

# Hesban as a Window to Global History

Adapted from Oystein LaBianca and Jeff Hudon, "Hesban", *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*.

Polity	Dates	Epicenter	Written Sources	Archaeological Sources	Architectural Evidence	Ceramic Evidence	Iconographic Evidence	Relevant Hesban Strata and other Evidence
Egyptian	Late Bronze to Iron I-IIA (ca. 1500-900 BC)	Thebes/Ramses/Tanis	Amun Temple at Karnak	Balu'a Stele Shihan Warrior Stele	None	None	None	Strata 21-18 (possible periods of Egyptian presence in the 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> dynasties) Scarabs, Bes and Horus amulets from late contexts
Amorite	Late Bronze Age	Heshbon/Madaba Plains	Num 20:14-21:30; 33:37-49; Dt 1-3, 29	Unidentifiable	None	None	None	Stratum 21
Hittite	Late Bronze Age	Hattusas	Num 13:29; Josh 1:4; 11:3	Bones of Indo-Europeans at the Amman Airport Structure	None	None	None	Stratum 21
Israelite	Iron Age I-IIB	Jerusalem/Shechem/Tirzah/Samaria	Num 32:37; 2 Sam. 8:2-12; 1 Chr 18:2-11; 2 Sam. 10:1-19; 1 Chr 19:1-19; 2 Chr 14:25	Omride remains (Iron Age IIB) at sites north of Arnon Gorge	Reservoir, Segments of Walls, Podium?	"Reubenite" Storage Jars and Iron II successors	None	Strata 21-17 (intermittent) Female Plaque
Moabite	Iron Age IIB-C	Kir Hareseth/Dibon	ANET:320; 2 Kgs 1:1; 3:4-5; 13:20 Is 15:4; 16:8-9; Jer 48	Dibon, Balu'a, Khirbet el-Medeineh(s), al-Kerak, Madaba, Tall Jalul	Podium? Replastered reservoir	Moabite ceramic forms	None	Stratum 17 Possible Moabite figurine
Aram-Damascus	Iron Age IIB	Damascus	2 Kgs 10:32-33	Tall al-Rumaith			None	Stratum 17
Judah	Iron Age IIB ca. 650-640 BC	Jerusalem	2 Kgs 14:28 2 Chr 26:8-10; 27:5				None	Stratum 17 Figurines?
Neo-Assyrian	Iron Age IIB-C ca. 733-625 BC	Nimrud/Khorsabad/Nineveh	ANET: 282	Assyrian influenced building plans		Assyrian influenced local ware, figurines	None	Strata 16-17
Ammonite	Iron Age IIB-C to Persian	Rabbath-Ammon	Jer 49:1-6	Amman Citadel, Tall al-'Umayri, Tall Jawa	Podium?	Ammonite ware and forms	Ammonite Ostraca and Graffito	Stratum 16 Horse and Rider figurines
Neo-Babylonian	Iron Age III Babylonian ca. 604-540 BC	Babylon	Josephus <i>Ant.</i> 10.9.7	Nabonidas Relief at Sela'				Stratum 16
Persian	Iron Age III Persian 539-333 BC	Persepolis/Susa	Neh 2:7-19; Ezra 4:10-20; 8:36	Jalul, 'Umayri, Mazar cemetery	Walls	Attic ware	Aramaic Ostraca	Stratum 16
Greek	Hellenistic 332-164 BC	Alexandria/Antioch	Josephus <i>Ant.</i> 13.15.4	'Araq al-Amir	Acropolis Fortress or Podium, Houses, silos		Ostracon, Rhodian Jar Date Stamp	Stratum 15 Seleucid and Ptolemaic coins
Jewish	Hellenistic 129-63 BC	Jerusalem	Josephus <i>Ant.</i> 13.9.1, 13.15.5 1 Macc 5:26, 36	Machaerus				Hasmonean coins
Nabataean	ca. 4 BC-AD 106	Petra	Is 11:14; Ezek 25:9	Petra city and Necropolis			Safaitic burial inscription	Nabataean coins
Roman	Roman 63 BC-AD 330	Rome	Pliny <i>Natural Hist.</i> , Josephus <i>Ant.</i> 13.15.4; 15.8.5	Extremely rich architectural remains e.g.: the Decapolis cities and forts	Temple, Inn with courtyard, Rolling Stone Tomb	Abundant ceramic evidence, with Terra sigillata ware	Latin Seal Impression Esbu Coins; Roman Mile stones	Strata 11-14 Roman coins Intaglio depicting Zeus Triad Fenestrated Bowl
Byzantine	Byzantine AD 330-ca. 630	Constantinople	<i>Scriptorum ecclesiasticorum, epistola</i> of Pope Martin,	Rich Christian remains; e.g.: churches and mosaics	Basilica-churches, reservoir, mosaics	Abundant ceramic evidence	Madaba Mosaic Map, entablature with Greek	Strata 7-11 Byzantine coins, Bronze Crosses Prometheus bone carving

