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Cremation in Southern Levant and Lebanon: Review of literature

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Abstract: *The ancient Southern Levant and Lebanon are not usually considered regions in which cremation burial rites were practiced. Following a comprehensive literature review, it has become clear that examples of cremations are known from at least eighty archaeological sites in the region dating from the Epipaleolithic until the Byzantine Period. A large proportion of cremation burials have been discovered in the Southern Levant in urns and most of them date to the Iron Age. In addition, many cremation burials have been deposited in close proximity to pyres located inside caves, all dating to the Early Bronze Age. In all periods when cremation was relatively popular, all categories of the dead (males, females and subadults) were cremated. Children were usually buried together with adult individuals. The aim of the article is to present a catalogue of sites where cremated remains have been discovered in the Southern Levant and Lebanon.*

Key words: burial practice; Israel; Jordan; Palestine; urn burial; cave burial

Introduction

Cremation is a burial practice during which the body of a deceased is burned on a pyre (Fairgrieve 2007) with or without artefacts. Most of the information concerning cremation burials in the Southern Levant and Lebanon derives from the Bible, where it is described in the context of burial practice or body disposition (Sam 31:12-13; Jos 7:25), punishment (Lev 20:14), and as a part of sacrifice to a deity (Jr 32:35). While the Bible describes both the sacrificial burning of animals and children (Lev 1-9), not all researchers agree the later took place (e.g., Boehm 2004; Eissfeldt 1935).

Even more so, not all authors agree whether what is described in the Bible is indeed the actual rite of cremation. One of the earliest systematic commentators of the Bible, Josephus, omitted cremation in his retelling of the biblical story. Josephus replaced all references to cremation, e.g., by describing them as a death sentence, not as a burial custom (Avioz 2009). Shapiro (1986) refers to the medieval commentator of the Bible, Rabbi Kimhi, who suggested that the words 'burning' could refer instead

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to the burning of beds and spices. In addition, Zimran (2014) thought what was being described in the Bible was actually a ritual ceremony because cremation, as a burial rite, did not exist in Israel.

Also, in Mesopotamia cremation was perceived primarily as a punishment. In the *Code of Hammurabi*, death by burning was described as a way to punish priestesses for opening a tavern or visiting one for a drink (Richardson 2004). Death by burning was also decreed as punishment for a man conducting incest with his mother (Richardson 2004). Even more so, burning as an unwanted burial rite is mentioned in *Gilgamesh, Enkidu, and the Netherworld*. Gilgamesh asked Enkidu, his servant who descended to the netherworld, if he had seen a man who was burned, and Enkidu answered: 'I did not see him. His smoke went up to the sky. His spirit does not live in the underworld' (Katz 2004). That could mean that fire destroys the spirit and could be used not only as a punishment but also as a means to prevent the rising of evil spirits that could be created when someone died due to unusual causes (Polcaro 2014).

The Southern Levant and Lebanon were inhabited by many groups that practised cremation. In the Late Bronze Age, cremation was practised by the Hittites (Burney 2018). In the Iron Age, the Southern Levant and Lebanon were inhabited by the Canaanites and Israelites (Faust & Katz 2011), Philistines (Master & Aja 2017), as well as by the Phoenicians (Stern 1975) who practised both inhumation and cremation (Master & Aja 2017). In the later period, Romans (Tepper et al. 2016) cremated their dead in the provinces until the second century AD when this rite was replaced by inhumation (Toynbee 1996).

Bieńkowski (1982) thought that cremation in Palestine was performed occasionally beginning in the Neolithic (see **Table 1** for a regional chronology). Cremation from the Late Bronze Age was attributed to different foreign residents while burials

Table 1. Chronological chart of the Southern Levant (based on Maher et al. 2012; Rosik 2001; Steiner & Killebrew 2014).

Epipaleolithic	22.000–10.000/9750 BCE
Pre-Pottery Neolithic	10.000/9750–6500 BCE
Late Neolithic	6500–5500 BCE
Chalcolithic	5500–3700 BCE
Early Bronze Age	3700–2300 BCE
Middle Bronze Age	2300–1540 BCE
Late Bronze Age	1540–1200 BCE
Iron Age	1200–586 BCE
Persian	586–332 BCE
Hellenistic	332 BCE – 63 CE
Roman	63–390 CE
Byzantine	390–636 CE

dating to the Iron Age were connected with another immigration population, the Sea People (Bieńkowski 1982). Bieńkowski did not question invasion or foreign residents as the main reason for the presence of cremation in the Levant but suggested that cremation should not be considered as an indicator of a specific culture (1982). Mazar suggested that cremation was unknown among Canaanites and connected this rite with the Hittites in the Late Bronze Age while Abercrombie (1979) suggested that cremation did not exist in the Late Bronze Age.

While cremation burials are regularly discovered during archaeological excavations, they are rarely the main subject of academic research. This paper presents a catalogue as well as a systematic discussion of burned skeletons and pyres from the Southern Levant and Lebanon region, which is understood as the area including modern-day Israel, Jordan, Palestinian National Authority, and Lebanon. Lebanon is included in this paper due to the presence of Philistine and Phoenician sites in this region.

Materials and methods

A meta-analysis approach is employed in this article. The search was conducted through advanced keyword analysis ('cremation', 'burial practice', 'cremains' and 'Israel', 'Lebanon', 'Jordan', 'Palestine', 'Levant') in databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, and JSTOR. While over 6053 articles were found, most of them were excluded and narrower search parameters were used. From the remaining articles, many were excluded after an initial screen based on title and/or abstract. After this procedure 65 articles remained and a check of their references revealed a total of 91 articles concerning cremation in the Southern Levant and Lebanon. The results were later analysed with regards to burial type, presence or absence of a pyre, chronology, assumed intentionality of cremation and information concerning human remains (age and sex assessment, data on minimum number of individuals – MNI).

Results

The main publications concerning cremation in the Levant are that by Bieńkowski (1982), the first author who summarized the findings of cremation in the Levant, Bloch-Smith (1992) who summarized information about different types of burials in the region, including cremation, and Nabulsi (2019) whose focus was primarily on finds from Jordan, but mentions burials discovered in Israel and Lebanon. Most of the articles repeated the same information or only listed names of sites where cremation burials were discovered and did not always provide further information on this subject.

Of the 91 research published, cremation in the Southern Levant and Lebanon has been recognized at 80 archaeological sites (see **Appendix** and **Figure 1**). Six of

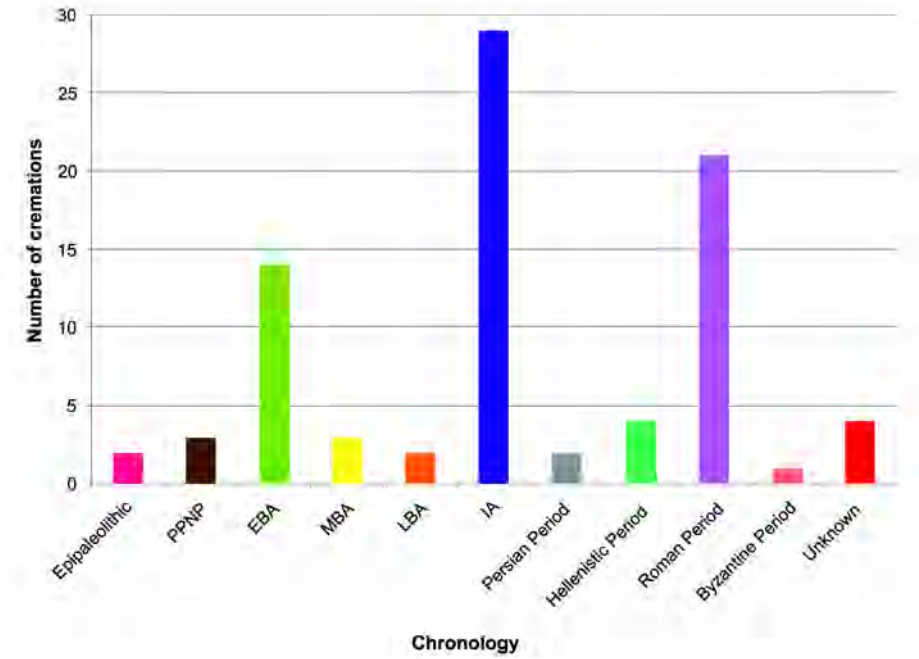

Figure 1. Chart illustrating number of cremation burials discovered in Southern Levant and Lebanon in each period. PPNP – Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period, EBA – Early Bronze Age, MBA – Middle Bronze Age, LBA – Late Bronze Age, IA – Iron Age.

the sites with cremation burials are either dated to more than one time period or were discovered in separate areas, for example at Tell el-Farah (Cemetery 200 and 500). Altogether 41.2% of cremation burials were found in Israel (33 sites), 30% in Jordan (24 sites), 20% in Lebanon (16 sites), 6.2% in Palestine (5 sites), and 2.5% (2 sites) in the Gaza Strip.

