The trench that we dug during the second session of 1999 excavations at Tel Kedesh is placed about half way between the northern and southern hills of the tel. Prof. Sharon Herbert and Prof. Andrea Berlin decided to dig in this area because of three stones appearing over the surface level and that seemed aligned. Thus, we created a 10 square meter trench and we started to dig in the northeast quadrant, where the three large stones were located. The first working hypothesis was that a street could have been found in this area. During the excavation, a north-south wall was uncovered in the eastern area of the trench, including the three stones showing upon the surface level. East of this wall three sections of a monochrome mosaic were found. Two of them probably belong to the same phase, but the northern section is very different from the previous ones. Three graves, made with large, flat stones and surrounded by smaller ones, were uncovered west of the wall, oriented from east to west. Two piles of stones, not fully excavated, were uncovered along the western balk of the trench and were interpreted as other burials. Two days before the end of the excavation, we opened a 5 by 2.5 meters trench, immediately south of the previous one, in order to clarify the situation of two curving stones that appeared south of the north-south wall.

After the excavation was over, Prof. Herbert and Prof. Berlin divided into loci the twenty-eight units that we created working in one and a half quadrants. The loci of WC.4.1 are: - WC41000 (LDM: Arab): this locus consists of the highest topsoil layer. The topsoil was greyish, dry and very hard to remove. Units WC.4.1.001-WC.4.1.004 and WC.4.1.026 are included in this locus. - WC44001: it is the wall that runs from north to south in the eastern section of the trench we excavated. It is two courses wide and seems closely related to locus WC41001, that is, the two curving stones. - WC41002: this locus consists of the central and southern section of the mosaic floor uncovered east of WC41001. They are divided by a disturbance in the exact point where a stone on WC41001 was probably robbed. The tesserae, white in color, are about 2 by 2 cm and poorly cut. Traces of plaster between WC41002 and WC41001 are still visible. One possibility is that
the two loci were contemporary.

- WC41003: it is the northern section of the mosaic floor. It is on a lower level than WC41002, and its tesserae are much more poorly cut, except the two rows of regularly cut tesserae along WC41001. It is possible that WC41003 is a less careful restoration of an earlier mosaic.
- WC41004 (LDM: Arab): it consists of brownish subsoil that covered most of the trench we excavated, including the mosaic floor. The subsoil was much softer than the topsoil although it contained many small field stones. Units WC.4.1.005-WC.4.1.012, WC.4.1.016, WC.4.1.027-WC.4.1.028 are in locus WC41004.
- WC41005: this locus consists of a fill that is probably Byzantine, since we noticed that the LDM for the units that are in this locus is Byzantine pottery. The soil was generally brown and crumbly and came into contact with the graves found in the trench (WC41006-WC41010).
- Locus WC41006 (LDM: Byzantine): it is the grave along the northern balk of the trench. It is oriented east-west and is made with large flat stones surrounded by smaller field stones. We opened the burial only to verify that it was a burial; thus, after having found the remains of a skull (probably a 35-40 year old woman) we closed the grave without excavating it. Unit WC.4.1.025 is included in this locus.
- WC41007: this locus is probably another grave, although we did not open it. It has the same orientation and structure of WC41006 and WC41008, but its elevation is lower than the others.
- WC41008: it consists of a burial along the southern balk of the trench by 5 meters quadrant. We did not open the burial.
- WC41009: this locus is a group of stones protruding from the western balk of the trench and interpreted as a burial. More excavations are needed in order to clarify the real nature of this locus.
- WC41010: it consists of two large stones emerging in the southwestern corner of the 5 by 5 meter quadrant, surrounded by smaller field stones. It has been interpreted as a burial.
- WC41011: this locus is a large flat stone uncovered in the 5 by 2.5 meters trench, north of the line of the apse. It has been tentatively interpreted as a burial but more excavations are needed to clarify its nature.
- WC41012: it consists of two curving stones that are visible in the 5 by 2.5 meters trench. They are of the same size and at the same level as the second course of WC41001. Thus, it is possible to hypothesize that WC41012 and WC41001 were contemporary.
- WC41013: this locus is a group of stones that have been interpreted as an east-west wall and partially visible in the 5 by 2.5 meters trench. It seems that WC41013 is related to WC41001 and WC41012 in the size and cut of the stones and, also, the level seems to be the same.

Furthermore, WC41013 and WC41001 form the southwestern corner of the mosaic floor. These factors indicate that maybe these three loci were contemporary.

The excavations of WC 4.1 trench have clearly revealed part of a structure that has been interpreted as a funerary chapel, probably Byzantine thanks to ceramic evidence. The building shows one north-south wall, an east-west wall, and the beginning of an apse. East of the north-south wall lies the mosaic floor on two different levels. It has been thought that the mosaic could have been part of a wine press, but this hypothesis does not seem very likely, both because of the strict relation of the mosaic floor with the north-south wall and because of the nature of the building as a funerary chapel.

The various graves that have been uncovered in the building are oriented east-west and two of
them are certainly higher than the level of the mosaic floor nearby. Furthermore, the two graves along the western wall of the trench would probably cut the western wall of the chapel, whose location can be deduced following the line of the apse. These observations, together with the fact that many mosaic tesserae have been found inside the church and also inside grave WC41006, have cast some doubts concerning the common origin of the chapel and the graves. Further excavations could, however, help to know more about the chapel and its relation to the mosaic floor and the various graves.

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