

### 33. 8300-4500, Sha'ar Hagolan (Sha'ar HaGolan)

*ReGenesis* is the first open-access encyclopedia to  
liberate pre-colonial research  
to its rightful 3,000,000 BCE origins  
- and -  
liberate female spirituality.  
(RGS.)

\* \* \*

*Sha'ar Hagolan (HaGolan).*

One of the largest  
sustainable communities  
in the Near East.  
(See below.)

The Neolithic village of Sha'ar Hagolan (Sha'ar ha-Golan) emerged in the Jordan Valley near the Sea of Galilee and was known as the Yarmukian culture. This ancient Levant settlement may be the largest of its kind in the Near East. Discoveries include the earliest street system; settled communities with court-yard dwellings; terraced-walls for maximized water distribution inc. a stone-lined well; agriculture and herding innovations; and advanced pottery production including exceptional clay (and stone) female figures with coffee bean-shaped eyes that date c. 8300-4500 BCE. According to Garfinkel, these Neolithic female deities are “the prototype of the Mother-goddess, representing fertility in all aspects-human, animal and vegetal.” (GSH: 149.) Many of these figures are seated in the cathedra position. \* Sha'ar HaGolan was discovered in 1937 by a Czechoslovakian and Polish archaeological team. \*\*

\* (As noted below, “Cathedra is defined as the official chair or throne of one in a position of prominence.” (RG: 29; RGS.) (RG & RGS: 7100-6300, Cathedra Goddess of the Beasts, Çatal Hüyük.)

\*\* In Moshav Beit Hilkia near Gedera (central Israel) another Neolithic Mother-goddess from the Yarmukian culture was discovered in 2015. (Further tests and analysis are pending.)

Nir Hasson. “New Archaeological Finds Challenge Ideas of Pre-Historical Israel.” Haaretz.com (7 May 2015).

Sha'ar Hagolan \* along with Petra and Jericho (among others) were all located in a harsh arid desert where water scarcity was the norm and yet they developed feats of hydraulic engineering achievements that set a model for all the centuries that followed. Their achievements of sophisticated systems of water management and distribution applications included (but not limited to) canals, reservoirs, cisterns, and yes, Petra's famous cut-rock aqueducts. These complex irrigation systems that domesticated water were the very foundation for the subsequent urban communities that emerged. Sustainable gather-hunter clans were domesticating agriculture including barley, cereals, and pulses—and-also domesticating sheep, goats, and cattle.

\* For further rich and diverse research on Sha'ar Hagolan's iconic Mother-goddess statues, figures, iconography, and potters, see keywords: Neolithic OR Yarmukian AND Sha'ar Hagolan OR Sha'ar ha-Golan AND fertility OR Mother goddess.

Further Sha'ar HaGolan (Sha'ar ha-Golan) research (and other sites in the area) research:

Arpin, Trina L. "Micromorphological Analysis of Four Early Neolithic Sites." Diss. of Boston University, 2005. Ann Arbor, MI: UMI, 2005. 3132764. (MA.)

Fox, Nili Sacher. "The Striped Goddess from Gilat: Implications for the Chalcolithic Cult." *Israel Exploration Journal* 45.4 (1995): 212-225. (SGG.)

Cameron, Dorothy O. *The Ghassulian Wall Paintings*. London, England: Kenyon-Deane, 1981. (GWP.)

Garfinkel Yosef and Michele Miller. *Sha'ar Hagolan. Volume I: Neolithic Art in Context*. Oxford, England: Oxford Books, 2002. (SH.)

Garfinkel, Yosef. "The Earliest Dancing Scenes in the Near East." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 66.3, *Dance in the Ancient World* (Sep. 2003): 84-95. (EDS.)

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Goddess of Sha'ar Hagolan: Excavations at a Neolithic Site in Israel*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2004. (GSH.)

Joffe, Alexander H., J. P. Dessel, and Rachel S. Hallote. "The 'Gilat Woman': Female Iconography, Chalcolithic Cult, and the End of Southern Levantine Prehistory." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 64.1/2 (Mar.-Jun. 2001): 9-23. (TGW.)

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 BCE*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1990. (ALB.)

