

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

November 2020

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in this plan; that is man's destiny. Although man is
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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



The United States presidential election cannot be compared with elections in any other country. After all, it is about the president of the world's leading power. That is why the whole world is watching, with eager interest in the result. Contrasts have probably never been as stark as this time. In addition, the corona crisis is holding the world in anxious suspense, and President Trump, who is running for re-election, has himself fallen ill with the virus.

The outcome of the US election will have a definite impact on Israel, and especially Prime Minister Netanyahu; the close relationship between the two presidents has decisively influenced political developments. Nobody would venture to predict the outcome of this election. Trump has many opponents, but it must be acknowledged that, unlike many of his predecessors, this president has kept the campaign promise of moving the embassy to Jerusalem. His policies in the Middle East have led to peace alliances between Israel and Arab countries. This has been a surprise to many.

The situation is similar in Israel with Netanyahu: three elections took place in an attempt to oust him, and all



proved to be unsuccessful. Perhaps the current policy, which is geared toward building reciprocal peaceful relations, will be the one to eventually convince all people in the country.

But most relevant is what the Bible says about this subject. Scripture speaks of a time of peace and security, which will precede the events that usher in the return of the Lord Jesus. In the New Testament, we read Paul's words in a letter to the Thessalonians: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thess 5:3). We see something similar in the Old Testament, in Ezekiel 38:8, 11 and 14. Here the prophet talks about a time of security in Israel, just before a sudden invasion.

Elections are very important in our so-called "democratic world." Yet it is ultimately God who directs world history, not the people; it is He who directs the fate of the nations. Peace treaties are right and good, but with all peace efforts in this world, it must be remembered that true peace will only be possible under the just rule of the Messiah. That is why we, as believers, rely on God's Word and His promises; not on peace founded by mankind, but rather on the eternal peace promised by the Messiah.

Nevertheless, of course we are called upon to do all we can to ensure that peace may prevail in our families, communities, countries and world. But our hope for peace should only be founded in the eternal God.

Thus, hoping for Him who will bring eternal peace, I greet you warmly with Shalom.

Trevor Winkler



God Has Something Greater in Mind



NORBERT LIETH

In the book of Job, we read about God, “The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea” (11:9). What this means for our life and the future of this world.

God has a glorious purpose that He hasn't lost sight of. It isn't just a tiny portion of His Word, but is firmly anchored in it. That is why we should never lose sight of this purpose either.

I once received a greeting card that read: “God is greater than everything. His love is greater than our fear. His help is greater than our need. His hope is greater than our despair. His mercy is greater than our failure. His strength is greater than our helplessness. His consolation is greater than our injuries. His loyalty is greater than our shortcomings.”

That is what Hebrews 2:5-9 shows us: “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under

him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

First, God has a greater plan: “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak” (Heb 2:5).

The “world to come” (*oikomenē*) that Hebrews is speaking of means the coming messianic kingdom. It refers to the inhabited earth and all of humanity (Acts 17:31). The world and its future are not subject to the angels, however powerful, because they have other domains. Rather, the future earth is subordinate to humans, who are destined to rule. That isn't yet the case, but biblical prophecy keeps this purpose in view.

God has a glorious purpose that He hasn't lost sight of. It

isn't just a tiny portion of His Word, but is firmly anchored in it. That is why we should never lose sight of this purpose either. In Hebrews alone, we find at least six references to Jesus' return and His coming kingdom:

– “And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him” (Heb 1:6; cf. Rev 19:6).

