

a culture development from the primitive to the complex. This plateau is consistently level but with local variations in surface topography, ranging from a flat surface, to one slightly eroded with smooth rounded hills, to semi-desert, to a peculiar black sink-like depression to typical desert. The stratigraphy is finely laminated and horizontal with hills like a contour relief map. Between this particular area and the Dead Sea several present day cities in typical ground plan with many ancient cities situated on top of such a hill just suggested. There are many abandoned cities and habitation which I know are ancient, some possibly antedating anything yet discovered. However the area that is to support the oldest civilization is to be found beyond and in a section of the country where one would never suspect a civilization to have developed. The successive complexity of one simple structure associated with the land topography would suggest such a supposition. This structure is in the form of a simple circular or oblong enclosure, possibly a stone enclosure and used as a corral. The numerous animal trails would indicate that they were not being used for pens at this time. Near the Dead Sea they were few and far between, almost considered to be rare, but as one goes beyond they become more numerous and complex. The sequence would follow on this plan:



Isolated structures, widely separated, and found under varied surface conditions. More generally found on top of divides, ridges or hills, however this was not always the rule.