In the Hefion Report...
Classification: Cave G.7 was used extensively during this period, as indicated by the building foundations. The cave expanded from Floor C.14 to the lower-level prehistoric floor (C.11a). The floor levels were constructed after Floor C.14, with some rooms constructed after Floor C.13. The cave contained a large hearth and several storage areas. The hearth was located near the center of the cave, and the storage areas were located to the left and right of the hearth. The cave was used for storage and as a shelter for the prehistoric occupants.

Description (Archaeological Context): A number of architectural features were found within the cave. These included a large hearth, several storage areas, and a large stone structure. The stone structure was located near the center of the cave, and it was used as a shelter for the prehistoric occupants. The hearth was located to the left of the storage areas, and it was used for cooking and heating. The cave was also used as a storage area for food and other items. The cave was used extensively during this period, and it was a significant part of the prehistoric culture of the region.
tunnel at the other end were in use at the same time.

Gradually, however, the stairs were abandoned, perhaps during an occupation gap, leaving two access points open, one at the top of the stairs and the other near it, the tunnel leading off to the west.

Soil drifted, washed, or filtered into G.4:8, 6, and 5, and at one point a rock tumble occurred in G.4:8. A period of reoccupation saw the construction of the crude G.4:8 sealing wall, and later of the crude retaining Wall G.4:65, which reduced the usable space to Cistern G.4:5.

Stratum V: ‘Abbāsid (A.D. 750-969)

*Description:* Soil Layer G.4:97 lay above the olive press which was re-used as cistern Collar G.4:100, and sealed against the east side of the four-stone collar between G.4:100 and the top Collar G.4:94. Inside Cistern G.4:5 itself there were no purely definable ‘Abbāsid deposits.

*Interpretation:* The configuration of the loci containing ‘Abbāsid pottery in the layer immediately above the pure Umayyad Layer G.4:50 suggested that the cistern was used for water storage for a brief period at least.

Stratum V: Umayyad (A.D. 681-750)

*Description* (Stratification): Soil Layer G.4:50 lay directly beneath the vertical shaft and directly over the plastered floor in Cistern G.4:5. Other layers from this Stratum appeared on top around the Cistern G.4:5 shaft mouth, the uppermost (G.4:21) 0.25 higher than the top of cistern Collar G.4:94, another (G.4:99) sealed beneath the four-stone collar, and other soil and sediment layers.

*Description* (Architecture): Three collars were placed as a mouth over an almost completely blocked vertical shaft. Bottom Collar G.4:100, adapted from an olive press,* was round with a 0.25 m. diameter hole in the center.

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*Suspicion of contamination of the ceramic samples taken on the second day in this locus occasioned an extended peeling of G.4:50 to the southeast of the datum line. Result: isolation and verification of G.4:50 Umayyad dating.

*Comparable to the olive press found in Area D.6 in 1971. For location in Square, see Lawrence T. Geraty, “Heshbon 1971: Area D,” *AJS 11* (1973): 102, Fig. 6; also ibid., p. 114, for dating of appropriate loci, although the olive press is not mentioned there explicitly. The orifice of the press would be small enough to prevent children and thirsty small animals from falling into the cistern.

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The second, built of four stones, supported the top collar (G.4:94), a single square stone with a 0.25 m. hole. To the northeast and on bedrock was the bottom course of a wall with one probable door socket visible, and parallel to the wall a smoothly cut (or worn) channel, possibly a water channel for Cistern G.4:5. The vertical shaft itself was oval, 1.00 m. to 1.25 m. wide. It was filled with large stones, except for a small shaft crowned by the collars.

*Interpretation:* The cistern was used only for water storage during this period, after an earlier period of domestic occupation when the shaft was filled with stones. With earlier occupation traces removed from the bedrock above, buildings were constructed conveniently nearby, and the first collar put in place. Gradually continued use was evidenced by the soil accumulations which necessitated higher collars: the four-stone supporting collar and the monolithic Collar G.4:94. Finally, a possible wall placed near the mouth without sealing it may have prevented the drawing of water while allowing its collection. This possibly explained why the later ‘Abbāsid locus appeared only on one side of the mouth. Use continued into still later periods, but with little efficient water collection, allowing a return to domestic occupation of the cistern complex.

