

Inscription in Arabic of a
passer-by from 1415 CE

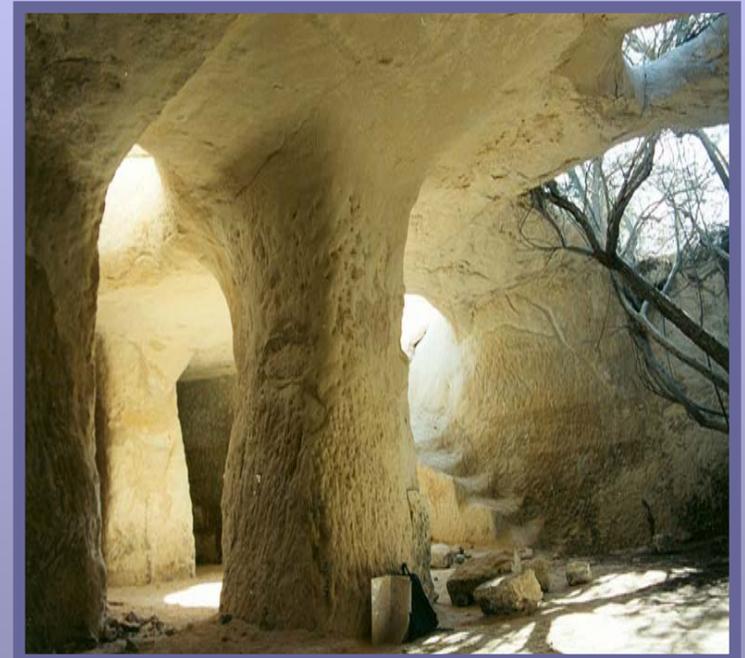


The cuts of the rope in the stone show
that people derived water from this
cistern for a very long time.

Cisterns remained if people used them.

Not all the cisterns from that time are visible
today and a large percentage of them vanished.

Sometimes hewn cisterns were located close to one another, in specific suitable areas, but far away from settlement sites. These cisterns were probably used as emergency stores to be used during drought years.



One example of such a “store” is Chatsats Cisterns (site 101 in the map of Sde-Boker – East). This “store” includes five cisterns which have an estimated total volume above 1,500 m³.

We can probably say that there was no shortage of drinking water in the sedentary zone in the Negev. Water for domestic use would not have limited the extent of the population in this area.

