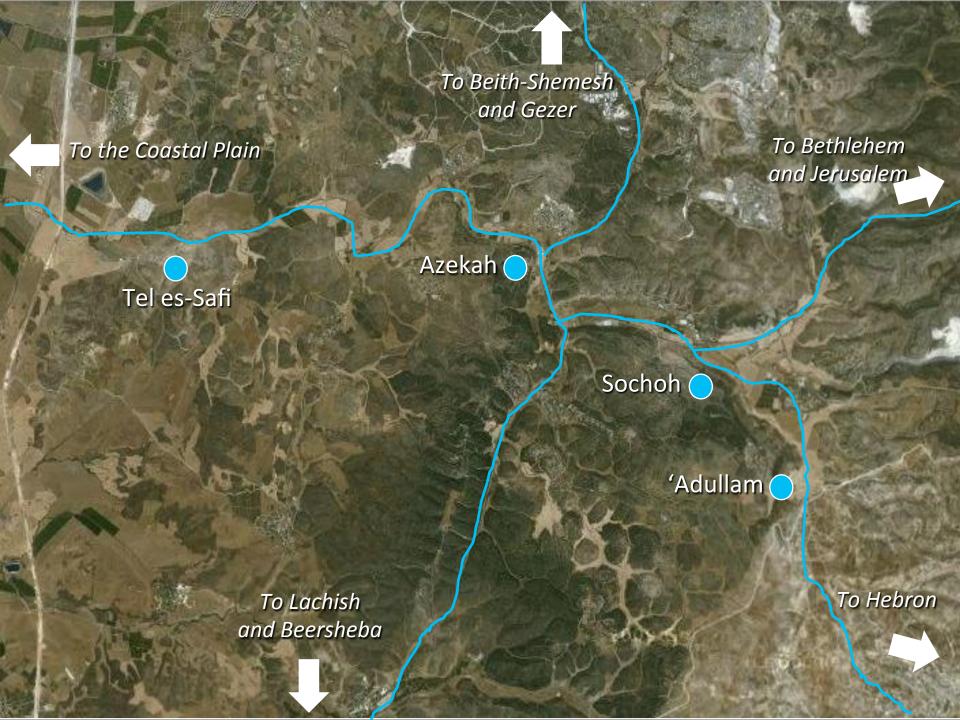




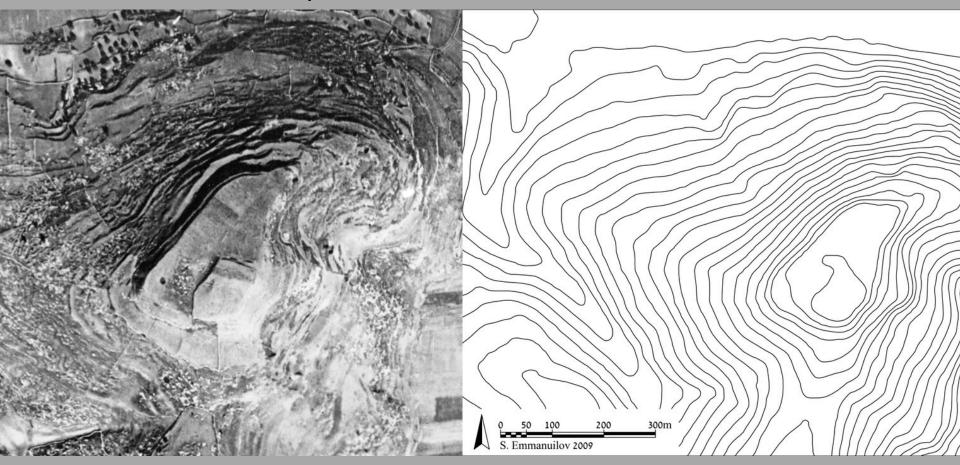
# Where is Tel Azekah?.







Topographical maps of Azekah help to illuminate the nature of the site, and offer clues as to where and why people settled in different parts of the Tel over time....



# What does the Bible have to say about Azekah?

The biblical text references the area around Azekah as the arena for the battle between boy David and the giant Goliath,

'Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim' 1 Samuel 17:1

According to Jeremiah, over a 100 years later during the Babylonian siege against Jerusalem, Lachish and Azekah,

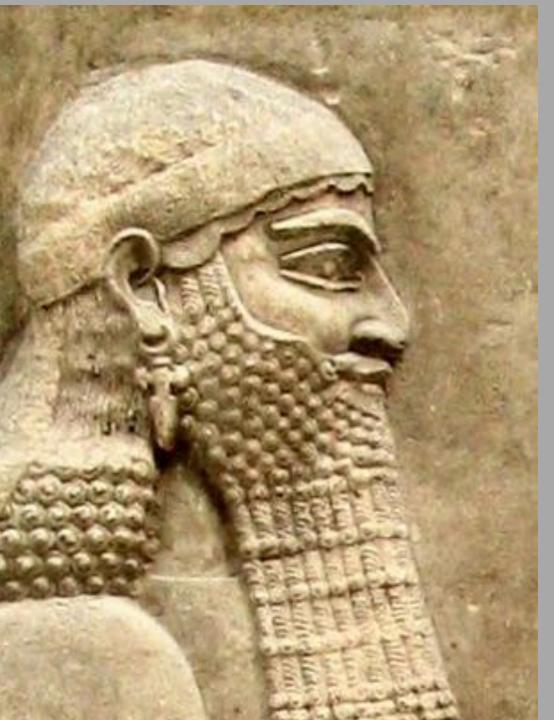
'were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained' Jeremiah 34:7

