

This Week's Developments

July 11 - 17, 2021

- Russia warns Britain: Don't sail near Crimea again
- Russia warns against US bases in central Asia
- UK reveals new role for special forces against Russia
- Iran nuclear talks stalled while U.S. waits for Raisi
- 'Jerubbaal' found on 3,100 year pottery fragment
- More than 120 killed as floods hit Germany & Belgium
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Russia warns Britain: Sail near Crimea again and your sailors will get hurt

Reuters, July 14, 2021



EVENT

A senior Russian security official warned Britain on Wednesday **not to sail its warships near Russian-annexed Crimea again unless it wanted its sailors to get hurt**. The warning, issued by Mikhail Popov, deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, follows an incident last month when British warship HMS Defender exercised what London said were **internationally recognised freedom of navigation rules in Ukrainian territorial waters near Crimea**. Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and says the waters around it belong to Moscow now despite most countries continuing to recognise the peninsula as Ukrainian. It protested strongly against the British move at the time with a coastguard vessel firing warning shots and summoned the British ambassador for an explanation. Popov, in an interview in the state Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper, said **Britain's behaviour and its subsequent reaction to the incident was bewildering**.

COMMENT

Russia is still seething that Britain sent a warship into Crimean waters a few weeks ago. Britain has said **it will sail there again** as it does not recognise Russia's annexation of Crimea. The warning from Russia this week is that if Britain decides to do anything like this again - "**Similar actions will be thwarted with the harshest methods in future by Russia regardless of the violator's state allegiance**." The statement also went on to say "*It's not the members of the British government who will be in the ships and vessels used for provocation. What will they say to the families of the British sailors who will get hurt in the name of such 'great' ideas?*" Once more we see the **king of the north** (Russia) **being provoked** (pushed) **by the king of the south** (UK/US) – leading to war.

BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall **the king of the south push** [military provocation] at him [Gog – Russian leader]: and the king of the north [Russian forces] shall come against him [king of the south] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.
(Daniel 11:40)

Russia warns against US bases in central Asia

The Times, July 14, 2021



EVENT

Russia has warned the United States not to redeploy troops to Former Soviet states in central Asia after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. Sergei Ryabkov, a Russian deputy foreign minister, said that the creation of US military bases in the region would be unacceptable. “We are warning them against such steps,” Ryabkov said. “We have told the Americans about this directly and frankly.” Afghanistan is bordered to its north by three former Soviet states — Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — while Kyrgyzstan is about 500 miles away. All four countries have strong economic ties with Moscow, while Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are members of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a Russian-led military bloc. Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, recently held talks with the Tajik and Uzbek foreign ministers as Washington tries to maintain a counterterrorism and security presence in the region.

COMMENT

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were all once part of the USSR. But when the USSR broke up these nations became independent nations again. Putin however sees the breakup of the USSR as the great geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century. The United States has setup some airbases in these countries with the main objective originally of using these bases as staging posts to attack Afghanistan – a key hub of terrorism. Russia turned a blind eye to these bases as it was content for America to try and oust the Taliban. But with the US pulling out of Afghanistan, Russia does not want any further US presence on its border. Hence the warning from Russia this week about any US redeployment of troops into former Soviet States. This is yet another flash point between the US and Russia – the Russian bear is being prodded and will soon awaken.

BIBLE QUOTE

And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

(Ezekiel 38:4)

UK reveals new role for special forces against Russia

The Times, July 17, 2021



EVENT

Britain's special forces will take on a new covert mission against China and Russia as they shift their focus to countering "big state adversaries", a senior military chief has revealed. It is thought the highly secretive operations could involve troops operating alongside MI6 to mount surveillance against Chinese and Russian intelligence and military units. Part of their job will be to track adversaries and build a picture of the changing and "accelerating" nature of the threat. They could also act as a deterrent to the Wagner Group, Russian mercenaries believed to be carrying out the Kremlin's bidding, by having a presence in countries where they would not normally be. A shift to focusing on threats from hostile states such as China and Russia comes amid concerns that such states are becoming more brazen in their attacks.

