

# A Hiding Complex from the Period of the Bar Kokhba Revolt at the Ancient Settlement of Ḥuqoq

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## Abstract

The ancient Jewish site of Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq has recently become famous for its synagogue and magnificent 5th-century CE mosaic floor. While unearthing the synagogue, a rock-hewn hiding complex was discovered beneath the floor and partially excavated. This complex (Hiding Complex 1) provided an emergency escape route via winding passages to a cistern, the side of which could be scaled with a ladder. Another hiding complex—Hiding Complex 2—was discovered as early as the 1980s at the base of the synagogue hill's northern slope. It was surveyed and documented several times. In 2002, four chambers and several passages were excavated, and in 2021, the entrance was excavated, demonstrating it had been accessed via a ritual bath. This article presents the excavation results of the Ḥuqoq Hiding Complex 2. Among other things, they include a rich 2nd-century CE pottery assemblage retrieved from the inner passages of the complex, including fragments of cooking pots, jars, oil lamps, and a gemstone ring. A hoard of 22 coins, the first to be discovered in a Galilean hiding complex, was found deep inside one of the tunnels. Presently, only one was dated to the 2nd century CE. In this paper, we place Ḥuqoq in the context of some 14 other hiding complexes that were officially excavated and attributed by pottery and some other finds to the 2nd century CE. The paper explores a new dimension of the question about the Galilee's participation in the Bar Kokhba Revolt. At the very least, it is now certain that the local population prepared for the revolt.

**Keywords:** hiding complexes; the Great Revolt; the Bar Kokhba Revolt; Galilee; Ḥuqoq

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## 1. Introduction

Over the past three decades, much research on Galilean caves has been conducted, resulting, among other things, in the discovery of numerous underground hiding complexes and refuge-cave systems. An extensive exploration of the Galilean hiding complexes and refuge caves was pursued by Yinon Shvitzel, assisted by the Israel Center for Cave Research (ICRC). Striving to meet the highest standards, the team followed the procedures of speleological documentation and analysis while paying close attention to the classification of hiding complexes based on the care taken in their quality of finish, planning, and execution. The form of quarrying and the type of finish attests to different periods of preparation (Shvitzel and Osband 2019). This extensive research paved the way for a detailed comparison with the better-known refuge caves and hiding complexes in Judea, identified as part of the defensive method of the Jews in antiquity, particularly during the Great and Bar Kokhba Revolts. Hiding complexes in both regions share similar structures and material culture. In addition to the rock-hewn hiding complexes, the Jews of Galilee during the Second Temple period also hid in natural caves or *cliff shelters* in steep cliffs near Jewish settlements (Shvitzel 2019).

This article discusses one of two hiding complexes at the settlement of Ḥuqoq. It was partially excavated, and in our opinion our findings will make a significant contribution to the discussion of the Galilee's participation in the Bar Kokhba Revolt.

Up to the time of writing, we have identified 75 Galilean hiding complexes at 59 sites. Because of the physical difficulties and the harsh conditions in the hiding complexes and burrows, partial archaeological excavations have only been conducted in 21. All the complexes surveyed and documented in the Galilee have yielded evidence of intensive use during the Great Revolt (66–73 CE), as recorded by Josephus (Shvitzel 2019: 100). Notably, in several hiding complexes, 2nd-century CE pottery was also found (Table 1), possibly in association with the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132–135 CE). These observations raise the question concerning Galilean participation in this revolt. While it is widely presumed that the Galilee did not actively participate in the uprising, some level of involvement now seems undeniable. Perhaps, they only prepared the underground refuge systems but did not subsequently use them.