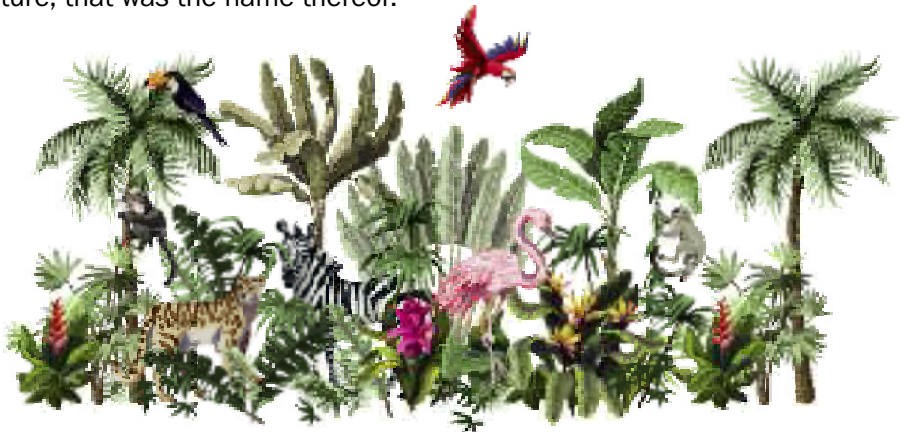
– “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak” (Heb 2:5).

– “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Heb 4:9).

– “So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him” (Heb 9:28, NIV).

– “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb 10:25).

“And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.”



– “For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry” (Heb 10:37).

God’s greater plan is the Messiah’s reign on earth (Rev 12:10). And God included humanity in this plan; that is man’s destiny.

Second, man has a greater calling:

“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him” (Heb 2:6-8).

Adam already received the order to rule over the earth: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl

of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth...And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth...And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof” (Gen 1:26, 28; 2:19).

The quotation, which Hebrews states as being “in a certain place,” comes from Psalm 8:5-6: “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.”

Although man is lower than the angels, according to the order

of creation, God has given him dominion over the earth. He created man for it.

Yes, what is man that God even thinks of him at all? What is man that the Almighty cares for him, looks out for him, and provides for him? What is man, over whom even the slightest angel stands? God not only thinks of him, but also crowned him with glory and honor and subjected all of creation to him, without exception. Yet, through the Fall, man initially lost this claim and ceded it to Satan. The inhabited world is currently ruled by the devil and his demonic angels. God's purpose wasn't accomplished through Adam. That's why Hebrews continues, "But now we see not yet all things put under him" (Heb 2:8b).

What do we see now? Chaos, sin, demonic things, abominations of all kinds, lovelessness, tyranny and dictatorship, injustice, environmental and mental (soul) pollution, mismanagement and exploitation, enslavement, bondage and addiction.

What don't we see now? The rule of man over the future earth. But God wouldn't be God if He didn't also complete a work that He had begun. He doesn't let everything continue this way until we destroy ourselves, because He has a bigger goal. And that's where Jesus comes in.

Third, Jesus is achieving greater things:

What God didn't accomplish with Adam is now being accomplished by Jesus Christ. His death cry expressed this: "It is finished!"

From the phrase, "But now we see not yet all things put under him," this statement follows: "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Heb 2:9).

Here the Lord—who is declared to be God in Hebrews 1 and who is higher than any angel—is mentioned by His human name, Jesus. The incar-

What God didn't accomplish with Adam is now being accomplished by Jesus Christ. His death cry expressed this: "It is finished!"



nate Son of God, like all human beings, was abased below the angels. Angels cannot die, but He died. And now in His work and in Himself, man is again elevated to take up his lost position in the coming messianic kingdom. In the Son of Man—Jesus—God achieves His purpose for mankind.

The Son of God became a Son of Man, abased below the angels. He suffered and died on the cross, and is now crowned with glory and honor. He has recovered

everything that the first Adam lost. The first Adam was defeated by the devil, but the second Adam defeated the devil (Heb 2:14).

Through this Jesus, upon His return and the establishment of the messianic kingdom, once-fallen man will again be crowned with glory and honor, and everything will be subjected to him (Rev 20:4). His hope is greater than our despair. We have good reason not to keep our eyes on the world, but to look at Jesus.

