

MID-EAST e-NEWS

FREE
Subscribe by email to
receive this every 2
weeks!

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

Issue No. 62 Texas

March 31st, 2006

<http://www.morethantourists.com>

Contexts

Religious	
<i>Dhimmitude</i>	1
Political	
<i>Israeli Election</i>	2
Topical	
<i>New Heart, New Life</i>	2
Religious	
<i>Christian Zionism- Prophecies</i>	3
Calendar	
<i>This Month in the Middle East</i>	4

Welcome

An email message just received began like this...

Dear sear /madam

I found your web site from enternet search my brother have a boy which have nearly 2 years old his heart contain many pores (i dont know what ĘpĘ mean in english) and i knew that you aids the childrin heart deseae we live in north of iraq in sulaimania sity if you have intest to help us please tell us what you need.

And what was the response to this letter? See page 2.

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

Dhimmitude

In issue 57 of **e-NEWS** we introduced the concept of *Dhimmitude* to our readers. A *dhimmi* is an individual (or group) seen as second-class citizens in the Arab world. Christians in a Muslim country are not granted the full rights of citizenship as are Muslims, and – to different extents in the various Muslim countries – tend to suffer for this. Though many Muslim countries have separate religious courts for Christians, these are most valuable when issues occur between those of the traditional, *ancient*, churches, and do not provide protection when problems occur between Christians and Muslims. In such cases Christians cannot defend themselves against accusations by Muslims, unless – in some more moderate countries, such as Jordan - they are able to obtain the services of a Muslim lawyer, or the direct intervention of a member of the royal family.

Additionally, the constitutions that allow Christians to appeal to their own religious legal system apply only to those born into Christian families. Muslims do not recognize conversion from Islam – in fact, almost all countries have laws explicitly prohibiting conversion – and a Muslim convert, then, has no recourse to the Christian courts (if they exist) when charges are brought against him.

The case of **Abdul Rahman** in Afghanistan illustrates the situation for Muslims who accept Christ and become Christians. Islamic *Sharia* law prohibits this, and provides for the death penalty if the case is found against the accused. Abdul Rahman faced accusations that those born into a Christian family would not face. His ‘crime’ was that he converted from Islam, bringing shame onto the religion which sees itself as the only true religion.

Abdul Rahman is not the combination of two names, as it looks to Western eyes, but a family name. Abd el Rahman is Arabic for *Slave of the Merciful One*, just as Abdullah (Abd Allah) means *Slave of God*. Originally the name may have been given as the descriptive title of a tribal *sheikh*, but by now it has become the equivalent of a surname. Because an earlier Abdul Rahman was an historic hero of Afghanistan, many Afghans are also have the name as a first, *given*, name (‘Christian name’ seems inappropriate here).

Abdul Rahman became a believer in 1982, while living in Europe, but was denounced to Afghan police in February of this year, by his family.

Though only a minority of Afghans might actually wish to see the death penalty applied, the religious leaders are almost unanimous about this, and their position is in line with the law. Even if the president, Hamid Karzai, had been willing to commute any sentence imposed, Abdul Rahman would have been in danger of reprisal from relatives who see his actions as bringing them shame. As in many other cases like this, the solution was emigration, a political decision that prevented Afghanistan’s US-supported government from pressure from both sides.

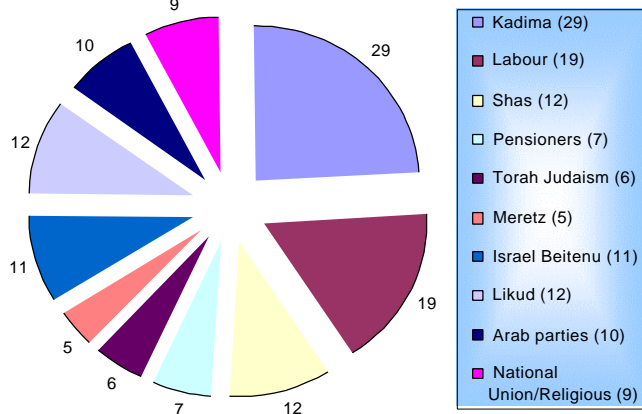
Unfortunately, this “solution” means that Abdul Rahman loses his family, since his becoming an ‘infidel’ would by law cause him to be divorced from his wife, and unable to keep his children.