Umayyad pottery Handle 2825 was a circular mount attached to the shoulder portion of a rounded vessel. The bottom portion was missing. The top was perforated in a simple design which probably extended around the circumference of the vessel, perhaps several times. The holes may have been vents in a lantern or a strainer on a vessel for drawing clean water.

Strata VII-VIII: Late Byzantine (A.D. 450-661)

*Description* (Stratification): All layers from these Strata tilted down from the stairs in G.4:8, one from as high as the third step from the bottom. (The surface layer [G.4:47] on the dump in G.4:7 was a completely distinct phenomenon.) Sediment layers continued relatively level through the intersection and about one meter into G.4:5, where the well-tested, mostly water-laid sediment was severely disturbed by later activity. In the exceptionally dry Byzantine clay Layer G.4:39 large cracks 0.01-0.04 m. wide and ca. 0.07 m. deep broke its surface into flagstone-like blocks, and this clay mud deposit shrank ca. 0.03 m. from the cistern wall. Though Locus G.4:58 was dated Early Roman, a Byzantine date was almost certainly required by the context; and occupation Layer G.4:67, with one Ayyūbid/Mamlūk (probably intrusive) sherd, could have been contemporary with Pit G.4:86.
donald x. winther

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SOUNDING C.13

- Thousands of years before, a young and talented scientist named Dr. Smith discovered a way to communicate with the animals. He used a special device that allowed him to understand their language.

- The device worked by emitting a series of high-frequency sounds that only the animals could hear. Dr. Smith then used a special receiver to pick up the signals and translate them into human language.

- With this newfound ability, Dr. Smith was able to establish a close relationship with the animals and learn about their daily lives. He even discovered a hidden message from them that would change the course of human history.

- The message revealed the existence of a hidden world, populated by intelligent creatures that had been living in secret for millennia. Dr. Smith knew that he had to share this information with the world, but he also knew that he had to be careful.

- If the animals learned that they were being observed, they might feel threatened and react unpredictably. Dr. Smith decided to keep the discovery a secret, at least for now.

- As he continued to study the animals, Dr. Smith realized that they were capable of incredible feats, such as healing the sick and transforming matter. He knew that he had discovered something truly amazing, and he was determined to share it with the world.
The portion not covered by intact plaster was composed of loose gray soil and small pebbles.

**Interpretation:** An Umayyad structure, later than the adjacent building, rendered one of its archways nonfunctional. The large number of clay tiles found in Fill G.13:17 was conceivably part of the vertical substructure of the plastered wall. A stack of these tiles remained in situ in the build-up next to the vertical plaster G.13:26 on the lower east wall. The plastered floor slanted toward the arched entrance, suggesting that water may have been collected in the tank and drained through the arch into a cistern.

The southeast indentation in the floor, approximately the same width as the Walls G.13:10, 11 and 12, could have been the location of part of the south wall blocking the archway. However, it did not go far enough to allow sealing against the west arch support on the south wall. This remained unexplainable because the plaster disappeared into the south balk at the archway. Further sounding might show continuation into the earlier arched structure. Enclosure Walls G.13:11 and 12 presumably joined two other enclosure walls at undisclosed locations.

Less than 5.00 m. east of Arch G.13:9 lay a similar plastered complex, completely underground, at about the same level as G.13. It was composed of two chambers (one small and rounded, ca. 2.50 m. in diameter; and the other rectangular 3.00 m. x 7.80 m.) connected by an arched passageway of approximately the same height, width, and known length as G.13:9 and finished with a similar plaster or cement on every surface except the vaulted ceiling. This surviving parallel installation may possibly serve as a basis for considering the original design of structures in G.13.

