

# view

February 13, 2005

## This Week's Agenda

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### The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: Jeff Herrin/Dennis Wade (reverse next week)

5pm Sermon: Dan Singleton (Adam Cain next week)

5:30pm: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Sunday - David Carrozza, Various Topics.
- "Basics" Class (see Dennis Wade)
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Topics - Randy Clark.

### Wednesday

10 AM Wednesday: OT History, at building.

7:30 PM - Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dan Hamilton, Discipleship
- "Basics" Class (see Dennis Wade)
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Topics - Randy Clark



### Bible Reading This Week

Sunday - Acts 10-12; Proverbs 11:1-15

Monday - Reflection

Tuesday - Acts 13-15; Proverbs 11:16-31

Wednesday - Acts 16-18; Proverbs 12:1-14

Thursday - Acts 19-21; Proverbs 12:15-28

Friday - Acts 22-25; Proverbs 13:1-12

Saturday - Acts 26-28; Proverbs 13:13-25

## Prayers...

### Sickness, Injury, Continuing Health Problems

Please pray for Kathy Wilson who has Parkinson's disease; also keep Hank in your prayers as he helps her and also because he suffers from sleep apnea.

Sherrill Colvin had shoulder surgery on Friday; pray for her recovery.

We just received news that Bill Brown, who preaches for the church in Indio, has passed away. We visited with him in March of last year when we were in Brawley for the meeting. Bill was a very good man and we will miss him. Pray for his family, especially his wife, Pat.

Continue prayers for Jim Everett and family (terminal cancer); Jamie Cole, Kristen Sanderson's sister; Dave Fulton's mother, Monica (Monroe, WA); Tom Royston; Ken McClelland (cancer); Karen Gorden; Sharon Jones; Becky Woolpert; Margaret Everett (cancer); Phil Roberts (cancer); Laurie Ann Reagan (cancer); Cheryl Wilson (cancer); Bill Fling (heart problems); Chris Hamilton (friend of Justin Ivie, cancer); Peggy Olsen (Cameron Carrozza's friend's mother).

### Christians Serving in Iraq

Philip Cain, and the other men who are serving in Iraq: Steve Reis, Titus Cain, Travis Dusenberry (Joanne Garner's grandson), Paul Hitchen.

### Expectant Mothers

Kimmie Warshaw, Sally Deschler, Kristen Sanderson, Melissa Fields and Michelle Caisse.

### Out of Town

David and Christie Posey are away for a couple of weeks, traveling to Monterey and Southern California. Angie and the kids are in Paso Robles to see Trey; they will be traveling to Fresno on Tuesday to pick him up and bring him home (for good!). Thanks for all your support and prayers.

**Group II meets this week.**

# Artifacts from Iron Age fortress confirm Old Testament dates of Edomite kingdom

By Michael Valpy

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 - Canadian archeologist Russell Adams's interest is in Bronze Age and Iron Age copper production. He never intended to walk into archeology's vicious debate over the historical accuracy of the Old Testament -- a conflict likened by one historian to a pack of feral canines at each other's throats.

Yet by coincidence, Prof. Adams of Hamilton's McMaster University says, he and an international team of colleagues fit into place a significant piece of the puzzle of human history in the Middle East -- unearthing information that points to the existence of the Bible's vilified Kingdom of Edom at precisely the time the Bible says it existed, and contradicting widespread academic belief that it did not come into being until 200 years later.

Their findings mean that those scholars convinced that the Hebrew Old Testament is at best a compendium of revisionist, fragmented history, mixed with folklore and theology, and at worst a piece of outright propaganda, likely will have to apply the brakes to their thinking.

Because, if the little bit of the Old Testament's narrative that Prof. Adams and his colleagues have looked at is true, other bits could be true as well.

References to the Kingdom of Edom -- almost none of them complimentary -- are woven through the Old Testament. It existed in what is today south-

ern Jordan, next door to Israel, and the relationship between the biblical Edomites and Israelites was one of unrelenting hostility and warfare.

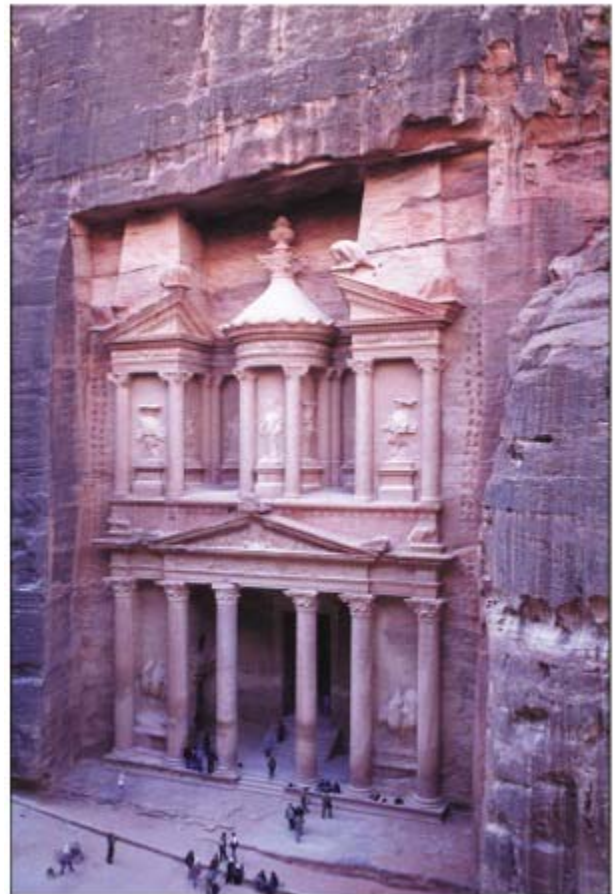
The team led by Prof. Adams, Thomas Levy of the University of California at San Diego and Mohammad Najjar of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities was investigating copper mining and smelting at a site called Khirbat en-Nahas, by far the largest copper-production site in the region.

