Khawlan

A people of Saudi Arabia and Yemen

A 5-day Prayer Guide

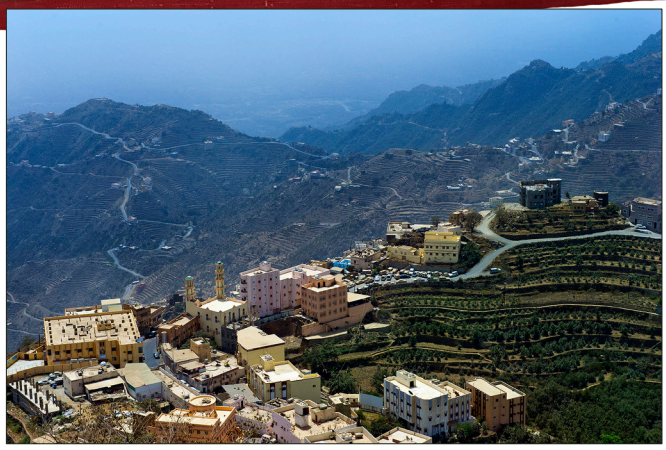


Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return:
"To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance."
Isaiah 45:22-23 (ESV)

More information can be found at:
http://prayforap.com

Day 1 Khawlan

People of Saudi Arabia and Yemen



The Khawlan bin Amer tribe inhabits the rugged Sarawat Mountains of southern Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen. The Khawlan are made up of over 30 large tribes and numerous sub-tribes and have a population of approximately 400,000. These isolated subsistence farmers survived with a spirit of independence for hundreds of years, high up in this steep and mountainous terrain. They collected rainwater in cisterns around their stone houses, kept livestock, and farmed local grains on terraces carved into cliffs. They celebrated unique traditions by wearing brightly colored clothing, crowns of richly scented flowers and herbs in their hair, and ornamented daggers around their waists. Their tightly knit societies remained untouched for centuries, far removed from the outside world. The Khawlan people are proud of their mountain life and their identity remains strong with their poetry and traditional dancing.



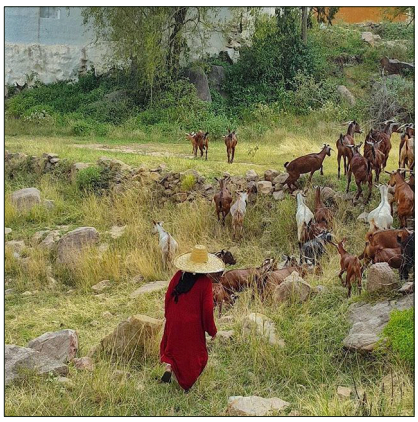


Over the last few decades, the Khawlan became increasingly exposed to a changing and developing world. Since ancient times, the Khawlan practiced a polytheistic worship that bound them in fear of spirits dwelling in the mountains and valleys. Wahhabi Sunni Islam was then embraced by the Khawlan, first in the peripheral foothills, then deeper into their mountainous village communities. The development of roads, electricity, schools, and clinics brought Quranic education, gender segregation, and Sharia law. Men found employment in the military, police, and other government jobs. Attending school on an unprecedented scale, Khawlan children are now in a transition between the lifestyle of their mostly uneducated parents and a modern way of life with air conditioning, smartphones, and imported foods. Islam is now the prevailing religion, while their belief of evil spirits (*jinn*) still influences daily life.

Scripture: (all scriptures from the ESV)

The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. Isaiah 9:2

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5



Pray:

For the Khawlan to know God has called them to be His people, and not just as servants, but as beloved children free from the bondage of legalism and the appeasement of spirits.

The Khawlan to have eyes to see the great light, Jesus, who has come to bring them out of darkness.

As the light shines and the Word is planted among the Khawlan, we declare that the darkness will not overcome it. God's Kingdom will be established and expanded among the Khawlan tribes.

Day 2 Khawlan

Khawlan Women

Until recently Khawlan women were an active part of Khawlan society. They contributed economically and socially which was seen in their lifestyle, dress, poetry, and the vital roles that they played in day-to-day life. Not long ago, brightly adorned women in tribal dress participated in weekly markets and sold handmade essentials. Now cheap imports have replaced local items, and if women are allowed out of the house, they must go covered in black *abayas* and be accompanied by a male guardian, according to the traditions of Wahhabi Islam. Asian rice and block houses with air conditioning indicates a kind of progress, but the lack of opportunities for women to exercise their skills and abilities reflects a step backwards.

A few fortunate women find opportunities through education, but access is often difficult in the mountainous Khawlan areas. There has been an increase in depression by women struggling to adjust to this new way of life as their traditional roles have been taken away from them. Some older women continue with their old ways, selling handicrafts, attending the markets, and wearing traditional clothes. The introduction of Wahhabi Islam and education among the Khawlan has become a wedge that divides the older and younger women.

