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Welcome

One of the problems that the Caesars have caused us is the short month of February. If you receive a salary you may feel that the three days less that you work are a bonus; but when you issue a news journal twice a month, that end-of-the-month issue comes up so quickly!

The article on Khazaria is intended to complement our series on Rabbinic Judaism. Ibn Khaldun was pictured in an earlier issue, but without providing much background.

I hope the journalistic pressures have not reduced the quality you expect.

Write me at pkclark@pmbx.net & let me know what you think.

Christian Zionism: Geography

In the Biblical passages there are various geographical descriptions of the land that God intended Israel to conquer. In the previous article, **PENTATEUCH PROMISES TO THE PATRIARCHS**, we reminded ourselves of the physical size of the *Promise*. In view of the conduct of the Israelites, the *actual* occupied area was not so large.

Below see how God uses the continued presence of the Canaanites in the lives of the people of Israel.

DIVINE DECISIONS COMMUNICATED TO JOSHUA

Joshua conquered a large part of the land, resting from war at the end of chapter 11.

Joshua 11:23 So Joshua took the entire land, just as the

Lord had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to the tribal divisions.

...but there was still more:

Joshua 13:2-7 "This is the land that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and Geshurites: from the Sihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite...and all Lebanon to the east, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath... As for all the inhabitants of the mountain regions from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, that is, all the Sidonians, I myself will drive them out before the Israelites."

In the book of **Judges** we read of how the failure of the Israelites to obey their instructions had consequences:

Judges 2:1-5 "I said 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land...' Yet you have disobeyed me... Now, therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you." and in Judges 2:22 "I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the Lord and walk in it as their forefathers did."

In the following issue we shall look at how the Kingdom developed, geographically, followed by statements by the prophets on this topic.

Iraqi School Issues

Recent issues that have been affecting the school. (For background, see the item on the school in e-News 48.)

Jan 30: Pray for our church and school as we have been getting pressure from the government for the past two to three months. Currently the Dept of Education is seeking to regulate us as they would a government school. Our position is that we are a church and not under their authority. I have a meeting with the Minister of Ed. next week, and it may need to go higher. This is not the first time we have been pressured and likely won't be the last. Our work here is of critical importance for the Kingdom of God so it would be surprising if we did not have opposition. We will continue the work God has called us to until he redirects or calls us home.

Feb 16: We had a very productive meeting at the Royal Court with _____, who is a Christian. He was not able to wave a magic wand over the situation but he did set up a meeting for us with the Minister of Education, Dr. Khalid Tougan, who clearly does have the authority to solve the problem.

Feb 17: The meeting was a mix, some good news and some bad news. The man ... said many insulting things about evangelical Christians. On the positive side he said he was always willing to work with us, said he will allow the school to reopen. IF we 1) submit our curriculum for approval (said he will expedite this and promised no more than one week delay) and 2) we do not do any missionary activity. By this he meant we cannot mix religious training into the school curriculum.

Mar. 1: Like today. I just returned from the police station. This is the third time I have been summoned or taken since Christmas. Tomorrow I have to go to the governor's office, which is a bigger police station. This was at the Ministry of Education's request. I did several press interviews, ... We have also contacted US congressmen, the Royal Court, The United Nations, and many people are putting pressure on them. Many of the Iraqi parents have also complained to the UN and today a group of Iraqis presented a letter to Iraqi president Jalal Talibani asking for help (He is here in Jordan seeking medical treatment).

Mar. 3: The governor's assistant however told me that I'm lucky to be an American, otherwise I'd be in jail. While I'm frustrated at being treated like a criminal, when my only crime is helping poor needy people, I am thankful that I was there and not one of the Iraqis. This all took most of the day, so I rushed back to prepare for the evening's program at church. We were thrilled with the turnout, around 400-500!

Most took the opportunity to vent some of their frustrations, not at us, but at the government and the situation in general. "Why did they take our school away from us? They're taking away everything we have." Said one mother, through tears. Another dad, a Muslim sheik, came to the microphone to thank us and to suggest that [we] (the two Americans) take all their names to the UN and petition for them to be resettled in the US!

[Picture of some of the children, page 2]

Khazaria

The Khazars were a Turkic people, originating from Central Asia. This gives them similar origins to the Turks of modern Turkey – *Anatolia* being its geographical name. The Khazars had originated alongside the Mongols, and had had nomadic roots, though by the Middle Ages they were settled in the Caucasus and the Ukraine. They had been a powerful, expansionist people, occupying territory from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan and the Crimea and pushing out the Azars and Bulgars in the process.

Their strong presence north of the Caucasus prevented Islam's expansion into Russia and eastern Europe. Even today the Caspian Sea is known as the Sea of the Khazars in Persian (*Daryaye Khazar*), Arabic (*Bahr-ul-Khazar*) and Turkish (*Hazar Denizi*).

A number of the regions under their influence – the Crimea, Kiev, Samandar (their capital from 720) – had significant populations of Jews residing there. The Khazar's position on the Silk Road, from Europe to China, also ensured that Jewish traders were frequent visitors to the regional centers.

In spite of their position on the frontier of the Islamic Empires, the pagan Khazars were tolerant of the various religious sympathies held by their people. The governor of Samandar, for example, was Jewish.

From 750 the capital was moved to the coastal town of Itil, further from the Islamic frontier. The Khazars had a dual monarchy, with a king, *Kagan*, and a *beg* in charge of the military forces. These made long-lasting alliances with their Byzantine neighbors. A brick fortress built on the river Don, at Sarkel, was a joint venture between the two empires, with the works directed by a Greek engineer.

At some point during the 8th & 9th centuries, as the Arab writer puts it, when the Jews presented their religion to the people, the Khazar leaders “found it better than their own, and accepted it.” King Bulan (date unknown) led this move, in 838 (dating varies), apparently after a debate between Muslim, Christian and Jewish representatives. (One other source gives the date of conversion as 740.) Many of the common people followed him, and his grandson, Obadiah (9th century) established synagogues and schools in Khazaria.

Arab and Jewish sources have a variety of accounts of the conversion. A compilation of Jewish accounts informs us that a Sephardic (Spanish) Jew, Hasdai, corresponded with the Khazar king Joseph, obtaining the information that the Khazars were not semitic peoples but “from Khazar, son of Togarma (ancestor of all Turkish tribes), the grandson of Noah's third son Japheth.”

The recognition of Judaism in Khazaria led to an influx of refugee Jews from the surrounding territories. By the 10th century there may have been as many as 30,000 Jews in Khazaria, and there is evidence of legal and commercial documents being written in Hebrew letters (though still in the Turkic language).

The map shows the growth of Khazar domination, from its consolidation in about 600, to its greatest extent in about 865. Eventually Khazaria's existence – which had depended upon the tension between Byzantine and Islamic empires and faiths – was jeopardized by the unification of Russian (i.e. around the *Rus* people group) tribes and the changing allegiances of the Khazar's Slav allies. The Viking groups that journeyed up the Russian rivers also contributed to the pressure on the Khazars. The destruction of the fortress of Sarkel in 965 was an early step in this process, as was the politically opportune conversion of the *Rus* prince Vladimir to the Orthodox faith a short time later. (During that 10th Century – before the Crusades proved so disastrous for Byzantine/Orthodox stability – the Byzantine Empire was the only bulwark against militant Islam.)

Sources: http://econc10.bu.edu/economic_systems/NatIdentity (An excellent animation, showing the rise and fall of Khazaria before and after converting to Judaism, can be seen at this site.) and <http://www.khazaria.com/>



Iraqi children in Jordan. Cheerful but under threat (see p1).

