

Un dio rappresentato seduto, di profilo verso sinistra con tiara a corna, crocchia alla nuca, *kaunakes*, braccio destro proteso in segno di saluto, sinistro al fianco, siede su un trono rettangolare a quattro sostegni e con schienale. Verso il dio si dirigono altre due divinità in posizione eretta, di profilo verso destra con le braccia piegate in avanti ed indossano una lunga tunica. Dietro il dio un'altra divinità sempre in posizione eretta, di profilo verso sinistra, con le braccia piegate in avanti, con *kaunakes*, tiara e ricciolo alla nuca. In campo alto disco solare. La scena è completata da un'iscrizione in caratteri cuneiformi come indicano alcuni segni conservati posti a lato della rappresentazione.

Datazione: epoca paleobabilonese.

6.3. *Materiale proveniente da Tell Mashtale*

Grazie ai sondaggi effettuati a Tell Mashtale è venuta alla luce un'enorme quantità di ceramica di epoca cassita. Si tratta prevalentemente di bicchieri con base ad anello e corpo a calice oppure con la base a bottone ed il corpo cilindrico. In perfetto stato di conservazione sono alcuni supporti per giara caratterizzati dalla simmetria dei due orli ed una lampada ad olio realizzata con una ciotola a fondo arrotondato a cui è stato ripiegato l'orlo verso l'interno. Si tratta di ceramica di uso comune come indicano sia la tipologia che l'impasto, spesso di qualità medio-grezza.

Ad un'epoca più recente, probabilmente bizantina, appartiene un prezioso vaso in alabastro bianco di pregevole fattura. Il recipiente presenta base rotonda, lungo corpo cilindrico ed orlo piatto e molto estroflesso.

Vaso (fig. 21)

Alabastro di colore bianco. Stato di conservazione: integro. Dimensioni: diam. orlo: 6 cm; altezza 21 cm. Numero di scavo: ML 02 024. Contesto: cantiere E, q E 48.

Vaso con base rotonda, corpo cilindrico, orlo a disco fortemente estroflesso, utilizzato come balsamario. Datazione: epoca bizantina.

7. *Preliminary report on human remains from Tell Ashara - Terqa Seasons 2003-2004*²⁶

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During the 23rd and 24th excavation seasons at Tell Ashara the remains of 56 individuals were discovered and then studied in the excavation house in October, 2004²⁷. The individuals may be divided into three chronological samples: (1) Late Shakkanakku / Old Babylonian (= Middle Bronze Age), (2) Iron Age, (3) Modern Islamic = ca. 1800-1970. The tables 1-3 present the preliminary general description of the human remains separately for these three periods.

Some differences between Middle Bronze Age and Modern Islamic samples were observed. The greater frequency of stress markers (cribra orbitalia and enamel hypoplasia) and smaller number of older individuals in the Middle Bronze sample indicates that the quality of life was lower in

²⁶ I would like to thank Prof. Olivier Rouault and Dr. Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault for kind invitation to the excavations at Tell Ashara and Tell Masaikh, encouragement and friendship. I am grateful also to Constance Frank and other members of excavations team who patiently answered all my questions concerning the archaeological context of human remains and — last but not least — to Prof. Alina Wiercińska (State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw) who greatly supported my visit to Syria in 2004. The research was partially financed by Polish Committee for Scientific Research (grant No. 1 H01H 038 26).

²⁷ The preliminary report on human remains from previous seasons was published in Sołtysiak 2002.

that period than in Modern Islamic times. In contrary, the number of individuals with carious teeth is greater in Modern Islamic cemetery suggesting the diet improvement. However, no significant difference in average stature may be observed (table 4): in males it amounts 179 cm for Middle Bronze and 174 for Modern Islamic, in females 157 and 160 respectively.

The Modern Islamic sample includes a number of older individuals which enables a simple comparison of frequency of osteoarthritis and spondylosis in males and females (table 5). The sample is small but it may be suggested that the males who died in age of 40 or more were less affected by both pathologies than the females in the same age class and that such a difference results from harder feminine work in modern Syria. However, such statement has to be tested on more numerous sample. Clear difference between young and old males is due to natural increase of joint and vertebral pathologies during the lifetime.

