

Shalom שלום

Today I would like to take you to visit Khirbet Qeiyafa.

We get in the car and drive 45 min. from Jerusalem

south-west. Look out the window and

you see vineyards and orchards of olive

trees, fig trees and pomegranate trees ripening from

yellow to pink and finally deep crimson red. 11 years

ago an archeologist, Yosef Garfinkel, dug in the foothills of the

Judean Mountains. Under the blistering June sun he made

the most amazing discovery. Spread out around him was the

walls of a huge 5.7 acre fortress, built in the vale of Elah

between Azekah and Socoh (Shochoh). What they found told



CAN YOU FIND
THE FIVE DATE
PITS YOSEF
DROPPED?

ELAH

them it was a Hebrew fortress from the time of Saul and David. They even found an ostracon, ^(see below) inscribed pottery shard, that describes taking care of widows, fatherless, strangers and the poor like in Deut 10:18. They also found jar handles by the 100s and date pits, fire pits, staircases. Most important they also dug up a double layered gate (on reverse). Imagine standing there in the gate wearing Goliath's shout echoing off the surrounding hills "give me a man..." can you feel the goosebumps on your skin

look down to the brook Elah and watch David pick out 5 smooth stones? we walk back down

with the blistering sun and wind in our faces and wonder where we will travel to next?

LOTS OF HUGS
CRAZY AUNTIE
LINDSAY

