

A gate complex at Dan was built in the Israelite period (ninth century B.C.E.). It had an inner and outer gate, a stone-paved square and massive city walls. Here we look westward toward the platform at the west end of the open courtyard (see Slide 45); perhaps this was the city's "open courtyard" as mentioned in Judges 19:15 or the "square of the gate of the city" as in 2 Chronicles 32:6. This open courtyard measures about 60 feet by 30 feet. A road leads westward from here, around and to the left of the platform to a right turn up the tell, called a "royal processional route" by the excavator, Avraham Biran.