(MR0820/1095)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

AI Cuts Airport Security Time

What are the biggest Covid-19 concerns associated with flying? Being on the plane might be not as risky as originally thought, according to a study of passengers on a flight from Tel Aviv to Frankfurt.



SeeTrue helps security-check lines move faster. Photo: courtesy



The bigger worry may be maintaining social distance in the security-check line prior to boarding. Artificial intelligence-based software from Israeli startup SeeTrue is not Covid-19-specific, but it can speed up the process by 30 percent or more.

The software alerts screening staff to any suspicious object in passengers' carry-on luggage. That means less bags opened on a hunch or spot check, less misidentification of dangerous materials (was that a gun or a flashlight?) and, as a result, fewer stops and starts on the conveyer belt.

Another benefit: Opening fewer bags means less physical contact—another potential vector for spreading the virus.

NEWS IN BRIEF



COVID AIR FILTER

Technology developed by researchers in Israel and the US to filter particles from the air is being commercialized for filtration systems that filter out airborne Covid-19 particles.

The technology is based on laser-induced graphene, currently used in water-filtration systems to eliminate viruses and bacteria. It is being developed by researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Rice University in Houston, Texas.

This, the researchers say, is more efficient compared to the active carbon filters, UV-C and fiber HEPA filters widely used in private and public spaces.

-israel21c.org
7 October 2020



SeeTrue’s software plugs into existing airport screening systems—the now familiar X-ray and CT machines—and compares what it sees on screen with a database of forbidden objects. The database can reside in the cloud or locally. SeeTrue CEO Assaf Frenkel suggests the latter may be preferable for both data security reasons and speed.

SeeTrue’s software has some serious lifting to do. “There are thousands of types of guns and millions of types of knives,” Frenkel says. “From a computer perspective, identifying that is quite a challenge. It’s not just comparing specific items you can make out in a library.”

-www.israel21c.org, 7 October 2020

Commentary: One word — “security” — is the key to making the public accept virtually any intrusion of privacy. Only a few decades ago, much protest was heard relating to security checks of all passengers. Today, it’s normal, it’s accepted — even x-rays where the person’s body is fully exposed to the security agent.

Not surprisingly, when it comes to security, Israel is second to none. They have to be, as they are surrounded by Arab countries, of which only two — Egypt and Jordan — were at peace with Israel

(before the UAE and Bahrain) and which did not result in full-fledged normal cooperation between the countries. Thus, for Israel, it is vital to always be one step ahead on security measures. 7363



(See *Target Israel*, Item #2293, \$15.99.)


 **RUSSIA**

Synagogue Opened in City of World’s First Nuclear Plant

A synagogue has opened for the first time in Obninsk, a city near Moscow that was built in 1945 to accommodate the staff of the world’s first nuclear power plant.



A view of the modest former nuclear power plant control room in Obninsk, Russia, which is now a kind of museum. (Pallava Bagla/Corbis via Getty Images)

 Around 400 Jews, including some from Moscow seeking to move



out of the city, make up the city's Jewish population, according to the Federation of Jewish Communities in Russia. The nuclear plant had many Jewish employees and some of their families stayed in the Obninsk area.

The Obninsk rabbi, Aron Golovchiner, told Jewish.ru that the synagogue will begin by holding only Shabbat services and will expand to weekday services if the community demand increases.

Separately, the European Commission announced it would fund a restoration of the 18th-century Great Synagogue of Raskov in eastern Moldova.

The Polish government has also decided to fund a synagogue restoration project in the town of Kzepice, situated about 120 miles southwest of Warsaw, *Gazeta Wyborcza* reported.

The 200-year-old building deteriorated into disrepair and was given over to the municipality after its previous owners died, the newspaper reported. The synagogue of Kzepice is situated near the local Jewish cemetery which has the largest collection of cast-iron headstones in the world, according to *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

-www.jta.org, 7 October 2020

Commentary: The city once home to the world's first nuclear power plant,

will now get its first synagogue. Interestingly, the only time the word "synagogue" appears in the Old Testament is in Psalm 74:8: "They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land." This Psalm by Asaph laments the destruction of the sanctuary. Ravaged by Soviet communism and burned by Germany's Nazis, the old ruins testify of their former glory. Now, European contributions aim to see the synagogues restored.