# Hesban as a Window to Global History

Adapted from Oystein LaBianca and Jeff Hudon, "Hesban", *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*.

			Eusebius, <i>Onomasticon</i>				inscription, Ostracon	
Rashidun/ Umayyad	AD ca. 630- 750	Damascus	Al-Tabari		Area N House, oven		Mosaics at Umm al- Rasas and Ma'in, a possible Kufic inscription, Ostracon	Stratum 6, coins, zoomorphic spout
'Abbasid	AD 750- 969	Baghdad	Yaqut	Humayma	Area N House			Stratum 5, coin
Fatimid	AD 969- 1071							Stratum 5
Seljuk	AD 1071- 1099						Tomb inscription	Stratum 5
Crusader	AD 1099- 1187	Jerusalem		al Kerak, Oultrejourdain				Gap?
Ayyubid	AD 1200- 1260	Cairo/Damascus	Ibn Shaddad: campsite for Saladin	'Ajlun Castle				Stratum 4, coins
Mongol	AD 1260	Karakorum						Stratum 4
Early Mamluk	AD 1260- 1400	Egypt/Damascus	Abū al-Fidā' Ibn Hijji		Vaulted building complex: residence and garrison of Balqa governor, medieval village at base of tell		Inscribed ring(s)?	Stratum 3, coin hoard, bird figurine
Late Mamluk	AD 1400- 1456	Egypt/Damascus	Ibn Qadi Shuhba al-Qalqashandi and Al-Zāhirī		Gradual abatement of village		Inscribed ring(s)?	Stratum 2, coins
Ottoman	AD 1517- 1917	Istanbul	'Ajarma, 'Adwān and Beni Sakhr tribes	al-Salt, forts, Hejaz Railway and stations	Village at base of tell, Bedouin cemetery on summit		Ottoman tax registers ("defters")	Stratum 1, clay pipes
British Mandate	AD 1917- 1946	London, England		Tegart Forts	Nabulsi stables		British Mandate land registers	Stratum 1
Hashemite	1921- present	Ma'an, Amman			municipality development, post office, schools			Stratum 1

Table A shows that, of the twenty-seven imperial powers and secondary states known to have exerted political and/or cultural influence throughout the Southern Levant over the past three and a half millennia, at least fifteen are clearly reflected in the archaeological record of the site.

## Explanation of column headings:

Column 1	Polity:	Name of empire or secondary state
Column 2	Dates:	Approximate dates of presence of this polity in Levantine region and Jordan
Column 3	Epicenter	Capital city or cities of this polity
Column 4	Written Sources	Known from written sources to have occupied Jordan
Column 5	Archaeological Sources	Attested in archaeological evidence from anywhere in Jordan
Column 6	Architectural Evidence	Attested in archaeological remains from Hesban or vicinity
Column 7	Ceramic Evidence	Attested in ceramic remains from Hesban or vicinity
Column 8	Iconographic Evidence	Attested in epigraphic remains from Hesban or vicinity
Column 9	Other Evidence	Relevant Hesban strata and other evidence