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	E H	CO	Cr	Comments
23Fa2	301	LS	-	6	1				
23Fa38	324	MS	-	4.5	1		-*	-	small porosity in occipital bone
23Fa51	326	LS	?	ad.	~	-		-	
23Fa65+77	334	LS	-	2	3		+	-	
23Fa88/1	333	LS	M?	30-35	4				
23Fa88/2	333	LS	?	ad.	1	-	+	+	
23Fa93	351	LS	M??	~40	1	+		+	right femur broken with dislocation
23Fa95	349	LS	M??	ad.	3				osteoarthritis in some bones
23Fa106	361	OB	M??	ad.	3				porosity in zygomatic bone and right parietal bone
23Fa142	598	Sh	?	ad.	4	+	-*	+	osteoarthritis in feet and hands
23Fa146	356	LS	-	6	3		+	-	porosity in right parietal and occipital bones
23Fa166+194	387	OB	?	~15	~			-	
23Fa168	376	LS	-	12	3	+	+	-	
23Fa186	397	OB	-	7	1		+	-	
23Fa187	393	LS	-	9	4	-		-	
24Fa133+136	397	OB	-	1	2		~		small obliterated porosity in occipital and parietal b.
24Fa143	397	OB	?	ad.	~				small fragments of at least one adult and one child
24Fa144	403	OB	?	ad.	1				
24Fa149/1	403	OB	-	0-1	1				
24Fa149/2	403	OB	F??	>40	2		~		spondylosis and osteoarthritis, obliterated porosity in lambda, almost all teeth lost in maxilla
24Fa159+163	736	OB	F	45-50	4		+	+	osteoarthritis and spondylosis

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	E H	CO	Cr	Comments
24Fa230	783	LS	?	ad.	~				small fragment of maxilla
24Fb44	654	MB	?	ad.	~				small fragments of one foot

Table 1. Human remains from Tell Ashara (seasons 2003-2004, Middle Bronze Age)

Columns: **No**: tag number; **E**: entity number; **Ch**: chronology (Sh: Shakkanakku, MS: Middle Shakkanakku, LS: Late Shakkanakku, OB: Old Babylonian, MB: Middle Bronze Age); **S**: sex (M: male, F: female; M?: probably male, M??: rather male than female); **A**: approximate age (ad.: adult); **SP**: state of preservation (~: incomplete, 1: very poor, 2: poor, 3: average, 4: good, 5: very good); **EH**: enamel hypoplasia; **CO**: cribra orbitalia; **Cr**: caries (+: present, ~: trace, -: absent).

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	E H	C O	Cr	Comments
23Fa154+185	379	?	?	ad.	~				small fragments of at least three individuals
23Fa158	372	LB?	?	16-18	~				
23Fa161	373	LB?	M	20-25	1	~		-	porosity in parietal bone
23Fa172	390	?	-	6	~	+		-	
24Fb9+12	630	IA	-	8-9	1	-			porosity in parietal bone
24Fb9	630	IA	-	1.5	2		+	-	
24Fb72	692	LB/IA	-	0.25	1				

Table 2. Human remains from Tell Ashara (seasons 2003-2004, Iron Age)

Columns: cf. table 1; **Ch**: chronology (LB: Late Bronze Age, IA: Iron Age, ?: unknown).

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	E H	C O	Cr	Comments
23Fb74	561	MI	?	ad.	2				
23Fb75	565	MI	-	5	2			-	porosity in parietal (?) bone
23Fb79	570	MI	?	ad.	1	~		+	
23Fb83	571	MI	-	1.5	1			+	
23Fb87	575	MI	M??	25-26	3	~	~*	-	some parts of bones are burnt in the surface
24Fb33	656	MI	-	3	2				periostitis in right humerus
24Fb45	667	MI	-	2-4	1				
24Fb46+52	669	MI	-	1.5-2	2				
24Fb49+50	663	MI	-	3	3			-	small porosity in occipital bone
24Fb53	674	MI	?	ad.	1				small osteoarthritis
24Fb59	673	MI	-	10	2	~	~	-	
24Fb67	688	MI	?	18-25	1	~		-	some parts of bones are burnt in the surface
24Fb68+71	685	MI	F	45-50	3	~		+	osteoarthritis, small spondylosis
24Fb71?	685	MI	M??	40-60	~		~*	+	skull only, many teeth are lost ante mortem

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	E H	C O	Cr	Comments
24Fb73	697	MI	F	>50	2	~		-	all upper and many lower teeth are lost ante mortem, osteoarthritis and spondylosis
24Fb75	802	MI	F	40-45	4	~	-	+	osteoarthritis, spondylosis, many dental pathologies
24Fb89	813	MI	?	ad.	2	~		+	osteoarthritis
24Fb92	819	MI	M??	old	3	-	-	+	porosity in occipital bone, osteoarthritis, spondylosis
24Fb95	823	MI	?	ad.	1				
24Fb99	829	MI	M	40-45	4	-	-	-	small osteoarthritis and spondylosis
24Fb300	831	MI	M?	45-50	3	~	-	+	
24Fb301	833	MI	M??	ad.	1	+	.*	-	
24Fb308+310	804	MI	F??	40-45	4	-	-	+	advanced osteoarthritis and spondylosis
24Fb311	842	MI	-	8	1	~		+	
24Fb312	806	MI	M??	30-35	4	+	-	~	right humerus broken
24Fa236	904	I	F?	~20	~	-	+	~	skull only, partially burnt on the surface

Table 3. Human remains from Tell Ashara (seasons 2003-2004, Modern Islamic)
Columns: cf. table 1; **Ch:** chronology (I: Islamic, MI: Modern Islamic).

