

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

January 2021

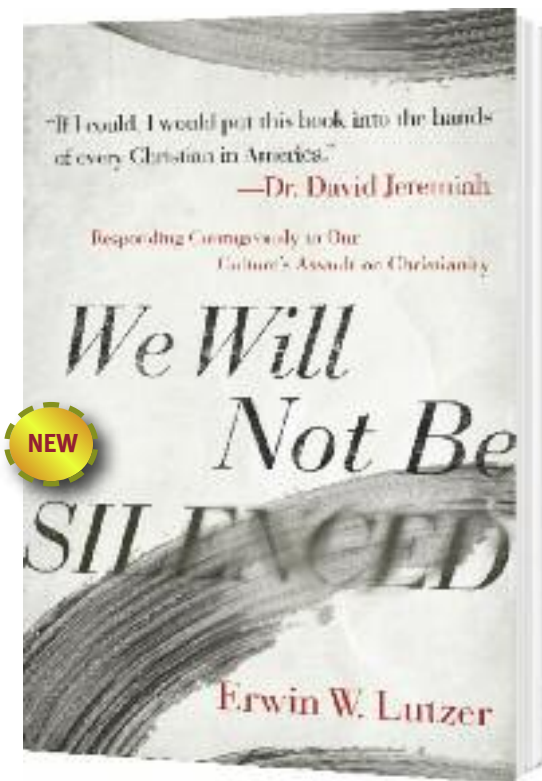
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Paul and the Hope of Israel



Technology Fights Drones at Airports P.16 • 23,000 Jews Naturalized P.18

“You will be both righteously provoked and personally convicted...” – Dr. Tony Evans



“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

Each day, you watch America turn further from Christian values and the core principles of liberty. It's frustrating to feel you can't assert biblical truth without facing condemnation, and frightening to witness outrage and victimhood replace respect and reason. Amidst this dissent, how can you not only stay rooted in your faith but continue to publicly testify for Jesus?

In *We Will Not Be Silenced*, Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer prepares you to live out your convictions against a growing tide of hostility. Gain a better understanding of nonbelievers' legitimate hurts and concerns regarding issues like racism, sexism, and poverty—and

identify the toxic responses secular culture disguises as solutions. In the process, you'll see how you can show compassion and gentleness to those outside of the faith without affirming their beliefs.

We Will Not Be Silenced will ready you to move beyond fear and boldly accept the challenge of representing Christ to a watching world that needs Him now more than ever before.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED ITEM #2372

288 pgs. • Paperback

\$17.99 New Author: Erwin W. Lutzer



Published twelve times a year by
Midnight Call Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 84309
Lexington SC 29073

Physical Location:
4694 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170, USA

Dr. Wim Malgo (1922–1992), *Founder*
Arno Froese, *Editor*
Fredi Winkler, *International Editor*
Michelle Kim, *Layout Designer*
Kimberly Farmer, *Copy Editor*
Barbara Lavery,
Melanie Makin and Helga Tirrell,
German-English Translators

Web: midnightcall.com
Toll free phone: 1-800-845-2420
Local and International: +1 (803) 755-0733

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
U.S.A. \$18
Canada \$26.50

All other countries \$38 U.S.

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SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRY:

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when moving or when making any
inquiry about your subscription.

INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

Nachrichten Aus Israel (German), Postfach
290, Ringwiesenstrasse 12a CH-8600
Dübendorf Switzerland • Nieuws Uit Israel
(Dutch), Postbus 193, 3940 AD Doorn,
Netherlands • Notícias de Israel (Portuguese),
Caixa Postal 1688, 90001-970 Porto Alegre
RS, Brazil
• Noticias de Israel (Spanish), PO Box 84309
Lexington, SC 29073 • Nouvelles d'Israel
(French), Case Postale 290, Ringwiesenstrasse
12a CH-8600 Dübendorf Switzerland

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



We are used to each New Year starting on January 1st, but it has not always been that way. Our calendar is the Roman calendar, and the names of the months September to December mean nothing more than the numbers 7 to 10 in Latin. This then means that January and February are the 11th and 12th month. Thus, the New Year in the Roman calendar originally started on the 1st of March.

The Romans changed the date for the start of a New Year with the turning of the year 154 to 153 BC. This was done for political reasons. At the beginning of each year, the new consul took office. At that particular time, the Spanish people were rising up against Rome, and it would not do to wait until March. Therefore, the beginning of the year was brought forward to the first of January, so that the new consul could go to war with the legions against the insurgents. Since

then, January has remained as the beginning of the New Year.

