

## THE SITE OF TEL DAN

Tel Dan is one of the most important sites in the ancient Near East, in general, and for biblical archaeology, in particular. Situated at the base of snow-capped Mount Hermon on the headwaters of the Jordan, Dan has been an important settlement from the Neolithic period (ca. 5,000 BCE) through the early modern period. Archaeological highlights include massive Early Bronze Age fortifications (ca. 2900-2200 BCE), the earliest preserved mudbrick arched gate in the world (ca. 1900-1500 BCE), a spectacular treasure-filled Mycenaean tomb from the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1500-1200 BCE), an early Iron Age I agrarian settlement that some associate with the Israelites (ca. 1200-1000/900 BCE), major fortifications and what



is apparently an Israelite temple from the Iron Age II (ca. 1000/900-700 BCE) remembered in the narrative of 1 Kings 12 that describes Jeroboam's installation of a

golden calf at the site accompanied by sacrificial pilgrim festivals (cf. also Amos 8). Various figurines, statues, and inscriptions from the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman periods including a dedication to "the God who is in Dan" have also been found. Perhaps the most famous discovery from Tel Dan is a stela, likely commissioned by Hazael of Aram sometime in the 9th century BCE, identifying a Judahite king from the "house of David" and thus providing the only extrabiblical reference to the famed King David from the Bible.

For more information see:

[www.teldanexcavations.com](http://www.teldanexcavations.com)

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## TEL DAN EXCAVATIONS 2020 SEASON



*Sponsored by:*

The Hebrew Union College  
Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology,  
Jerusalem, Israel, and Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

*With the Cooperation of:*

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary &  
Cornerstone University, Michigan, USA

*and in collaboration with*

The University of California, Los Angeles



## 2020 EXCAVATION STAFF

Dr. David Ilan, Director

Dr. Yifat Thareani, Co-Director

Dr. Jonathan Greer, Associate Director

### DAILY DIG SCHEDULE

5:00	Wake-up
5:30	Transport to site
5:45	Begin work
8:30	Breakfast (on site)
11:00	Short break
13:00	To kibbutz for lunch/rest
16:30	Pottery washing
18:00	Lecture
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Free (occasional lecture)

### GOALS FOR THE 2020 SEASON

We are currently seeking to creatively engage questions about:

- the ethnicity—or ethnicities, more accurately—of the Iron Age I inhabitants of the site.
- the relationship between the booming Iron II temple complex and the inhabitants of the site, as well as those in the greater region.
- Assyrian colonization following the conquest of the region by Tiglath Pileser III in the mid-eighth century BCE.

The team also hopes to introduce new scientific methods to the excavations including infrared soil analysis, GPR, and isotope analysis of faunal remains, in addition to gathering a new set of samples for radiocarbon dating.

We hope you will join us in 2020!

# 2020 PROGRAM DETAILS

## June 14 - July 17



### FEES AND CONDITIONS:

Willing workers committing to the project for a minimum of 2 weeks are encouraged to apply to join us for the 2020 season. Food and lodging will be provided at the Mount Hermon Field School, with generally 2-4 volunteers per room. Cost is \$1180 for two weeks (one weekend); \$1770 for three weeks (two weekends); \$2200 for four weeks (three weekends); and \$2600 for five weeks (four weekends). Airfare and weekend meals are not included.

### ACADEMIC CREDIT OPTION:

We are committed to providing a top-rate educational experience for all participants through a series of hands-on field lectures and evening lectures by experts working in a variety of subfields to enrich the participant's understanding of archaeology. Academic credit options are offered through the Hebrew Union College, requiring a \$500 tuition fee and 4 week minimum participation.

### FIELD TRIPS AND TOURS:

As part of the educational component of the program, we will embark on several afternoon field trips to sites such as Hazor, Bethsaida, Caesarea Philippi/Banias, Omrit, and Nimrod's Castle at no additional cost. Weekend and post-dig tours may also be arranged upon request for additional cost.



*Remains of the Israelite temple from Area T*



*Excavations in Area L*



*A sacrificial bowl found in the temple area*



*The skull of an entire ox killed in the Iron Age*



*The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem*



*Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee*