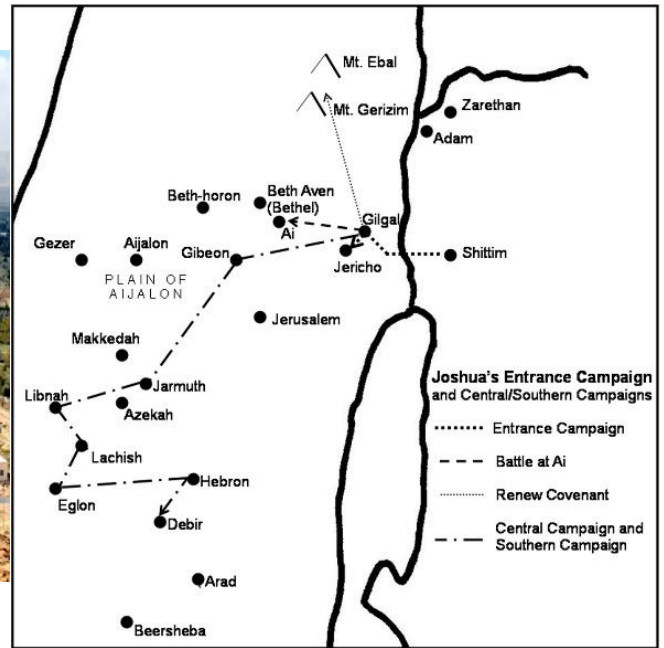


Tall El-Hammam (Sodom)



Dr. Steven Collins

Genesis 13:1-12, “So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev...From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place **between Bethel and Ai** where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar...Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of Yahweh, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar...So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out **toward the east** Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the **cities of the plain** and pitched his tents **near Sodom.**”

“Plain” – is the word “KIKKAR” which means “disk” or the “disc of the Jordan”.

WHAT WE TRANSLATE AS “THE PLAIN” OF THE JORDAN SHOULD ACTUALLY READ “THE KIKKAR” (OR “DISK”) OF THE JORDAN



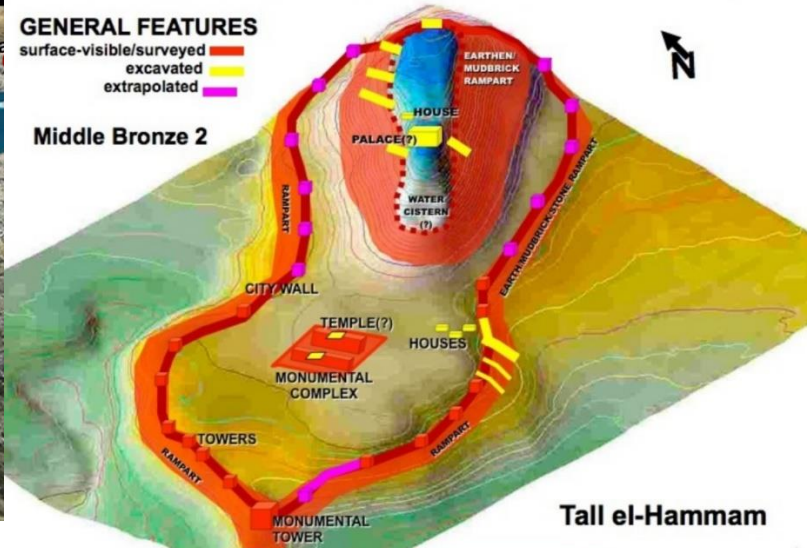
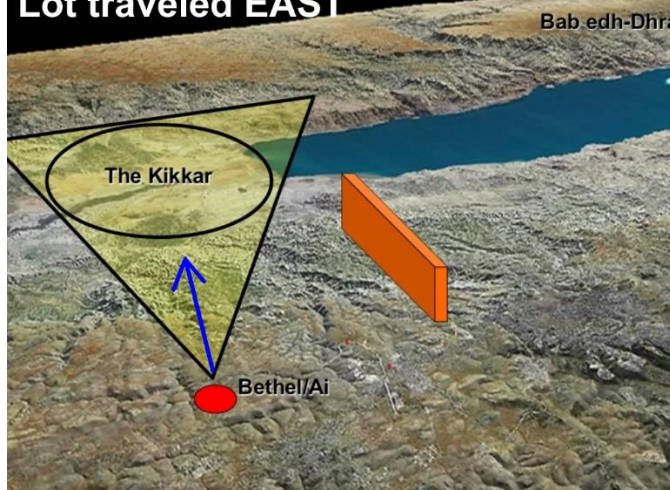
Tall El-Hammam is the largest Bronze Age city on the Eastern Jordan Disk.

- Middle Bronze Age is 2000-1650 BC
- Iron Age I is 1250-950 BC



Lot viewed the entire Jordan Disk from the area east of Bethel/Ai.

Lot traveled EAST



See Slide presentation here:

<https://www.slideshare.net/jonnymo81/tall-el-hammam>

Watch video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRBLCAvqBE>

and here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3G7T8WPamq>

Visit the Tall El Hammam dig site here:

<http://www.tallelhammam.com/>

Below is Mark working at Tall El-Hammam right now.