Ibn Khaldun (Abu Zayd ‘Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhammad ibn Khaldun al-Hadhrami)

Ibn Khaldun’s ancestors were originally from the Yemen, from the long fertile valley known as the *Hadramaut*. Along with other Arab tribes from the region, they had taken part in the Arab invasion of North Africa and Spain. By the 1200s the Spanish had begun the long struggle to regain the territory lost to Islam – the *Reconquista* – and Ibn Khaldun’s family had moved back into Africa, settling in Tunis.

Ibn Khaldun was born on May 7, 1332, and lived in Tunis, which had become an important city since the Arab invasions. He was only 17 however, when the Black Death, the plague that ravaged all of Europe, reached Tunis and killed as much as a third of the whole population. It took Ibn Khaldun’s parents, and his teachers, and left him bereft.

He moved to Fez, Morocco, in 1352, and at one point spent two years in prison there, before moving to Granada, Spain in 1362. Two years later his employer, Muhammad Ibn al Ahmar, sent him on a peace mission to King Pedro (*the cruel*) I of Castille. His mission was not successful, but the Spanish king offered to return to Ibn Khaldun the land that his family had lost the previous generation. Ibn Khaldun declined the offer. Later, when he wrote his most famous work, he was able to reflect on the changing power of empires, and how five hundred years of Muslim rule was gradually coming to an end, even then.

Ibn Khaldun had argued repeatedly with his acquaintance, Ibn al Khatib, but they remained friends. When the *ulama* (religious authorities) condemned Ibn al Khatib for suggesting that the plague was a contagious disease, Ibn Khaldun supported him. This was of no avail, however, since in 1375 al Khatib was executed by strangulation.



from the Muqaddimah **OVERCROWDING AND URBAN PLANNING**

The commonest cause of epidemics is the pollution of the air resulting from a denser population which fills it with corruption and dense moisture.... That is why we mentioned, elsewhere, the wisdom of leaving open empty spaces in built-up areas, in order that the winds may circulate, carrying away all the corruption produced in the air by animals and bringing in its place fresh, clean air. And this is why the death rate is highest in populous cities, such as Cairo in the East and Fez in the West.”

—tr. Issawi

to intercede with him, and negotiate for him to spare the city. In his history he records his discussions with Tamerlane, even as the warrior was preparing to sack and destroy the great city. Ibn Khaldun never returned to Tunis, but could be seen around Cairo in the Maghrebian *burnous* that is still worn in his homeland.

He died in Cairo in 1406 but his reputation is still a source of pride in his Tunisian homeland. When translations of his *Muqaddimah* became available in the West, historians realized how far ahead of his time he was in his awareness of the sociological dimensions of history.

After this Ibn Khaldun went into retreat in Algeria, near Oran, where he wrote his *Muqaddimah*, the ‘introduction’ to his great book of history. After 4 years he moved back to Tunis, but the leader of the Zeitouneh mosque disapproved of his liberal ideas. Though the Sultan refused permission for him to leave, he did manage to get away in 1382, by making the *haj* to Mecca. Rather than returning, he then moved to Cairo and taught there for a number of years.

His patron there, the Sultan Barquq, wrote and obtained permission for Ibn Khaldun’s family to join him in Cairo. Unfortunately, as they were traveling by ship, a great storm blew in and sank the ship and all aboard her, off Alexandria.

In 1400 the Mongol warrior, Tamerlane was at the gates of Damascus. Ibn Khaldun was instructed

from the Muqaddimah **THE PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF DOMINATION**

A harsh and violent upbringing, whether of pupils, slaves or servants, has as its consequence that violence dominates the soul and prevents the development of the personality. Energy gives way to indolence, and wickedness, deceit, cunning and trickery are developed by fear of physical violence. These tendencies soon become ingrained habits, corrupting the human quality which men acquire through social intercourse and which consists of manliness and the ability to defend oneself and one’s household. Such men become dependent on others for protection; their souls even become too lazy to acquire virtue or moral beauty. They become ingrown. ... This is what has happened to every nation which has been dominated by others and harshly treated.”