Abdul Rahman before his release and journey to exile in Italy.

Israeli Election Results

Since the previous Israeli election in 2003 (see e-NEWS 23) a new party has been added to the political scene. Having been involved in the formation of Likud more than two decades ago, Ariel Sharon left his party in January, to form the new party, Kadima. Sharon still lies in



a coma, having had a severe stroke on January 4th, and the party he had just formed is now led by his deputy, Ehud Olmert.

In the complexities of Israeli politics, new parties have formed, whilst others have merged or divided. These mergers make it difficult to compare the 2003 and 2006 elections directly; the "prior to 3/28" column gives the seats held by the parties prior to the election.

Shinui, which had 15 seats in 2003, failed to obtain 2% of the vote, and will not have any seats in the new Knesset. The table below shows how the structure of the Knesset has changed, though the election will not be ratified until the first week of April.

Summary of the March 28 election results

Party	2003	Prior to 3/28	2006	+/-
Kadima	--	14	29	+15
Likud	38	29	12	-17
Israel Ba-Aliya (merged)	2			
Labour	19	21	19	-2
Am Ehad (merged '06)	3			
Shinui	15	2	0	-2
Shas	11	11	12	+1
Pensioners	--	--	7	+7
with Nat'l Religious (06)	6	10	9	-1
National Union				
with Israel Beitenu (03)	7	3	11	+8
Meretz	6	5	5	0
United Torah Judaism	5	5	6	+1
Hadash (Arab)	3	2	3	+1
Balad (Arab)	3	3	3	0
Arab List (Raam)	2	3	4	+1

New Heart, New Life

Dear friends,
As I write (4/3/06) little Rahouz and his parents are just crossing the border back into Iraq following his successful heart surgery in Israel. They spent the Shabbat with us in Jerusalem before traveling, and as we visited the Narkis



Street congregation and the Garden Tomb we caught a new glimpse of what Phil Berg once referred to as *"the holy work of mending the world."*

We first learned of Rahouz on November 7 in the email message from his uncle: (see page 1)

Even as our staff worked to connect Rahouz with the Wolfson Medical Center near Tel Aviv, he weakened due to his heart condition and, according to his parents, nearly died while still waiting in his home city. On December 29 during our year-end drive we received funding for surgery for Rahouz, and on January 8 he arrived in Israel. Shortly before their arrival in Israel, Rahouz's dad, **Lukman**, had opportunity to read some of the Arabic New Testament while in the home of our Jordan coordinator, D____. Lukman later exclaimed in amazement that God had come to earth, not for the good people, but for the bad! Lukman leaned forward to share further, as if it were a sacred secret just revealed, that God's peace was not for the few, but for everyone.

Lukman's spiritual enthusiasm has continued to grow throughout the three months he's been in Israel. He explained to me that God had put in his hands a story about a young man who was almost blind, and how God had miraculously healed him. Lukman felt certain that *God had given him this story as a sign that He would restore his boy's heart.* In late February, Israeli surgeons met with Lukman to give him a realistic picture of Rahouz's chances of survival. They told Lukman that it was to be an extremely dangerous operation, because Rahouz had **three major holes** in his heart. The next day, Lukman and his wife Pakhshan, endured the most anxious 10 1/2 hours of their lives. God brought Rahouz through victoriously! As Dr. Akiva Tamir met with Lukman after the surgery and explained how they had **repaired four additional holes in Rahouz's heart**, Lukman understood that God was using this information to make clear to him that *it was God who had healed his boy.*

A few weeks later Rahouz was gaining weight and playing as any normal 3-year-old. **Lukman** soberly shared how grateful he was for all that God had done for him and his family. I explained more of what I had shared before, about how a person can know God personally. I told him that when God speaks to our hearts, we know that it is Him because of the peace, love, and security He gives us on the inside. I was even able to share some of my own testimony. It was then that **Lukman** confided that he believed God had given his little boy a bad heart so that he and his family could come to Israel and discover the one true God.