Seals

- “SEAL” is from the Hebrew word **chatham**. It is a verb that means “to seal, seal up, affix a seal.” It also means “to close up” and to “make an end.” (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*)
- “Seals were used much like a signature is today, certifying that a document was valid. [It] is placed on the outside of a rolled scroll, not only verifying the validity of its contents but also keeping it closed.” And, the seal “would have been removed if the official document needed to be consulted for some reason. Documents written on pliable material such as papyrus could be folded and secured by twine, which itself was fixed by a seal.” (*Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary*)

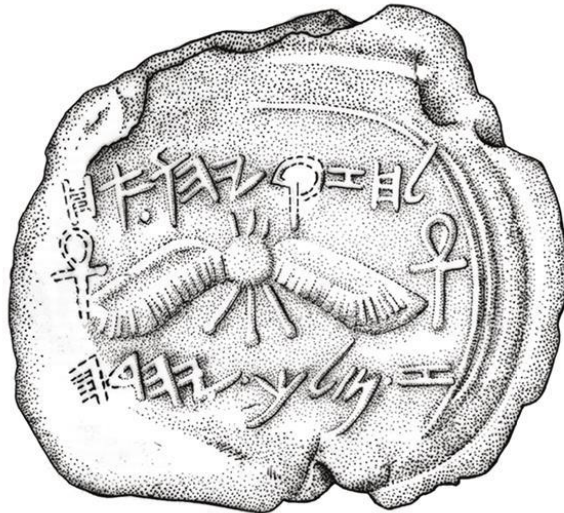


Iron Age Limestone Seal (900-700 BC)

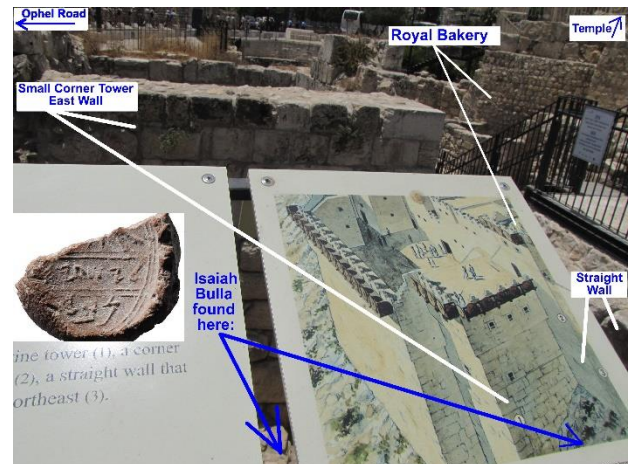
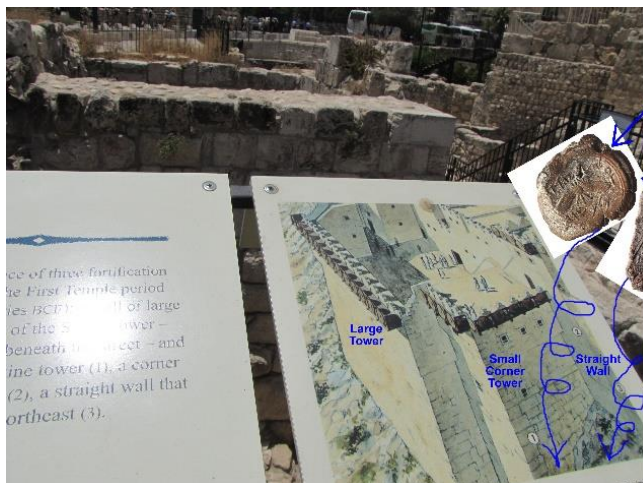
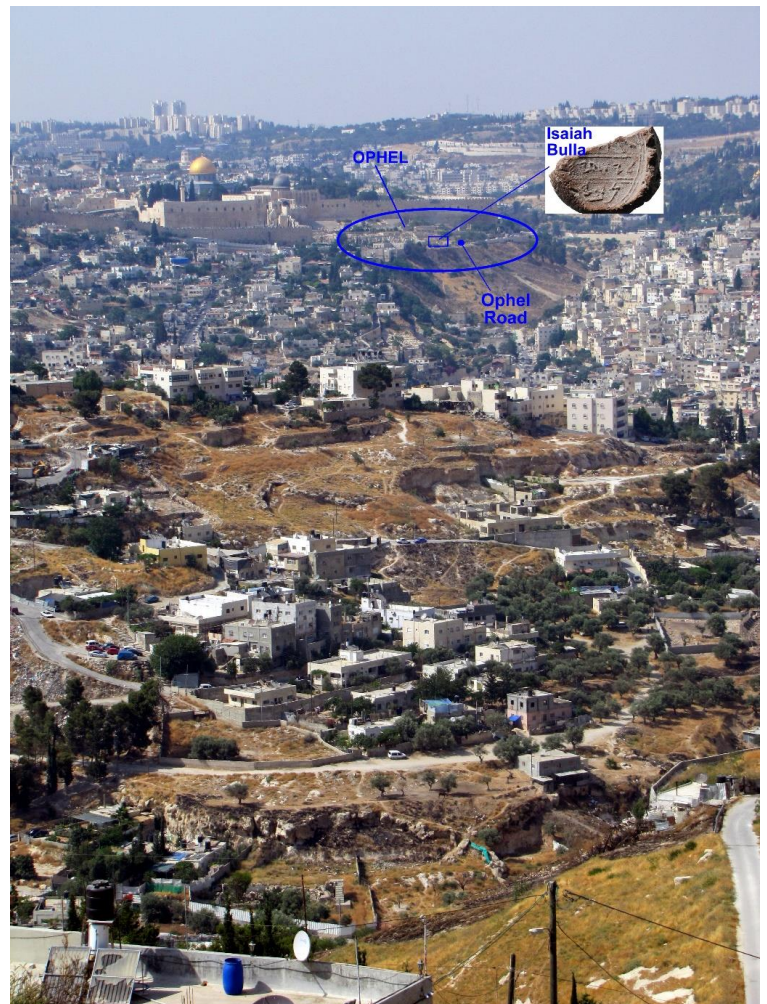
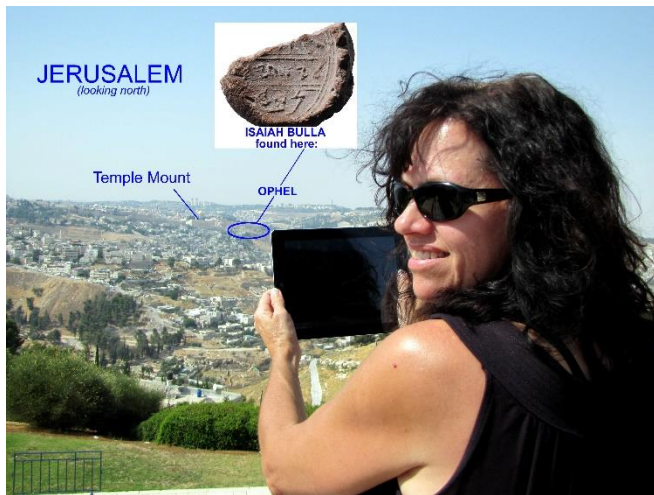
Found in Israel. This seal depicts a nature deity surrounded by birds and animals. (.875" high x .625" wide x 1.125" depth) Notice the hole on the far end that would have held a string for this to be worn around the owner's neck.