### Word of Azekah from Joshua....

And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah. - Joshua 10:10

In the lowland, Eshtaol, and Zorah, and Ashnah, And Zanoah, and Engannim, Tappuah, and Enam, Jarmuth, and Adullam, Socoh, and Azekah, And Sharaim, and Adithaim, and Gederah, and Gederothaim; fourteen cities with their villages.

- Joshua 15:33-35



# What do *others*have to say about Azekah?

The site gains archaeological and historical importance from its destruction by the Assyrian King, Sennacherib.

Referenced in Assyrian texts, Sennacherib described the site as an 'Eagle's nest ... with towers that project to the sky like swords.'

Such evocative imagery, combined with the context of the text, constructs the site as a significant Judahite borderstronghold.

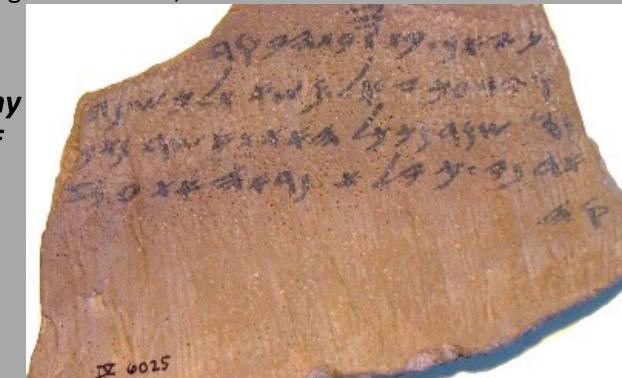
## Word of Azekah sent during the destruction of Lachish...

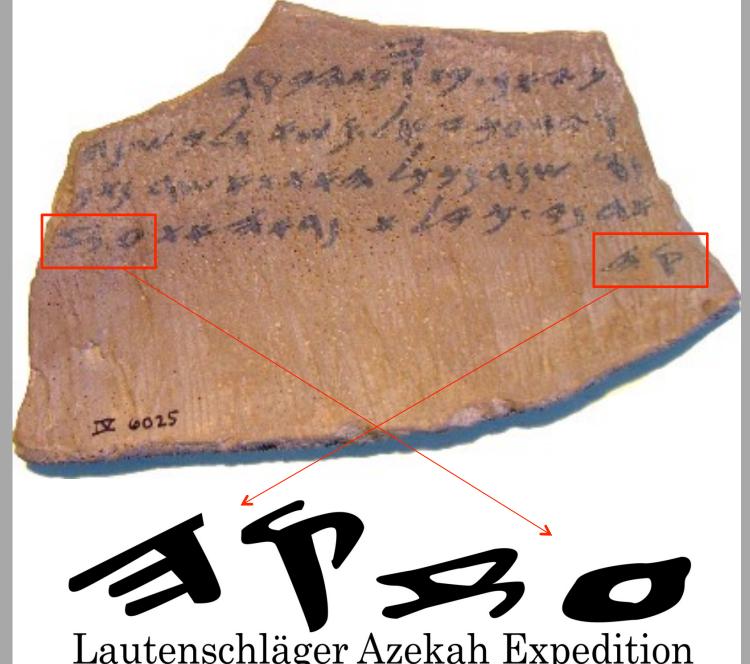
Composed during Lachish's period of capture by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, the text details the panic of seeing the lights of neighboring tells wink out along the horizon as they were progressively captured and destroyed...

Evocatively, the last line of the message, composed as a warning to

Jerusalem of the encroaching threat reads,

"... for we cannot see any more, the fire-signals of Azekah."





Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition

#### EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE

DURING THE YEARS 1898-1900.



W

FREDERICK JONES BLISS, PH.D.,

ANTE

A. STEWART MACALISTER, M.A., F.S.A.

WITH A CHAPTER BY
PROFESSOR DOCTOR WÜNSCH.

