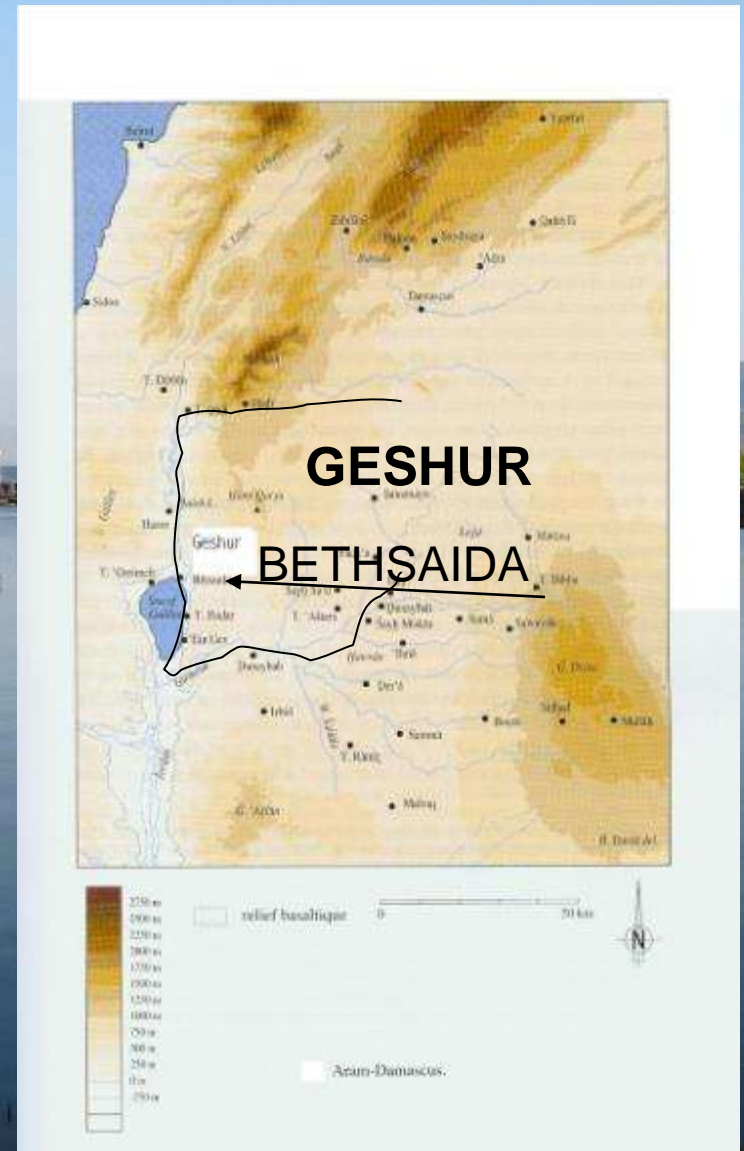


# Bethsaida Excavations

Twenty years of Excavating  
Bethsaida

- ▶ A forgotten Biblical Kingdom of Geshur
- ▶ Bethsaida is located at the North-East of the Sea of Galilee
- ▶ It was identified by E. Robinson in 1838
- ▶ Since 1987 it is being excavated and since 1991 by the Consortium for the Excavations of Bethsaida headed by the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
- ▶ Its location, size (20 acres), strength suggests that it was the capital of the Kingdom of Geshur







