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## ANNEX 1

### Archaeological Heritage Related to the Baptism Site

Moawiyah Ibrahim

#### Introduction

The Jordan Valley between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee is flanked by the mountains of Palestine (west) and Jordan (east). It is the lowest spot on earth, with an absolute lowest point on the Dead Sea shore around 385 m below sea level. The valley rises in elevation toward the Sea of Galilee and Lake Hula in the north.

The Jordan Valley is a part of the Great Rift Valley and consists of three geographical sub-units; the *Ghor*, the qattara hills and the *Zor*. The *Ghor* (the valley), is the largest unit; it is flat and fertile and consists of terra rossa soil, which has mainly eroded from the mountains. Between the low and sterile qattara hills lies the *Zor* (the Jordan River bed), which is relatively narrow and is incised c. 5-25 m, depending on the water fluctuations of the Jordan River. For this reason hardly any permanent archaeological sites have been identified in it.

Major landmarks in the Jordan Valley are the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee, linked by the Jordan River. All these water resources are fed by streams and rain water coming from the mountain ranges. Side wadis in the eastern hills, mainly oriented east-west, are more numerous than in the western hills. The wadis from north to south are: Yarmouk, el-Arab, Ziqlab, el-Yabis, Kufranjeh, Rajib, ez-Zerqa, Shu\_eib, Kefrein, Hesban and Azeimeh. The *Ghor* is also much wider on the eastern side, which is the reason why a large number of modern settlements and archaeological sites are there.

At the time an archaeological survey was conducted in 1975-1976 there were 64,000 people living in the Jordan Valley. Now there are c. 385,000 people living in the same area. The villages have become larger and new settlements have been established, interconnected by new highways and crossroads. The entire valley is now covered with plastic greenhouses. New

factories, schools, mosques, and other buildings have been constructed. Huge Muslim and Christian shrines have been built to replace the old small ones in Muḥad, Waqqas, Sharhabil, Abu Ḥbaida and the Baptism Site.



Satellite Images of the Jordan Valley

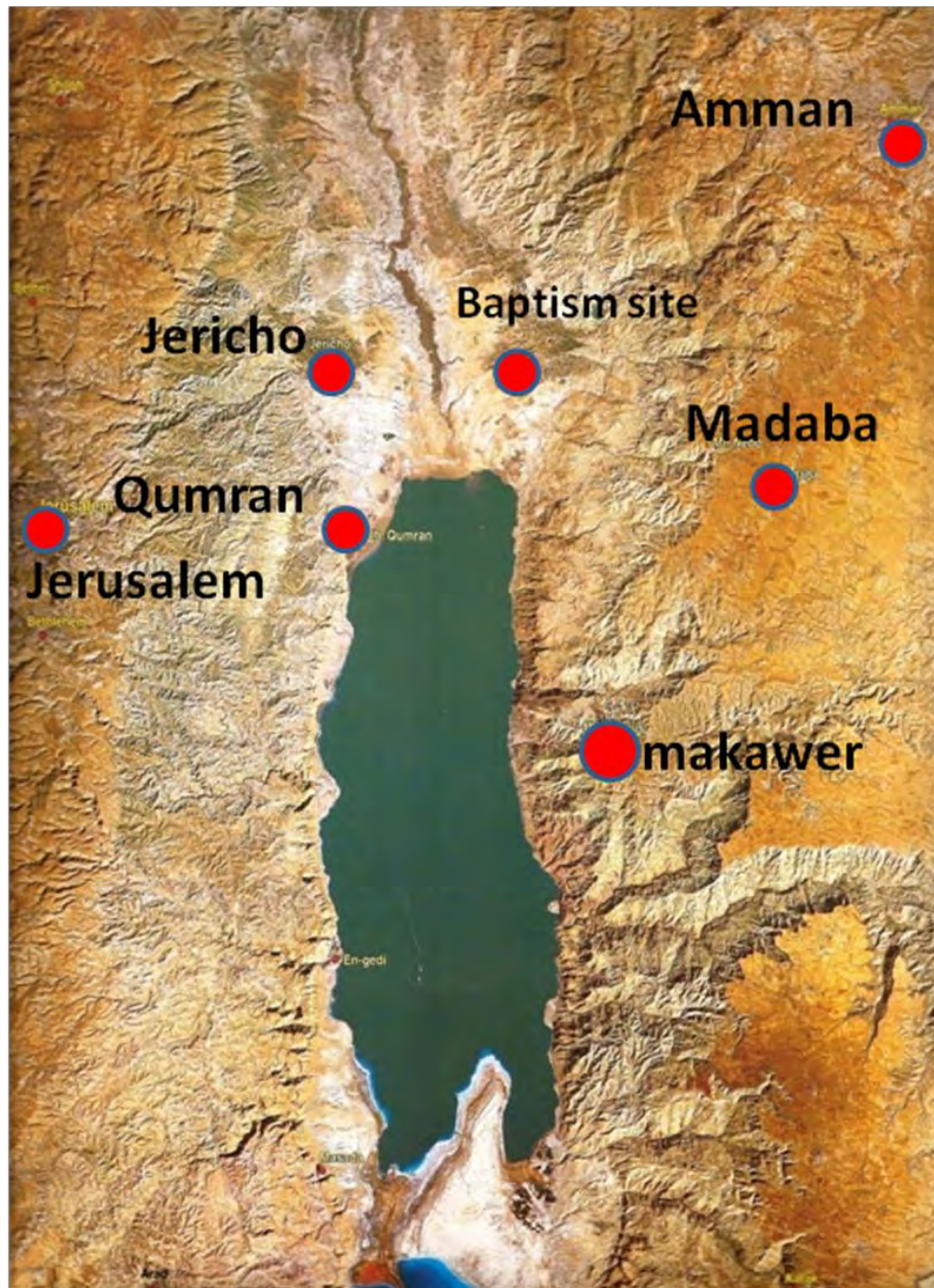
The Baptism site is located in the Jordan Valley of the East Bank of the Jordan River, the lowest spot below sea level on Earth.

The Jordan River itself meanders south through a small secondary valley called in Arabic the *Zor*, the bed that the river has cut into the floor of the valley. Along the edge of the *Zor*, between the *Zor* and the *Ghor*, are the barren dissected qattara hills (Ibrahim et al 1976: 41).

The earliest settled site in this area is Tell al-Sultan / Jericho, one of the earliest settled sites in the Near East dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> millennium BC.

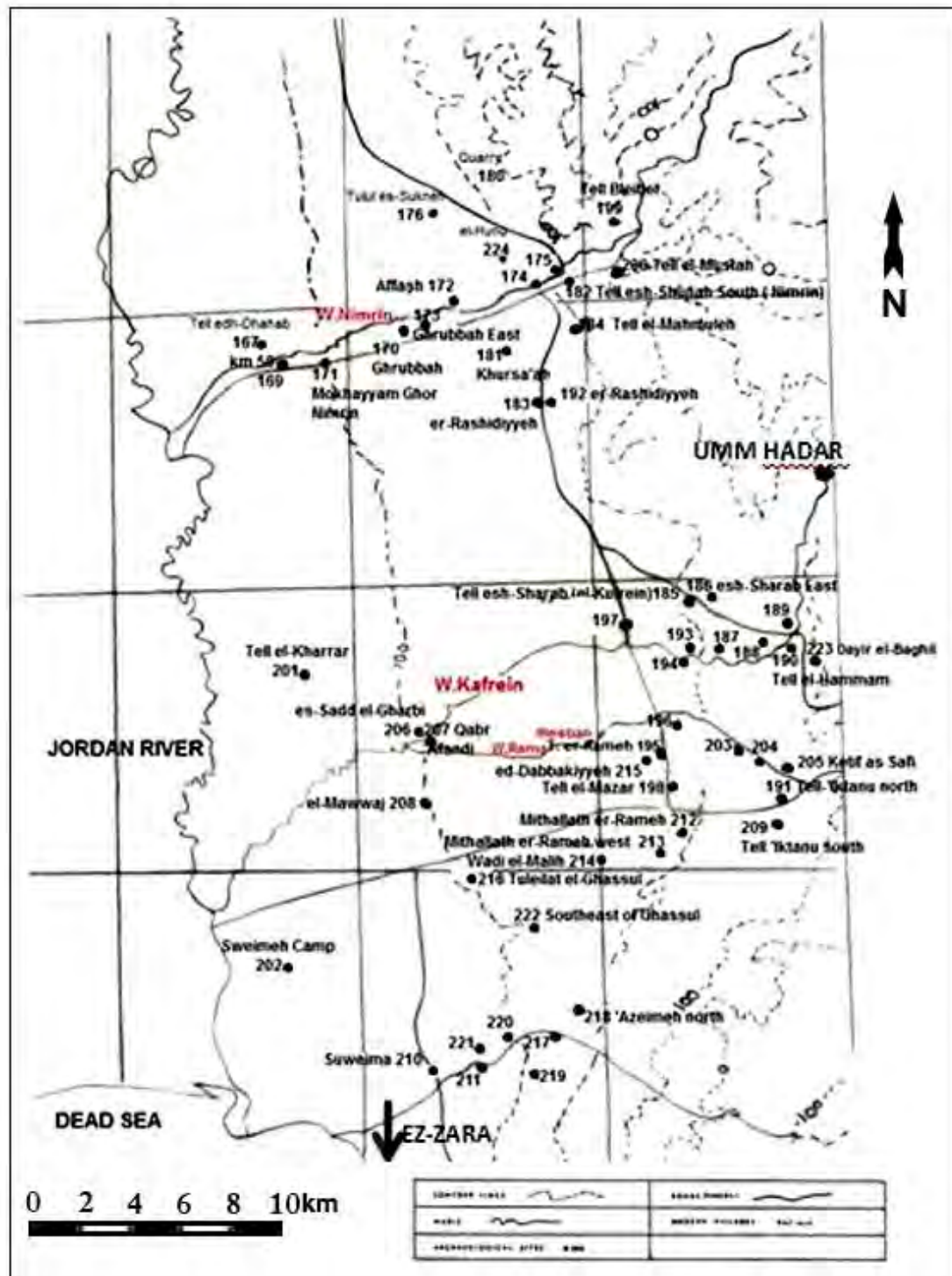
Jericho's earliest inhabitants were in close contact with the inhabitants in Wadi Shu\_eib and in Amman (Ain Ghazal). The following pottery Neolithic period (6000-5000 BC) is well represented at the site of Ghrubba, on the south side of Wadi Shu\_eib just a few kilometers northeast of Tell Al-Kharrar.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC the area between Wadi Shu\_eib and the Dead Sea was densely populated, represented by major Chalcolithic sites such as Ghanam and Afash along Wadi Shu\_eib, Tell el-Hammam and Tuleilat al-Ghasul. This period shows well developed village farming communities, many located close to water sources.



The Baptism Site and Other Major Sites (Google)





## Neolithic / Chalcolithic

168. Ghannam.

170. Ghrubba.

172. Affash.

173. Ghrubba East.

184. Tell el-Mahmoleh.

206. es-Sadd el-Gharbī.

214. Widi el-Malih.

216. Tuleilat Ghassul.

222. Ghassul (South-East).



Neolithic / Chalcolithic Sites in the Jordan Valley  
(Ibrahim et al. 1976)

Most of these sites have similar characteristics, not only in terms of surface artifacts (pottery and flints), but also in their location and construction. The Neolithic / Chalcolithic sites were concentrated along major and side wadis (for sites between Wadi Yarmouk and Wadi Rajib). For the southern half of the Jordan Valley, the majority of the sites are located along the Zarqa River, Wadi Nimrin, Wadi Kufrein and Azeimeh. They are hardly recognizable except close up. This is probably a reason why many of them could not be identified during earlier surveys in the Jordan Valley.

Important centers of the early farming communities are represented by major large sites: Tell Ghrubba, Tell Ghannam and Tell Affash, located directly on both edges of Wadi Nimrin in a fertile area of the Jordan Valley. There are remains of a number of stone houses on the surface of these sites without any recognizable surrounding walls. This may indicate the way these settlements developed from individual houses built next to water sources, in this case the stream of Wadi Nimrin - Wadi Shueib which irrigated the neighboring fields.

A similar situation for this settlement type is found at es-Sadd el-Gharbi on the north side of Wadi el-Kufrein where it joins with Wadi er-Rameh, and at the site of Wadi el-Malih. The small mounds of Tuleilat Ghassul probably witnessed a similar development, though different in function, as the excavations at the site have uncovered a religious center with a large variety of associated cultic objects that were not found on the surface of other contemporary sites.



## Tuleilat el-Ghassul

Tuleilat el-Ghassul is one of the largest Chalcolithic sites to be found in the entire region. It shows uniform architectural units consisting of large rectangular rooms. The rooms are built of stone with a mud-brick superstructure. Notable are several wall paintings that were well executed in various colors; beside naturalistic and geometric designs there are signs and cult processions that represent the religious practices of this region.

At the end of the Chalcolithic period, the area witnessed a new phase designated by archeologists as Late Chalcolithic, Proto-Urban or Early Bronze I. This is transitional period that led to the beginning of the urbanization of the entire region during the Early Bronze Age.



Wall Paintings in Tuleilat el-Ghassul (Kerner 2004: 79; Bienkowski 1991: 6)



Pottery from Tuleilat el-Ghassul (Kerner 2004: 78-79)

## Early Bronze Age

Sites of this period are well represented south of Wadi Shu\_eib.

181. Khursa'a.

188. Abu Qaraf.

189. Tell et-Tahuneh.

190. Tell el-Hammam.

191. Tell Iktanu.

199. Tell Bleibel.

200. Tell Mustah.

204. Tell Wad'an.

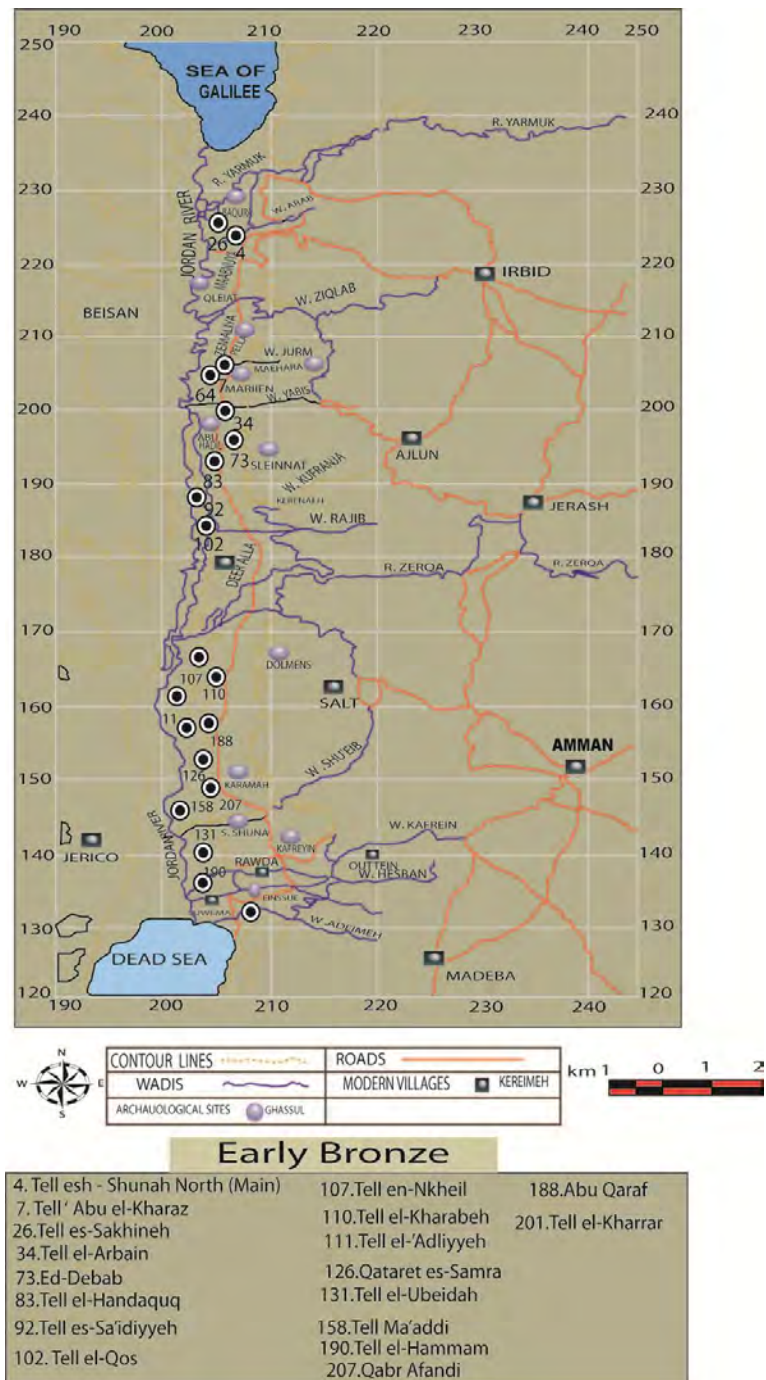
205. Kitef es-Saṭī

211. Mweis.

217. Azeimeh South.

218. Azeimeh North.

221. Mweis North.



Early Bronze Sites in the Jordan Valley  
(Ibrahim et al. 1976)

This type of unplanned settlement continued to exist at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. The pottery includes types and wares that belong to both periods (Chalcolithic / Early Bronze), the topography and development of the above mentioned sites, as well as some of the pottery types, continues from the earlier sites of the Neolithic / Chalcolithic period, and represents unorganized farming communities. The pottery shapes as a whole and the flints have tendencies towards the Early Bronze Age. The surface material obtained from these sites may represent a transition between the Neolithic / Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze periods. Some of them (Tell Mustah, Azeimeh North and Azeimeh South) are located along foothills, on defined hills overlooking the floor of the valley, near water sources. More Early Bronze sites were found on top of isolated hills in the floor of the valley, such as Tell Abu Qaraf and Tell Iktanu.

The Early Bronze sites are in general much more defined than those of the earlier Neolithic / Chalcolithic period, and their location and surface features may justify the understanding of the fortified towns of the 3rd millenium B.C, which indicates a more developed organization of farming communities.

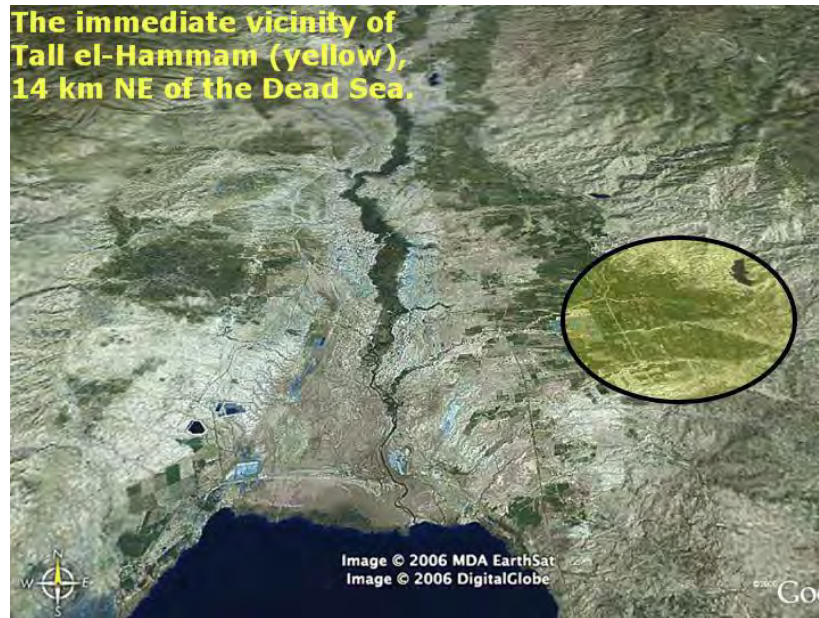
### ***Tell El-Hammam***

Tell el-Hammam is located approximately 8 km north of the Dead Sea, 12 km east of the Jordan River, 8 km south of the modern village of South Shouna (the location of Tell Nimrin), and 1 km south-southwest of the Kafrein Dam (see aerial and satellite photographs). This area of the southern Jordan Valley, particularly the eastern half of what many now call “the Jordan Disk” (the circular alluvial area north of the Dead Sea, approximately 25 km in diameter), lies on the crossroads of the region’s ancient north-south and east-west trade routes. Several significant sites, all seemingly occupied during the high points of Levantine Bronze Age civilization, hug the eastern edge of the Jordan Disk just beyond the spread of the ancient flood plain, bounded on the north by the throat of the Jordan Valley, and on the south by the rocky terrain of the Dead Sea area—Tell Nimrin with Tell Bleibel, Tell Mustah, and several smaller sites in close proximity, and sprawling Tell el-Hammam with comparatively small Tell Kafrein a short distance to the



northeast, Tell Iktanu approximately 2 km to the south, and numerous small sites in close array. Also nearby are hundreds of dolmens and cemetery sites that, for the most part, remain unexcavated.

Architecturally, the major contributors to the enormity of the site of Tell el-Hammam —spreading approximately one square kilometer—are the cities of the Early Bronze Age (3600-2350 BCE), Intermediate Bronze Age (2350-2000 BCE), and Middle Bronze Age (2000-1550 BCE). The massive 6-meter-thick EBA city wall rings the lower and upper Tells to an elliptical diameter of 500x750 meters. The same fortifications were refurbished and re-used during the IBA, and were later swallowed up by the construction of massive MB2 fortifications up to 50 meters thick, including the city wall and outer rampart/glacis with multiple (interior) stone stabilizer walls.



Tell el-Hammam (Google)

### Early Bronze IV-Middle Bronze I

183. Tell er-Rashidiyyeh.

190. Tell el-Hammam.

191. Tell Iktanu North.

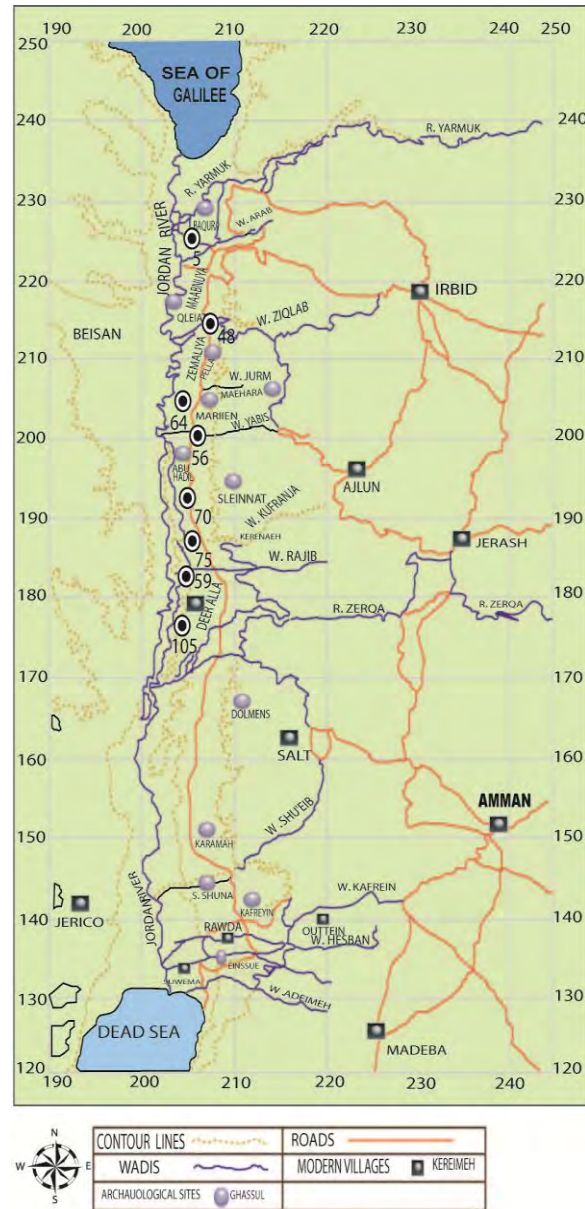
194. el-Mshayyadeh.

207. Qabr Afandi.

209. Tell Iktanu South.

The Early Bronze Age ends with a period designated as Early Bronze / Middle Bronze, which is well represented in the Jordan Valley, either through tombs or poor but partly large settlements. We could not find any material of this period between the land of the Zarqa River and the land of Wadi Nimrin, where a few sites such as Tell er-Rashidiyyeh have been identified. EB/MB sites on isolated hills (Tell el-Hammam and Tell Iktanu) are located on the flat floor of the Valley.

The evidence obtained from the Jordan Valley shows a decline in the settlements and the material culture at the end of the Early Bronze Age, but villages and farming communities continued to exist during this period on a less defined basis than it was in the earlier EB I-III,



#### Early Bronze IV - Middle Bronze I

- 5. El-Hammeh (Tombs)
- 48. Khirbet el-Hammeh
- 56. Tell el-Hayyat
- 59. Tell esh-Sheikh Shehab
- 64. Tell 'Abu en-Ni'aj (North)
- 70. Tell 'Abu en-Ni'aj (Tombs)
- 75. Dhahret Umm el-Marar
- 105. Khirbet Bumeib

EB IV- MB I Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)



although the EB II-III sites are much less well represented in the Valley than the EBI. Very few EB III sites (Tell Iktanu) were reoccupied during the EB/MB period.