Most of the cremated burials are dated to the Iron Age (34.1% – 29 sites, see **Figure 2**, the Roman Period (24.7% – 21 sites), and the Early Bronze Age (16.4% – 14 sites). For four sites (4.7%) it was impossible to establish when the cremation took place, e.g., at dolmen sites. From all periods, the least represented was the Byzantine period to which only one site was dated (1.1%).

48.8% (44 sites) of cases of cremated remains were deposited inside vessels, urns, or cooking pots. The second most popular location of body deposition was in caves (23.3% – 21 sites) and pits (16.6% – 15 sites)—these were occasionally found near vessels. It was possible to establish the exact location of the pyre in 22.2% of cases (20 sites) based on the presence of signs of burning on the ground, floor, or ceiling/walls (when found in caves).

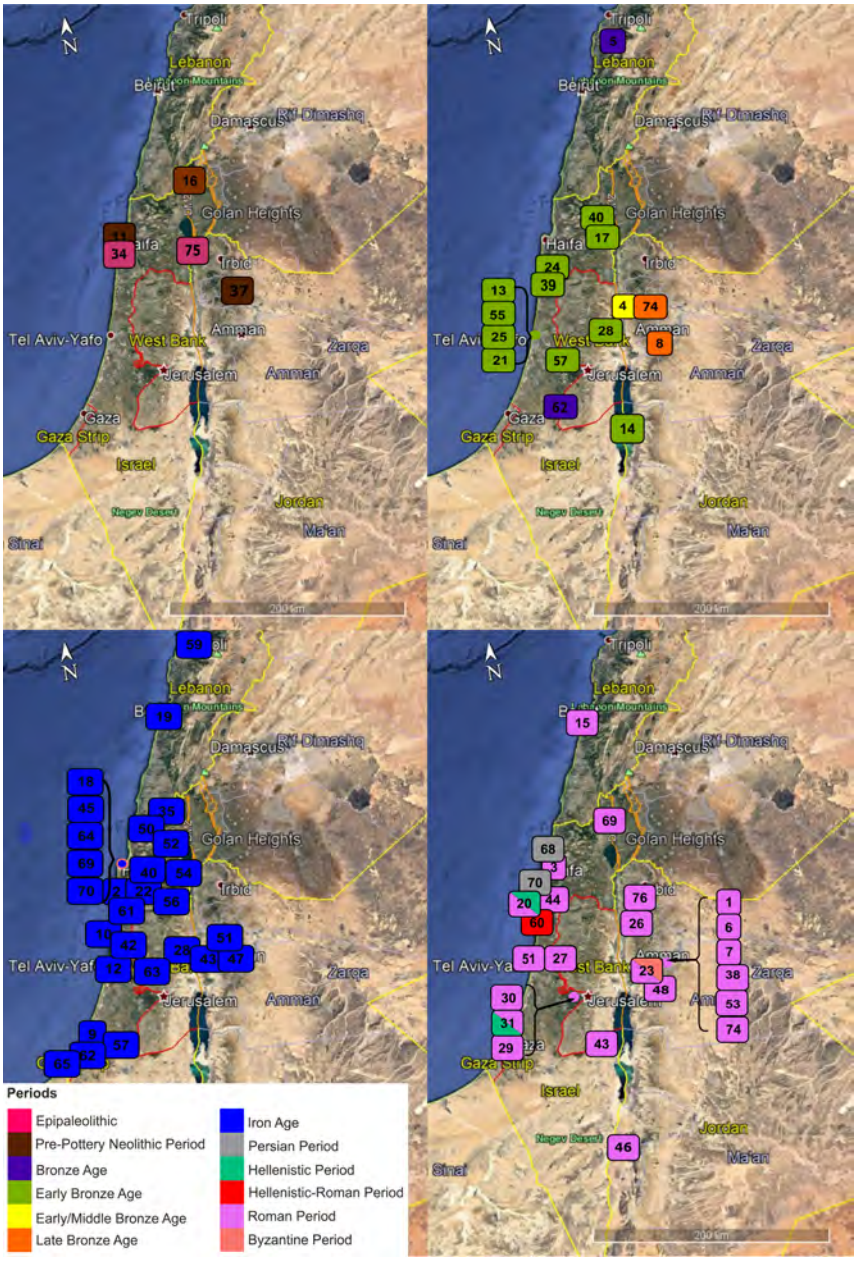

Figure 2. Sites in Southern Levant and Lebanon where cremated remains were discovered. Names of the sites represented on the map by number could be found in the catalogue. Background (c) Google Earth 2021.

Unfortunately, not all of the discovered human remains were analysed by osteologists. In case of 39 sites no description of human remains was available. However, some articles included brief age-at-death assessment, at least a distinction between child or adult (Aubet 2013; Culican 1973; McGovern 1982), or like in case of the Bâb edh-Dhrâ site—'age from fetus to adults over 50 years old.' Based on available descriptions it was possible to assess that adult individuals were buried at a minimum of 21 sites, infants at 13 sites, and individuals described as subadults at 8 sites. It was possible to assess sex of individuals derived from 9 sites and age of individuals from 14 sites (see **Appendix**). The human remains were weighed only in two cases: Amman Airport (Herr 1981) and Umm as-Summaq al-Janubi (Shmais & Nabulsi 2009).

Discussion

Despite a considerable number of cremation burials discovered in the Southern Levant and Lebanon, still many authors (Bieńkowski 1982, Mazar 1990) believe that cremations were not a common burial custom in this region. Many finds are described as accidental cases (e.g. Atlit-Yam and Jabel Al-Jufah) based only on the dating which excludes Phoenicians and Romans (Nabulsi 2019), two ethnic groups that are known to have exercised cremation in the area (Gilboa & Sharon 2003; Tepper et al. 2016).

Nevertheless, it was possible to gather information about cremation burials from the Epipalaeolithic until the Byzantine period. Of course, isolated cases do not prove the existence of the custom. That is true for many periods, but in case of the Early Bronze Age there are at least 14 sites where cremation burials were discovered (Ben-Tor 1975; Bieńkowski 1982; Callaway 1963; Callaway & Weinstein 1977; Gilead 1968; Greenhut 1995; Ilan 2002; Kaplan 1972; Kenyon 1953; Kletter 2002; Lass 2003; Lyon 1908; Macalister 1912; Maisler 1933; Maisler et al. 1952; Nabulsi 2019; Polcaro 2014; Rast 1987; Rast & Schaub 1979; Ullinger & Sheridan 2015; Wood 1910).

Due to the dispersal of the finds, not only in space but also in time, it is possible that there were several independent cremation traditions. Solitary cases of vessels containing cremated remains were reported often from cemeteries that contained also inhumation burials. Due to the much lower number it is possible that they reflect atypical deaths (there are few examples of similar finds in the region, however, solitary cases of cremation burials have been discovered in other regions e.g., Karelian Isthmus in Finland, where the presence of cremation burials in an inhumation cemetery were interpreted in similar way – Puolakka 2019). Perhaps these cremated burials represented individuals who died in other locations and their bodies were cremated for easier transportation in a hot climate (Shapiro 1986). Other explanations include punishment, similar to what has been described in written sources (Richardson 2004), or burial of a person belonging to a different culture. The last point, however, does not explain the growth in cremation popularity in the Early Bronze Age (see **Figure 1**).

During the Early Bronze Age, the Iron Age, and the Roman Period there was an observable rise in the number of cases of cremation. Based on the character of the cremations, it may be assumed that they represented three independent traditions. In the Early Bronze Age, cremains were buried primarily in caves (e.g., Givatayim, Jericho), often directly in the location in which the cremation took place (Kaplan 1972). During this period a larger number of individuals were buried in mass graves inside caves (e.g., Jericho – 135 skulls). In the Iron Age cremains were deposited primarily inside urns, in most cases in single graves at open-air cemeteries. They are interpreted, based on the context of the finds and dating, as connected with immigrant populations (e.g., Bieńkowski 1982). The last is connected with the presence of Roman soldiers who used to practice cremation and deposit burned remains in urns (Hershkovitz 1988; Noy 2000).

It remains uncertain if there was any correlation between performing cremation as a burial rite and who was buried in this way. Not all of the discovered cremains were analysed and, if there were, it was not always possible to assess the age and sex of individuals. However, based on gathered data, it might be concluded that adults of both sexes (e.g., Atlit-Yam), and children (e.g., Jerusalem and Megiddo), were cremated in the Southern Levant and Lebanon (see **Appendix**). Similarly, in most cases only a rough age-at-death assessment was provided like in the case of Tell er-Reqeish where it was written that bones belonged to adults and 'well-grown children' (Culican 1973). In addition, descriptions of the cremains differ significantly among papers. Some publications mention only the discovery of charred bones (Abercrombie 1979; Perry 2002) not always specifying the minimum number of the individuals (Avner & Zelinger 2001; Lass 2003). Finally, burned skeletal material was rarely examined by an osteologist and little description of said remains are provided (and even fewer published).

Conclusion

The origin of cremation in the southern Levant and Lebanon is unclear and various reasons to burn dead bodies can be assumed, including specific ethnic traditions, punishment, or a need to avoid decomposition of soft tissues. There is evidence of cremation in the region from the Epipalaeolithic until the Byzantine period. Specifically, three distinctive periods can be observed when cremation was popular as a burial custom in the region: the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman Period. It seems plausible that these occurrences are unrelated and could be associated with three different chronologically traditions when cremations were treated differently. The most distinct are differences between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. In the first period there is a predominance of mass graves. Cremains were deposited inside the caves, some of them were accompanied by visible signs of pyre. In the Iron Age, there was

an observable change, cremains were deposited at the open-air cemetery, mostly in single graves, inside urns. As seen through a review of the literature, there are many ways of disposing of a cremated body in the southern Levant and Lebanon. The most popular were burials inside vessels deposited either in an open-air cemetery or in caves. At some sites traces of a pyre were discovered. In all periods when cremation was relatively popular, all categories of the dead (males, females and subadults) were cremated.

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Appendix: Catalogue of sites with evidence of cremation

Numbers preceding site names refer to location on map (see **Figure 1**).

1. **Abdun/Abdoun**; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn/cave; *additional information*: cave tomb 2015 – at least one urn containing cremains; cave tomb 2013 – among human remains, small burnt bone fragments were discovered; *reference*: Nabulsi 2019.

2. **Achzib/Akhzib/Akhziv**, Southern Cemetery; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: eight; *burial type*: urn, in pit, tomb 645 is a rock-cut tomb; *human remains*: white charred bone fragments found inside vessels belonging to an adult that is represented by various skeletal elements (Mazar 2001); *additional information*: burial jar covered with a lid in Trench A was discovered in 1941 by N. Makhouly (after Bloch-Smith 1992). Tomb 645 contained a male skeleton in a supine position with flexed legs. A vessel was found next to the skull, and another one was placed in the hand of the individual. Both vessels contained cremated remains. Tombs 606, 979 – cremains were deposited inside urns and bowls which were covered with additional vessels. Rarely cremains from the Southern Cemetery in Achziv were deposited inside cist graves. When deposited in rock-cut tombs they were buried in the sand in oval or round pits. Some of the burials were marked with stelae (Bloch-Smith 1992; Prausnitz 1969). In locus 500 on the surface, six vessels containing cremations were discovered. Perhaps burials were connected close by shaft tombs T.A.68 and T.A.69 (Mazar 2001); *references*: Bieńkowski 1982; Bloch-Smith 1992; Mazar 2001; Prausnitz 1969.

Achzib/Akhzib/Akhziv, Eastern Cemetery; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: N. Makhouly documented urns in Tombs XIX

and XXIV (Bloch-Smith 1992). During later excavations at the cemetery no cremation burials were encountered (Bloch-Smith 1992; Prausnitz 1969); *references*: Bloch-Smith 1992; Prausnitz 1969.

Achzib/Akhzib/Akhziv, Northern Cemetery; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn; *pyre*: circular cremation pit dated to the 9th century; *human remains*: each urn contained the remains of one adult individual; *additional information*: numerous cremation burials were located in the area next to the cremation pit; *references*: Aubet 2013; Beyl 2013; Mazar 2004.

Achzib/Akhzib/Akhziv; *location*: ca. 70m north of Tel Akhziv, **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age – Hellenistic; *burial type*: urn; *pyre*: on a tophet, a structure situated on a platform, with a preserved height of 2.30m; it was built from stone and plastered from the inside; *human remains*: each urn contained the remains of one individual; *reference*: Wolff 1994.

3. **Akko/Akka**, The Eastern Cemetery; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn; *pyre*: a burned area with charred wood as well as an 'ash' concentration were discovered at the cemetery; *human remains*: charred bones deposited in urns; *additional information*: both cremation and inhumation rites were present at the cemetery; urns were covered with jar sherds; one of the urns was surrounded by stone slabs; *references*: Tepper 2010, 2014.

Akko/Akka, North-western slope; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *additional information*: in one of the tombs (tag number is unknown) cremated remains were deposited; *reference*: Monnickendam-Givon et al. 2017.

4. **Ala-Safat/Damiya**; *location*: Jordan Valley, **Jordan**; *date*: Early Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age; *burial type*: dolmen; *pyre*: unclear; *additional information*: in six dolmens (83, 84, I17, 164, 166, and 167) calcined bones were discovered; in tombs 84, 166 unburned bones were found next to cremains; perhaps the cremation is related to secondary use of the site (Nabulsi 2019); *references*: Gilead 1968; Nabulsi 2019; Polcaro 2014.

5. **Al-Houriye**; *location*: Qadisha Valley, **Lebanon**; *date*: Early Bronze Age – Middle Bronze Age (based on pottery); *burial type*: cave, inhumation, and cremation side-by-side; *additional information*: it is uncertain if the cremation was intentional; *reference*: Nabulsi 2019.

6. **Jebel/Jabel Al-Jufah**; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: cave; *additional information*: layer of ash and bones was discovered; possibly accidental; *reference*: Nabulsi 2019.

7. **Al-Masarrat (az-Zarqa'**); *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: cave; *human remains*: the bones were distorted; *additional information*: at least three cremation burials were discovered in three different caves inside niches; *reference*: Nabulsi 2019.

