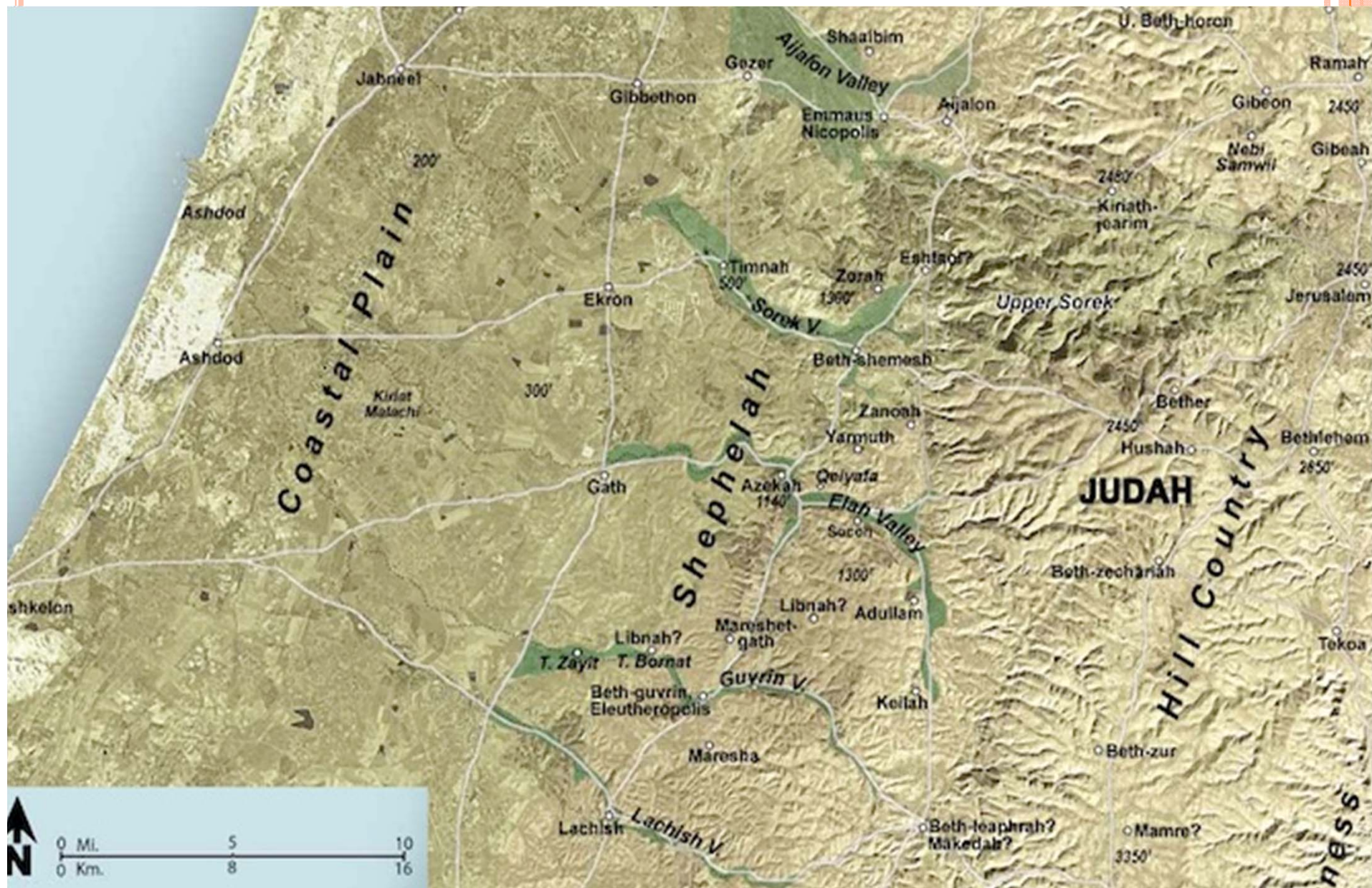


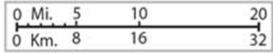
# **TEL AZEKAH**

**David Cielontko, 15.10.2015**

# TEL AZEKAH (FROM THE NORTHEAST)







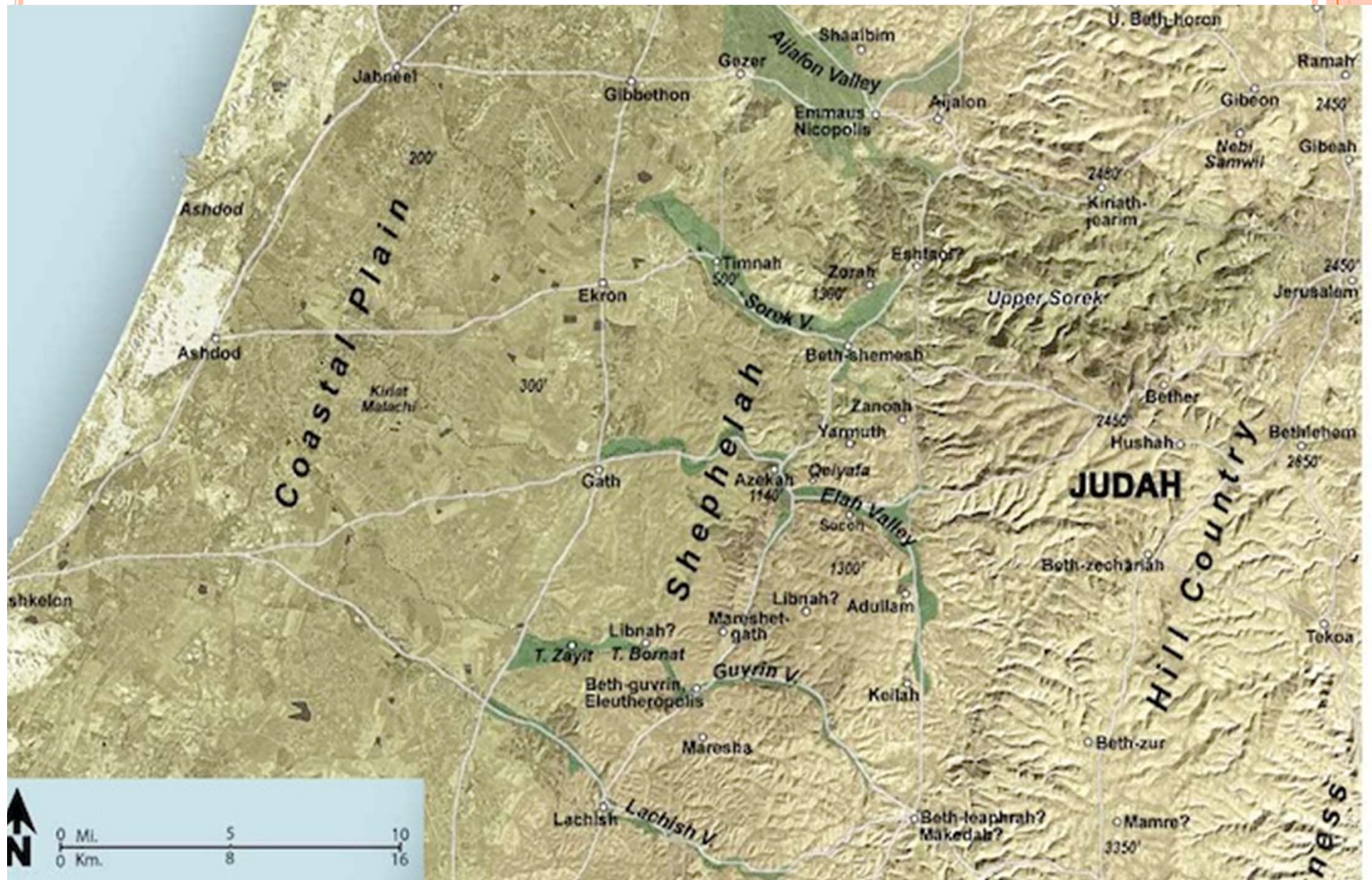
1. Acco
2. Arnon River
3. Bashan
4. Beersheba
5. Caesarea
6. Capernaum
7. Coastal Plain
8. Dead (Salt) Sea
9. Desert
10. Galilee (Lower)
11. Galilee (Upper)
12. Gaza
13. Gilead
14. Hebron
15. Hulah Valley
16. Jabbok River
17. Jaffa
18. Jericho
19. Jerusalem
20. Jezreel Valley
21. Jordan Rift Valley
22. Jordan River
23. Judea (Hill Country)
24. Judean Wilderness
25. Kir-heraseth
26. Lachish
27. Litani River
28. Megiddo
29. Mt. Carmel
30. Mt. Hermon
31. Mt. Nebo
32. Nazareth
33. Negev
34. Plateau
35. Rabbath-Ammon
36. Samaria (Hill Country)
37. Sea of Galilee
38. Sharon Plain
39. Shechem
40. Shephelah
41. Tyre
42. Yarmuk River