### **Middle Bronze II and Late Bronze Ages**

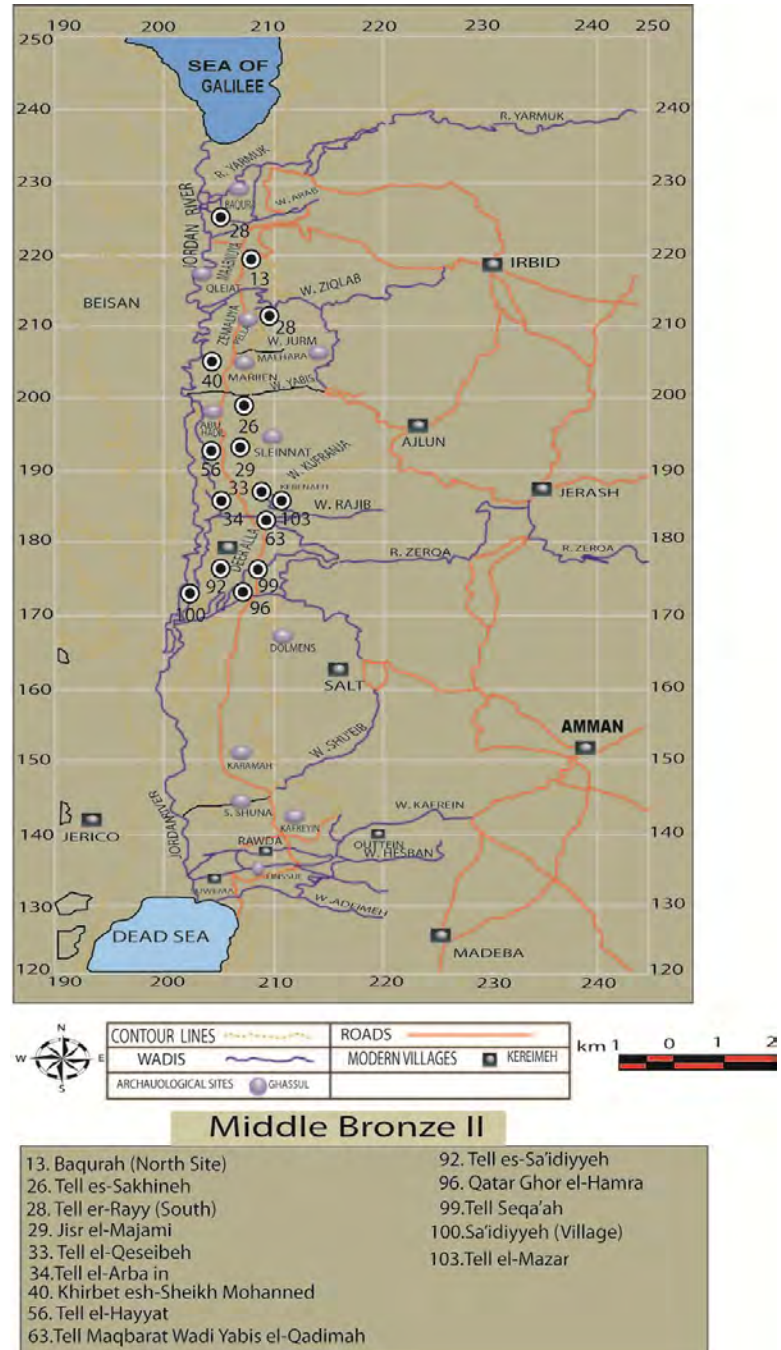
During the second millennium BC (Middle Bronze – Late Bronze Ages) the number of sites is much lower in the area south of Wadi Shu'eib than the Early Bronze Age of the 3th millennium BC and the following transitional period (EB – MB Ages).

189. Tell et-Tahuneh.

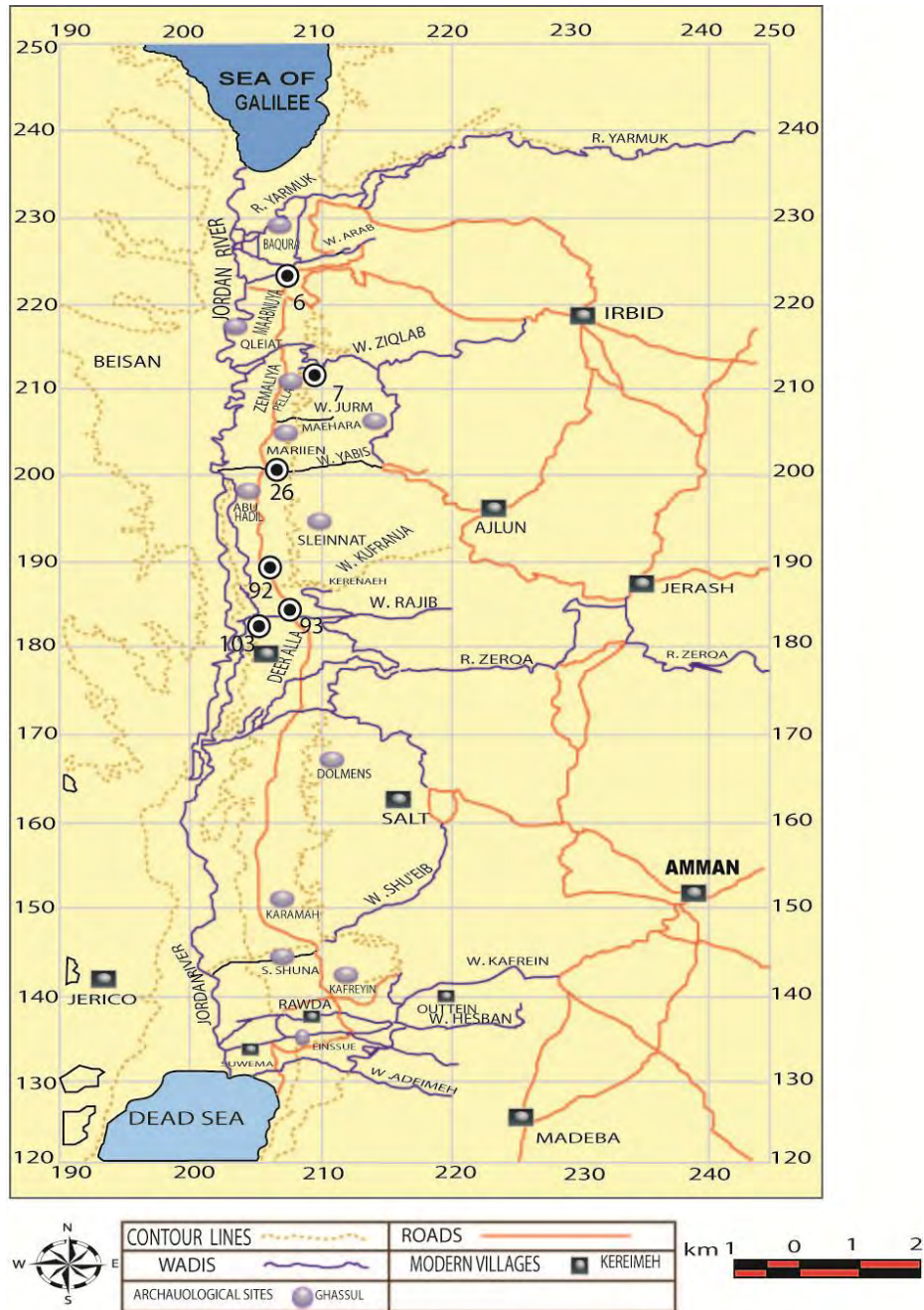
193. el-Jazayir.

200. Tell Mustah.

The number of MB sites is much lower than the EB and EB/MB sites.



Middle Bronze Age Sites in the Jordan Valley  
(Ibrahim et al. 1976)



### Late Bronze

- 6. Tell el-Meqberekh
- 7. Tell 'Abu el-Kharaz
- 26. Tell es-Sakhineh
- 92. Tell es-Saidiyyeh
- 93. Tell el-Keraymeh
- 103. Tell el-Mazar

Late Bronze Age Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)



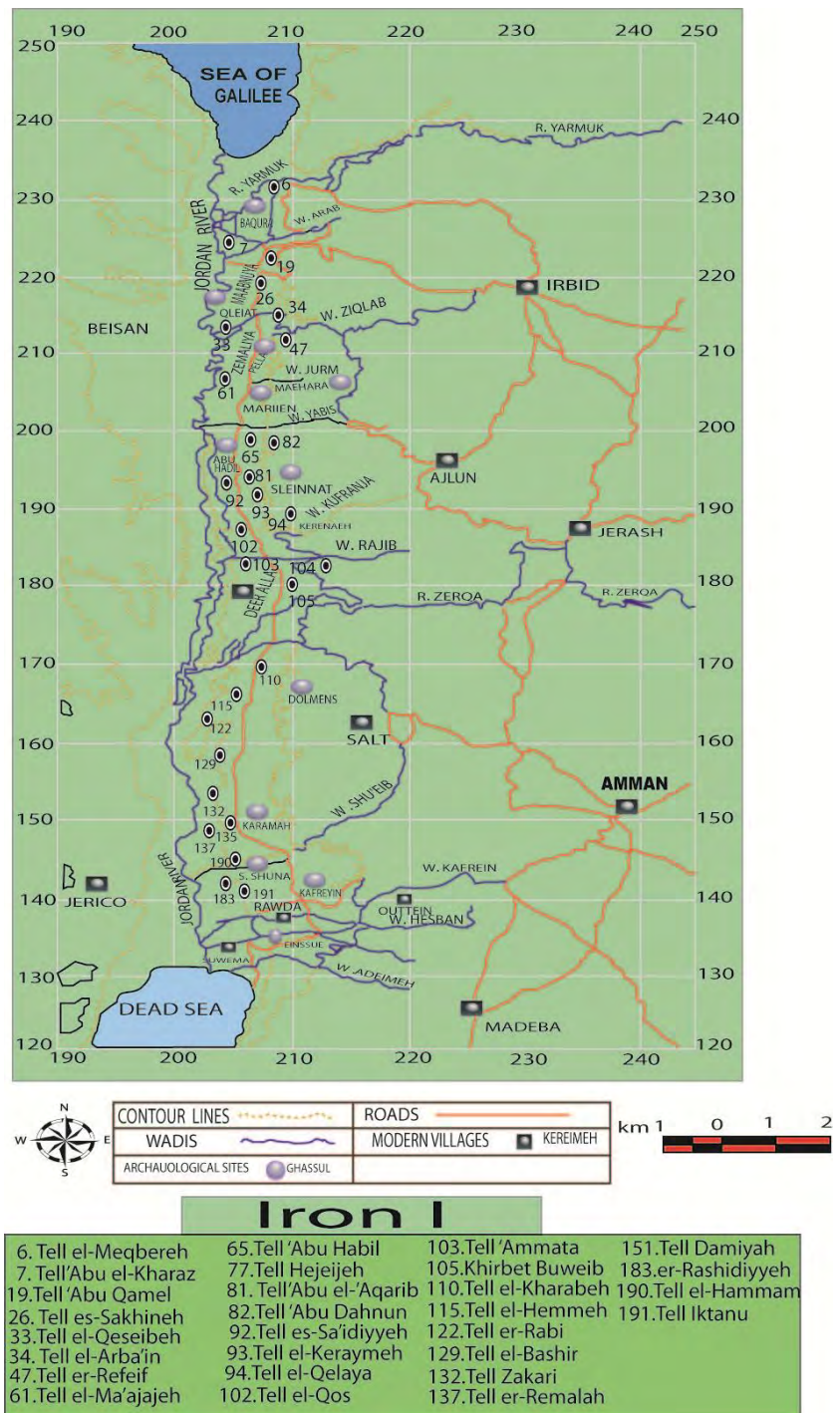
## Iron I

183. er-Rashīdiyyeh.

190. Tell el-Hammam.

191. Tell Iktanu.

Most of the Iron I sites (er-Rashidiyyeh, Tell el-Hammam, Tell Iktanu) are located on the floor of the Jordan Valley with concentrations along the Wadi el-Kufrein, Tell el-Hemmeh is situated close to the base of the east foothills, but none of the Iron I sites is located on high peaks of foothills. Tell er-Rashidiyyeh was mainly established during the Early Iron Age. All of the above listed sites continued to be occupied or resettled during Iron II.



Iron Age Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

## Iron II

182. Tell esh-Shonah el-Janubi  
(Tell Nimrin).

183. er-Rashidiyyeh.

185. Tell esh-Sharab  
(el-Kufrein).

186. Sharab East.

189. Tell et-Tahoneh.

190. Tell el-Hammad.

191. Tell Iktanu.

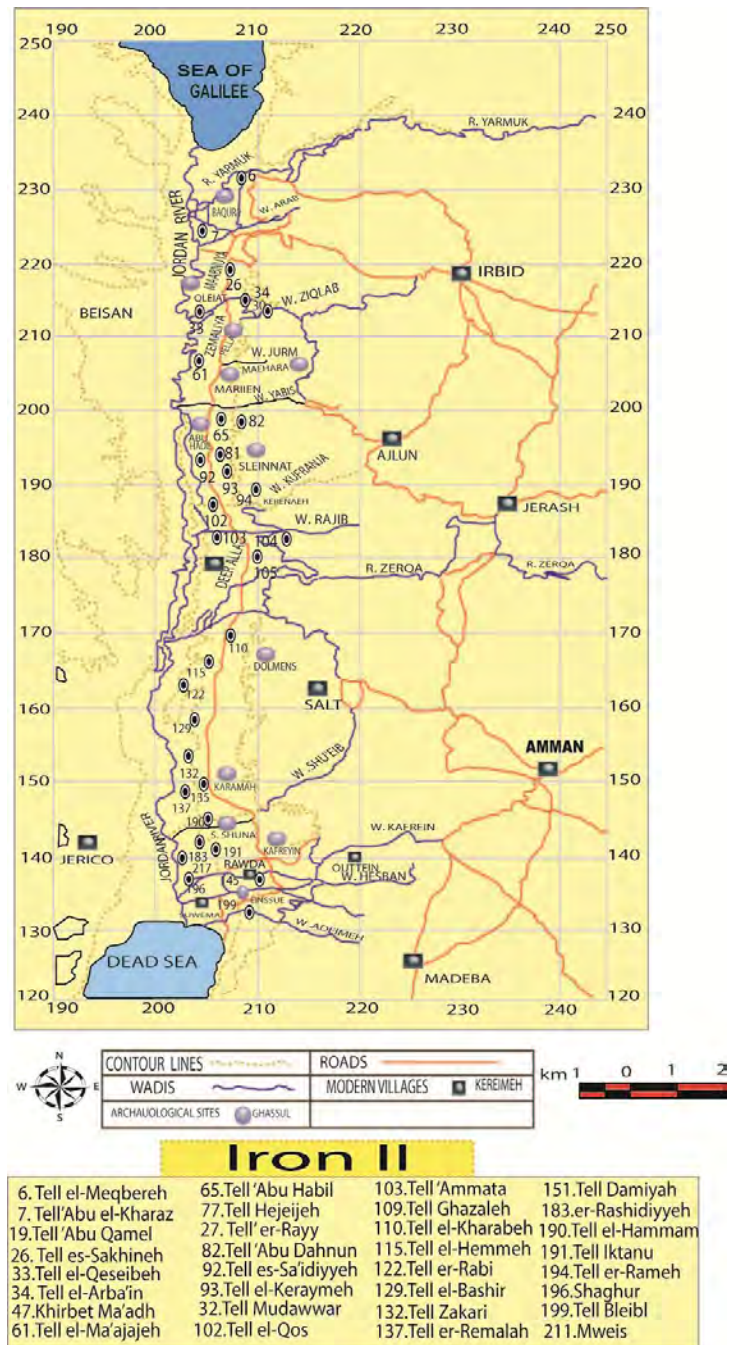
194. Tell er-Rameh.

196. Shaghor.

199. Tell Bleibel.

211. Mweis.

217. Azeimeh South.



Iron II Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

In general, the Iron I sites were chosen for reuse in the Iron II period, and the number of sites doubled during this period, since new sites were either established (Tell esh-Shonah (Nimrin), Tell esh-Sharab (el-Kufrein), Sharab East?, Tell er-Rameh, Shaghor?, Tell Bleibel) or resettled after being abandoned (Tell et-Tahoneh, Mweis, Azeimeh South).

Some of the sites (Tell el-Hammad, Azeimeh South) were completely abandoned after the Iron II period, while others (Tell esh-Sharab, Tell et-Tahoneh, Tell Iktanu, Tell Bleibel) continued to be used into the Persian period.

Most of the Iron II settlements were located on the floor of the Valley, although a few sites (Tell Bleibel, Azeimeh South) were chosen on peaks of the eastern foothills and have defensive features.



## Persian

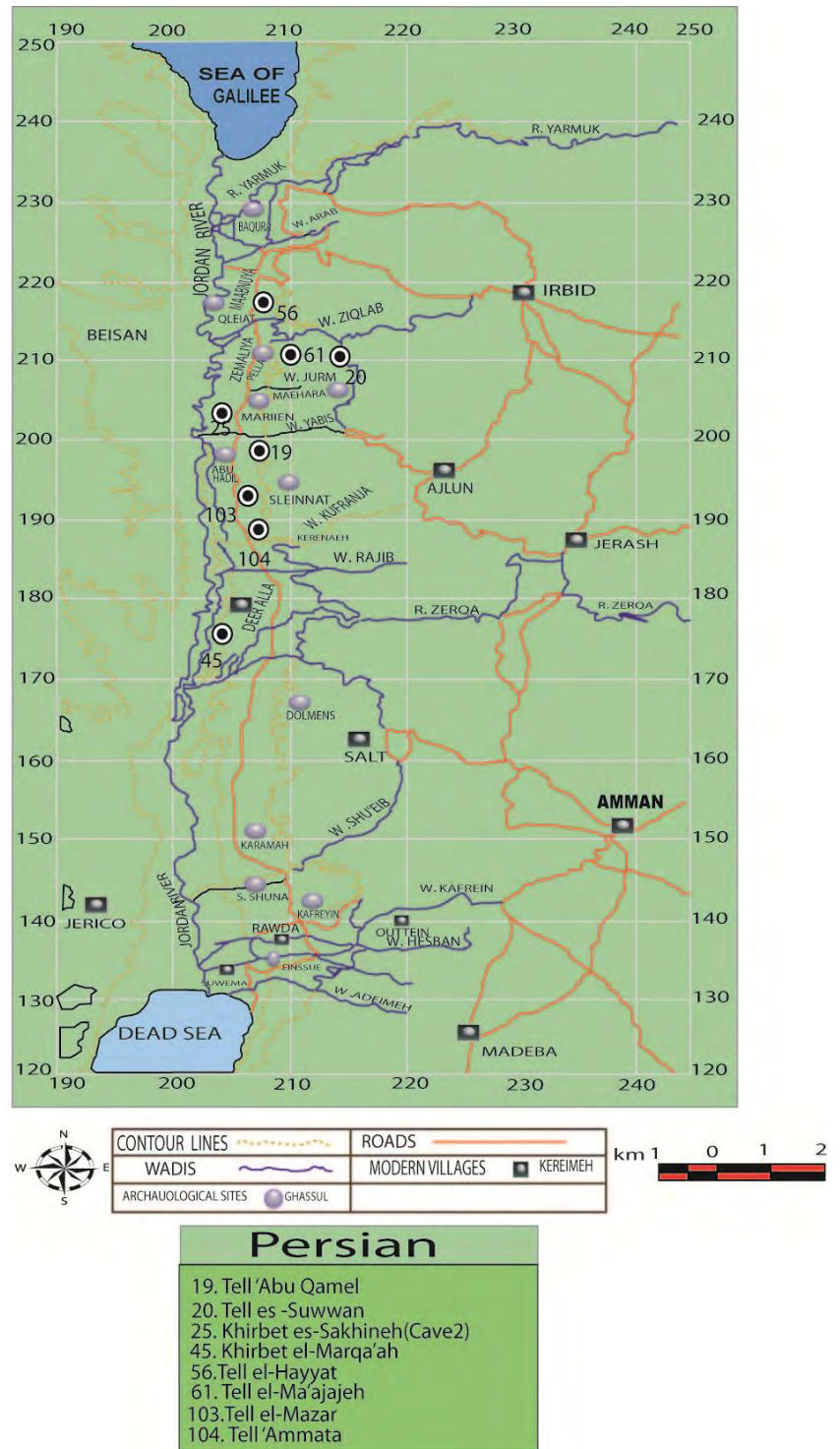
185. Tell esh-Sharab (el-Kufrein).

189. Tell et-Tahoneh.

191. Tell Iktanu?

199. Tell Bleibel.

Most of the sites seemed to reflect continuous occupation from the Iron II period, but they seem to be less well represented than the previous period. The few Persian sites were located along main wadis: Wadi Nimrin (Tell Bleibel), Wadi el-Kufrein (Tell esh-Sharab), Wadi Hisban (Tell Iktanu?). Most of these settlements were situated on defined mounds (tells), but at present it is difficult to make conclusions about the extent of these settlements, although they seem to be less extensive than any major period represented in the Valley. A few sites (Tell esh-Sharab, Tell Iktanu, Tell Bleibel?) continued into the Hellenistic period.



Persian Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

## Hellenistic

185. Tell esh-Sharab (el-Kufrein).

187. en-Nassariyat.

191. Tell Iktanu.

199. Tell Bleibil?.

203. Mislaha.

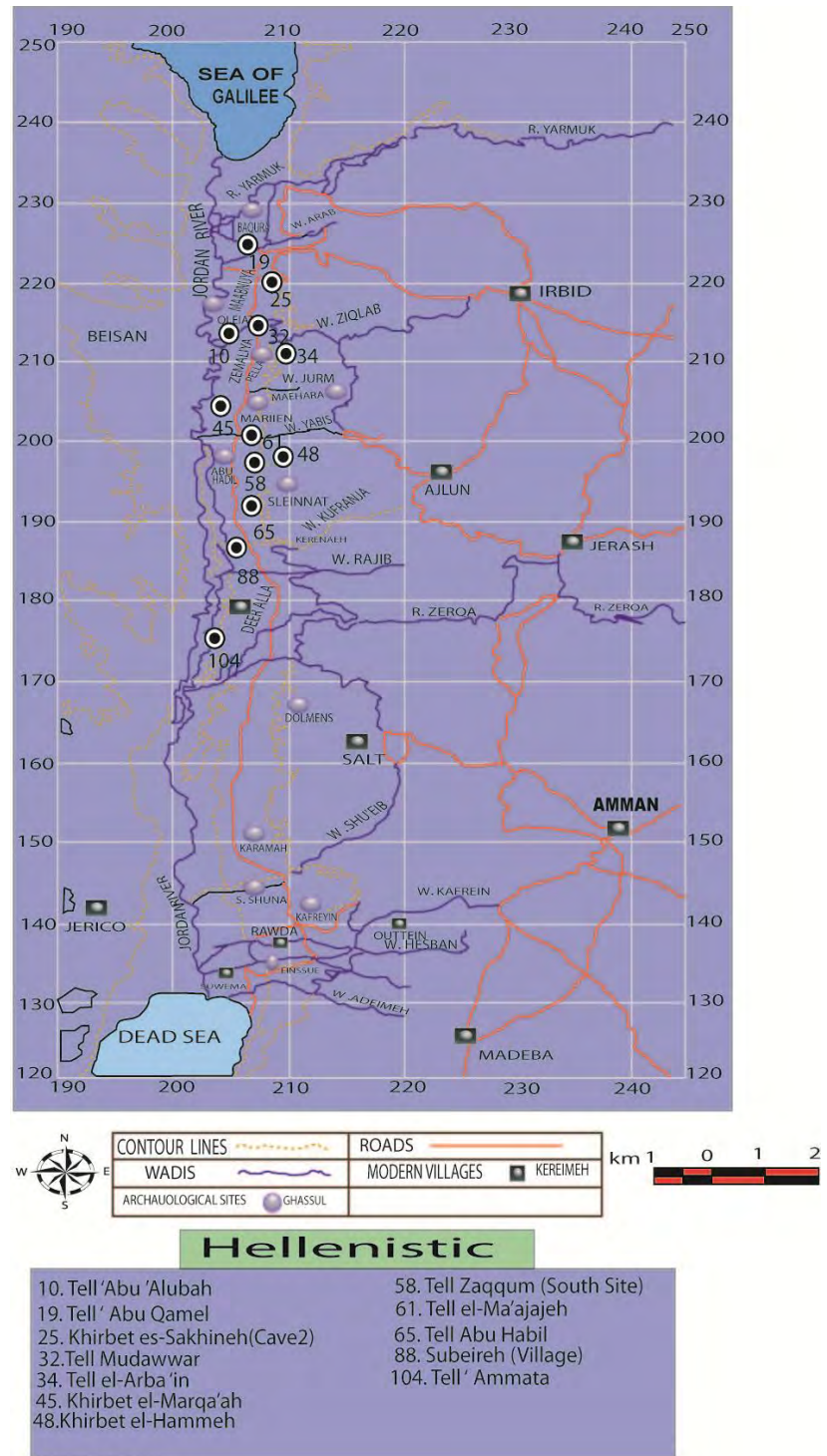
204. Tell Wad'an.

223. Dayir el-Baghil.

Umm Hadar

Most of the Hellenistic sites were located on defined tells, along and near the foothills (Tell Beibel, Mislaha, Wad'an, Dayir el-Baghil), on the floor of the valley (Tell esh-Sharab (el-Kufrein), en-Nassariyat, Tell Iktanu).

A few sites were established during the Hellenistic period (en-Nassariyat, Mislaha, Dayir el-Baghil). Surface sherds do not show specific indications of major Hellenistic sites south of the Zarqa River, although two (Tell Wad'an, Dayir el-Baghil) yielded definite Hellenistic evidence.