8. **Amman Airport**, Areas C and D; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Late Bronze Age; *MNI*: two individuals (Herr 1981), three adult individuals and six immature individuals (Nabulsi 2019); *pyre*: perhaps one was situated on a boulder structure (four meters square). Rocks situated in the centre of the pile showed signs of burning, furthermore the largest concentration of fragmented charred bones was located around this structure; *human remains*: in 1966 and 1967 many small bone fragments (total weight: 2kg – 1,127 fragments) were discovered. None of the fragments represented an infant. The remains belonged to at least one female (based on the occipital bone and ilium) and one male (based on robusticity of the head of the femur). Age at death of the female was estimated at 40+ based on suture closure of the occipital bone (according to Herr 1981, it is unclear if the author meant lambdoid suture). Two fragments (no. 215, 216) suggested that one individual within the assemblage was young. A long bone with an unfused proximal end (either humerus or fibula) suggested an age-at-death of around 16-20 years while a metacarpal with an unfused epiphysis suggested an age-at-death at approximately 15 years. Most of the bones (71%) were described as tan, 19% were black, 5% were blue, grey, or white, and 5% had a dark brown colour that might be soil staining (Herr 1981); *additional information*: the remains may have been burned on a pyre. It is uncertain if the remains were later left there or if some of them were left after the ceremony due to their small size; *references*: Hennessy 1966; Herr 1981; Shmais & Nabulsi 2009, Nabulsi 2019.

9. **Ashkelon**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: six; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: at least six cremation burials, two of them were preserved *in situ*. Burial 345 (Area N5, Square 13) – charred bones were deposited inside a jar; *reference*: Master & Aja 2017.

10. **Atlit/Athlit**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: 24; *burial type*: urns (1 burial – CXVII) and pits (18 burials) (Bieńkowski 1982); *pyre*: *in situ* (except XVIIc), left a visible sign in the sand; *human remains*: remains belonged to children (III, IVa, X, XIa, XIb, XIIIa, XV, XVIII), adolescents and adults (I, VI, VIII). The age of at least 13 individuals is unknown: IVb, V, VII, IX, XIc (described as a child by Bloch-Smith 1992), XII, XIIIb, XIV, XVIa, XVIb, XVIIa, XVIIb, XVIIc (Abercrombie 1979); *additional information*: it was possible to assess position in which some of the individuals were burned. In tombs I, III, VIII, IX, and XIV the body was placed in an extended position, later such position was seen in tomb V, the individual in tomb VII was lateral and flexed. Individuals in tombs X and XII were placed in a contracted

position; *references*: Abercrombie 1979; Bieńkowski 1982; Bloch-Smith 1992; Elayi 1982; Haggi 2006; Hughes et al. 1938; Kreppner 2014; Stern 1975.

Atlit/Athlit; hills east of the city, *location*: **Israel**, *date*: Iron Age; *additional information*: a cemetery containing cremated remains was identified during a survey; *reference*: Bloch-Smith 1992.

11. **Atlit-Yam**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period; *MNI*: six; *burial type*: in pits within living area; *human remains*: traces of fire were visible on some areas of the bones of six individuals, mostly on skulls. It was possible to assess sex of five individuals, four males and one female. Skeleton H-16 belonged to a 'young individual'; *additional information*: interpreted as a case of accidental cremation; *reference*: Galili et al. 2005.

12. **Azor**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: four (Burial 9 – 1, 62 – 1, 63 – 2); *burial type*: in jar (62, 63), in pit (9); *human remains*: burial 63 (Area D, Sq K10) – jar contained the remains of two individuals. According to N. Haas they belonged to an adult, 40–45 years old and around 172cm tall and an adolescent around 12–16 years old. Later, P. Smith assessed, based on skull, that the urn contained the remains of an adolescent and an adult (based on the mandible), which were cremated at a relatively low temperature (Ben-Shlomo 2008). Burial 62 (Area D) – the remains belonged to an individual around 10 years old. Burial 9 (Area D) – the remains of an adult male associated with blackened soil that suggested cremation; *additional information*: burial 63 – a jar containing charred bones was deposited inside a square shaped stone-built frame with one meter high walls; *references*: Ben-Shlomo 2008; Bloch-Smith 1992; Dothan 1961, 1989; Fugitt 2003; Nagar 2012.

13. **Azor**, half kilometre south; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *MNI*: number indicated by skulls is higher than that indicated by long bones (no precise number was given); *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: inside the cave, signs of fire were visible on the cave floor and walls; *human remains*: mostly teeth were preserved; *additional information*: cave 1 – cremated bones were covered by soil. Bones located in tomb 1 were fragile. Cave 4 – located 40m further, was used in the same period but did not contain a cremation burial; *reference*: Ben-Tor 1975.

14. **Bâb edh-Dhrâ** (**Khirbet Kerek**); *location*: **Jordan**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *MNI*: A55 – 60 individuals, A22 – 224 individuals; *burial type*: charnel house; *pyre*: *in situ*; *human remains*: A22 – age of individuals varies from fetus to adult over 50 years old; *additional information*: charnel house A8 – human remains and artefacts were burned together. Charnel house A41 – two groups of bones were placed inside a layer of ash. Charnel house A51 – under a collapsed mudbrick wall, two-thirds of the floor was

covered by a layer of ash and burned bones. Perhaps the fire started from outside the charnel house, around the doorway. Because the charnel houses, from which traces of fire derived, were dated to the same period, it was concluded that fire might be associated with an act of aggression and not a cremation (Nabulsi 2019). Charnel house A55 – the fire most likely took place in the latest phase of the tomb's use because only the latest burials and artefacts were burned. Cremation was ruled out as an explanation and it was concluded that the whole house was intentionally burned (Freedman 1976). Charnel house G1 – burned bones were located inside (some of which were burned while fresh). Intentional cremation was not ruled out by the archaeologist but based on bone deformation it was concluded that if cremation was conducted, it was performed only on the portion of skeleton deposited there (Ortner 1979). Charnel house A22 – layers of ash surrounded the human remains. Based on the colours of the bones it was concluded that the bones were most likely burned in an accidental fire and not in a cremation rite (Ullinger & Sheridan 2015); *references*: Freedman 1976; Nabulsi 2019; Ortner 1979; Rast 1987; Rast & Schaub 1979; Ullinger & Sheridan 2015.

15. **Beirut**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: in urn; *additional information*: one cremation; *reference*: after Nabulsi 2019.

16. **Beisamoun/Baysamun**; *location*: Hula Valley, **Israel**; *date*: Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period; *MNI*: five, one in each grave; *burial type*: in urn, pit burial; *pyre*: 211 – bones were collected from the pyre along with ash, remains from tomb 338 were most likely burned *in situ*, based on bone articulation and the extent of structural burning (Bocquentin et al. 2014). The pyre-pit walls were around 2cm thick; due to their reddish colour they were easy to identify during excavation (Bocquentin et al. 2014); *human remains*: burial 105 (area A) – the burial contained the remains of poorly preserved cremated remains, mostly of the skull, long bones, teeth, and mandible. Remains belonged to a female c. 40 years-old (Khalaily et al. 2015). Locus 211 (section F, layer 01) – 40 fragments of burned bone belonged to adult individuals. Locus 338 (Sector E, square R10/R11) – a young adult individual, age-at-death was assessed based on a preserved epiphysis. Layer 1b contained three unburned human bones while burned human remains and ash were deposited in lower layers. In total, 355 fragments were collected (1158.7g) and all areas of the skeleton were represented. Locus 347 (layer 1b) – around 100 bone fragments were discovered that belonged to an adult individual (Bocquentin et al. 2014); *additional information*: burial 105 – secondary burial (Khalaily et al. 2015). Locus 211 – secondary deposit; locus 338 – the 1m in diameter structure had a bell-shaped pit made of clay which was burned. Locus 338 – cremations were localised in a U-shaped pit 80×60cm. Locus 347 – secondary deposit, contained charred human bones and ashy sediment. Based on the organisation

of the remains, it was concluded that they were deposited in a container, which later disintegrated (it may have been a basket, a bag, or a box). It is unclear if the bones were later put into a pit (Bocquentin et al. 2014); *references*: Bocquentin et al. 2014, 2020; Iriarte et al. 2020; Khalaily et al. 2015; Santana et al. 2020.

