

The Bunge Bulletin

ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE
FOR
TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION,
AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

June 2018



Chaldean Translation Update

As mentioned in the previous two newsletters, Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH) is helping the Chaldean Community to have access to the Bible in audio form. In May they worked with Salim to record the Gospel of Mark. They are working to make this recording available to the Chaldean Community by July.

Views and Valleys in Israel

The study trip to Israel in April was very rewarding. Now when I read passages in Scripture, I can “see” places in my mind because I have been there. This will be an aid in translation since I can describe to the translator what a particular location looks like.

Knowing and seeing the layout of the land is a big help. Israel has many mountains, hills and valleys. For example, the Elah Valley is one of five fertile valleys west of the highlands of Judah. It is called the Elah valley for the terebinth tree, which in Hebrew is ‘elah’ (pronounced AY-lah).



Terebinth Tree





1 Samuel 17 relates David facing the Philistine hero Goliath in the Elah Valley. After David defeated Goliath, the Israelites chased the Philistines “as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron,



so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.” (1 Samuel 17:52) The pictures on this page are of Shaaraim. Shaaraim means two gates, twin gates, double gates, or a pair of gates. Other cities in Israel had only one gate. The valley wraps around the location, and so this may be the reason for two gates. The picture on the left shows the entrance of the gate complex facing Elah Valley to the south. On the right is the gate complex facing the valley to the west.

Chaldean Church History

In 1281, the Nestorian Catholicos Denha I died and the Nestorian Church elected Markos, who was at that time the metropolitan of China, as the new Patriarch. He adopted the title Yaballaha III. In 1287, he and the Il-khan Arghun jointly dispatched Rabban Sauma, now a bishop, to the pope and the rulers of Europe, in an effort to seek support for the Mongol campaign to recapture Jerusalem from the Muslims. Rabban Sauma visited Byzantium, Rome, Genoa, Paris and Bordeaux. When the cardinals in Rome asked him if he recognized the authority of the pope, he replied, "Never has any man from the Pope come to us Eastern Christians. The Holy Apostles taught our fathers the true faith and so we hold it intact to this day." The Il-khan was so pleased with the mission that he had his son baptized and promised to be baptized himself when the Mongols captured Jerusalem. Two more embassies were dispatched by the Mongols, one led by a high-ranking officer in the army who had converted to Christianity. However, Europe never followed up on its expressed intentions of cooperating with the Mongols and the opportunity was soon lost. Arghun died in 1291.

[Adapted from *The Church of the East* by Mark Dickens (www.oxuscom.com/ch-of-east.htm)]

Prayer and Praise:

- **Pray for additional funding sources for Aramaic Bible Translators.**
- **Thank God for all who pray and give to the Bunge Ministry at LBT to sustain this ministry, as well as for a safe trip to Israel.**

For Contributions

Make checks out to
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