Hellenistic Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)



The Sites of Mustah and Bleibel (Google Earth)

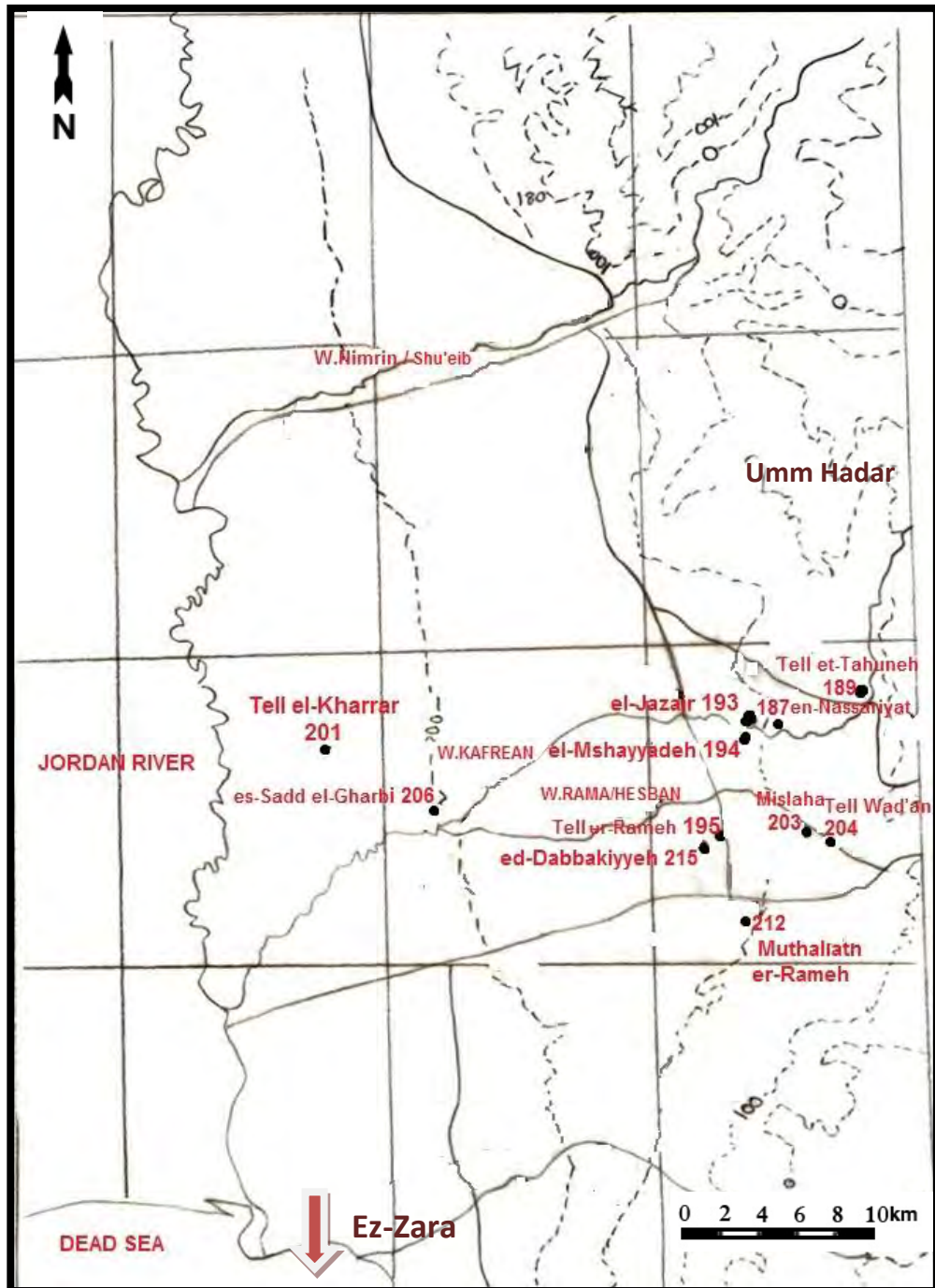
### **Tell al-Kafrein**

Tell al-Kafrein is located approximately 5 km south of the modern village of south ash-Shuna and 3 km south south-west of the al-Kafrein dam. This site was identified in 2001. Architectural remains consisting of stone walls and mud bricks mixed with LB / Iron I-II pottery such as a broken pithos jar, show that Tell al-Kafrein was occupied from the Early Bronze through the Late Iron Ages (Papadopoulos and Kontorli 2010: 283-310).

Tell al-Kafrein is an isolated cone-shaped site, rising 35 m above the valley floor. The small flattened summit of this natural rock-hill has been used during the last century as a cemetery. With a view all the way to Jerusalem and Jericho across the Jordan River, almost continuous habitation of the site from prehistoric to Byzantine and Islamic periods, with the greatest concentration during the EBA and the LBA /Iron Age I-II periods (Papadopoulos 2007:175).

Evidence of Byzantine occupation comes from a building that might have served as a church.





Roman Sites in the Southern Jordan Valley (East of the Jordan)  
(prepared by M. Ibrahim)

## Roman

179. Khirbet Basset el-Faras.

187. en-Nassariyat.

189. Tell et-Tahoneh.

193. el-Jazair.

194. el-Mshayyadeh.

195. Tell er-Rameh.

201. Tell el-Kharrar.

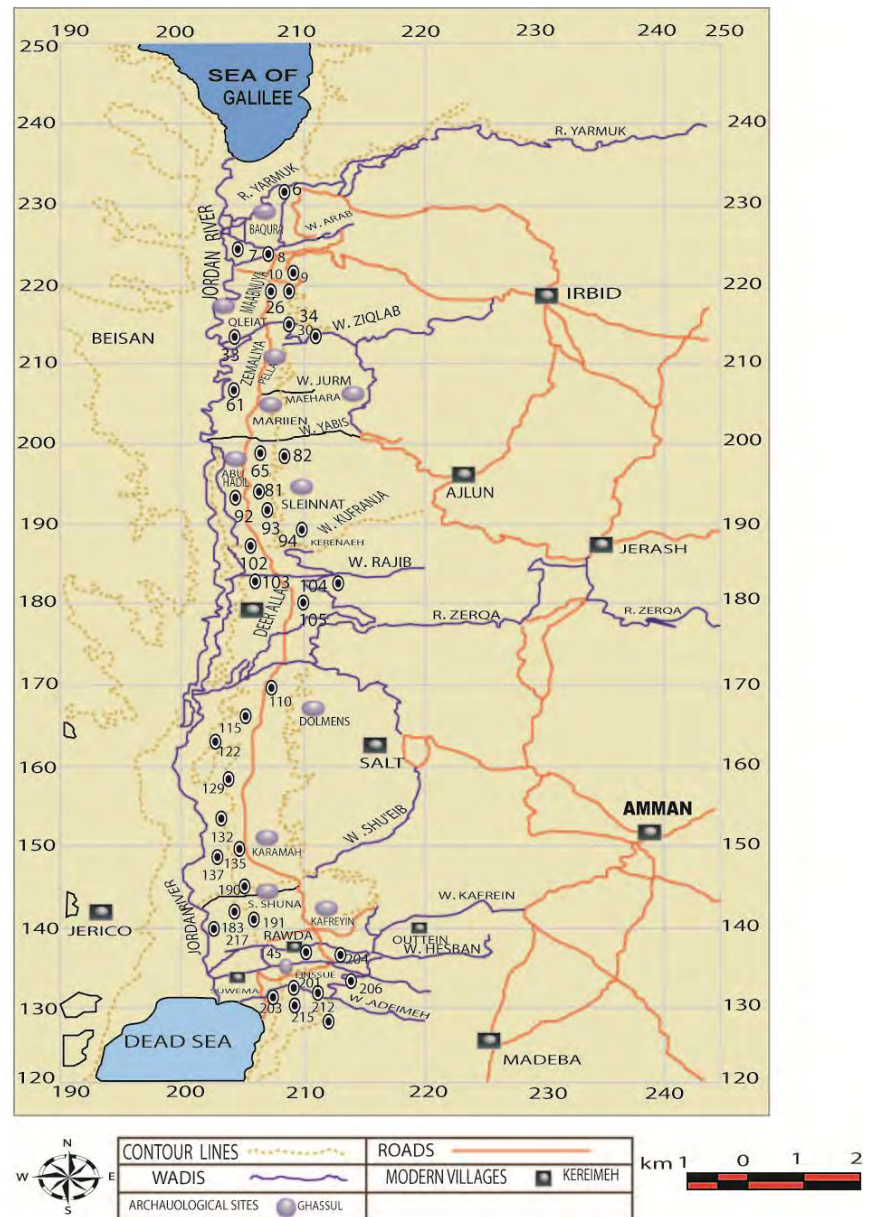
203. Mislaha.

204. Tell Wad'ain.

206. es-Sadd el-Gharbi.

212. Muthallath er-Rameh.

215. ed-Dabbakiyyeh.

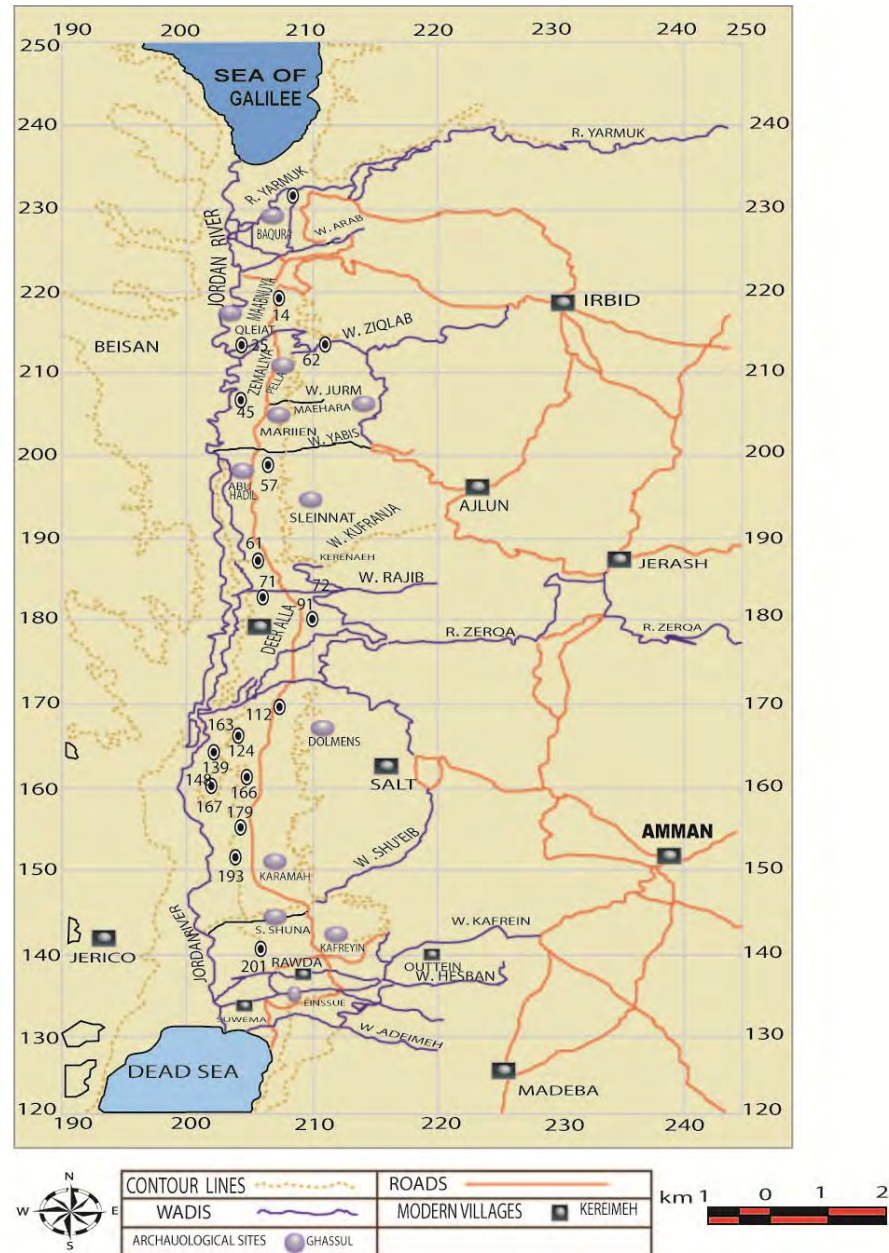


## Early Roman

6. Tell el-Meqbreh	65. Tell 'Abu Habil	112. Tell el-'Adliyyeh	151. Tell Damiyah
7. Tell 'Abu el-Kharaz	77. Tell Hejeijeh	117. Tell Qa'dan	179. Khirbet Basset
19. Tell 'Abu Qamel	27. Tell 'er-Rayy	110. Tell el-Kharabeh	190. Tell el-Hammam
14. Tell el-Mintar	82. Tell 'Abu Dahnun	115. Tell el-Hemmeh	191. Tell Iktanu
20. Tell es-Suwwan	92. Tell es-Sa'idiyyeh	121. Tell Abu Sarbut	194. Tell er-Rameh
34. Tell el-Arba'in	93. Tell el-Keraymeh	139. Tell Shu'bah	201. Tell el-Kharrar
47. Khirbet Ma'adh	32. Tell Mudawwar	140. Tell el-Mafluq	203. Mislaha
61. Tell el-Ma'ajajeh	102. Tell el-Qos	152. Qasr ed-Dahudi	204. Tell Wad'an
8. Tell Ghannam	21. Tell el-Madraseh	154. Khirbet el-Buqu'a	206. es-Sadd el-Gharbi
9. Er-Rasiyyah	39. Tell el-Qudsiyyeh	165. Basset Khalaf	212. Muthallath
10. Tell 'Abu Alubah	44. Khirbet 'Araq	166. Tell el-Maqbarah	215. ed-Dabbakiyyeh

Early Roman Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)





### Late Roman

14. Tell el-Mintar	112. Tell el-'Adliyyeh
25. Khirbet es-Sakhineh	139. Tell Shu'bah
45. Khirbet el-Marqa'ah	165. Basset Khalaf
57. Banat Ya'qub	166. Tell el-Maqbarah
62. Tell 'Abu Nijras	201. Tell el-Kharrar
71. Khirbet el-Qarn	179. Khirbet Basset
61. Tell el-Ma'ajajeh	124. Tell el-Fukhar
72. Qod el-Megharah	148. Tell el-Mafluq
92. Tell es-Sa'diyyeh	163. Tell er-Ramel
193. el-Jazayir	167. Tell edh-Dhahab

Late Roman Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

Survey investigations show that the Roman Period was represented with a dense population and a better developed agricultural system that was practiced on a large scale in the Jordan Valley. The majority of the sites were located on the floor of the Valley (Khirbet Basset el-Faras, en-Nassariyat, Tell et-Tahoneh, el-Mshayyadeh, Tell Wadan, Muthallath er-Rameh, ed-Dabbakiyyeh), at the edge of Qattara hills (el-Jazair, Tell al-Kharrar, es-Sadd el-Gharbī).

Many of these sites were established in the Early Roman period and continued partially to be occupied during the Late Roman period (Tell er-Rameh, en-Nassariyat, el-Jazayir, Mislaha).

### **Tell al-Kharrar**

Tell al-Kharrar, also known as Elijah's Hill, is a small, low hill on the southeastern side of Wadi al-Kharrar about 2 km from the Jordan River. The remains of several architectural features such as churches, a water system, and other buildings were constructed during several periods of occupation (Waheeb 2011). The survey results have shown that it was occupied in the Early Roman Period and continued to be used until the Late Byzantine Period.

### **Umm Hadhar**

Umm Hadhar stands out as a small outpost among a number of larger fortresses in the southeastern region of the Jordan Valley. Because of its strategic location Umm Hadhar controlled traffic on the road along Wadi al-Kafrein, and stopped access up from Jordan Valley to Wadi as-Sir, or vice versa, or possibly both. The main function of the fortress in Umm Hadhar was to control the caravans (Frangie and Salles 2009: 137-152).

Umm Hadhar 1 (Hellenistic Period) is the main site on top of a hill. The remains of a structure approximately 40.7 x 30.8 m, had foundation walls of small and medium stones, while a large cistern located in the center of the site possibly collected the runoff water from the roof during the winter season.

Umm Hadhar 2 has remains of a small Hellenistic rectangular structure (16.5 x 13m). The pottery is late Hellenistic – Early Roman (Waheeb 1997: 463-468).

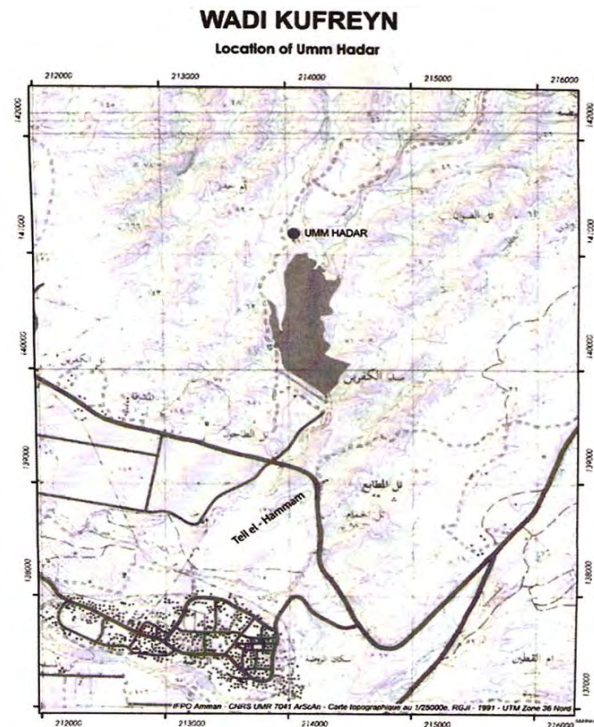
Umm Hadhar 10 is Hellenistic and Byzantine in date.

Archaeological remains of Umm Hadhar date from Hellenistic and Early Roman Periods during the first and second century BC to the first century AD.

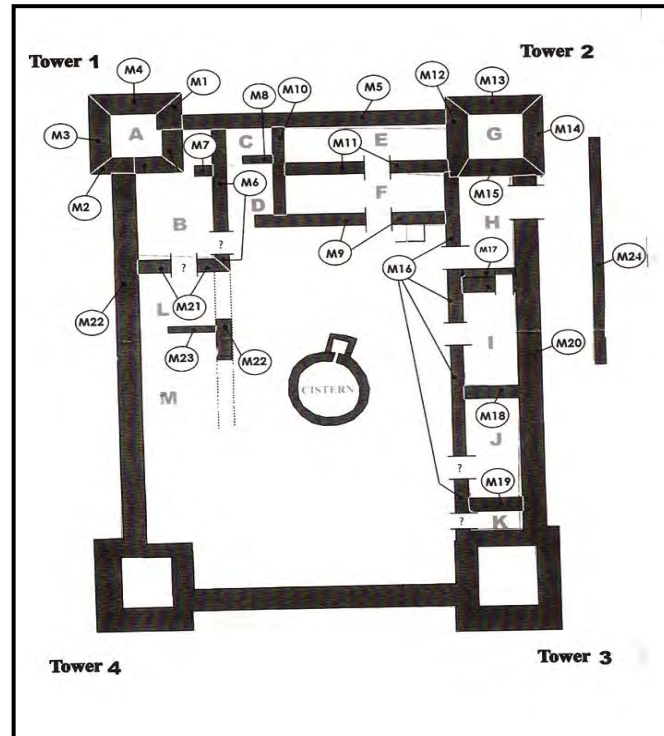
The pottery found in Umm Hadhar has many shapes, including jars, cooking-pots, flasks, bowl, lamps, jugs and juglets, among jars type found at the site that are very common at Jericho, Jerusalem, Beth-Zur, Tell el-Ful, Ashdod, Qumran, Masada, Cyprus, Jerusalem and Herodium, Bethany, Ramat Rahel, Tell en-Nasbeh, Nahal David, Beth Shemesh (Frangie and Salles 2009: 137-152).



Umm Hadar at the End of the 2007 Season  
(Frangie and Salles 2009: 137-152)



Umm Hadar (Frangie and Salles 2009: 137)



Plan of the Site of Umm Hadar at the End of the 2007 Season (Frangie and Salles 2009:137-152)

## **Qumran and the Caves of the Dead Sea Scrolls**

The Baptism site is probably linked to some sites on the west side of the Jordan including Khirbet Qumran and Jabal Quruntul (Mount of Temptation). Local citizens and archaeologists have discovered one of the most important archaeological sites of the world which is Khirbet Qumran and the surrounding caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The settlement of Qumran was first settled in the Iron Age (8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century BC). The settlement related to the Dead Sea Scrolls was dated to the Hellenistic period (second half of the second century BC) and continued until the arrival of the Romans 68-70 AD. This site was occupied by a sect or a group known as the Essenes. Some scholars believe that John the Baptist and even Jesus Christ were associated or in contact with this group.





Qumran Caves  
(Google)



Pottery Jar From  
Qumran



## **EZ-ZARA (KALLIRRHOE) SITE**

Kallirrhoe was on the east side of the Dead Sea. The hot springs were situated near the shore.

Of special interest is the site of ez-Zara, a fertile area east of the Dead Sea where surveyors and excavators have uncovered urban architectural including a harbour and domestic large building (villas).

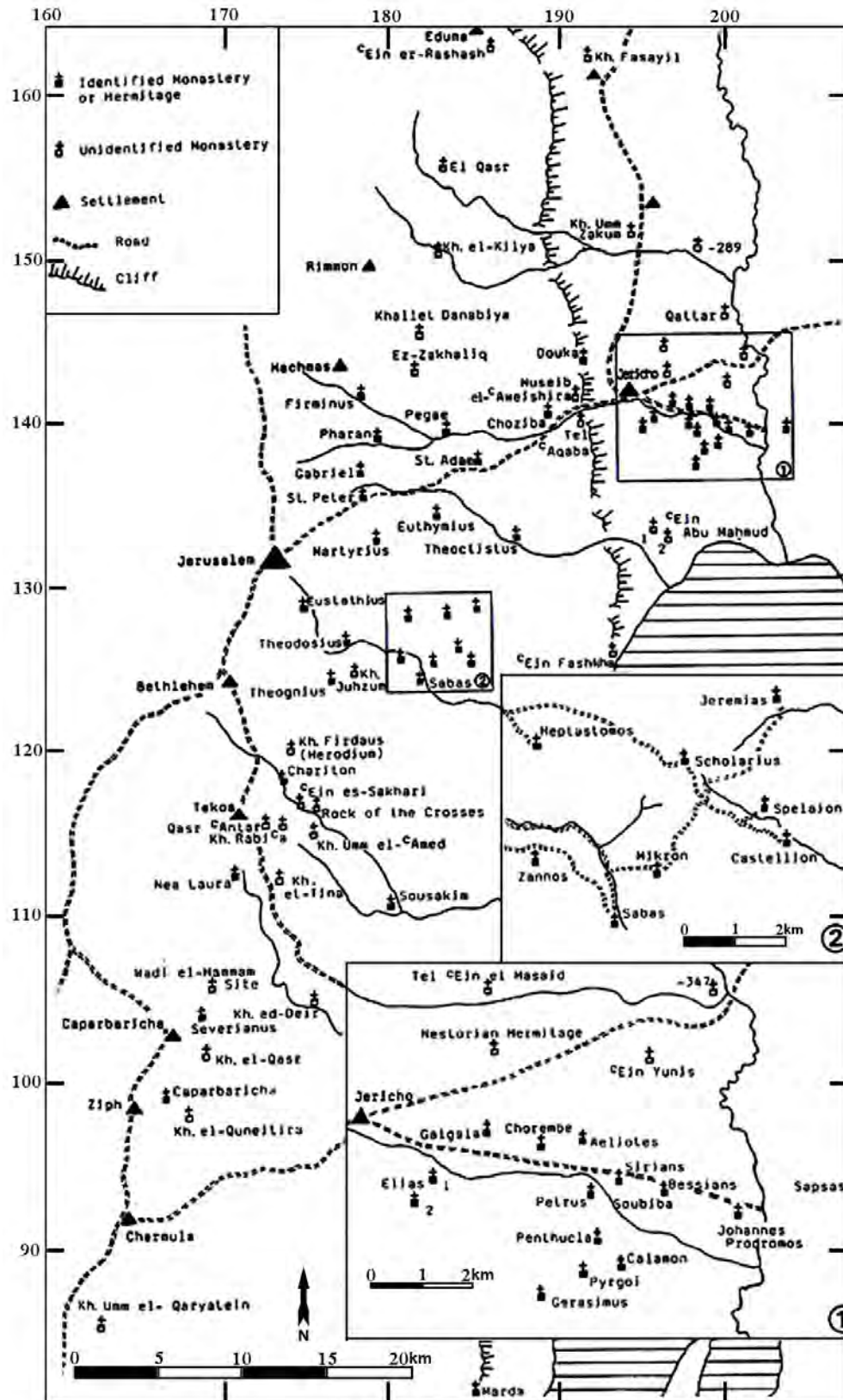
The architectural remains represent two major periods of the Early Roman and Early Byzantine periods (1st century BC to 5<sup>th</sup> century AD). The architectural units were compared with residences of the Hasmonaeans on the western side of the Dead Sea and Herod's palace in Jericho (Amr et al. 1996: 434-444).

Most of the coins and pottery sherds date from the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (Strobel and Clamer 1986: 381-384).

The harbour at ez-Zara expanded for small rowing boats and sailing ships carrying cargo. The Madaba Mosaic Map included landscape or harbor scene dating from the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century AD (Amr et al. 1996: 445).

Kallirrhoe was conceived as a garden city or spa planned in connection with Herod's building activities at Jericho and the rebuilding of the palace-fortress of Machaerus.

During the first century A.D., the site continued as a well-known spa and recreation center, and probably also accumulated wealth through the export of its agricultural products and of bitumen extracted from the Dead Sea. The finds show that the site depended on commerce and resources from the Judaeian capital and other contemporary Judaeian sites on the western side of the Dead Sea, while contacts also existed with the Nabataean realm. Kallirrhoe was abandoned and destroyed like Machaerus.