This reminds us of Luke 7, where the Roman centurion asked Jesus for help: "And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant" (v. 3). Quite apparently, he believed Jesus was who He said He was. The centurion testifies: "Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed" (v. 7). Jesus praised his faith: "When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great



faith, no, not in Israel” (v. 9).

It is often said that the Jews hated the Romans, but in this instance, verse 5 shows it was not the case: “For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.”



May those be blessed who continue to bless the Jewish people.

7361

(See *Messianic Psalms*, Item #1074, \$14.95.)



MONACO

Highest Ratio of Jews in the World

This tiny wealthy country on France’s southeastern coast is famous for its beautiful beaches, coastal mansions and splendid casinos.



Rabbi Daniel Torgmant inside the Synagogue Edmond Safra in Monaco (Cnaan Liphshiz)



Outside of Israel, Monaco also has the highest ratio of Jewish inhabitants of any country in the world, at over 5%, according to statistics provided by its two rabbis.

To be fair, the city-state’s total population is only about 38,600, making it one of the world’s smallest nations. But

NEWS IN BRIEF



SECURITY BREACH DISCOVERED

Researchers from the Israeli Guardicore company have found a security breach that would allow hackers to listen to users through remotes belonging to the Comcast cable company in the US.

Comcast provides remotes that can accept voice commands. The security breach would allow hackers to activate the remote from a distance and listen to whatever was happening within meters of the remote.

Guardicore researchers informed Comcast of the breach and worked with them to fix the issue.

-jpost.com
7 October 2020



its some 2,000 Jews are cultivating a growing community thanks in part to a luxurious synagogue opened in 2017.

Synagogue Edmond Safra, which was buoyed by a donation of more than \$10 million by the Safra banking family, is housed inside a building that is shaped like a Torah scroll, its cylinder featuring Jerusalem stone tiling. The structure is oriented to see the Mediterranean and the famed Monaco marina—but has no windows to view them.

There is a bit of religious diversity as well, even though both of the state's synagogues—Safra and a Chabad-Lubavitch movement outpost—are technically Orthodox. Each has members who are not very strictly Orthodox in their own homes, including many Russian-speaking Jews who own businesses, Israeli entrepreneurs, and French- and English-speaking Jews with ties to the banking sector.

The relative simplicity of Tenhoum Matusof's synagogue also has its charms for some of Monaco's middle-class Jews, like the family of Mahnaz Grosjen, an Iran-born mother of two. She and her family moved from Geneva, Switzerland, to Monaco seven years ago at the request of her husband's employer.

One of the families drawn to the light are Borya and Masha Maisuraje, Russian

Jews who are originally from the Republic of Georgia and own a shipping company in Kaliningrad, Russia. They moved to Monaco in 2009 but "had very little to do with Judaism" before the opening of the new synagogue in 2017, Borya said. That year, they decided to plan a bar mitzvah for their youngest son, Alexei.

"It's welcoming here, it's a place you immediately feel comfortable in," Borya Maisuraje said. "We suggested it to Alexei and he immediately said yes."

Monaco does not have a Jewish school, though both synagogues provide Sunday and Hebrew schools, as well as youth activities during vacations. More observant parents send their children to one of the Jewish schools in Nice, a French city about 10 miles away and also the source for Monaco's fresh kosher food.

Unlike Nice, where many Jews feel unsafe, walking around with a kippah is no problem in Monaco—anti-Semitic incidents are extremely rare and police have a robust presence. There is about one officer per 70 residents, more than four times the European Union average.

A parliamentary principality with its own royal house, Monaco has a land area that's smaller than Central Park and is the world's most densely populated coun-



try, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division.

