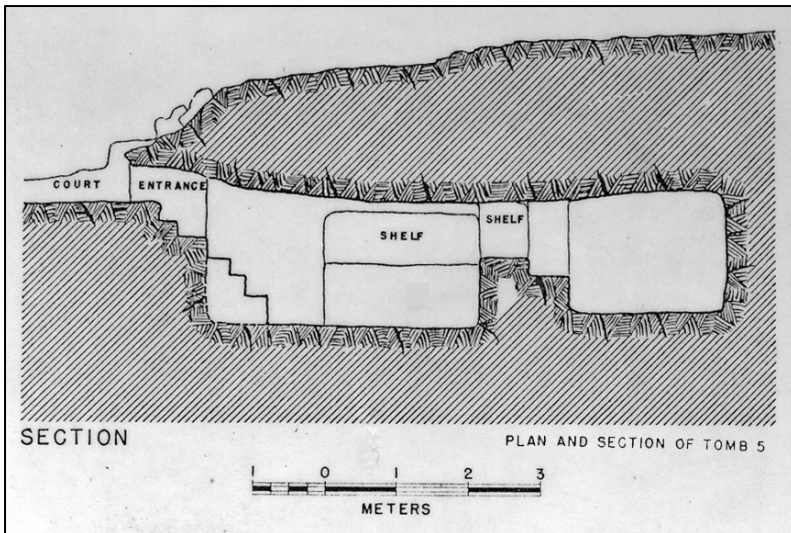


BURIAL PRACTICES



Caves located outside the town wall and carved into the slopes of the tell served as tombs for the inhabitants of Tell en-Nasbeh. Although disturbed in ancient times by grave robbers, the tombs yielded a fine variety of artifacts and revealed something of Judean burial practices.

A typical tomb of the Iron Age was entered by a short flight of steps which led down to the first chamber. The body, along with lamps, jewelry and pottery, was placed on a rock shelf at the side of the chamber. After the burial ceremonies had been performed, the tomb was sealed and the flesh began to decompose. Later the bones were moved to the back chamber and the tomb could be reused as other family members died. The phrase, "gathered to his people" (Genesis 25:8, 35:29; Deut 32:50) often meant literally buried in the same tomb with relatives.

Place dipper juglet here

This **dipper juglet** dating between 900 and 600 B.C. was found in Tomb 5, the largest of the Tell en-Nasbeh tombs. Notice the similar juglet at the bottom center in the photograph below of Tomb 5.

