Two quadrants of CB 3.8 were excavated during the 2000 season at Tel Kedesh, the NW quadrant during the first session and the NE during the second session. The goal sought in opening the NW quadrant was to understand the relationship between the buildings and the proposed house excavated in CB 3.9 and WB 3.1. Moving east into the NE quadrant and thus into the big building was undertaken in order to expose more of the building. By excavating these two quadrants, five possible phases of occupation and habitation were explored and are now proposed: modern, post-Byzantine, Byzantine, Roman, and Hellenistic. It also postulated that on the final day of excavation, a pre-Hellenistic floor level may have been reached.

The modern phase of habitation was evidenced by topsoil/subsoil (CB3010) and the material culture found within the locus. This included Ras al-Fukra ceramics, metalplastic and live ammunition. After the removal of the topsoil, two small wall stubs were exposed in the NW quadrant, along with a portion (CB3007) to the NE quad. The topsoil's removal also exposed a debris/fill/accumulation CB3901 and noob's trench CB38012.

The second phase of occupation/habitation begins with what lies beneath the topsoil. A mixture of grey/pale brown soil (CB38011) appeared in the west, turning far more brown in the east. The latest datable material is Byzantine-Ummayyad, excluding a piece of Ras al-Fukra that is believed to be from contamination. Thus, the noob's trench (CB3802) cut in this locus must post-date CB38011 despite its Hellenistic LDM. Also beneath this topsoil in the NW quad were walls CB38001 and CB38002, and the material that they sealed. The LDM's of these walls and their sealed material were Persian. However, the fact that both these walls sat above loci dated to the Byzantine period (discussed below) means that the walls must also date to the Byzantine period or later. The removal of CB38011 also uncovered CB35021, a proposed Roman/Byzantine door block, discussed below.

With the excavation of CB38011, CB38012, CB38001, CB38001.1_C38002, and C38002.1, the northern half of CB 3.8 was divided into two, that which lay outside the big building and that which lay inside the big building. Outside the building CB38003, a badly degraded plaster surface was exposed as well as another locus of debris/accumulation CB38013. CB38003, like walls CB38001 and CB38002, produced datable material that dates the surface to the Persian period. However, because the surface and its sealed material sat above loci dated to the Byzantine period, the surface itself must date to the Byzantine period or later. Due to the fact that this surface appeared without any architectural features, simply floating into the N wall, it is not possible to speculate the function of this surface.

CB38013, a yellow-brown/brown soil loci which covered the majority of the 5x5. Two loci were possibly contaminated—CB38037 and CB38034. Not including this proposed contamination, the locus dated to the Hellenistic period. It is through this locus and the uncontaminated locus CB38014 below which the Byzantine pit cut. CB38013's removal also exposed wall CB38005. CB38005, which also has CB38014 around it remained unrecovered when the trench was abandoned. CB38014 is a yellow-brown/brown soil locus with a similar matrix to CB38013, covering the entire 5x5 outside the big building. It is proposed that this uncontaminated locus, Hellenistic in date, represents the fill and debris that accumulated during Hellenistic occupation/habitation. Excavations of the pit CB38015 further demonstrates the Byzantine habitation of the Tel. The top may have been found at a higher elevation however.
since the pit did not show itself as a pit clearly, it is not until unit CB3.8.038 that the start of the pit is attributed. The pit remains unfinished.

The excavation of CB38011, which separated the interior and exterior of the building, not only exposed almost the entire top of wall CB38004 but also exposed the whole top of CB38006 and the Roman/Byzantine door block within the wall’s doorway. Also below CB38011 was soil locus CB38016. Excavation of this locus, a brown/pale brown soil exposed the remaining tops of walls CB38004 and CB38007 while continuing to expose courses of all walls, as well as wall CB38006. Its removal also exposed the door block CB38008 and good portion of the broken Hermon jar which sat on the floor in CB38018.

This locus further corroborates Roman occupation/habitation on the Tel as it is dated to the early Roman period. Below CB38016 is CB38017. This locus is composed of decomposed and burned mudbrick, thick lime ash and a mix of loose and compact brown dirt with material which dates to the locus to the Hellenistic period. It is suggested that this is dump and debris that has accumulated on a Hellenistic living surface (CB38015). It is also with the removal of this locus that the smashed Hermon jar was fully exposed and excavated.

CB38018 is thought to be the Hellenistic living surface, a compact trowel Hellenistic semi-fine and local fine pottery, tightly packed in brown, mudbricky soil which covered the whole of the room. Below CB38018 was fill, CB38019, also Hellenistic in date. The soil matrix is quite similar to the floor itself, except that the soil was a bit more loose. With the removal of the Hellenistic floor and the fill beneath this floor, it is appropriate to discuss the both door blocks. Door block CB38021 is located in wall CB38006. The south door is believed to actually contain 2 separate loci despite being assigned one. Due to the manner in which it was excavated, from the side and not from above, this division into 2 separate loci is speculative. There was, however, good reason for excavating from the side.

Because CB380 NE contained almost an entire room and southern facing walls of wall CB38006 are faced with plaster, excavation stopped inside the doorway. Two very large limestone rectangular blocks propped an other tightly packed stones were going to be left in situ. Excavating around them demonstrated that they should in fact be removed. The director/strategographer of the project who excavated the majority of this locus believed that two feet were contained within this locus. However, since it was not excavated from above, the two loci were combined. What is clear is that the door was purposefully blocked and based on the LDM’s, this blocking took place in the Roman period.

The North door block stratigraphy seems a bit more confusing than the stratigraphy in the southern door. However, its Hellenistic phase appears more secure. CB38008, the door block proper, consisted of stacked stones and dark brown soil. CB38008.1 was not the normal ten centimeter peel of sealed material beneath the locus but rather dirt and two stones beneath the block itself and above CB38009. This locus was a plaster test mixture of small stones and pottery which sat on top of CB38020, the same plaster test mixture of stone and pottery that covered the entire doorway. This required that we explore a small portion of CB 4.8. All dateable material from these loci suggest a pre-Hellenistic date. However, wall CB38004, CB38006 and CB38007 all have interior stones that show evidence of fire-cracking. The wall block in the North doorway also contained fire-cracked stones. If the proposed date for the fire-cracked walls in CB 4.8 coincides with those exposed in CB 3.8, and that date is the mid second century BC, the wall block also should be dated no later than the mid-second century BC. Below the north door block and the loci associated with it is CB38022, three large flat stones and more plaster-like flooring. This is something to be explored next season.
CB38023 consists primarily of a large parvus, part of which sits within the doorway, part of which lies within the interior of the room. Uncovered first beneath the Roman/Byzantine door block the locus also includes part of that which lies below CB38019. It has been suggested that this might be an original floor stone that might have been contemporary with the construction of the door and the building in general, i.e. Pre-Hellenistic. Also unearthed beneath CB38019 was a small patch of plaster abutting CB38006, west of the door. This locus was left unexcavated and awaits excavation next season.

Excavations of the northern half of CB 3.8 during the 2000 season were successful although the relationship between the big building and the house to the west was not understood, Byzantine activity was clearly demonstrated by the pit, CB38005, that existed in the NW quadrant. Within the building, Roman activity was shown by fill as well as by the southern door block. Hellenistic occupation/habitation was also clearly demonstrated by the floor CB38018 and debris/dump CB38017. Lastly, possible evidence of original floor levels of the building may have been found and could be explored during the 2001 season.