No	Sex	Humerus	Radius	Ulna	Femur	Tibia	Fibula	Average
23Fa88/1	M?	173	177	177	170	178	172	174
23Fa95	M??			183				183
23Fa142	?		*157					*157
24Fa159	F	159					*154	*157
23Fb87	M??			*168				*168
24Fb71	F		159				*158	159
24Fb75	F				157	**170	164	164
24Fb89	?				**153		*155	*154
24Fb92	M??			**181			**179	**180
24Fb99	M			171			169	170
24Fb300	M?					*178		*178
24Fb308	F??		161	162	*158	166	162	162
24Fb312	M??		172	*173	**165		*175	173

Table 4. Expected maximum stature according to Trotter-Gleser formula²⁸ for white males and females, without age correction

²⁸ Trotter-Gleser 1952.

No	Sex	Age	Osteoarthritis				Spondylosis		
			Hand	Arm	Foot	Leg	Cervical	Thoracic	Lumbar
24Fb68	F	45-50	**		**				
24Fb73	F	>50	**	**	**		**	*	
24Fb75	F	40-45	*	**	*	**	**		*
24Fb308	F??	40-45		**		**	*	***	***
24Fb92	M??	old	*		*	**	**	*	-
24Fb99	M	40-45	*	**	*	*		*	**
24Fb300	M?	45-50	*		*		-	-	*
23Fb87	M??	25-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24Fb301	M??	ad.				-		*	-
24Fb312	M??	30-35	-	**	-	**	-	-	*

Table 5. Distribution of spondylosis and osteoarthritis in Modern Islamic males and females
Degree of pathology expressed in 4-grade scale (- absent, * small, ** average, *** strong).

8. *Preliminary report on human remains from Tell Ashara/Terqa Season 2005*

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During the 25th excavation season at Tell Ashara (September-October, 2005) the remains of 33 individuals were discovered and studied in the excavation house. The **Table 1** presents the preliminary general description of these skeletons. As in previous seasons, bones and teeth have been described with use of a questionnaire based on *Standards of Data Collection* [Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994], but simplified due to the fieldwork limitations.

The chronological distribution of the samples were analogical to that of two previous seasons, with relatively greater number of Middle Bronze Age skeletons, small amount of human remains from the Iron Age or Pre-Islamic times and few Modern Islamic individuals. In five cases some lengths of long bones may have been measured, and after pooling the measurements of individuals from Tell Ashara and other sites excavated in the season 2005 (see **Table 2**) together with data obtained in previous years, a preliminary analysis of temporal differences in stature has been done.

Due to general poor state of preservation of skeletons, the sample of all individuals with measurement of at least one long bone was very small (40) and after its division into three chronological sub-samples it appeared that only extreme differences may have appeared statistically significant. It is not this case, in all periods the average statures fluctuated around 170 cm (males) and 160 cm (females), as **Table 3** and **Diagram 1** show. The individuals buried in Modern Islamic cemetery at Tell Ashara seem to be slightly taller, but more data are necessary to check out the possibility of stature increase between Early Islamic and Modern Islamic times. Also the standard deviation is significantly lower in case of this sample, which may be the result of greater homogeneity of Modern Islamic cemetery.

