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SUMMARIES

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM IN THE SECOND MILLENIUM BCE

by Nadav Na'aman (pp. 361–380)

The borders of the Kingdom of Jerusalem in the Late Bronze Age have long served as a topic for debate among scholars of the period. Some have suggested that these boundaries encompassed the entire Judean hill country, while others posit that Jerusalem's territory was relatively modest, i.e. a fairly narrow strip of land between the foothills and the Jordan Valley. While the Amarna letters may assist us in accurately drawing the western border of the kingdom, all other borders can be established only by combining archaeological data with earlier and later literary evidence.

Archaeological studies make it clear that south of Jerusalem, in the southern Judean hill country, lay the city of Debir, with the territory between the two cities serving as a sort of no-man's land, an unsettled area through the Late Bronze Age. North of Jerusalem lay the city of Bethel, and here too an unsettled area, separated the two sites during the Late Bronze Age. During the Middle Bronze Age, on the other hand, the hill country of Benjamin was densely populated, and several additional sites were also discovered south of Jerusalem. The major city in the southern Judean hill country at the time was Hebron, and a few small Middle Bronze settlements were also uncovered in that area. Furthermore, in the Early Bronze Age a fortified city (Ras Tawra) of 60 dunams lay in the area north-east of Hebron. It is thus evident that in all three periods there was a central city in the southern Judean hill country, and the relations of those central cities to the major city to their north need to be clarified.

The 17th-century BCE tablet discovered at Hebron proves that this settlement served as the center of an independent city-state at the time. Moreover, by examining the history of the Judean hill country from the 12th century BCE until the Ottoman period, it is evident that Jerusalem and the area of Hebron always belonged to two different administrative units.

It would thus appear that Late Bronze Debir was an independent city-state whose area lay between the Beer-sheba Valley in the south and Beth-zur in the north. Middle Bronze Hebron and the Early Bronze city located at Ras Tawra apparently controlled the same territory.

In the north, Shechem was the only major kingdom situated in the central hill country during the second millennium BCE. It dominated the entire area between the Jezreel Valley and Bethel, and between the Jordan Valley and the Plain of Sharon. Consequently, the Kingdom of Jerusalem was relatively modest, situated between the small city-state of Bethel in the north and the kingdom of Hebron/Debir in the south, and between the Jordan Valley in the east and the foothills in the west.

A 'NEW ZION' IN PORTUGUESE ANGOLA: DELUSION OR LOST OPPORTUNITY?

by Joel Barromi and João Medina (pp. 381–400)

Following the overthrow of the monarchy in Portugal in 1910 and the establishment of a liberal Republican regime, two Jewish leaders, Russian-born Wolf Terlo and Dr. Alfredo Bensaude, attempted to secure the settlement of Jewish refugees in the Portuguese colonies of Africa. Owing to their efforts, Deputy Manuel Bravo submitted a bill to the Portuguese Chamber of Deputies in March 1912, providing for the allotment of land in Angola to Jewish immigrants sponsored by Jewish philanthropic societies. The bill was seen by most of the deputies as an act of reparation for the royal decree of 1496 expelling the Jews from Portugal, and it was approved in June 1912. In March 1912 Terlo asked the Jewish Territorial Organization (ITO) to send a delegation to Lisbon. ITO's president, Israel Zangwill, while finding the bill unsatisfactory since it was not meant to lead to an autonomous Jewish region, nevertheless came to Lisbon in May 1912 and contacted leading Portuguese personalities, but did not succeed in opening negotiations with the government. At the World ITO Conference held in Vienna in June 1912, Zangwill supported ITO's involvement in the plan, provided that it be modified to meet ITO's requirements. At his request the conference sent the Portuguese Parliament a cable couched in harshly critical terms. The cable, which was meant to be a tactical move, elicited an angry reaction in Portuguese parliamentary circles and in the press. In Vienna friction developed between Zangwill and Terlo, who had come to the conference to present the project. Shortly afterwards Zangwill appointed Bensaude as his representative.

In July 1912 ITO sent to Angola a survey mission headed by the British geographer J.W. Gregory. The mission's main conclusion noted the availability of an area of five thousand square miles of fairly good land, superior to the average land in Palestine.