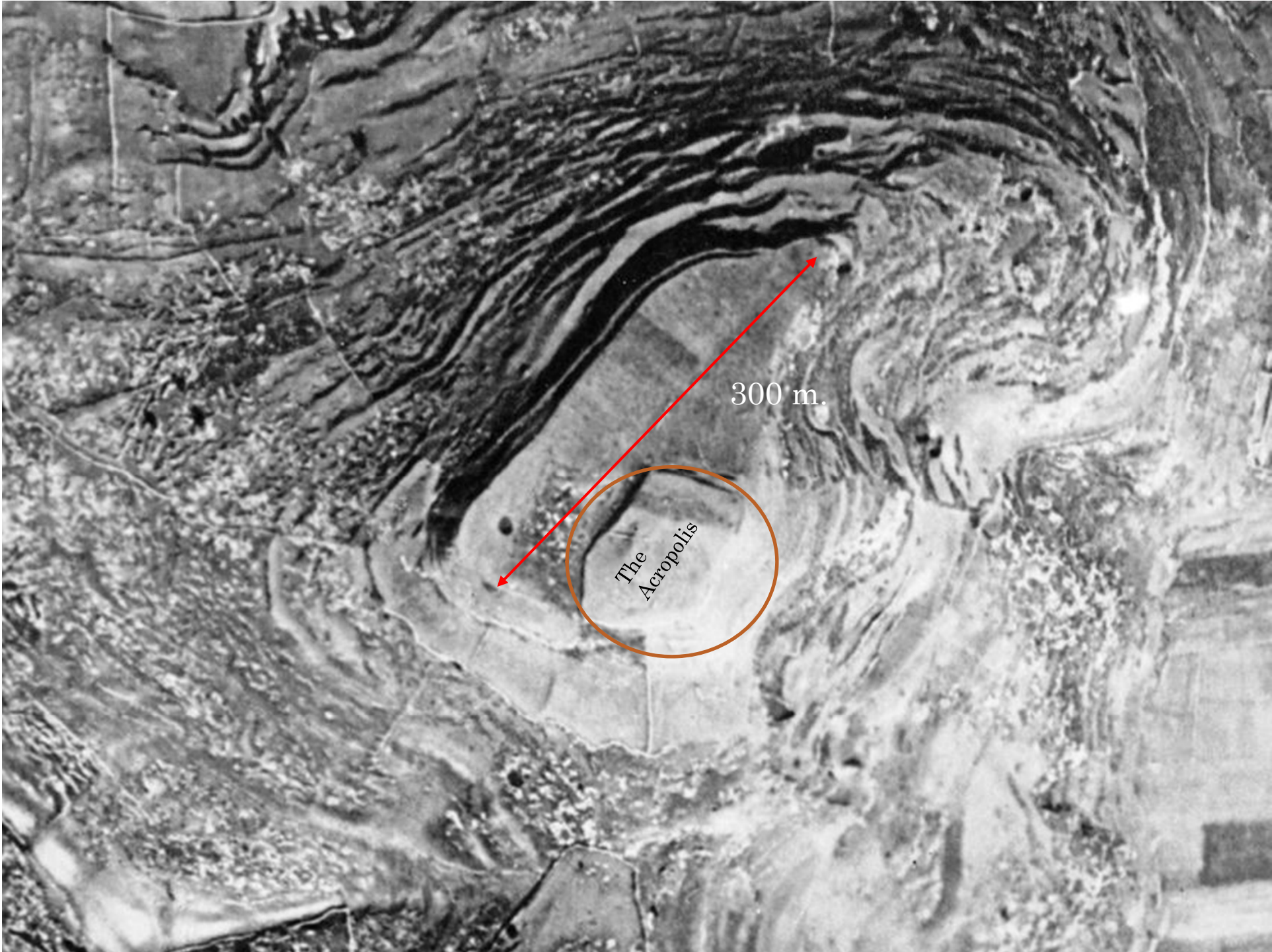
Mediterranean Sea

Azekah



Photo: Jabbok River (#16) and Gilead (#13)





300 m.