**Table 1.** Excavated hiding complexes in northern Israel with 2nd-century CE finds.

Location of complex	Map ref.	Type of excavation	Finds	Sources
Gush Ḥalav, Gisela (Jish)	242044/ 770044	Salvage excavation	Greek inscriptions, fragments of a jar base, four jar lids, oil-lamp niches; the entire assemblage dates from the 1st–2nd centuries CE	Damati and Abu-‘Uqsa 1992
Ḥorbat Merot, the synagogue complex	249935/ 770753	Cleaning and partial excavation	The hiding complex was identified as having been used in two periods: Early and Middle Roman	Ilan and Damati 1987
Mount Ḥazon Khirbat Hazzur	237472/ 756837	Partial excavation	1st-century CE pottery and a fragment of a roof tile of the Sixth Legion Ferrata; the complex was dated to the 2nd century CE	Bahat 1974
Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq, the synagogue complex	245250/ 754527	Cleaning and partial excavation	Potsherds from the 1st–5th centuries CE	Shivtiel 2016
Khirbat Khuwweikh	232443/ 739262	Excavation by Barshad Dror	Potsherds from the second half of the 2nd century CE and an ostracon with a Hebrew inscription	Aviam 2004
I’bllin	218333/ 747531	Excavation	Fragments of jars, stone vessels, 2nd–3rd century CE pottery, and Early Roman clay lamps with pared nozzles	Muqari 1999
Ḥorbat Ruma, Khirbat Ruma	227765/ 743833	Salvage excavation	Plaster with a composition no earlier than the first half of the 1st century CE and 1st–2nd century CE pottery	Rochman 1985
Karm er-Ras, Kafr Kanna, Areas T and W	231554/ 739558	Salvage excavation	Eleven intact pottery jars of the time of the Great Revolt; two bronze coins minted in Jerusalem in the second year of the Great Revolt; numerous finds and a 2nd–3rd-century CE habitation layer	Alexandre 2008
‘Enot Sho‘im, ‘En Mahel	232265/ 735546	Excavation	Pottery and coins from the 1st–3rd centuries CE, a gemstone ring used in the 2nd century CE	Leibner, Shivtiel, and Distelfeld 2015

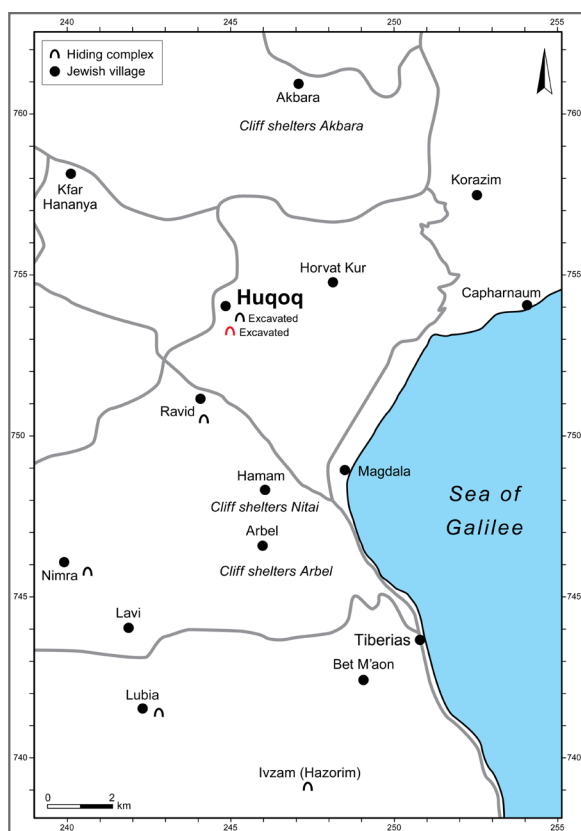
Location of complex	Map ref.	Type of excavation	Finds	Sources
Zippori citadel complex, Saffuriya	226411/739903	Excavation	Intact Early Roman jars, a bone hairpin, a pottery lamp, and 1st–3rd century CE potsherds.	Strange and Longstaff 1985
Zippori, southwest of citadel, Saffuriya	226411/739903	Excavation	Cooking pot fragments, potsherds, and jars dated to the Middle Roman period.	Strange and Longstaff 1987
Migdal ha-'Emeq	222134/731257	Excavation	A 1st-century CE coin of the city of Tyre, a coin from the time of Governor Felix, a 3rd-century CE coin from the time of Severus, 17 4th-century CE coins, Early Roman potsherds and glass fragments	Shalem 1996
Beth She'arim, Areas A, C, D	212236/734048	Excavation	Many finds from the deep chambers and tunnels are 2nd century CE; one room yielded meager finds that may be 3rd–4th century CE, possibly indicating later reuse, although the passage was probably hewn at the time of the Bar Kokhba Revolt.	Erlich et al., this volume
Geva' Parashim	213288/724225	Excavation	Mixed finds from the Hellenistic to Mamluk periods (a result of potsherds sliding in from the surface); an intact Byzantine-period "Samaritan" lamp bearing a motif that may be a <i>menorah</i> . The building remains, where the hiding passage was located, yielded fragments of various 1st–6th-century CE vessels.	Safrai and Linn 1988; Shvitiel and Safrai 2021

In this study, we present recent excavation results of a hiding complex at Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq, dubbed *Hiding Complex 2*, and use them to discuss the Galilee's participation in the Bar Kokhba Revolt. Following a brief overview of the history of research of Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq, we offer a concise account of the excavation of Hiding Complex 2, its results, and implications.

