

BC and the other from the 6th century BC. An alabaster head was found in a later enclosure wall that consisted of 20 courses of stones, 10 m high. A number of bronze figures were found, as well as a Middle Sabaeic Inscription.

On the one hand late 4th-early 5th century AD pottery found in the walls of the annex suggest that it was not used as a temple after that time. However, many animal bones were found at a sacrificial area nearby, which indicate that it may have been used until the coming of Islam. The results of excavations of the Oval Temple have been published in several volumes by the Publications of the American Foundation for the Study of Man (AFSM).

There are a number of Tower Tombs near Marib that date from the 3rd-2nd millenniums BC that are related to those in Bahrain, but the corresponding settlements from that era have not been found.

Other sites of interest in Yemen include the site of Baraqish (ancient Yathul), the capital of the Kingdom of Maʿin, ca. 400 BC, where a Minaean temple has recently been restored by the Italians. At Timnah, the capital of the kingdom of Qataban, there are several monumental South Arabic inscriptions at the gate of the city. At the palace of Shabwa, the capital of Hadhramawt, the Jabal ʿUqlah Inscriptions, which were dedicatory inscriptions of the kings of Hadhramawt, have been found. Shabwa was not built near a main road but near salt mines, which still exist. Some of the oldest skyscrapers known can be found at the 16th century AD city of Shibam. They are made of mud brick and reach heights of 13 stories. (Carrie Rhodes)



Ortiz Lecture

Dr. Steven Ortiz, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX, lectured at Andrews University on Dec. 4, 2006 on the archaeology of Tel Gezer, of which he



Steven M. Ortiz.

is the director. The name Gezer appears in the Bible as part of a coalition against Joshua, as a tribal allotment for the tribe of Ephraim, as a Levitical city, and as an Egyptian stronghold, which ultimately became a dowry to Solomon when he married Pharaoh's daughter.

Tel Gezer is a 33-acre site in the foothills of Jerusalem in the region between the coastal plain and the hill country of Judah. It is strategically located on important north-south and east-west trade routes and was conquered many times. There have been two major excavations at the site from 1902-1909, and from 1964-74, with followup seasons in 1984 and 1990. The site is well-known for its major discoveries including the "high place," water system, four-chambered gate, glacis and tower from the Middle Bronze Age, as well as its six-chambered (Solomonic) gate and famous "Gezer calendar" from the Iron Age. Late Bronze Age Gezer is mentioned in the Amarna letters where the king of Gezer complained to the king of Egypt about trouble from the *ʿApiru*, and on the Merenptah Stele. The outer wall of the site is dated to this period. Rhodian jar handles, lamps, a Jewish ritual bath and 12 boundary stones, identifying the site, attest to Hellenistic period Gezer, which is mentioned in 1 Macc 13 as being gar-

risoned by Simon Maccabee after he took the city from the Seleucids ca. 140 BC.

Why go back to Gezer? Although Gezer's history is known, there are several problems regarding the Iron Age city. The excavations in the 1960s and '70s focused on stratigraphy, but did not get a broad overview of the city. The results of the 1984 and 1990 excavations have not yet been fully published, especially Palaces 8,000 and 10,000. The 1984 excavations discovered three major strata from the 8th, 9th and 10th centuries BC, including two destructions. The 9th century BC artifacts found at Gezer are some of the few in existence in this region, and are important to the discussion of the low Iron Age chronology, as it is the 9th century BC in particular that is debated. One of the problems is that these objects are currently not associated with good 9th century BC strata. The primary focus of the new excavations will be on obtaining a large horizontal exposure of the Iron Age structures along with well-stratified sequences. A reinvestigation of the Iron Age fortification system and several other buildings from this time are also on the agenda.

Gezer has recently become a national park, so in 2006 only a section along the fortification system was available for excavation, of which over 40 m were exposed. On the basis of the work this season it appears that the gate and casemate system were built as a large "box" which contained sterile fill. Two pre-Solomonic destruction layers were found, containing mixed Late Bronze Age I and II pottery. Two Iron Age destruction layers were also found. Ortiz postulates that one of these layers belongs to the 21st Dynasty Pharaoh Siamun, as a storage jar stopper which was found in the destruction layer contains a seal that has been associated with Siamun. The casemate was rebuilt and then destroyed in the 8th century BC, the destruction layer perhaps reflecting the activities of Tiglath-Pileser III in the region. (Carrie Rhodes)

