#### Water, Life and Civilisation

Climate, Environment and Society in the Jordan Valley

*Water, Life and Civilisation* provides a unique interdisciplinary study of the relationships between climate, hydrology and human society from 20,000 years ago to 100 years into the future. At the heart of the book is a series of case studies that integrate climate and hydrological modelling with palaeoenvironmental and archaeological evidence to generate new insights into the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Classical periods in the Jordan Valley. The volume not only develops our understanding of this most critical region, but provides a new approach and new methods that can be utilised for exploring the relationships between climate, hydrology and human society in arid and semi-arid regions throughout the world.

This volume describes how state-of-the-art models can simulate the past, present and future climates of the Near East, reviews and provides new evidence for environmental change from geological deposits, builds hydrological models for the River Jordan and associated wadis and explains how present-day urban and rural communities manage their water supply. It demonstrates how the theories and methods of meteorology, hydrology, geology, human geography and archaeology can be integrated to generate new insights into not only the past, from the hunter-gatherers of the Pleistocene to classical civilisation, but also the present and future. As such, it is an invaluable reference for researchers and advanced students concerned with the impacts of climate change and hydrology on human society, especially in the Near East.

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- S. Mithen and E. Black Water, Life and Civilisation: Climate, Environment and Society in the Jordan Valley

# Water, Life and Civilisation

Climate, Environment and Society in the Jordan Valley

Edited by Steven Mithen and Emily Black

University of Reading



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Bruce Sellwood recording a section of the Lisan Marl for the Water, Life and Civilisation project, 2006.

This volume is dedicated to Professor Bruce Sellwood (1947-2007).

Bruce was a pioneer of integrating palaeoclimatic modelling and geological research. He was an inspirational figure within the Water, Life and Civilisation Project and has been sorely missed by his colleagues for both his academic contributions and bonhomie.

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