

During the Chalcolithic period (4000-3150 B.C.E.), reburials sometimes took place in large urns or ossuaries (a vessel for reburial of bones), such as this one from the Hazorea Archaeological Museum in western Galilee. Often infants were buried beneath the floors of houses as though the family wanted them close by the living members of the household. The top of this urn has a large, open mouth so that the skull can fit into it. The figure of a human being is modeled in relief on one side. In front of the urn are the remains of a jaw that were found in it.