## 2. Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq

### 2.1. Geographical and Historical Background

The ruins of the Arab village of Yaquq spread over two adjacent hillocks in Eastern Upper Galilee (map ref. 245328/754600). Beneath them, remains of an ancient Jewish settlement were found over an area of ca. 30 dunams. The hill it occupied was prominent, 230 m above sea level, overlooking the Ginossar Valley and in eyeshot of the settlements of Arbel, Migdal (Magdala), Tiberias, 'Akhbara, Z̤efat, and Yamnit (Fig. 1). The settlement's core was probably to the east of what we today refer to as Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq, at Sheikh Nashi Hill where a continuous occupation has been recorded, spanning the Iron Age and the Roman and Byzantine periods. The early settlement had covered ca. 12 dunams and gradually expanded west towards the broader Ḥuqoq Hill. Notably, there are several springs in the site's vicinity, some of which are now defunct. Nevertheless, the main spring on the site's north side is still an active water source.



**Fig. 1.** Location map of Ḥuqoq and the Eastern Galilee (Sapir Haad).

The topographical conditions of the area dictated that several roads passed nearby. One road connected the Ginossar Valley with the city of Ḥazor, another led from Ḥuqoq to Zefat via 'Amud and 'Akhbara Streams, and a third led from Ḥuqoq to Bersabe in Galilee and the valley of Bet ha-Kerem.

Emmanuel Damati proposed identifying the site with Kapharekcho, one of the fortified Galilean Settlements listed by Josephus (*J.W.* 2.573). Damati based his suggestion on the numerous alterations to the name *Ḥuqoq* in Talmudic literature, claiming that *Ḥuqoq* was a derivation from the names 'Icho, 'Acho, 'Achos, or *Kapharekcho* (Damati 1986). Damati's proposal is also supported by the cliff shelters discovered in the nearby 'Amud Stream, whose archaeological finds attest to their use in the Second Temple period (Shivtiel 2019: 63–72).

The low hilly land in the western part of the settlement is well-suited for arable farming, and its Jewish farmers presumably specialized in mustard cultivation, a crop specifically mentioned in the Jerusalem Talmud in connection with Ḥuqoq. The Jerusalem Talmud records a visit to Ḥuqoq by Rabbi Shimon Ben Laqish, where he saw the villagers “rolling mustard” (*y. Šeb.* 9:1, 38c).<sup>1</sup>

## 2.2. History of Excavations at Ḥuqoq

Bezalel Ravani was the first to excavate Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq in the 1950s, recording four burial caves dating from between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE on the northern side of the site (Kahane 1961; Ravani 1961). In the 1980s, Yigal Tepper, Yotam Tepper, and Gil Der'in surveyed Ḥuqoq Hill and found a *miqveh* (one of two ritual baths found at the site) and distinctive installations they called *Ḥuqoq installations*. Presumably, these installations were used to manufacture mustard-seed oil (Tepper, Der'in, and Tepper 2000: 73, 78, 82).

Zvi Ilan surmised the existence of a synagogue at the site as early as 1991 (Ilan 1991: 122). He based his assertion on certain *ex situ* architectural elements including a lintel ornamented with a *menorah* and a description by Rabbi Ishtori Haparchi (1852: 46), who visited Ḥuqoq in the 13th century CE. Only two decades later were his suspicions confirmed as an expedition headed by Prof. Jodi Magness began excavating in Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq. The recovery of massive ashlar and a sizeable threshold in 2011 confirmed the existence of a 5th-century CE synagogue at the site. Further excavations in 2012–2018 uncovered remains of an outstanding mosaic floor featuring Hebrew and Aramaic inscriptions and various biblical scenes: Samson carrying the gates of Gaza on his shoulders, Samson and two foxes with their tails tied around a lit torch, Jonah swallowed by a fish, the

<sup>1</sup> For details of this agricultural process, see Shivtiel (2016: 201).



Tower of Babel, and other spectacular scenes (Magness et al. 2018). Additionally, a battle scene adorned the northern side of the floor; it depicts an elephant and another animal keeling over with a spear in their abdomens. Five symmetrical figures wearing cloaks adorn the mosaic's lower register.