AND

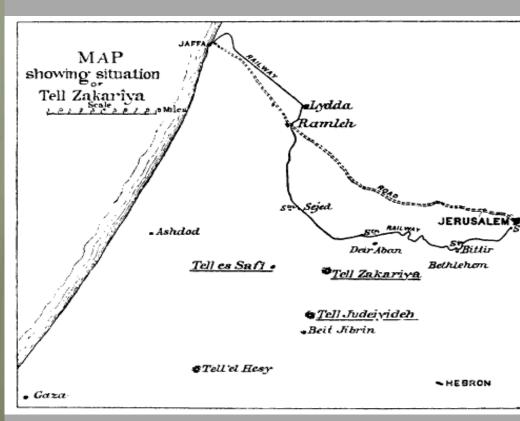
Numerous Illustrations from Photographs and from Drawings made on the spot by

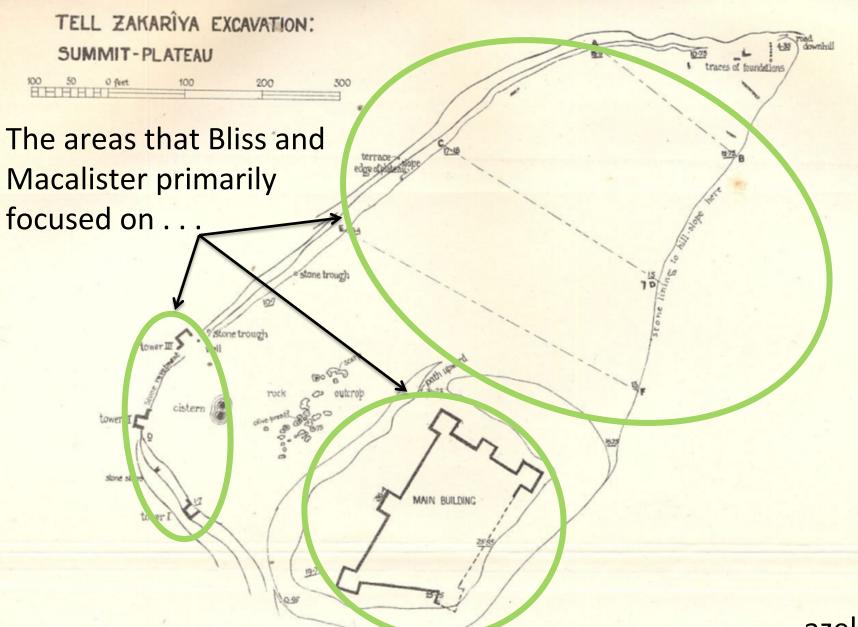
R. A. STEWART MACALISTER.

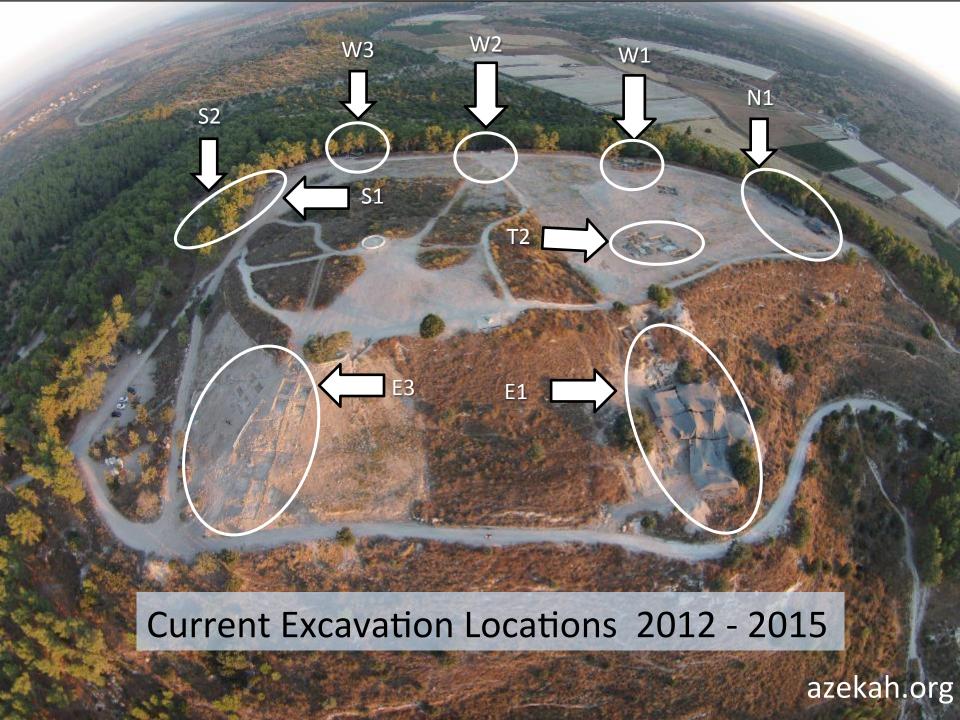
PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND, 38, CONDUIT STREET, LONDON.

1902. [All Rights Reserved.]

## Earlier Excavations of Tel Azekah: Bliss and Macalister 1898-1899







## The Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition Partners and Associates

The excavation is supported by a number of key academic institutions. . .





