

Notes on the Prosopography of the Old Testament¹

Ran Zadok - Tel-Aviv

1. A Farewell to the Judge Tola

Tola son of Puah, the first of the minor judges², was hardly a genuine figure. In my opinion, this judge is an innovation of the editor of the Book of Judges based wholly on Hexateuchal materials (in this case Source 'P'). It has long been observed that Tola and Puah are identical with the first and second clan of Issachar respectively³, and that Shamir, the place where the alleged judge dwelt (*yšb*) and was buried is connected with Shimron (*Šmr(w)n*), the fourth and last Issacharite clan⁴. Now, the beginning and end of Jud. 10,1, viz. *Twl^σ bn Pw'h... ywšb bŠmyr*, are simply based on the enumeration of the Issacharite clans in Nu. 26,23f. (rather than Gen. 46,13), since *ywšb* is just a metathesis of *yšwb*, the third Issacharite clan. The combined spelling *Pw'h* (*⟨Pwh + *Pw'⟩*) is identical with the spelling of the clan's name in 1 Ch. 7,1. Combined ('eclectic') spellings are typical of Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles and may be an indication for the lateness of this passage in the Book of Judges within the Deuteronomistic History. Moreover, this passage may be one of the earliest forerunners (if not the ear-

-
- 1 Abbreviations as in S. SCHWERTNER, Internationales Abkürzungsverzeichnis für Theologie und Grenzgebiete, Berlin-New York 1974 and W. von SODEN, Akkadisches Handwörterbuch, Wiesbaden 1959-1981, except for the following: GP 2 = F.-M. ABEL, Géographie de la Palestine 2, Paris 1938, PHIA = R. ZADOK, The Pre-Hellenistic Israelite Anthroponymy (forthcoming); TA = Tel-Aviv.
- 2 See A.J. HAUSER, JBL 94, 1975, 190-200 with previous lit.; J.A. SOGGIN, VT 30, 1980, 245-248; idem., Judges (OTL), London 1981, 198.
- 3 See the commentaries, esp. G.F. MOORE, Judges (ICC), Edinburgh 1895, 270-271; A.J. HAUSER, JBL 94, 1975, 198f. Puah was understood as a patronym probably in view of the formula $PN_1 PN_2$ for $PN_1 bn$ ("son of") PN_2 in the ancient Hebrew epigraphy (esp. on seals). Thus the editor might have interpreted Gen. 46,13 as "Tola son of Puah", provided his Vorlage (or a variant) did not have *w-* in front of *Pwh*.
- 4 See O. PROCKSCH, Die Genesis übersetzt und erklärt (KAT 1), Leipzig 1913, 501 ad 46,13, but his opinion that Tola and Puah in Gen. 46,13 "sind wohl

liest one) of the embryonic homiletic traits which were detected in Chroniclers by SEELIGMANN⁵.

2. Asherite Clan Names

Several Asherite clans were identified with places in Mt. Ephraim, viz. *Brzw/yt*, *Ypłt*, *Šw°l*, *Šlš(h)* and possibly (*Tmmt*) *Srh*⁶. It is possible that the name of another Asherite clan, namely *Yḥbh* (<*WḤbh*>), is identical with a place in Upper Galilee and was included in the territory of Asher. This place is Talmudic *Byt Ḥwbyh* (modern *Ḥirbet al-Ḥabay*)⁷.

A typical phenomenon of the Asherite genealogical list (1 Ch. 7,30f) - which is not absent in other such lists of the same textual group of the Chronicler's work⁸ - are the double names of certain clans, e.g., *Yšwh/Yšwy*, *B'r°/B'ry*, *Ytr/Ytrn*, *Šlš/Šlšh*, as well as, perhaps, *Ymnh/Ymrh* (with an interchange of liquids/nasals due to the presence of another such consonant, viz. *m*)⁹ and *Bmhl/Bn-Hlm* (<**B-hlm* with a metathesis?)¹⁰. Is °*šwt* a metathesis of **Šw°t* (>**Šw°h/Šw°°*, for -*h/°* cp. *Yrwšh/°*)? *Swḥ* derives from the same root as *Syh(w)n*, viz. *S-W/Y-Ḥ*. Talmudic sages¹¹ connected the latter form (which ends in the common suffix -ōn) with Mid. Heb. *sy(y)ḥ* 'foal, young ass', a

aus Jud. 10,1 entnommen" is to be rejected. See also E.Y. KUTSCHER, *Tarb.* 11, 1939/40, 20-21; B. MAZAR, *EB(B)* 6, 304; N. NA'AMAN, *Zion* 48, 1982/3, 10.

