Why Khirbet Qeiyafa is a Judean city

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The Kingdom of Judah

Contributions to humanity:
- Bible
- Monotheism
- Aniconic cult
- Social laws
- Shabbat
The main opinions concerning the beginning of the Judean Kingdom

- **BIBLICAL TRADITION**
  - UNITED KINGDOM
    - JUDAH
    - ISRAEL

- **“MINIMALISTS”**
  - JUDAH
  - ISRAEL

- **GARFINKEL**
  - JUDAH
  - ISRAEL
Khirbet Qeiyafa (2007-2013)
Iron Age City
6 acres

Casemate city wall
2 gates
2 gates piazzas
Belt of houses
Public buildings in Areas A & F
Massive fortifications: casemate city wall
The western gate
The southern gate (with Elah Valley)
Area F: administrative tripartite pillar building
Area A: large central building at highest point

Later Byzantine building cut into the earlier building

Iron Age building
Radiometric dating: 1020-980 BC
Fortified city in Judah from the time of King David
Minimalist’s Strategies

1. 1980s: “Mythological” Paradigm  
   == Tel Dan inscription ==

2. 1996: “Low Chronology” Paradigm  
   == Khirbet Qeiyafa dating ==

Why is Khirbet Qeiyafa a Judahite city?

1. Urban planning
2. Cooking and diet
3. Administration
4. Writing & language
5. Geopolitical location
6. Cult
1. Urban planning: typically Judean

Belt of houses adjacent to the city wall, incorporating the casemates as rooms
Judean urban concept

Tell en-Nasbeh

Beersheba

Tell Beit Mirsim
2. Cooking methods

Thousands of animal bones were found. No pig bones, which are known at Philistines and Canaanite sites.

Baking trays are found in every house. They are not known at Philistine sites.
3. Administration.
Over 600 impressed handles
Storage jars with impressed handles

Taxation: provisions were collected, transferred, stored and redistributed in large pottery containers (storage jars)
Long tradition of stamped jar handles (only in Judah)
4. Writing: Khirbet Qeiyafa inscription
do not do… Judge…. …..king

ешתע = to do, a Hebrew word
5. Khirbet Qeiyafa’s geopolitical importance

1. On the border between Judah and Philistia.
2. Overlooking the Elah Valley, the main road leading from the Coastal Plain to the hill country: Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron.
3. Only 8 miles from Philistine Gath, a 90 acre city. The biblical tradition places the battle between David and Goliath here.
6. The Cult of Khirbet Qeiyafa
Two “shrine models” found in sanctuary near the main city gate

stone

pottery
The stone model

1. Door size: 10 by 20 cm. similar to proportions of Second Temple doors

2. A doorway decorated with three recessed frames, a well-known motif.
3. Seven groups of roof beams, three planks in each (triglyphs)

Athens Acropolis: triglyphs on the Parthenon, 400 years later than Khirbet Qeiyafa
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew Massoretic Text</th>
<th>King James Version</th>
<th>Revised Standard Version</th>
<th>Anchor Bible</th>
<th>Our Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 וספן באэр זמל עלי הצלעות אשר על העמודים ארבעים וחמישה קומてしまいます והם ארבעים וחמישה</td>
<td>And it was covered with cedar above upon the beams, that lay on forty-five pillars, fifteen in a row.</td>
<td>And it was covered with cedar above the chambers that were upon the forty-five pillars, fifteen in each row.</td>
<td>and it was roofed with cedar from above, over the planks that were on the columns, forty-five (in number), fifteen to a row;</td>
<td>and it was roofed with cedar above the triglyphs, which were placed on top of pillars, 45 flanks grouped into 15 triglyphs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 שלשה שקפים וא(Photo 1 not displayed)</td>
<td>And there were windows in three rows, and light was against light in three ranks.</td>
<td>There were window frames in three rows, and window opposite window in three tiers.</td>
<td>And splayed (windows), (in) three rows, facing each other, three times;</td>
<td>And triple recessed door</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implications of the stone model for the description of royal buildings in Jerusalem

1. Solomon Palace: the doors were decorated with triple recessed doorframes. The roof was built with 45 wooden planks arranged in groups of three as 15 triglyphs.

2. Solomon’s Temple: the doors were decorated with four and five recessed doorframes. The roof was built with wooden planks arranged in groups of three (triglyphs).
Artist’s reconstruction of Solomon’s Temple at the Harvard Semitic Museum (1 Kings, 6)
The biblical description of Solomon’s Temple

Hebrew: *mezuza revi`it, mezuza hamishit*
Tel Rehov (in northern Israel): numerous human figurines have been found from the 10th and 9th centuries BC. Similar figurines were found at Megiddo, Jezreel and Hazor.
Philistine iconography

Tell Qasile

Tell es-Safi
Why Khirbet Qeiyafa is a Judean city

1. Typical Judean urban planning

2. Cooking and diet:
   a. no pig bones. b. baking trays

3. Stamped jar handles (Judahite administration)

4. Hebrew inscription (unlike the Indo-European inscription from Philistine Tell es-Safi)

5. Geopolitical location

6. Cult: in rooms, no graven images, new type of temple architecture, similarities to the biblical text describing Solomon’s Temple
Thank You

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