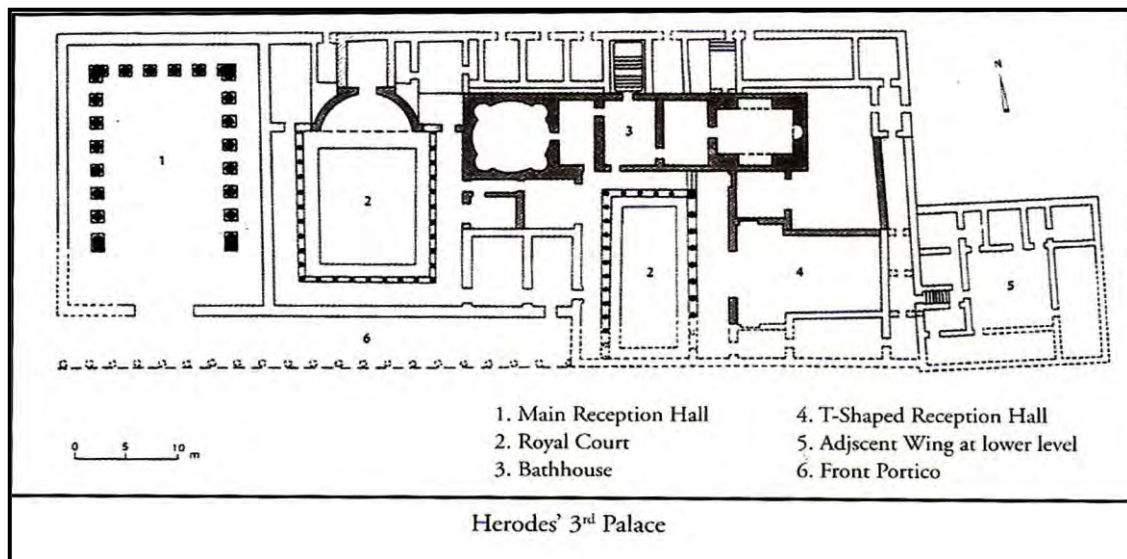


Monasteries and Monastic Sites in the Judean Desert (Hirschfeld 1990)

## Tulul Abu al-Alayeq at the Mouth of Wadi al Qelt



The Remains of Herod's Palace (photo by M. Ibrahim)



Hellenistic- Roman Jericho: Tulul Abu al-Alayeq (Yahya 2007: 15)



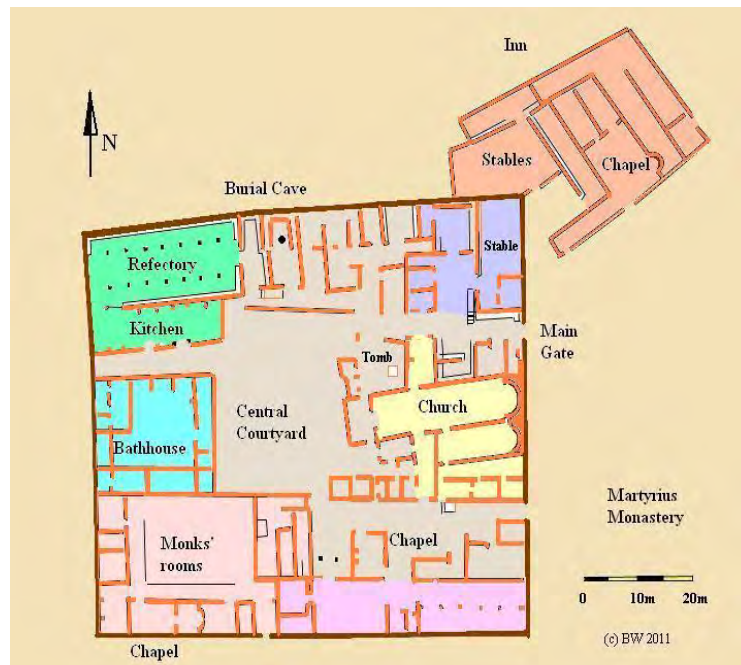


Herod's Third Palace (photo by M. Ibrahim)



Roman Bath in Herod's Third Palace (photo by M. Ibrahim)

## Monastery of Martyrius



Monastery of Martyrius (Kh. El-Murassas, Sketch Plan  
(<http://www.biblewalks.com/sites/MartiriusMonastery.html>)



The Church of the Monastery of Martyrius  
(<http://www.biblewalks.com/sites/MartiriusMonastery.html>)



### **Jabal Quruntul (Mount of Temptation)**

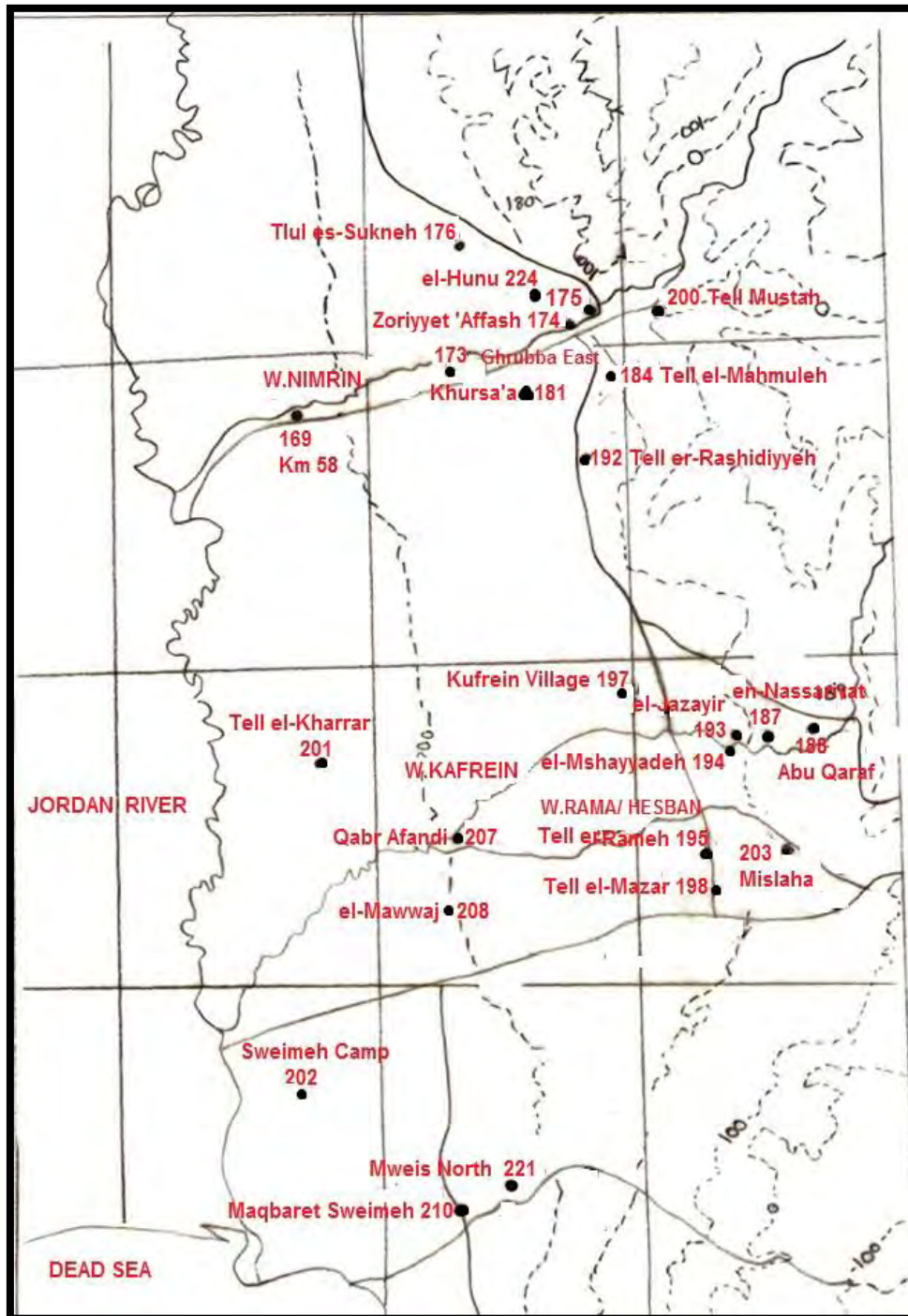
This mountain (3 km northwest of Jericho) rises to a height of 350 m above sea level and controls the entire southern Jordan Valley. It is believed that Jesus Christ spent forty days and nights fasting and mediating during the temptation of Satan. There are over thirty caves on the western slopes of the mountain that were inhabited by priests since the beginning of Christianity and who might have had a close connection with the inhabitants of Tell al-Kharrar of the Baptism site and possibly with the Essenes of Qumran. The existing Greek Orthodox cliff monastery was constructed over a special cave in the Byzantine period (ca. 6<sup>th</sup> century AD) and corresponds with some the churches built at the Baptism site and other churches built on the east Jordan Valley.

These sites surrounding the Baptism site could have witnessed the development of Christianity over several centuries.



Monastery at the Mount of Temptation

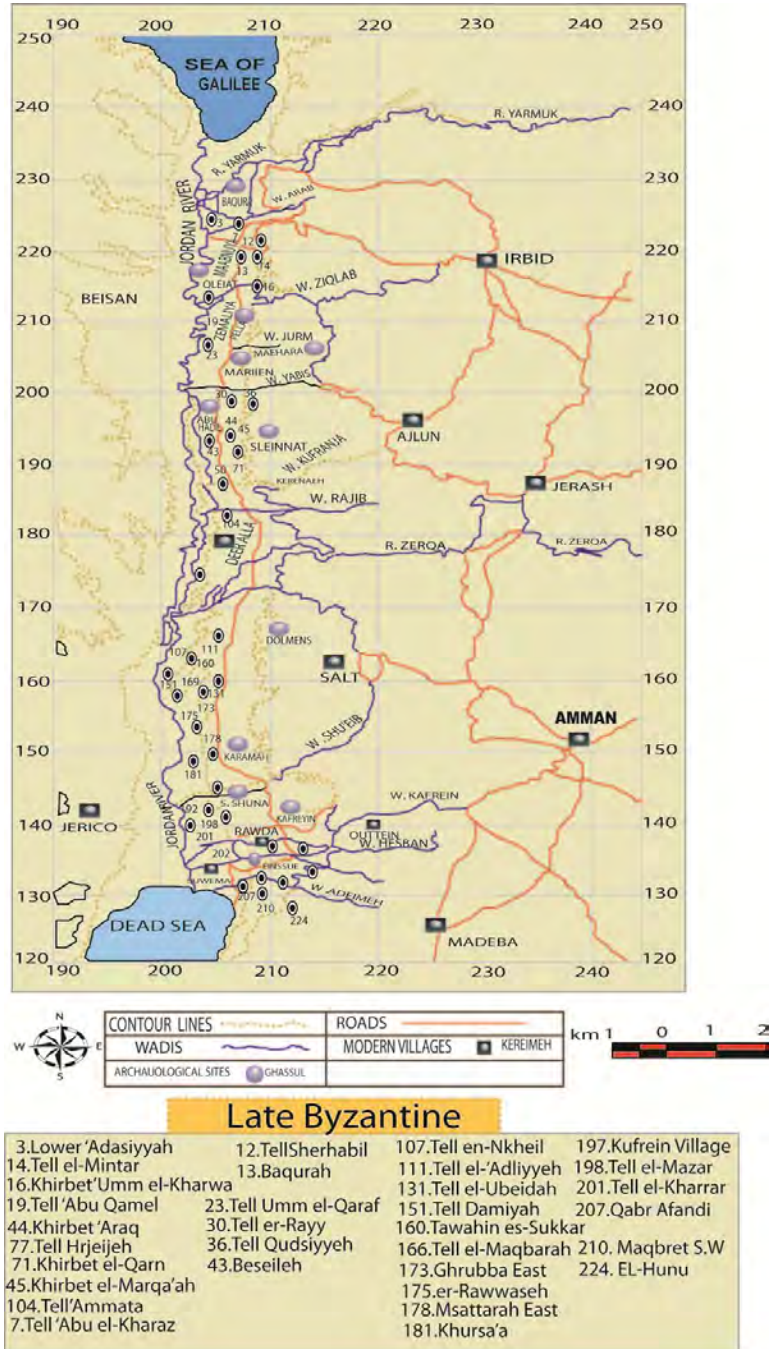




Byzantine Sites in the Southern Jordan Valley (East of the Jordan)  
(prepared by M. Ibrahim)

### Early and Late Byzantine

- 169. Km 58.
- 174. Zōriyyet Affiash.
- 176. Tlul es-Suknch.
- 179. Khirbet Basset el-Faras.
- 184. Tell el-Mahmoleh.
- 187. en-Naṣṣariyat.
- 188. Abu Qaraf.
- 193. el-Jazayir.
- 194. el-Mshayyadeh.
- 195. Tell er-Rameh.
- 200. Tell Mustab.
- 201. Tell el-Kharrar
- 203. Mislaha.
- 208. el-Mawwaj.
- 221. Mweis North.
- 173. Ghrubba East.
- 175. er-Rawwaseh.
- 178. Msattarah East.
- 181. Khursa'a.
- 192. Tell er-Rashīdīyyeh.
- 197. Kufrein Village.
- 198. Tell el-Mazar.
- 202. Sweimeh Camp.
- 207. Qabr Afandī
- 210. Maqbaret Sweimeh.
- 224. el-Hunu.



Late Byzantine Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

The data of a surface survey revealed that as the Jordan Valley started to recover, it became more populated than the preceding period. Many of the sites continued from the Late Roman period, and new ones were established (Abu Qaraf, Tell er-Rameh). Places of ancient settlement were chosen for those new ones. Few of the Early Byzantine sites continued to be occupied in the Late Byzantine period (Km 58, Tell al-Kharrar).

Tell al-Kharrar might have had a Late Byzantine church, as the architectural remains and painted mosaics visible on the surface indicate.

A special site to be mentioned in this context is Shunah South (Nimrin). In 1980 an important Byzantine church was excavated at the western part of Tell Nimrin and published by M. Piccirillo. The church was built in the sixth century AD and continued to be used in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The site is probably to be identified with Bet Nimra mentioned by Eusebius in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It reads as follows: “today Bet-Nimra is the city of Bethnamaris, on the other side of the Jordan, five miles to the north of Livias” (Piccirillo 1982: 335-342).

### **Tell Nimrin**

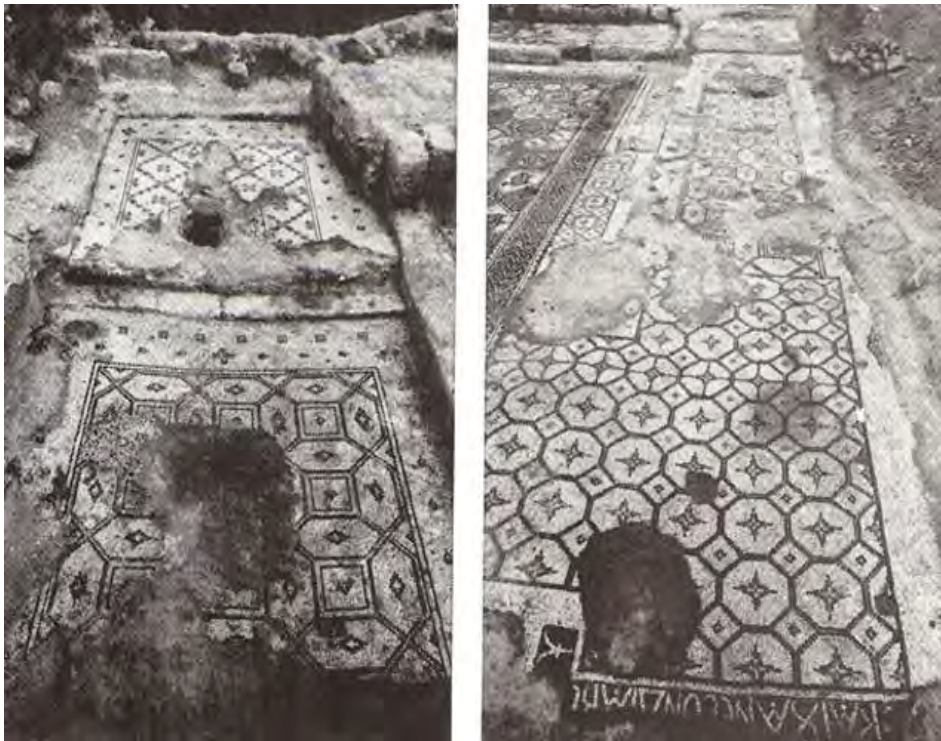


General View of the Church at Tell Nimrin (Shunat Nimrin) (Piccirillo 1982: 527)





Two Superimposed Mosaics at Tell Nimrin (Piccirillo 1982: 529)



The Northern Nave (left) and the Southern Nave (right) at Tell Nimrin (Piccirillo 1982: 528)

## Baptism Site

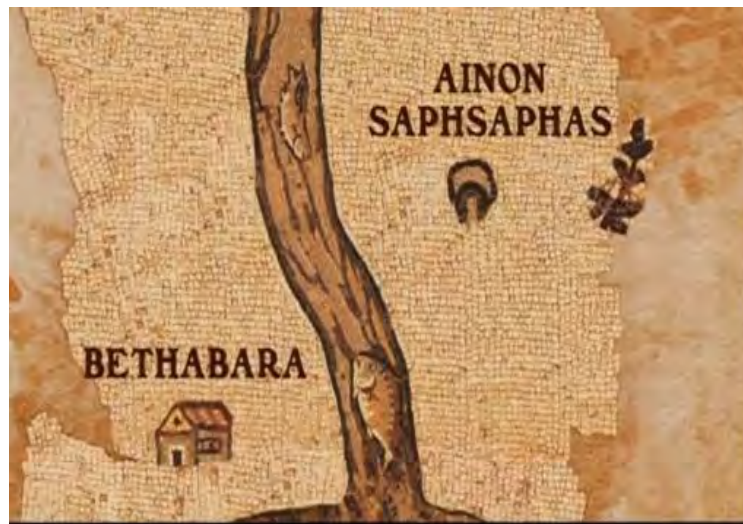


The Baptism Site (photo by M. Ibrahim)



The Madaba Mosaic Map of the Holy Land





The Madaba Mosaic Map (6<sup>th</sup> century AD) Showing Beit Abara and Ain Saphsaphas on Both Sides of the Jordan River



## **Other Sites Closely Related to Bethany Beyond the Jordan**

### **1- Mount Nebo and Livias (Tell Al-Rama)**

After the death of Moses in the area of Mount Nebo, Joshua took over, rested in the area of Livias, and then from the plains of the area of Bethany beyond the Jordan led the Twelve Tribes of Israel toward Jericho and crossed the Jordan River (Exodus and Joshua 1 to 5).

We note that Mount Nebo, Livias and Bethany beyond the Jordan were important stops by many pilgrims following the trails of the Prophets in the Holy Land. Parts of the pilgrimage route, a few stations, and some milestones were discovered by a team from the Department of Antiquities in the last few years.

### **2-Mkawer / Macharius (John the Baptist)**

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask Him, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’ Jesus replied, ‘Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.’ (Matthew 11: 1-6)

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, and he said to his attendants, ‘This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.’ Now Herod had arrested John and bound him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, for John had been saying to him: ‘it is not lawful for you to have her.’ Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet.

On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, ‘Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.’ The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted and had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought on a platter and given to the

girl, who carried it to her mother. John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. (Matthew 14: 1-12)

We can therefore conclude that John the Baptist started his ministry in Bethany beyond the Jordan, baptized the people in the spring formed at Elijah's Hill, baptized Jesus on the eastern bank of the river Jordan, and was beheaded after being imprisoned at Mkawer / Macharius.

### **3-Umm Qays / Gadara**

Jesus calmed the storm while crossing to the eastern bank of Lake Galilee. When He arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met Him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 'What do you want with us, Son of God?' they shouted. 'Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?' Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, 'If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.'

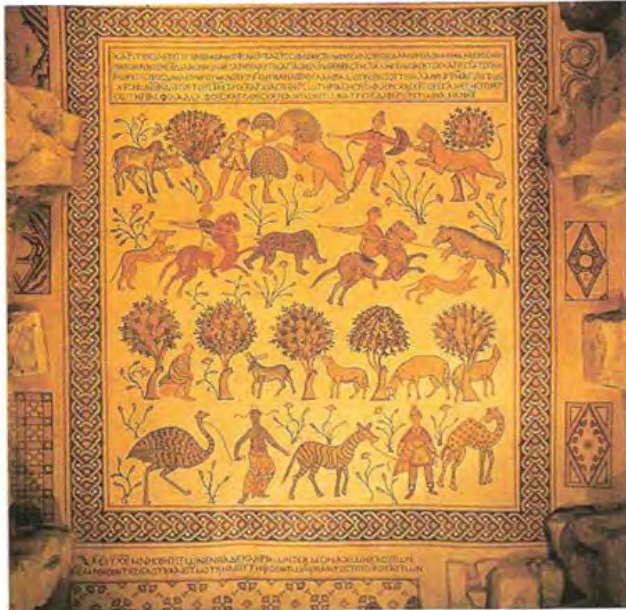
He said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they pleaded with Him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:18-34)

From Umm Qays the Sea of Galilee can be seen and the entire story of Jesus sending the demons into the herd of pigs, healing the demon- possessed men can be remembered. The same story mentions the region of the Gerasenes (Luke 8:26) instead of the Gadarenes.

Therefore we can link many sites with the Baptismal Site as a pilgrimage station from where they can visit other sites spiritually linked with Bethany beyond the Jordan where Jesus was baptized, turning it once again into a pilgrimage station as it once was.

Pilgrims throughout history visited, and described the Holy Land. Following the trails of the prophets, many of these sites were discovered east of the

Jordan and can be effectively used to encourage cultural and religious tourism.



Above: Mount Nebo

Below: Mosaic in the Diakonikon Baptistery of the Basilica of Moses, Mount Nebo. AD 531.





The Byzantine Mosaic Map in Madaba

## Umm al-Rasas



The Mosaic Floor in the Church of St. Stephen, Umm al-Rasas 8<sup>th</sup> century AD.



Mkawer / Macharius



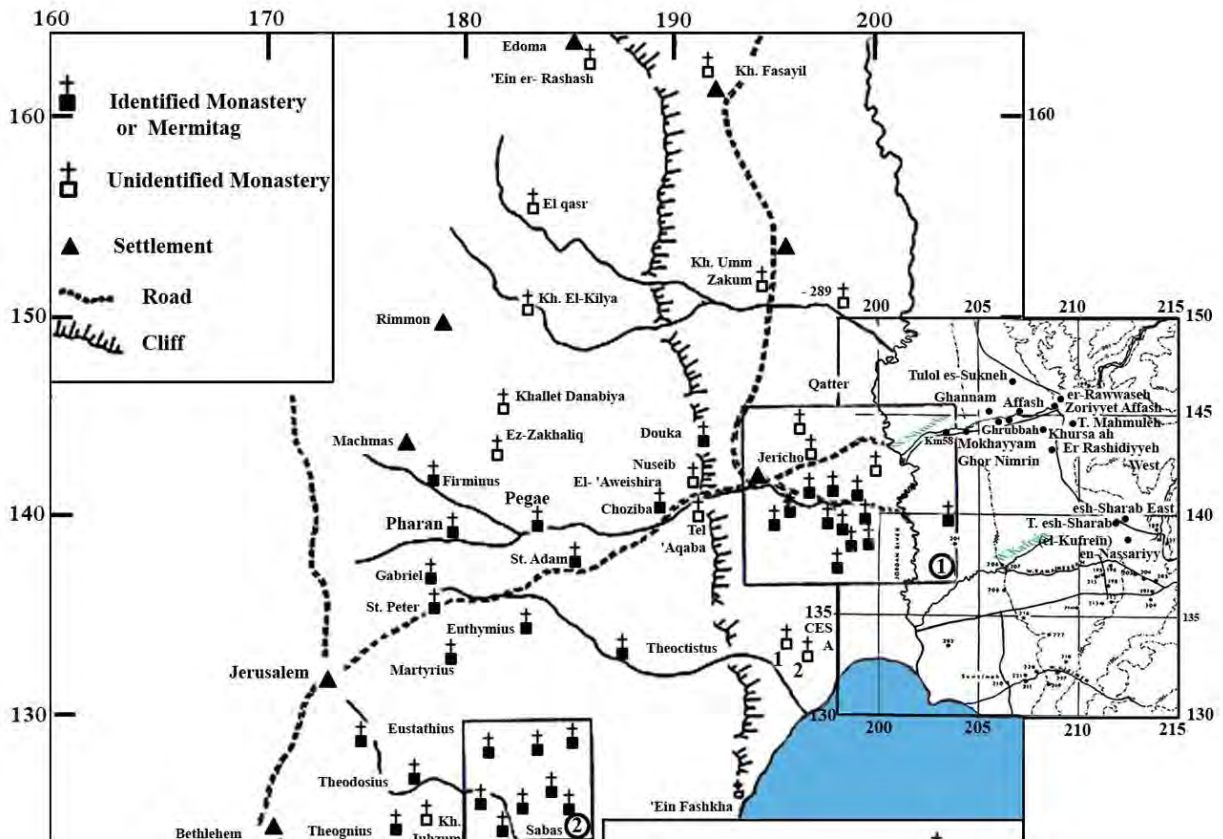


Umm Qays (Gadara) Showing the Byzantine Church



## Major Byzantine Sites West of the Baptism Site

There are several Byzantine settlements with churches in Jericho and its surroundings, including the Monastery of Temptation and Khirbet Na<sub>u</sub>ran with its synagogue.



Monasteries and Monastic Sites East and West of the Jordan River (after Hirschfeld 1990)



The Naaran Synagogue Mosaic (Google)



The Mosaic with the Hebrew Inscription –“Shalom al Israel”  
found in a Synagogue in Jericho (Google)





The Monastery of the Temptation (Google)





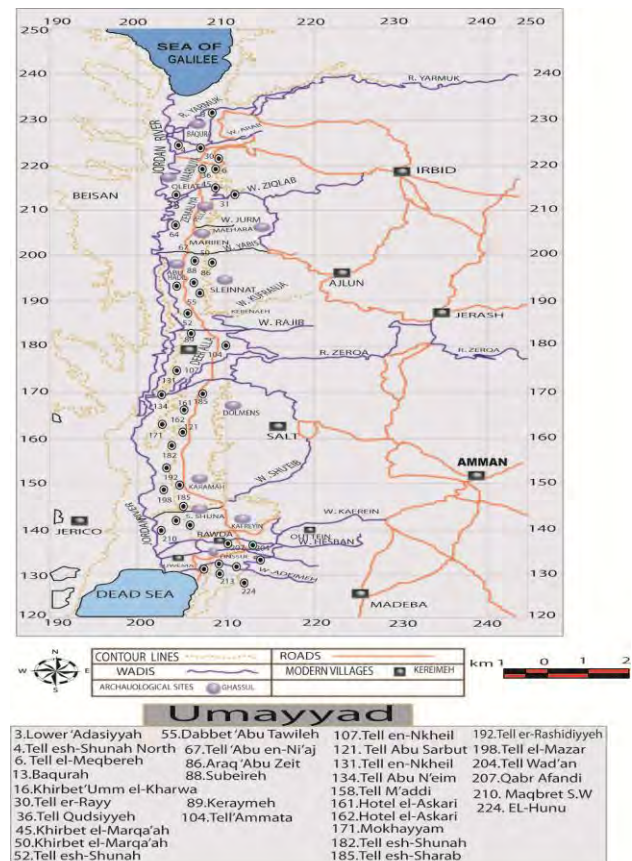
The Monastery of St. Gerasimos near Jericho (Google)

## Islamic Period

### Umayyad

- 171. Mokhayyam Ghor Nimrin.
- 182. Tell esh-Shunah south (Nimrin).
- 185. Tell esh-Sharab (el-Kufrein).
- 192. Tell er-Rashdiyyeh.
- 198. Tell el-Mazar.
- 204. Tell Wad'an.
- 207. Qabr Afandi
- 210. Maqbaret Sweimeh.
- 213. Muthallath er-Rameh West.
- 224. el-Hunu.

Most of the sites had no preceding Late Byzantine occupation (Mokhayyam Ghor Nimrin, Tell esh-Shonah South, Tell Wad'an, Qabr Afandi Muthallath er-Rameh West). Some of the Umayyad sites survived into the Abbasid period (Mokhayyam, Ghor Nimrin, Tell esh-Shonah, Tell er-Rashdiyyeh, el-Hunu).



Umayyad Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

### **Khirbat al-Mafjar (Hisham's Palace)**

Hisham's palace is one of the major Umayyad sites (724-744 AD) which includes a palace, baths, mosques and a courtyard. The palace has one of the most beautiful mosaic floors in the region including the image of the Tree of Life.

The Baptism Site continued to be used at the time of this major Umayyad site (Yahya 2007).



Mosaic Floor at Khirbat al-Mafjar

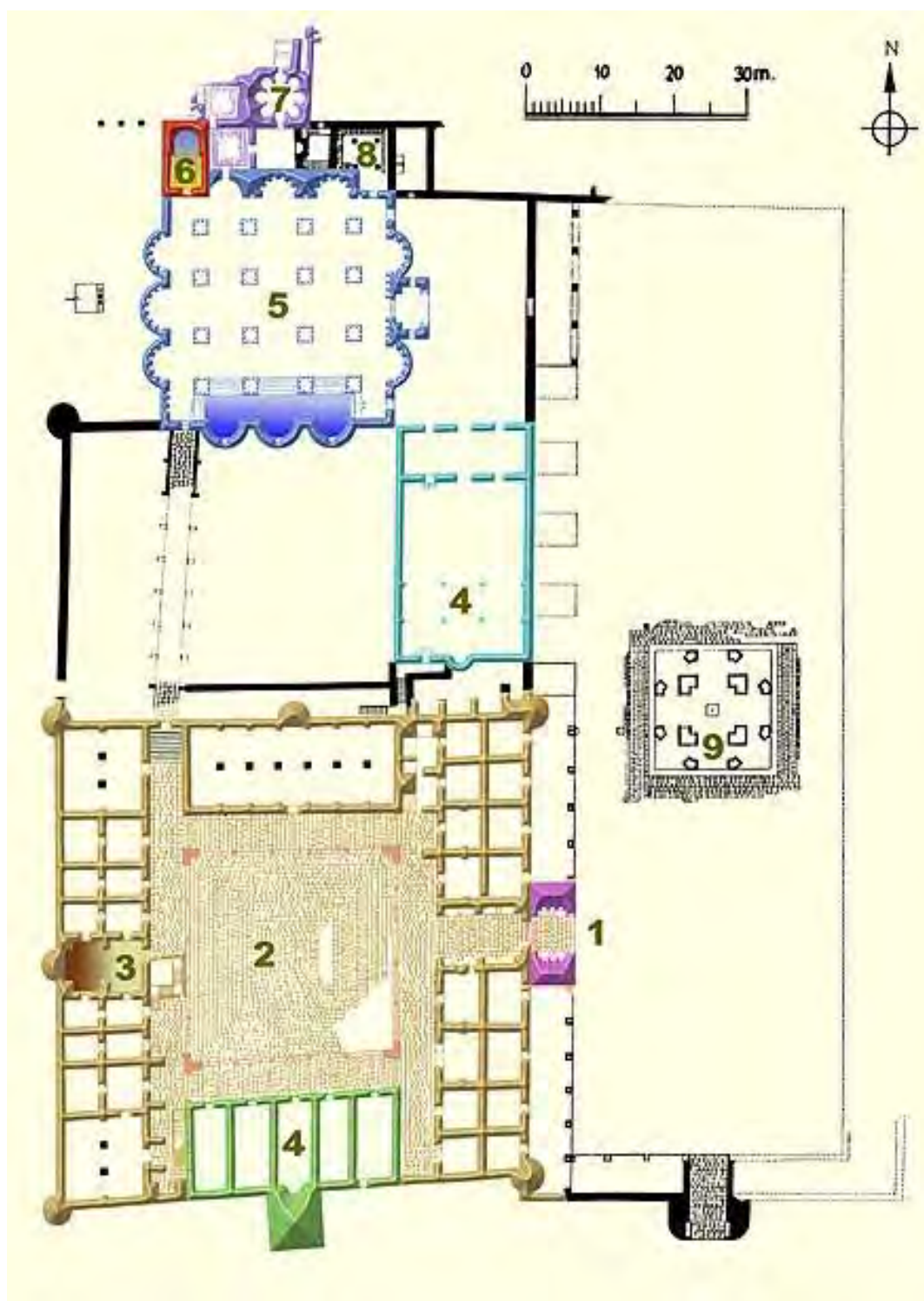




Mosaic Floor at Khirbat al-Mafjar (photo by M. Ibrahim)



Hisham's Palace (Jericho) (photo by M. Ibrahim)



Plan of Hisham's Palace (Google)



## Abbasid

171. Mokhayyam Ghor  
Nimrin.

182. Tell esh-Shunah South.

188. Abu Qaraf.

192. Tell er-Rashidiyyeh.

197. Kufrein Village.

224. el-Hunu.

This period is not well represented in the Jordan Valley. The quantity of pottery is very small. The number of settlements as they are listed above is very few. The movement of the capital from Damascus to Baghdad took with it the activity and population. These sites were located along the base of the east foothills and on the floor of the Valley. Only one site continued into the Fatimid (Kafrein Village), while the rest were abandoned.



Abbasid Sites in the Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)



## Ayyubid / Mamluk Sites:

178. Msattarah East.

181. Khursa\_a.

182. Tell esh-Shonah South  
(Nimrin).

183. Tell er-Rashidiyyeh.

186. Sharab East.

198. Tell et-Tahoneh.

190. Tell el-Hammam.

192. Tell er-Rashidiyyeh.

193. El-Jazayir.

194. el-Mshayyadeh.

195. Tell er-Rameh.

196. Shaghur.

197. Kufrein Village.

203. Mislaha.

207. Qabr Afandī

212. Muthallath er-Rameh.

213. Muthallath er-Rameh  
West.

215. ed-Dabbakiyyeh.

220. Azeimeh Reservoir.



Ayyubid / Mamluk and Ottoman Sites in the  
Jordan Valley (Ibrahim et al. 1976)

The Ayyubid/Mamluk periods witnessed a transformation of the Jordan Valley far beyond the scope of any that had occurred previously. The Ayyubids and Mamluks seem to have been responsible for introducing most of the basic innovations in irrigation, which developed the plantations of sugar-cane. Many of the installations were sugar mills. Lying around these mills were masses of broken sugar pots. The total number of sites of this period was 107 out of 225 in the entire Valley. Many sites were settled for the first time (Khursa\_a, Tell et-Tahoneh, Shaghor, ed-Dabbakiyyah). The newly founded settlements and the older ones are located generally in the floor of the Jordan Valley and in the Zōr where water is plentiful. Most of the sites seem to have been abandoned after the Mamluk period, but some of them may have been occupied continuously into the Ottoman period (e.g. Tell esh-Shunah South, Tell er-Rashidiyyeh). The large quantities of pottery, the architectural remains and many water-driven mills all indicate the very productive sugar industry and farming activity.

These two periods together cover a span of three centuries. A separation between them was not easy. The ceramic dating criteria is not worked out yet, so many sites can only be classified as having Ayyubid/Mamluk occupation.

The Baptism Site continued to function during the Ayyubid / Mamluk period. A large number of the tombs and mausolea of Islamic leaders and prophets including Nabi Shu\_eib and Nabi Musa were built in this period.



Tell al-Sukkar (photo by M. Ibrahim)

## ANNEX 2

### Letters of Authentication

#### Letters of Acknowledgement

As a result of continued coordination and cooperation between the Royal Commission of the Baptismal Site and the Christian community, HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptismal Site, received acknowledgement letters from the Latin Vicariate and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. The following quotations are from the above-mentioned churches:

*"Your Royal Highness,*

*Determining Jesus Christ baptism site is not an easy task today, but we are taking guidance from the verses of the Holy Book, as well as the history and holy tradition of the Orthodox Church. ... we can identify that the baptism area of the Lord Jesus Christ, the place where John the Baptist baptized Him in Transjordan, is on the east bank of the river facing Jericho and about seven miles from the watercourse flow of the river in the Dead Sea. From this, we show that the Baptism Site of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ lies in the lands of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, exactly on the east bank of the river."*

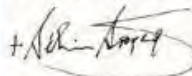
*Erinious 1*

*Patriarch of the Holy City*

*"We are overwhelmed with joy for the generous granting of continuous and endless attention with the objective of shedding light upon the Baptismal Site, the virtuous place in which Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, and the Holy Site which embodies the magnanimous life, the place is the dwelling of the Spirit eternally bestowed thus giving life to the believers in Jesus Christ throughout the ages. This site has become the meeting place of God and the human being, in which interpenetrate the past with the present and the future, transforming all periods of history into spiritual breaths of faith which become deep-rooted in the hearts of the faithful throughout ages and generations... The antiquities which were recently discovered in the Jordanian territory date back to the first Christian tradition and give it historic value."*

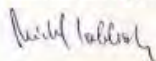
*Bishop Salim Sayegh*

*Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General for Jordan*

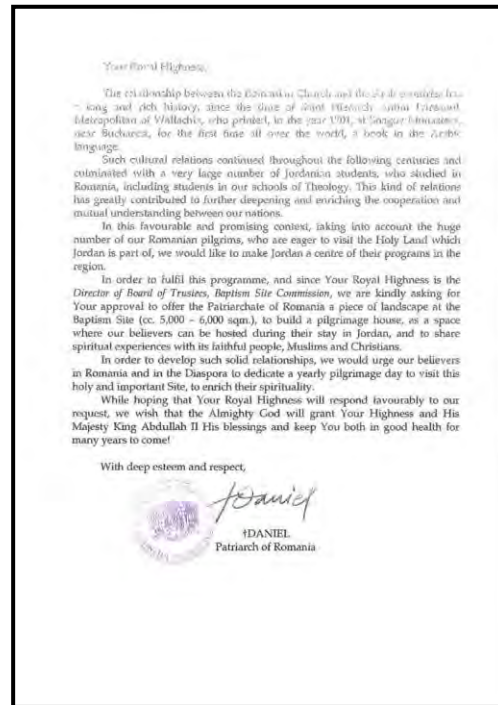


*Michel Sabbagh*

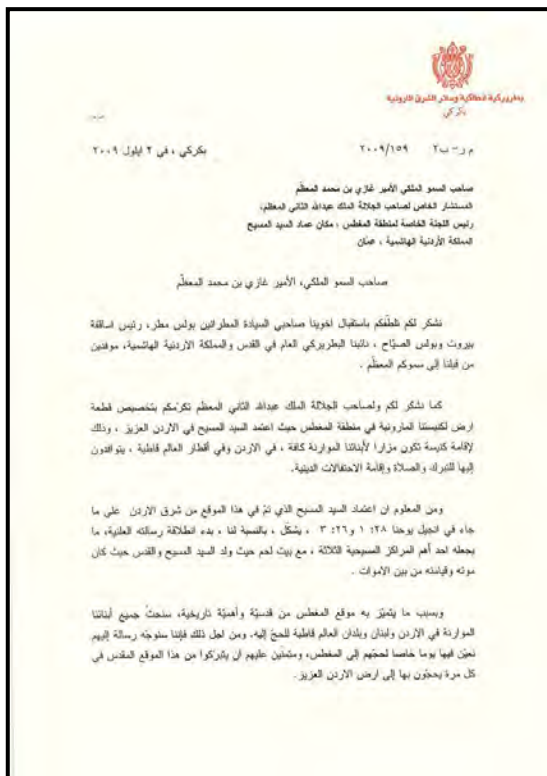
*Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*







The Romanian Patriarchate, Daniel Ciobotea  
June 25, 2012



Patriarch of Antioch for the Maronites, Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir  
September 02, 2009



## Latin Vicariate

Al-Kharrar, Ajlun Street 28 - Amman - P.O. Box 851379 Amman 11183 Jordan  
Tel: 962-6-5929546 - Fax: 962-6-5929548

Amman, 18.1.2003

His Royal Highness  
Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptismal Site

Warm and sincere greetings.

We have the honour to extend to Your Royal Highness our sincere appreciation and distinct loyalty and invoke God Almighty to endow your goodself the enjoyment of ample good health and a happy long life under the protection of the Sovereign of the State and Master of all Jordanians. We are overwhelmed with joy for your generous granting of continuous and endless attention with the objective of shedding light upon the Baptismal Site, the virtuous place in which Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, and the Holy Site which embodies the magnanimous life, whose place is the dwelling of the Spirit eternally bestowed thus giving life to the believers in Jesus Christ throughout the ages. This Site has become the meeting place of God and the human being, in which interpenetrate the past with the present and the future, transforming all periods of history into spiritual breaths of faith which become deep-rooted in the hearts of the faithful throughout ages and generations.

The Christian tradition has always linked the baptism of Jesus Christ with the river Jordan, as mentioned in the Holy Gospel and a large number of pilgrims have written memories of their pilgrimage to holy places, some of which have come to our knowledge. We mention as an example the writings of Meliton, the Bishop of Sardis, in the second century after Christ, saying: "I went to the East and saw the places mentioned in the Holy Bible; thus everything has become clear and meaningful". At the end of the third century and the beginning of the fourth century, Eusebius of Caesarea, the famous ecclesiastical historian mentioned in the Onomasticon dictionary, described the biblical sites and said that numerous faithful brethren who desired the second birth were baptized in Jordan and submerged themselves in the river following the example of Jesus Christ who was baptized in the same place. The pilgrim coming from the city of Bordeaux in the year 333, - who did not mention his name, like other pilgrims who mentioned theirs - said that the Baptismal Site of the Lord in the river Jordan is eight miles beyond the Dead Sea. The pilgrim arriving from Piacenza in the year 570 added another information which is that the Baptismal Site was opposite the convent of Saint John the Baptist in the East Bank of the river.

In the fifth century in the era of Patriarch Elijah, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Emperor Anastasius ordered the construction of three churches, one in the West Bank of the river, the second the baptismal church in the East bank of the river. It was constructed on arches to avoid damages, which may be caused by the overflow of the river. The third was constructed in honour of Saint John the Baptist in the convent of Safsafa, on the hill of Prophet Elijah near Al-Kharrar fountain, and in commemoration of Beit Anya across the Jordan which John the Evangelist has mentioned in the twenty eighth verse of chapter one.

Until the fourteenth century, the pilgrims used to arrive from Jerusalem and the neighbouring towns and villages to the river and cross it to the East bank in order to pray and worship God in the baptismal church of Jesus Christ - known as the church of the robe or gown, and in the church of John the Baptist, on the hill of Prophet Elijah, near Safsafa - Al-Kharrar fountain.

The antiquities which were recently discovered in the Jordanian territory date back to the first Christian tradition and give it historic value.

The tongues of the faithful will constantly keep praising with gratitude and thankfulness the sublimity of your exalted vision by your gracious allocation of a piece of land to us in the Baptismal Site to construct a church and its annexes for the glory and commemoration of the Baptism of Jesus Christ to offer the fragrance of spiritual service to Christian pilgrims arriving from different parts of the world to this Holy Site in which Jesus Christ was baptized. Your Highness is certainly aware that the majority of Christian pilgrims are affiliated to the Catholic Church and to the traditional established Protestant Churches. We are prepared to receive in the church, the sons of all Christian Churches who desire to celebrate mass and ritual worshipping in this Holy Site. We and our population are citizens who dedicate ourselves to serve our homeland and are proud of our Hashemite leadership and boast of our homeland and our Christian and Islamic Holy Places. This is our duty and obligation and a right for our invaluable land. We invoke God to grant your goodself good health and a long life to bestow liberally upon your Highness his profuse blessings.

With all our esteem and our deep gratitude.

Signature  
+Bishop Sefim Sayegh  
Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General  
For Jordan

Signature  
+Michel Sabbah  
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem



Roman Catholic Church, Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem  
January 18, 2003

**Greek Orthodox Patriarchate  
Jerusalem**

His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptism Site

Your Royal Highness,

The Baptism site holds great importance to the Ecumenical Church especially Jerusalem's Patriarch of Orthodox Patriarchate Our liturgical understanding derives its inspiration from the River Jordan, and our church, which approved the baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is linked to Jordan's riverbed spiritually and historically.

Since our Orthodox tradition was supported by monks and hermits across Jordan in the early centuries, we believe, as Chrysostomos indicated in *The History of Jerusalem's Church*, that Bishop of Yenn (Transjordan), Saeed Al Wa'idi, participated with Patriarch Evangelios in the fourth ecumenical council in the year AD 451, where he determined to promote Jerusalem's Church to an independent Patriarch. The monks of the River Jordan together with Saint Saba also played a major role in strengthening and consolidating the Orthodox belief and returning Patriarch Elijah from his exile in the year AD 516 to assume his patriarchal position. As a show of gratitude and honor to Jordan's monks, Patriarch Elijah requested that Saint John the Baptist Monastery be built under the patronage of Emperor Justinian, who in the past built luxurious churches and monasteries including the Monastery of Virgin Mary in Karak. During the Crusades, the monks of Jordan refused to deal with the crusaders and their principles and devoted themselves to reproducing the Arabic Church Books (Shihada and Nicola Khouri in *The History of Jerusalem's Church*).

With time, we recognized Christianity's interest in this holy site, and the expansion and prosperity of monastic activity at the banks of the Jordan. Saint Helena built a church at the banks of the Jordan in AD 327, and Peter, bishop of the Arab tribes, also built a church on the east bank of the river, known later as the Church of Arches, which was mentioned by pilgrim Egeria in her book *Journals of a Journey* (4<sup>th</sup> century). The flourishing of monasticism and the building of churches and monasteries at the banks of the River Jordan are indications of the importance and the sanctity of the site. We must also remember the association between the Old and New Testaments, for this site witnessed the passage of Moses' ecclesiastical law (Joshua 15:3), the crossing of Prophet Elijah to the east bank and rising up to the heavens, the crossing of Prophet Elisha to the west bank, and the washing of Nauman the leprous (Kings IV). All these point toward the significance of Jesus Christ's baptism and transition to the salvation and paradise of the New Testament. The Holy Bible also mentions that John the Baptist used to perform baptism at this site. Throughout history, several saints and the pious lived and prayed in this place such as Saint Mary of Egypt. In the ninth century, Patriarch Thomas I rebuilt the monasteries around the River Jordan at the recommendation of the Abbasid Caliph, Harun Al Rashid. These monasteries included John the Baptist Monastery, the Church of Arches, Saint John the Gold Mouth Monastery, Kiryakos Monastery, and many more.

Undoubtedly, in the heart of the liturgical concept of our Orthodox Church life, Jordan is an inspiration for writers of glorifications and rituals. The tradition of our Church, which approved Jesus' baptism from John the Baptist, derives from the waters of the River Jordan. Many people recited the saying: "Oh, River Jordan why are you surprised when seeing Jesus naked? It answers saying: I looked and then shivered, how could I not shiver and fear ... for Jesus came to the River Jordan to sanctify the water."

From this point we understand that the Jerusalem patriarch, Mother of Churches, assigned a bishop responsible for this area under the name of "Archbishop of the River Jordan." Owing to its importance, and for the first time in history, Patriarch Dorotheos I (AD 1376) was titled Patriarch of Jerusalem, Syria, the Arab world, and Transjordan. This title remains to this day.

Jordan's liturgical and spiritual significance rendered our ancestors, the Patriarchs of the Sacred Orthodox Apostolic See, to own what exceeds as 1000 dunums of land at the Holy Baptism site.

Your Royal Highness,

Determining Jesus Christ's baptism site is not an easy task today, but we are taking guidance from the verses of the Holy Book, as well as the history and holy tradition of our Orthodox Church. Hence, we believe that Jesus Christ came to John the Baptist to become baptized; that place was at "Bethany Beyond Jordan" (John 19:1). We also believe that Saint Kerless the Jerusalemite's complaint regarding the difficulty of completing Christmas and baptism prayers (as both festivals were celebrated together in the past) - in the west of River Jordan, the birthplace of Christ, and in Bethlehem and the Baptism site (*The History of the Church in the Holy Lands* - Dr. Fredrek Hayer) - proves the site's place. This situation later prompted Patriarch Evangelios to separate the holidays. Patriarch Dositheos II indicates in his book, *The History of Jerusalem's Patriarchs* (17<sup>th</sup> century) that the celebration of the Lord's existence (baptism) used to take place in the river on a small boat. Shihada and Nicola Khouri wrote in their above-mentioned book that Ibrahim Pasha allowed the rebuilding of John the Baptist Monastery that was on the west bank of the river and cancelled the fee on Jordan's pilgrims. Gradually and for historical and political reasons, the celebration moved to the west side of the river.

Your Royal Highness,

From what has already been mentioned, we can identify that the baptism area of the Lord Jesus Christ, the place where John the Baptist baptized Him in Transjordan, is on the east bank of the river facing Jericho and about seven miles from the watercourse flow of the river in the Dead Sea. From this, we show that the Baptism site of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ lies in the lands of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, exactly on the east bank of the river.

Your Royal Highness,

We are enormously delighted and reassured over your assignment by our King as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptism Site. We acknowledge and are familiar with your continued discretion and care in portraying the Holy Baptism site in the utmost appropriate and correct spiritual path, as it is the spiritual starting point for all Christians in the world.

The church has devoted itself, under Your Highness' directions, to build Saint John the Baptist Church at the Baptism site during the reign of Jordan's King Abdullah II, to facilitate visits from all believers from across the world in the Baptism site, and to fulfill the hearts of believers, as "the wilderness, earth, and land joy ... at that moment the eyes of the blind and ears of the deaf open ... and becomes a path called: the Holy Path." (Elijah 35).

We pray before God Almighty to keep you, Your Highness, a generous person to the country, and bestow on you health and a life of comfort and determination to prosper with your generosity and work to raise and flourish our beloved Jordan under the reign of our Hashemite King Abdullah II.

From Holy Jerusalem 2/10/2003  
(19/9/2003)

My Constant Prayers  
Erinious I  
Patriarch of the Holy City

Greek Orthodox  
Patriarch of Jerusalem -  
Erinious I





## بطريركية الأرمن

سمو الأمير غازي بن محمد المعظم  
رئيس مجلس أمناء هيئة موقع المغطس - الأردن

تحية و دعاء وبعد،

يشرافنا، يا صاحب السمو الملكي، ويسعدنا جداً أن نرفع إليكم خالص التقدير والاحترام، مسائلاً الياياري تعالى، عز وجل، أن يحفظكم ويغمركم بوافر الصحة والهناء ويمنع بمركم لتبقوا ذخراً ودعامة للأردن الحبيب في كنف سيد الجلاله الملك عبد الله الثاني بن الحسين المعظم، حفظه الله بألف خير و سلام.

و نرجوكم، يا صاحب السمو، أن تنقلوا إلى جلالته، خالص حبنا وعميق ولائنا للعرش الهاشمي، ونحن و جميع أبنائنا، نرافق جلالته دوماً بادعيتنا و صلاتنا.