DAMASCUS

TYRE

BETHSAIDA

SAMARIA

RABBAT AMMON

JERUSALEM

# Capital Cities in Southern Levant

DIBON



A1

DAMASCUS

A1

THE KINGDOM OF GESHUR

BETHSAIDA



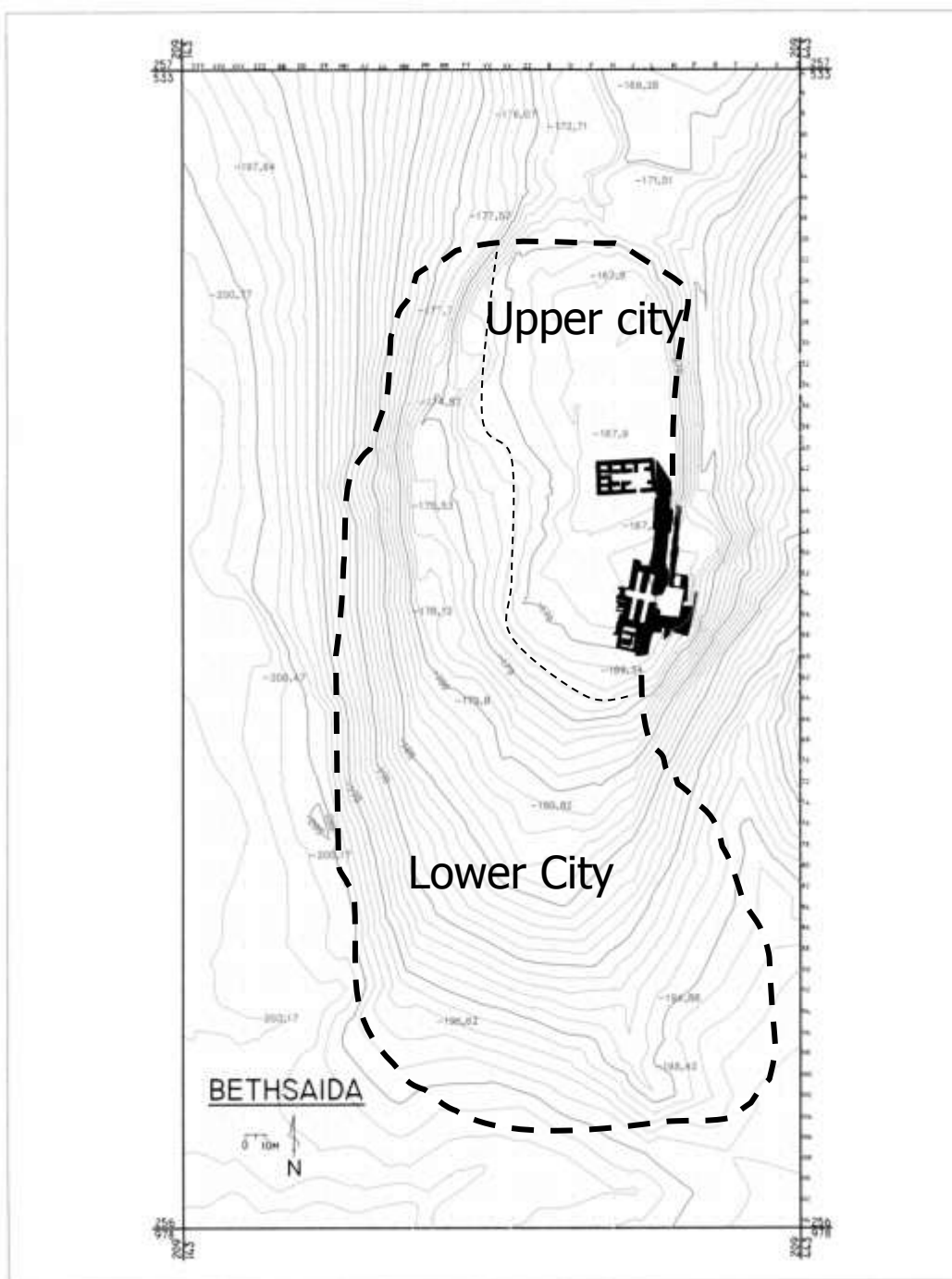




Road

Palace

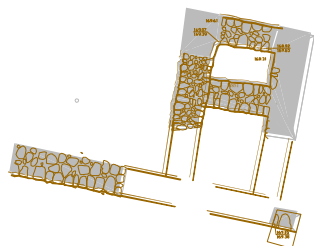
City gate



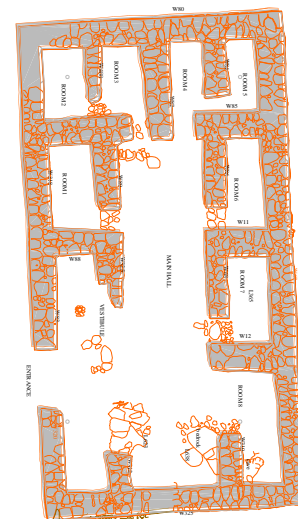


# Stratum 6, mid 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 9<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE

Granary

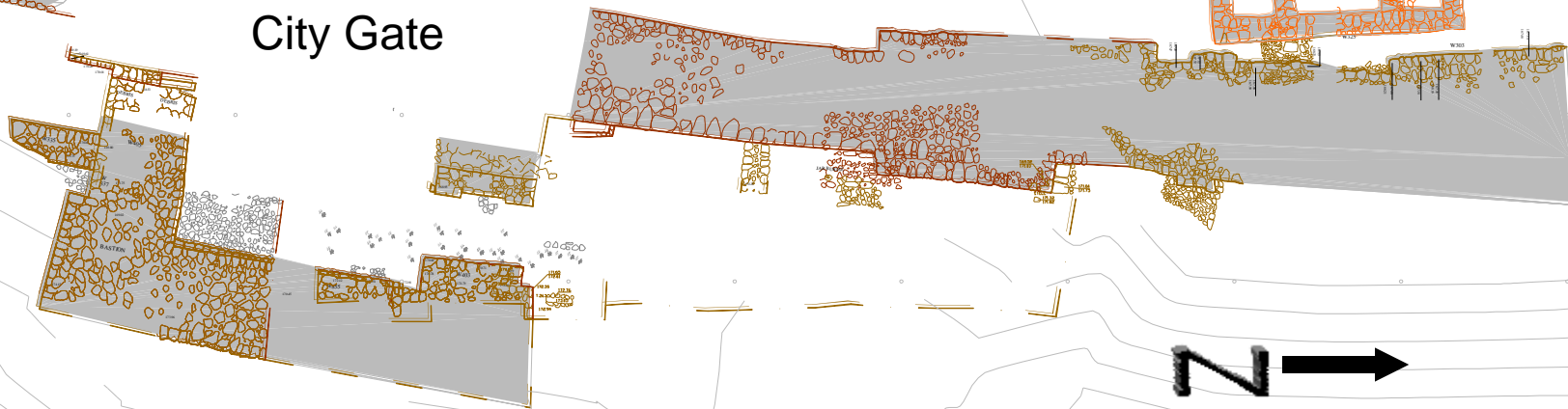


Palace

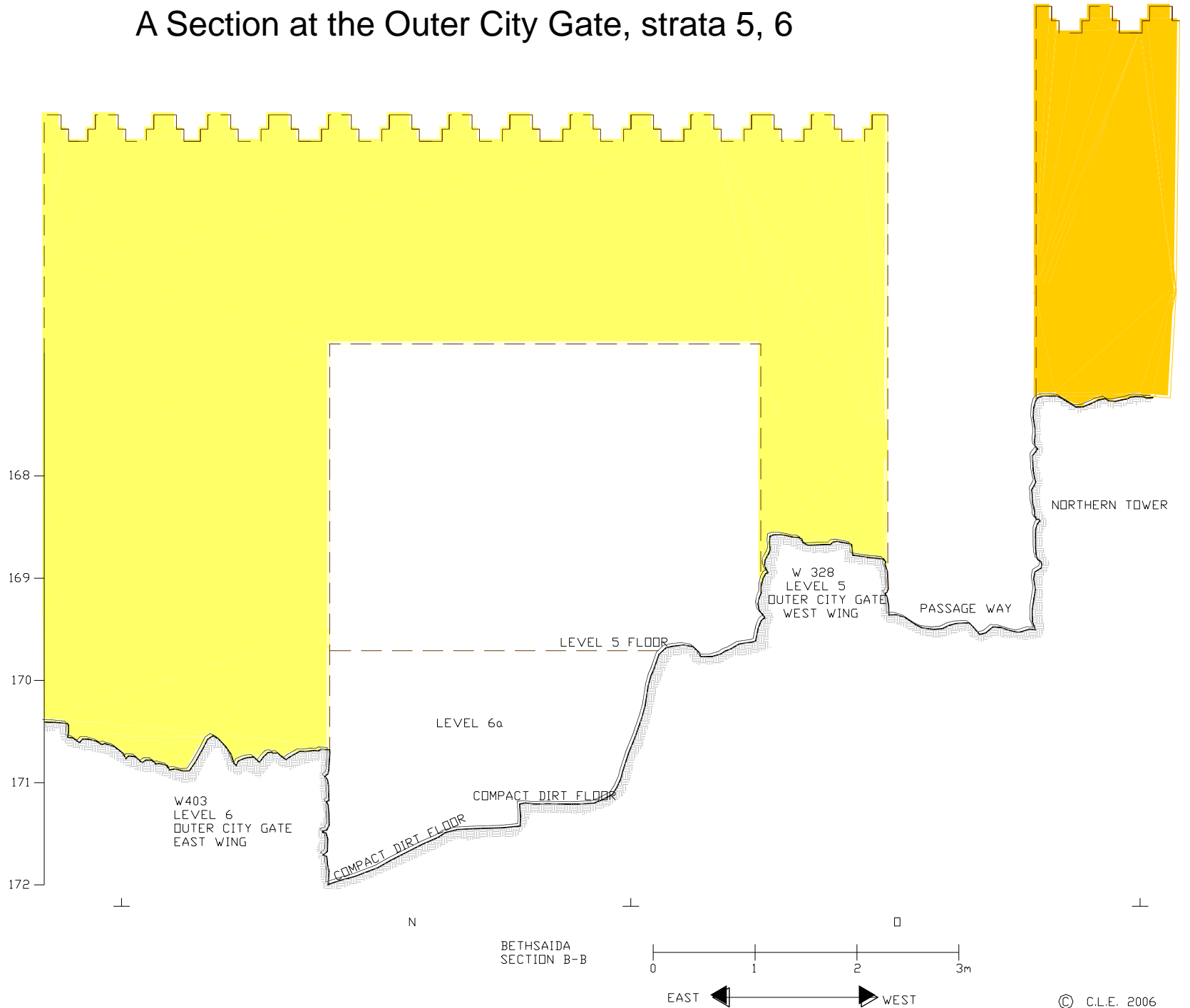


-167 + 84

City Gate



# A Section at the Outer City Gate, strata 5, 6





# The Façade of the outer city gate

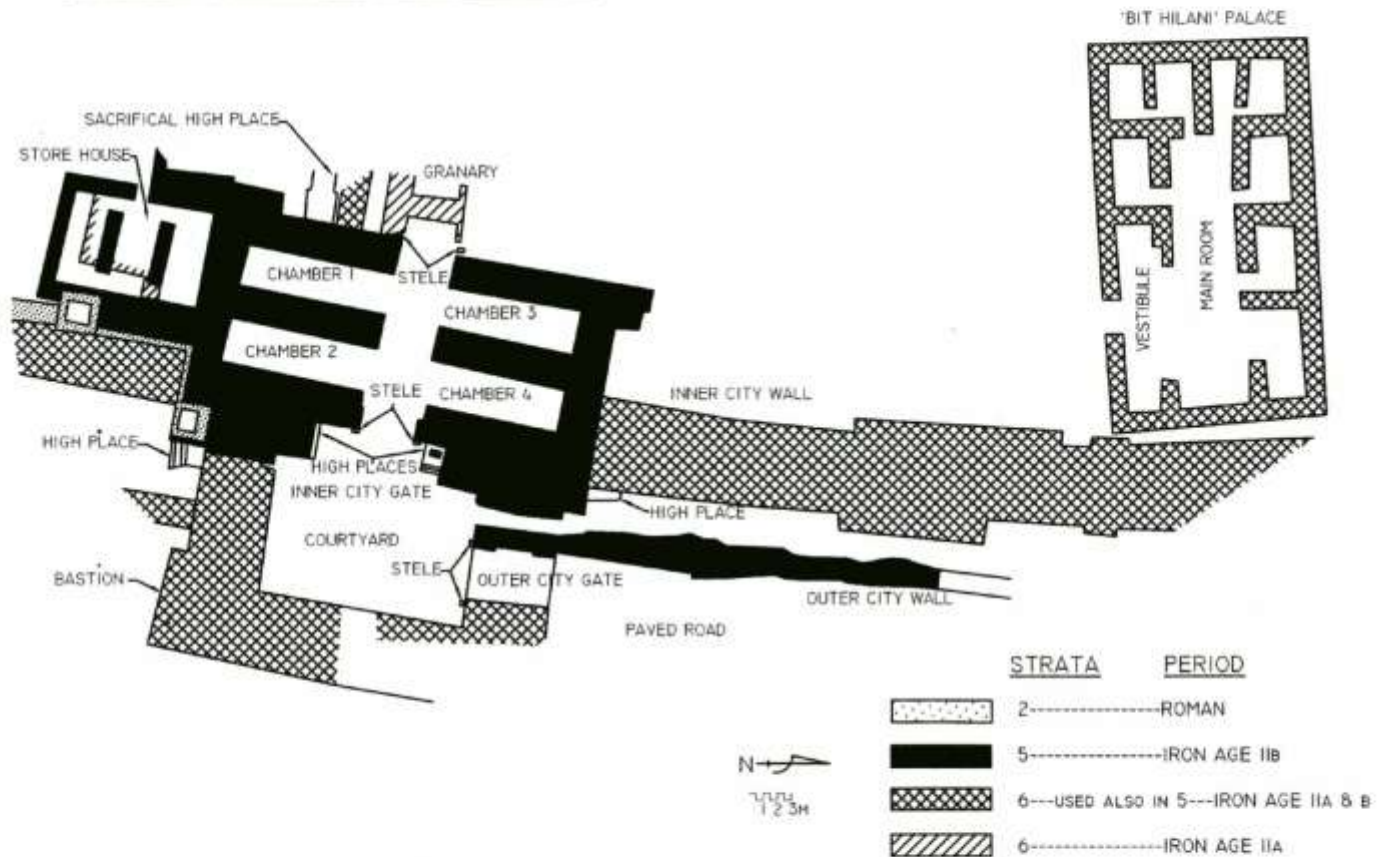


# The King of Assyria Shalmaneser III visited Bethsaida twice, in 842 and 838 BCE





# BETHSAIDA



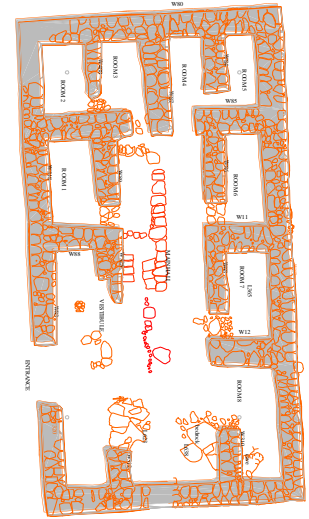
Storage