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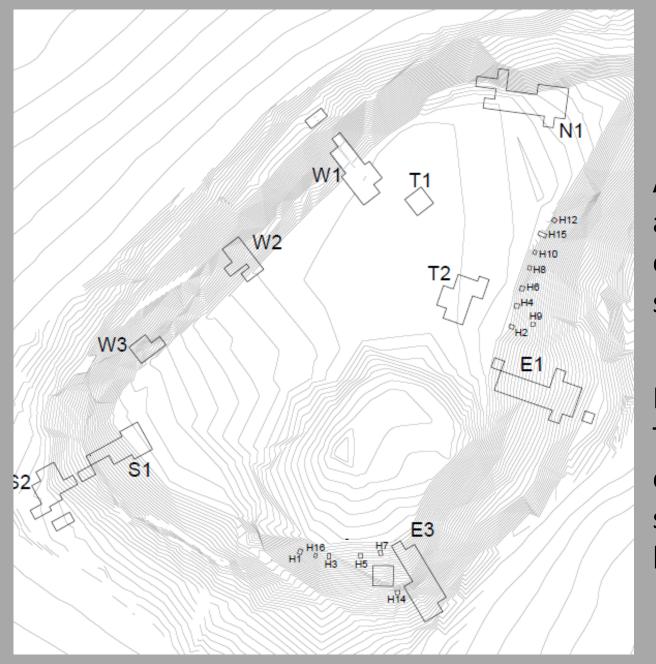








MACQUARIE University



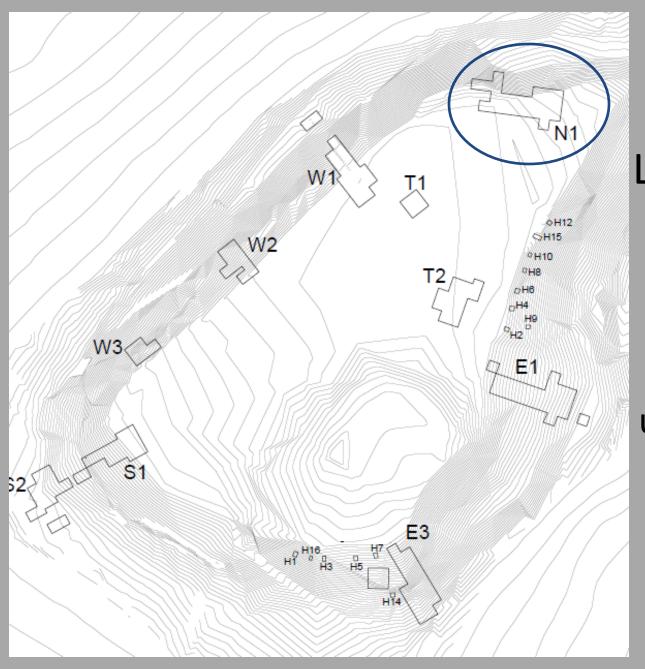
# **Excavation Locations from Across the Site**

A total of 9 different areas have been excavated across the seasons, 2012 - 2015.

Different parts of the Tel are selected for excavation based on surveys and their location on the Tel.







# Location of Area N1

Located on the northern tip and upper slope of the Tel.









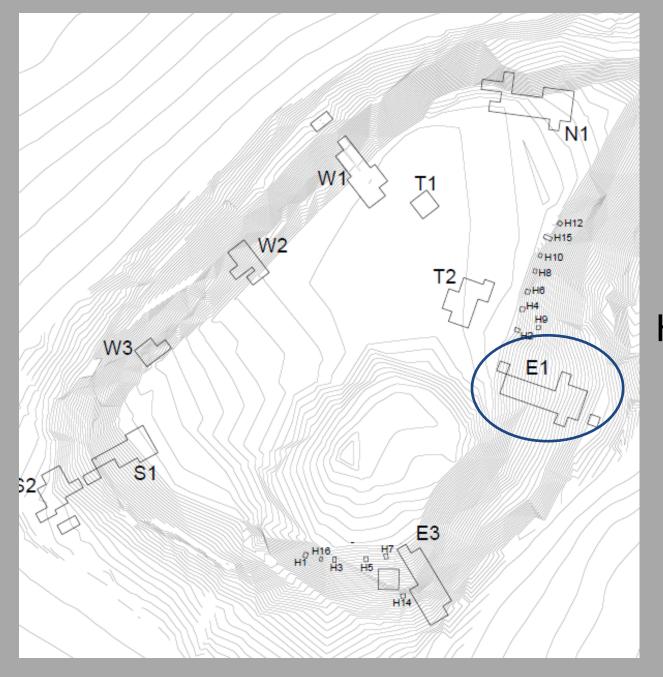




**Stamp Impressions** 



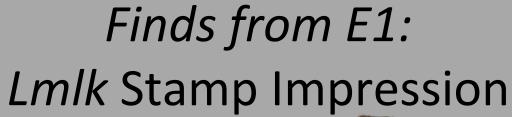




Area E1 is located on the eastern slope, southeast of the Hellenistic citadel at the top of the tel.



Area E3 was chosen for excavation due to its proximity to the citadel, and because aerial photos suggested that structures were present beneath the surface.





# Fill from the Iron Age/Persian phase and installation from the Hasmonean



# Evidence of a neigborhood from the Hasmonean period, part of a Jewish village.



## Fascinating vessels uncovered in context...



azekah.org

# Example of a Herodian oil lamp and stone vessels







## Late Roman Coins



## The Roman Tower









Is this the place where Sennacherib stormed Azekah?

