

Next to the east wall of the south guard room of the inner city gate of the Israelite period stood this structure. It stands on the west side of a paved courtyard. The view is looking west. We see a raised platform, or *bamah*, of cut limestone at lower right; perhaps it supported the throne of a king or other official. Four decorated, basalt bases for columns provided support for a canopy to protect the king or official from the sun. One such base can be seen to the left of the platform. Behind and to the right of the platform (that is, to the north) is a low bench that runs some 15 feet to the city wall. The bench may have been used by the elders of the community.