### 2.3. Hiding Complex 1

In 2006, an 8 m-deep and 1.5 m-wide cistern and an associated hiding complex were identified by the first author and the late Ahikam Amichai from the ICRC near the hilltop where the synagogue was found several years later (Fig. 2). The first author excavated this complex in 2015.



**Fig. 2.** Aerial view of Huqoq, looking northwest (photo: Anya Kleiner, Israel Antiquities Authority).

At least three passages branch out from the bottom of the cistern to the west, northwest, and southeast. The passage extending west was hewn in the middle of the cistern; it was plastered, and one could crawl through it over a distance of 17 m before coming upon an earth-blocked dead end (Fig. 3). The northwestern passage is 8 m long and plaster coated, leading directly under the synagogue and

ending in a shaft with steps that emerge in the center of the synagogue's mosaic floor. More or less halfway along its course, another 7 m-long passage branches to the south, emerging on the surface. The passage leading from the cistern to the southeast is 5 m long and opens into a large space; this space was once another water cistern whose roof was deliberately blocked with a large boulder. This cistern evidently could no longer serve as a water reservoir when the hiding complex was established. The plaster coating of the western and northwestern passages might indicate a later attempt to restore these cisterns.



**Fig. 3.** Hiding Complex 1, a hewn cavity under the synagogue (today entered via the cistern)  
(photo: Vladimir Boslov).

Presently, there are two hypotheses about the hiding complex, its date, and relationship to the synagogue. The first hypothesis states that the hiding complex was hewn in the 1st or 2nd century CE, whereas the synagogue was built in the 5th century CE, incorporating the hiding complex as an emergency escape route. The second hypothesis stipulates that the hiding complex and the synagogue were established at the same time as part of the settlement's emergency defenses and that these features remained operational well into the Byzantine period (Osband and Shvitiel, forthcoming). Plaster traces found in some of the passages need to be analyzed in order to ascertain the use made of the cistern and the hiding passages in later periods (Shvitiel 2016).



### 3. Hiding Complex 2

Hiding Complex 2 was discovered in 1986 on the north side of the hill by Gil Der'in, a youngster from Kibbutz Ḥuqoq. In the late 1980s, Yigal Tepper and Yuval Shachar surveyed the hiding complex, concluding that it was hewn from beneath a residential building's cellar and linked to a cistern (Tepper, Der'in, and Tepper 2000: 76). In 2005, in the course of his doctoral dissertation, the first author re-documented and re-mapped the complex. It was dated to the Second Temple period, based on its rough hewing (at least in the part where passages were cut from inside the cistern) and by comparison with hiding complexes in Judea. It was probably used during the Great Revolt and possibly later (Shivtiel 2019: 133).

#### 3.1. The Excavation

In 2019–2021, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and the authors excavated the hiding complex. The excavation consisted of two principal components: an area on the surface (Figs. 4, 5) and the underground features. Students from Zefat Academic College and volunteers from I.S.A Israeli speleological association majoring in Israel Studies, members of nearby communities, IAA workers, and soldiers from the Samur unit of the IDF's combat engineering corps participated in the excavations.



**Fig. 4.** A general view of the IAA excavations at Ḥuqoq, looking south (photo: Yinon Shivtiel)



**Fig. 5.** *In situ* Roman-period pottery on a floor (photo: Zviki Badihi).

### **3.1.1. The Surface Excavation**

The excavation on the surface comprised five squares, in which several buildings and floors were found and attributed to the Byzantine period (4th–5th centuries CE) and the Roman period (2nd–3rd centuries CE). Significantly, the excavation demonstrated that the Roman-period inhabitants knew and deliberately blocked the cistern's opening. Three restorable pottery vessels were recovered: a serving jug (Fig. 6), a liquid-storage jar (Fig. 7), and a serving bowl (Fig. 8); these vessels are on display in the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem.