Millionaires constitute a third of the population—a ratio higher than anywhere in the world, according to the 2019 Knight Frank Wealth Report. The annual GDP per capita in Monaco was \$185,000 in 2018, more than three times the figure for the United States.

-www.jta.org, 1 October 2020

Commentary: While Monaco is recognized as a sovereign country, its population of only 39,000 compares to a small city anywhere else.

Do the rich live longer? Money helps. Life expectancy stands at 89 years. Regarding medical care, there are 7.5 doctors and 13.8 beds per 1,000 in population. The article mentions a per capita GDP of \$185,000. Monaco’s official currency is the euro, and they are apparently quite content with it.

The high percentage of Jews in Monaco is primarily due to security. Wealth, of course, is also a major contributing factor.

Interestingly, Russian Jews, who mostly care little for their Jewishness, found “a place you immediately feel comfortable in.”

Does this article have any relation to Biblical prophecy? We think so, because Jews are an extraordinary people when compared with the rest of the world. Based on Scripture, there is restoration: “Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries,

NEWS IN BRIEF



HISTORIC AIRSPACE AGREEMENT

Israel and Jordan reached an agreement allowing flights to cross over both countries’ airspace, the Transportation Ministry announced.

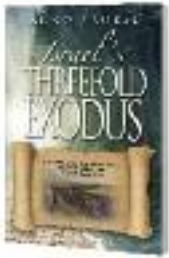
The agreement will significantly shorten the length of flights from Israel to the Gulf and East Asia, cutting the time it takes to travel between countries and cutting gas costs and pollution.

It will also allow the UAE and Bahrain, which recently made peace with Israel, along with other countries in the region, to fly over Israeli airspace.

-jpost.com
8 October 2020



yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and



I will give you the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 11:16-17).

7358

(See *Israel's Threefold Exodus*, Item #1088, \$14.50.)



USA

Israel Delivers First Iron Dome Battery to US Army

A year after the Defense Ministry and the US Army signed a deal for two Iron Dome missile defense batteries, the first battery has been delivered.



The purchase was made to fill the army’s short-term needs for an indirect fire protection capability until a permanent solution to the problem is put in place to best protect ground maneuvering troops against an increasingly wide range of aerial threats, including short-range projectiles.

The prime contractor for the development and production of the Iron Dome is

Rafael. The MMR radar is developed by ELTA, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, and the command and control system (BMC) is developed by mPrest.

The fully mobile system carries 10 kg. of explosives and can intercept an incoming projectile from four to 70 km. away. It is able to calculate when rockets will land in open areas, choosing not to intercept them, or are headed toward civilian centers.

Praising the system, which is part of Israel’s multilayered missile defense system, which also includes the David’s Sling, Arrow-2, and Arrow-3 weapons systems, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that it has “a significant impact on the battlefield” and reflects the “strength” of Israel’s defense establishment, with some 2,400 successful interceptions since 2011.

According to Rafael executive vice president and head of air and missile defense division Pini Yungman, a series of tests and demonstrations at the White Sands testing field has been carried out by the Iron Dome system, “tailored according to US requirements,” that intercepted targets chosen by the US Army.

In August, the world’s largest cargo plane, an Antonov AN-225, landed at Ben-Gurion Airport carrying US military Oshkosh trucks to be fitted with Iron Dome launchers



Israeli officials at an event honoring the delivery of an Iron Dome battery to the US Army.

(photo credit: ARIEL HERMONI / DEFENSE MINISTRY)

purchased by the US Army.

Gen. Mike Murray, head of Army Futures Command, identified several problems—including cyber vulnerabilities and operational challenges—during efforts last year to integrate elements of Iron Dome with the US Army’s integrated battle command system.

“We believe we cannot integrate them into our air defense system based upon some interoperability challenges, some cyber[security] challenges and some other challenges,” he was quoted by the Breaking Defense news site as telling legislators.

“So what we ended up having is two stand-alone batteries that will be very capable, but they cannot be integrated.”