Is this his siege ramp?



Iron Age wall above the Late Bronze destruction layer



The Late Bronze Destruction Layer



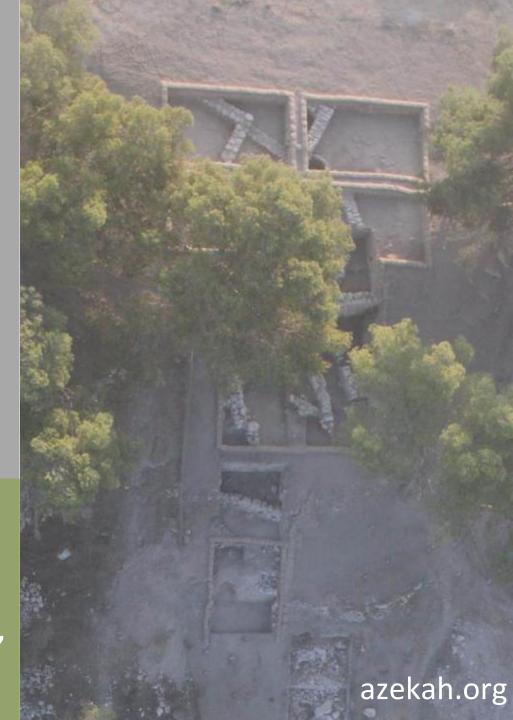


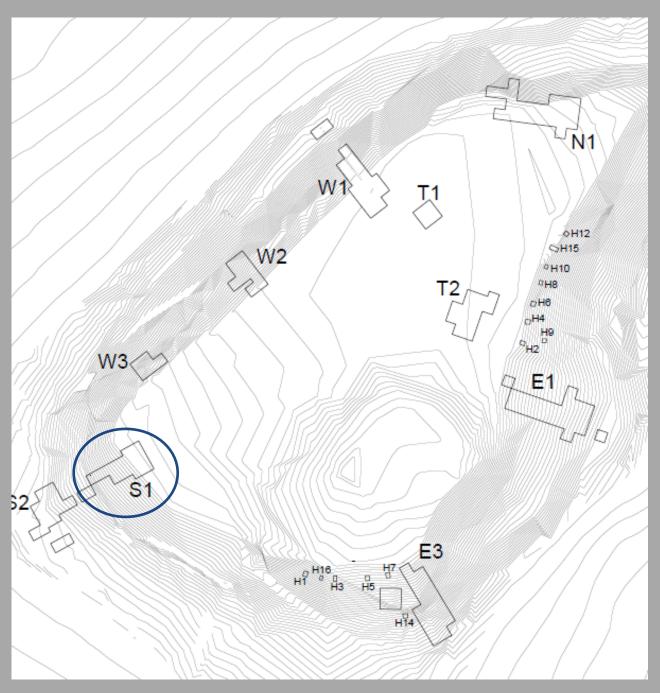


#### Area S1

Excavated in: 2012, 2013, 2014,

Period: Early Bronze, Middle Bronze, Late Bronze, Iron Age, Persian/Hellenistic





#### Area S1

Located on the southern slope of the Tel.

Fascinating finds have revealed themselves within Persian period dwelling complex.



Destruction debris uncovered within an Iron Age complex indicate the collapse of a structure built with mud bricks and boulders.

Who lived here? Why was it destroyed?

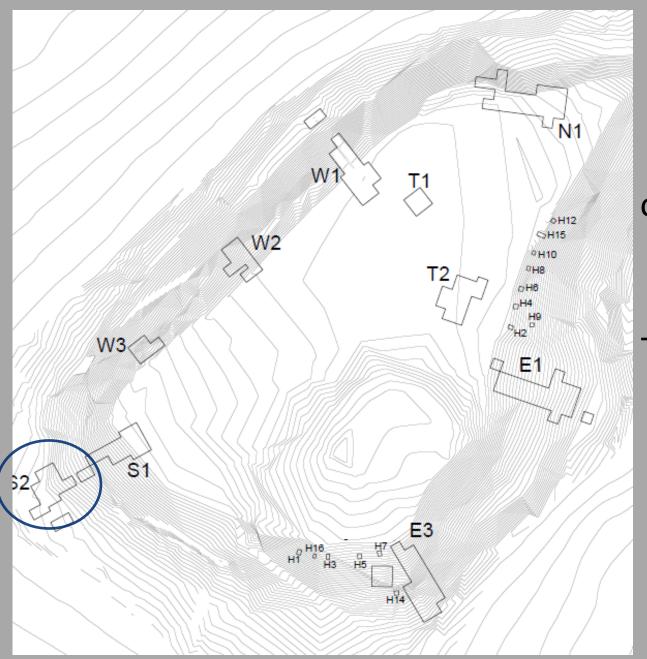
Hopefully the collection of ceramic vessels found from beneath the destruction can tell us more!







