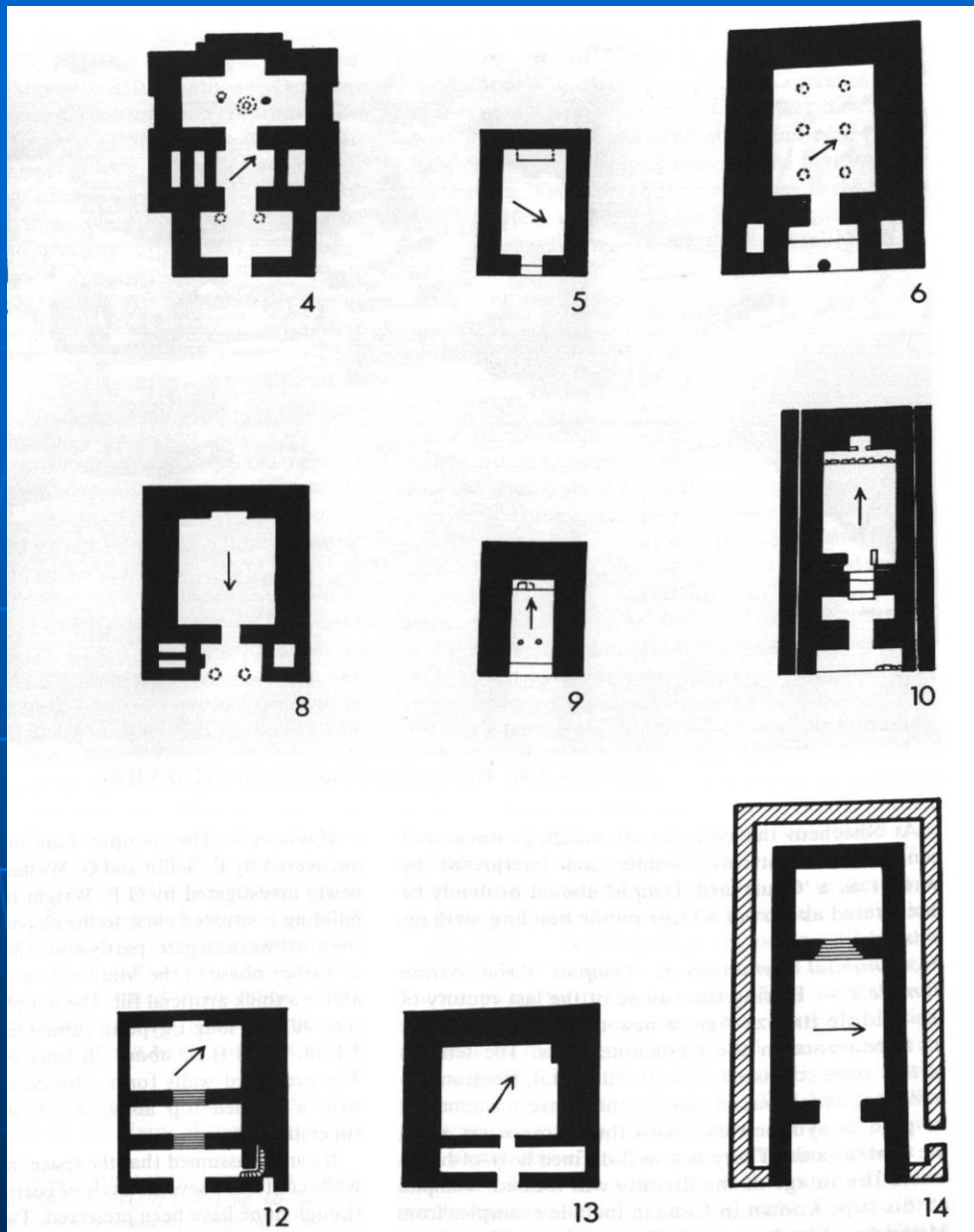


Fig. 6.10. Finds from the high place at Nahariya

MB II TEMPLES



Stratum 3. *Hazor*, Fig. 18. 4. Hazor Area H, Stratum 1B. *Hazor*, Fig. 20. 5. Hazor Area A. *Hazor*, Fig. 21. 6. Hazor Area A. *Hazor*, Fig. 22. 