History of Research

V. Guerin: 1869
C.R. Conder & H.H. Kitchener: 1883

Y. Dagan: 1992
Z. Greenhut: 2001
Yosef Garfinkel & Saar Ganor 2007-2008

Thanks

J.B. Silver
Berman Center for Biblical Archaeology
Foundation Stone
Curtis and Mary Brennan Foundation
View from Qeiyafa to the Elah valley
The city wall
Area: 2.3 hectares

City wall: 700 m long
Schematic plan of Area B (Iron Age)
Casemate city wall

200,000 tons of stones
A four chamber gate
Two buildings (dwellings?)
Stone Massebah
Upside down in wall
Ostracon
1. The longest Proto-Canaanite Inscription ever found

2. The earliest Hebrew inscription Known to date

3. A letter
A complete absence of late Philistine bichrome pottery, that is known at Qasile X (see plate) or Miqne IV.
The characteristic pottery of Khirbet Qeiyafa: Early Ashdod Ware
Complete absence of Late Philistin Decorated Ware (Tell Safi)
Collecting olive pits for C14 dating

4 samples & 4 samples
C14: Four Calibrated Olive pits (Oxford)

* Please note 2 standard deviations: lower as 969 BC at 77.8%
Low chronology is now officially dead and buried
The methodological problems of the "Low Chronology"

1. Geography
   - Samples taken from Northern sites. No Samples from Judah.

2. Stratigraphy
   - Samples from Late Iron I, and from later phases of the Iron Ila. No samples from early Iron Ila. No samples from Megiddo Vb.
Implications for understanding the 10\textsuperscript{th} century BC

1. Chronology: Iron Ila started at ca. 1000 BC

2. Settlement pattern: fortified city

3. Political organization: centralized


5. Paleography: spread of alphabetic writing; literacy in Judah in early 10\textsuperscript{th} century BC.
Historical Identification ?

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<td>Adataim?</td>
<td>Y. Dagan</td>
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<td>S. Ganor</td>
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<td>Sha'arayim?</td>
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<td>Efes Damim?</td>
<td>Todd Bolen</td>
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<td>N. Naaman</td>
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And the answer is …….  ????
Area C

Two working days in November 6th & November 7th

Area C
A second gate in Area C, facing Jerusalem
Khirbet Qeiyafa: the only known city in Judah or Israel with two gates
An Iron Age City with two gates??

Sha'arayim

1. In the city list of Judah's tribal inheritance Sha'arayim appears after Socoh and Azekah (Jos 15, 36).
2. After David killed Goliath the Philistines run away through the “way to Sha'arayim ” (1 Sam 17:52).
3. In the city list of the tribe of Simeon, Sha'arayim is mentioned as one of the cities “unto the reign of David" (1 Chr 4:31)*.

*A scribal error: Sha'arayim (1 Chr 4:31) = Shilhim (Jos 15:32) = Sharuhen (Jos 19:6)
Why the city is Judean

A. General Arguments:
1. Geographical location in Judah
2. Sha'arayim: mentioned in Judah's city list
3. Fortified field cities are known only in Judah
4. Casemate city walls are known only in Judah
5. Main entrance facing Jerusalem

B. Material Culture:
6. No pig bones
7. Aren Maier: Gath pottery is different
8. Petrographic analysis: local Elah valley pottery
9. Hebrew inscription
Thank You