17. **Beth Yerah** (**Khirbet el-Kerak**), on the outskirts of the city; *location*: Kinneret, **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *MNI*: two; *human remains*: a male 35-40 years old, and a female 25-30 years old. The signs of contact with fire were present; *reference*: Ilan 2002; Maisler et al. 1952.

18. **Burg as Samali** (**Burj el-Shamali**); *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: unknown; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: one urn was discovered at the cemetery among pottery and at least a portion of the necropolis contains cremation burials; *reference*: Sader 1995.

19. **Byblos**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *additional information*: cremation burials were discovered at the site; *reference*: Nabulsi 2019.

20. **Caesarea**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Hellenistic Period; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: cremation burials were discovered inside the amphorae located south east of the city walls; *reference*: Patrich 2011.

Caesarea, south from city; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: cremation burials were discovered against the Heriodian city walls; *references*: Lieberman et al. 2020; Patrich 2011.

21. **Givatayim**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: signs of fire were visible on the walls, floor, and ceiling of a cave; *additional information*: charred human bones were discovered inside a cave; *references*: Ilan 2002; Kaplan 1972.

22. **Gwayya/Jwaya/Jouaiya**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *additional information*: inhumation and cremation burials were discovered at the cemetery; *reference*: Sader 1995.

23. **Heshbon/Ḥisbān/Tell Hesban/Esbus**, cemeteries; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: tomb F.31 (loculus 1) – on the top of the bones a cooking pot contained ashes and cremated human bone. Tomb E.6 – discovered vessels in which human remains were deposited. Cremations without a container were also discovered in loculi 2 and 8; *references*: Mitchell 1994; Nabulsi 2019; Waterhouse 1998.

Heshbon/Ḥisbān/Tell Hesban/Esbus, the North Church; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Byzantine Period; *MNI*: one; *burial type*: reliquary; *additional information*: the oval-shaped reliquary contained a right patella and ash that perhaps represented cremation; *reference*: Lawlor 1980.

24. **Horbat Hani/Khirbet el-Burj el-Haniyeh** (West); *location*: western of Samarian Hills, **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: perhaps on the platform; *additional information*: a layer of ash with scattered fragmented bones was discovered in the cave, on a platform. It might indicate cremation; *reference*: Lass 2003.

25. **Jaffa**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *additional information*: two finds, perhaps unintentional burning; *reference*: Nabulsi 2019.

26. **Jerash/Gerasa**; *location*: part of so-called Decapolis cities, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn in cave; *additional information*: one leaden urn was discovered by A. Naghawi in 1989, a second cremation burial was discovered in a pottery urn that is now presented as part of an exhibition in the Jarash Museum (after Nabulsi 2019). Other potential cases of cremation were found in cooking pots in the North-west Quarter of the city in trench A (Lichtenberger & Raja 2015); *references*: Lichtenberger & Raja 2015; Nabulsi 2019.

27. **Jenin-Nablus** road; *location*: **Palestine**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: in urn; *reference*: after Nabulsi 2019.

28. **Jericho**; *location*: north-west of the tell, **Palestine**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *MNI*: 135; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: inside the tomb; *human remains*: 135 skulls were deposited inside the tomb. Some of them were blackened by fire and were most likely unintentionally burned; *additional information*: A cremation area, covered with ash and fragments of burned bones was discovered in the centre of tomb 94 (Area A). Non cremated skulls were placed around the tomb in rows. Perhaps a case of unintentional cremation (Nabulsi 2019); *references*: Ben-Tor 1975; Bieńkowski 1982; Callaway 1963; Callaway & Weinstein 1977; Greenhut 1995; Kenyon 1953; Nabulsi 2019.

Jericho; *location*: **Palestine**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: pit-like (Bloch-Smith 1992); *human remains*: partially burned and fully calcined; *additional information*: cremated remains were deposited in isolation from others remains in tomb 11. The cremation might be an effect of an unintentional tomb fire; *reference*: Bloch-Smith 1992.

29. **Jerusalem, Akeldama**; *location*: between Hinnom and Kidron Valleys, **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: cave; *additional information*: ossuaries were discovered in caves 7–76 and 7–77; *reference*: Młynarczyk 2008.

30. **Jerusalem, Ketef Hinnom**; *location*: South-west of Old City, **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *MNI*: 'several'; *burial type*: urns; *pyre*: possible remains of the pyre were located on site; *human remains*: loci 167, 179, 180, 505, and 573 – in each the bones of one individual were recovered; it was impossible to assess age-at-death. Locus 523 – one individual, age assessed as 30-39 years old. Locus 177 – one individual, 60 years-old; *additional information*: Burned bones were deposited inside cooking pots with ashes from the pyre (Avni 2005) and jars (Avner & Zelinger 2015). Charred bones were found on the bottom of one coffin (Baruch & Wiegmann 2013); *references*: Avner & Zelinger 2015; Avni 2005; Barkay 1984; Baruch & Wiegmann 2013; Katsnelson 2015; Nagar 2015.

31. **Jerusalem, Russian Compound**; *location*: north-west of Old City, **Israel**; *date*: Hellenistic Period; *MNI*: 32; *human remains*: stratum II – remains belong to two infants (less than 6 months), one child 2 to 6 years-old, and 29 adult individuals. It was possible to assess the sex of 18 individuals (16 males and 2 females). Most of the bones deposited in the stratum exhibited signs of burning; *additional information*: stratum II (Loci 101, 111) contained fragmented non-articulated charred human bones as well as ash and charcoal mixed with soil. The stratum was later sealed with large boulders; reference: Lieberman et al. 2020.

Jerusalem, 'Tombs of the Kings' Haram; *location*: north of Damascus Gate, **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urns; *additional information*: several cooking pots containing cremations were deposited inside burial chambers; *reference*: Avni 2005.

32. **Jisr er-Rukkad/Jisr Raqqad ('Ain Dakkar)**; *location*: east of Jisr er-Rukkad, **Jordan**; *date*: unknown; *additional information*: during excavation, burned bones and pieces of charcoal were discovered near dolmens beneath the stone floor; *reference*: Broome 1940.

33. **Joya**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: both inhumation and cremation were practiced at the cemetery; *reference*: after Bloch-Smith 1992.

34. **Kebara Cave/Mugharet el-Kebarah, Me'arat Kabara**; *location*: Haifa, **Israel**; *date*: Epipaleolithic; *MNI*: 23 (Bar-Yosef & Sillen 1993) or 31 individuals (Santana et al. 2020); *burial type*: in cave; *human remains*: based on the colour of the bones it was assessed that they had been heated at various temperatures 200–600°C; *additional information*: at the back of the cave several fragmented burned skeletons were discovered. It is unclear whether the remains were burned intentionally or as part of a taphonomic process (Bar-Yosef & Sillen 1993); *references*: Bar-Yosef & Sillen 1993; Belfer-Cohen & Hovers 1992; Bocquentin 2003; Santana et al. 2020.

35. **Kefr Yuba**; *location*: **Jordan**; *date*: unknown; *additional information*: undisturbed dolmens contained mixed bones, charcoal, and ashes; *reference*: Broome 1940.

36. **Khalde/Khaldah/Khaldi/Halde**; *location*: south of Beirut, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urns, in pit, *in situ*; *pyre*: an area of ash and charcoal; *human remains*: urns from tomb 121 contained both calcined and non-calcined bones; *additional information*: tomb 121 – Bieńkowski mentioned two cremations deposited inside amphorae covered with a flat vessel. One of them was discovered next to an inhumation in tomb 51 (Bieńkowski 1982) while the other was discovered in tomb 3. Several in-situ cremation burials were also noted (after Bloch-Smith 1992); *references*: Aubet 2013; Bieńkowski 1982; Bloch-Smith 1992; Mazar 2001, 2001; Sader 1995; Ward 1994.