**Fig. 6.** Restored jug (photo: Yaniv Ostrovsky).



**Fig. 7.** Restored Jar (photo: Yaniv Ostrovsky).

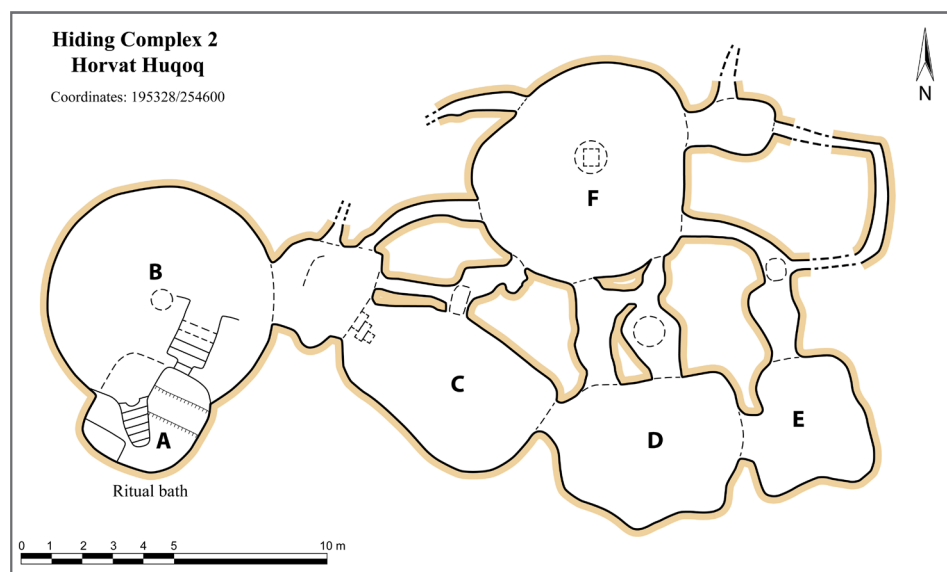




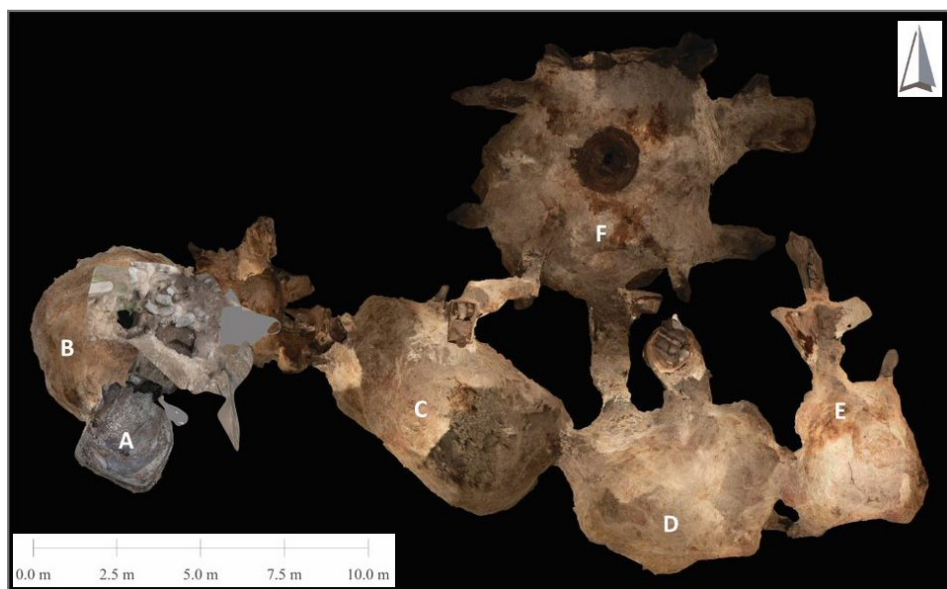
**Fig. 8.** Restored bowl (photo: Yaniv Ostrovsky).

### 3.1.2. The Underground Complex

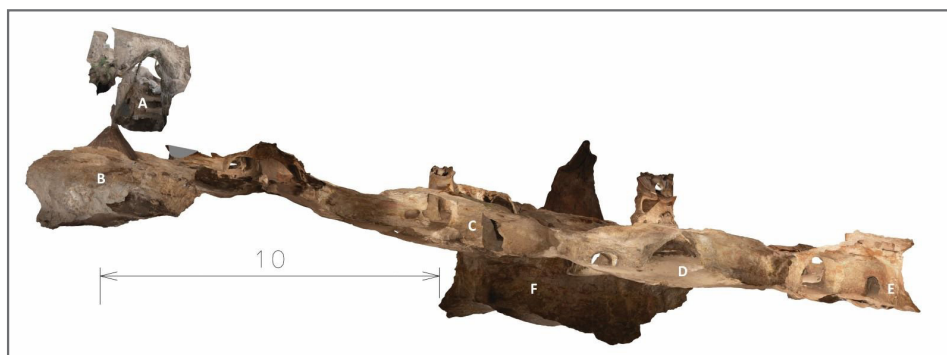
The underground complex was hewn into the chalk bedrock beneath a layer of hard *nari* crust. Seven or eight chambers and cavities were recorded (Figs. 9–11), including a cistern and a plastered *miqveh* (Figs. 12, 13). Apparently, the chambers were comparatively late additions; they rendered the *miqveh* obsolete and breached the cistern's wall, effectively incorporating them into an extensive hiding complex (Figs. 14, 15). The pottery dates the use of the hiding complex to the first half of the 2nd century CE and probably to the Bar Kokhba Revolt (below).