7. Megiddo, Temple 2048, Stratum X, early phase, reconstruction. *EI 11* (Shechem). *Shechem*, Fig. 41. 8. Megiddo, Temple 2048, Stratum VIII. *Megiddo II*, Fig. 247. 9. Tell Mardikh (Syria). P. Matthiae: *Ebla*, *overed*, London, 1980, Fig. 28. 10. Tell Mardikh (Syria). Matthiae (*ibid.*), Fig. 30. 11. Tell Mumbaqtat (Syria). Orthmann: *Mumbaqtat, eine 5000 Jahre alte Stadt am Euphrat, Saarbruecken*, 1976, p. 4, Fig. 5. 12. Alalakh Stratum VII. L. Woolley: *Alalakh*, London, 1955, Fig. 35. 13. Alalakh (Turkey), Temple Stratum VI. Woolley

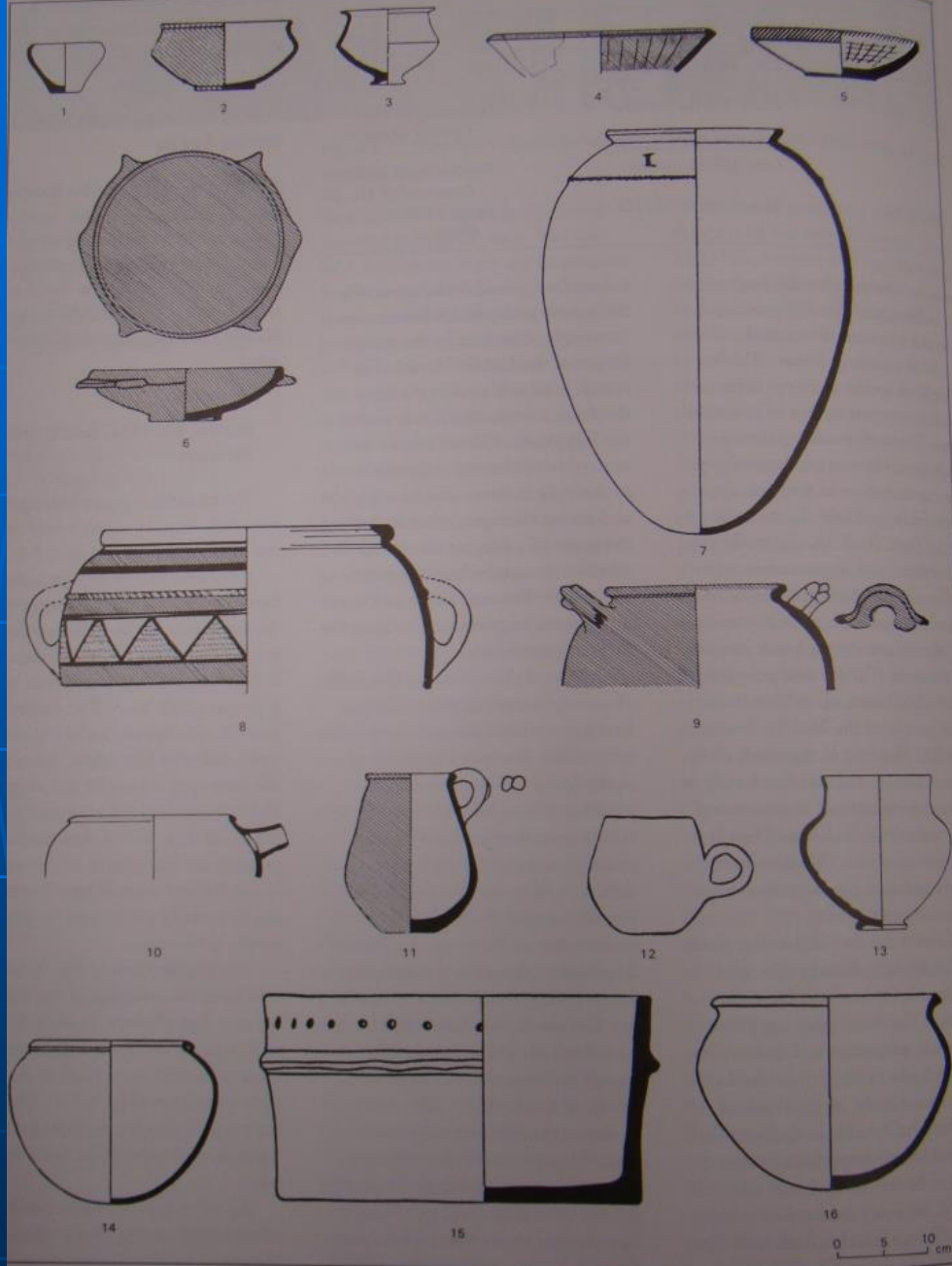
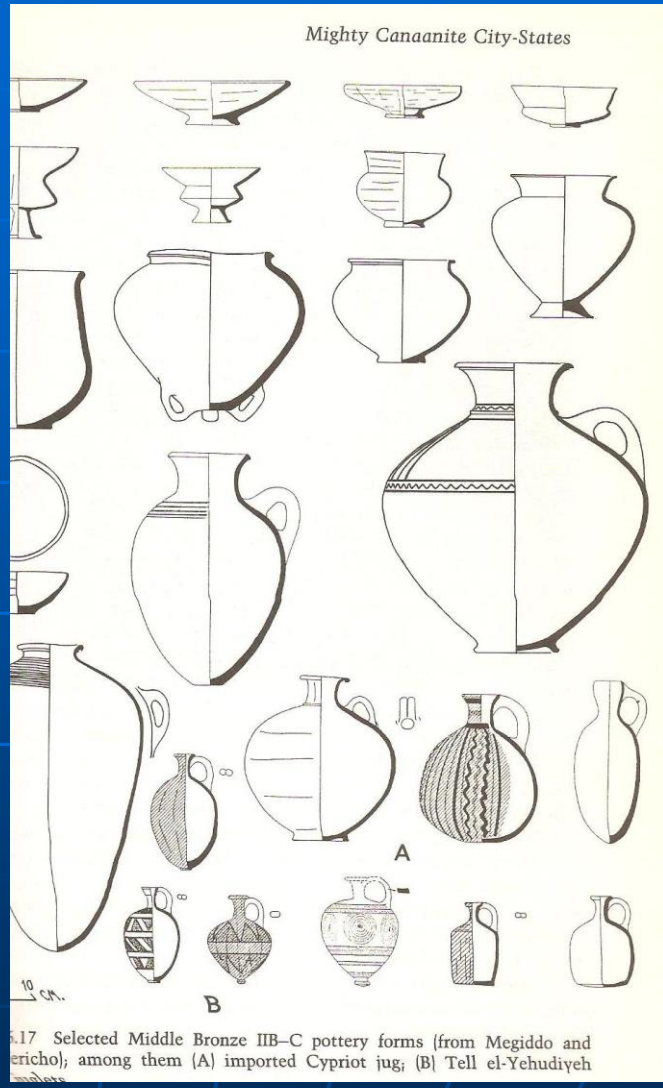