أجل لقد جسدت جلالته مفهوم القيادة في أبسط معانيها، و هي قدرة القائد على أن يستشرف الظرف التاريخي و مكانة بلده في لعب دوره. و جلالته قد أثبت مراراً وتكراراً أنه يملك مقومات القيادة الواجبة لحركة التاريخ من خلال قدرته الحكيمة على فهم مكونات النظام الدولي الراهن، الذي يشهد حالياً تحولات جذرية تجاه الكثير من القضايا و المحاور.

ففي لقاءاته و حواراته مع قادة العالم و زعمائه، قدم جلالته المقترحات العملية و الناجعة لمعالجة بعد التحديات و المعضلات بما يقوى و يعزز مكانة الأمة العربية و يجعلها قادرة على المشاركة في صنع التاريخ ضمن الحق و العدل، اخذ الله بيده و أمد بعمرة لمئين كثيرة.

إننا يا صاحب السمو، لفي غبطة و ارتياح، كونكم، على رأس مجلس هيئة الموقع "المغطس"، و نقدر عذاتكم الكبير و جهودكم المتواصل لكل ما ت بذلون في سبيل تعزيز هذا الموقع التاريخي و المقدس، و إعطائه ما يستحق من الرعاية و الاهتمام.

و لقد أثبت تقليدنا الكنسي و أكدت الأبحاث الأثرية و الدراسات العلمية، و خاصة ما تم اكتشافه حديثاً في الأراضي الأرمنية من أن هناك ما يقارب الـ 46 / كنيسة قديمة في الأردن تعود إلى ما قبل الإسلام و حتى العصر الأموي، و منها موقع "المغطس".

و لقد تأكد لعلماء الآثار أنه سنة / 333 / ميلادية، قد بنى، أجدادنا المسيحيون الأولون، ديراً كبيراً على اسم القديس يوحنا المعمدان > النبي يحيى < على الضفة الشرقية من نهر الأردن، و على بعد ما يقارب الثمانية أو عشرة أميال عن بحر الميت، و ذلك تخليداً لذكرى عمادة السيد المسيح، عليه السلام، على يد يوحنا المعمدان في هذا الموقع بالذات المعروف باسم "المغطس"، الذي يعتبر ثالث أقدس موقع ديني مسيحي بعد كنيسة المهد و كنيسة القيامة.

فيا صاحب السمو، كان المسيحيون و ما يزالون و سيظلون، بعونه تعالى، و بخاصة في الأردن الحبيب، جزءاً لا يتجزأ من الأمة العربية و حقيقتها التاريخية و الحضارية و كيانها القومي، و شركاء في صنع واقعها و حياتها و نهضتها و مصيرها و في الدفاع عن وجودها و مصالحها و قيمها و ثقافتها.

و ها نحن نشهد، هذه الأيام، وقوف المسيحيين العرب إلى جانب أشقائهم المسلمين العرب في الدفاع عن الوطن ضد العدوان البربري الصهيوني الذي لا يميز بين شيخ و قسيس و راهب وبين مسجد و كنيسة و دير، فالك في نظره أعداء...

و نؤكد لسموكم إننا كنا و سنبقى، إن شاء الله، لساناً و طرفاً للأردن العزيز، في حلنا و ترحالنا، نشكر و نعلن ما نعيشه، نحن العرب المسيحيون، من حياة مشتركة أمتة و استقرار قل نظيره، و ما تحيطنا به العائلة الهاشمية المباركة من رعاية أبوية و أخوية سامية، نفتخر بها و نعتز.

و كونكم ترأسون مجلس أمناء هيئة موقع "المغطس" فكلنا أمل و امتنان و شكر لسموكم، إنكم ستخصصون لطانفتنا نحن بطريركية الأرمن الأرثوذكس، قطعة أرض نقيم عليها كنيسة و ملحقاتها تتيح لنا أن نسهم، أسوة بغيرنا، كإخوتنا اللاتينسي مثلاً، الذين ملكتموهم أرضاً فاعتبروها لهم فقط، و هذا ما أعلنته طائفة اللاتين في وسائل الإعلام، أن تخصونا نحن طائفة الأرمن الأرثوذكس أيضاً بمكان نحى فيه حياتنا الكنسية، محققين بصولاتنا و طقوسنا الشرقية و بخاصة سر العماد المقدس و يشاح لنا أن نستقبل الحجاج و زوارنا الأتئين من كل صوب و خاصة من الدول العربية المجاورة و أرمينيا، من أجل تشجيع السياحة في الأردن و على زيارة هذا المكان المقدس، كما استقبلنا و زار موقع المغطس و بتاريخ 2000/1/15 قداسة الكاثوليكيوس كراكين الثاني، كاثوليكيوس كافة الأرمن الأرثوذكس في العالم.

و ختاماً، م نحن كلنا لقة إننا سوف نحظى بعطفكم و حسن التفاتكم، نسأل تعالى، أن يحفظكم، يا صاحب السمو بألف خير و سلام و بركة، و ليبق الأردن العزيز و الغالي على قلوبنا جميعاً، مزدهراً بالمجد و الثموم و الأنفة و العزة في ظل العرش الملكي الأبي.

و دعمت يا سيدي يحفظ المولى و رعايته.

المحرر له و هو ركن حاتوكا  
البطريك طوركوم مانوكيان  
بطريك الأرمن الأرثوذكس  
في القدس و الأردن



نائب البطريك الأرمن الأرثوذكس  
المطران قاهان طولييان  
عمان - الأردن

صمان في 2005/9/12

Armenian Patriarch  
September 12, 2005



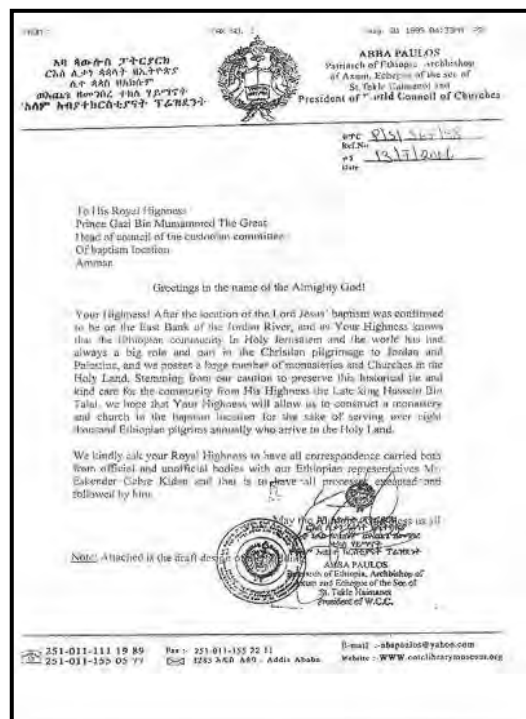
Syrian Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch  
and all the East September 17, 2005]



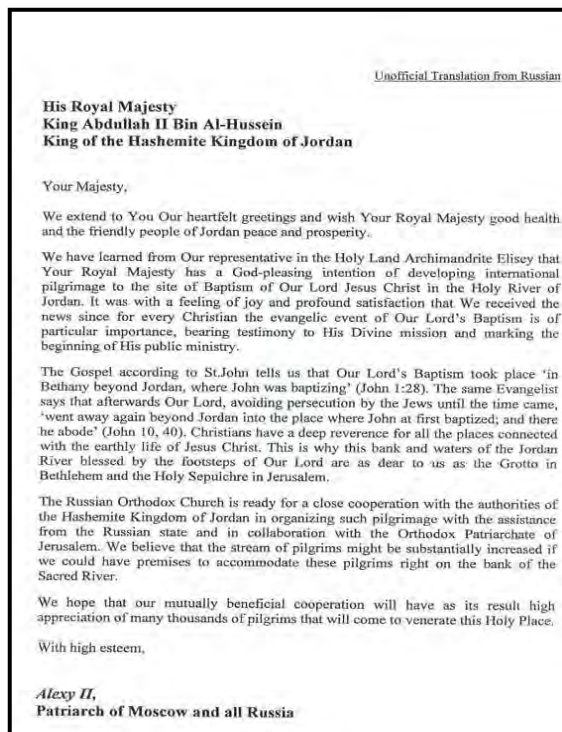
His Holiness the Coptic Pope Shenouda III  
December 02, 2005



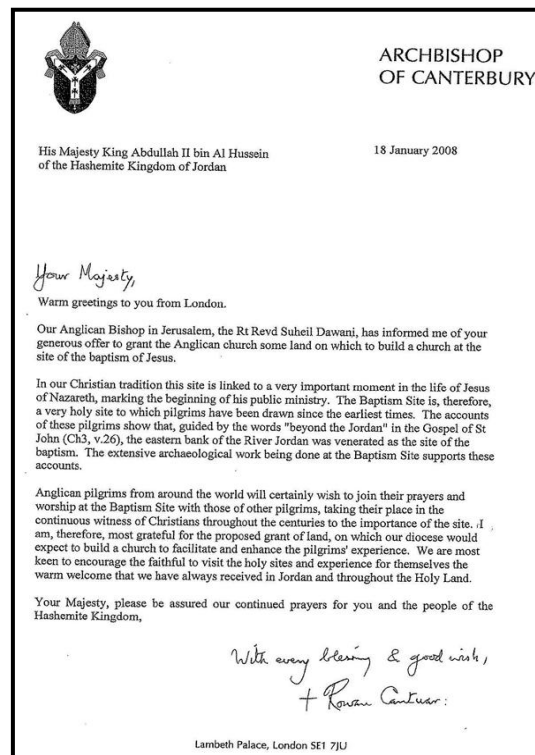
Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem -  
Theofilos III April 10, 2006



Patriarch of Ethiopia, Archbishop of  
Axum July 13, 2006



Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia -  
Alexy II November 15, 2006



His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr.  
Rowan Williams January 18, 2008



Lutheran recognition of the Baptism Site, signed by Bishop Dr. Mark S.  
Hanson and Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan April 23, 2008







Baptist World Alliance President David  
Coffey, 1 September 2008

**Message of Greeting from Pastor Rick Warren,  
Pastor of Saddleback Church in California, USA  
and author of The Purpose Driven Life,**

al salaam a'alaykum,

I want to express my deep joy and gratitude to all of you who has been involved in the planning and building of this Baptism Center. This is an historic day that we have all dreamed of, talked about, and planned for years. I congratulate my dear friend, King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, and also my dear friend, Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammed, for their vision for this site, and for King Abdullah's generosity in making the site possible.

The opening of this authentic site where Jesus (Peace be upon him) was baptized, will be a place of Peace. It is my prayer that all who visit will have a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, what God sent him to do, and will experience the compassion and mercy of God in this place

Although I cannot be with you today, my heart is with you, and I thank all of the world leaders who have graced this site with their presence as we celebrate today. Just as His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI intends to visit the site this May, I also intend to make a pilgrimage to this site in 2010, during my next visit to several Middle Eastern nations.

May God bless all of you this day.

Rick Warren  
Dr. Rick Warren  
Saddleback Church  
Purpose Driven Network  
P.E.A.C.E. Coalition

Pastor Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback  
Church in California, USA, March 18, 2009

## **ANNEX 3**

### **The Statute of the Baptism Site Commission and Amendments Number 48 for 2001.**

#### **Paragraph 1**

This statute is called The Statute of the Baptism Site Commission for 2001, effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

#### **Paragraph 2**

The following words when they occur in this statute have the following specific meanings unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Ministry: The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

The Minister: The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities

The Commission: The Baptism Site Commission

The Board: The Board of Trustees of The Baptism Site Commission

The President: The President of the Board

The Director: The Director of the Commission

The Committee: The Executive Committee formed according to the regulations of this statute

The Preserve: The bounded area of the Baptism Site as defined by this statute

#### **Paragraph 3**

a. In the Kingdom a commission has been established called The Baptism Site Commission with the goal to preserve, administer and develop the site, invest in its facilities, and sustain it, matching its civilizational, archaeological and environmental importance and prepare it to receive visitors.

b. The center of the Commission is in the Baptism Site.

#### **Paragraph 4**

a. The boundaries of the area of the Baptism Site are:

First, the following plots of land of block 51 of the lands of the King Abdullah Canal Project (the agricultural project) (14.5 km):

1. The plot of land no. 11 of Hawd 32 of South al-Kharar
2. The plot of land no. 2 of Hawd 32 of South al-Kharar
3. The agricultural units nos.: 301; 303; 305; 307; 309; 311; 313; 315; 317; 318; 359; 361; 363; 365; 367; 369; 371; 373; 375; 377; 379; 360; 362; 364; 366; 368; 370; 372; 374; 376; 378; 380; 420; 422; 424; 426; 428; 421; 423; 425; 427; 429; 430; 474; 479; 482 464; 466; 468; 470; 472; 475; 477; 480; 483; 485; 487; 471; 473; 476; 478; 481; 484; 486; 516; 518; 520; 522; 524; 526; 528; 530.
4. Parts of the agricultural units nos. 299-357-358

Secondly, parts of plot 9 of Hawd 30 of the lands of al-Kafrayn located on the extension of the agricultural units up to the Jordan River.

b. The Council of Ministers, based on the formation of the Council, may adjust the boundaries of the area of the Baptism Site by adding any areas, lands, hawds or plots to the site or removing them from it. The decisions of the Council of Ministers will be published in the Official Gazette.

### **Paragraph 5**

In order to achieve its goals, and in cooperation and coordination with the concerned parties, the Commission is entrusted to undertake the following tasks:

- a. To preserve the archaeological discoveries in the Baptism Site, including the remains of the churches, the special facilities for Christian baptism, and the mosaic panels, among other discoveries.
- b. To preserve the natural beauty of the site and the rock formations, soil, plant cover and wild life in it.
- c. To prepare the studies and plans needed to develop the site and to take the necessary steps to implement them.



d. To protect the natural environment and the archaeological discoveries at the site from the negative impacts resulting from the implementation of the development works, building activities, agriculture and the movement of visitors.

e. To place an appropriate educational and informational plan to enable the visitors to understand its religious, historical and natural elements and to take the appropriate steps to implement the plan without any impact on the elements of the site.

f. To provide the necessary services to the visitors of the site at a level that matches world standards.

g. To protect the water basin surrounding the site and to prevent any unjust use of the ground water in that area, in cooperation and coordination with the concerned parties.

h. To coordinate with the concerned parties to organize the immediate surroundings of the site to prevent the implementation of works and activities that will oppose the activities of tourist development on the northern shores of the Dead Sea and to preserve these activities.

i. To participate with the interested parties in protecting the agricultural area at the site from advancing building and any non-agricultural activities.

j. To cooperate with the related official institutions and the tourism sector to provide the needed financing to administer, maintain and sustain the site.

k. To document the archaeological discoveries and to prepare publications, films, booklets and tourist brochures and produce, publish, distribute and sell means of tourist promotion and publish magazines and periodicals in coordination with the Jordan Tourist Board.

l. To coordinate and cooperate with the Ministry to realize the goals of the Commission.

## **Paragraph 6**

a. Supervision of the Commission is entrusted to the Board of Trustees whose president and members are appointed by Royal decree for a period of

four years subject to renewal. By the same means any member of the Board can be replaced with a replacement nomination for the remaining period of his membership.

b. The Board will elect a vice-president from among their members.

### **Paragraph 7**

The Board will have the following competencies:

a. To place plans and programs for the administration, protection, maintenance and development of the site and to establish the needed plans for this purpose.

b. To invest and rent the installations and buildings at the site in accordance with contracts concluded with others for this purpose.

c. To license drawing off the waters of the Baptism Site according to the conditions that the Board considers appropriate and in coordination with the concerned parties and that in spite of what may be found in any other legislation.

d. To specify the exchange of services that the Commission or the investors provide for the visitors to the site.

e. To place the foundation for appointing the needed employees in the Commission to administer the Baptism site and sustain it and to implement the proposed plans and projects.

f. To open a special account in the name of the Commission at a bank or banks to deposit its funds in order to be able to spend from this account according to instructions given by the Board.

g. To appoint a legal auditor of accounts for the Commission and to specify his characteristics

h. To settle the annual estimated accounts of the Commission

i. To certify the annual report and the final accounts of the Commission

j. Any other matters that the realization of the goals of the Commission requires

### **Paragraph 8**

a. The Commission will meet at the call of the president, or the vice president in case of his absence, at least once every three months or whenever the need calls for it. A meeting will be legal with the participation of a majority of its members, provided that the president or vice president is among them. The decisions will be taken with a majority of the votes of the members present and in case of a tie, the side for which the president of the meeting voted will prevail.

b. The president will appoint a secretary for the Board charged with preparing the meetings and recording its minutes and the decisions taken in it and following up on their implementation.

### **Paragraph 9**

a. Within the Commission a committee will be formed called the Executive Committee, headed by the Minister and with the following members:

1. the general secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, representing the Minister
2. the general secretary of the Jordan Valley Authority
3. the director-general of the Department of Antiquities
4. two people with ability and experience appointed by the Board for a term of two years subject to renewal, with the replacement of either one possible during that period.

b. The Executive Committee will have the following tasks:

1. To follow-up on the implementation of the decisions of the Board
2. To prepare budgets for the Commission
3. To prepare the annual report and final budgets for the Commission
4. To appoint employees according to the limited bases by the Board
5. Any other task that the Board charges it with



### **Paragraph 10**

- a. The Committee will meet at the call of its president, or his deputy in his absence, at least once every two weeks. The meetings will be legal with the presence of a majority of its members provided that among them are the president of the committee or his deputy. Their recommendation will be taken by the majority of the members present and in case of a tie the side that the president of the meeting voted with will prevail.
- b. The president of the Committee will appoint a secretary who is charged with preparing the meetings, recording the minutes and the decisions taken and following up on their implementation.

### **Paragraph 11**

- a. The Director will have the following task and competencies:
- b. To follow-up of the decisions issued from the Committee
- c. To prepare the programs to promote the Baptism Site touristically and present them to the Committee for study and to present their recommendations to the Board
- d. To suggest the basis for investment of buildings and installations and their rental at the Baptism Site and to present them to the committee for their study and to present the needed recommendations to the Board.
- e. Any task that the committee assigns to him

### **Paragraph 12**

The sources of financing for the Commission will be the following:

- a. What is earmarked for it in the general budget of the state.
- b. Income in exchange for services provided at the site and the natural sources of revenues available there.
- c. The profits realized from the various activities of the Commission

d. The subventions and gifts that are returned to the Commission, provided that the agreement of the Council of Ministers is taken, if the source is non-Jordanian.

### **Paragraph 13**

The Board will issue the needed instructions to implement the policies of this Commission including the following:

- a. Administrative and financial matters in the Commission
- b. The basis of investment of the site including installations and building erected there
- c. The organization of supervision on the various activities at the site.

## **ANNEX 4**

### **Jordan Valley Development Law As Amended by the Amended Law No. (30) for Year 2001**

#### **Article 1**

This law is called (Jordan Valley Development Law for year 1988), and will be enforced upon its issuance date in the Official Gazette.

#### **Article 2**

a. The following words and expressions whenever used in this Law shall have the meaning assigned hereunder unless the context indicates otherwise.

**Jordan Valley or the Valley:** The area specified according with to Par. B of this article.

**Authority:** Jordan Valley Authority established under this Law.

**Board of Directors or the Board:** Board of Directors of the Jordan Valley Authority.

**The Ministry:** Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

**The Minister:** Minister of Water and Irrigation.

**Secretary General:** The Secretary General of Authority.

**Person:** Any Jordanian citizen of legal age (21 years old) who has a sound mind and enjoys his full civil rights. Also any judicial person, municipality, village, governmental department or any body of legal entity.

**Land Classification:** The official classification described in Volume III of the Master Plan Report of the Yarmouk and Jordan Valley Project of 1955 or any subsequent classification approved by the Authority.

**Farm Unit:** A plot of land which the Authority designated as one single unit, irrigated from the waters of an irrigation project in the Valley and used for agricultural purposes including livestock raising and fishery.



**Housing Plot:** A unit of land which lies within the boundary of a town or a village and has had or will have its boundaries determined by the Authority as a single housing unit for the purpose of housing only.

**Other Lands:** All Valley lands that lies under the jurisdiction of the Authority excluding farm units and housing plots.

**Family:** All family members living in one household and jointly supported by one head person whether they are his offsprings, descendants or wives including the descendants' wives and any other person whom the individual is legally responsible for managing his affairs and supporting him.

**Lessee:** The Authority, or any Jordanian natural person, or any Jordanian investment entity according to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.

**Lessor:** Any person or persons in whose name(s) is registered, in accordance with the provision of this law, a piece of land or shares thereof or more than one piece.

**Holding:** To deal conclusively with land or water or both in accordance with a registration deed.

**Holder:**

1. The person(s) in whose name(s) the land or water or both is/are registered in accordance with a registration deed, provided that in case there is more than one person jointly holding a registration deed, the Authority has the right for the purposes of this Law to consider all or any of them as one holder.
2. Lessee of Government lands in accordance with a legal contract the duration of which is not less than three continuous years, on condition that for the purpose of farm unit allotment, the Authority is convinced that he has carried out constructional works, which resulted in a noticeable increase in the annual production of the leased land.
3. The farmer(s) who planted trees in the lands of the person(s) in whose name(s) that land is registered in accordance with a registration deed, if the Authority is convinced that cultivation was done with the written or implied approval of the landowner. In this case the Authority has the right, in the interest of production, to consider the farmer as having replaced the landowner in the share allotted to the farmer under the agreement. In case

the trees are jointly owned by the landowner and the farmer, both parties shall be considered as one holder.

4. Lessee or Lessees of land in accordance with a legal contract with a duration exceeding fifteen continuous years.

5. In all the above-mentioned cases, legal settlement between the concerned parties shall be made as decided by the Board. The Board's decision shall be considered final.

**Farmer:** The Jordanian natural person or Jordanian judicial person who works in agriculture or involved in an agricultural activity in the Valley.

**Jordan River Tributary:** River and stream whose course joins the Jordan River.

**Tributary Basin:** Watershed area on which the rain falling on it and the springs issuing in it will naturally flow into the bed of the tributary.

**Valley Water Resource:**

a. Surface and ground waters flowing above the surface of the ground or beneath it within the Jordan Valley and the tributaries basins.

b. The definition (Sub-Lessee) has been cancelled.

c. The Valley is constituted from the following:

1. The area between the Northern Frontier of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the North and the Northern edge of the Dead Sea to the South and the Jordan River to the West until elevation 300 meter above the sea level to the East.

2. The area between the Northern edge of the Dead Sea to the North, and to the Southern Boundary of Qatar village to the South, and to the Western frontier of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the West, and to elevation 500 meter above sea level to the East.

**Article 3**

An Authority titled (the Jordan Valley Authority) will be established and shall carry out the social and economical development of the Valley in conjunction with fulfilling the objectives of this law. For this purpose the Authority will be mandated to implement the following in cooperation with any concerned entity:

a. The development of the water resources of the Valley and utilizing them for purposes of irrigated farming, domestic and municipal uses, industry, generating hydroelectric power and other beneficial uses; also their

protection and conservation and the carrying out of all the works related to the development, utilization, protection and conservation of these resources, including:

1. The carrying out of studies required for the evaluation of the water resources including hydrological, hydro-geological and geological studies, drilling of exploratory wells and the establishment of observational stations.
2. The planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects and related structures and works of all types and purposes including dams and related works, hydropower stations and related works, wells, pumping stations, reservoirs and water delivery and distribution networks; also surface and subsurface drainage works, flood protection works, and roads and buildings, needed for operation and maintenance.
3. Soil surveys and classification, and the definition and reclamation of lands suitable for irrigated farming and dividing them into farm units.
4. Settlement of disputes arising from the use of water resources.
5. Organize and direct the construction of private and public wells.
- b. The development, protection and improvement of the Environment in the Valley and to perform necessary works to achieve this objective, to implement the preparation of plans both Master and Detailed Plans for the lands outside the planning boundaries of the municipalities.
- c. The study of agricultural roads networks in the valley, their design, construction and maintenance, and that the authority will continue following up the main roads which were started and have not been completed yet.
- d. Development of tourism in the Valley, delineation of areas having special features which can be developed for touristic and recreational purposes and the development of these areas and the construction of touristic and recreational facilities on these areas.
- e.1. With the exception of irrigation projects and water resources development projects, the Authority shall adopt commercial basis in managing any of the project which it have implemented or is implementing according to instructions issued by the Cabinet of Ministers upon recommendation of the (JVA) Board.
2. The Authority may by a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers upon recommendation from the (JVA) Board, entrust any of the projects it has implemented or implementing or is managing, to any entity from the private sector whether by leasing, management or operation, in accordance with the effective laws and regulations. As for property transfer, irrigation projects and water resources development projects are excluded from such transfer.



#### **Article 4**

The Authority shall follow the rules in effect that are binding on ministries, governmental authorities, and official public authorities.

#### **Article 5**

It is possible to delegate to the Authority all required responsibilities to implement any of the Valley Development Projects and any related works, whether this project was under the supervision of any other law decree or procedure, fall under the responsibility of any Ministry of the Governmental Department or a public agency or falls within the boundaries of any municipal or village council.

#### **Article 6**

It is possible that the authority upon a resolution to be issued by the Cabinet Ministers and recommendation from the (JVA) Board handover any project it has implemented or is implementing, from what falls under its responsibilities according to this law, to any Ministry or Governmental Department or Public Agency or Municipality, that is excluding Water Resources Development Projects and Irrigation Projects in the Valley.

#### **Article 7**

The headquarters of the Authority shall be in the Valley, and it will have the right to open branch offices in Amman and at any other place within the Kingdom it deems necessary. Until the Authority builds its own offices in the Valley, its headquarters shall be in Amman.