They applied high-precision radiocarbon-dating methods to some of their finds, and as they say in the British journal *Antiquities*, "The results were spectacular."

They firmly established that occupation of the site began in the 11th century BC and a monumental fortress was built in the 10th century BC, supporting the argument for existence of an Edomite state at least 200 years earlier than had been assumed.

What is particularly excit-

ing about their find is that it implies the existence of an Edomite state at the time the



The "Treasury" at Petra in Edom.

Bible says King David and his son Solomon ruled over a powerful united kingdom of Israel and Judah.

It is the historical accuracy -- the very existence of this united kingdom and the might and splendour of David and Solomon, as well as the existence of surrounding kingdoms -- that lies at the heart of the archeological dispute.

Those scholars known as minimalists argue that what is known as "state formation" -- the emergence of regional governments and kings - - did not take place in the area until the imperialistic expansion of the Assyrian empire in the 8th century BC, so David and Solomon, rather than being mighty monarchs, were mere petty chieftains.

And because everything that takes place in the Middle East inevitably is political, the minimalist argument is seen as weakening modern Israel's claim to Palestine.

In the biblical narrative, the Edomites are the descendents of Esau, whose blessing from his father, Isaac, was stolen by his younger brother, Jacob, ancestor of the Israelites. (Fans of the British satirical-comedy group Beyond the Fringe will recall how Jacob pulled off the theft by presenting himself as the hirsute Esau to their blind father, saying in an aside: "My brother Esau is an hairy man, but I am a smooth man.")

The Edomites are lambasted in the Bible for refusing to let the Israelites rest on their land as they flee Egypt. God declares obscurely: "Over Edom will I cast out my shoe." The Israelites grumble enviously that there were kings of Edom before there were kings of Israel -- a highly significant passage because it implies that state formation occurred in Edom before it happened in Israel.

Finally, there is the biblical account of David's war against the Edomites, in which David

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and his general, Joab, kill 18,000 Edomites and establish military control over them by "putting garrisons throughout all Edom."

Irish scholar John Bartlett, one of the world's great experts on the Edomites, dates the battle at 990 to 980 BC, precisely when Prof. Adams and his colleagues date the fortress.

Says Prof. Adams: "This battle between the Israelites and the Edomites, although not possible to document, is typical of the sort of border conflicts between Iron Age states. And the evidence of our new dates at least proves that it may, in fact, be possible to place the Edomites in the 10th century [BC] or earlier, which now supports the chronology of the biblical accounts.

"It is intriguing that at Khirbat en-Nahas, our large Iron Age fort is dated to just this period, suggesting conflict as a central concern even at a remote copper-production site."

He concludes: "We're not out to prove the Bible right or wrong. We're not trying to be controversial. We're just trying to be good anthropologists and scientists, and tell the story of our archeological site."

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**Services**

Sunday Morning Assembly  
8:30AM & 10:15AM  
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM  
Classes for all ages.  
*Private classes arranged at your convenience.*

For more information,  
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# The Ancient City of Petra in Edom

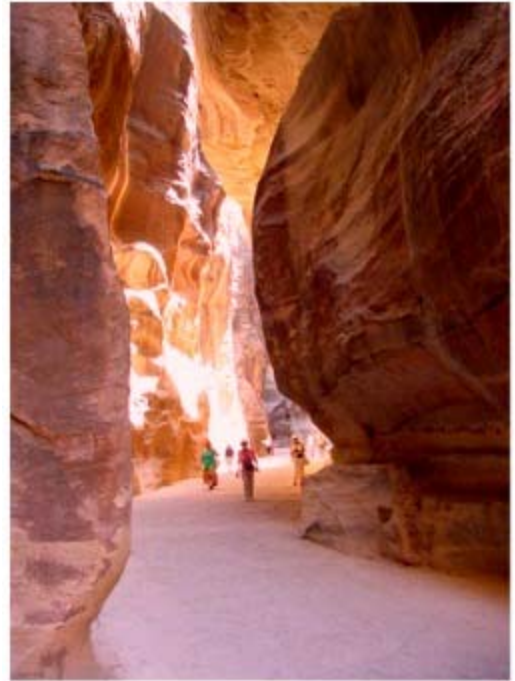
by Don Jaques

The ancient city of Petra is located about halfway between the southern end of the Dead Sea and the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqabah. The city was first established sometime around the 6th century B.C. by a nomadic tribe who settled in the area and laid the foundations of a commercial empire that extended into Syria.

Because of its remoteness in the Jordanian wilderness, the ruins of the rock-city of Petra were unknown to the western world for centuries...

The main approach to the city of Petra is through a narrow passage known as the Siq. This passage, between two rock faces which tower between 150 and 250 feet above the rocky floor, is around a mile and a half long, and is at many places only 15-20 feet wide. The entrance to the Siq, and therefore to Petra, could be easily defended by as little as a dozen men because of the narrowness of its opening.

At the end of the siq, one experiences a thrill that is as dramatic today as it was two millennia ago: suddenly, turning the corner and passing beneath two overhanging cliffs, one comes face-to-face with the Khazneh (or "The Treasury"), the baroque Greek temple-style royal tomb that is Petra's most famous and impressive monument.



Source: <http://www.s8int.com/edom.html>