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	EH	CO	Cr	Comments
F43+47	1027	LS	F	40-45	3	-		-	porotic hyperostosis; spondylosis in cervical vert.; broken left clavicle
F52	1032	LS	M	20-21	3	+		-	small porosity in neurocranial bones
F55	1036	IS	M?	Ad/ Mat	1				small osteoarthritis in ulna and femur
F62	1045	IS	M?	Mat.	2	+	-	+	spondylosis; bones partially burned
F64	1039	IS	F?	adult	2				spondylosis of thoracic vert.; bones partially burned
F70	1051	IS	M	Ad/ Mat	1				spondylosis in cervical vertebrae
F74	561	IS	M?	adult	1	+		-	
F101	1070	SH	-	1-1.5	1			-	
F104	1075	IS	F	adult	1	-		-	small spondylosis in thoracic vertebrae
F105	1086	3.4/4.0	-	Inf. I	3				
F116	1077	ES	M?	35-40	2	~		+	
F127	1091	DA1? DA2	?	adult	~				
F128	1070	SH	M?	adult	1				bones partially burned
F134	1095	IA	?	adult?	~				
F168+173	1113	DA2	-	Inf. I	3				
F259	910	SH	F?	30-35	2	-		-	asymetry in 8th and 9th thoracic vert.
F268	927	SH	-	Inf. I	3				
F271	921?	?	?	adult	~				
F274	936	OB	?	adult	~				
F279	932	SH	M?	adult	~				
F325	856	PA	F?	adult	1				
F326	825	OB	F?	adult	1				
F344	879	IS	-	Inf. I	2			-	
F346	886	IS	F?	adult	~				osteoarthritis in both tali
F347	855	IA	F?	adult	1				
F351	855	IA 1	?	adult	~				
F353	894	OB	-	8-9	1		+		
F364	1006	OB	M	20-25		+		-	osteoarthritis in calcaneus
F371	877	IA 1	-	Inf. I	1				
F373	1023	OB	-	8-9	2	-			
F403	969	OB	M?	adult	1				

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	EH	CO	Cr	Comments
F421	969	SH	-	Inf. I/II	1				
F422	971	OB	-	Foetus/ 0	2				

Table 1. Human remains from Tell Ashara (2005)

Columns: **No**: tag number; **E**: locus number; **Ch**: chronology (SH: Shakanaku, ES: Early Shakkanaku, LS: Late Shakanaku, OB: Old Babylonian, IA: Iron Age, PA: Parthian, IS: Islamic); **S**: sex (M: male, F: female; M?: probably male); **A**: approximate age; **SP**: state of preservation (~: incomplete, 1: very poor, 2: poor, 3: average, 4: good, 5: very good); **EH**: enamel hypoplasia; **CO**: cribra orbitalia; **Cr**: caries (+: present, ~: trace, -: absent).

Site	No	Sex	Humerus	Radius	Ulna	Femur	Tibia	Fibula	Average
Ashara	F43	F	157	158	161			163	160
Ashara	F52	M		*162					*162
Ashara	F62	M?	173						173
Ashara	F116	M?						160	160
Ashara	F346	F?						162	162
Masaikh	E97	M?	157				*164		*160
Masaikh	E102	M?		180					180
Masaikh	E110	M?					175		175
Masaikh	E118	F	160	171	169	162	173	169	*167
Masaikh	E140	F??					161	155	158
Mashtale	C54	F?		156	*157				156
Mashtale	C71	F						167	167
Mashtale	C74	F	149	154	157				153

Table 2. Expected maximum stature according to Trotter-Gleser formula [1952] for white males and females, without age correction. The table includes all complete long bones found at Tell Ashara, Tell Masaikh, and Gebel Mashtale in 2005

<i>Chronology</i>	<i>females</i>			<i>males</i>		
	N	mean	σ	N	mean	σ
Bronze Age (Ashara)	4	160.0	8.0	4	169.5	10.7
1st millennium AD	16	159.0	5.8	7	169.6	7.8
Modern (Ashara)	4	161.8	2.1	5	172.4	3.8

Table 3. Average stature of females and males in three chronological samples

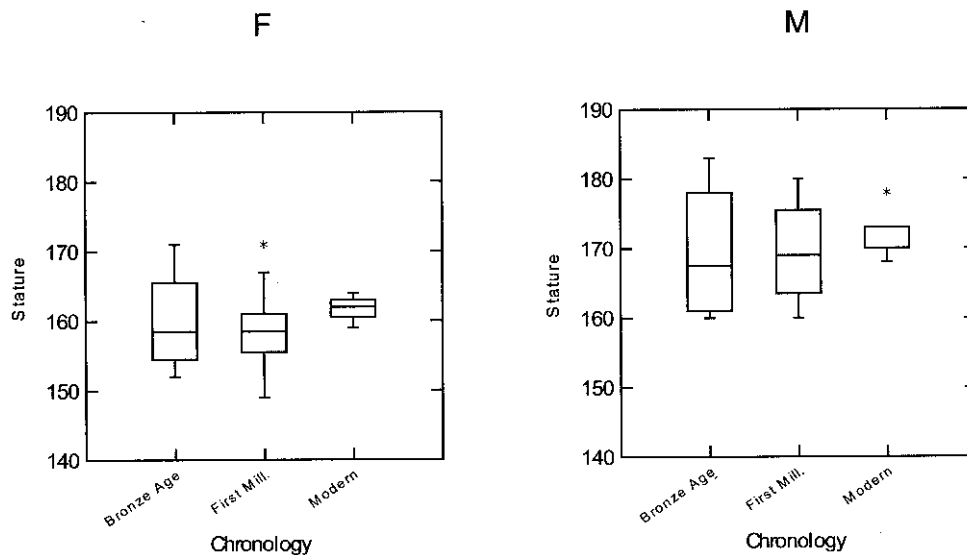


Diagram 1. Stature of females and males in three chronological samples

9. Preliminary report on human remains from Tell Masaikh Season 2005

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During the 11th excavation season at Tell Masaikh (September-October, 2005) the remains of 50 individuals were discovered and studied in the excavation house. The **Table 4** below presents the preliminary general description of these human remains.

