Although nearly all southern Phoenician sites settled in the late Persian period enjoyed uninterrupted occupation into the early Hellenistic era, the conquest of Alexander the Great in the 330s BCE encourages us to look in the archaeological record for changes heralding the new phase of Hellenistic domination. In this paper I reconsider the evidence of and date for the late Persian–early Hellenistic transition using the site of Tel Dor, Israel, as a case study. I show that the site was already oriented toward the Mediterranean in the Persian period, seemingly from its start, and was not immediately affected by its new imperial circumstances. Two occupational sequences on the tell, one in the area of the main city gate and the other overlooking the southern harbor, indicate that major architectural changes appear over a generation after Alexander’s conquest. Numismatic evidence suggests these changes should be associated with the rule of Ptolemy II Philadelphos (r. 285–246) when the clashes between Alexander’s successors had, for a time, calmed. Recent analysis of the site’s pottery sequence supports this general picture.

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