-www.jpost.com, 30 September 2020

Commentary: It’s quite noticeable that a Soviet Union product, the Antonov 225, is used to carry US military trucks to be fitted with Israel’s Iron Dome launchers. Another significant point of interest is General Mike Murray’s statement: “...we ended up having...two stand-alone batteries that will be very capable, but they cannot be integrated.”

NEWS IN BRIEF



LEBANON AND ISRAEL TO NEGOTIATE

Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah said US-backed talks aimed at delineating Lebanon’s disputed maritime border with Israel did not signify “reconciliation” or “normalization” with the Jewish state.

Lebanon and Israel, which are still technically at war, said they had agreed to begin UN-brokered negotiations over the shared frontier, in what Washington hailed a “historic” agreement.

The talks had “absolutely nothing to do with either any reconciliation with the Zionist enemy... or policies of normalization recently adopted...by Arab states,” Hezbollah’s parliamentary bloc said.

-israelnationalnews.com
8 October 2020



This reminds us of the prophet Daniel, who interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream—an image representing the four Gentile superpowers: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Daniel 2:42-43 reads: "And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Based on our understanding, the clay represents the Jewish people. The prophet Isaiah makes this statement: "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isaiah 64:8).

Jewish integration into the global Gentile world is irreversible. However, the unity between Israel and Gentile nations is temporary: "they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

7359

(See *Through the Eyes of the Prophet*, Item #2297, \$10.50.)

WORLD

Tel Aviv Among Top 5 Most Artistic Cities

Tel Aviv has been named the fifth-most creative city in the world, only behind Paris, Barcelona, Dublin and London, according to research conducted by Inkifi, a print-photography company that specializes in turning personal photos into wall art.



Through the data, Inkifi put together its list of cities that art lovers need to add to their "bucket list" accounts for a number of different art scenes, including galleries, music and comedy clubs, theaters, street art, Instagrams, building architecture and statues.

"This historic Israeli city is filled with creativity, boasting more than five art galleries per square mile and UNESCO-recognized architecture," Inkifi said.

The city with the most monuments, theaters and music clubs per square mile was Paris, which ranked No. 1 on the list. Paris also received the most searches on Instagram for people wanting to find street art or those who have posted photos of street art.

-www.jpost.com, 1 October 2020

Commentary: Striking are the words "this historic Israeli city." Yet there is



The streets of Tel Aviv are seen empty as Israel's second lockdown goes into effect on Shabbat

(photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI)

no history worth mentioning. It was founded in 1909 as a Jewish suburb of the ancient Mediterranean port city of Jaffa.

To be named the fifth most artistic city in the world is quite an achievement, when one realizes the virtual impossibility of establishing a city on some sand dunes on the Mediterranean coast in little more than 100 years. Tel Aviv is located 60 kilometers northwest of Jerusalem, and is also the place where Ben Gurion declared, "With trust in Almighty God, we set our hands to this declaration at this session of the Provisional state Council in the city of Tel Aviv this Sabbath eve, the fifth day of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth day of May, 1948."

It is of interest that the Declaration of Independence contains the word "Palestine" nine times, and specifically emphasizes Israel's equality to other nations: "It is, moreover, the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation, as all

NEWS IN BRIEF



JEWISH POET WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Louise Gluck, the American granddaughter of Hungarian Jews, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

For "The Wild Iris" she was awarded the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in poetry.

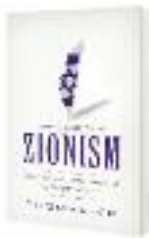
Born in New York in 1943, Gluck would go on to become the United States' poet laureate in 2003 and receive a National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2015.

-jta.org
8 October 2020



other nations, in its own sovereign state.” Later in the document: “We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building of its state and admit Israel into the family of nations.”