37. **Kharaysin**; *location*: in village Quneya, north of **Jordan**; *date*: Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period; *burial type*: pit; *pyre*: lack of charcoal inside the grave or any alteration made by the fire on the sediment; *human remains*: burial SU-815 (square BE190/Zone D) – secondary burial with burned and unburned human remains – none of which were articulated. While the bones were disturbed, the long bones were oriented north-south. Skulls and short bones were a primary deposit at the edge of the grave. Epiphyses were underrepresented and diaphyses were fragmented, most likely due to compression by soil and the weight of blocks deposited above the burial. Bones had heat-induced fractures and exhibited a variety of colours suggesting contact with fire. Based on the latter, it was established that the skeletonised remains were fragmented prior to burning. Mineralogical and spectroscopic analyses of the bones were performed in order to confirm contact with fire (Iriarte et al. 2020). Most of the burned remains were exposed to 200–550°C; *additional information*: burial SU-815 – based on the interweaving of the bones it is possible that some of the skeletons were deposited inside the pit simultaneously, but extension of the pit was also visible. Accidental burning was rejected (Santana et al. 2020); *references*: Iriarte et al. 2020; Santana et al. 2020.

38. **Khirbet Hijra/Khirbat al Ḥajarah**; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *MNI*: two; *burial type*: urns; *human remains*: urn 3 (Reg. No. IV) contained the remains of one individual, HJ-001. The cremation took place at a temperature of 700–900°C. Sex of the individual was assessed as male based on a long mastoid process and prominent glabella region as well as a narrow sciatic notch. Based on the cranial suture fusion and the sacroiliac joint, age-at-death was estimated as 40–50 years old. Degenerative changes were visible on the clavicle, acetabulum, and lumbar vertebrae (L1–L3). Urn 4 (Reg. No. V) – the bones were heavily fragmented. The colour of the fragments suggested that the cremation took place at temperatures up to 900°C. The sex of this individual was assessed as male based on a long mastoid

process, strongly expressed temporal and nuchal lines, as well as the morphology of the ventral arc and sub-pubic cavity. Based on the preserved pubic symphysis it was possible to estimate age-at-death as 40–60 years old. Osteophytes were visible on the epiphyses of long bones and on the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar vertebrae. There were visible coloured spots on bones derived from urns 3 and 4 that could be the remains of an oily perfuming substance (suggested based on smell) (Shmais & Nabulsi 2009); *additional information*: niches and a shelf for human remains were present in the tomb. In front of locus 8, a spherical urn containing a cremation was deposited. A second urn was discovered in locus 7; *references*: Shmais & Nabulsi 2009; Timm et al. 2012; Timm et al. 2011.

39. **Khirbet Ibreiktas**; *location*: South from Hadera-West, **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *additional information*: all discovered bones had traces of burning; *references*: Greenhut 1995; Kletter 2002.

40. **Khiberet Kinneret**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: inside the cave; *human remains*: most of the bones were completely or partially burned, charred; *additional information*: cremains were discovered in Cave 2 I. Human remains were burned along with grave goods; *references*: Maisler 1933; Maisler et al. 1952; Polcaro 2014.

41. **Khirbet Silm/Hirbet Silm**; *location*: East of Tire, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *additional information*: both inhumation and cremation; *references*: Bloch-Smith 1992; Sader 1995.

42. **Magharet ash-Shatawi**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *additional information*: it is uncertain if this is a case of intentional cremation; *reference*: after Nabulsi 2019.

43. **Masada**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: cremation of Roman soldiers; *reference*: Lieberman et al. 2020.

44. **Megiddo/Tell el-Mutesellim**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: six; *burial type*: urns; *human remains*: remains of infants, ash, and charcoal; bones from the storage jar were black and greasy; *additional information*: remains were deposited in five urns inside the pit at the southern end of the temple room. A storage jar containing burned bones was discovered in the second stratum in the corner of the room (walls l-l and e'-e') (Shumacher 1908); *references*: Bloch-Smith 1992; Shumacher 1908.

Megiddo, Roman aqueduct (el-Lejjun?); *location*: 500m south of the tell, **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *MNI*: seven; *burial type*: urns, one urn in a cave; *human remains*: pot A – a few bone fragments (size: 1–2cm). Pot B – fragmented human bones (size:

5–6cm). No order of bone deposition was noted. Sex of individuals was assessed as male based on the humeral heads. Age-at-death of the individuals was assessed as young adults based on fused epiphyses and vertebral bodies as well as on the presence and depth of tooth sockets (Hershkovitz 1988). Cremation temperature was estimated as 700°C based on bone colour and fracture pattern. From this it was suggested that the bones were still flesh-covered when cremated. A jar from square AC27 contained the remains of a male individual (at least 20 years old) (Tepper et al. 2016); *additional information*: During the survey, Tsvika Tsuk discovered two cooking pots containing cremated remains (Tsuk 1988) and later another four (Tepper 2010). One cooking pot with cremains was discovered in square AC27 in a bedrock cave (Tepper et al. 2016); *references*: Hershkovitz 1988; Tepper 2010; Tepper et al. 2016; Tsuk 1988.

45. **Mount Nebo/Jebel Nebo** (**Siyagha**); *location*: near the Dead Sea, **Jordan**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: unknown number of cremation remains but in cave UCV-20 there were 750 skeletons, UCV-84 – 250 skeletons; *burial type*: cave; *human remains*: calcined human bones were deposited in cremation strata in cave UCV-20 and UCV-84 (chamber 2); *additional information*: inside the tombs were deposited cremated bones, inhumations, jar burials, and secondary burials deposited on shelves. It is possible that this is the example of an accidental cremation. According to Abercrombie (1979), cave UCV-20 was cleaned with fire; *references*: Abercrombie 1979; Bloch-Smith 1992; Nabulsi 2019.

46. **Petra**; *location*: **Jordan**; *date*: Hellenistic Period; *burial type*: urn, columbarium; *human remains*: bones were burned black and calcined; *additional information*: cremated remains were discovered in two tombs. In tomb E3 it was suggested that the burning material was placed on already skeletonized bodies. In a rock-cut columbarium, urns possibly contained cremated remains; *reference*: Perry 2002.

Petra, al-Ḥabīs; *location*: **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: columbarium; *additional information*: it is uncertain if the cremation was intentional; *reference*: after Nabulsi 2019.

47. **Qasmieh/Qasmiyye**; *location*: between Sidon and Tyre, **Lebanon**; *dating*: Iron Age; *MNI*: two; *burial type*: urn/pit; *human remains*: cremated remains were deposited inside urns; *additional information*: perhaps it was a 'single cremation site' (after Sader 1995); *references*: Bloch-Smith 1992; Sader 1995.

48. **Queen Alia Airport**; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: cremated remains were deposited inside one leaden urn next to an empty cooking pot; *reference*: after Nabulsi 2019.

49. **Sahab**; *location*: south-east of Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: human remains were discovered in a 'partly ashy earthen jar.' The intentionality of the cremation was questioned; *references*: Ibrahim 1972; Nabulsi 2019.

50. **Saydur-Irbid**; *location*: **Jordan**; *date*: unknown; *burial type*: columbarium; *additional information*: columbarium with niches too small to fit urns; *reference*: after Nabulsi 2019.

51. **Shoham**; *location*: paving of Highway 444, **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: crypt; *additional information*: in a crypt under an atrium over 100 skeletons were deposited lying one on top of another, the upper layer of remains was burned. The crypt was blocked with a stone slab; *references*: McCormick 2016; Stern 2008.