Pray:

God created women uniquely for a purpose. It was not good for man to be alone. God didn't say that His creation was good until He created woman. Pray that the Khawlan women will know and understand their worth before God, and that their society will experience the value of women.

Pray for Khawlan women to gain a sense of purpose from their Creator.

Pray for Khawlan women to freely use their unique talents and abilities and be all that God has created them to be.

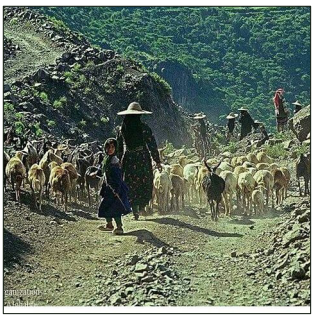
Scripture:

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made… How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Psalm 139:13,14 & 17

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10









Day 3 Khawlan

Bible Translation for the Khawlan

The language of the Khawlan is a unique and important feature of their tribal identity. Isolated for hundreds of years, the Khawlan language is not understood by people from outside their territory. Although much debate still exists concerning the origins of their language, it is said to be derived from ancient Himyaritic or Sabaic, which was spoken in Yemen during pre-Islamic times.

Their language is so difficult to understand that it was used as a secret code for radio communications during the second Arabian Gulf War. Although Khawlaniya, their heart language, is spoken among the Khawlan with pride to create a sense of solidarity and tribal identity, it has also been a source of discrimination from those outside the area. They are told not to speak their language outside the Khawlan region or in schools.

While Arabic is the official language of instruction in schools, teachers will sometimes instruct in Khawlaniya. Khawlaniya is used daily at home and in the marketplace, at public cultural events, and in social media.

The introduction of Sunni Islam into the area has brought the Arabic language along with it. The Quran speaks in an outsider's language. The God who spoke to Job and to Abraham, however, is now calling the Khawlan to Himself. He speaks their language.

A translation of Scripture in their heart language will speak to their identity and tribe, as the incarnate truth of Immanuel, God with us. From children to the elderly, oral passages will enable many Khawlan to hear, comprehend, and respond to God's Word at a depth that no Arabic translation can.

Scripture:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things. Isaiah 45:4-7

Pray:

For the Khawlan to hear God calling them through His Word in their own language.

For Khawlan believers to work on the oral Bible translation.

For wisdom on how to use local cultural forms and styles in the translation, such as poetry. The Khawlan love poetry, singing, and dancing.









Day 4 Khawlan

Khawlan Caught in the Conflict

For hundreds of years the Khawlan living on both sides of the Saudi-Yemeni border have been able to engage as one tribal group. Until very recently, the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen was open and tribal members had the freedom to travel back and forth daily to see family, to do business, or to farm. This has now changed with the ongoing Saudi-Houthi conflict, as borders have now been locked down with heavy security. This has forced families on the border to relocate their houses and communities. In this process, families have been separated from those on the other side of the border and have lost land. On the Yemeni side, there are many reports of displacement, destruction, and death.

Although not from the Khawlan tribe, the Houthis live in the same areas on the Yemeni side of the border. The Khawlan of Saudi Arabia have joined to support their country, many of them serving in the military and border security roles.

While their language, traditions, and heritage unite them as a tribe, a war waged by outside parties which is based on religious differences (the Shia-Sunni divide) seeks to divide the Khawlan.

Scripture:

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us. Acts 17:26-27

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble. Psalm 119:165

Pray:

God determines boundaries of people so that they would seek Him. As new boundaries have been drawn, we ask that God will use this conflict to cause many Khawlan to seek Him.

For those who have suffered as a result of the war, that God will use these trials and tribulations to draw them to Christ.

For an end to the Saudi-Yemeni war.

Day 5 Khawlan

May the Khawlan Worship the Lord

Archaeology shows that sizable Christian civilizations existed in the vicinity of the Khawlan during pre-Islamic times. Were the ancient Khawlan exposed to the gospel? We might never know. But what we do know is that today a deep bondage of fear and legalism is keeping the Khawlan from walking in the Father's love and freely worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

The legalism of Islam and the belief in evil spirits known as *jinn* brings fear and oppression to many aspects of their daily lives. These powerful forces must be broken to set the Khawlan free.

Scripture:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4:18

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord. Psalm 40:3



Pray:

That the Khawlan will know the perfect love of God that casts out fear.

For a breaking of the fear of the evil spirits and the influence of the evil one.

There are very few believers among the Khawlan, and there is no church. Pray for the establishment of the Khawlan church.

That God will use the Khawlan to reach Saudi Arabia and Yemen for Christ.

The Khawlan love poetry and traditional dance. Pray that as the Khawlan come to know Jesus as Lord, Savior, and Redeemer, God will put a new song in their mouths. Pray that the Khawlan will write poetry and songs praising God in their unique language and cultural style.

For the Khawlan to be part of offering incredible worship of the Lamb with the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders who "fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." Revelation 5:8

PTAP
PRAYING THROUGH the ARABIAN PENINSULA