- 5 I.L. SEELIGMANN, *Tarb.* 49, 1979, 14-32; cf., e.g., P. WELTEN, *Geschichte und Geschichtsdarstellung in den Chronikbüchern* (WMANT 42), Neukirchen-Vluyn 1973, 179ff.186ff.191ff.; S. JAPHETH in Y. ZAKOVITCH and A. ROPE (eds.), I.L. SEELIGMANN Volume, Jerusalem 1983, 327-346; N. NA'AMAN, *Zion* 52, 1986/7, 261ff.
- 6 See the commentaries and Z. KALLAY, *EB(B)* 8, 602f. with lit.
- 7 LXX Οβα, Ωβαβ. Cf. M. AVI-YONAH, *Gazetteer of Roman Palestine*, (Qedem 5), Jerusalem 1976, 38f., s.v. Beth Hobaia. Ḥbh can be located in the Iron Age (I) site No. 51 several hundred metres southwest of Ḥirbet al-Ḥabay (cf. R. FRAENKEL, in M. YEDAYA [ed.], *The Western Galilee Antiquities*, Tel-Aviv 1986 [Heb.], 309.310.316:51.52).
- 8 E.g., *Šm°/Šm°y* (cf. 5 below). Is *Yšr* (son of Naphthali, Gen. 46,24; Nu. 26,49; 1 Ch. 7,13) a metathesis of *Šry* (gentilic of *Šr*, one of Naphthali's settlements, Jos. 19,35)?
- 9 Is *Ymlh/°* (2R 22,8.9; 2 Ch. 18,7.8) originally the same name? Alternatively to *M-L-°* 'fill, be full' (cf. PHIA, § 21361).
- 10 For *bn- > b-* R. ZADOK, *On West Semites in Babylonia during the Chaldean and Achaemenian Period: An Onomastic Study*, Jerusalem 21978, 108. The modern Galilean toponym (<Ḥn-)<*Māhil* is not necessarily related to *Bmhl* (as suggested by S. YEIVIN apud S.E. LOEWENSTAMM, *EB(B)* 2, 153), but may be genuine Arabic.
- 11 Babylonian Talmud, *Rosh Hashana* 3a.

derivation which is quite possible. On the other hand, the identification of *N'y'1* with the modern Galilean toponym *Ya'nIn*¹² is phonologically unlikely. The latter may be a plural of Aram. *y'n*, i.e. 'desirous, greedy, voracious'.

3. Gedor

Hgdwr (1 Ch. 8,31), one of the ancestors of King Saul, is possibly a personification of *Gdwr*, the place from which several of David's warriors originated¹³. They appear in a list of Benjaminite warriors (1 Ch. 12,2f.) who are described as 'Saul's brethren' provided this designation is not confined to the first members of this list. These first warriors originated from Gibeah, Anathoth and Gibeon (the first and last places are connected with Saul's clan acc. to the Chronicler's genealogical lists¹⁴). To the many analogies of anthroponym = toponym in the Benjaminite genealogical lists (1 Ch. 8 and 9) one may add the case of *Plty'1* *bn Lyš* (1 S 25,44; 2 S 3,15)¹⁵.

4. Ephraimites and Manassites in Post-exilic Jerusalem?

According to 1 Ch. 9,3, there were Ephraimites and Manassites among the first settlers in post-exilic Jerusalem. However, there is no concrete information about them. It is possible that this statement is nothing but the Chronicler's invention, the more so since it is not found in the parallel version of Nehemiah (11,4f., henceforth: "Neh."). He was inspired by the occurrence of *hšlny* in the same chapter which - as the Massoretic vocalization shows - was misinterpreted as a gentilic of Shiloh in Ephraim instead of a gentilic of Shelah son of Judah. It is more difficult to understand why Manasseh is also included here. Was Manasseh's inclusion caused by the frequent association of Manasseh and Ephraim in the Old Testament? It should be remembered that the combination "Ephraim and Manasseh" is especially common in Chronicles. In addition, the occurrence of *Mkry* in the settler's list (albeit among the Benjaminites, cf. below) might have caused an association with *Mkryr* son of Manasseh.