The  
Acropolis

## AZEKAH IN THE ANCIENT SOURCES

- No second-millennium source
- Azekah in the Hebrew Bible connected with “the early history”:
  - ... chased them by the way of the ascent of Bethhoron, and smote them as far as **Azekah** and Makkedah. (Jos 10:10 RSV)
  - And in the lowland, Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, Zanoah, Engannim, Tappuah, Enam, Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, **Azekah**, (Jos 15:33-35 RSV)
- Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and he built cities for defense in Judah. He built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, Bethzur, Socoh, Adullam, Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, Adoraim, Lachish, **Azekah**, Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, fortified cities which are in Judah and in Benjamin. (2Ch 11:5-10 RSV)



## DAVID AND GOLIATH

- The most famous story connected to Azekah is the story of the battle between David and Goliath
- Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and **Azekah**, in Ephesdammim. (1Sa 17:1 RSV)





## AZEKAH AND THE ASSYRIAN CONQUEST

- (3) [... Ashur, my lord, encourag]ed me and against the land of Ju[dah I marched. In] the course of my campaign, the tribute of the ki[ngs of Philistia? I received ....
- (4) [... with the mig]ht of Ashur, my lord, the province of [Hezek]iah of Judah like [...
- (5) [... ] the city of **Azekah, *his stronghold, which is between my [bo]rder and the land of Judah*** [...
- (6) [like the nest of the eagle?] located on a mountain ridge, like pointed iron daggers without number reaching high to heaven [...
- ( 7 ) [ Its walls] were strong and rivaled the highest mountains, to the (mere) sight, as if from the sky [appears its head? ....
- ( 8 ) [ by means of beaten (earth) ra]mps , mighty? battering rams brought near, the work of [...], with the attack by foot soldiers, [my] wa[rriors ....
- (9) [...] they had seen [the approach of my cav]alry and they had heard the roar of the mighty troops of the god Ashur and [their] he[arts] became afraid [...
- (10) [**The city Azekah I besieged,] I captured, I carried off its spoil, I destroyed, I devastated, [I burned with fire** .... (Azekah Inscription, trans. Na'aman, 1974)