The Portuguese Senate opened the debate on the bill in May 1912. Owing to the changed mood of public opinion and to shifts in Portuguese politics, the initial statements were markedly unfriendly towards the project. Yet, after lengthy and at times stormy deliberations, a revised version of the text was adopted in June 1913. The bill had to be sent back to the Chamber of Deputies or to a joint session of both houses for final drafting and enactment.

Bensaude recommended that ITO make concrete proposals backed by adequate financial guarantees. Zangwill, while remaining indifferent towards the bill, unsuccessfully tried to launch a share company. ITO's financial weakness now came to the surface. The relations between Zangwill and Bensaude soured. In October 1913 Bensaude announced that he was relinquishing his role as rapporteur for the Angola plan. The plan was still on the agenda of the ITO World Conference due to convene in Zurich in September 1914, but this meeting was cancelled because of the outbreak of the First World War.

THE FORMULATION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY'S PROPOSAL FOR THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARTITION: 1937–1938

by Yossi Katz (pp. 401–439)

In 1937 the Royal Commission on Palestine under the chairmanship of Robert Peel (The Peel Commission) formulated the idea of a partition of Palestine into two states as a solution to the Jewish-Arab conflict. The Jewish Agency accepted in principle the idea of partition, but strived to achieve a more favorable partition than that proposed by the Royal Commission. The present study describes the Agency's proposals for the boundaries of the Jewish state, and the considerations that lay behind these proposals.

The main goal of the executive of the Jewish Agency was to effect a more positive demarcation of the proposed boundaries between the Jewish state and the Arab state, while at the same time preserving the proposed borders in those cases where the lines drawn up by the commission were deemed optimal from the perspective of Zionist interests. Towards this end the Jewish Agency established a 'borders committee' comprised of a team of settlement specialists, which included the engineer Zalman Lifshitz and the geographer Abraham Jacob Brawer. The conclusions of this committee served as the basis for the proposals put before the English committee for Partition (the Woodhead Committee) by the Jewish Agency.

The considerations that helped shape the Jewish Agency's proposal related to issues of security, as well as to economic and political factors. These considerations, however, did not play an equal role in the drawing up of boundaries in all areas. It is also noteworthy that the security factor played a far greater role in the Jewish Agency's proposal than in that of the Royal Commission. While the latter presumed that the very act of partition between the two populations would effect a degree of goodwill that would render security considerations of secondary importance, the Jewish Agency did not embrace a similar optimism, and therefore placed a far greater stress on the need for security arrangements. It appears that the Zionist position was influenced in no small manner by the Arab-Jewish clashes at the time, as well as by the opposition of the British government to the idea of mandatory exchanges of population. These factors played a major role in the Jewish Agency's demand for the establishment of defensible borders and a strategic depth, as well as assurances for the establishment of secure lanes of transportation.

*DOCUMENTS AND SOURCES*A LEGAL DECISION FROM THE COURT OF R. MOSES
CORDOVERO IN SAFED

by Abraham David (pp. 441–446)

Two of the four volumes of the Bible copied by R. Isaac b. Israel, who lived in Toledo in the 13th century, are currently preserved in the municipal library of Marseilles (cat. no. 1626). At the beginning of the volume containing the Former Prophets there is a copy of a legal decision (*מעשה בית דין*) from the year 1562 regarding the estate of R. Jacob Nahmias, which included printed works as well as manuscripts, one of which was the very same Bible manuscript written by R. Isaac b. Israel. The court decision was issued in Safed, and the judges were: R. Moses Cordovero, R. Moses Sagis and R. David Navarro. The present article contains the first publication of this unique document.

The three judges are known to us from other sources. The document before us establishes that Cordovero served as the head of the court in Safed in 1562. While he is well known as the most prominent kabbalist in Safed in the period preceding R. Isaac Luria Ashkenazi, the court case before us adds to the scant information we possess on Cordovero as a halakhist and a *posek*, as well as to the limited information we have regarding the *bet din* in Safed which he headed at the time. Of particular interest is a curious element contained in the document. The guardian of the orphans signed his name, following the signatures of the judges, in Latin characters: Samuell Halfarn.