One evident peculiarity of this sample is the very poor state of preservation of the bones, even if we consider the general bad conditions in the whole Mesopotamia. In the sample of 254 individuals found in the region of Terqa in the seasons 2002-2005, the average state of preservation is 2 (poor) in 5-point scale, with only one skeleton scored as 5 (very well preserved) and as many as 39 incomplete (15%), 89 very poorly (35%) and 56 poorly (22%) preserved. In general, the bones from all periods are equally badly preserved, with exception of Iron Age sample, in which the average state of preservation is even lower (about 1.5, between very poor and poor, see **Diagram 2**). This difference, however, is not statistically significant when tested with use of the variance analysis (ANOVA; $F=1.444$, $p=0.210$).

Actually in Tell Masaikh the average state of preservation in the season 2005 is lower than usually, and much lower than in the season 2004 (see **Diagram 3**). In that case the difference is almost significant ($F=2.204$, $p=0.092$), although its causes remain obscure. It may be noted, however, that the Islamic skeletons found in the beginning of the season were particularly poorly preserved, when compared to the remains discovered later.

Another peculiarity of the human remains from all sites around Terqa is better average state of preservation of child skeletons than adult ones (**Diagram 4**). The difference is not great and

statistically insignificant ($F=1.682$, $p=0.189$), but quite clear in case of Islamic cemeteries at Tell Masaikh and Jebel Mashtale (see **Diagram 2**). On the other hand, there is no difference in the state of preservation of human remains between sites ($F=0.307$, $p=0.820$).

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	EH	Cr	Comments
E14	16	IS	?	adult	1	-	-	
E20	24	IS	M?	adult	1	-	-	small osteoarthritis in patella
E21	25	IS	M?	Ad/Mat	1	+		osteophyte in left clavicle
E22	26	IS	?	adult	~			
E25	27	IS	?	adult	1			
E29	29	IS	M	30-35	2	++	-	osteoarthritis of right femur
E33	30	IS	?	adult	1			
E34	31	?	M??	adult	1			
E35	37	IS	F?	adult	1			
D36	33	OB	?	adult	1			
E39	40	IS	M	30-35	1			
E40	42	?	-	Inf. I	~			
E41	43	IS	-	1.5	2			porosity in parietal bone
E42	46	IS	M??	Ad/Mat	1			
D43	33	OB	M?	adult	~		-	
D46	36	OB	M??	adult	~			
E47	36	?	F??	adult	1			
D48	35	OB	M?	Mat.	1	+	+	osteophytes in humeral shaft
E51	54	IS	?	Juv/Ad	2			
E55	56	IS	-	1	4		-	
E56	57	IS	F??	adult	1	-	-	
E57	60	IS	-	1.5	3		-	
E59	63	IS	?	adult	1			
E60	67	IS	-	1	4		-	
E63	69	IS	-	1	2		-	
E66	74	IS	-	0.5	4		-	
E67	54	IS	-	foetus	1			
E71	77	IS	-	1-1.5	2		-	
D72	53	OB	?	adult	1		-	
D77	60	OB	?	adult	1			
E77	78	LR/IS	F?	adult	2	+	-	
E82	83	?	?	Ad/Mat	1			porosity in talar articular surfaces
E83	84	IS	F?	15-20	2	+	-	
E91	86	LR/IS	M	20-21	2	~	-	
D93	64	OB	?	adult	1	-	-	
E93	87	LR/IS	M?	30-35	1	+	+	

No	E	Ch	S	A	SP	EH	Cr	Comments
E97	89	LR/IS	M?	adult	3	-	+	
D100	83	OB?	?	adult			-	
E101	90	LR/IS	-	Inf. II/ Juv	2	+	-	
E102	91	LR	M?	35-40	2	~	-	spondylosis in lumbar vertebrae, small osteoarthritis
E102	92	LR	M?	20-21	3	-	-	
E110	98	LR	M?	adult	3	-	-	spondylosis in lumbar vertebrae, osteoarthritis
E115	99	PI	-	1-1.5	3		-	
E118	101	?	F	20-21	4	-	-	
F122	118	LR	-	0.5- 0.75	1			
E124	104	LR	M?	Juv.	1	-	-	
E137	97	IS	M??	adult	1	~	+	small osteoarthritis
E140	122	LR	F??	adult	3	+	+	spondylosis in all parts of the spine
F163	158	LR	?	adult	~	-	-	
F171	167	LR?	M??	adult	~	-	+	

