# Mid-East **e**-News

An electronic journal of the Middle East, for those who want to be informed.

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C

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http://www.morethantourists.com

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#### Welcome

This week I went to see the Dead Sea Scrolls in Houston, having seen (almost handled) the copper scroll in Amman, but not having made it to either Qumran or the Scroll Museum in Jerusalem. It was interesting to read the background to their discovery and content.

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Also, in College Station (hub city), we recently enjoyed a presentation on the Star of Bethlehem. Perhaps you'll find something related to it in the next issue. If you can't wait that long, see for yourself by visiting the Bethlehem Star web site at: www.bethlehemstar.net

Email your responses to pkclark@pmbx.net, & check the web for back issues.

# Islamic Interface – What Kind of War?

In *e*-News 27 we began our discussion by asking a series of questions. Having addressed the two sides of question C (who says we had to cover them in sequence?) – What is the Evidence For/Against it being a Religious War? I want to turn to question B – What Other Kind of War Could It Be? Listed in issue 27 were the following alternatives: political, *cultural, territorial* and *economic*, (and I am sure readers of *e*-Nevvs could suggest more).

Examples of political war may include civil wars: the Bolshevik Revolution, China in the 1950s; or the Cold War of the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century; or more heated conflicts such as Korea or Vietnam. Whereas most wars seem directed towards control of territory (as did some of these) the major component is political differences between the opposing parties.

A cultural war, on the other hand, would not have as its focus a dispute over political systems or ideologies, such as capitalism versus communism or Nazism. Cultural wars could be the result of one ethnic/racial group resenting its domination by another. Again, this could arise as a civil war, as in Rwanda in 1994, or in Sudan over the last two decades. In a cultural war one would also be able to distinguish the groups by cultural characteristics, such as religious practices, festivals, traditions, 'holy sites', and possibly ethnic characteristics such as language. Sudan's conflict today in Darfur is pitting Arab Muslim against African Muslim, whereas in the south the population was primarily Christian. Cultural conflict is more often a low-level discord, possibly sparked by practices that cause offense, but also by perceptions of discrimination against a minority group, or by accusations that immigrants are jeopardizing jobs for those native to the region. This last reason is particularly common during times of economic weakness.

Teritorial conflicts often mask other issues, but have as their *central* focus the acquisition of land. Perhaps the Nazi expansion into Czechoslovakia and Poland came also into this category, as would the British-Argentine conflict over the Falklands in the 1980s. Such a war may arise from resistance to occupation (Poland by Germany, Britain by Argentina) or may be initiated in order to accomplish the occupation. The latter would include the 1956 Suez War in which Britain, France and Israel together attacked Egypt in order to control the recently nationalized Suez Canal. (Obviously, this was in some sense also an economic issue).

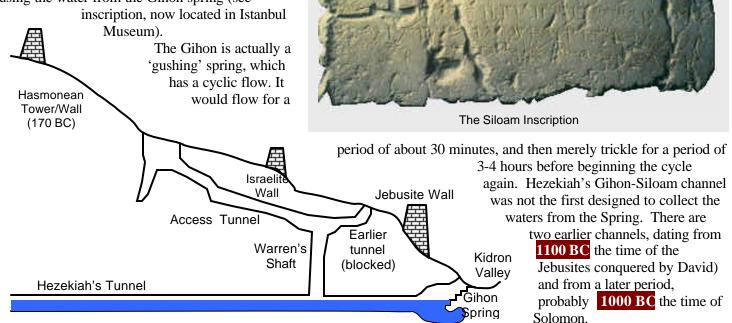
Wars fought over economic issues seem less common, but cannot be discounted (pun involuntary). In Osama Bin Laden's video and audio messages he has frequently asserted that his intention is to drive the West (the US) to its knees economically. In a videotape released at the end of October, Bin Laden "credited the religiously inspired Arab volunteers that he fought with against the Soviets in Afghanistan for having 'bled Russia for 10 years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat.' He suggested the same strategy would work against the United States." The report (Houston Chronicle, 11/2/04) goes on to say that "Al Qaeda has long made a point of hitting economic targets.