Fig. 6.3. Pottery of Middle Bronze Ila



6.17 Selected Middle Bronze IIB-C pottery forms (from Megiddo and ericho); among them (A) imported Cypriot jug; (B) Tell el-Yehudiyeh

ABYDOS WARE typical of MB IIA





TELL EL-YEHUDIYE WARE typical of
MB II B-C

UC13477



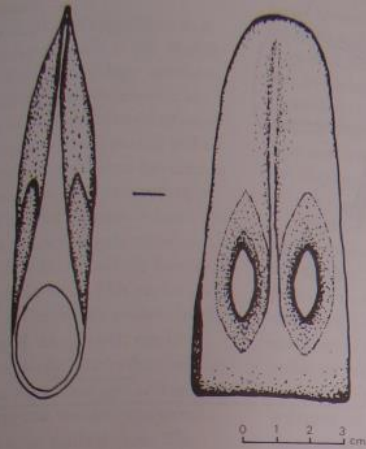


Fig. 6.47. Duckbill axe of the Middle Bronze Ila

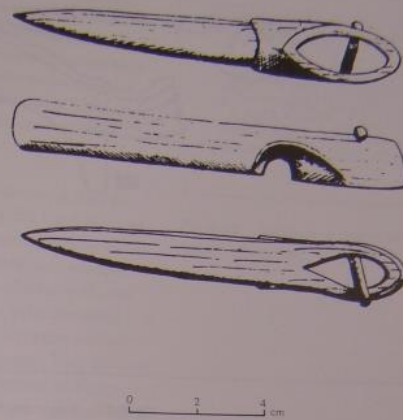


Fig. 6.48. Notched axe of the Middle Bronze Ila-b

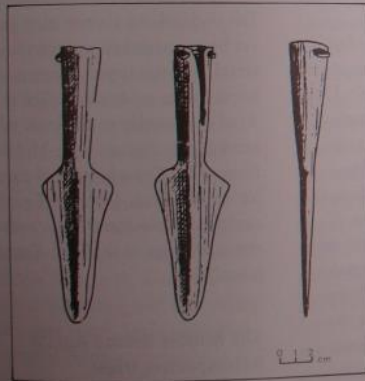


Fig. 6.49. Javelin head of the Middle Bronze Ila-b

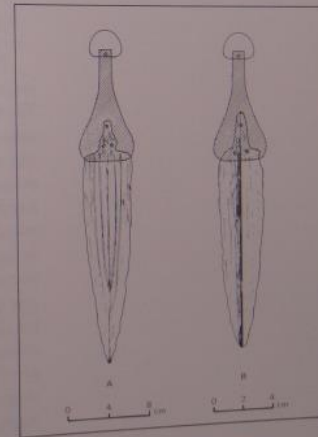
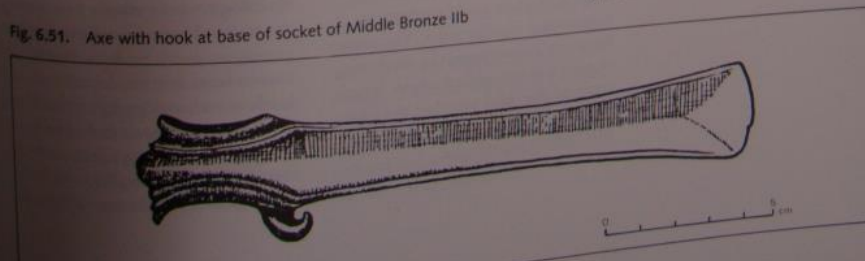


Fig. 6.50. Ribbed dagger of the Middle Bronze Ila (A) and dagger with midrib of the Middle Bronze Ila (B)

Fig. 6.51. Axe with hook at base of socket of Middle Bronze Ila



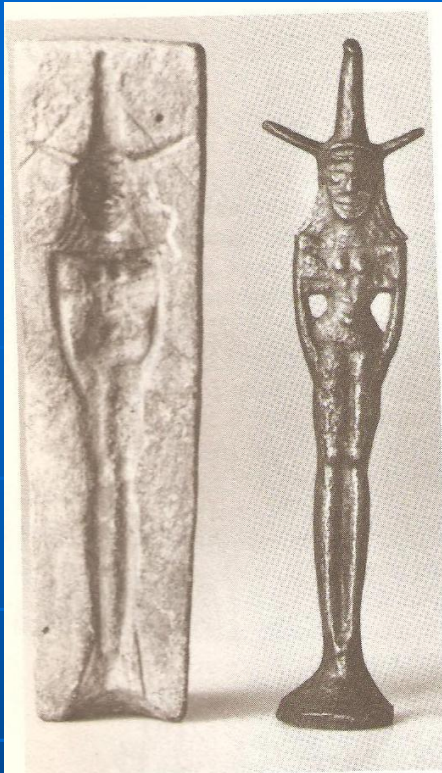
MB IIA-B WEAPON TYPES

NEW SWORD TYPE INTRODUCED IN MB II



A FRESCO FROM THE EGYPTIAN TOMB IN BENI HASSAN –
TRAVELLING ASIATIC METALSMITHS (1890 BC)





6.20 Left: a stone mold for casting bronze figurines, found at the temple at Nahariyah. Right: a modern cast made into this mold, showing a naked horned goddess.