**SOUNDING G.15**

Downhill, north of the G.4:1 cave entrance, lay the exposed mouth of a partially dirt-filled bell-shaped cistern. Its vertical shaft ran ca. 3.00 m. from a carved capital re-used as the cistern mouth to a rockbed shelf. Two water channels in the bedrock below were visible where they entered the cistern on the east and west.

The partially exposed top course of an ancient wall ran northeast-southwest (designated north-south for the sake of simplicity), its top at the 851.33 m. level. Sounding G.15 transected this wall ca. 10 m. northeast of the cistern at a point 285 m. from the primary benchmark on the tell.

**Stratum I: Modern (A.D. 1870-1976)**

- **Description (Stratification):** Lotis G.15:1, covering the entire 2.00 m x 5.00 m. Square, slanting ca. 0.90 m. down, toward the northwest, was pale brown (top) soil 0.06 m. to 0.12 deep with primary root growth and fist-sized stones. It covered a portion of Wall G.15:2, all of Wall G.15:8, soil Layer G.15:3 east of Wall 2, and soil Layer G.15:4 (probably Umayyad) west of the wall.
- **Description (Bone):** 58 sheep/goat, 3 pig, 5 large mammal, 1 chicken, 4 cattle, 1 donkey, 20 undistinguishable.
- **Description (Artifacts):** Registered artifacts included:
  - G.15:1: 2637 Horshoe nail, 2634 Ivory needle
  - G.15:3: 2694 Modern buckle, 2695 Bronze needle

**Interpretation:** Ground surface loci were typical. The concentration of bones did not seem unusual. Possibly the upper portion of soil Layer G.15:12 also belonged to this period. The main architectural fragment was certainly below the Modern stratum.

**Strata II-IV: Ayyubid/Mamluk (A.D. 1200-1456)**

- **Description (Stratification):** East of Wall G.15:2, soil Layer G.15:3 lay over Wall G.15:8 = 2. This wall was sealed against by a thick rubble layer (G.15:3, 7 = 9 = 11 = 12 = 15 = 19 identical in color and composition) and six soil layers (Lois 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, and 26).
- Packed clay Layer G.15:22 covered the entire Square east of Wall 8 = 2. It supported crude semi-circular Wall G.15:21, which abutted Wall 8 = 2 at both ends and contained yellow-red fine clay soil Layer G.15:26.
- Ayyubid/Mamluk occupation Layer G.15:23 also extended to the eastern limits of the Square. Under it lay first, red-yellow soil Layer G.15:24 (without pottery); then brown clay soil Layer G.15:25, and, finally, brown clay occupation Layer G.15:26, which contained yellow clay particles, charcoal bits and olive pits. Upon it, in the southeast corner of the Square, rested tabun floor Fragment G.15:30 into which was cut Pit G.15:28, which in turn held fire Pit G.15:27, composed of stones.
- Under soil Layer G.15:26 and over bedrock at the 848.01 m. level in the
The sound is light up. The kitchen lights in the west bank.

Section V: imgagd (A.D. 671-760)

Chapter I: An ancient legend tells how the ancient people of a far-off land, known as the "People of the West," lived in harmony with nature. It was a time of peace and prosperity, where everyone worked together for the common good.

Chapter II: As the centuries passed, the world changed. The People of the West began to feel the effects of the changing times. They started to lose touch with their ancient ways and渐渐地 abandoned their traditions.

Chapter III: The People of the West struggled to adapt to the new world. They worked hard to preserve their culture, but in the end, they could not resist the forces of change. They eventually fell into decline, and their great civilization was lost to history.

Chapter IV: In the end, the People of the West were remembered only as a distant memory. Their story serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving our cultural heritage and the need to adapt to the changing world.

Appendix: A list of important events in the history of the People of the West.
cemetery and the acropolis itself. It opened onto a courtyard or forecourt between the area I would later describe as being enclosed under the temple. The temple was rectangular in shape, with a high gable on the western side.

The great sanctuary of the temple was just behind the temple, with a small chamber further back. This chamber was a composite of a number of stones, each with a small niche, and a larger one with a large niche.

The temple was rectangular in shape, with a high gable on the western side.

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