Sebbane, Michael, Osnat Misch-Brandl, Daniel M. Master, and Thomas E. Levy. *Masters of Fire: Copper Age Art from Israel*. San Francisco, CA: Legion of Honor, 2014. (MOF.)

Vagnetti, Lucia. "Stone Sculpture in Chalcolithic Cyprus." *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* No. 282/283, Symposium: Chalcolithic Cyprus (May-Aug. 1991): 139-151. (SSCC.)

Sha'ar HaGolan (Sha'ar ha-Golan) website:

Archaeological Excavations at Sha'ar Hagolan—A Neolithic Art

Center in the Jordan Valley, Israel.  
<http://archaeology.huji.ac.il/golan/index.htm>  
<http://archaeology.huji.ac.il/golan/article6.htm>

Further research on the first Neolithic villages: 7250-6150, Çatal Hüyük, Anatolia; 7040-3500, Hacilar, Anatolia; 7000, Jericho, Canaan/Palestine: Mesolithic to Neolithic; and 7000, Qal'at Jarmo. (RGS.)

Further agriculture and expansion research:

Mitchell, Peter. *African Connections: Archaeological Perspectives on Africa and the Wider World*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira, 2005. (ACA: 205-226.)

Özdoğan, Mehmet. "Archaeological Evidence on the Westward Expansion of Farming Communities from Eastern Anatolia to the Aegean and the Balkans." *Current Anthropology* 52. S4 (October 2011): S415-S430. (AE.)

Shryock, Andrew, Daniel L. Smail, and Timothy K. Earle. *Deep History: The Architecture of Past and Present*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2011. (DH: 242-272.)

Zimmer, Carl. "The First Farmers." *New York Times*, Oct. 18, 2016: D31, D6. (TFF.)

Further research on cathedra goddesses: 7250-6150, Çatal Hüyük, Anatolia (Central Turkey); 7100-6300, Cathedra Goddess of the Beasts; 5500-3500, Cucuteni (Tripolye) Culture, Eastern Europe; 5400-3500, Ancient Aphrodite: Chalcolithic or Copper Age; 4400-2500, Olympus Hera; 4000-3000, Egypt, Africa, and Cathedra Goddesses; 3250, Scorpion Tableau, Earliest Egyptian Proto-Hieroglyphics; 3000-2000, Anatolia, Kubaba and the Hittites; 2500, Inanna, Holder of the Me; 2000, Asherah; 800-700, Kuntillet Ajrud and Khirbet El-Qom; 750-650, Cybele and King Midas, Anatolia; 550, Cathedra Goddess Kouroutrophos, Megara Hyblaea, Sicily; and 400, Cathedra Goddess Isis. (RGS.)

IMAGE: MADABA MAP OF HOLY LAND: MADABA, JORDAN.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: THE MADABA MOSAIC MAP IN THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE IN MADABA, JORDAN IS THE OLDEST KNOWN CARTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF THE HOLY LAND (ISRAEL AND PALESTINE) PLUS SYRIA AND THE EGYPTIAN NILE AREA.

SLIDE LOCATION PETRA, SHEET 11, ROW 2, SLEEVE 4, SLIDE #11J, BCE.

CO\_PET\_S11\_R2\_SL4\_S11J. VS > CO\_PET\_S11\_R3\_SL4\_S7J.

SHOT ON LOCATION: CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE IN MADABA, JORDAN: BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON, ENGLAND.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989 AND 2002.

IMAGE: MADABA MAP OF HOLY LAND: MADABA, JORDAN.

PHOTO GSA DESCRIPTION: THE MADABA MOSAIC MAP IN THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE IN MADABA, JORDAN IS THE OLDEST KNOWN CARTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF THE HOLY LAND (ISRAEL AND PALESTINE) PLUS SYRIA AND THE EGYPTIAN NILE AREA.

SLIDE LOCATION PETRA, SHEET 11, ROW 3, SLEEVE 1, SLIDE #24J, BCE.

CO\_PET\_S11\_R3\_SL1\_S24J.

LOCATION: CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE IN MADABA, JORDAN.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989 AND 2002.  
PHOTO NOTE: © BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY (1989).  
PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION ENHANCEMENT, CHRISI KARVONIDES.