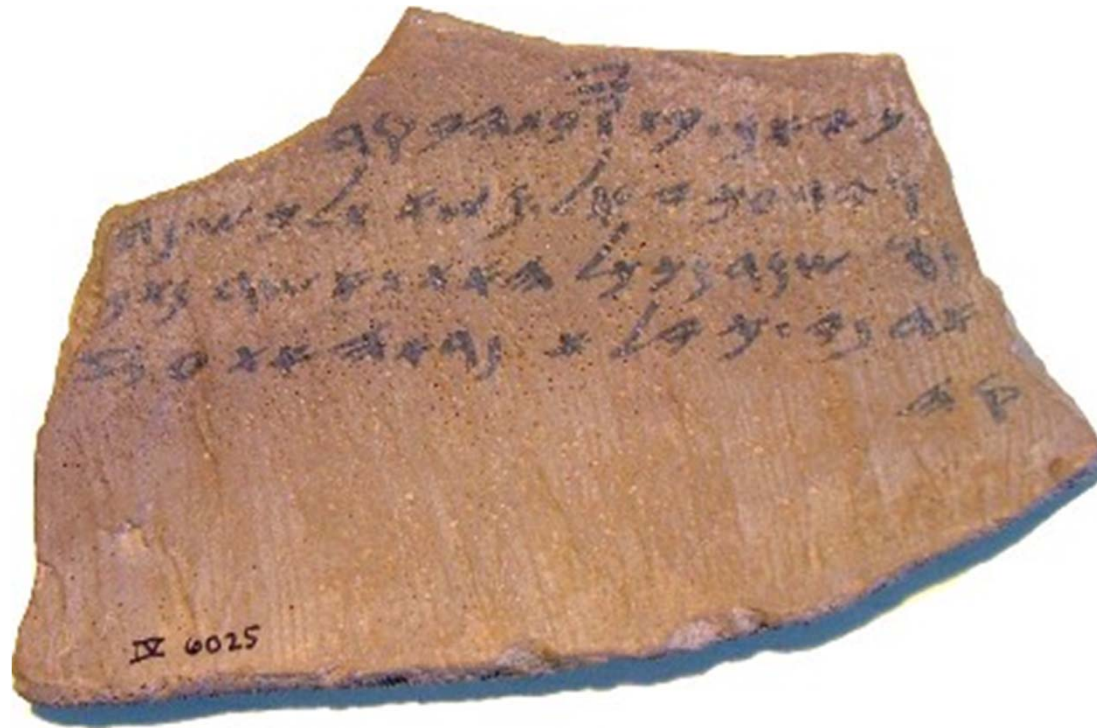


## AZEKAH AND THE BABYLONIAN CONQUEST

- when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and **Azekah**; for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained. (Jer 34:7 RSV)
- And may (my lord) be apprised that we are watching for the fire signals of Lachish according to all the signs which my lord has given, because we cannot see **Azekah**. (Lachish ostrakon 4)