Period: Middle Bronze, Late Bronze, Iron Age,
Persian/Hellenistic



Area S2 is located on the plateu of the Tel.

The area represents the lower Late Bronze City of Tel Azekah.



This area has revealed destruction layers, a water reservoir, and a public plaza.

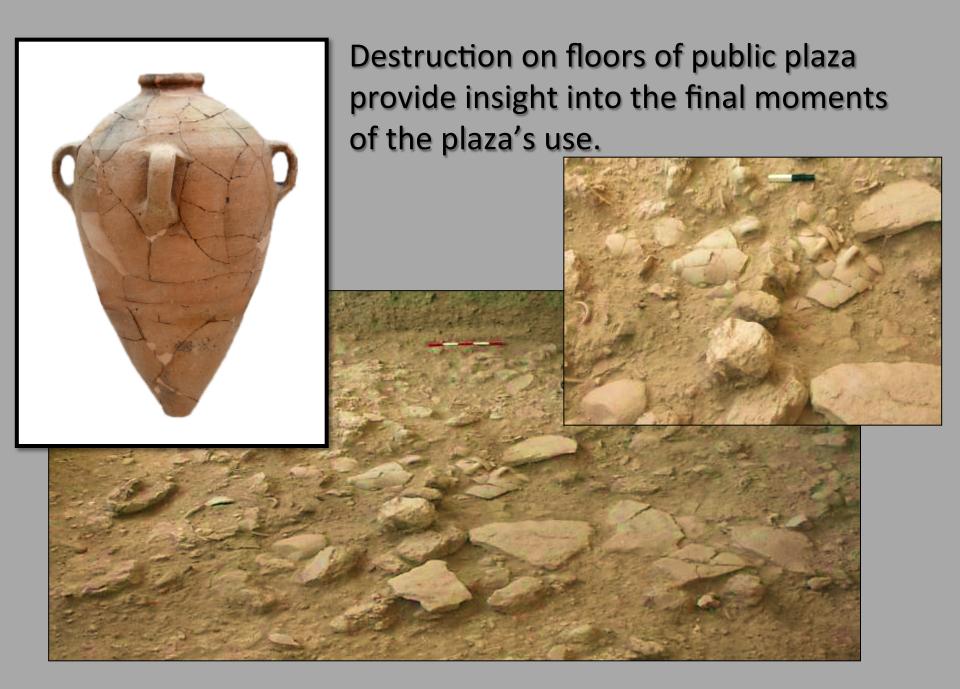


After the reservoir collapsed, the space was subsequently used for building activity.

azekah.org



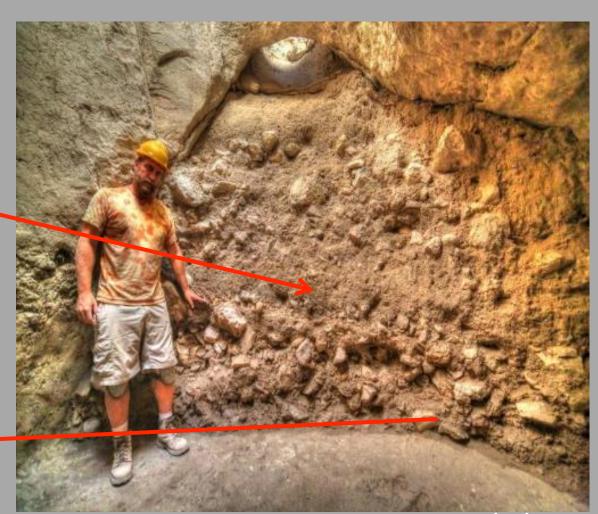
S2 is a fascinating area, offering insight into realities of daily life during the Late Bronze.



## The Sealing of Cistern and Burial occurred during the Persian – Hellenistic periods.

Natural Accumulation in Cistern

Cistern went out of use in Iron Age IIC.





### Knife with a handle that is possibly ivory or bone.

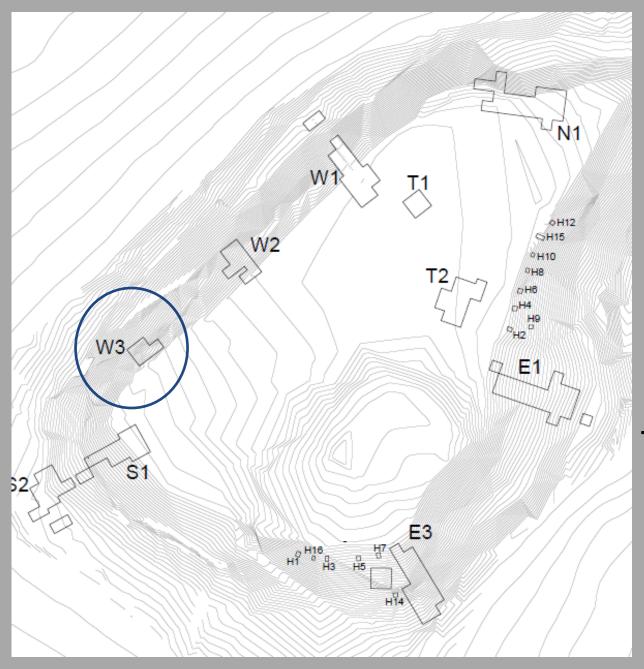






Excavated in: 2015,

Period: Early Bronze, Middle Bronze, Late Bronze



# Location of Area W3

Selected for excavation due to its impressive tower.