**Fig. 9.** Hiding Complex 2, plan (Elena Delerzon).



**Fig. 10.** Hiding Complex 2, orthophoto  
(Anya Kleiner, Alexander Wiegmann, Israel Antiquities Authority).



**Fig. 11.** Hiding Complex 2, orthophoto section  
(Anya Kleiner, Alexander Wiegmann, Israel Antiquities Authority).





**Fig. 12.** Entrance to the miqveh and Hiding Complex 2, looking northeast (photo: Oren Zingboym).



**Fig. 13.** Carved steps descending from the miqveh into Chamber B (photo: Oren Zingboym).



**Fig. 14.** An extensive meticulously hewn passage (photo: Yinon Shvitiel).



**Fig. 15.** Chamber C (photo: Yinon Shvitzel).

The complex was entered via the *miqveh* (Chamber A; Fig. 14). It comprises a hewn pit and a constructed entrance that leads into the built and plastered ritual bath. From the *miqveh*, a passage with crudely hewn steps leads to Chamber B, formerly a cistern. A stone boulder was used to block the cistern's original opening. From the former cistern (Chamber B), a hewn passage extends east back to Chamber C, whose floor is slightly higher than the cistern's base. It consists of an elliptical space with three additional openings: one oriented east toward Chamber D, one extending north to Chamber F, and another blocked and as yet unexcavated save for a meticulously carved passage (Figs. 16, 17). The passage from Chamber C to F is low, and one must crawl on all fours to pass through it (Figs. 18, 19). From there, another passage leads to Chamber E. Chamber F, which is accessed only by crawling, was also originally a water cistern with a blocked mouth. From here, one passage leads back to Chamber C, and four more blocked narrow tunnels are as yet only partially excavated (Fig. 20).





**Fig. 16.** Sealed opening of water cistern, Chamber F (photo: Yinon Shvitzel).



**Fig. 17.** A hewn passage between chambers C and F (photo: Yinon Shvitzel).



**Fig. 18.** Chamber C, looking east (photo: Oren Zingboym).



**Fig. 19.** Passage between Chambers C and F (photo: Gil Brener).





**Fig. 20.** A passage from Chamber F to other blocked chambers (photo: Yinon Shvitiel).

The excavation yielded glassware and pottery consistent with the 2nd century CE and some metal tools (Fig. 21). Interestingly, an archaeological layer found in the passage between Chambers B and C produced a substantial Middle Bronze Age (2nd millennium BCE) pottery assemblage. It derives from an MB II burial cave breached by the hiding complex.



**Fig. 21.** An ax head (photo: Yaniv Berman).



### 3.2. Second-Century CE Pottery

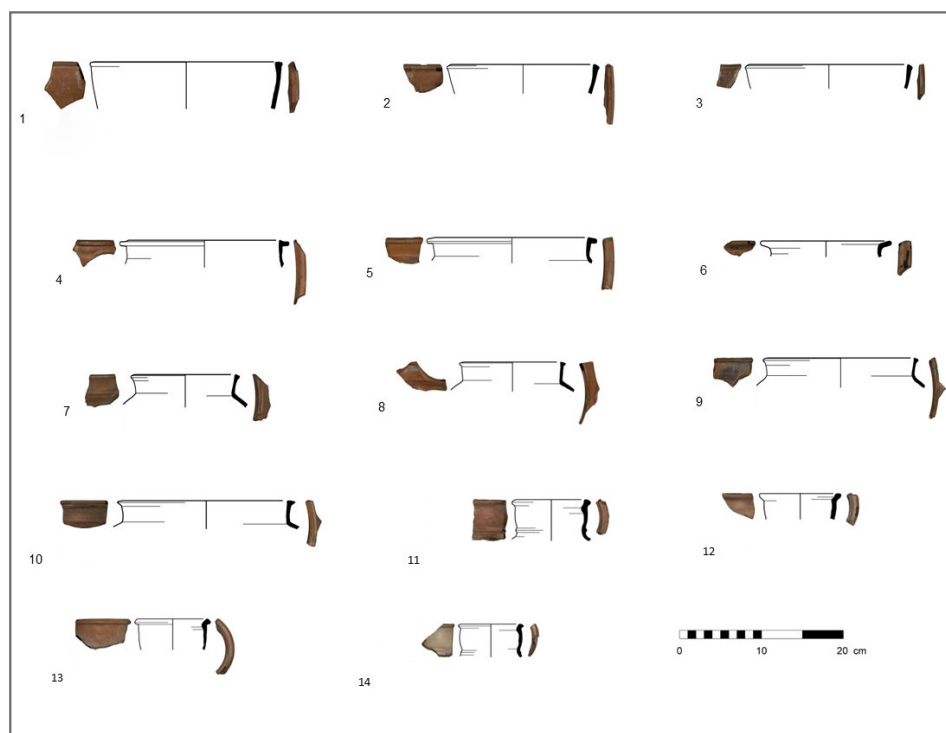
The excavation in Chamber C and the passage leading to Chamber F yielded abundant potsherds, including bowls, cooking pots, oil lamps, and jars. Fragments of glass vessels were also found. The pottery is Kefar Ḥananya Ware, apparently deriving from a workshop located ca. 7.5 km northwest (Adan-Bayewitz 1993).