According to the progression of the seasons, March as the beginning of the year is actually more logical, because with spring, nature comes to renewed life after winter. The Biblical calendar also reflects this. God said to Moses and Aaron (Exodus Chapter 12) that the month they went out of Egypt should be the first month for them. The Passover festival, and thus Easter, are known to be in the spring.

How then did it come about that in the Jewish calendar, Rosh Hashanah—the New Year festival—is celebrated in the fall? This is a later development, from the time after the destruction of the temple. At that point, the Feast of Trumpets (in Hebrew “Yom Teruah”), mentioned in Leviticus Chapters 23—25, had practically lost all meaning and was then transformed into a New Year’s festival. However, it is



the case that an important biblical cycle begins with this month in the fall; namely, the counting of the Sabbath and Jubilee years. For that reason, this innovation in Judaism did have a certain justification.

It is interesting that the inauguration of a new American president nowadays also takes place in January (since 1937). The United States has adopted much of the Roman system in its governmental structure. The world is presently looking at the United States with some apprehension, wondering what effects the change of power will prove to have. This, of course, is of particular importance to Israel, which has an extremely close relationship with the United States.

In this context, the question also arises about what is happening politically in Israel. It appears as though the current coalition may well break apart and that Israel is headed for new elections. But, what will be the result? Will it lead to an effective and stable government? How will the situation in the Middle East continue to develop? And what about the corona crisis—will the

whole corona drama soon come to an end?

A lot of unanswered questions confront us at the start of this New Year. Considering all this, it is good we have not placed our hope in man but in the Lord God, who holds all things in His hands. God's Word is always an anchor and a firm hold for us in all circumstances; it is our point of orientation. At the beginning of this New Year, we want to thank our readers for their solidarity and support for the work we are privileged to undertake for Him, who has said: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"

These words in Revelation 1:8—spoken by the glorified Lord Jesus Christ—were addressed to the church left on earth, to strengthen her in her faith. These words should also give us great encouragement today and accompany us through the New Year.

With warm greetings and Shalom from Israel,

Trevor Winkler



Paul and the Hope of Israel



NORBERT LIETH

Paul isn't just a role model for the church he served, but also for the people of Israel he descended from. A biblical-prophetic exegesis.

Of these (Jews) Paul is the first, and indeed, a model for the remnant of Israel, which will eventually find its way to Jesus Christ.

Indeed, Paul says of himself that he is an example for those who will be saved in the future due to God's forbearance: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting" (1 Tim 1:15-16).—Why did the Apostle emphasize, "of whom I am chief," and "in me first"? Paul was surely a dreadful sinner, but he wasn't the most dreadful of all sinners. There were certainly some worse than him. Just think of King Manasseh in the Old Testament (2 Kings 21:9ff.).

In my view, the Apostle's statement has a second meaning, a prophetic one. Paul

described himself as an example for those who are still coming to Jesus Christ through faith, and thereby receiving eternal life (v. 16). This pertains to all people. But here in the prophetic depths, we can also see the Jewish people. Of these (Jews) Paul is the first, and indeed, a model for the remnant of Israel, which will eventually find its way to Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 15:8, Paul says of himself: "And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." The footnote in the Scofield Bible says, "before the due time"; in other words, premature: "Paul thinks of himself here as an Israelite whose time to be born again had not come, nationally (cf. Matt. 23:39), so that his conversion by the appearing of the Lord in Glory (Acts 9:3-6) was an illustration, or instance before the time, of

“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin” (Rom 11:1).

the future national conversion of Israel. See Ezek. 20:35-38; Hos. 2:14-17; Zech. 12:10-13:6; Rom. 11:25-27.”

Regarding Israel’s restoration, Paul writes something peculiar: “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin” (Rom 11:1). Here we can also see how the Apostle sets himself up as an example of the still-forthcoming salvation of Israel. Taking this into consideration, Israel has not been rejected. But why does Paul specifically emphasize that he comes from the tribe of Benjamin?

Paul bore another name, Saul (Acts 13:9). The name “Paul” came to the foreground with his commissioning as a missionary. The Saul of the Old Testament was also a Benjaminite (1 Sam

9:1-2), and this first king of Israel had been rejected by God (15:23, 26; cf. 16:7). But the Saul of the New Testament was accepted.

Is Paul perhaps highlighting, in regard to the rejected King Saul, that Israel hasn’t been rejected? It appears as if God is illustrating the grace of Israel’s restoration and re-adoption for us in Saul of Tarsus (Paul). Saul is the Benjaminite who is under the law, and therefore experiences its full severity and condemnation. He represents the people of Israel under the law.