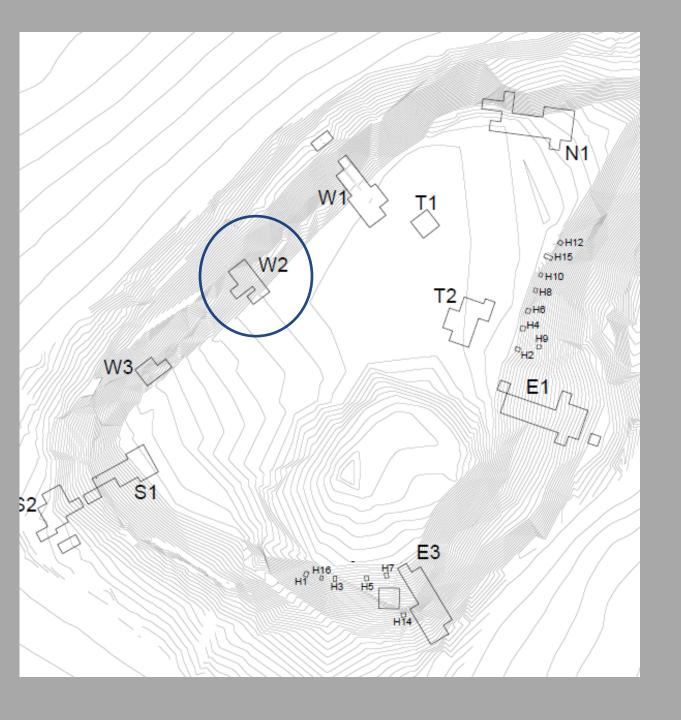
### Middle Bronze Age Tower (and not Roman, as Bliss first thought!)







Period: Early Bronze, Middle Bronze, Late Bronze, Iron Age, Persian/Hellenistic



# Location of Area W2



Excavations in W2 have uncovered the MB fortifications of the Tel.

Why was Azekah fortified?

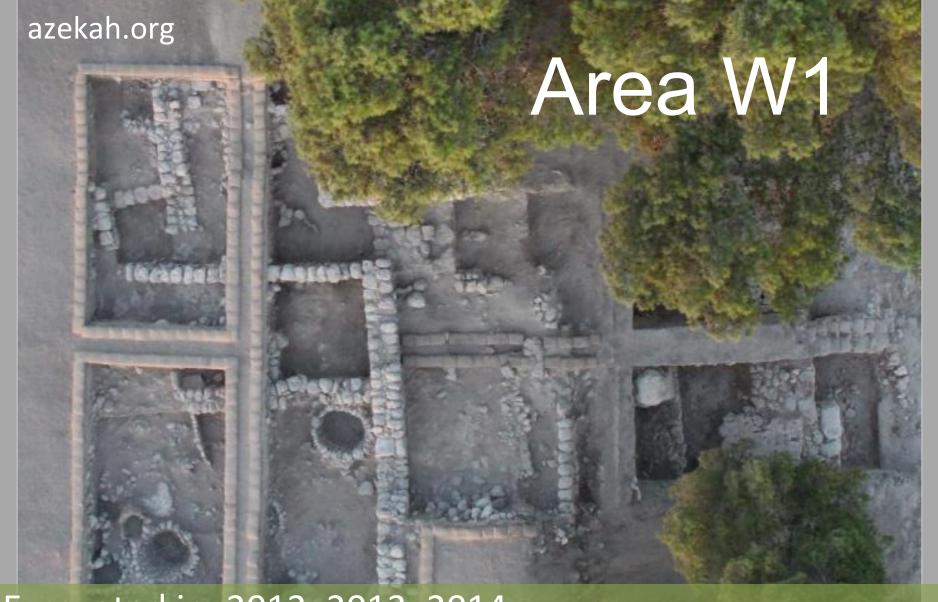
And who exactly broke through those fortifications?

Only further excavation will tell!