**Cooking Bowls** (Adan-Bayewitz's Type 1B; Fig. 22:1–3). Several cooking bowl fragments with two grooves on the rim were found. This type of bowl dates from the 1st–early 2nd century CE to the mid-4th century CE and is most widespread during the 2nd–3rd centuries CE (Leibner 2018: 311).

**Open Cooking Bowls** (Type 3B; Fig. 22: 4–6). Several cooking-bowl fragments were found, featuring a carinated shoulder and a narrow flat shelf rim. Bowls of this type date from the 2nd–3rd centuries CE. In Wadi Ḥamam, this vessel type constituted the main component in the ceramic assemblage of the destruction layer of 130 CE (Leibner 2018: 311).

**Cooking Pots.** Five sherds of cooking pots were found, belonging to two types. One (Type 4B/C; Fig. 22: 7–9) features a shallow groove on the vessel's shoulder. This type of pot dates from the 2nd–3rd to the early 4th centuries CE and represents a typological transition from Type 4B to Type 4C (Leibner 2018: 310; Osband et al. 2018: 404). The other (Type 4C; Fig. 22: 10) has thin walls and two shallow grooves on the rim. It appeared in the early 2nd century CE and is the most common cooking pot in Middle Roman-period Galilean assemblages (Leibner 2018: 312).

**Jars.** A number of barrel-shaped, thin-walled jars with two loop handles on the shoulders were found. These jars feature a rounded base, a ribbed body, a round everted rim with an inner groove, and a ridge at the base of the neck. They resemble jars produced at Kefar Shihin: MR GRSJ-type jars dating from the 2nd–early 3rd centuries CE (Fig. 22: 11–12; Leibner 2018: 312) and MR EVSJ-type jars, dating from the 2nd–early 3rd centuries CE (Fig. 22: 13–14; Leibner 2018: 312).



**Fig. 22.** Pottery of Hiding Complex 2.

No.	Basket/reg.	Locus	Vessel type	Type	Parallels
1	3026/9	313	Bowl	KH 1B	Leibner 2018: Pl. 311
2	3026/11	313	Bowl	KH 1B	Leibner 2018: Pl. 311
3	3026/28	313	Bowl	KH 1B	Leibner 2018: Pl. 311
4	3026/16	313	Open cooking pot	KH 3B	Leibner 2018: Pl. 311
5	3026/8	313	Open cooking pot	KH 3B	Leibner 2018: Pl. 311
6	3026/18	313	Open cooking pot	KH 3B	Leibner 2018: Pl. 311
7	3026/12	313	Cooking pot	KH 4 B/C	Leibner 2018: Pls. 310, 312
8	3026/14	313	Cooking pot	KH 4 B/C	Leibner 2018: Pls. 310, 312
9	3026/20	313	Cooking pot	KH 4 B/C	Leibner 2018: Pls. 310, 312
10	3026/6	313	Cooking pot	KH 4 C	Leibner 2018: Pls. 310, 312
11	3026/1	313	Storage Jar	MR GRSJ	Leibner 2018: Pl. 312
12	3026/21	313	Storage Jar	MR GRSJ	Leibner 2018: Pl. 312
13	3026/15	313	Storage Jar	MR EVSJ	Leibner 2018: Pl. 312
14	3026/22	313	Storage Jar	MR EVSJ	Leibner 2018: Pl. 312

