

The Neolithic Cultures of Palestine

Two of the meetings of the Archaeological Circle of the Israel Exploration Society, in February 1952 were devoted to a Symposium on the Neolithic and Chalcolithic Cultures of Palestine. After an introduction by Prof. B. Mazar-Maisler, Dr. I. Ben Dor, Mrs. Ruth Amiran, M. Jean Perrot and Dr. M. Stekelis spoke on various aspects of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods in Palestine, within the framework of the Near East. The main problems discussed were: Definition and character of the two periods; chronology and especially relative chronology of the cultures assigned to these periods; relation of Palestinian Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures to the surrounding cultures, with special reference to the newly discovered and analyzed Hassuna and Jarmo deposits; the proper place of single-period or single-stratum discoveries, such as the recently excavated and much discussed Yarmukian culture, within the established chronological scale.

Mr. S. Yeivin summed-up the discussion.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE APOCRYPHAL *ASCENSIO ISAIÆ* AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

by

DAVID FLUSSER

The author undertakes to demonstrate that the Jewish parts of the *Ascensio Isaiæ* belong to the literature of the sect whose writings are known as the D. S. Scrolls, the Damascus Document — CDC — and some other Apocrypha. The points in common are: (a) the marked dualism, (b) the appearance of Belial in the same outstanding role, (c) the names which resemble the terms used in the D.S.S. Thus Matambûchûs is a corruption of Hebrew Matan-Buqah ("gift of calamity"); this term "buqah" occurs in DSD X, 15. — The principal false prophet who causes the martyrdom of Isaiah is called in A.I. Bechira (Behir-ra' — i.e. "Elect of Evil") which corresponds to the title "Behir-el" (or "behiro" — "the Elect One of God") used by DSH for the Teacher of Righteousness (DSH IX 12);] cf. also Malkira (A.I.) with Malkiel (En. 82, 13). Isaiah's going to the desert, as related in A. I., is to be understood as the realisation of the sect's programme of separation from the wicked and preparing God's way in the wilderness. This is stated in DSD VIII and based on a quotation from Isaiah(!). These and other parallels can be tabulated as follows:

A. *Personages*

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| <p>a) Isaiah;
the prophets who follow him.</p> <p>b) King Manasseh.</p> <p>c) Behir-ra';
the lying prophets.</p> | <p>a) the Teacher of Righteous-
the sect.</p> <p>b) the Wicked Priest who
ruled in "Israel" DSH VIII, 9.</p> <p>c) the Teacher of the Lie;
who are with the Man of the
"the wicked and the traitors
Lie", DSH II, 1-2.</p> |
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B. *Events*

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| <p>a) Isaiah leaves Jerusalem,
seeing the iniquity done in it,
and goes into the wilderness
at the head of the prophets.</p> <p>b) Isaiah is accused</p> <p> 1) for prophesying against
Jerusalem and the cities of
Judah;</p> <p> 2) for saying "I see more
than Moses".</p> <p>c) Manasseh sends for Isaiah
(presumably to his retreat)
and has him arrested.</p> <p>d) the dying Isaiah com-
mands his followers to "go to
the land of Tyre and Sidon".</p> | <p>a) The separation from the
seat of the people of iniquity
DSD VIII, 17. The House of
Exile of the Teacher of Right-
eousness DSH XI, 6.</p> <p>b) The sect</p> <p> 1) predicts in its writings
the punishment of Israel be-
cause of its wickedness;</p> <p> 2) states that "to the T.R.
God has revealed all the se-
crets of the words of His ser-
vants the prophets", DSH
VIII.</p> <p>c) The Wicked Priest "ap-
pears to the T.R. to swallow
him... in the House of his Ex-
ile", etc... DSH XI, 48.</p> <p>d) "And all those who fell
back were given over to the
sword(and those who kept
(the Covenant) fled to the
North Land" (i.e. Damascus),
CDC VII, 14.</p> |
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TWO AHAB SEALS

by

N. AVIGAD

1. The reading *H'b* is suggested on a seal found at 'Ain Shems (PEF Annual II, p. 92, fig. 11). אהב is interpreted as an abbreviated form of אהאב. The practice of omitting the first letter *aleph* in Hebrew proper names is common.