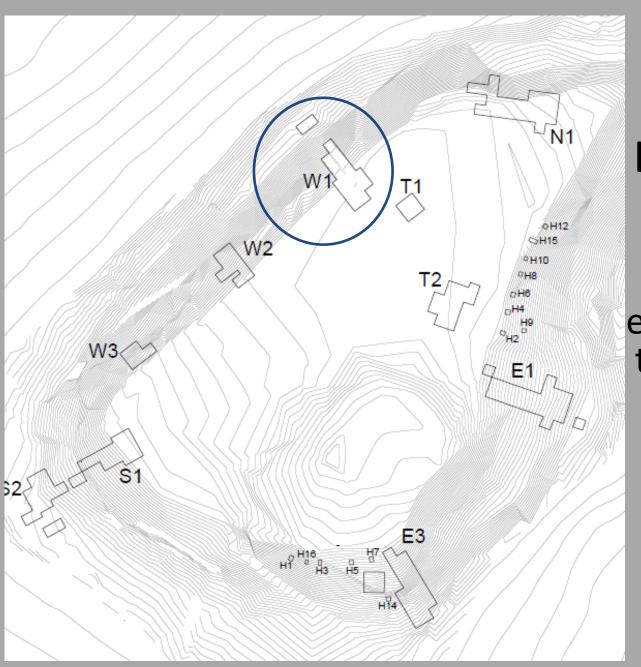








Excavated in: 2012, 2013, 2014, Period: Middle Bronze, Late Bronze, Iron Age, Persian/ Hellenistic



#### Location of Area W1

Area W1 provides essential insight into the statigraphy and overall understanding of the Tel.

Granaries (4<sup>th</sup> century BCE) located at the top of W1 prompt archaeological questions regarding the function and role the area may have played in the winder economy of the Tel and of the region.



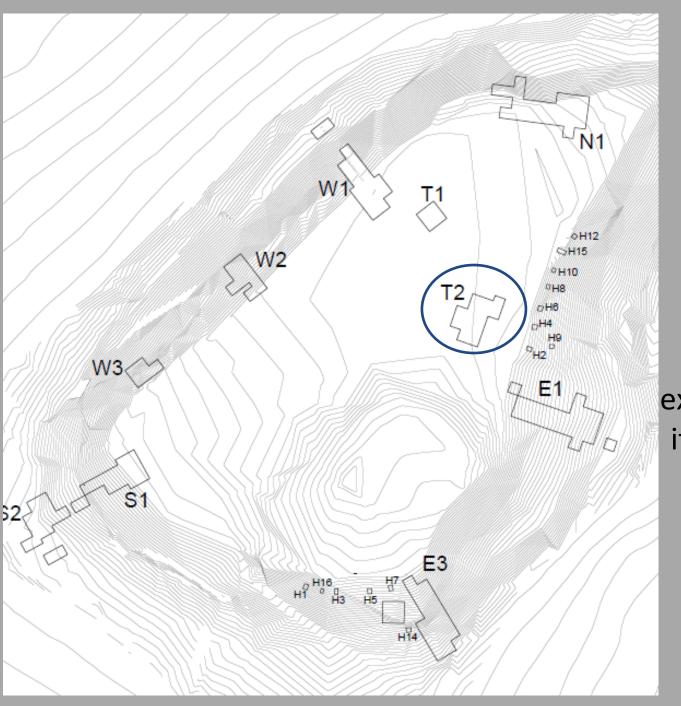
azekah.org

### Plaster floors reveal an abandon 'granary' building and ceramics of 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE





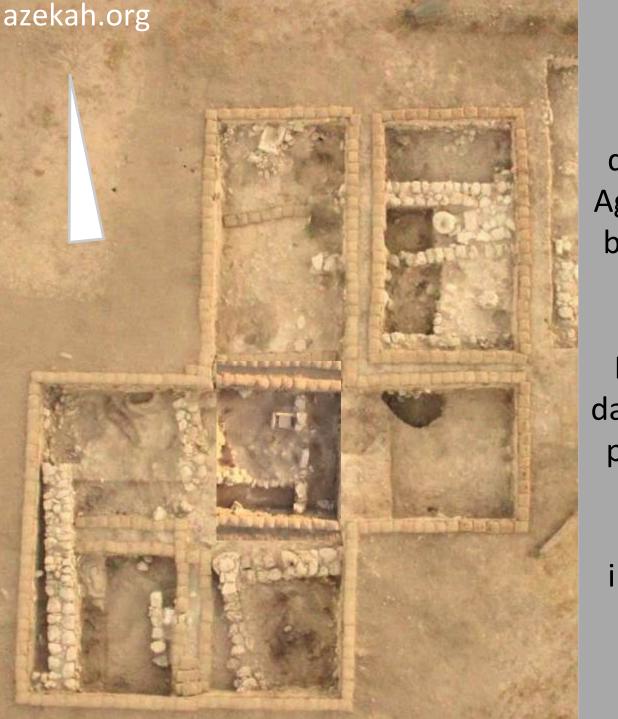




# Location of Area T2

Selected for excavation because of its prime location on the top of the Tel.





As time progressed...
during the Late Bronze
Age, a destruction of the
building with courtyard
occurred.

Preserved to this very day are the installations, pillars, and ceramics of that building, which were destroyed in an instant during the Late Bronze ...



Destruction layers dated to the Late Bronze Period provide new insight into the daily life of Late Bronze period



Broken vessels discovered in-situ, can be later restored in the laboratories of Tel Aviv University. There the vessels can be tested for 'Residue Analysis' where scientists uncover what the vessels held (oils, fats, grains) during the period of use.





To learn more about how you can make a financial donation of your choosing to the continued excavation and future results of Azekah, contact us at azekah.excavations@gmail.com! azekah.org