For a copy of this email, more photos, and more of the story, email me at the address below and I will forward it to you.

1c. Prophetic Passages

The Zondervan Prophecy Study Bible includes a section of 'Prophecies about Israel's Restoration' which has 209 chapters listed in the Old Testament alone.

Within this list are included a number that refer to specific circumstances, such as Deut.1:35-39. *Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers, except Caleb, son of Jephunneh. He will see it and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the Lord wholeheartedly.* Another example is Deut 3:2. *The Lord said to me, "Do not be afraid of him, for I have handed him over to you with his whole army and his land."*

These verses have been omitted from this list, along with verses such as Ex.12:41 (*At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt*) that do not seem to pertain directly to our topic.

The passages are grouped according to what seems to be the main topic in each, though each may well refer to other topics. (Passages in parentheses were not originally included in the Prophecy Study Bible list.)

A – Covenant	
Gen.17:19	Abr-Isaac
Gen.17:7-8	Abraham
Psa.105:8-12	psalmist
Psa.50:5	psalmist
Jer.14:(19-)21	Jeremiah
Jer.31:31-37	Jeremiah
Jer.33:17-26	Jeremiah
Jer.50:4-5	Jeremiah
Ezek.20:37	Ezekiel
Ezek.34:23-31	Ezekiel
Lev.26:44-45	Moses
Everlasting, Enduring	
Gen.13:15	Abram
Gen.48:4	Jacob
2Ki.8:19	David
1Chr.16:15-18	David/Abr.
1Chr.17:22	David
1Chr.17:9	Nathan/Dav.
Psa.132:13-15	psalmist
Psa.94:14	psalmist
Isa.59:20,21	Isaiah
2Sa.7:10-12	Nathan/Dav.
2Sa.7:23-24	David

B - Glory of God, Zion	
Isa.4:2-6	Isaiah
Isa.52:1-3	Isaiah
Isa.60:13-14	Isaiah
Isa.62:1-12	Isaiah
Joel.3:16-21	Joel
Zech.14:16-21	Zechariah
Deut.26:19	Moses
Deut.28:1-3	Moses
God's Name	
Isa.12:1-6	Isaiah
Isa.52:4-5	Isaiah
Ezek.36:16-23	Ezekiel
Ezek.43:4-12	Ezekiel
Zech.2:1-13	Zechariah
Chosen by God	
Psa.135:4	psalmist
Psa.148:14	psalmist
Psa.33:12	David
Isa.41:8-21	Isaiah
Isa.43:19-21	Isaiah
Isa.51:13-17	Isaiah
Isa.65:8-10	Isaiah
Zech.3:2	Zechariah
1Sa.12:22,25	Samuel

C - The Kingdom & Throne	
1Chr.22:9-10	Sol./David
Isa.22:20-25	Isaiah
Isa.66:7-9	Isaiah
Isa.9:7	Isaiah
Jer.33:15-16	Jeremiah
Ezek.37:15-28	Ezekiel
Mic.5:1-4	Micah
Num.24:14-19	Balaam
1Ki.2:4	David/Sol.
The Land	
Gen.12:7	Abram
Gen.15:18	Abram
Psa.111:5-6	psalmist
Psa.135:12	psalmist
Psa.136:21-22	psalmist
Isa.58:(13-)14	Isaiah

Jer.32:36-44	Jeremiah
Ezek.45:1-2	Ezekiel
Ezek.45:7,8	Ezekiel
Ezek.47:13-23	Ezekiel
Ezek.48:1-35	Ezekiel
Num.34:1-12	Moses
Deut.11:12	Moses
Josh.1:2-9	Joshua
The Temple	
Isa.2:1-5	Isaiah
Ezek.47:1-12	Ezekiel
1Ki.9:3	Solomon