Four chamber city gate  
Served as granary



City gate

Palace





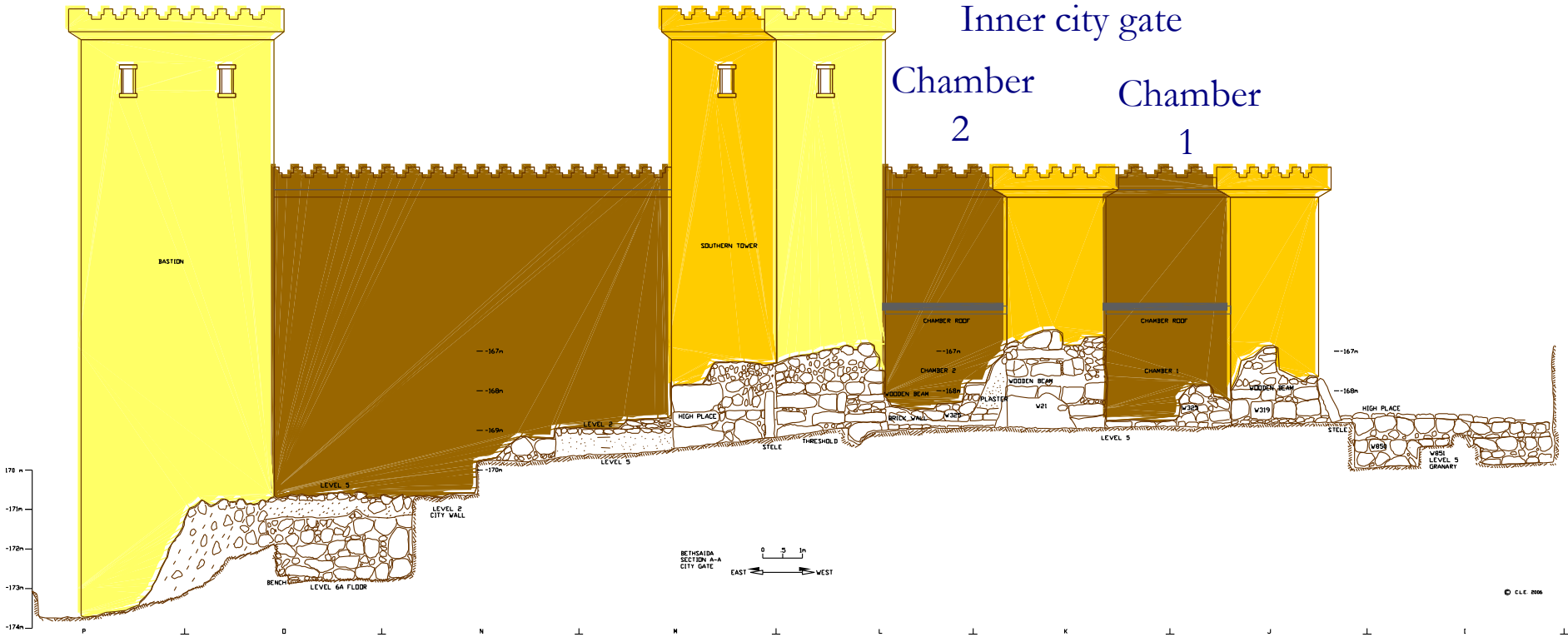
# Bastion

# Southern Tower

# Inner city gate

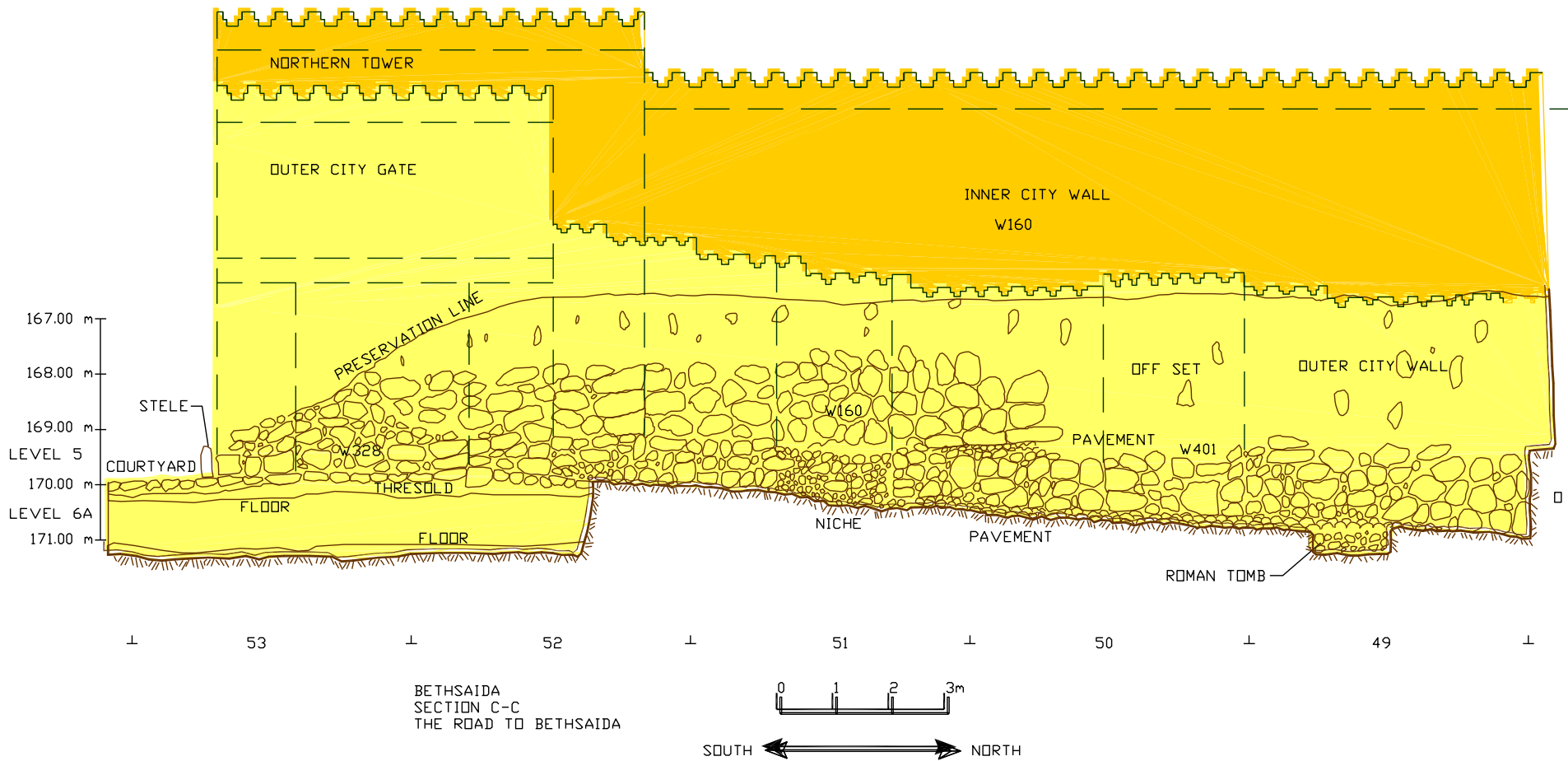
# Chamber 2

# Chamber 1



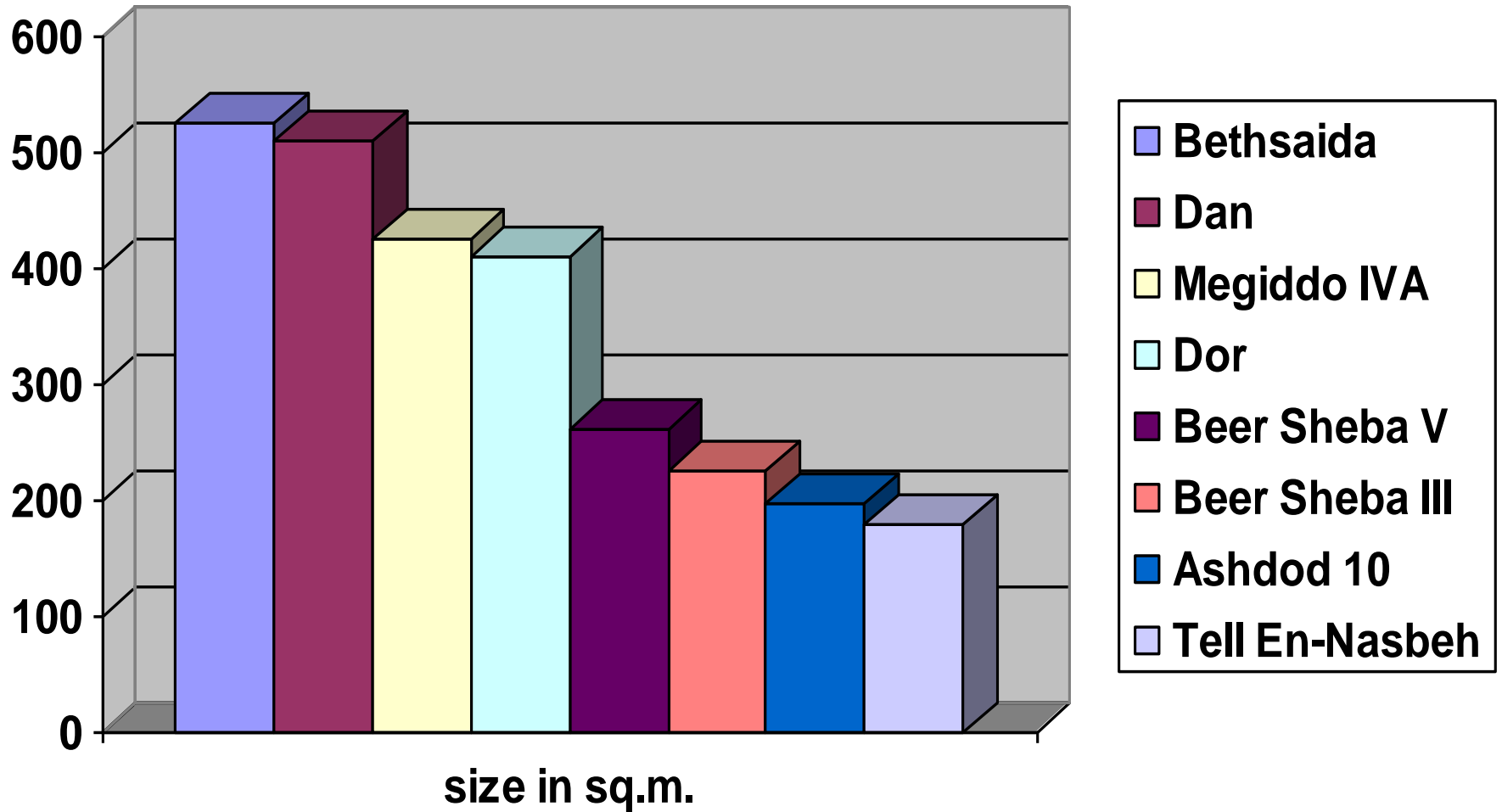
BETHSAIDA  
SECTION A-A  
CITY GATE

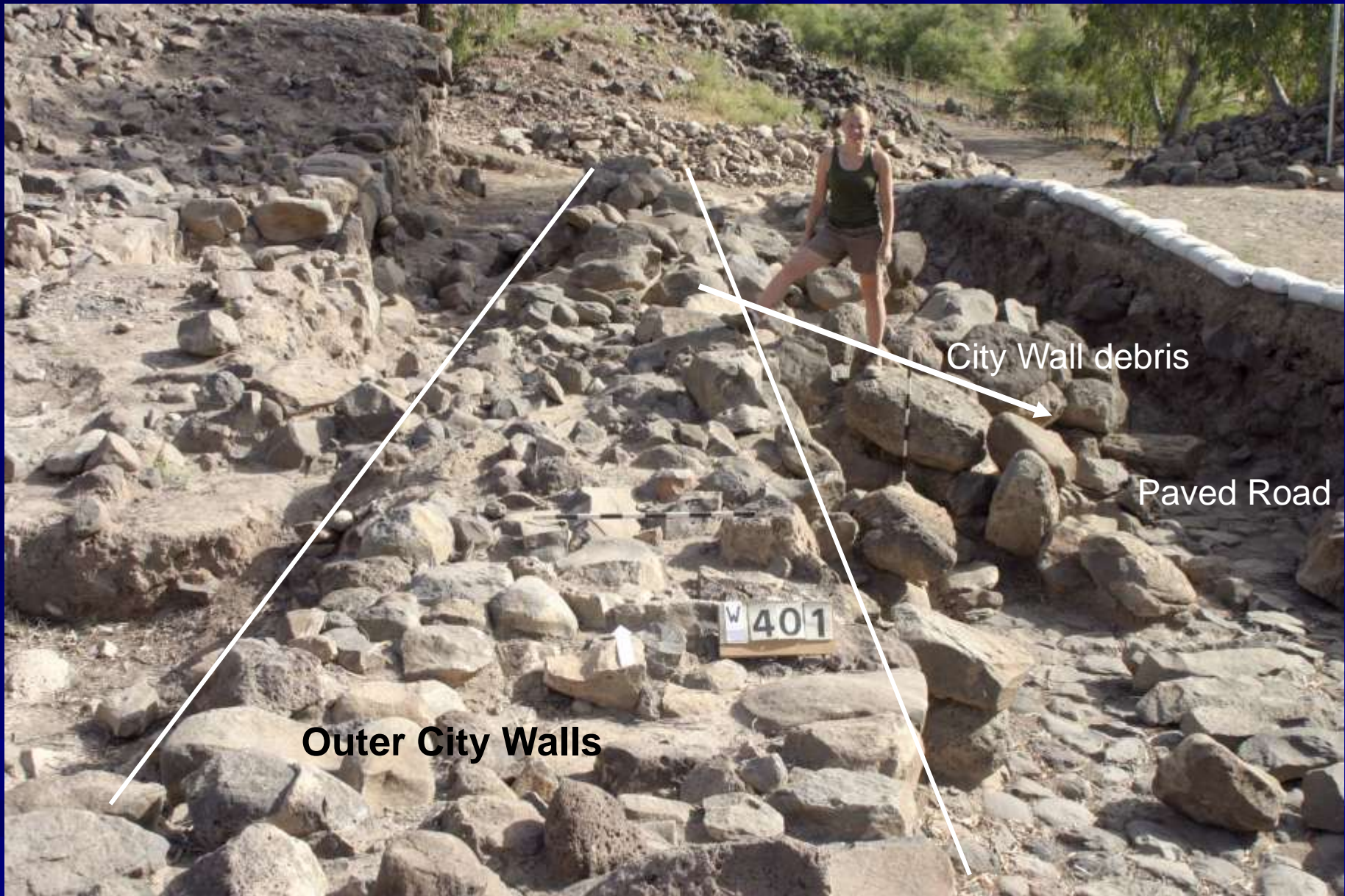






# Four Chamber City Gates





**Outer City Walls**

City Wall debris

Paved Road

