

POTTERY HORIZONS OF THE JALUL CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE
IN THE IRON AGE IIA-C FROM SQUARE G4 IN ITS HISTORICAL
AND GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Name of researcher: Michael Christian Orellana Mendez
Name of faculty adviser: Randall W. Younker, PhD
Date completed: October, 2021

Several scholars have debated the traditional and low chronology of the Iron Age in Southern Levant using pottery as one of their main pieces of evidence. Both approaches disagree in regards to the dates assigned to the early Iron Age II pottery. To achieve a better understanding of the problem, the still rudimentary knowledge of Iron Age II pottery in Transjordan needs to be improved. Since 1992, *Tall Jalul*—the largest tell site in the central Jordan plateau—has been due for a comprehensive study of its ceramic assemblages. The site produced Iron Age IIA–C pottery in stratified layers, and it has the potential to contribute to the enlightenment of the debate mentioned above. Therefore, *Tall Jalul*'s Iron Age II pottery and its chronological horizons require a more robust study, in conjunction with historical sources. This dissertation attempted just that, using the methodology of comparative analysis of Iron Age IIA, IIB, IIC of *Jalul* ceramics with those of *Tall al-Umayri* and *Tall Hisban* and other relevant sites in the region when necessary. The method used to convey this analysis includes the selection of *Jalul* pottery from Field G4 that is relevant for a typological and chronological study; and a typological examination of this pottery. What I found was that the Courtyard and Pottery Room in Field G4 differ in their stratigraphy and ceramic accumulation. The Courtyard Room displays three phases of ceramic development: Iron Age IIA and earlier forms, Iron Age IIB, and a transitional subperiod of Iron Age IIB-IIC. This is consistent with the stratigraphy, which rests mainly on the architectural development of the building. Meanwhile, the Pottery Room contains a solid transitional subperiod Iron Age IIB–IIC and a probable phase of Iron Age IIB. Both rooms display a similar repertoire, but the Pottery Room seems to have undergone a different process of accumulation of both the debris and the pottery, especially during Iron Age IIB–IIC. Judging by the number, quality, and variety of vessels found in the Pottery room, it seems safe to conclude that its residents belonged to a wealthy family. The parallels of painted pottery may indicate a Moabite connection, although an Ammonite association is also possible. Some parallels of square rims from *Khirbat al-Mudayna* on the *Wadi ath-Thamad* and *Balu'a* strengthen the Moabite correlation. However, the evidence is still emerging and being understood, and as new information comes to light through future publications, it will be possible to confirm or deny the association of this type of pottery with Moab. As regards *Jalul*'s registry of red slipped burnished ware, it seems at least in

both the Courtyard and Pottery Rooms that this type of pottery precedes the appearance of painted pottery that appears mainly during Iron Age IIB–IIC. I concluded that the typological study of *Jalul* ceramic assemblage from Square G4 shows that Phase 3 contains Iron IIA or earlier forms. Phase 2 contains Iron IIB pottery types, some of which are typical Jordanian pottery. In this phase, there is also some red burnished ware that seems to precede the appearance of multicolor pottery. Phase 1 seems to be a transitional subperiod Iron Age IIB–IIC. This phase contains most of the multicolor-painted pottery. The parallels of painted pottery and square rims suggest their probable connection with Moabite ceramic.