#### **Article 8**

a. The Authority shall be composed of:

1. The Minister.
2. The Board of Directors.
3. The Secretary General.
4. Executing Staff and Administrative Units.

b. The board is constituted from the Minister as chairman and the following members:

1. The secretary General of JVA as vice chairman.
2. The secretary General of the Water Authority of Jordan.
3. The Secretary General of the Ministry of the Planning.
4. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural affairs and Environment.
6. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism.

7. The Director General of the Department of lands and Surveys.
  8. The Director General of the Department of the General Budget.
  9. The chairman of the Farmers Union.
  10. Three members with expertise and specialization, appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers upon the recommendation of the minister for the period of two years, the Cabinet of Ministers may, during this term end the membership of any of them and replace him with another in the same manner.
- c. The Board shall meet when called by the Chairman. A quorum shall consist of at least six members, one of who shall be the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence. Decisions shall be taken by unanimous vote or by the simple majority of the members present. If the votes are equal, the Chairman shall cast the deciding vote.
  - d. The Board may invite any person with expertise to attend its meeting to seek his advice without allowing him right to vote.

#### **Article 9**

The (JVA) Board will be in charge with implementing the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. To approve the Valley Development Plans and Programs.
- b. To study the Authority's proposed annual budget.
- c. Obtain foreign and local loans yet contracting upon with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.
- d. Formulate the Authority's by laws and regulations and submit them to the cabinet of Ministers.
- e. Any other issues the Ministers deems appropriate to be submitted to.

#### **Article 10**

Whenever necessary, the Minister may call for a joint meeting, under his Chairmanship, of the Board of the Authority and of the Board of Directors formed in accordance with the law of the Water Authority then in effect or any substituted law. The legal quorum of both Boards is necessary. This joint meeting of the Boards shall study all matters presented by the Minister, such as the mutual tasks and duties assigned to both Authorities. The decisions taken shall be by unanimous vote or by simple majority and shall be considered effective under this Law and the Water Authority law then in effect and shall be carried out by both Authorities in accordance with their specialization.

**Article 11**

The Secretary General shall be the executive manager of the Authority, responsible to the Minister. He shall implement the Authority's policy and plans and administer its affairs

**Article 12**

The Secretary General shall be entrusted with the following tasks and responsibilities:

- a. Implement the Board's resolutions.
- b. Prepare and submit to the Board the proposed annual budget and the proposed organizational structure.
- c. Coordinate the performance of the Authority's projects and maintain efficiency-, cooperation, and harmony between its technical and administrative departments.
- d. Administer the affairs of the Authority's officials and employees.
- e. Supervise the Authority's administrative and financial affairs and control its supplies.
- f. Any other responsibilities assigned to him according to the provisions of the regulations issued pursuant to this Law. The secretary General may, with the approval of the Minister, delegate any of his responsibilities specified in conformity with this Law, to any employee of the Authority, as dictated by the work requirements in it, provided that this delegation is done in writing and is specific.

**Article 13**

The Authority shall be considered an autonomous corporate body. It may lease, purchase and acquire movable and immovable properties, may conclude contracts and sue legal cases and prosecute- action in its name. It may appoint the Attorney General to represent it in litigation in which the Authority is involved, or it may appoint its own attorney from within or outside the Authority.

**Article 14**

The Authority, upon the recommendation of the Minister and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, shall have the right to benefit from donations, revenues, loans, credits and any other local financial, means that may become available for performing its works and projects. The Authority shall also have the right to borrow, through mortgage, sale of financial bonds or any other means, which may become available from the anticipated revenues, for executing any of its projects.



### **Article 15**

- a. The Jordan Valley Commission (JVC), the Jordan River Tributaries Regional Corporation (JRTRC), the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Water Supply Corporation (WSC) shall be administratively, financially and legally replaced in the Jordan Valley Authority.
- b. All assets of JVC and JRTRC and all the assets and obligations of NRA and WSC in the Valley shall be transferred to the Authority.

### **Article 16**

- a. The Authority shall implement its works and projects, operate and maintain all its supplies, equipment and vehicles in accordance with the regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.
- b. Notwithstanding what is stated in this Law or in any other law, the projects, which are totally or partially financed by another party, other than the Government of the Kingdom, shall be implemented in accordance with the agreements concluded for them.

### **Article 17**

- a. Expenditures from the Authority's budget shall be made in compliance with financial regulations to be issued in accordance with provisions of this Law.
- b. A Special Treasury shall be established for the Authority, and all Authority funds shall be deposited therein. Funds of the Treasury shall be deposited in a special account or accounts at the Central Bank. Money shall be withdrawn from this account or these accounts in the way specified in the financial regulations of the Authority. Until such regulations are issued, withdrawal shall be made as determined by the Board.
- c. The Authority shall benefit from all national grants and loans and shall accept grants and acquire loans from foreign governments, international organizations, agencies, and corporations subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.
- d. The Authority shall have the right to invest its surplus funds, and the Board shall determine, with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, the ways and means of such investment. The Authority shall have the right to provide loans to Finance private projects and works which are closely related and are complementary to the projects and works of the Authority, and whose implementation assists in the achievement of its objectives and of the objectives sought from its projects.

e. The Authority funds are considered Amerie funds and shall be collected according to the Amerie Funds Collecting Act in effect. Consequently the Authority is entitled to act as an administrative governor and as the Amerie funds collecting committee stipulated in the above act.

f. The Authority shall have privileged rights in all its debts and all its demands over the movable and immovable properties of the debtor and his guarantors, whenever or not these have been mortgaged or not.

g. No member of the Board or any employee of the Authority Is permitted to benefit financially from any of the Authority's projects or any projects or source related to it. He is not permitted to work on such projects or benefit financially from them in any way except for his earnings as salaries from the Authority or other remunerations within the limits specified explicitly in this Law or any regulations issued in accordance with its provisions.

### **Article 18**

a. The waters acquired by means of projects constructed by the Authority and which were not used or exploited for irrigation purposes in any area prior to the declaration of a water settlement in accordance with the land and water settlement law in effect, shall be considered Government property. Such waters may be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of in a way as may be decided by the Board.

b. The Authority shall implement its responsibilities concerning the allocation and usage of surface and ground water, which are developed under its supervision, according to the basis, set by the Cabinet of Ministers upon the recommendation from the Board.

c. When the Authority constructs an irrigation project, it shall first consider the rights to water registered in the Water Register, and any excess water shall be considered Government property.

### **Article 19**

All minerals within the Valley, whether on the surface or under ground or in waters, shall be considered Government property. No party is allowed to issue permits to search or explore, or certificates of discovery, or licenses to exploit minerals without the consent of the Cabinet of Ministers upon a recommendation from the Board. Mining rights issued prior to the effectiveness of this Law are excluded from the provisions of this Article.

### **Article 20**

a. The Authority shall have its own cadre of employees. The classified employees shall be subject to the provisions of the Civil Pension Law No. 34

of 1959 and any modifications thereof and to the provisions of the Civil Service Law in effect or any substituted law. For unclassified employees and workers, the Authority shall have a special regulation to be issued in accordance with the provisions of this Law prescribing the procedure of their appointment, definition of rights, grades, dismissal, termination of services, compensation and all other administrative matters relating to them. Laws and regulations which were applied to them shall continue to be in effect until they are modified or substituted and until the provisions of the Civil Service Law of 1988 or any substituted Law are applied.

b. The Prime Minister, upon the recommendation of the Minister shall have the power to call on any employee from any ministry, council, department or official corporation to work for the Authority for the period specified in the order issued in this connection. The services of such classified employees shall be applicable to the pension plan. During the period of his assignment, the employee is subject to the Authority regulations issued in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

c. The Authority may keep the necessary employees of the JVC, JRTRC, NRA and WSC who were working in the Jordan Valley at the time this Law goes into effect. Their acquired rights in accordance with the laws and regulations which were applied to them shall be preserved as well as the rights of compensation, rewards and other rights of those whose services shall be terminated.

## **Article 21**

The Authority, with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, has the right within the Jordan Valley or in the basins of the Jordan River Tributaries to the expropriation and immediate acquisition of lands, water shares or both as necessary for its projects, and any other benefits pertinent to land or water, either by absolute expropriation against compensation or by lease for any period it deems appropriate. The Authority shall have the right to specify the rent for any period or periods it may deem necessary. In execution thereof, the following arrangements shall be followed in estimating the values or rent of lands and waters and the structures thereon that are decided to be acquired.

a. Values of land or water shares or both or any other benefits related there to or rent values shall be evaluated by a committee or committees called "Land Evaluation Committee", which shall be composed of a high ranking Government employee as Chairman, and two other experienced members appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers at the recommendation of the Minister. The Authority may issue regulations, by which the committee or

committees shall abide for evaluating lands, trees, waters, and any movable or immovable properties.

b. Any such committee shall inspect and estimate values of the acquired lands and the value of what lies upon, or water shares and determine their values regardless of any rise in land prices resulting from the construction of any section or stage of any project implemented or under implementation or being planned, and for such evaluation the committee may consider the opinion of any person or committee to decide the value of lands and shall then issue evaluation decisions by majority.

c. The chairman of the Evaluation Committee shall publish in more than one local newspaper for two successive days and shall display for 15 days in a visible place in the City or village in which the acquired lands and water shares are located. One copy of such decisions shall be handed over to the Secretary General and another to the Mukhtar of the village or the Mayor of the municipality. Any holder or beneficiary has the right to contest the decisions of the committee concerning the evaluation, within fifteen 15 days from the date of expiry of the announcement. If no objection to the evaluation is made, the evaluation shall be considered final. All cases of differences in the estimated values of trees, seasonal crops and structures during the period failing between the first estimate and the time of handing over the farm units or housing plots to the new owners, shall be referred to the Minister. The Minister shall form a committee or committees for this purpose, and the Minister's decision shall be considered binding to all concerned.

d. Objections shall be submitted to an Appeals Committee composed of a judge as chairman, who shall be delegated by the Judicial Council and whose grade shall not be lower than that of president of the Court of Appeals, and two other members appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister.

e. The Appeals Committee, if it deems appropriate, shall have the right, upon scrutinizing any objection submitted to it, to go and inspect the site of the lands or water shares, the evaluation of which was objected to. It may also seek the opinion of any person whose experience the committee considers to be of benefit and examine any documents for the purpose of determining the actual values of lands, water shares and other rights, provided that any rise in prices resulting from the construction of any section or stage of any project implemented or under implementation or being planned, shall not be taken into account. It shall issue the necessary decision, which shall be final whether it was taken unanimously or by majority vote.



f. The objector, on submitting his objection, shall deposit as security the sum of JD 15 with the district accountant for each tract the evaluation of which has been objected to. If the objection is rejected, the deposit shall be considered as revenue to the Treasury. If it appears that the objection is rightful, the amount of deposit shall be refunded to him. Non-payment of the deposit shall constitute a reason to reject the objection.

g. The final values assessed for lands, water shares or any other rights acquired shall be considered as fixed capital values of the Authority's project and such values shall be registered in special records at the Authority yet shall be considered binding against all concerned persons, provided that the Authority compensate the owner or the holder within five years from the date of confiscation, otherwise the Authority shall reassess by either providing him with a farming unit or more according to the incident, or by compensating him financially if his land area was less than 10 dunums, taking into consideration the value of any structures built at the farm or improvements accomplished.

h. All debts, taxes, fees, the Amerie Funds and costs of any section or stage of any project undertaken by the Government, and other debts due on any land being expropriated before or after this Law comes into effect shall be deducted from the capital value of the debtor's or holder's lands and shall be paid by the Authority to the creditor in installments during a period not exceeding ten (10) years at 6% interest. If the amount of debt exceeds that of the capital value, then the creditor may claim the difference from the debtor.

i. No compensation shall be paid to the holder of the land for any improvement made after the date on which an expropriation decision was announced in two local newspapers.

j. The General Manager of the Lands and Survey Department shall, upon receiving a notice from the Authority, prepare cadastral maps for the expropriated areas showing the boundaries of farm units, roads, distribution systems of both irrigation and drainage, also housing plots, streets, buildings, parks and all private and public facilities as determined by the Authority. He shall cancel all previous registration records and issue new title deeds in the names of former landowners to who farm units or housing plots have been allotted. These are exempted from fees and stamps and he shall issue title deeds exempt from taxes and stamps in the name of the Authority for all remaining units which have been acquired in accordance with the provisions of this Law provided that this is completed within a period not exceeding three years. The Authority shall be exempted from all fees on land registration transactions listed in the Annex attached to the Land Registration Law No. 26 for the year 1958 or any subsequent

amendment. It shall also be exempted from revenue stamps that are affixed on such transactions. It shall also be exempted from objection fees and any other fees.

k. The Authority upon a decision of the board shall have the right to suspend all land registration transactions of the expropriated and immediately acquired lands except those transferred through inheritance until all new registration deeds have been issued in accordance to paragraph (j) of this Article.

## **Article 22**

a. The Authority, shall upon a decision from the Board and according to the recommendation of the Secretary General, divide into farm units irrigable lands expropriated for purposes of reclamation and exploitation through agriculture, the minimum size of a unit shall be 25 Dunums and the maximum size shall be 50 Dunums under no circumstances may any unit be divided or parceled into units the size of which is less than the minimum fixed in this paragraph, provided that the provisions of this article are not applicable to divisions done prior to the effectiveness of this law.

b. The Authority, by a decision from the Council of Ministers upon a recommendation from the Board and after reviewing the recommendations of the Farmers Selection Committee, should allot agricultural units according to the following, provided that the provisions of this article are not applicable to allotment decisions taken before the effectiveness of this law:

1. The total land area of each farmer falling within the agricultural projects shall be allotted to the farmer after deducing an area not exceeding (15%) for services.

2. It is possible to allocate one farm unit (only once) to the farmer that works in agriculture in the valley owns no land in it, provided that the Authority have such units. Basis for such allotments will be defined in a regulation issued for that purpose.

c. The Authority may, upon a decision from the Cabinet of Ministers and upon recommendation from the Board and after reviewing the recommendations of the Farmers Selection Committee, allot or leased to the holder who is tilling a land with an area of less than (25) Dunums, an additional area to make the land equal to the minimum area set for that unit.

d. For the purpose of organizing farm units to conform with the distribution networks and to avoid establishment of small units or units of irregular shape or in difficult technical cases, the Board may not adhere to the area limits prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Article.

- e. 1. If a farm unit is allotted to more than one person and it was not possible to exploit it due to misunderstanding among partners, the Authority may re-divide the unit among partners provided that none of the resulting units will be less than the minimum area defined under this Law.
2. If it was not possible to re-divide the unit according to (1) above, the Authority may repossess the unit against a fair compensation to the partners assessed upon the actual value, and the Authority may re-allot this unit.
- f. In case of the death of a holder or lessor, his rights in the farm unit shall revert to his heirs provided that the area of any unit, when parceled, shall not thereby be reduced to less than the minimum limit provided for under this Article.
- g. The holder who has a unit or more registered to his name according to the provisions of this Law, may lease the unit or areas which he doesn't wish to utilize by himself to any other lesser for a period of not less than one year and not more than thirty years renewable for any other period or periods they deem appropriate, provided that the purpose of the rental is to utilize the unit for agriculture. The rent contract shall not be considered legal evidence unless it is registered at the Authority and the Authority is paid a registration fee equivalent to five Jordanian Dinars for each year of the contract period.
- h. The Authority, by a decision from the Cabinet of Ministers and recommendation from the Board, may lease to any renter any units registered in it's name for a period not exceeding thirty years and to renew the rent contract for the same period or to any period agreed among the two parties provided that the purpose of the rental is to utilize the unit for agriculture, and the Authority may terminate the contract if it discovers that the lesser is not utilizing the unit according to the contract. The termination of the contract will take place thirty days after sending the lesser a written notice notifying him that he should comply with the terms of the contract should fail to lose the Authority may get the unit back.
- i. The holder may sell the unit or his shares in it to any Jordanian person who holds a national identification number in accordance with the effective laws and regulations provided that (the seller) have paid the Authority all his due rights and receive a certificate indicating so from the Authority, provided that the area registered in the name of any person should not be more than 250 Dunums.
- j. Persons whose names are registered in one registration deed have no right to divide the farm unit into smaller divisions for the purpose of exploitation of such division(s) by one or some of them, separately from the rest of the unit and from the other holders of the unit.

k. The Authority has the right to take all necessary measures to implement the irrigation networks in the Valley and improve their facilities and protect them whether inside or outside the planning boundaries of municipalities and villages.

l. It is not possible to implement mandatory sale on any of the agricultural units covered by this Law against a loan or mortgage or any legal deposit made prior to this Law noticing that ten years after the effectiveness of this law abovementioned should be considered void.

### **Article 23**

a. The Authority with a decision of the Board and upon recommendation from the secretary General, and with the approval of the supreme planning council, can re-divide the expropriated lands which fall outside the planning boundary of municipalities and villages in the Valley, and develop and improve these lands with the purpose of allocating them for housing purposes provided that such lands are not allocated for farming units according to the land use plans approved by the Board.

b. 1. A housing plot or more than one unit will be allocated to persons whose lands are expropriated according to Paragraph A of this Article, with an area equal to the total area expropriated, after deducting 25% of the total area for the provision of services. The provisions of this Paragraph do not apply to the allocations that took place before the effect of this Law without violating the right for compensation according to the procedures listed in this Law.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers may allocate housing plots from the government lands to Jordanian citizens who are residing in the Valley and do not have any land within the areas zoned for housing, these allocations should not exceed 1500 squares meters and in accordance with the requirements of the number of their family members, according to the basis set by the Cabinet of Ministers including the way by which the prices of these units shall be paid.

3. The Cabinet of Ministers, according to a recommendation from the Board, may allocate housing plots from the government lands which are confiscated and within the housing zone provided that the area of each unit will not exceed (1500) square meters, and sell these lands in an open auction to Jordanian citizens who wish to reside in the Valley.

4. The Council may and for planning purposes approve the implementation of housing projects outside the farm units for the owner of lands falling outside municipal boundaries.



## **Article 24**

a. The Minister shall appoint a committee or committees called "Farmers selection Committee". Each committee shall be composed of an Authority employee as Chairman and two other members, one of whom is a farmer with experience in the region or town or village where farm units or housing plots are to be allocated. The committee shall assist the holders in selecting the farm units or housing plots that the Authority may allocate to them in accordance with this Law, and shall select the farmers for farm units and the persons desiring to settle in housing plots. The decisions of the farmers selection committees shall be unanimous or by majority and shall be submitted to the Board for decisions. The Board's decision in this regard shall be final. The publishing of an announcement in two local daily newspapers to call person(s) to appear before the farmers selection committee shall be considered full legal notice. The Board also has the right in case an error appeared in the allocation of farm units or housing plots, or if the public interest so requires, reconsidering, substitute or modify the allocation provided that the Board's decision concerning allocation of farm units shall be ratified by a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers.

b. In all cases of allocation, whenever possible, the holder has priority to the farm unit or housing plot 20% of whose area is from his expropriated land.

c. The holder whom the Authority may allocate farm units or housing plots in accordance with Articles 22 and 23 of this Law shall select such units or plots that he desires to be allocated to him and shall notify the Authority in writing of his desire within 30 days from the date he received a notice from the Authority in this regard in accordance with paragraph (a) of this Article.

d. If the holder did not select his desired farm units or housing plots by a written application to the Authority within the time period specified in paragraph (c) of this Article, the farmer selection committee has the right to allocate to him units or plots it sees fit or to refrain from allocating units and plots to him as specified in Article 22 and 23 of this Law. The committee's decision shall be final and binding to all concerned parties if approved by the Board. The Board also has the right, if the holder did not apply within the time period specified in paragraph (c) of this Article, not to abide by the requirements of paragraph (b) of this Article. It can also take whatever it sees as suitable actions with respect to allocation or otherwise and all decision taken before the effectiveness of this Law are considered correct and final.

e. If it became evident to the Authority that any of the holders whose land has been expropriated for the purpose of irrigated agricultural development had registered in the name of his wife and his children ineligible under the

holder's expression defined in Article 2 of this Law before year has passed since its effective date, the Authority has the right to consider the wife and children as members of the head of the household, and the collective total area of their ownership is considered as though it is owned by the head of the household. They shall collectively be allocated farm units in the amount allowed by this Law considering all of them as one farming subject to the holder's expression defined in Article (2) of this law.

f. If an expropriated land came to be owned by individuals by means of inheritance, and is still in their collective ownership, such land shall be divided among them and the provisions of this law in connection with the allocation shall apply to each of them as a holder.

g. The value of a farm unit and the housing unit which are allocated to the holder shall be deducted from the capital value of his lands registered in the Authority's records according to paragraph F in Article (21) of this Law, and if the value of the allocated units exceeds the capital value, the holder shall pay to the Authority the amount equivalent to the difference, in accordance to regulations issued by the Board in this regard.

h. The Authority shall pay to the holder the remainder amount due to him on account of the capital value of his lands that are registered in the Authority records in accordance with paragraph (g) of Article 21 of this Law, and it shall pay to the holder to whom no farm units or housing plots have been allocated the capital value of his land either by one installment or by a number of installments not exceeding ten annual installments as decided by the Board and with an annual interest rate of 4 percent on the unpaid balance. The commencement date for payment of these installments shall be fixed by the Board of the Authority.

i. The farmers selection committee shall select the farming family to settle in the farm units provided that the priority of selection shall be as follows:

In first priority:

1. To holders residing in the Kingdom who operate their lands by themselves, for areas that were irrigated at the time of expropriation.
2. To holders residing in the Kingdom, for un-irrigated lands.

In second priority:

1. To Holders residing in the Kingdom who exploit their lands through leasing or sharecropping.
2. Lessee or Lessees of land in accordance with a legal contract with a duration exceeding fifteen continuous years.

In third priority: To farmers residing in the Jordan Valley.

In fourth priority: To professional farmers who are not from the Jordan Valley population.

In fifth priority: To holders residing outside the Kingdom.

j. The Board shall set all necessary regulations to control the use of water in farm units in the Valley, including basis for distribution units supply and cut of supply , and fix the maximum quantities to delivered in accordance with water availability and the nature of the crops planted in the unit, provided that these regulations shall include control procedures required for their enforcement noticing that water prices shall be defined upon a decision from the Cabinet of Ministers according recommendation from the Board.

k. The Authority upon a decision from the Board has the right to consider as expropriated for the purposes of reclamation and use for irrigated agriculture any arable land suitable for irrigated agriculture or exploited by irrigated agriculture and included in town and village development or for irrigated agriculture. Accordingly, these lands and their holders are subject to those provisions of this law that deal with lands expropriated by the Authority for purpose of reclamation and use for irrigated agriculture with the exception of the provisions of paragraph (b) of Article 24 of this Law. The holding rights of this lands are automatically transferred to the Authority.

## **Article 25**

Decision taken before the effectiveness of this Law by the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordan Valley Commission and the Jordan River Tributaries Regional Corporation shall be considered as if they are decisions taken in accordance with this Law.

## **Article 26**

The Authority has the right, according to a decision from the Council of Ministers upon recommendation from the Board, to allocate, sell or lease a farm unit or housing plots or any other land to any government agency or government corporation.

## **Article 27**

a. 1. The Authority, upon a decision from the Board and approval of the Cabinet of Ministers may allocate other lands, either selling or leasing them for the purpose of projects that fall within its specialization, provided that the rights of the original owners are mentioned by registering these lands to their names or paying them a fair compensation in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

2. As for the lands which do not fall within the requirements of development in the area of it's jurisdiction, the Authority will have to return these lands to their original owners according to a decision from the Council of Ministers

upon recommendation from the Board within three years from the effectiveness of this Law according to a comprehensive land use plan, and they will have the right of utilizing it in accordance with the effective laws and regulations.

b. Taxes on farm units shall be paid by holders and sub-lessees in accordance with the effective laws in connection thereto. Taxes on housing plots and other lands shall be paid by holders.

### **Article 28**

The Authority has the right to recover from holders and sub-lessees in case of irrigation projects and from beneficiaries and subscribers in connection with the other projects, all or part of the capital costs and the operation and maintenance costs that are spent on its projects in accordance with the regulations that the Authority will request to be issued for this purpose.

### **Article 29**

Decisions and notices to be served by the Authority to concerned parties are served through local newspapers. Each decision or notice published for three consecutive days in more than one local newspaper is considered a decision or a notice legally served to concerned parties.

### **Article 30**

Any person authorized in accordance with this Law or the regulations issued under it to investigate and gather information or for any other operation may enter any land provided that a fair compensation must be paid to the holder for any damage caused by that person during the performance of his task.

### **Article 31**

a. In light of any further punishments stated in the (Criminal Law ), each person purposely damaging or sabotages any project of the Authority, will be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than three months and not exceeding one year, or may be fined of not less than JD200 and not exceeding one thousand JD1000.

b. Every person who, without permission of the Authority, takes or arranges to obtain or benefit from any of the Valley's water resources other than his rightful share as evidenced by a water title deed legally recorded in the Water Register shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than one month and not exceeding one year or may be fined not less than JD200 and not exceeding JD100. Moreover, the court must order the removal at the



expense of the convicted person of any arrangements or, works by which the offense was committed.

c. Every person who commits any of the following acts in light of any punishments stated in the (Criminal Law) shall be sentenced imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or a fine not less than JD50 and not exceeding JD250. The person convicted shall pay, in addition to that, all or part of the cost incurred to repair the damage caused to the Authority's projects or any part thereof:

1. Causes by his negligence or carelessness a damage, change or obstruction to any project in any way.

2. Causes by his negligence or carelessness the flow of water to be interrupted resulting thereby in damages to roads, buildings, projects or property of any kind owned by the Authority or privately owned by individuals, societies or public organizations in the Valley.