D - Returning, Remnant	
2Ki.19:30-31	Hezekiah
Neh.1:9-10	Neh./Moses
Psa.107:3-7	psalmist
Psa.147:2	psalmist
Isa.10:20-21	Isaiah
Isa.11:11-16	Isaiah
Isa.14:1-3	Isaiah
Isa.27:12-13	Isaiah
Isa.28:5-6	Isaiah
Isa.37:30-32	Is./Hezekiah
Isa.43:5-7	Isaiah
Isa.51:9-12	Isaiah
Isa.56:8	Isaiah
Isa.66:18-24	Isaiah
Jer.12:14-17	Jeremiah
Jer.16:14-16	Jeremiah
Jer.23:1-8	Jeremiah
Jer.30:10	Jeremiah
Jer.46:27-28	Jeremiah
Jer.50:19-20	Jeremiah
Lam.4:22	Jeremiah
Ezek.11:16-21	Ezekiel
Ezek.20:33-34	Ezekiel
Ezek.28:25-26	Ezekiel
Ezek.34:11-16	Ezekiel
Ezek.36:24-25	Ezekiel
Hos.11:8-12	Hosea
Ob.17-21	Obadiah
Mic.2:12,13	Micah
Mic.4:6-13	Micah
Mic.5:5-9	Micah
Zeph.3:9-20	Zephaniah
Zech.10:1-12	Zechariah
Zech.8:6-8	Zechariah
Return of Israel & Judah	
Jer.3:14-19	Jeremiah
Jer.31:1,2	Jeremiah
Jer.33:6-14	Jeremiah
Hos.1:10-11	Hosea

E - Restoration	
Psa.126:1-6	psalmist
Psa.87:2-5	psalmist
Isa.1:25-27	Isaiah
Isa.25:8-10	Isaiah
Isa.44:24-28	Isaiah
Isa.49:8-21	Isaiah
Isa.58:(6)-12	Isaiah
Jer.30:1-3	Jeremiah
Jer.30:17-22	Jeremiah
Jer.31:15-27	Jeremiah
Ezek.36:33-38	Ezekiel
Ezek.36:8-15	Ezekiel
Ezek.37:1-14	Ezekiel

F - Deliverance, Rescue	
2Ch.20:7	Jehos./Abr.
Psa.85:1-13	psalmist
Isa.31:4-5	Isaiah
Isa.66:5-6	Isaiah
Isa.9:1-4	Isaiah
Jer.30:4-9	Jeremiah
Jer.51:4-5	Jeremiah
Ezek.36:1-7	Ezekiel
Dan.12:1	Ezekiel
Hab.3:13	Habakkuk
Mal.3:9-11	Malachi
At Peace, Fruitful, Strong	
Isa.27:2-6	Isaiah
Isa.32:15-18	Isaiah
Isa.33:20-22	Isaiah
Isa.44:1-8	Isaiah
Isa.55:8-13	Isaiah
Isa.60:15-22	Isaiah
Ezek.17:22-24	Ezekiel
Ezek.29:21	Ezekiel
Hos.14:4-8	Hosea
Zech.14:8-11	Zechariah
Zech.8:1-5	Zechariah
Zech.8:9-19	Zechariah
Zech.9:9-13	Zechariah
Victory, Conquest	
Psa.60:1-12	David
Zech.12:6-9	Zechariah
Zech.14:12-15	Zechariah
Zech.9:14-17	Zechariah
Deut.7:22	Moses
Israel upheld, protected	
Isa.46:3-4	Isaiah
Deut.7:14-15	Moses

Ezek.39:21-28	Ezekiel
Hos.2:7,14-23	Hosea
Joel.2:21-all	Joel
Joel.3:1-2	Joel
Am.9:11-15	Amos
Nah.1:12-15	Nahum
Zeph.2:6-7	Zephaniah
Deut.30:1-10	Moses
Rebuilding	
Psa.102:13-16	psalmist
Psa.69:35-36	David
Isa.51:1-3	Isaiah
Isa.54:1-17	Isaiah
Isa.61:3-11	Isaiah
Jer.31:28-30	Jeremiah
Jer.31:3-14	Jeremiah
Jer.31:38-40	Jeremiah
Mic.7:7-20	Micah