52. **Sidon**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Unknown/Middle Bronze Age; *MNI*: unknown, two burials (1 and 13); *burial type*: urns/pit; *human remains*: Burial 1 – remains were deposited inside a jar. Bones of individuals were fragmented; age of one of the individuals was assessed as 3–4 years old. Deciduous teeth were discoloured blue and black, possibly due to heating. Burial 13 – 'flexed remains' (Ogden & Schutkowski 2004) – age of the individual was assessed as 5 years old. The bones were crushed and fragmented. It was possible to identify elements such as ribs, lower limbs, feet, and vertebrae. Tooth dentine was discoloured blue/black (form of fossilisation). Discolouration was absent in the unerupted teeth. Signs of heating were also present on cranial fragments; *references*: Beyl 2013; Ogden & Schutkowski 2004; Sader 1995.

Sidon, Esmunazar Cave; *location*: near Sidon, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: *in situ*; *pyre*: *in situ*; *additional information*: the pit in tomb 4 was covered with coal and a small fragment of human bone was discovered that was blackened by fire. Against the south wall of the pit another cluster of coal and human bone was found, which might represent another burial; *reference*: Sader 1995.

53. **Tall al'Umayri**; *location*: 10km south from Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: two; *burial type*: in layer of debris resulting from destruction; *human remains*: charred bones of two individuals; *additional information*: remains were discovered in room B3 in the destruction layer. Possible unintentional cremation; *references*: Bloch-Smith 1992; Nabulsi 2019.

Tall al'Umayri; *location*: 10km south from Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *MNI*: one; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: during a survey of the area one urn containing cremated remains was discovered; *references*: Boling 1989; Nabulsi 2019.

54. **Tamburít/Tambourit**; *location*: South-east of Sidon, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn/pit; *additional information*: during rescue excavation a pit tomb with four cinerary amphorae was discovered (Sader 1995). Three out of four amphorae contained cremated remains. In the opinion of H. Sader at least five out of 11 vessels deposited in the tomb were cremation urns; *references*: Bloch-Smith 1992; Mazar 2001; Sader 1995.

55. **Tel Aviv** (site Abattoir Hill); *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: there is no evidence that the cave was used as a crematorium; *additional information*: burned bodies were deposited on the cave floor next to funerary goods; *reference*: Kaplan 1972.

56. **Tel Dan** (North); *location*: 100m from Tel Dan, **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: one; *burial type*: urn; *pyre*: perhaps in Area B; *human remains*: area A – the cremated bones belonged to an individual over 20 years; *additional information*: in area A, a crater with cremated remains was discovered next to an unburnt skeleton; *reference*: Hartal 2006.

57. **Tel Gezer/Tell Jezer/Tell el-Jezari/Takk Jazzari**, 'Troglodyte Crematorium'; *location*: midway between Jerusalem and Jaffa, **Israel**; *date*: Early Bronze Age; *MNI*: 20 adults, unknown number of subadults (Nabulsi 2019), two infants; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: bones were burnt inside the cave, there was a chimney in the roof and signs of repeated burning on the walls (Wood 1916); *human remains*: cave 2I – originally it was believed that whole skeletons were cremated. However, due to a significant disproportion between number of skulls and long bones it was proposed that skulls were separated from bodies after decomposition and were preserved, while post cranial parts of skeletons were cremated (Callaway 1963). The layer of human remains was approximately 30cm thick, and the eastern portion consisted of white earth and black strata that might suggest multiple contacts with fire (after Nabulsi 2019). Based on colour and lack of heat deformation it was estimated that the bones were burned at around 300°C; *additional information*: the cave was used for cremation in the first phase of its use. It is likely that older skeletons deposited in the cave were burned to save space. In the later phase of use, when the cave was dominated by inhumations, skulls were also preserved and removed from the postcranial skeleton (Callaway 1963). The cave was connected to a sanctuary above it. Large jars containing infant remains (under one week old – two of which were burned), were found in the temple area. The aforementioned was interpreted as a case of child sacrifice (Lyon 1908). Two burials of children with an age-at-death around six years-old were recovered in the temple between artefacts. Their bones exhibited signs of fire (Lyon 1908); *references*: Bieńkowski 1982; Callaway 1962, 1963; Lyon 1908; Macalister 1912; Nabulsi 2019; Wood 1910, 1916.

58. **Tel Hazor**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: two or three individuals; *burial type*: urn; *additional information*: both cremation and inhumation burials were found at the cemetery; *reference*: Kunze 2002.

59. **Tel Lachish**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: Tomb 120 – more than 1500 individuals (it is unclear how many of them had signs of burning), Tomb 1002 – uncertain; *burial type*: cave; *human remains*: signs of burning were visible on bones deposited in tombs 120 and 1002. In the later it was described that contact with fire occurred before they were reburied (after Bloch-Smith 1992); *additional information*: because cremated remains from Lachish and Mt. Nebo are dated to the same period it was suggested that it is probably a case of intentional cremation; *references*: Abercrombie 1979; Bloch-Smith 1992.

60. **Tel Zeror**; *location*: south-east from Kibbutz Gan Shmuel, **Israel**; *date*: Hellenistic-Roman Period; *MNI*: unknown; *type*: urn; *additional information*: area E – cremations were deposited inside cooking vessels; *reference*: Ogawa 1976.

61. **Tell Arqa**; *location*: **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: pit; *human remains*: tomb 1 – skull and upper limbs were partly articulated, and less charred and fragmented than the rest of the skeleton (Thalmann 1978); *additional information*: tomb 1 – cremation burial with irregular pit. The bottom of the pit was covered with ash. Tomb 2 (19.68) – at the bottom of the pit traces of ashes and charred fragments of skull were localised. Pit 20.51 – possibly was a grave similar to tomb 1 but it was destroyed by a road (Thalmann 1978); *references*: Bieńkowski 1982; Kreppner 2014; Sader 1995; Thalmann 1978.

62. **Tell Beit Mirsim/Tall Bayt Mersim**; *location*: **Israel**; *date*: Bronze Age; *human remains*: NW corner SE33 – fragments were charred and fragile. It was possible to recognise fragments of skull, vertebrae, and long bones. The skeleton likely belonged to an older individual; *additional information*: after removing the wall in the corner of SE33 fragmented human bones were discovered that were mixed with the sherds of a jar; *reference*: Albright 1936.

63. **Tell Bira**, widening of the road 70; *location*: east to Acre, near Kibbutz Yasur, **Israel**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn; *human remains*: bone fragmentation did not allow for the estimation of sex or even the calculation of MNI; *additional information*: cremations were discovered in area B inside vessels that did not show any sign of contact with fire – cooking pot, storage jug, and a jug (L55 – 158/1; L56 – 172/1, 173/1); *references*: Alexandre & Stern 2001; Zidan 2014.

64. **Tell el-Ajjul/Tell el'Ajul**, cemetery A and J; *location*: **Gaza Strip**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urns, in pit (1022 and 1024); *additional information*: W.M. Flinders

Petrie (1932) discovered fourteen cremation graves at cemetery A and J: 1022, 1024, 1038, 1093, 1102, 1106, 1120, 1126, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1151, 1153, 1160 (after Bloch-Smith 1992). Culican (1973) mentions graves 95, 1095, and 1122; *references*: Bieńkowski 1982; Bloch-Smith 1992; Culican 1973, Petrie 1932.

65. **Tell el-Farah/Tell Fara/Tirzah**, South (Cemetery 500); *location*: **Palestine**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn/pit; *pyre*: perhaps *in situ* in tomb 235; *human remains*: remains belonged mostly to adult females (tombs 219, 250, 251, 253), one male (257 – sex assessment is unsure), and children (215, 262 – perhaps not a child but a young adult, 264) (Abercrombie 1979); *additional information*: W.M. Flinders Petrie (1932) discovered at least 29 cremation burials in urns (215-219, 223, 233, 250-72) covered with inverted bowls. There are some inaccuracies between tomb numbers; Abercrombie's list mentions, in addition to the aforementioned, tombs 213 and 235, while 233 is missing. All of them were buried around cist tomb 233. Urns with cremations were deposited next to inhumations. Perhaps tomb 135 represents a burial with associated pyre in situ (Abercrombie 1979); references: Abercrombie 1979; Bloch-Smith 1992, Petrie 1932.

