

quite large for a Bronze Age building, and especially one that sat in isolation. The collective evidence strongly suggests that the owner and resident of the Middle Building at Jericho was a wealthy and powerful individual, which would be expected if it was identified with a ruler such as Eglon of Moab.

Garstang, Kenyon, and Bienkowski all dated the Middle Building to the Late Bronze II, and approximately the late 14th century BCE or possibly the early 13th century BCE. (Garstang 1948: 180; Kenyon 1957: 261; Bienkowski 1986: 120). Wright argues that a phase existed between the end of the Bronze Age city and the Late Bronze II Middle Building because of a layer of debris found between the two aforementioned strata.

The existence of this phase of occupation between the C Palace and the “Middle Building” was inferred mainly from the fact that the latter was built in a layer of debris which contained sherds from the period between the end of the C Palace (“Lower Building”) and the latest occupation of the Middle Building as deducible from the painted sherds which were found above its floor-level. Under the circumstances it is clear that nothing can be deduced from this situation except the fact that the Middle Building was constructed after the reoccupation had been in process for some time, and perhaps after a partial destruction (Wright 1942: 32).

What Wright refers to here is actually a short period of an occupational hiatus on the site between the final Bronze Age city and the Middle Building, when nothing was built on the site, but some debris washed down and collected over the top of the stratum of City IVc. This indicates a short period between the destruction of the final Bronze Age city and the building and occupation of the Middle Building. Because of the Late Bronze IIA pottery and the indication of an occupational hiatus after the destruction of Jericho IVc, the date of this residence would likely be in the middle to late 14th century BCE.

After the short term occupation of the Middle Building, the site of Jericho was abandoned until sometime in Iron I. Following the chronology of the Israelite Conquest previously discussed, Eglon of Moab would have lived at the beginning of the reigns of the Judges, not long after Joshua died. A calculation of absolute chronology indicates that Eglon would have resided at Jericho sometime during the middle and late 14th century BCE. The mid to late 14th century BCE occupation for the building, the short term habitation of the Middle Building followed by a long abandonment of the site, and