Perhaps these examples can help us to focus on the question of whether this is a religious war. We will look over evidence addressing this question in a later issue (probably mid-January) and I would also like to comment on some of your contributions.

Additional reading on this topic: http://www.family.org/cforum/fosi/islam/, a Focus on the Family web site, with FAQs covering this topic. Check out the links below the brief article, especially the archive. อีนามนามนามนามนามนามนามน้ำมาไม่มากมามนามนามนามนาย

### Jerusalem – The Water System

In *e*-Nevvs 30 we looked at the 'Broad Wall' that Hezekiah had built to enclose the growing city in the valley east of the Temple. We also commented on the conduit that Hezekiah had constructed to prevent the Assyrian attackers from using the water from the Gihon spring (see



To ensure access to the water even during a siege, the Jebusites seem to have dug a sloping tunnel down towards the well, at the same time as extending the spring by digging a horizontal tunnel into the hillside. The sloping tunnel ends with a shaft dropping down about 15m and meeting the horizontal tunnel. Hezekiah's Tunnel probably took as its starting point the bottom of the shaft (now named after the soldier archaeologist, Capt. Charles Warren in 1867).

When David attacked the Jebusites they scorned his attempts to enter the city 2 Sam. 5:6-8 but he was successful by using a "water shaft." Perhaps 'Warren's Shaft' is actually *David's Shaft*, though it was Joab who actually led the men through it 1 Chron. 11:4-7.

Notice that the area enclosed by the successive walls is reduced over the period. The City of David was enclosed within the Israelite Wall, but was left outside of the wall built by Judas Maccabeus as the Hasmoneans defended themselves from the Seleucids and Romans. Tombs have been found between these two walls that could well be the "Tombs of the Kings" mentioned in the Old Testament passages (next issue). The Israelite wall is the one strengthened by Manasseh after he repented 2 Chron. 33:14.

Another water channel ran from the Gihon spring to feed a pool at the bottom of the Valley, around the end of the ridge. It began in a tunnel from the Gihon Spring, and ran in an open conduit for some distance. It was also used, as occurs frequently in the Middle East today, as a source of irrigation water for the crops in the valley below. The condition of the channel indicates that it was probably deliberately destroyed, and probably at Hezekiah's instructions, 2 Chronicles 32:3-4.

#### News Cutting:

As Iraq's national election looms, I can say without hubris that I am literally in the right place for the right job. I've been mortared, ambushed, car bombed and rocketed. I don't take it personally. All it takes is one Iraqi adult to thank me and my men and it makes our day. Luckily this happens a lot. (*Lt Brian Suits, Iraq, 11/29/04*)

## Second Crusade

In 1145, after hearing of the loss of Edessa, Pope Eugenius III directed Bernard of Clairvaux, the founder of the Cistercian Order, to preach a new crusade, as Pope Urban had done in 1095. This response to the fall of Edessa was divided before it began. German princes took it as authority to initiate **Northern Crusades** against the Slavic peoples of the Baltic states. Others formed a Crusade against the Moors of Spain, capturing Lisbon and Tortuga in 1148.

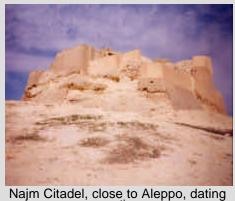
Forces from France and the German states eventually made their way by different routes to Constantinople, the Germans under Conrad arriving in Syria in 1147. Conrad had split his army into two divisions, but in October 1147 the first was destroyed by the Seljuks, the remainder suffering the same fate early the next year. French forces led by King Louis VII met up with the remnants of Conrad's army in Nicaea early in 1148, but were themselves defeated by the Seljuks, and it was only the survivors of these engagements that finally arrived in Syria, in disarray, in 1148.



Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Mosul and Aleppo were Nur Ad-Din's power base, and Damascus, further to the south, was still not captured by him. For its protection the city of Damascus had made an

alliance with the Christians of the Latin Kingdom. Upon arrival in the Jerusalem Conrad, thrice defeated by the Seljuks, pressed Baldwin III to attack Damascus. Ale ppo would have been a weaker target, and its capture might have damaged Nur Ad-Din's growing power, but against the wishes of many of the Crusaders Conrad prevailed and in the July heat, still in 1148, a siege was mounted against the city. This met with no more success than any of their previous ventures, the heat and lack of water defeating the Crusaders, and within a weak they retreated. Conrad and Louis returned to their homes in Europe, but the greatest impact of this campaign was that Damascus, having lost its trust in the Christians, voluntarily



Najm Citadel, close to Aleppo, dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

submitted to the Seljuks in 1154. It may not have been so voluntary, however; some historians report that this occurred during a siege by Nur Ad-Din.

Nur Ad-Din took advantage of the Damascus debacle to attack Antioch in 1149. At the Battle of Inab Raymond of Poitiers was killed but the city remained. Nur Ad-Din is said to have celebrated his victory by bathing in the Mediterranean. The Orontes river became the border between Seljuk Aleppo and Crusader Antioch.

Nur Ad-Din's general in the field was Shirkuh. He was of Kurdish origin, from Tikrit in Iraq. He was sent to Egypt to control some rebellion there, and strengthen the military in the face of Crusader attacks. He took his son with him, and in time was succeeded by him, though still under the authority of Nur Ad-Din. Upon the death of the Fatimid Caliph in 1171 Shikuh's son was able

to depose the Fatimid dynasty, using the mosques of the city to declare the name of the Abbasid Caliph at morning prayers. Though he made no outward challenge to his chief's authority Salah Ad-Din was soon seen as a threat to Nur Ad-Din. The question of whether this would ever come to conflict was put to rest when Nur Ad-Din died in 1774. Salah Ad-Din (known to the West as Saladin) claimed the title of Sultan in Egypt and marched on Damascus, where he was welcomed.

For the next decade Saladin was strengthening his hold on Syria, losing to the Crusaders at Montgisard in 1177, but defeating them at the Ford of Jacob's Daughters in 1179. At Montgisard, on June 24 1777, the Crusaders were led by Baldwin IV and Raynald of Chatillon. Saladin had attacked them from Egypt, near Gaza, and thought them hemmed in by his troops, but the Crusaders had avoided the danger. They surprised him and with 500 knights and a few thousand infantry were able to decimate his 30,000 strong force, leaving Saladin barely able to escape to Egypt with his life.