### 3.3. Conclusions from the Pottery Finds

The absence of significant 3rd and 4th-century CE ceramic types—e.g., Kefar Ḥananya Types 1E, 1C, and 1D (Leibner 2018: 338)—suggests that the complex predates the 3rd century CE. The assemblage of Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq is remarkably similar to that of Wadi Ḥamam (Leibner 2018: 319–322), which derives from a “Hadrianic destruction layer” (130 CE; Leibner 2018: 320). Thus, we may confidently suggest that the hiding complex in Ḥorbat Ḥuqoq was used during the first half of the 2nd century CE at around the time of the Bar Kokhba Revolt. The pottery finds also indicate that the complex ceased to be used after the revolt’s suppression. This observation is consistent with the lack of historical evidence for unrest in the Galilee after the Bar Kokhba Revolt.

At this stage, analysis of the complex suggests that it had four phases of use:

- **Phase A.** The earliest phase is marked by the MB IIB assemblage in the passage between Chambers B and C. It belonged to a shaft tomb with a smoothly chiseled roof. This roof collapsed in a later period, and the cave fell into disuse.
- **Phase B.** During or after the Second Temple period, in the 1st–2nd centuries CE, the settlement’s Jewish inhabitants quarried two large cisterns and a *miqveh*, to which surface water was channeled. It was accessed via a rock-cut entrance with hewn and plastered steps.
- **Phase C.** In preparation for the Great Revolt in the mid-1st century CE or the Bar Kokhba Revolt in the 2nd century CE, the local inhabitants blocked the cisterns’ mouths and quarried out a hiding complex beneath the village houses. The rock wall between the *miqveh* and the inner cistern was breached, and steps were hastily cut to facilitate movement between the floors. The Bronze Age shaft tomb was incorporated into a passage, and new spaces were carved out for security, shelter, and storage. Further along, a second cistern was incorporated into the complex. In one location, we found remains of a hearth that may attest to the existence of cooking facilities inside the complex. The hearth yielded 2nd-century CE pottery.
- **Phase D.** Mamluk-period pottery in Chambers A and B suggests that these spaces were put to some use at this time.

## 4. Discussion and Summary

Hiding Complex 2 at Ḥuqoq is one of 75 hiding complexes prepared in response to the dire events of the Roman period in the Galilee as well as in Judea and Samaria (Zissu 2001; Raviv 2018). Except for the Middle Bronze Age burial cave, all phases of the complex’s history are in line with all other Galilean hiding complexes.

Nineteen of these complexes have yielded finds dating from both the 1st and the 2nd centuries CE, and another 20 hiding complexes manifest both rough and fine hewing, suggesting two construction phases and two periods of use (Shivtiel and Osband 2019). Archaeological excavations conducted in ten of these hiding complexes have yielded finds from both the 1st and the 2nd centuries CE (Shivtiel 2021) similar to those from the Huqoq excavation. At first, in anticipation of the Great Revolt, the complex was intended to shelter a single family; it linked a dry cistern with one or two access passages. Later, in anticipation of the Bar Kokhba Revolt, more passages were hewn—more meticulously this time—in order to accommodate additional families and shelter them from the danger and violence that had already erupted in Judea and threatened to spill over into Galilee.

The paucity of historical sources describing the Bar Kokhba Revolt, in general, and the Galilee's participation in it, in particular, means that we must rely on archaeological data to study these issues. Notable archaeological evidence includes roof tiles, inscriptions, seals of the Sixth Roman Legion found throughout the Galilee (Shivtiel 2021), and the coin hoard recently found inside one of the passages of the Huqoq Hiding Complex 2.

Evidence from the Galilean hiding complexes and typological comparison with hiding complexes in Judea (Shivtiel and Osband 2019b) show that the Huqoq complex should be assigned to the 1st and 2nd centuries CE. This observation is confirmed by the pottery in the passages. Insofar as Huqoq Hiding Complex 2 and others in the Galilee were used during the Bar Kokhba Revolt, the reference to *Judaea* by Dio Cassius (*Rom. Hist.* 69.14.1–21)—the Roman historian who mentioned the use of hiding complexes during the Bar Kokhba Revolt—must be taken to refer to the entire province by that name, including the Galilee, an interpretation that several scholars subscribe to (e.g., Shivtiel 2021; Ben David and Raviv 2021).

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