# LACHISH OSTRACON N. 4

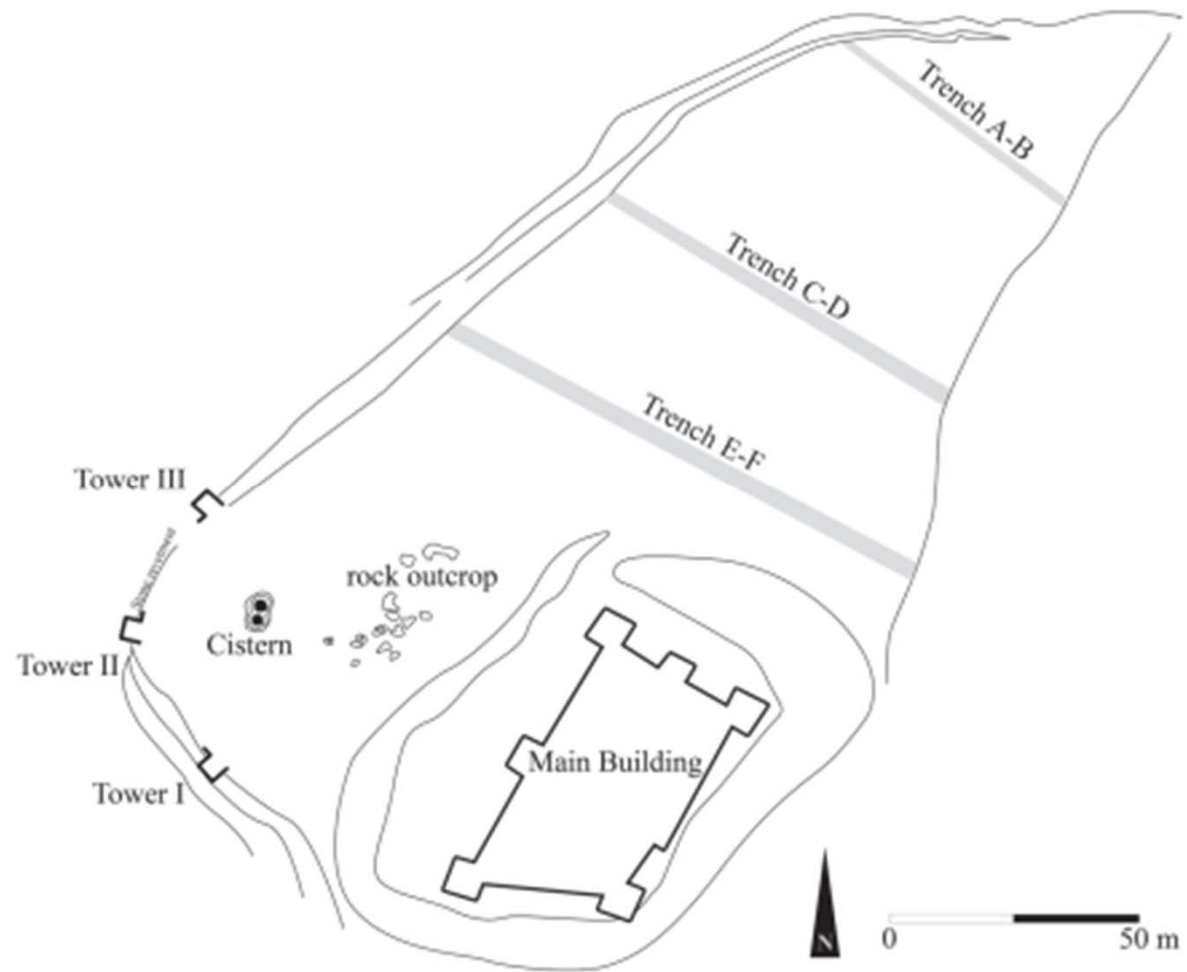


## AZEKAH IN THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

- And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriatharba and its villages, and in Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages, and in Jeshua and in Moladah and Bethpelet, in Hazarshual, in Beersheba and its villages, in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages, in Enrimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth, Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and **Azekah** and its villages. So they encamped from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom. (Neh 11:25-30 RSV)



# EXCAVATIONS BY BLISS AND MACALISTER (1898)



## RENEWED EXCAVATION: THE LAUTENSCHLÄGER AZEKAH EXPEDITION

- 2009 – Intensive surface survey and geophysical survey
  - Two settlement peaks: the Late Bronze Age and Iron II
  - Remains from the Early Bronze II-III, Middle Bronze IIA, Persian, Late Hellenistic and Early Roman, Late Roman, Byzantine, Early Muslim and Ottoman.
  - The geophysical survey showed fortification wall surrounding the western side of the surface of the mount and some architectural remains under surface of the lower southern terrace.