W 401



# Inner City Gate reconstructed with wood beams



**THE DECORATED  
STELE AS WAS LEFT  
AT 732 B.C.E.**



**BASIN**

**NOTICE THESE STONES**

**M53**

**216**



# The moon-god from Bethsaida



# The Stepped High Place



# A Direct Access High Place





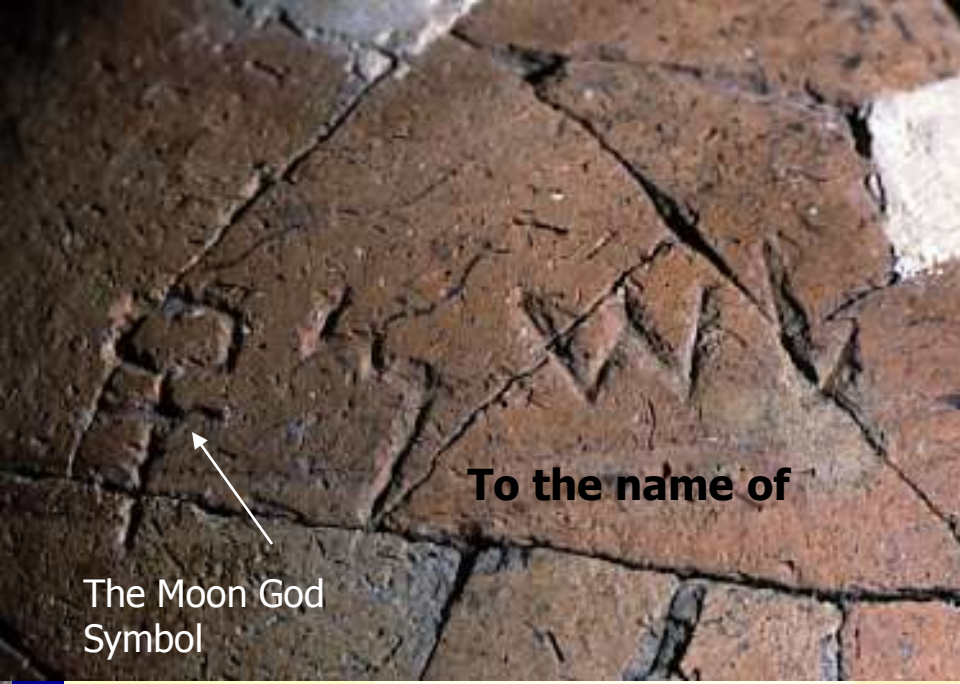
# Sacrificial High Place



A pit filled up with  
Sacrificial left over.  
All animals were Kosher  
Animals



**Chamber 4**



The Moon God  
Symbol

To the name of

# The Siege of Bethsaida 732 BCE





# A Revival in the Hellenistic Period

- In the 3<sup>rd</sup> BCE Bethsaida was resettled as a colony of Tyrians.
- The Bethsaida inhabitants provided Tyre with linen garments.
- They made “good living” and were able to purchase their wine from the Island of Rhodes which was considered to be the best wine in the market.