G - Forgiveness, Salvation	
Psa.111:9	psalmist
Psa.130:8	psalmist
Psa.98:3	psalmist
Isa.26:1-2	Isaiah
Isa.33:24	Isaiah
Isa.40:1-2	Isaiah
Isa.43:25,26	Isaiah
Isa.45:17-19	Isaiah
Isa.46:12-13	Isaiah
Isa.51:18-23	Isaiah
Isa.52:6-9	Isaiah
Isa.56:1	Isaiah

H - Evil in Israel	
Isa.27:7-11	Isaiah
Isa.58:(1-3)	Isaiah
Isa.58:(4)	Isaiah
Isa.65:(1-7)	Isaiah
Deut.4:26-31	Moses
Judgement of Israel	
Isa.42:17-21	Isaiah
Isa.65:(11-12)	Isaiah
Isa.65:(11-15)	Isaiah
Isa.66:15-17	Isaiah
Jer.18:(9-10)	Jeremiah
Jer.30:11-16	Jeremiah
Jer.30:23-24	Jeremiah
Ezek.20:35-36	Ezekiel
Ezek.20:38	Ezekiel
Ezek.34:17-22	Ezekiel
Ezek.38:17-23	Ezekiel
Ezek.39:1-20	Ezekiel
Hos.13:9-10	Hosea
Mal.3:2-4	Malachi

I - Years, Time	
Jer.25:12	Jeremiah
Jer.29:10-14	Jeremiah
Ezek.4:4-6	Ezekiel
Zech.1:12-21	Zechariah

J - The Gentiles, Nations	
Psa.102:21-22	psalmist
Isa.18:7	Isaiah
Isa.49:22-26	Isaiah
Isa.49:5-7	Isaiah
Isa.51:4	Isaiah
Isa.51:5-8	Isaiah
Isa.52:10	Isaiah
Isa.55:5	Isaiah
Isa.60:10-12	Isaiah
Isa.60:1-9	Isaiah
Isa.66:10-14	Isaiah
Jer.4:1-2	Jeremiah
Ezek.38:1-16	Ezekiel
Mic.4:1-5	Micah
Hag.2:7	Haggai
Zech.8:20-23	Zechariah
Mal.3:12	Malachi
Deut.2:24-25	Moses

K - Kingdom, Prophecy	
Isa.27:7-11	Isaiah
Isa.58:(1-3)	Isaiah
Isa.58:(4)	Isaiah
Isa.65:(1-7)	Isaiah
Deut.4:26-31	Moses
Judgement of Israel	
Isa.42:17-21	Isaiah
Isa.65:(11-12)	Isaiah
Isa.65:(11-15)	Isaiah
Isa.66:15-17	Isaiah
Jer.18:(9-10)	Jeremiah
Jer.30:11-16	Jeremiah
Jer.30:23-24	Jeremiah
Ezek.20:35-36	Ezekiel
Ezek.20:38	Ezekiel
Ezek.34:17-22	Ezekiel
Ezek.38:17-23	Ezekiel
Ezek.39:1-20	Ezekiel
Hos.13:9-10	Hosea
Mal.3:2-4	Malachi

L - Land, Restoration	
Jer.25:12	Jeremiah
Jer.29:10-14	Jeremiah
Ezek.4:4-6	Ezekiel
Zech.1:12-21	Zechariah

M - Messianic, Prophecy	
Isa.27:7-11	Isaiah
Isa.58:(1-3)	Isaiah
Isa.58:(4)	Isaiah
Isa.65:(1-7)	Isaiah
Deut.4:26-31	Moses
Judgement of Israel	
Isa.42:17-21	Isaiah
Isa.65:(11-12)	Isaiah
Isa.65:(11-15)	Isaiah
Isa.66:15-17	Isaiah
Jer.18:(9-10)	Jeremiah
Jer.30:11-16	Jeremiah
Jer.30:23-24	Jeremiah
Ezek.20:35-36	Ezekiel
Ezek.20:38	Ezekiel
Ezek.34:17-22	Ezekiel
Ezek.38:17-23	Ezekiel
Ezek.39:1-20	Ezekiel
Hos.13:9-10	Hosea
Mal.3:2-4	Malachi

The complete list is available on the web page.