Tell el-Farah/Tell Fara/Tirzah, North (Cemetery 200); *location*: **Palestine**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: 28; *burial type*: urn; *human remains*: each cremation burial contained the remains of one individual. Remains belonged to males, females, and infants; *references*: Culican 1973; Lehmann et al. 2019; McClellan 1979.

66. **Tell er-Rechidiyeh/Tell el-Rachidieh/Tell el-Rashidiyeh/Tell Residiyye**; *location*: South of Tyre, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *burial type*: urn/pit; *additional information*: over 100 urns containing ash and calcinated bones were discovered but not all the finds were published (Doumet-Serhal 2003). Up until 1995, seventeen rock-cut tombs were discovered at the necropolis. Rock-cut tombs were discovered on the eastern part of the slope, with three chambers still closed by slabs. Both inhumations and cremations (more common) were deposited within the chambers (Sader 1995, Beyl 2013). Charred bones were placed in jars and urns (after Sader 1995). Later, six additional rock-cut tombs with cremation burials were discovered; *references*: Beyl 2013; Bloch-Smith 1992; Culican 1973; Doumet-Serhal 2003; Macridy 1904; Sader 1995.

67. **Tell er-Reqeish/Tell er-Ruqeish/Tall al-Arqeis**; *location*: south of Gaza, **Gaza Strip**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: 59?; *burial type*: urn/pit; *pyre*: *in situ*, pyre left traces in the sand; *human remains*: it was assessed that the bones belonged to three males around 40 years old, one individual of unidentified sex that was estimated to be 30 years old, and one female between 18–25 years old with a fetus, as well as children and adolescents (Bloch-Smith 1992). Skulls were always located at the upper part

of the urn; *additional information*: Abercrombie (1979) mentions 21 tombs (1–3, 5–23), five unnamed cremation burials in urns from which remains were described as 'human remains.' It is uncertain if vessels in graves 23–32 contained cremated human remains. In addition, 54 other cremated burials were discovered (after Bloch-Smith 1992, Culican 1973); *references*: Abercrombie 1979; Bieńkowski 1982; Bloch-Smith 1992; Culican 1973; Master & Aja 2017; Singer-Avitz 2006.

68. **Tell es-Sumeiriya** (Loḥamé Hageta'ot); *location*: north from Acre, **Israel**; *date*: Persian Period; *MNI*: one; *burial type*: pit; *human remains*: a child's (7–8 years) remains were deposited in the grave. The remains were cremated at a low temperature; *reference*: Messika 1996.

69. **Tell Fanus**; *location*: northeast of Qazrin, **Israel**; *date*: Roman Period; *MNI*: one; *burial type*: secondary burial; *human remains*: it was assessed that burned bones belonged to at least a 19 years old male; *additional information*: area B1 – a looted cell was discovered inside a stone cairn. Human remains were found outside the cell. It was suggested that the remains represent secondary use of the tomb during the Roman Period; *reference*: Zingboym & Assis 2014.

70. **Tell Megadim/Tell Sahar** (Qertah); *location*: south from Atlit, **Israel**; *date*: Persian Period; *MNI*: six individuals; *burial type*: urn/pit; *additional information*: six cremation burials were discovered in a destroyed layer within stratum III (Elayi 1982). M. Broshi, during his excavation, discovered both cremation and inhumation burials. It seems that he identified cremation burials based on ashy deposits discovered within pits and not necessarily based on burned bones in urns (after Wolff 2002); *references*: Elayi 1982; Wolff 2002.

71. **Tyre**; *location*: next to the Egyptian harbour, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: three; *burial type*: urns; *human remains*: urn 1 – contained 200g of cremains; urn 4 – it was difficult to remove the contents manually after they had been left to dry for too long. Urns 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 were emptied but small charred bones remained. Urn 6 was fragmented in antiquity. TT91.40 (contents of urn 1) – it was possible to recognise fragments of vertebrae and phalanges. Based on fragment size it seems that the bones did not belong to an infant. TT91.41-2 (contents of urn 2) – it was possible to recognize bones of the hand and foot as well as pieces of long bones, age was assessed as over 14 years. Based on colour it was established that the remains were burned likely at a temperature over 800°C. TT 91.44 (contents of urn 6) – among charred bones it was possible to recognise fragments of long bones and pelvis; *additional information*: at least twelve urns containing cremated remains were discovered in Tyre. Two urns from Tyre were bought on the market, they still contained burned bone fragments; *references*: Conheeney & Pipe 1991; Seeden 1991.

72. **Tyre Al-Bass**; *location*: Tyr-Naqüra Road, **Lebanon**; *date*: Iron Age; *MNI*: 278; *burial type*: urn; *pyre*: some graves have traces of fire. Tomb 8 – fire was lit before the tomb was closed. The finds indicate that the pyre was sifted (?) to separate ashes from bones. The equipment put into a grave bore no signs of fire; *human remains*: cinerary urns contained the remains of single individuals, mostly adults. The younger individuals were assessed to be approximately 12–14 years of age (Aubet 2010); *additional information*: Hundreds of cinerary urns were discovered in the area by Sader (1995). Between 1997 and 2008 another c. 320 cremation urns were discovered. Some individuals were buried in twin urns (one contained ashes, the second charred bones and personal possessions); *references*: Aubet 2010; Beyl 2013; Núnez 2017; Sader 1995.

73. **Umm ad-Dananir**; *location*: Baq'ah Valley, 15km north-west of Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Late Bronze Age; *MNI*: unknown; *burial type*: cave; *pyre*: *in situ*; *human remains*: adult individual; *additional information*: cave B3 – three skeletons were deposited around an inverted bichrome bowl (three other skeletons were deposited in close proximity). No cut marks were visible on the bones. It is uncertain if the bones were cremated intentionally (McGovern 1982). The name of the site is in question, in Nashef (1983) it is referred to as Gebel al-Guwayya, while in McGovern (1982) as Jebel al-Qesir. Due to the complementary description of the cave and its location in Baq'ah Valley in Umm ad-Dananir, it was assumed that both names describe the same place; *references*: McGovern 1982; Nabulsi 2019; Nashef et al. 1983.

74. **Umm as-Summaq al-Janubi**; *location*: Amman, **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *MNI*: two; *burial type*: cave, urn; *human remains*: in case of both individuals, the discovered charred bones represented 'less than 20% of the total skeleton.' Based on colour it was established that the bones were burned at c. 600°C. USJ-001 – most of the fragments represented long bones, fragments of vertebrae, and flat bones. Based on the femoral head and fusion of the distal epiphysis of the radius it was possible to assess age to between 15–21 years. Based on the robusticity of the bones it was speculated that the bones belonged to a male individual. USJ-002 – it was possible to recognise elements of the skull and the pelvis. Based on a strongly expressed nuchal lines and a narrow sciatic notch it was possible to assess sex of an individual as male, age 45–55 years; *reference*: Shmais & Nabulsi 2009.

75. **Wadi Hammeh 27**; *location*: Pella, **Jordan**; *date*: Epipaleolithic; *MNI*: three; *burial type*: cave; *human remains*: cranial fragments show signs of contact with fire; *additional information*: structures 1 and 2 (phase 1) – burned and calcined cranial fragments were discovered. It is unclear if the burning was intentional (Webb & Edwards 2002); *references*: Delage & Sunseri 2004; Webb & Edwards 2002.

76. **Yaṣīlah-Irbid**; *location*: **Jordan**; *date*: Roman Period; *burial type*: cave/urn; *human remains*: calcined bones and ash were deposited inside an urn; *additional information*: in Tomb I, one leaden urn containing a cremation was discovered, the urn was buried in the ground; *references*: Al-Muheisen & Tarrier 1996; Nabulsi 2019.

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