Table 4. Human remains from Tell Masaikh (2005)

Columns: **No**: tag number; **E**: locus number; **Ch**: chronology (OB: Old Babylonian, PI: Pre-Islamic, LR: Late Roman, IS: Islamic); **S**: sex (M: male, F: female; M?: probably male, M??: rather male than female); **A**: approximate age; **SP**: state of preservation (~: incomplete, 1: very poor, 2: poor, 3: average, 4: good, 5: very good); **EH**: enamel hypoplasia; **Cr**: caries (+: present, ~: trace, -: absent).

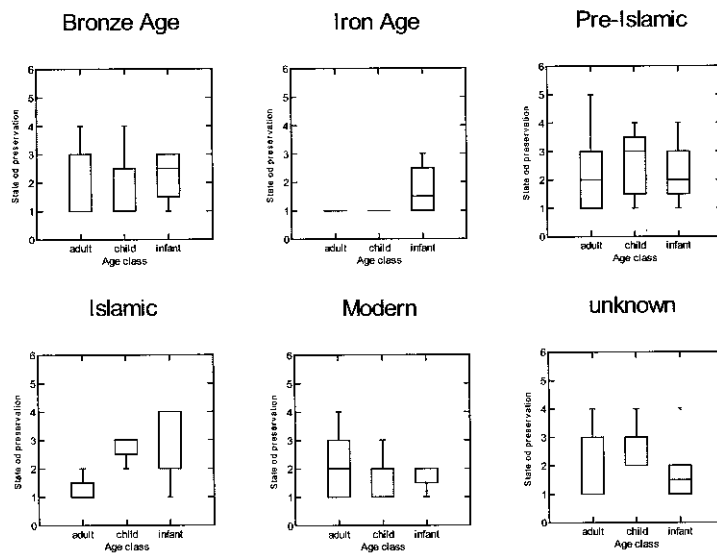


Diagram 2. Average state of preservation of all skeletons in relation to chronology and age classes

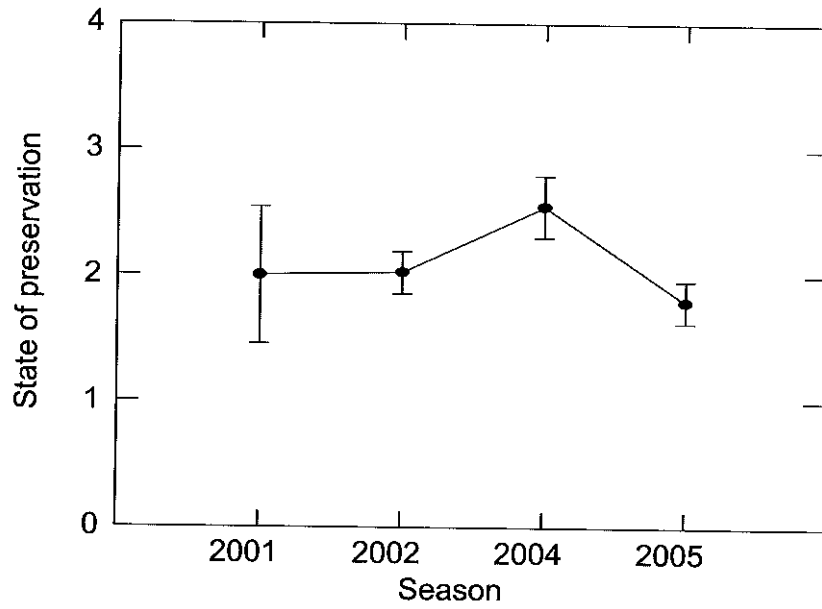


Diagram 3. Average state of preservation of skeletons found in Tell Masaikh in relation to the excavation season

