

# Excavating Biblical Hazor

## June 19 – July 8, 2016

*Field School Director: Prof. Amnon Ben-Tor  
(The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

Tel Hazor is the largest biblical *tel* in the Land of Israel, covering an area of 800 Dunam. The site is located in the Hula Valley, about 20 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and Tiberias, near Rosh Pina. Hazor is mentioned several times in the Bible and in ancient Near Eastern sources, references which hint to its important position both in the Israelite (Iron Age) and the Canaanite (Bronze Age) periods. Due to the strategic location of the site, controlling the fertile valley and the ancient roads leading to the north and the east, the site was inhabited for more than two millennia (from the third to the first millennium BCE). Excavations at Tel Hazor began in the 1950s under the directorship of the renowned biblical archaeologist Yigael Yadin. The renewed excavations at the site, directed by Prof. Amnon Ben-Tor, began in 1990. A palace, temples and other architectural remains, as well as a wealth of small finds (pottery, figurines, jewelry, weapons and cuneiform tablets) from the Canaanite and Israelite periods, were discovered during these seasons. In the summer of 2015, the remains of the Israelite settlement as well as the Canaanite Palace on the northern slope of the *tel* will be explored.

As in previous seasons, the staff and work force will consist of students and volunteers from the United States, Europe and many other countries. The volunteers (18 years and older) need no previous experience and are exposed during the season to all facets of archaeological work: excavating, sifting, surveying, washing and reading pottery, and the process of computerized finds registration. Depending on the interest, the expedition will organize tours to sites of the participants' choice (these tours are at an extra cost). A series of lectures during the week will provide training in field archaeology and the interpretation of finds.

Daily work at the site starts at 5:00 A.M. and lasts until 1:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, with additional work assignments in the afternoon and evening. The expedition will be housed at the Holiday Village of Kibbutz Gonen, north of Tel Hazor. All the rooms are equipped with air-condition, TV and a kitchenette. The kibbutz also has a swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts and a large supermarket.

The season is divided into two 3 week sessions: Sunday June 19th - Friday July 8th; Sunday July 10th - Friday July 29th, 2016.

The cost of participation is \$1500 per session (\$500 per week x 3) or \$2800 for those who register for the entire period. This fee covers room and full board. It does not include airfare to and from Israel; participants must make their own travel arrangements.

The application process for participation in the excavation must be done directly with the field school.

Students may arrange to receive academic credit through the Rothberg International School (and transfer the credit to their home institution). The cost is US\$80 for the application fee and US\$360 for 3 academic credits, earned by three weeks of excavation, or US\$720 for 6 credits for the whole season, paid directly to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Students opting to receive academic credit must fulfill the requirements set by the field school directors.

*For further information, contact:*

*Shlomit Bechar*

*Institute of Archaeology*

*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

*Mount Scopus*

*91905 Jerusalem, Israel*

*E-mail: [hazor@mscc.huji.ac.il](mailto:hazor@mscc.huji.ac.il)*

*For full application procedures, see the dig website: <http://hazor.huji.ac.il>*