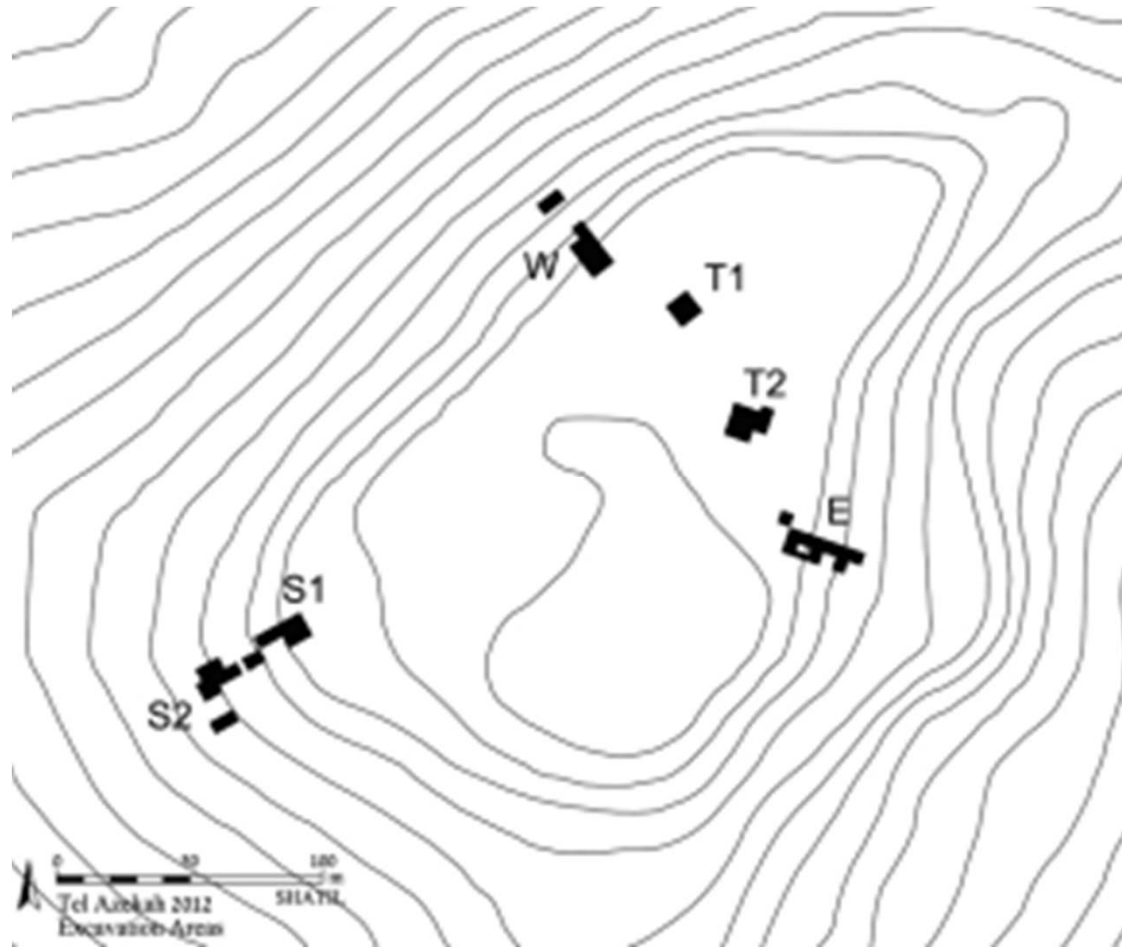


# THE LAUTENSCHLÄGER AZEKAH EXPEDITION

- Started in July 2012
- Directed by Prof. Oded Lipschits, Dr. Yuval Gadot (both Tel Aviv) and Prof. Manfred Oeming (Heidelberg)
- First 5 areas opened



# EXCAVATION AREAS IN 2012





# Excavation areas in 2012

S2 S1

W

T1

T2

E



Area E1  
(2015)