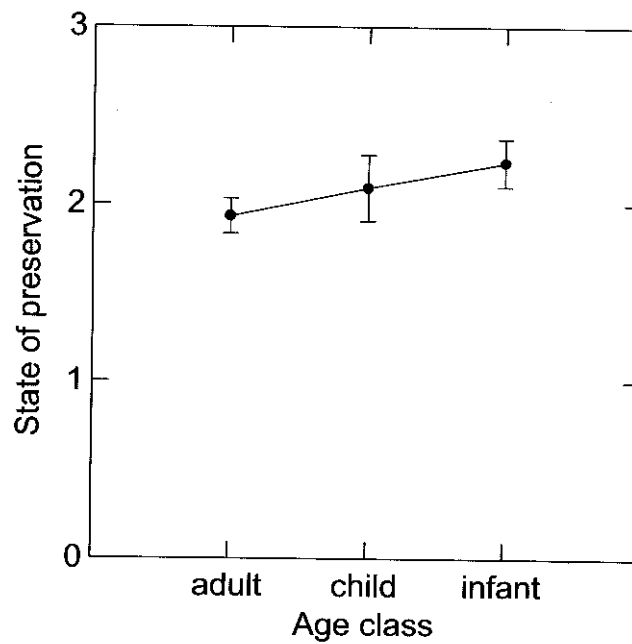


Diagram 4. Average state of preservation of all skeletons in relation to age classes

10. *Preliminary report on human remains from Jebel Mashtale and Tell Marwanieh Season 2005*
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During the 2nd excavation season at Jebel Mashtale the remains of 38 individuals were discovered and studied in the excavation house. The **Table 5** presents the preliminary general description of these human remains. The small sounding trench in nearby Tell Marwanieh contained three additional burials dated back to the Iron Age II. All of them contained skeletons found in jars: two averagely preserved skeletons of a half-year old (01.18) and one-year old (01.22) child, as well as third very poorly preserved skeleton of an infant (01.29).

Most interesting individual found at Jebel Mashtale was a woman 02C74 buried in sarcophagus from the Seleucid period. Although she was not very tall (approximate stature of 153 cm), she was buried in extremely flexed position due to small dimensions of the coffin (max. ca. 80 cm in length). The body was laid on its back with femora extended towards the head, knees touching the cranium, and feet bones scattered over the pelvis. Left arm was parallel to the main axis of the body and bent, with hands close to the skull, just beneath the knee. Right arm was laid on the thorax and right hand originally touched the left one.

This skeleton was one of very few adult remains found in Gebel Mashtale, which seems to be chiefly the cemetery of small children. Such observation is supported by the comparison with other sites excavated in the area of Terqa (**Table 6**). With pooled chronological samples from various sites and age classes reduced to three (infants up to 2 years old, children, adults) the differences between chronological samples appear to be highly significant ($\chi^2=43.9$, $p<0001$). The distribution of standardized deviates (**Table 7**) shows that there is great surplus of infants in Jebel Mashtale, with almost as great deficit of adults (see also **Diagram 5**). Inversely, the number of infants in the Bronze Age and Modern Islamic samples is far lower than expected. Only three samples (Iron Age, Late Roman and Early Islamic) are more or less consistent with expectations showing the mortality of children at the level of 40-50%, which is attested by ethnographical observations in pre-industrial societies [Hassan 1981, p. 136].

Such a difference in case of Jebel Mashtale must be explained as the result of cultural exclusivity of the cemetery, which was consciously considered by its users in Islamic period as the burial place of children. More puzzling is the small number of infants in Bronze Age, Modern Islamic, and to some extent also in Iron Age samples. In case of modern cemetery, the lowest rate of mortality of children may be quite easily explained as the result of much better quality of life in 19th-20th century North Mesopotamia than in the previous periods. However, it may not be the case of the oldest samples. It is possible that observed bias in age distribution of Bronze and Iron Age samples results whether in reverse cultural exclusivity and preference in burying the infants elsewhere, or simply in the greater rate of decomposition of much more gracile child bones in deeper strata of excavated sites.

No	S	Age	Chronology	Burial type	SP	EH	Cr	Comments
02C3	-	0	Islamic	pit	3			
02C6	?	adult	Islamic	pit	~			

No	S	Age	Chronology	Burial type	SP	EH	Cr	Comments
02C7	-	Inf. I	Islamic	pit	1			
02C8	-	Inf. I	Islamic	pit	1			
02C9	-	1.5	Islamic	pit	3		-	
02C10	?	adult	?	pit	~	+	+	
02C11	-	1	Islamic	pit	1			
02C14	?	adult	Islamic?	pit	~			spondylosis and osteoarthritis in leg bones
02C15	-	Inf. I	Islamic	pit	2			
02C16	-	0.5	Islamic	pit	2		-	
02C18	?	adult	Preislamic	pit	~			
02C19	-	1.5	Islamic	pit	2			cribra orbitalia and porosity in temporal and frontal bones
02C20	-	0.5	Islamic	pit	4			bent shaft of tibia
02C21	-	0.5	Islamic	pit	4			
02C22	-	Inf. I/II	Islamic	pit	2			
02C23	-	Inf. I	Islamic	pit	2			
02C25	-	Inf. I/II	Islamic	pit	3			
02C26a	-	1	Islamic	pit	2			
02C26b	-	2-2.5	Islamic	pit	~			
02C26c	?	15-20	Islamic	pit	1			
02C27	-	0	?	pit	2			porosity in right maxilla
02C31	-	1	Islamic	pit	4			small cribra orbitalia, porosity in both parietal bones
02C33	-	1	Islamic	pit	1			porosity in right occipital bone, osteophyte in left humerus
02C34	-	Inf. I/II	?	pit	2			
02C35	-	2.5	Islamic	pit	3	+		
02C36	-	1	Islamic	pit	4			
02C37	?	adult	?	pit	~			
02E38	-	Inf. I	Kassite?	jar	1			
02C41	-	12	Islamic	pit	3	-	+	very robust deltoid attachment in clavicle
02C44	?	adult	?	pit	1			
02E48	M?	12	Byzantine	pit	3	++	-	
02C49	M	20-21	?	pit	1			partial spina bifida
02C53	-	Inf. I	Islamic	pit	3			
02C54	F?	30-35	Islamic	pit	2	-	+	partial spina bifida
02C62	F?	Ad./Mat.	?	pit	1	+		