2. The reading אהאב is ascertained on another seal (PEQ 1947, p. 109, pl. XIV. 2).

"AND HE PREPARED GREAT PROVISION FOR THEM"

by J. KAPLAN

The author analyses the above passage (2 Kings VI, 23) which in the original Hebrew reads: "and he dug a big כרה" and interprets כרה as a pit. He compares this reference with his discovery in Tel-Aviv of circular pits, dating from the 6th cent. B.C. and even earlier (end of fourth millenium). These pits were full of ashes, sherds and animal bones. Ovens were found at the bottom of some of these pits. The author considers these to be prepared for heating food and to represent the original *Kêrah*.

RESEARCHES OF THE CIRCLE FOR
HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

by Y. AHARONI and RUTH AMIRAN

The second trip of the circle covered the Western tells of the Negev, with special attention to the problem of Gerar. The main results are as follows:

1) At Tell en-Najile the following periods are represented: EB, MB, LB, Iron I, Iron II, Pers., Hell., Byz., Arab. The sherds corroborate the suggested identification of Najile with 'Eglon.

2) Tell esh-Sher'ie. A small quantity of MB, then LB and preponderant majority of Iron I and II, then Persian and Hellenistic and a considerable quantity of Roman-Byzantine sherds. Consequently, the assumed identification with Biblical Gerar seems very doubtful.

3) Tell Abu Hureira. It has been clarified, especially through the investigations of David Alon (a member of Mishmar Hannegev), that the ancient settlement covers a much larger area than the acropolis-hill with the Weli, the whole area being ca. 150 dun. The pottery showed the following periods: Chalc.(?), EB, fine representation of MB, LB, Iron I and II, and few sherds of Persian, Hell., and Roman periods. Its identification with Gerar is therefore very probable.

4) The excavated sites of Tell Jemmeh and Tell Far'ah were also visited, and their proposed identification with Yurza and Sharuhén studied.

5) Kh. Futeis. The interesting situation of Byzantine Photis, eroded by Wadi Futeis, was studied.

6) Bir Abu Reqayiq. Following David Alon's discovery of Chalcolithic stations on the sides of Wadi Zumelli, it has been clarified that a Chalc. culture akin to the Ghassulian was widespread in the wadis of the Negev, thus framing the excavated sites of W. Ghazzeħ into a larger and clearer picture.

It has now become possible to trace the phases of settlement on the main wadis of the Negev from the Chalcolithic period onwards.

NOTES ON ELTEKEH, EKRON AND TIMNAH

by S. KALLAI-KLEINMANN

(cf. BIES. XVI 3-4, pp. 47-51)

Data on the three towns are compared, utilizing the material of Jos. XV, XIX, the Annals of Sennacherib and their biblical counterparts, in relation to the topographical position of the proposed sites and the ceramical surface-finds.

In this connection it is proposed to regard the second district of Solomon as the historical background of the "Danite List" (Jos. XIX), and to date the Judean town-list (Jos. XV) to the time of Hezekiah, assuming that Timnah and Beith-Shemesh were part of the Ekron territory of that time. The probable line of Judah's N. W. boundary is also touched upon.

NUMISMATIC SECTION

RESTRUCK MINTS OF THE FIRST REVOLT

by A. KINDLER

Two coins, one of Agrippa I (restruck with the year II of the Revolt), another of the Procurators (year III), both from the author's collection, serve as evidence that the "thick" shekels were struck in the years 66-70.

MISCELLANEOUS

A HEBREW INSCRIPTION FROM THE ARABAH

by N. ZORI

The inscription, engraved on a limestone slab, was found at Ref. Point 1510.9590. The inscription is in two lines (see Fig., p. 67 for a facsimile of the second line). The author could decipher the letters ZMQ; he assigns the writing to the 10th cent. B.C.

R E V I E W S

S. Abramski reviews: R. J. Forbes, *Metallurgy in Antiquity*;
A. Malamat reviews two works by S. Goldmann: *The Book of Books; In the Beginning*.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

This report includes a preliminary note on the 8th Archaeological Conference, a report on the activities of the Archaeological Circle, on the state of the publications of the Society, on the meeting of the Council of the Society, on the excavations to be undertaken next season at Beth She'arim with the support of the American Fund for Israel Institutions and the Anshey Emeth Cong. of Chicago; the plans for Tell Qasile, Sha'ar ha-Golan etc.; finally a report on the activities of the Society's branches.