12 See C.R. CONDER, PEFQSt 1883, 135; A. SAARISALO, JPOS 9, 1929, 36¹.38.

13 A suburb of Gibeon according to A. DEMSKY, BASOR 202, 1971, 20f.

14 See *ibid.* and cf. W.F. ALBRIGHT, BASOR 159, 1960, 37.

15 Cf. GP 2, 368.

On the whole, the list of the first settlers in Jerusalem is fragmentary and damaged¹⁶. U. KELLERMANN's opinion¹⁷, viz. that the priestly section of this list is pre-exilic, cannot be supported as there is no proof that *yd^oyh* was son of *Sryh*. There are several corrupted forms in this list (1 Ch. 9,3f): *°mry* (Neh. *Zkryh*) is just a dittography of the following *°mry* (with an apparently tendentious corruption ' - > ° -) whereas *°myhwd* (linguistically of a common type¹⁸; Neh. *°zyh*) seems to have been combined from *°m(ry) + Yhwd (= Yhwdh)*, i.e. 'proto-homiletic' (cf. above, 1) 'people of Judah'¹⁹ which suits his extraction. *Mkry* and *'lh* seem to be secondary for *Zkry* and *Yw'1* of Neh. whereas *°zy* and *šp^tyh* might have been introduced from Neh (*°zyh*) thereby being transferred from the section of Judah to that of Benjamin.

5. Beth Hanan

This toponym (*Byt Hnn*, 1 R 4,9), which refers to either *'ln/'yln* (with MT, i.e. 'Elon of Hanan's clan', cf. presently²⁰) or an independent settlement (with LXX)²¹, was perhaps named after the Benjaminite clan of Hanan. The latter was the sixth son of Shashak who might have been a brother of Beriah, Shema (*Šm^o = Šm^oy*, cf. 2 above) and Jeroham/Jeremoth, as well as a relative of Elpaal. Beriah and Shema are described as chiefs of clans of the inhabitants of Ayalon (1 Ch. 8,13). The town of *'(y)l(w)n*, which was originally assigned to Dan (Jos. 19,42.43; Jud. 1,35) has later become Benjaminite²². This recon-

-
- 16 Cf. R.A. BOWMAN, *The Book of Ezra and the Book of Nehemiah* (IntB 3), New York 1954, 744; J. LIVER, *Chapters in the History of the Priests and Levites*, Jerusalem 1968 (Heb.), 38¹⁷.
- 17 Nehemia: Quellen, Überlieferung und Geschichte (BZAW 102), Berlin 1967, 103f.
- 18 Cf. M. NOTH, *Die israelitischen Personennamen im Rahmen der gemeinsemitischen Namengebung* (BWANT 3, 10), Stuttgart 1928, 77.146; PHIA 11422.
- 19 Cf. 2 S 19,41; 2 R 14,21; Jer. 25,1.2; 26,18.
- 20 Cf. Y. AHARONI, TA 3, 1976, 6f.
- 21 Cf. J.A. MONTGOMERY, *Kings* (ICC), Edinburgh 1951, 124f.; B. MAZAR, IEJ 10, 1960, 67-68; N. NA'AMAN, *Zion* 48, 1982/3, 11; Z. KALLAY, *Historical Geography of the Bible: The Tribal Territories of Israel*, Jerusalem 1986, 40. 49.363.368. Cf. also A. ALT, PJ 22, 1926, 71f.; F. PINTORE, RSO 45, 1970, 185-187; GP 2, 240ff.312ff.
- 22 For the utopian nature of the list of the Levites' towns see N. NA'AMAN, *Zion* 47, 1981/2, 237-252.

struction is possible only if the Chronicler's relevant section on Hanan's extraction is authentic and based on sources from the period of the United Monarchy. B. MAZAR's hesitant identification²³ of *Hnn* with *B^ol Hnn hGdry* is less likely, as *B^ol Hnn*, being a compound (*B^olHnn*) is different from *Hnn* and is definitely not a clan name.

6. Geber Son of Uri, the Governor of the District of Gilead

Gbr bn 'ry (1 R 4,19), the governor of the 12th Solomonic district, is probably an artificial addition²⁴ consisting of the apparent patronym of *Bn Gbr*, the governor of the 6th Solomonic district (= the first district of Trans-Jordan). The latter included Ramoth-Gilead, the tent-villages of Yair (*Y'yr*, *Y'r*) and Argob. *'ry* is probably a metathesis of *Y'r*.

23 EB(B) 1, 267.

24 See W.F. ALBRIGHT, JPOS 5, 1925, 26ff.34f.; cf. T.N.D. METTINGER, Solomonic State Officials (CB.OT 5), Lund 1971, 122; cf. also H.N. RÖSEL, ZDPV 100, 1984, 87f. Y. AHARONI, TA 3, 1976, 11f. preferred MT *G1'd* on LXX Παδ.