

Some of the most beautifully carved ivories known from the ancient Near East were discovered at Megiddo. This one is an openwork portrayal of the Egyptian god Bes, protector of pregnant women. Note that his tongue is grossly exaggerated, typical of Bes figurines. He wears the feather, or palm, headdress, has a beard and long hair and sports wings. He wears an Egyptian kilt with a sash that hangs to the ground. Dated by the excavators to 1350-1150 B.C.E., this piece is equipped with tenons at right to attach it to a piece of furniture or a standard.

For another representation of Bes, as found at Dor, see Slide 38.