6.21 Sheet-gold female figurines from Gezer, sixteenth century B.C.E. (the right figurine is 16 cm high).

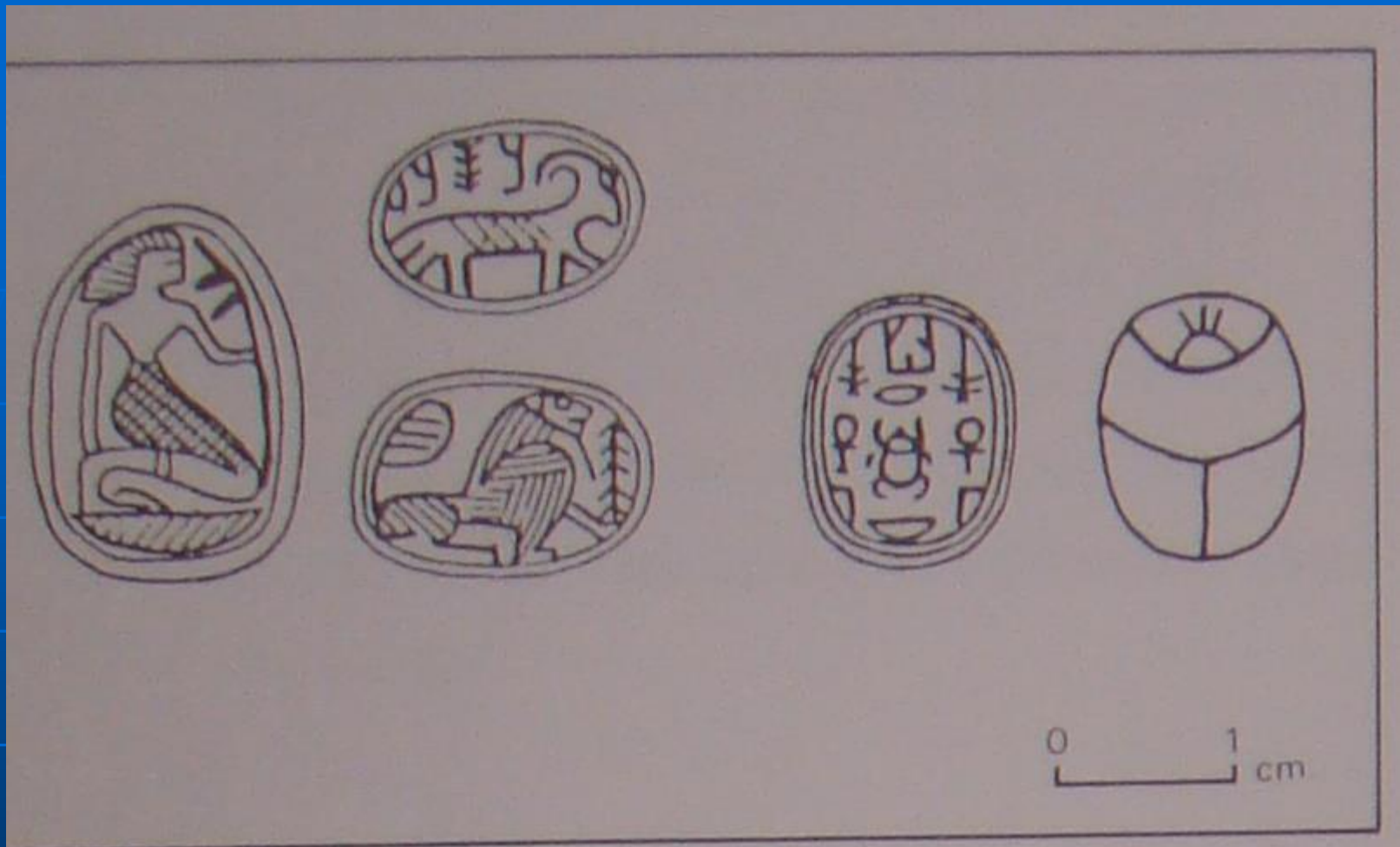


Fig. 6.2. Group of scarab seals from Tell el-Ajjul and Lachish