King Saul was told, “Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee” (1 Sam 13:13). But Saul of Tarsus is the Benjaminite who stands under grace, and therefore receives mercy. God again

The conversion of Saul into Paul is a metaphor for the future conversion of the people of Israel.

P ~~SAUL~~

links the salvation of His people Israel to this point.

Paul testifies: “Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting” (1 Tim 1:16). But Saul was told, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Sam 15:22). And the Lord Jesus teaches, “But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matt 9:13).

Grace triumphs over the law in the person of Saul of Tarsus. God shows us through him

that Israel hasn’t been rejected like King Saul. Saul of Tarsus is a metaphor for the new grace toward Israel, which failed under the law.

In connection with this, the prophetic statements regarding Benjamin are also noteworthy. Before Joseph revealed himself to his brothers in Egypt, he commanded them to bring their brother Benjamin with them by any means necessary (Gen 42:15; 43:3-5, 13, 19; 45:12). When Benjamin was there, he received five times more than his brothers in the court of honor (and five is generally known to be the number of grace). Ironically, Joseph said of Benjamin, “Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son” (Gen 43:29).

So, we see the grace of God for the future hope of Israel illuminated in the person of

the Apostle Paul: the conversion of Saul into Paul is a metaphor for the future conversion of the people of Israel (Rom 11:26). His rebirth is an example of the future rebirth of the Jewish people. Then the law will be written on their hearts (Heb 8:10). The appearance of Jesus' glory on the road to Damascus is a foreshadowing of Jesus' appearance for Israel at His second coming (Matt 24:30). Paul was converted through a direct revelation of Jesus from heaven, without human help (Acts 9:1-16). In the same way, Israel too will turn toward its Messiah at the end.

Paul's prior opposition to Jesus and His church resembles the attitude of present-day Judaism (Acts 7:51). God's forbearance, witnessed by Paul in his life, is the Lord's patience toward Israel: "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them

which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting" (1 Tim 1:16). Forbearance means "restraint and tolerance under provocation." Just as Paul's conversion was provoked by the Lord, so Israel's will also be today through Jesus.

Ironically, after his conversion Paul became the greatest confessor of the gospel. It's also a prophetic indication of the future works of the Jews in the millennial kingdom. Paul testifies, "And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles" (Acts 22:21). "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph 3:8). And in 1 Timothy 1:12-14, Paul testifies to the grace of God over his life. He says: "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor,

Ironically, after his conversion Paul became the greatest confessor of the gospel.



and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

Israel is also striving toward ignorance today; that is, folly and disbelief. As it is written: “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge” (Rom 10:2). The only thing that can help them is God’s mercy—and they will receive it.

Devout Jews pray daily (often before meals): “Have mercy, O

Lord our God, upon Israel thy people, upon Jerusalem thy city, upon Zion the abiding place of thy glory, upon the kingdom of David thine anointed, and upon the great and holy house that was called by thy name. Establish his kingdom. Advance thy salvation. Let the Anointed One come and let His people come!”

Israel’s hope is in God’s great mercy, and in the return of Jesus the Messiah for His people.

(MR1020/1114)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

High-Tech for Monitoring the Elderly

Independent living at home is the ideal for every aging person. But a fall or other health-threatening incident can change everything in the blink of an eye.



Illustrative image by Photographee.eu via Shutterstock.com



The wearable “panic buttons” introduced in the late 1980s were a great advance. But they only work if people actually wear them and can reach the button in an emergency. Today there are passive wearables that automatically detect falls, and camera-based surveillance systems to monitor elder safety.

Coming from a 30-year career in the semiconductor and wireless communication field, Rafi Zack decided to find a better alternative.

“People aren’t committed to wearing gadgets 24/7, and camera-based systems are an invasion of privacy,” he points out.

Zack is cofounder, CEO and vice president of R&D at EchoCareTechnologies, which has developed ECHO (Elderly Care Home Observer), a cloud-connected monitor based on radar

NEWS IN

BRIEF



CLAIM ISRAEL ‘DELIBERATELY KILLS’ PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

Palestinian children’s program, *The Best Home*, which airs on Official PA TV, told its viewers that Israel is “deliberately killing” Palestinian children, according to a Palestinian Media Watch report.

The program presenter went on to explain that Israel participates in the practice of “random summary executions,” claiming that Palestinian children have nowhere to run and that they are in “danger at every moment.”