# Hellenistic weaving set from Bethsaida



# Gold Earrings – a sign of wealth



A  
216  
#200/97



# Bethsaida in the Hellenistic Period

- In about 100 BCE Bethsaida was conquered by the Hasmoneans.
- The town declined.



# Bethsaida in the Roman Period

- Bethsaida was resettled by the Herod as these coins demonstrate.
- Herod populated Bethsaida with Jews as these fragments of a limestone vessel indicates
- The site thrived once more



# Bethsaida under Philip the son of Herod

- In 30 CE Bethsaida was elevated to a status of a “Polis” – Greek city
- This coins was minted by Philip in commemoration of this act.
- Philip renamed Bethsaida Julias after Augustus’ wife, Livia, Julia





# The Temple for Julia/Livia

- Philip built a temple for the Roman Imperial cult and dedicated it to Julia/Livia



# Decorated Stone from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

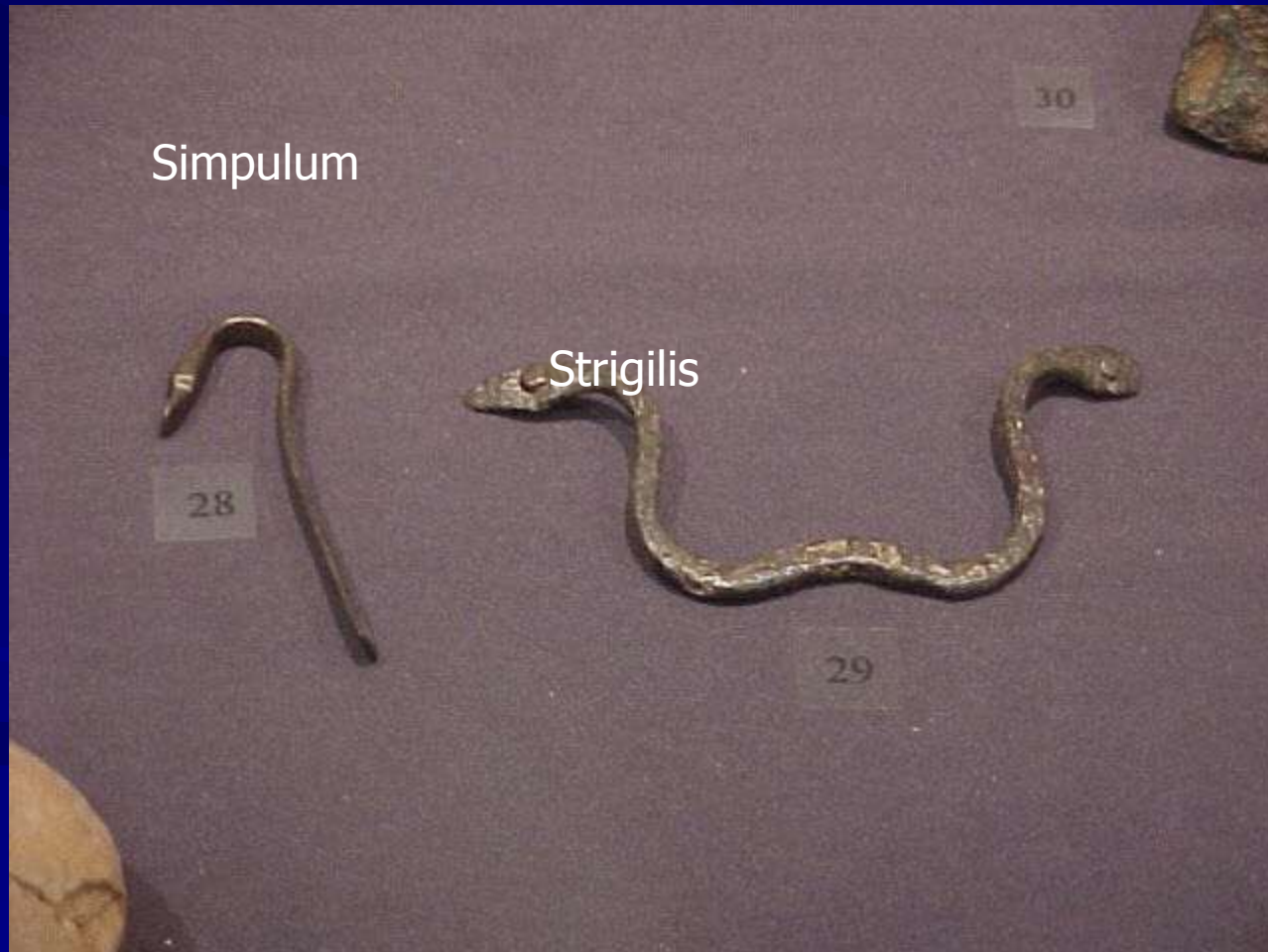


# Favisa, Sacred Deposits near the Temple





# Utensils from the Temple



A Roman Temple

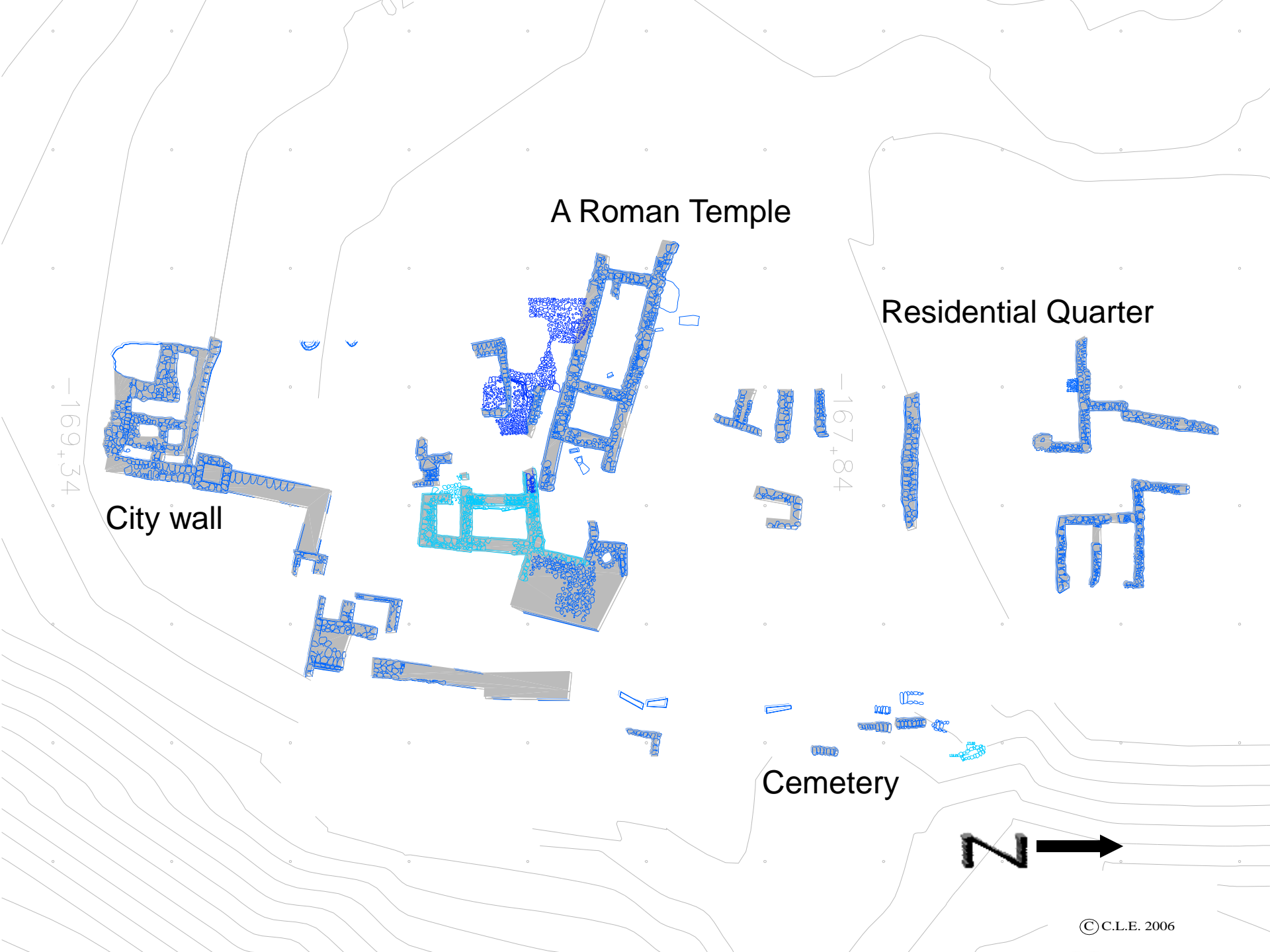