COMMENT

In the past there were clear lines between nations being at "peace" with each other or at war. But the line between peace and war is becoming increasingly blurred, with states using proxy forces, cyberattacks, and crude ways of sowing doubt and confusion such as misinformation campaigns. We have seen Russia using all these things. Russian military personnel and equipment turned up in Crimea – but none of them were wearing Russian uniforms and Russia denied it had anything to do with them. They said the soldiers were just on holiday and it was up to them where they went! Britain is now trying to counteract this with its own special forces that will act undercover. In Daniel 8 we read that Gog (latter day Antiochus Epiphanes) used deceit as part of his tactics. Putin is doing exactly this. We are also told he is a master of intrigue and destruction.

BIBLE QUOTE

a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior.

(Daniel 8:23-25 NIV)

Iran nuclear talks stalled while U.S. waits for Raisi

Foreign Policy, July 15, 2021



EVENT

Contrary to hopes that Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, might be looking for a swift revival of the 2015 nuclear deal before the installation of Tehran's new hard-line government next month, U.S. and European officials now believe that success or failure lies in the hands of the incoming president, Ebrahim Raisi. According to a senior U.S. official, it now appears that Iran is not prepared to resume negotiations over coming back into compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) until Raisi replaces moderate Hassan Rouhani as Iran's president next month. In recent weeks, some participants in the ongoing talks in Vienna said they thought Khamenei wanted a deal signed before Rouhani left office so that any public backlash from a compromise—only partial relief from U.S. sanctions—wouldn't politically damage Raisi, Khamenei's likely anointed heir as supreme leader. But that is apparently not going to happen now, and further delays will only make any final deal harder, if not impossible. Some observers believe Iran may now be overplaying its hand, hoping that its technological advances in enrichment will force the Americans to come to a compromise.

COMMENT

In Isaiah 21 we read of a treacherous dealer who does a treacherous deal. This deal has something to do with Iran. Isaiah 21 speaks of Elam rising up and Media besieging. Elam and Media are both areas of modern Iran. In fact Iran has threatened to besiege the Persian Gulf. At the start of the chapter we read that all this is the "burden of the desert of the sea." The sea referred to is the Persian Gulf – Elam is in south west Iran which borders that very sea. So awful was the vision shown to Isaiah that he was in pain like a woman in labour – this is what is coming on the back of this deal.....

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land. A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease.

(Isaiah 21:1-2)

'Jerubbaal' found on 3,100 year pottery fragment

Daily Mail, July 12, 2021



EVENT

A pottery fragment unearthed in Israel bears the name of the biblical judge 'Jerubbaal,' which was inked on the artifact 3,100 years ago. Mentioned in the Hebrew bible, Jerubbaal was a military leader, judge and prophet whose story is recounted in chapters 6 to 8 of the Book of Judges. The ceramic artifact was discovered in an archaeological excavation at Horbat al-Ra'i, near Kiryat Gat in Israel, which experts say it was part of a small jug that carried precious liquids. 'The name written on the jug, Yarubaal, may allude to biblical Jerubbaal, also known as the judge Gideon ben (son of) Yoash, but we cannot be sure if he owned the inscribed vessel,' the Israel Antiquities Authority shared in a statement.

COMMENT

Inscriptions on pottery from Bible times are extremely rare – only a handful have been found- and most don't include all the letters of a name. This fragment has the complete name written out and it is the first time ever the name "Jerubbaal" has been found in any archaeological context. So who was Jerubbaal? He was Gideon. Gideon's father gave him that name when he destroyed the altar of Baal. All this is recorded for us in Judges 6 to 8. Once more the Bible is proved to be 100% accurate. But is there more to this story? In these chapters we are told of how Israel defeated their sworn enemies - the Midianites. Under Gideon's leadership Israel prevailed. In these chapters where Jerubbaal is mentioned there are certain Midianite captains who were killed. Oreb, Zeeb, Zebah and Zalmunna. All 4 of them were killed. But these 4 military leaders who were enemies of Israel are mentioned together elsewhere in the Bible. In Psalm 83. The very Psalm that speaks of the final confederacy that happens at the time of the end – when Israel's sworn enemies try to destroy Israel – but Israel (like Gideon) prevails.