“Every one of them—on the road or at home—is a candidate to be the next martyr,” Walaa Al-Battat, host of the program, added.

-jpost.com

25 November 2020



technology and machine learning.

EchoCare tested the device in the United States, Japan, Australia and Israel. ECHO was certified in Japan in 2019.

“Japan has the most aging population in the world, and they don’t want foreign caregivers, so it’s a worldwide beta testing site for aging tech,” Zack explains.

“In March, Israel’s Ministry of Defense started looking for technologies to use in hospitals for remote respiratory monitoring in the ER—to see if the patient had likely Covid—and for patients on Covid-19 wards where staff can’t enter the room at all times. It had to measure respiratory rate every hour, it had to be non-wearable to avoid device contamination, and it had to cover the bathroom area. Our system does all that,” says Zack.

Zack notes that prior to the pandemic, “the remote homecare market was estimated to be \$15 billion, but now as elderly people become more isolated as a result of social distancing, there is an increased need to monitor them without the burden of wear-

ables or privacy-invading cameras.”

-www.israel21c.org, 27 October 2020

Commentary: Israel does it again. When it comes to high tech, personal security, and healthcare, Israel is second to none.

Obviously, there is more than meets the eye. Any type of passive or active monitoring can be stored indefinitely. Though extremely beneficial – in this case, for the elderly – this doubtless will lead to more control, more information.

Nevertheless, we must keep in mind that virtually all technological developments will ultimately lead to total independence from God the Creator. That is the avenue utilized by the god of this world, to bring about a very successful, peaceful, and secure global world – albeit temporary.

7380

(See *Israel Matters*, Item #2328, \$17.99.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

TEMPLE MOUNT ‘SOLELY ISLAMIC’

Some 138 United Nations countries approved a draft resolution that spoke of the Temple Mount solely as an Islamic holy site, by referencing it only by its Muslim name of al-Haram al-Sharif.

It was one of seven pro-Palestinian, anti-

Israel resolutions that the UN General Assembly’s Fourth Committee in New York passed.

The resolution was titled, “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including east Jerusalem.”

-jpost.com
5 November 2020



CYPRUS

Israeli Innovation Institute Launched

After four years of planning, a new academic venture that aims to foster regional cooperation was launched in Cyprus.



The Pafos Innovation Institute (PPI) was sired by Uriel Reich-

man, the president and founder of IDC Herzliya, a nonprofit, private institution for higher education. The Cyprus academy, he hopes, will promote regional cooperation by creating connections between people of different nationalities who work and study together at the new center.

“We hope that the students will form friendships that will ultimately lead them not only to cooperate in their professional roles, but also turn them into a force that promotes regional progress and creates a culture of peace,” said Reichman in the statement.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said in a video address he hopes the institute will become a center of cooperation between scientists, students and start-ups, and will bring together students from Israel, Cyprus, and the entire Middle East. Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said the institute is the fruit of “the growing cooperation between Cyprus and Israel in recent years, in

areas such as security and the war on terror, but also in the areas of technology and education.”

Paphos airport is a 40-minute flight from Israel, making it easy for faculty from the Israeli college to teach in the new facility.

- *www.timesofisrael.com*, 2 November 2020

Commentary: It is of interest that Israel continues to fervently seek friendship with other nations. Cyprus’ population stands at 1.3 million, with almost 99% ethnic Greek and 90% Orthodox Christian. Life expectancy is 79.3 years, and per capita GDP \$37,200 (2017).

Cyprus was one of the first nations to recognize Palestine as a nation. That, quite apparently, has no bearing on a good relationship with Israel.

Cyprus is only mentioned in the book of Acts, eight times total. After the persecution that resulted because of Stephen the martyr, we read in Acts 11:19-20: “Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which,



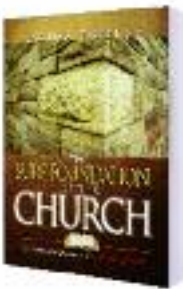
The Pafos Innovation Institute (PPI) was born from the vision of Prof. Uriel Reichman, the President and Founder of IDC Herzliya, and aims to foster regional cooperation and friendship (Courtesy)

when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus." The persecuted Jews went to Cyprus preaching only to the Jews, but others preached the Lord Jesus to the Gentiles (Grecians). The Word was received, and verse 24b states: "and much people was added unto the Lord."

That should be the Church's goal: preaching the Gospel regardless of circumstances, keeping the unity of the Spirit and, as a result, as it was in Jerusalem: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47b).

7382

(See *The Sure Foundation of the Church*, Item #1066, \$18.50.)