No	S	Age	Chronology	Burial type	SP	EH	Cr	Comments
02C71	F	40-45	?	pit	2			
02C74	F	Ad./Mat.	Seleucide	sarcophagus	3			strongly flexed position; spina bifida
02C78	-	Inf. I	?	jar	1			

Table 5. Human remains from Gebel Mashtale (2005)

Columns: **No**: tag number; **S**: sex (M: male, F: female; M?: probably male); **SP**: state of preservation (~: incomplete, 1: very poor, 2: poor, 3: average, 4: good, 5: very good); **EH**: enamel hypoplasia; **Cr**: caries (+: present, ~: trace, -: absent).

Site	Ch.	0-1.75	2-6.75	7-15	F	?	M	Σ
Tell Ashara	Middle Bronze A.	4	5	7	5	8	10	39
Tell Masaikh D	Middle Bronze A.		1	1		7	3	12
Tell Ashara	Iron Age	2	2	1	2	4	1	12
Tell Mashtale	Pre-Islamic		1	1	1	1		4
Tell Masaikh F	Late Roman	16	3	2	9	2	10	42
Tell Masaikh E	Early Islamic	35	15	3	18	25	42	138
Tell Mashtale	Islamic	14	5	2	1	3		25
Tell Ashara	Modern Islamic	2	5	2	8	6	11	34
	Σ	73	37	19	44	56	77	306

Table 6. Distribution of age in samples from Gebel Mashtale, Tell Ashara (seasons 2003-2005), and Tell Masaikh (seasons 1998-2005).

Data for seasons 1998-2004 taken from previous preliminary reports [Soltysiak 2002, 2003, 2005a, 2005b].

Chronology	infants (<2 years)	children	adults
Bronze Age	-2.341	1.528	0.644
Iron Age + Pre-Islamic	-0.930	1.211	-0.084
Late Roman	1.889	-0.969	-0.668
Early Islamic	0.362	-1.444	0.579
Islamic (Gebel Mashtale)	3.291	1.134	-2.751
Modern Islamic	-2.146	0.312	1.203

Table 7. Standardized deviates for the Table 6

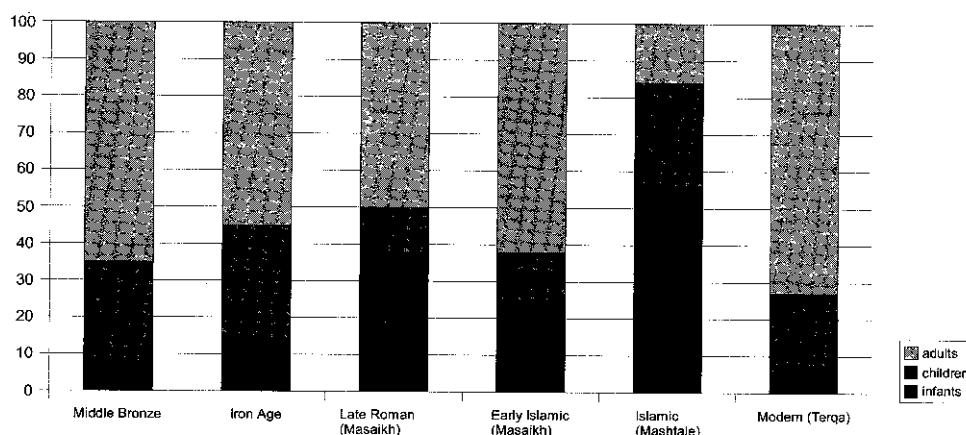


Diagram 5. Distribution of age in pooled chronological samples

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