From Scripture, we know that this attempt to merge with the Gentile nations will be successful, albeit temporarily. Israel never was and never will be equal to all the nations of the world. “And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them” (Exodus 2:25). “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the



people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance” (Psalm 33:12). 7360 (See *The Case for Zionism*, Item #2327, \$14.99.)



TURKEY

‘Jerusalem Is Our City,’ Says Erdoğan

Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan opened the Turkish parliament’s legislative session with a long speech that addressed the city of Jerusalem and the Palestinian people, in which he stated: “Jerusalem is our city.”

Erdoğan mentioned that Jerusalem’s walls that still stand today, as well as the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem’s Old City, were reconstructed and restored by Suleiman the Magnificent, who reigned over the Ottoman Empire from 1520 until his death in 1566.

“The issue of Jerusalem is not an ordinary geopolitical problem for us,” Erdoğan said. “First of all, the current appearance of the Old City, which is the heart of Jerusalem, was built by Suleiman the Magnificent, with its walls, bazaar, and many buildings. Our ancestors showed their respect for centuries by keeping this city in high esteem.”

Suleiman the Magnificent was known for protecting the Jewish subjects of his empire through unprecedented reforms at the time, and is believed to have had a Jewish mother.

“In the broad sense of his speech, Erdoğan referred to three major countries—Greece, Armenia and Israel—and not by accident,” said Dr. Hay Eytan Cohen Yanaracak. “The common denominator of these countries is the fact that they are nation-states composed of the main minorities that existed in the Ottoman Empire and in today’s Republic of Turkey.

“When Erdoğan lashes out, whether it be against Armenia, via military assis-



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
(photo credit: HANDOUT/REUTERS)

tance to Azerbaijan, against Greece or by verbal attacks on Israel, we know that he is translating all of these steps towards electoral success," Yanarocak said. "It's not just about supporting the Palestinians, but about defining the way that the Turkish majority perceives minorities within the country, and how that perspective is reflected in Erdoğan's foreign policy."

-www.jpost.com, 3 October 2020

Commentary: Objectively, when looking at the Old City, its architecture clearly shows it was primarily built by Muslims. Thus, when President Erdoğan makes the statement, "Jerusalem is our city," he is not far off. However, that can also be said for the Romans, the Byzantines, and others who were in charge of the Holy Land, particularly Jerusalem.

Our concern is: what does the Bible

say? Israel's history begins with Abraham. Genesis 14:18-20 says: "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all." This somewhat mysterious Melchizedek, king of Salem, is described in Hebrews 7:3: "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." We note the words, "made like unto the Son of God," but he is not. Yet this meeting way back in Abraham's time shows Israel's historic right to Jerusalem.

But there is more; Hebrews 12:22 reads: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels."

7362

(See *Why Jerusalem Is Jewish*, Item #1070, \$2.)



“And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people” (Leviticus 26:12).

BY ARNO FROESE

This is God's express will for Israel. Dozens of times, we read that God desires to be among His people. In the Old Testament, we find the very words, “I will be your God” 134 times. However, here in Leviticus it's prefaced with, “If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them” (Leviticus 26:3). Then in verse 14, we read: “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments...,” thereafter describing the horrible judgment that will come upon the people. Thus, we see this is a conditional covenant between the God of Israel and His people.

Nevertheless, there is a distinct difference between Israel and all nations on the face of the earth. What does that mean? In simple terms, my nation—by whatever name—has no promise of continuity. Nations come and nations go. Presently, according to the United Nations, there are 195

nations. The youngest nation is listed as South Sudan, which declared its independence on 9 July 2011. But, that is only a political definition. Sudan was an entity long before our time. For example, to the Greeks, all the people living south of Egypt were called “Ethiopians.” In the Hebrew Bible, the territory is called “Cush,” which was the eldest son of Ham, the son of Noah. This writer was born in Windenburg, East Prussia, a place no longer found on any map. Today, it's called Ventė, Lithuania. How come? The answer is simple: Germany attacked Russia, which defeated Germany and simply divided territory in Europe. It matters not what your country is named; it's only temporary. But not so where Israel is concerned.