# AREAS T1 AND T2



# AREA W1



# AREAS S1 AND S2



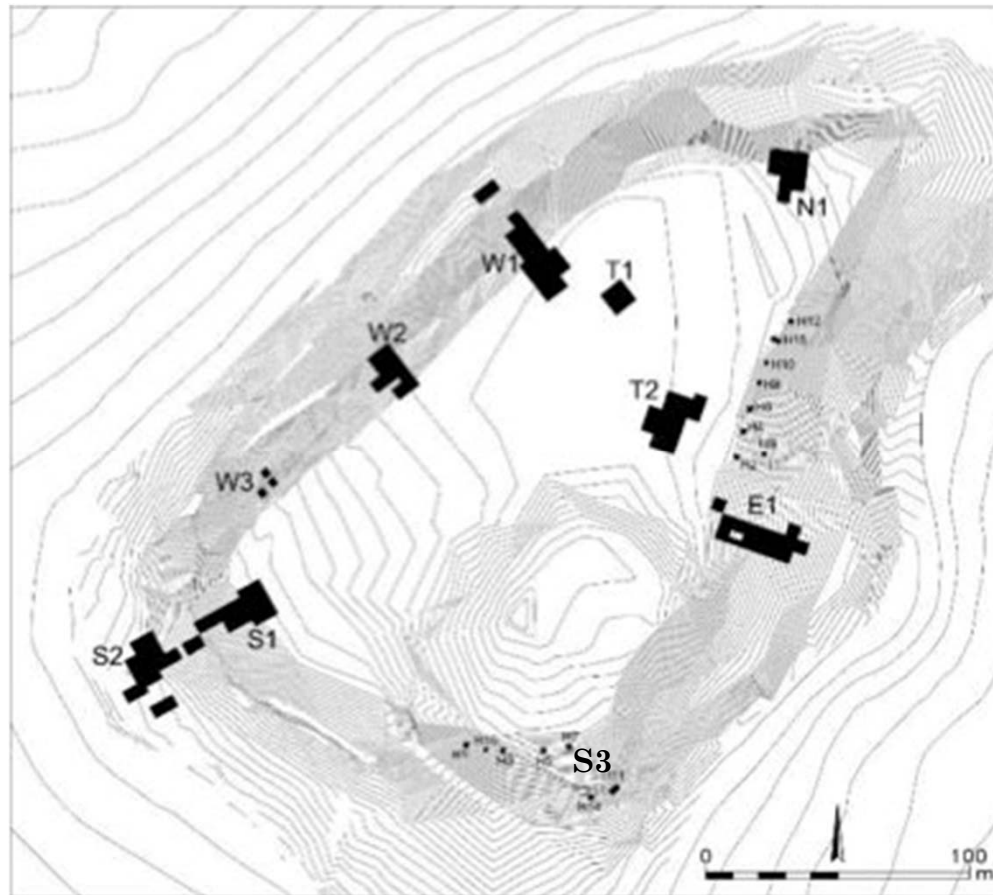
## S2 IN 2015



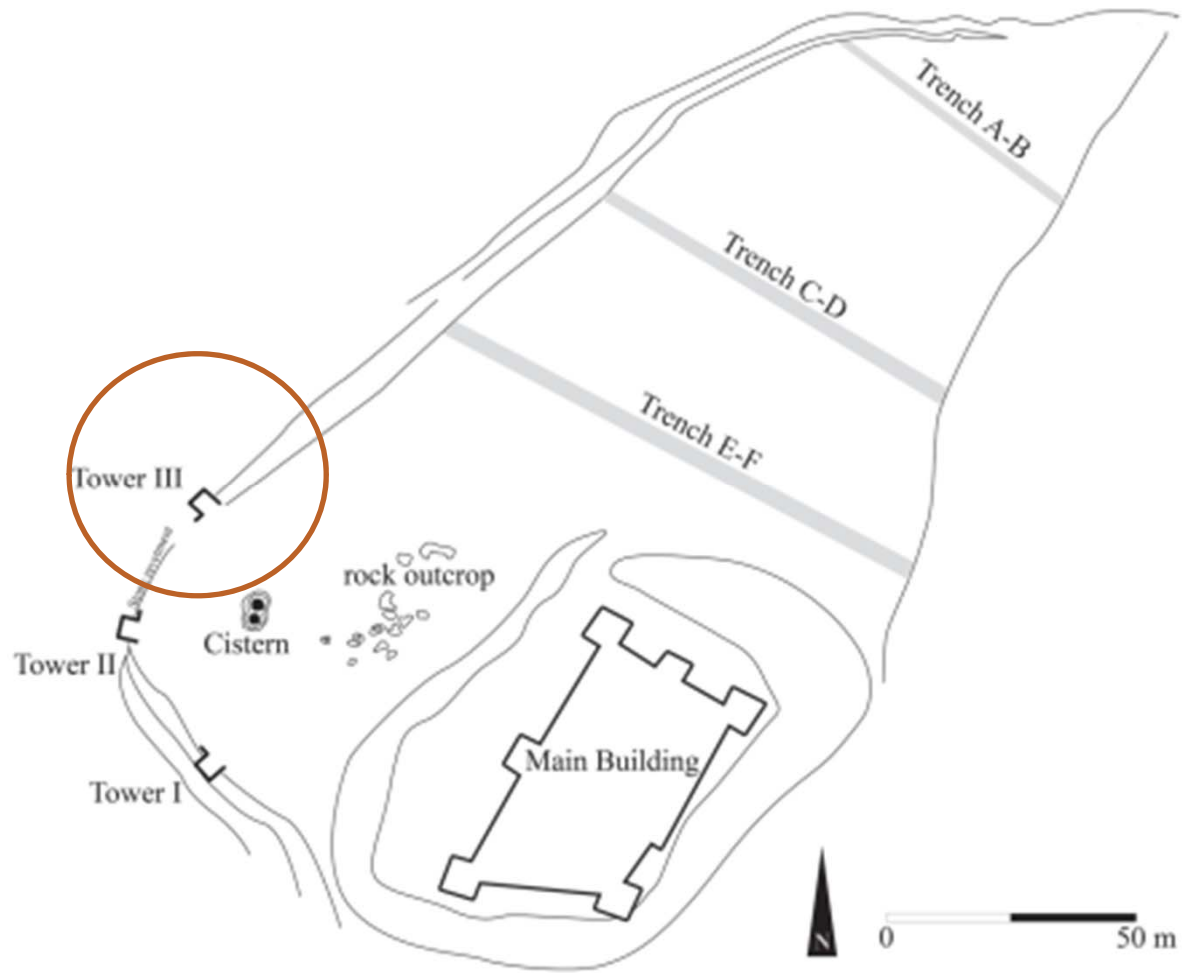
# THE FOLLOWING SEASONS ALSO WITH CHARLES UNIVERSITY

New Areas:

- W3
- N1
- S3



# AREA W3





# AREA W3



# AREA N1



# AREA N1



# AREA N1



# AREA N1



# AREA S3



# ASSYRIAN SIEGE RAMP IN TEL LACHISH



## AREA S3





## MAIN RESULTS IN AZEKAH

- Settlement in Azekah started in the EBA II-III
- Limited settlement during MBA
- Large and significant settlement during LBA with destruction layer
- Small occupation during early IA
- Significant growth in IA II (Kingdom of Judah)
- During Hellenistic period the site was confined to the eastern portion, mainly around the fortress.
- Remains from Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (only eastern and northern sections).





**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**