PART FOUR

CONCLUSIONS
CHAPTER FIFTEEN

THE SETTLEMENT OF TALL JAWA IN THE BALQĀʾ REGION: CHRONOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Following the final Iron Age II occupation of Tall Jawa (Stratum VII), the site was abandoned and there followed a long gap in occupation. It was only in the late Byzantine–early Islamic period that this location was again chosen as a settlement site.1 In a 5.0 km radius from Tall al-ʿUmayrī, the Regional Survey by the Madaba Plains Project demonstrated that the heaviest settlement concentration in the Balqāʾ region occurred during late Roman-Byzantine times (Boling 1989: fig. 8.117). This same concentration was already documented by the more extensive (10.0 km radius) Hisban survey in the area which extended from al-Yadudah and Tall al-ʿUmayrī East (Site 150) in the east, to Tall Iktanu in the west (Ibach 1987:183). Here 85% or 126 archaeological sites yielded evidence of occupation during the Byzantine period.

Evidence for occupation during the Umayyad period shows a decrease in the survey data from central Jordan, although recent excavations have added to the number of known sites where occupation continued.2 At the site of Ḥisban, the town continued to grow during the Umayyad period, although there is no evidence of architecture dating to the Abbasid period. So too, evidence for food production declined from a High level in the Byzantine and Umayyad periods to a Medium to Low level in the Abbasid period (Labianca 1984:270, 279–280). In the Ḥisban survey, Umayyad pottery was identified at 33 sites (22%), with the heaviest concentration of those sites (ca. 82%) on the Plateau;

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1 A similar pattern of abandonment and resettlement is seen in the archaeological record of Tel Rehov in the Beth Shan valley (Mazar 1999:42).
2 For a recent discussion of the continuation of settlement in certain areas of Transjordan, see Bowersock (2006) and Walmsley (2007).