

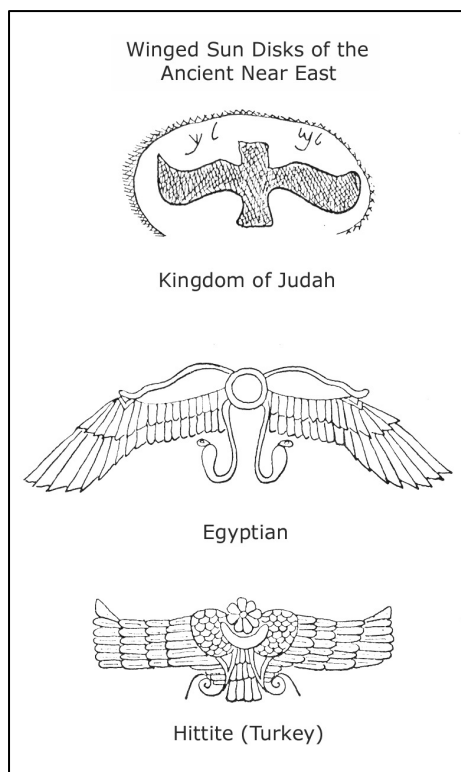
INSCRIBED MATERIAL

Inscriptions are of great importance to archaeologists, not only for what they say but because they can often be dated precisely. Here are two examples of inscribed material from Tell en-Nasbeh.



This black and white agate seal came from a tomb at Tell en-Nasbeh. About the size of a thumbnail and pierced like a bead, the seal could be worn by its owner and pressed into wet clay to produce his or her "signature." In Hebrew letters of the 6th century B.C., the impression (left) reads:

"Belonging to Jaazaniah, Officer of the King." II Kings 25:23 mentions an army captain named Jaazaniah who was at Mizpah in 586 B.C. after the fall of Jerusalem. It is possible that this seal belonged to him. The fighting cock on the lower part of the seal is one of the oldest representations of the rooster found in Israel/Palestine.



An imperfect seal impression can be seen on this replica **jar handle** that resembles handles found at Tell en-Nasbeh. The handle was probably broken from a jar of standard size used to supply towns and cities before an enemy siege. One of four 7th century B.C. Hebrew letters is preserved at the top of the seal, read right to left: L M L K. They spell out the word *lemelekh* "belonging to the king."

It is believed that the winged sun disk, a symbol of royalty in the ancient Near East, originated in Egypt where the falcon god Horus, often depicted as the sun, protected the pharaoh.

Place jar handle here