

One of the most exciting discoveries from the southwestern corner of the lower city of ancient Hazor was this intact shrine from the Holy of Holies of a small, broadhouse temple (that is, it is entered on the long side rather than the narrow side). This is a Late Canaanite or Late Bronze II temple of the 13th century B.C.E. Eight tall standing stones, or stelae, carved from basalt provide a focus for the worshipper. The central standing stone depicts two suppliant hands engraved with a lunar crescent and circle between and above the hands. To the right stands a massive stone (an orthostat), originally from the temple's porch, displaying a lion carved with artistic skill in low relief. To the left a statuette of a man or god sits on his throne, or chair, holding a cup. According to the excavator of Hazor, Yigael Yadin, the shrine was destroyed by Joshua in a general conflagration in the 13th century B.C.E. (Joshua 11:10-13).