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#### This Month 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Dec 2 3 7 8 9 10 11 **12** 13 14 Nov 4 5 6 Т F S S тw TF S S Т т F S S Т WTF S ΜТ Т W Μ Μ Μ S М Ukraine election protests begin Court orders re-run of runoff Pres. powers reduced Israel's Vanunu voted Europe 'rector' of Glasgow Univ. Yuschenko poisoned Sudan Jiniawid attacks continuing Rebel attacks in Darfur-25 police killed 4 villages raided-15 die Govt, troops attack rebels linjawid raids continue, Darfur peace talks begin in Abuja UN conference in Nairobi JN meets in Nairobi, Kenva to discuss per Peace promised by Dec.31 2 UN workers killed Turkev Morocco summit to discuss democratic reform Explosion in Manilla market kills 15 Asia Pakistan 300kg explosives seized Troops withdraw from Quetta market bomb kills 11 India suggests Kashmir by India in Kashmir autonomy for Kashmir protests-2 die NW frontier search Militant leader arrested Afghan. Karzai inauguration 3 UN hostages (since 10/28) freed US campaign against opium production Karzai Jihad against opium 2 US soldiers killed by bomb Missing US plane found-6 dead Iran accepts EU terms on nuclear freeze Iran Agrees limited nuclear halt Promises to cease U enrichment Claims to have bomb design from Khan (Pakistan) Insists on centrifuge project Arabia Riyadh clash-militants kill policeman Jeddah militant killed by police US Jeddah consulate attack-9 die (not US) Irad Mosul police raid-6 killed Ramadi PS bomb-6 die Baghdad PS raid frees 50 Shiites present candidate list Troops sweep 'lawless' towns for rebels 4 ING killed as checkpoint assaulted 2 of 3 Allawi relatives released Helicopter crash kills 2 US Scots Guards broker 40 drown as Zakho ferry overturns Baguba police station captured Clashes in Samarra, Anbar, Baquba truce between tribes: Clashes in Mosul/Samarra Margaret Hassan body found (but mis-identified) Gramsha & Al-Halaf 'Anger Brigade' offers election security American shot nr Green Zone Baghdad mortar attacks US troops assault in Mosul US Marine killed in Anbar 4 ex-Ghurkas killed in Green Zone 90 bodies in Mosul this wk. Baijii suicide bomb-15 die lections scheduled for Jan 2 Shiite clerics killed $30^{\text{tn}}$ but may be delayed. 4 US die in attacks Troops enter mosque River boat assault on rebels 4 Police killed Insurgents target ING & to arrest imam Election:Sunni/Kurds want Car bomb kills 18 Kurdish troops 3 US troops killed cooperating civilians. Campaigns against militants in delay, Shiites oppose Polish woman freed 80 die in 3 davs of violence Planes bomb Fallujah targets Falluiah (5<sup>th</sup>- ), Mosul (16<sup>th</sup>- ), 50 bodies found after Mosul violence Paris Club 2 Sunni clerics killed Battle on Haifa Street kills 5 US Bomb at Green zone checkpoint-15 die towns S. of Baghdad (24<sup>th</sup>-). votes 80% Red Crescent relief in Fallujah Arab League confer Attacks in Samarra/Ramadi Green Zone checkpoint blast kills 1 US fat alities in Fallujah rise to debt in Egypt (w/ China, Baghdad bomb-Car bomb at Shia 71, refugees live in tent cities Fuel shortage becomes critical forgiveness 14 found shot dead in Mosul 2 US troops die mosque kills 14 UN. Kofi Annan) Svria Assad offers talks with Israel-Israel's president approves Abbas & Qurei visit Pres. Assad Bomb blasts car of Hamas leader Jordan Jordan: Hamzah removed as Crown Prince Egypt Egypt plans July peace conf. Protests against Mubarak succession Israel IDF ends 2-week Jenin campaign Shinui expelled Prisoner exchange Sharon OK to invite Labour Talks with Labour at impasse IDF foils raid on settlement from coalition with Egypt aza withdrawal plan IDF troops admit to abuses 3 Egyptian 3 Fateh killed in Ramallah by YAMAM moves slowly. Budget vot e quards killed by Egypt/Israel discuss peace in Jerusalem Labour agrees to join coalition ails, coalition breaks. Colin Powell arrives Israeli shots abor may join coalition FBI searches AIPAC offices Settler gets 8 Tunnel bomb kills 4 IDF at Egypt border post vears for murder of 8 Pals Israeli response kills 7-yr-old girl Palestine Gunmen kill 2 as Abbas mourns Barghouti not running ..running Gaza clashes-Mortar attack on Abbas apologizes to Kuwait Neve Dekalim 5 die, inc. 1 IDF for Pal. support of Saddam Arafat brother dies Debate over Arafat successor; Abbas selected as Tunnel collapse: IDF settlement Hamas oppose Fateh leaders Fateh Pres. candidate Abbas calls for end to violence forces save 3 Palestinians Mubarak calls on Pals. to work for peace as next president Fateh oppose Barghouti candidacy Barghouti NOT running (endorses Abbas) 15 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Dec 2 5 7 10 11 16 3 4 6 8 9 **12** 13 14 Nov F Μ S S TWTF S S Т Т S S F S тwт F Μ Μ Т W Т S ΜТ Μ

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