IMAGE: GODDESS OF SHA'AR HAGOLAN: JORDAN VALLEY.  
PHOTO GSA DESCRIPTION: FIRED CLAY GODDESS OF SHA'AR HAGOLAN  
(YARMUKIAN CULTURE) WITH FULL BODY, OCHER, AND PROTRUDING 'COFFEE-  
BEAN' EYES FROM THE JORDAN VALLEY NEAR THE YARMUK RIVER.  
SLIDE LOCATION BIB ARCH, SHEET 1, ROW 1, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #89, BCE.

CO\_BAR\_S1\_R1\_SL3\_S89.jpg

CO\_BAR\_S1\_R1\_SL3\_S89\_ILL.pg

LOCATION: ISRAEL MUSEUM: JERUSALEM, ISRAEL.

NOTE 1: SIMILAR FIGURES ALSO EXHIBITED AT: THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM,  
NEW YORK; MUSÉE DU LOUVRE, PARIS, FRANCE AND THE ISRAEL MUSEUM,  
JERUSALEM.

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT.

PHOTO NOTE: FOR FURTHER SHA'AR HAGOLAN (SHA'AR HA-GOLAN) RESEARCH  
AND IMAGES:

RESOURCE: [Photo © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Archaeology Wing.](#)

POTTERY NEOLITHIC, ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY.

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION ENHANCEMENT, CHRISI KARVONIDES.

PHOTO NOTE: © BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY (1989).

IMAGE: CATHEDRA THRONE DEITY: UR, BABYLON.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: TERRACOTTA CATHEDRA THRONE DEITY, UR. SLIDE  
[SLIDE LOCATION NEAR EAST, SHEET 11, ROW 3, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #13, 2000-1050](#)  
[CU\\_NEA\\_S11\\_R3\\_SL4\\_S13.jpg VS > CU\\_NEA\\_S11\\_R3\\_SL3\\_S13.jpg](#)

SHOT ON LOCATION: BRITISH MUSEUM: LONDON, ENGLAND.

NOTE 1: AN ICONOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CATHEDRA (THRONE)  
INCLUDES HIEROS GAMOS. (APL: 2-23-1999.)

NOTE 2: "THE HIEROS GAMOS FROM WHENCE A ROYAL SOVEREIGN GETS HIS [OR  
HER] POWER AND THIS IS THE GODDESS HERSELF (APL: 2-23-1999)."

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1998-2002

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION ENHANCEMENT, CHRISI KARVONIDES.

IMAGE: CATHEDRA MOTHER GODDESS ASHERAH: TEL TAANACH, NORTHERN  
ISRAEL.

© GSA. DESCRIPTION: MOTHER GODDESS ASHERAH (OR ASTARTE  
(GGL: 147) SEATED ON A CATHEDRA THRONE BETWEEN TWO LIONESSES.

LOCATION TEL TAANACH.

SLIDE LOCATION, SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE #, BCE.

SHOT ON LOCATION. CATHEDRA MOTHER GODDESS ASHERAH: TEL TAANACH,  
CANAANITE (NORTHERN ISRAEL.)

NOTE 1: ASHERAH WAS THE PROTOTYPICAL MOTHER GODDESS OF THE SEVENTY  
CANAANITE GODS AND KNOWN AS "QNYT 'LIM, 'PROCREATRESS OF THE GODS' OR  
'UM L(M)': 'MOTHER OF THE GODS.'" (AMST: 47.)

NOTE 2: GODDESS ASHERAH WAS WORSHIPED IN ISRAEL FROM THE DAYS OF THE  
FIRST SETTLEMENT IN CANAAN, AS THE HEBREWS HAD TAKEN OVER THE CULT  
[CULTURES] OF THIS GREAT MOTHER GODDESS FROM THE CANAANITES. (HG: 45.)

NOTE 3: AN ICONOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CATHEDRA GODDESS  
INDICATES HIEROS GAMOS. (APL: 2-23-1999.)

NOTE 4: "THE HIEROS GAMOS FROM WHENCE A ROYAL SOVEREIGN GETS HIS [OR  
HER] POWER AND THIS IS THE GODDESS HERSELF (APL: 2-23-1999)."

NOTE 5: FIELDWORK PROJECT.

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION ENHANCEMENT, CHRISI KARVONIDES.