—tr. Issawi

This Month

Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W		F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
Sudan	AU policeman killed in Darfur		MENINGITIS epidemic in south		Ahead of peace talks, army attacks rebels in Darfur		70+ killed in Darfur tribal fighting		Algeria Al Qaeda arms ring caught		UN troops accused of		Chinese PM visits Sudan		Darfur peace talks in Libya		Govt. rejects UN troop deployment											
Somalia	Mortars hit Moga., 5 killed		Rockets fired at port		3 children killed in grenade attacks		Mortar kills 1 in Moga.		Govt. sets up new combat unit		UN freight ship hijacked by pirates		Residents oppose troops		New speaker sworn in		Mortars kill 2		Demo against AU deployment		Uganda ok's troops in Somalia		16 killed by mortars		Gunmen attack military base			
Pakistan	Islamabad S- kills 2		Baluch pipeline bombed		Shia leader shot dead		Train bomb kills 66		Religious leaders oppose polio campaign		2 Wazir govt. officials killed		S- in Islamabad		Women students protest mosque demolition		Bomb in court kills 17		Woman govt. min. killed		3 bombers killed when bike hits road bump							
Afghan.	Taliban occupy Musa Qala		Taliban commander killed at Musa Qala		Strike kills 7 Taliban		Taliban flee assault with children as shields		Spanish soldier killed		Cheney visits		Infiltration fr. Pakistan surges		Kandahar suicide bomb		US chopper shot down, 5 killed											
Arabia	Yemen clashes with rebels, 42 troops killed		Saudi police injured on Yemen border		Saudi reformers call for free elections		3 French shot dead in Saudi		Gunman arrested/AU tries to provide troops		Mosque Putin visits Saudi		Rebel clashes continue, 80 dead		Yemen rebels kill 15 soldiers		Saudi to host Arab summit on 3/28-29											
Iraq	Hilla suicide kills 61		Car kills 4 police in Khalis		Health minister arrested		Al Qaeda's al Masri shot		3 S's kill 17 in Baghdad		Hakim's son arrested on Iran border		Mortars kill 15 Sunni in Baghdad		Mosul R-S injures 17		Arms, ammo found in Baghdad Shia mosque		Chlorine, 2 die, 138 hurt in Taji		Baath party leader killed in Mosul							
US/Iraqi Operation Imposing Law sweeps Baghdad, attacks decrease, # of bodies found drops from 40+ to 3 or 4 at first, then increases. 1000 families return home in first 10 days. As Sadr leaves Iraq, telling his militia leaders also to leave. Bombers begin to use chlorine gas to increase injuries. Al Qaeda fights Sunni tribes for control of Anbar, mosque bomb on 2/24 is one incident of a number recently.	UK soldier killed in Basra		Air strike kills 8 militants nr Baghdad		Sadr: militia leaders to leave		Suicide attack on funeral kills 10		Baghdad 11 insurgents killed, 75 held		5 car S's kill 24 in Baghdad		Attacks in Mussayab kill 4		Najaf S- kills 13		Habaniya Sunni mosque kills 52		Sadr militia leader killed in US/Iraq raid		Kurd forces assist US in Baghdad offensive		Sadr City car kills 3		S- kills 40 at Baghdad college			
	Tikri governor's aide arrested		15 police killed by S- nr Tikrit		2 car S's kill 10 in Kirkuk		US chopper shot down		S- injures Iraq VP, al Mahdi		11 kidnapped from house in Shia suburb		2 Germans kidnapped		Borders with Iran/Syria reopen		6-hr battle in Ramadi		Draft oil law approved									
	Mortar kills 4 in Fallujah		8 recruits shot dead near Mosul		Kut battle: 50 insurgents held		3 US killed in Anbar		Ambulance S-, 15 die		US helicopter crashes, 7 killed		3 bombs in Baghdad market kill 79		Baghdad minibus kills 4		Gunmen attack base nr airport, 8 police killed		157 'Soldiers of Heaven' arrested near Diwaniya									