When reading Old Testament prophecy, it becomes quite evident that Israel does have a permanent address, where one day God will dwell. The last words of the book of Ezekiel read: “It was round about

eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there” (Ezekiel 48:35). *Adam Clarke’s Commentary* has this to say about the words, “The LORD is there”: “It would have been better to have retained the original words, Yehovah Shammah. This is an allusion to the Shechinah, or symbol of the Divine Presence, which was in the first, but most certainly was not in the second temple.”

About the new Jerusalem, which comes down from the new heaven to the new earth, Revelation 21:3 reports: “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

In the meantime, Israel has to concern itself with the surrounding nations.

We admire Israel’s diplomatic achievement, reaching an agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. There may be more countries, but we must point out that these things are only temporary. God’s goal is still

the same: He yearns for fellowship with His creation. In the first place, with His chosen nation, the seed of Abraham, to whom God promised: “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:3). Later, this promise was repeated to Isaac: “in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 26:4b). Finally, it was passed on to Jacob: “in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 28:14b).

We do well to keep the beginning and the end in mind when reading Holy Scripture. God’s intentions and His plans are rock solid. He will precisely fulfill the words He spoke many millennia ago to the Patriarchs.

Something important to emphasize is each person’s individuality. Moses was met by God in the burning bush. He was commanded to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, but said: “Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me,

What is his name? what shall I say unto them?” (Exodus 3:13). God then answers Moses and says, “I AM THAT I AM,” explaining in verse 15: “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.” We immediately note that God does not identify Himself as a collective God. For example, it does not say, “I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” He clearly indicates that He is the God of each individual.

That is a mighty message for us today. Your family, your city, state,

or country does not contribute any weight to your personal salvation. Thus, the question: is the Lord God your personal God? Do you know Him, and does He know you? If He is not my God and I do not belong to Him, then all of human history is insignificant.

The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has clearly expressed His intention to dwell in your heart through Jesus Christ—God manifested in the flesh. Only then am I part of the ultimate fulfillment: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” (MC)

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Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:31)

By David Phillips

Project Manager

Happy Thanksgiving to our precious Ebenezer family!

We have so much to thank our Heavenly Father for, here at Ebenezer! First, we would like to say a special thanks to all of YOU for being a part of the Ebenezer family!! It has meant so much to us—especially this year, as we faced so many unknowns and daily challenges—to know we had family standing by us, praying for us, encouraging us, and supporting and helping us! From the depths of our heart, we thank the LORD for allowing you to be a part of our family and the work that God has us doing! We also wanted to thank you for all the beautiful letters and



cards we have received this past year! It is always a great delight to hear what He is doing in each of your lives too. Please keep them coming—look forward to hearing from you!

As you all know, the beginning of August saw us fundraising for our desperately needed new van. How God has brought you—our family—together to help us in time, has brought us to

tears! To God be the glory, we are excited to announce that with your help [as of the printing of this magazine], we have raised \$78,650!!! This means we are only 10 percent away from reaching our targeted amount of \$87,300 (this price includes the extremely high Israeli tax and the needed equipment for the elderly)!

With your help, our prayer is that by Thanksgiving (November 26), we will reach our goal and be able to purchase the new van for the Ebenezer Home! To check our progress, please visit our website at: www.ebenezer.co.il or find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/ebenezer.home.7



We also want to announce that Family F is the winner of this amazing 36" x 16" replica of *Blowing the Shofar* [as mentioned in the April issue of *News From Israel*], painted by Bep Phillips (my late mother who is with the Lord)!! Thank you all for being a part of this year's drawing!

For those interested in purchasing their own replica of this painting, please contact Samantha LaGoy at: ds4eeh@gmail.com

“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you” (Colossians 1:3).

May the Lord bless and keep you all, and may you take this time of giving of thanks, to think over all the many blessings HE has blessed you with this past year!



Note: Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line.

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