BIBLE QUOTE

Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb..... And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that were on their camels' necks. Now see Psalm 83:4-11 – this is about to happen! (Judges 7:1+25, 8:21)

More than 120 killed as floods hit Germany & Belgium

The Times, July 16, 2021



EVENT

At least 120 people have died and hundreds are missing after **some of western Europe's worst flooding in decades**. **Record rainfall** caused rivers to burst their banks, devastating the region. In Germany, where the death toll has passed 100, Angela Merkel, the chancellor, called for a **determined battle against climate change**. Media in Belgium have reported 20 deaths but with another 20 people still missing the figure is expected to rise. The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland are also affected. The death toll in North Rhine-Westphalia, one of the hardest-hit German states, has reached 43, up from 31 the previous day, according to the authorities. Merkel interrupted her visit to the US on Thursday to say she had been "shaken" by the disaster and to express sympathy for the families of the dead and missing. "[These] peaceful places are now experiencing a catastrophe, you could say a tragedy," she said. **"The words 'deluges' and 'flooding' are very inadequate to describe it."**

COMMENT

"Wildfires tearing through Siberia's boreal forest, **floods** killing scores of people in Germany, **high temperatures** roasting North America: these are the manifestations of a **growing climate crisis that is accelerating faster than scientists and campaigners expected.**" This is how The Times editorial begins. Recent fires have swept through more than **three and a half million acres** in Russia. We are seeing deadly **heatwaves, floods, storms, wildfires, droughts, crop failures**. All creation is groaning under the weight of sin – but there is a **connection between sin and the physical creation**. As one deteriorates – so does the other. Only Christ's return can heal the world...

BIBLE QUOTE

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed **is the ground for thy sake**; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; **Because Adam sinned the physical "ground" or earth was cursed.** God links sin to the physical world therefore. (Genesis 3:17)





KAZAKHSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

GEORGIA

ARM. AZERB.

TURKMENISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

IRAQ

IRAN

PAKISTAN

KUWAIT

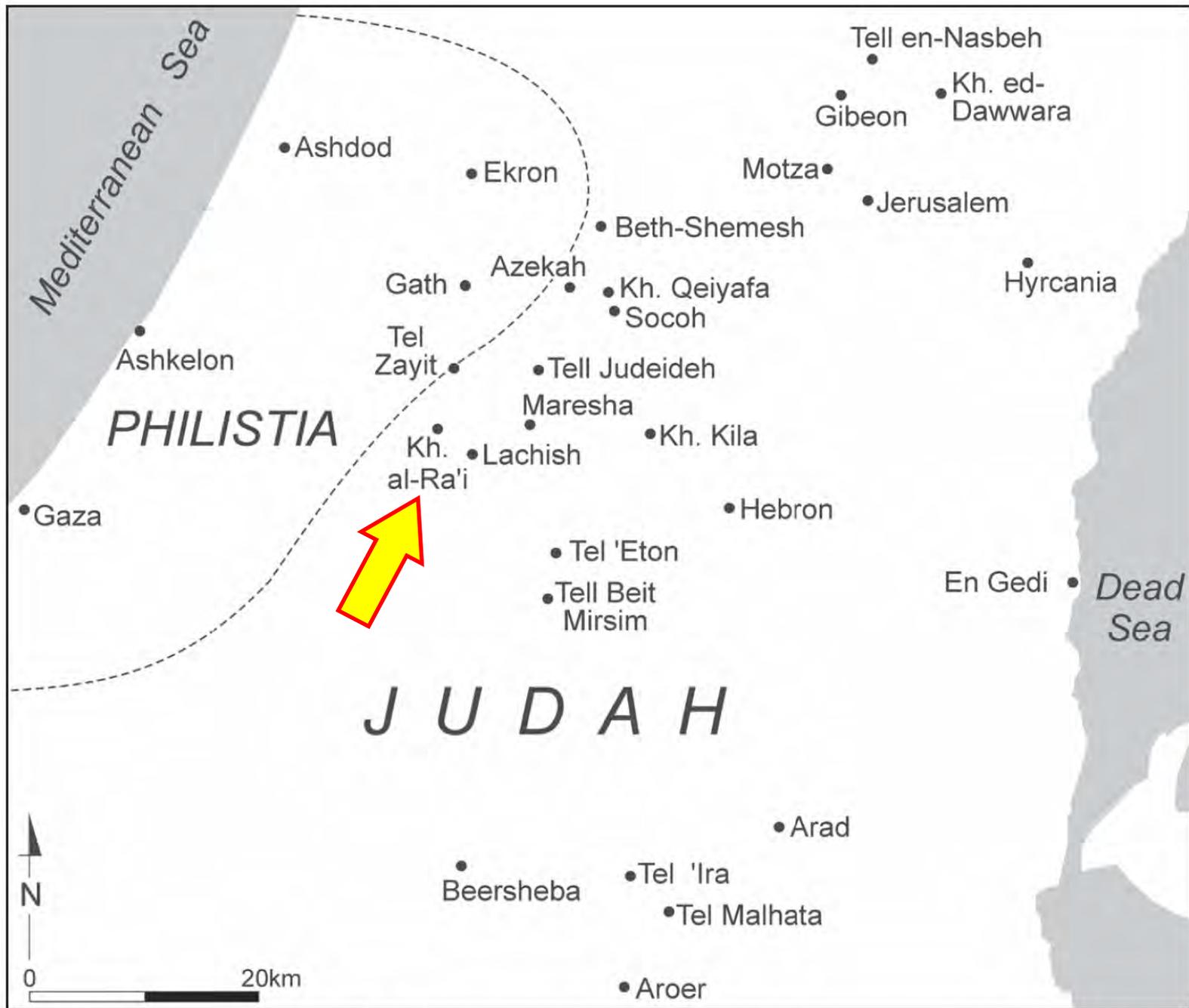


Fig. 1. Map of the Shephelah region and the location of sites mentioned in the text.