	3 Iranians arrested on border nr Kut		18 killed by truck S- at college		Baghdad car kills 60 Shia		US/Iraq troops attack/destroy insurgent base		Large arms cache found: 194 mortars, 160 rockets		Kirkuk Arabs resist forced relocation		Borders to close for 3 days		Basra: UK/Iraq forces raid slum district		US/Iraq troops attack/destroy insurgent base		Large arms cache found: 194 mortars, 160 rockets									
US Deaths: 3/30: 2,317 9/30: 2,700 12/31: 3,000 1/31: 3,073 2/15: 3,118	Slovak troops (110) leave Iraq		Kirkuk embassy reopens (after 17 yrs)		2 suicide S's kill 11 in Ramadi		Kirkuk newspaper owner killed		Brothers of MP killed		Mamudiya car kills 8		4 US killed in Anbar prov.		Muqtada has left for Iran		Fuel tanker suicide attack on US/Iraq base kills 2 US		S- nr Talabani home		Baghdad car at veg. market kills 10							
	7 car S's in Kirkuk, 4 killed		Car kills 17 in Aziziya		Air strikes kill 15 insurgents		RS- kill 3 US in Diyala		2 car S's kill 10 in Baghdad		Talabani in Jordan for medical tests		UK soldier killed in Basra		Bomb kills 11 Rev. Guards		Copter crashes nr Turkey, 13 dead											
Iran	4 th bird flue victim		Olmert meets w/ Erdogan		5.7 quake in SE		20 convicted after 13-year trial																					
Turkey	Hezbollah munitions truck seized		Buses bombed near Gemayel home		Bomb defused near airport rd.																							
Lebanon	Demonstrators still outside parliament		Troops fire on IDF at border		300,000 at Hariri anniv. rally		Israeli planes fly low over Lebanon																					
Jordan	Putin visits Jordan		King urges Hamas accept Quartet conditions																									
Egypt	1 ton explosives found near Gaza border																											
Israel	Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi appointed		Knesset: Excavation to continue		Abbas, Olmert & C. Rice to meet Feb. 19th		Suicide bomber arrested in Tel Aviv		3-day raid on Nablus - curfew		IDF kill 2 militants n Nablus raid, 2 more in Tulkarm, Gaza		Explosives found nr Lebanon border		Arrow anti-missile system tests ok		Police Chief resigns over govt. inquiry		Jihad leader killed in Jenin raid (sent Tel Aviv suicide bomber)		Settler killed nr Hebron, attackers arrested 2/26		3 Islamic Jihad leaders killed in Jenin					
	Complaints into excavation work on access ramp near Al Aqsa Mosque		Saudi condemns Jerusalem excavations		Gaza militants shot planting bomb		Truck driver found dead in Shukba																					
WB & Gaza	Mortars hit nr Abbas' Gaza office		Hamas refuses to accept Israel		3 US women kidnapped - released after 1 hour		4 killed in Gaza clan violence		Egypt police catch suicide bomber entering Egypt via Gaza tunnel		Hamas leader Meshal visits Moscow		Fatah convoy attacked, 6 killed		Hamas commander killed in Gaza		Egypt finds 18,000 bullets nr Gaza border		Abbas & Hamas leaders meet in Mecca		Putin visits w/ Abbas							
	Fighting continues, 20+ killed		Abbas/Hamas sign agreement on Unity govt.		PM resigns, is asked to form new Unity govt.																							
	Unity govt. agreement made in Mecca. Govt. to resign & reform. Quartet & some Arab states urge Hamas to recognize Israel, renounce violence.		Gazans celebrate unity agreement		Demonstration at Al Aqsa over excavation																							