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#### MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE SITES

*Ba'qah Valley.* Excavation of a LB II settlement at Khirbet Umm ad-Dananir revealed a well established community surrounded by a city wall 1.50 to 2 m. in thickness. Nearby a large burial cave of the same period, containing two undisturbed burial layers, was also discovered. Dr. Patrick McGovern reported on this material in *Archaeology* 35.5 (1982) 46-53.

*Tel Dan* (ill.3; pl. 27, fig. 3). Dr. Aviram Biran reports that the fifteenth season of excavations saw the clearance of the mudbrick arch on the W facade of the city gate which had been discovered the previous year. The arch is constructed in three courses and was covered with white plaster. The excavations also discovered steps leading to the gate from the E. West of the gate on top of earthen ramparts, a large stone structure dating from the beginning of the LBA was discovered; it contained part of a terracotta object representing a female face, covered with white paint and with eyes and eyebrows indicated in dark brown paint. The object may have been a cult mask.

three stages of occupation could be distinguished. The earliest stage consisted of a crushed limestone floor probably a large courtyard; above it was a fragment of a wall, including a row of plastered stones which may have served as pillar bases. The latest stage consisted of a circular installation and the remains of a mudbrick building. Finds included several small, handmade clay bowls (which probably served as crucibles for melting bronze), scarabs and beads, a basalt knife and spear, and arrowheads made of bronze. Pottery included examples of imported Cypriot and Mycenaean vessels, in addition to the locally made ceramics. The site continued to be occupied into the Iron Age and may be equated with Biblical Gath-Rimon although this identification is not yet proven.

*Jerusalem* (pl. 27, fig. 4). Dr. Yigal Shiloh reports the discovery of a LB II terrace system above fills dating as early as EB I. The remains thus uncovered may be equated with the acropolis of Canaanite Jerusalem although they were largely destroyed by external Iron Age constructions.