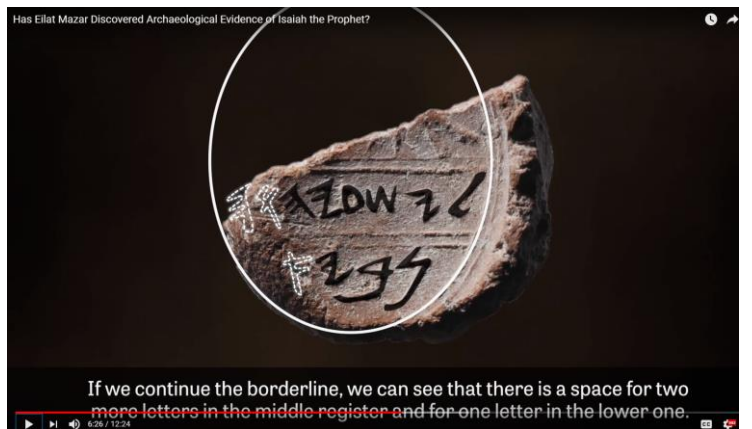
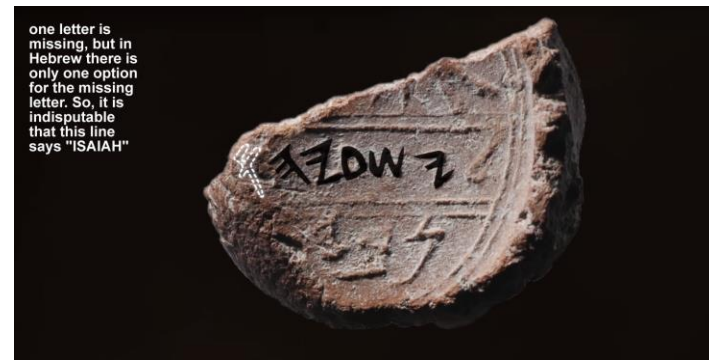


Hezekiah Bulla



Isaiah Bulla





Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0JONBqQAWs&feature=youtu.be>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT



HEZEKIAH BULLA



ISAIAH BULLA

“Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up God's instruction among my disciples.” – Isaiah 8:16

“And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, ‘I cannot, for it is sealed.’ ” - Isaiah 29:11

BAR article:

<https://members.bib-arch.org/biblical-archaeology-review/44/2/7>

Ritmeyer blog:

<https://www.ritmeyer.com/2018/02/22/a-seal-impression-of-isaiah-the-prophet/>