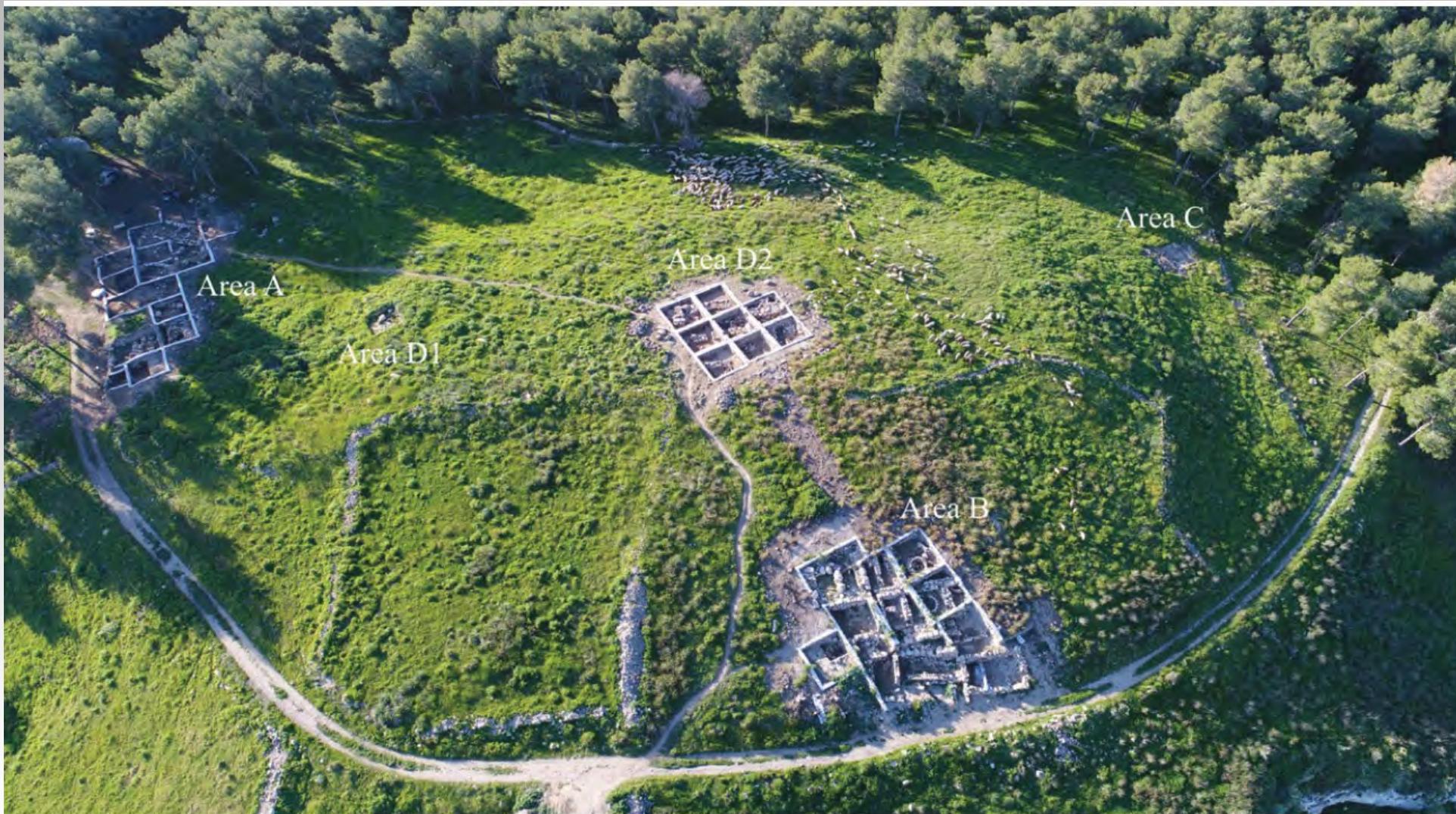


Fig. 2. Aerial photograph of Khirbet al-Ra'i. Area A is located on the left.

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

DebkaFile Review (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

2021-05-28 Israel's operation against Hamas was the world's first AI war - The Jerusalem Post PDF version

2021-05-26 Hamas Has Made Its Goal Clear- DESTROY Israel. Is the Media Listening? - YouTube

2021-05-27 Hezbollah Leader Threatens Israel - with Regional War - Over Jerusalem - YouTube

2021-05-28 UN Hypocrisy EXPOSED as it Singles Out Israel for Gaza Casualties - YouTube

2021-05-21 Israel's Gaza war is like no other military operation in history – Opinion - The Jerusalem Post

2021-06-05 Will Iran Test a New Israeli Government? (Approx 11 minutes)

2021-06-18 Hamas Targets Israel with MORE Arson Balloon Attacks and IDF Responds - YouTube

2021-07-02 Future of War- Cyber is the new nuclear - YouTube 9.39 min

2021-07-07 Iran Accuses Israel of Nuclear Plant Attack; US Thwarts Drone at Baghdad Embassy - YouTube 10.36 min

2021-07-08 U.S. Forces in Iraq TARGETED with Rocket Barrage & Explosive Drones - YouTube 11.04 min

2021-07-09 Israeli Archaeologists Uncover ANCIENT Building Near Jerusalem's Western Wall - YouTube 8.36 min

2021-07-09 U.S. Soldiers Wounded in Rocket Attack as Iran INTENSIFIES Proxy War - YouTube 12.24 min