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Ivory Seal of slm (Son of) kkl : Discovered in the 2010 Excavation Season -- Concentric Circle Incisions on Jar Handles / Omar Sergi -- Iron Age II Architectural Fragments at Ramat Rahel / Keren Ras. ; Chapter Six -- Historical Introduction to the Second Building Phase : Judah under Egyptian and Babylonian Rule. ; Chapter Seven -- Second Building Phase (Late 7th Century BCE) -- Second building phase landscape designs / Nirit Kedem -- The Royal Garden -- The royal garden and Ancient near eastern parallels / Boaz Gross -- Water Instillations and Conspicuous Consumption -- Boundaries of the Building Complex and its Fortifications -- Inner Courtyard, Eastern Courtyard and Buildings inside the Complex -- Rosette Stamp Impressions on Jar Handles / Ido Koch -- Dating the Second Building Phase -- Iron Age Pottery Vessels : Typology, Chronology and Use / Liora Freud -- Elegant Trumpet-based krater : Equivalent to the Vessel from the "House of Bullae" in the City of David / Liora Freud -- The King's Feast : Evidence for Palace Courtyard Ceremonies in the Second Building Phase -- Lion Stamp Impressions and their Significance for Understanding the Babylonian Period in Judah -- Three-Dimensional Palace Reconstruction of the Second Building Phase. ; Chapter Eight -- Historical Introduction to the Third Building Phase : Judah under Persian Rule. ; Chapter Nine -- Third Building Phase (Late 6th or 5th Century BCE) -- The Persian Period Administrative Center at Ramat Rahel -- Yehud Stamp Impressions on Jar Handles -- A Persian Period Garbage Pit Containing an Assemblage of yehud Stamped Jars -- Recreation of the Royal Garden Vegetation / Dafna Langgut -- Twilight of the Administrative Center during the Early Hellenistic Period -- yslm Stamp Impressions on Jar Handles / Efrat Bocher. ; Chapter Ten -- Destruction and Oblivescence of the Administrative Center in Ramat Rahel. ; Section Three -- From Government Center to Jewish Village : Ramat Rahel between the Hasmonean Period and the First Jewish-Roman War. ; Chapter Eleven -- Fourth Building Phase : the Hasmonean and Early Roman Periods -- Second Temple Period Ritual Baths in Ramat Rahel / Ronny Reich -- The Southern Columbarium / Uri Davidovich -- The Tyrian Silver Coin Hoard in the Columbarium / Yoav Farhi. ; Section Four -- The Rural Settlement : Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad Periods to the Days of Kibbutz Ramat Rahel. ; Chapter Twelve -- Fifth Building Phase : Late Roman and Byzantine Period Settlements -- Rare Hadrian Bulla / Yoav Farhi -- The Late Roman Period Graveyard / Keren Ras. ; Chapter Thirteen -- Abbasid to Ottoman Periods (660-1517 CE) / Itamar Taxel. ; Chapter Fourteen -- Coins and Hoards / Yoav Farhi. ; Chapter Fifteen -- Subterranean Space Survey in the Southern Ramat Rahel Hilltop / Uri Davidovich and Roi Porat. ; Chapter Sixteen -- "Landscape Archaeology" in the Western Slopes of Ramat Rahel / Uri Davidovich. ; Chapter Seventeen -- Modern Period : the Story of Kibbutz Ramat Rahel / Efrat Cocher -- Modern Fortifications / Efrat Bocher -- Conclusion -- The Ramat Rahel Excavations and a Few Thoughts about the Significance of Archaeology for Understanding the History of Judah

Sommario/riassunto

The excavations at Ramat Rahel, just south of Jerusalem, revealed a complex of structures that existed for hundreds of years in which the Kingdom of Judah was a vassal of diverse empires. Over some 500 years, jars bearing seals were stored at the site. The findings throw new light on the late First Temple period and on most of that of the Second Temple. During these centuries Ramat Rahel was the administrative contact point between Judah and the ruling empires. This is what enabled independent Judean control of Jerusalem and the Temple, and the ability to maintain Jewish identity within Jerusalem almost without outside intervention and supervision. All this came to an end during the