3. Damages, harms, spoils, or removes any sign, device or water gauge installed by the Authority or for its purposes.

4. Prevents from doing his job any of the Authority employees or any of the persons who perform tasks for the Authority.

5. Contradicts any provisions of any announcement published by the Authority in the Official Gazette preventing or organizing the passage of animals or carts across any part of its projects.

6. Violating any of other provision of this law regulations or instructions issued accordingly.

d. Area directors and zoning engineers from the Authority staff who are authorized by the Minister or the Secretary General as required by the situation, shall have the capacity status of law enforcement in relation to the abduction of crimes committed in contrary to the provisions of this law, and the Secretary General may take decisions to abolish violations and assaults falling at lands or waters or structures which fall within the Authority's jurisdiction by administrative means, yet he can if necessary seek the assistance of the police force for this purpose, he can also, through the concerned court which looks into cases of violation, this Law being urgency cases, reimburse the violator or aggressor with the expenditures beard by the Authority to remedy the harm and restore the situation to its original.

### **Article 32**

No ministry or government or semi-government agency is allowed to perform any construction activities in the Valley without permission from the Authority except works of operation and maintenance.

### **Article 33**

It is forbidden after the enforcement of this law to construct any buildings or constructions in the valley, whatever their nature may be, unless a license is obtained for that purpose in accordance with the following:

- a. The license for construction is issued by the Authority for land falling outside the zoning area with the need to abide with the zoning plans adopted by the Board and with the fees assigned for the areas outside the municipal boundaries.
- b. The license for construction is issued by the concerned Municipality for areas within the zoning boundaries in accordance to the approved zoning plans and the regulation for Building and Planning for Towns and Villages implemented in these areas.

### **Article 34**

An owner of a building or structure built in the Valley in Violation of Article 33 of this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not less than one month and not exceeding three months or a fine of not less than one hundred JD and not exceeding five hundred JD or both penalties, the same penalty will also apply to the person who supervised the construction and its contractor.

### **Article 35**

If it is not possible to identify the violator of Article 31 above, this violation shall be considered a crime within the meaning intended in the Unified Common Punishment Law whose provisions shall be applied to the violation considering the Minister the offended person in that crime despite any actions that can be taken in accordance with Article 31 above. And if any water has been illegally diverted and was used in violation of the provisions of this Law to benefit any land, the Secretary General may assess the value of this benefit and may reduce the quantity of water that this land is entitled to by virtue of the Water Register by an amount he views as equal to the benefit illegally obtained.

### **Article 36**

- a. The Authority has to submit to the Cabinet of Ministers the following reports and data:
- b. A report on the works of the Authority for the previous fiscal year and their total costs including administration costs, planning and organizational costs and any other similar costs.

- c. A report on the projects totally or partially executed during the previous fiscal year and their costs.
- d. An annual report including the accounting audit report as prepared by a private accounting organization or the report of the Audit Bureau on the previous fiscal year including all assets.
- e. A report on planning works and the projects included therein during the previous fiscal year.
- f. Any other reports or data as may be requested by the Cabinet of Ministers.

### **Article 37**

The Authority may fix the amount of awards to be given to chairman and members of committees mentioned in this Law.

### **Article 38**

- a. 1. It is not allowed for anybody to pollute the Valley waters or cause its pollution by bringing into the Valley any material from any source if this material is considered in a declaration issued by the Secretary General as polluting material, unless he is permitted in writing by the Secretary General to bring it into the Valley this permission should include the conditions of usage and storage of such material which the licensee will have to abide with.
- 2. For the purpose of sub paragraph (1) of this paragraph the Authority will implement the periodical Biological, Chemical and Physical laboratory tests and will follow them up with the concerned authorities and pursue the polluter criminally.
- b. In light of any further penalty stated in any other law any person who violates the provisions of this law will be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than a month and not exceeding three months or a fine of not less than fifty JD and not exceeding one thousand or both penalties and the court should rule the removal of items which have been brought or thrown into or used in the Valley in a violating manner (to the administrative procedures accordance to paragraph D of Article (31) of this law.
- c. The Authority in order to avoid any harm caused by violating the provisions of Paragraph (A) of this article shall cut up supplying water to the unit in which the polluting material has been thrown to or used in until the violator removes any such materials or treat or seas them from functioning at his own expenditure and in a manner acceptable to the Authority without having the right to claim for compensation.

**Article 39**

This Law does not cancel any international agreements or agreements of international character in effect before the effectiveness of this Law.

**Article 40**

a. The following should be repealed:

1. The Jordan Valley Commission Law No. 2 for the year 1973.
  2. The Jordan River Tributaries Regional Corporation Law No. 11 for the year 1965.
  3. The Natural Resources Authority Law No. 12 for the year 1968, in connection with the Jordan Valley.
  4. The Water Supply Corporation Law No. 56 for the year 1973, in connection with the Jordan Valley, and the amendments to the above laws. All regulations issued under the above laws shall remain effective until replaced by regulations issued in accordance with this Law.
- b. This Law shall cancel the provisions of any other law to the extent it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

**Article 41**

The cabinet of ministers shall issue the necessary regulations to execute the provisions of this Law.

**Article 42**

The Prime Minister and the Ministers are responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.



## ANNEX 5

## Detailed assessment of the state of conservation of the Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas)

## State of conservation of Tell Al-Kharrar (Elijah's Hill)

The following is a detailed analysis of the state of conservation of the archaeological elements in the Baptism Site. The numbers listed in the text below correspond to numbers provided in the map below.



State of conservation of the archaeological remains at Tell Al-Kharrar (Elijah's hill)

## **Church of Pope John Paul II (Church of the Arch):**

### **(M1: the Mosaic)**

The church has a rectangular base, of which we have only a few remains. Around sixty percent of the area is covered by a wooden platform to protect the layers underneath and to provide a platform for groups of visitors. This platform was added on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II. The mosaic floor is patterned with flowers in a sequence forming squares, in white, black and red colors. The visible part of the mosaic measures 87 x 98 cm, but it seems that some small parts are still under the wooden platform.

This mosaic has partially been restored recently. Small gaps and fractures still exist, but the tesserae are in a good state of conservation. The black tesserae have a light porosity on the surface. The stone arch is the only attempt at reconstruction on site and is built on the two original bases in blocks of stone, where only a few elements have been restored by filling the joints of the stones with mortar. The flooring of the western and central areas, which is not covered by a wooden platform, has been reconstructed; however, two original bases of pillars and the external walls are still extent.

### **Prayer Hall:**

(P1 and P2 are the mosaic)

This Prayer Hall measures 10.10 x 5.5 m and has a mosaic floor in white tesserae of around 2 x 2 cm with a large gap in the northwest side. The tesserae are covered with a uniform deposit of dust, and the surface also suffers from small fractures and exfoliations. Almost all the mosaic has detached from the bedding layer. Plants are also growing between the walls and the mosaic flooring. Also, some incrustation, probably of salt, can be observed. The recent restoration works had raised the external walls with some local stones (river stones) and filled the joints with a compatible mortar. Basic restoration works took place over the mosaic, filling the edges and some parts with mortar as well. Some of the mosaics are already damaged. One gap has been bordered with small glass tesserae to distinguish the ancient part from the new one.

**cistern and vault with mosaic:**

The mosaic in the upper part of the vault has dust deposits on the surface; a small fracture in the corner in addition to detachment from the bedding layer is visible. The rest of the mosaic is in a good state of conservation.

**Well cistern:**

The cistern has lost its upper part and parts of its plaster lining. It suffers from minor problems related to pulverization and exfoliation of the stones and of salt deposits on the surfaces. Local stones from the river or the spring had been used to restore the mouth edge of the well.

**Southern Baptism Pool SBP:**

Part of the large pool with the entrance stairs had been restored with local river stones along the external walls. The original remaining part of the pool is the bottom and the vertical walls from level zero (in the south) up to 1.5 meters (in the north). The original plaster lining suffers from salt spots on the surface.



Southern baptism pool SBP

**MS:**

This area consists of various original walls in blocks of stone; these were repointed partly with compatible mud and partly with lime mortar and ash. The natural walls, where pulverization is evident. The new restoration layer is composed of a new layer of plaster for protection and consolidation using mud and straw. For the rest of the walls, only repointing has been applied.



MS

**MC, Cave Area:**

This small cave is a continuation of the natural wall described in MS. The left part of the entrance has been reconstructed, while the right part is original. This original wall has been restored through repointing of the stone joints. The inside natural wall of the cave is original but is in a fragile state. A small portion of the roof had been added with branches and mud. Certain parts of the walls had been plastered with mortar composed of compatible mud and straw. On the left side, a large fracture of around 7 cm in width is evident, but parts of it are covered by mortar and small pieces of stone.





MC, Cave Area

**MB4:**

This area includes four bases of pillars, a small channel for the water, three small pieces of mosaic and three plates in black Nabi Musa stone (Oil shale rock ). The four bases of pillars are constituted in blocks of stone. The three pieces of mosaic (6 x 5 cm, 8 x 5 cm and 19 x 29 cm) are made of white, red and black tesserae of around 1-1.5 cm. Three courses of the black Nabi Musa stone (Oil shale Rock ) are deteriorated with evidence of exfoliations and fractures.



MB4

### **ME, External Mosaic:**

Remains of a mosaic floor with white background and red flowers exist inside a room of 3.6 x 4.3 m. This mosaic is made of tesserae (1-1.5 cm); the whole mosaic has minor detachment and swelling from the bedding layer. Also a large number of tesserae are no longer there. Recent restorations are evident at the edges of the fragments of the mosaic flooring; also certain missing fragments had been filled with mortar as well. It is also evident that the external walls of the room had been added to with new courses of stones collected from the bed of the nearby stream during the restoration process.



ME, External mosaic

### **PC:**

This small area of 130 x 97 cm is where various elements of terracotta and black Nabi Musa stone (Oil Shale rock) are found on a bed of mud in different layers, probably due to the collapse of the tiles from the roof.

### **PE:**

This represents various parts of the external floor of the Church, consisting of black Nabi Musa stone (Oil shale rock) and others of red color probably in terracotta. This floor seems to keep extending under the soil that is all around the area, which has not been fully excavated. The stone flooring suffers from minor fractures and exfoliation.



PE

### **SP2, small pool:**

This is a small pool on the north side of the area measuring 140 x 150 cm and is 120 cm in depth. Minor deterioration with bulges and pulverizations can be seen. The restoration intervention is visible only in the upper part, where the edge of the pool had been consolidated and reconstructed with river stones. The restoration complies with standards.



SP2, Small pool

### **North Church, CN:**

The structure of the roof was built in antiquity on six pillars in the west zone, while in the east zone (the area of the apse) on a full solid wall on the three sides. The zone of the apse is around 30 cm higher than the central aisle and is separated by blocks of stone with two small stairs in the central area. The protective shelter provides a relatively good protection from rain

and sun. The mosaic of the aisle (9 x 4.2 m) is patterned with flowers forming squares, inside of which there are additional flower patterns that form a small cross. The colors of the tesserae include a white background with black, yellow, and red flowers with a frame to the south with black, white, grey and yellow mosaics.

The mosaic of the apse (4 x 4.3 m) has similar drawing in flowers, but it does not have the frame to the south. It has two central elements: the first one is an inscription written in black tesserae and a plate of black stone (fractured into eight pieces). This part suffers from swelling and detachment of the mosaic from the bedding layer, but in general, its situation is good. The added mortar for the restoration of the mosaic floor (where gaps and fractures have been probably filled with mortar) is visible due to its color. Furthermore, certain mosaics had been reconstructed but are in need of more professional work. The courses of stone that divide the aisle from the apse were repointed with mortar similar to what had been used for the mosaics.

The vertical walls of the aisle are covered with white plaster. Elements of deterioration there include various fractures, pulverizations and gaps. The edges have perhaps been filled with lime mortar, while the gaps in the plaster had been treated with a mixture of compatible mud and straw. Part of the apse wall had been reconstructed while the lower part is original. The shelter made in wood and straw, with the external part covered by a layer of mortar (as explained in detail in the sketches), is built over the original structures of the church.





North church, CN

### **PW:**

This pool, next to the North Church, is divided in two small pools. One of them includes a well to the centre. The upper structure of the pool had been restored using stones from the river. The inside of the pool still contains the original mortar up to about 50 cm. The elements of deterioration are particularly visible.

### **C1:**

It is a small channel of about 190 cm, of these only 46 cm of the original mortar still remains. A large part has been restored with river stones where the edges were repaired with new mortar.



C1



### **P Single, PS:**

It is probably the base of a pillar, consisting of river stones tied up together by a mortar with lime and ash. The deterioration in the mortar is visible. The restoration is evident in the upper part which has been reconstructed with river stones.



P Single, PS

**External Wall, EW:**

It is a rectangular wall divided into two parts by another wall, consisting mainly of river stones tied together by a lime and ash-based mortar. The restoration work on this external wall, as it should have been, is not very visible; it is possible that new stones had been added to stabilize the wall.

**MCX:**

It is a small area with few architectural elements including a small part of a wall, perhaps a corner, a part of column and some blocks of stone. All have problems of pulverization and fractures. The restoration interventions, as it should have been, are not very visible.

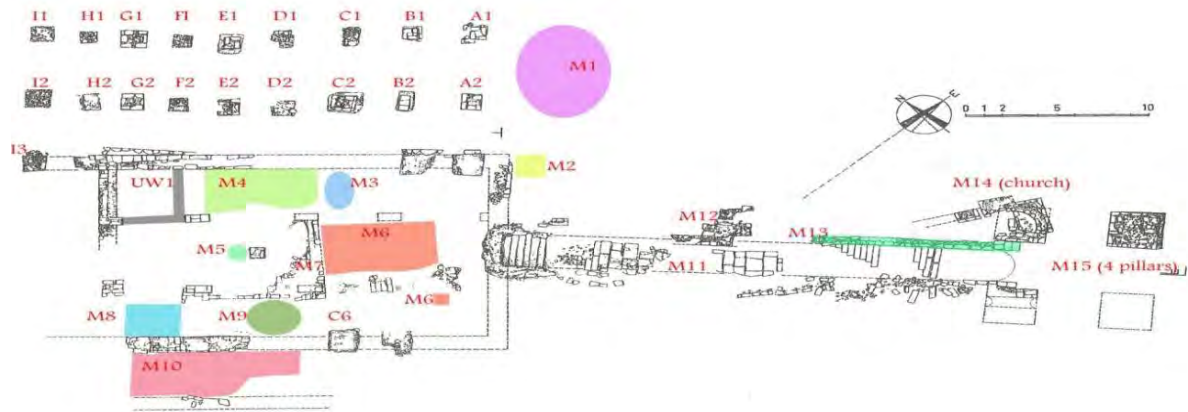
In general, it is important to mention that the team working on regular maintenance and consolidation works on the site had done an acceptable job in terms of:

- Consolidation of the mosaic floors and especially the edges of these floors.
- Protection of the adobe bricks from rainwater by adding a protective layer of a local mixture of Lisan marl (called Howwar).
- Consolidation of the plaster in the water pools and the wells in addition to cleaning it from salt deposits.

**State of Conservation of the Church of “St. John the Baptist” Complex**

The following is a detailed description for the current status of conservation for the Complex of the Church of St. John the Baptist. The numbers listed in the text below correspond to numbers provided in the map: State of Conservation of the Complex of the Church of St. John the Baptist (fig 151). The related images will also give a visual reference.





State of conservation of the complex of the church of St. John the Baptist

### **Area of the Bases of the Pillars of the Hall (St. John the Baptist Church (First Church)):**

**A1, A2, B1, B2, C2, E1, D1, G2:**

All these bases have approximately the same characteristics, consisting of blocks of stone in a good state of conservation. On the surface some deposit of atmospheric pollution have penetrated and stabilized among the pores of the stone; this is evident in the dark grey color. Some of the blocks of stone are fractured; some elements are detached, in addition to plant remains found on some of the elements. New consolidation works in the form of repointing is visible.



A1, A2





B1, B2



C2, E1



C2, E1



**C1:**

Two elements of the original courses of stone remain; the rest of the base is new additions as part of the consolidations of the diameter of 10-15 cm, based on a comparison with the excavation drawings. Some of these stones are detached and suffer from atmospheric pollution.



C1

**D2:**

It is obvious that this pillar had already collapsed, but that is not very visible at the base. The courses of stone are in a good state of conservation. There is a deposit of atmospheric pollution on the surface in locations among the pores of the stone visible in dark grey color. The consolidation mainly was based on repointing the stone joints.



D2

**F1, F2, H2:**

These bases originally consisted completely of river stones with an average diameter of 10-15 cm. Deposits of atmospheric pollution are visible. Some of these stones have been consolidated in the form of repointing and adding mortar joints. Some other stones are new and had been probably added as part of the restoration process to regularize the form of the pillar.



F1, F2, H2

**G1:**

The upper part consists of blocks of stone with inserts of river stones in the middle; while the lower part consists only of river stones. There is a visible deposit of atmospheric pollution on the surface in addition to deposits of plant remains. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar and probably the addition of new stones in the lower parts.





G1

### **H1:**

It mainly consists of blocks of stone with the insertion of some river stones. There is a visible deposit of atmospheric pollution on the surface. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar.

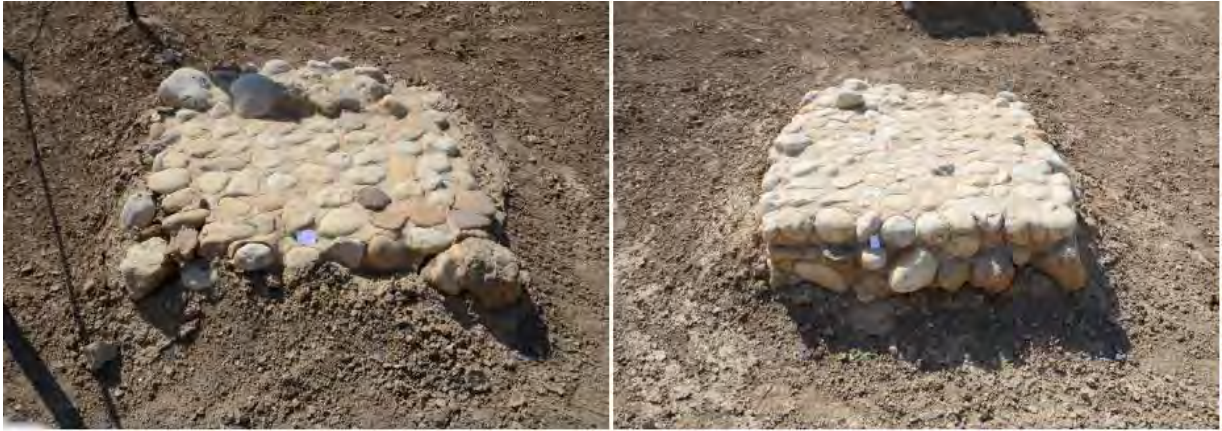


H1

### **I1, I2:**

It mainly consists of blocks of stone with the insertion of some river stones. They suffer from some detachments. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar.





I1, I2

### **I3:**

It consists of blocks of stone, with numerous inserts of river stones (some inserts are new and not original). Some elements are detached and fractured and atmospheric pollution is present on the surface. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar.



I3

### **C6:**

This completely consists of river stones. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar.



C6

## **M2:**

Base of a pillar (or maybe of a wall), consisting of river stones with a lime and ash- based mortar of light grey color. This mortar suffers from deterioration with evident signs of pulverization.



M2

## **Area of the church covered by a shelter (the Basilica and Lower Basilica):**

## **M3:**

A piece of geometric mosaic 110 x 270 cm, with white, red, black, pink and yellow tesserae of 1.5 x 1.5 cm. The state of conservation of the mosaic is critical, suffering from detachment and bulging from the bedding layer. Previous restoration (using compatible mortar) at the edges of the piece had



been made. Furthermore, the tesserae suffer from detachment, exfoliation and parts are fractured.

#### **M4:**

A bed of a floor, perhaps a mosaic, a large area that goes from the Umayyad wall up to the mosaic in M3. This mainly consists of stones and fine conglomerated material. The mortar of the bedding area is visible in two places. Restoration was restricted to cleaning the original fabric from pollution.



M4

#### **UW1:**

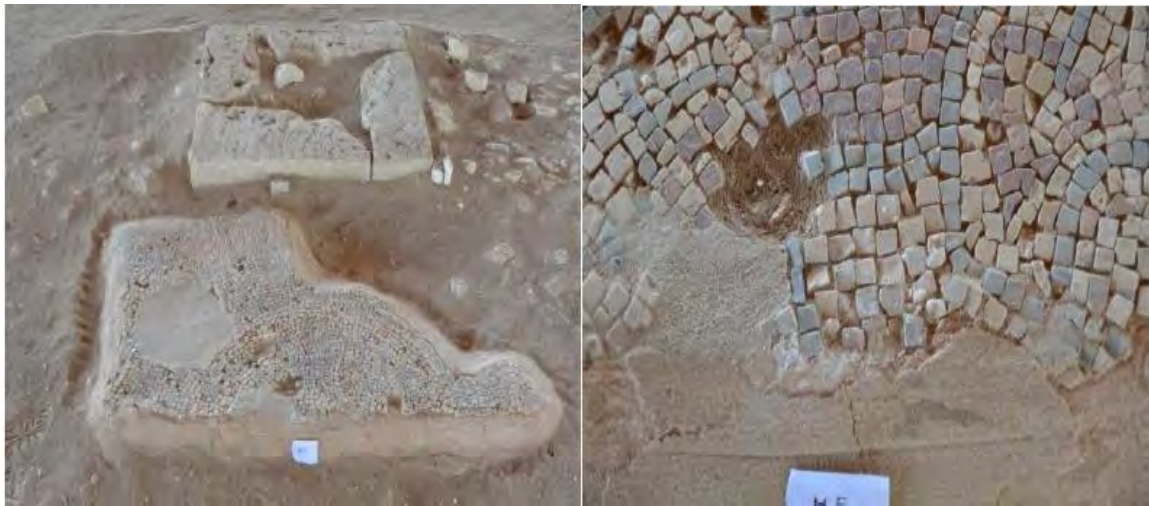
The Umayyad wall is in a good state of conservation. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar. In a corner of this wall there is also a test excavation enclosed by wood boards for protection, where architectural elements such as a column, blocks of stone and a pavement in opus formation is visible.



UW1

### M5:

Piece of mosaic with floral elements measuring 70 x 110 cm, with white, red, black and yellow tesserae 1 x 1 cm. The state of conservation is acceptable, although there is detachment of the mosaic from the bedding layer. The mosaic flooring in general is in good state of conservation. Restoration of the mosaic is mainly repairs at the edges and minimal reconstruction and replacement of tesserae.



M5

### M6:

Few tiles have remained of this pavement in Opus formation (15 in the principal area and 6 in the secondary area) in white, black, and pink marble. Mainly the black *Nabi Musa stone* (Oil shale rock) shows typical deterioration. Restoration of the mosaic was mainly repairs at the edges using compatible mortar.





M6

### **M7:**

This is a wall of stone blocks in a good state of conservation. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar.

This wall is found between floor M6 and the mosaic M5 (refer to fig. 169).



M7

### **M8:**

This 3 x 2.5 m pavement in opus sectile is composed by marble tiles of different shapes and in three colors: white marble and black and pink stones. Parts of the tiles are fractured, and some of them inside the composition seem to belong to an ancient restoration work. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar.



M8

**M9:**

This area is 2 x 2 m, where various beds of floors are seen. The lower one is a layer of lime mortar, while upper layers are composed of soil, river pebbles, and pieces of fragmented stone.



M9

**M10:**

This represents remains of a geometric mosaic floor that occupies an area of 9.3 x 3.8 m. The ground has collapsed in different locations. The red, black

and white tesserae for this mosaic are 1-1.5 cm. There are various elements of deterioration, mainly caused by the collapse of the ground. As a consequence. The tesserae are in a good state of conservation. The recent consolidation is very evident; all the edges of the floor of the mosaic had been repaired with a compatible mortar, also all the fractures were filled with the same mortar.

Another level of consolidation is evident, in certain areas where the surface of the mosaic is covered by a very fine layer of mortar; perhaps this was an attempt to reinforce the mosaic floor. Also, there had been some replacement of missing parts within the mosaic floor. On the right side there are blocks of stone, probably part of a wall, some of these blocks have been placed inside the area of the mosaic, while other blocks are found outside that area.

### **Marble steps and the Four piers**

#### **M11:**

The stairway that goes down to the water from the Basilica Church (the Third Church) is separated by five flat areas and is contained within two side walls. Parts of these areas are original and the other parts are reconstructed. The difference between the two is obvious visually. The stairway is made from black *Nabi Musa* stone (Oil Shale rock), which is deteriorated, and a strong presence of salt deposits in the area near the water. A restoration from ancient periods is visible, with elements in white marble. The recent restoration had been integrated with a local stone of dark color.

#### **M12:**

This could be the remains of a wall or a pillar on the left side of the stairway, consisting of river stones and other stone blocks. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints with compatible mortar and adding new stones as well in certain areas.



M12

**M13:**

This is the top part of the left wall, where above there are the remains of the small Church. It consists of blocks of original stone with some courses of new stone that were added as part of a recent restoration.

**M14:**

The Small Church is built on one of the pillars (one of the four piers). A few stone blocks of the small apse remain. The recent restoration works have consolidated the right side that had collapsed, while the joints in the original blocks of the remaining stones have been filled by compatible mortar.





M14

**M15:**

For a good part of the year, the foundations of the four pillars, which are built of stone blocks, are in the water. The elements of deterioration are found in all the pillars, in addition to the presence of salt on the surface. The consolidation consisted of repointing stone joints (at the upper parts of the pillars) with compatible mortar.