Residential Quarter

City wall

Cemetery

-169+34

-167+84





Bethsaida as Jesus saw it

Houses next to the city wall

a lane

The "Clinic"

A lane

Open courtyard

Dining room (Triclinium)

Remnants of a Private house

Kitchen

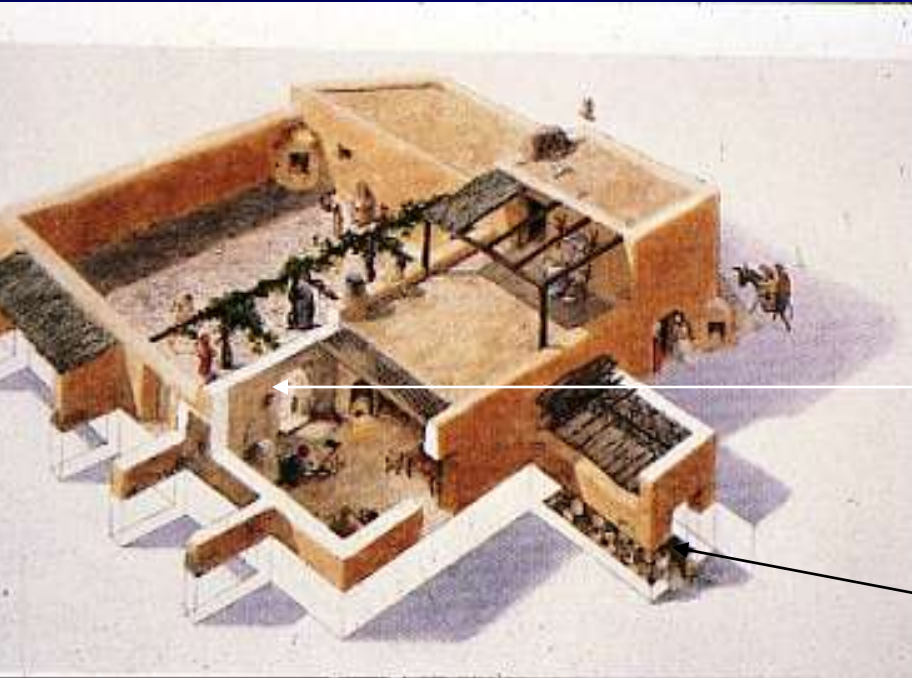
The "Wine Maker" House

Wine cellar





# The “wine m

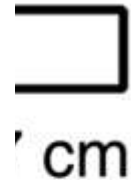
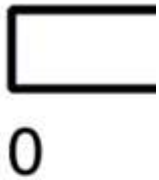


# The “Wine Maker’s House”





# Fishing Gear



0

7 cm



# Limestone Vessels a hallmark of Jewish presence



A  
254  
4015



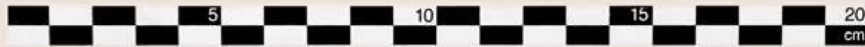
# Private Homes at Bethsaida





# A Gem Stone





29/06/06 Locus 2018 Area A west Square H54 Basket 18164

# A group of Roman Nails Left by a Carpenter





# Digging west of the gate



# A Hellenistic Juglet





# A Roman Bronze Bowl (Patera) from the Temple Area





# A Decorative Nail from perhaps from the door of the temple





# Breakfast





# Some of our attentive students



Tension is built up





































**THANK YOU**