NEWS IN BRIEF



22 PERCENT OF EUROPEAN HATE CRIMES AGAINST JEWS

Anti-Semitic incidents accounted for 22% of hate crimes recorded last year in the pan-European region, though Jews comprise less than 1% of the population there.

Of the total incidents, 1,311 were anti-Semitic, according to the report titled "2019 Hate Crime Data."

In one anti-Semitic incident recorded in the report, a woman had her hair and hat pulled violently from behind while speaking Hebrew on the bus in Berlin, Germany. In another, an Iraqi Muslim man wearing a kippah and carrying several concealed knives was intercepted by guards attempting to enter an Antwerp synagogue in June. The man had used anti-Semitic insults at Jews before the incident.

-jta.org


25 November 2020



ISRAEL

Technology Fights Drones at Airports

Airports are slowly getting back to business amid the coronavirus crisis. While that's a hopeful development for the travel industry, airports will need to plan for an ever-increasing threat of disruption from unauthorized drones overhead.

 The last time an incident was widely reported was February 3, about a month before the pandemic started grounding planes. Madrid closed its international airport for two hours that day due to drones sighted in the airspace.

Over the past two years, unauthorized drone activity has shut down Gatwick and Heathrow airports in England, and international airports in Dubai, Dublin, Singapore, and Newark (New Jersey).

Drones also present a threat to terminal buildings, says Sarig Lev, business development manager for drones and anti-drone solutions at Israel Aerospace Industries subsidiary ELTA Systems. And there's a possibility they could be carrying explosives.

Therefore, airports must always be on the lookout for drones to avoid expensive, aggravating shutdowns and flight cancellations, or worse.

Here we look at Israeli solutions to a dangerous problem plaguing airports across the world.

Drone Guard has provided protection for events such as the 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit. The system was tested successfully at a naval NATO exercise in Portugal and at international airports in Europe, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

Lev says the most critical component in Drone Guard is 3D X-band radar that detects and tracks all types of drones without interfering with airport radar systems.

"It sees all movement in the sky and distinguishes drones from birds, for example."

Drone Dome from Rafael Systems (maker of Israel's anti-missile Iron Dome) is designed to operate in highly congested civilian or military airspaces.

The system employs electro-optics, radar and signal intelligence to identify the target, send alerts and take down the drone in a controlled way, either by jamming its radiofrequency signals or destroying it with a focused laser beam.

The growing threat from drones doesn't only affect airports. In September 2019, Houthi rebels from Yemen used drones to strike two key oil installations inside Saudi Arabia, damaging facilities and cutting the country's oil production by about half—some 5% of global oil production.

D-Fend Solutions, founded in 2017 and headquartered in Ra'anana, has branches around the world.

Its flagship offering, EnforceAir, features radio frequency (RF) and cyber-takeover



Illustrative photo by Alexandre Rotenberg via Shutterstock.com

technology to automatically and passively detect, locate and identify unauthorized drones, taking control and landing them safely at a predefined safe zone.

-www.israel21c.org, 28 October 2020

Commentary: While drones have been used as far back as 1946, there is virtually no comparison with today’s sophisticated ones.

At this point in time, the main advantage is security. Israel’s technology has proven to be very effective. When drones interfered with air traffic at Heathrow and Gatwick airports in England, they deployed Israeli technology.

Again, we mention these things to simply show that mankind will continue to develop, invent, and nearly perfect things which are literally out of this world, meaning the average person cannot grasp it intellectually.

What comes to mind biblically is Judges 5, where Deborah’s victory song is listed: “They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera” (verse 20).

7381

(See *A Quick Reference Guide to the End Times*, Item #2371, \$6.99.)

NEWS IN BRIEF



ETHIOPIANS PROTEST SLOW IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

Some 200 Ethiopian Israelis rallied outside the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem, condemning the government’s foot-dragging that has prevented their relatives from immigrating to Israel from the war-torn African country.

Up to 14,000 people with Jewish roots are waiting in Ethiopia to come to Israel, but the government has approved the airlifting of just 2,000 in January 2021, despite the pandemic and the recent outbreak of a war in the northern Tigray region.

Fighting between Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front from the country’s northwest claimed its first victim from Gondar’s Jewish community on November 12—Girmew Gete, 36. He had waited 24 years to immigrate to Israel.

-timesofisrael.com
25 November 2020



PORTUGAL

23,000 Jews Naturalized

Portugal has granted citizenship to about 23,000 people who applied under a 2015 law granting citizenship to descendants of Sephardic Jews.



About 25,000 applications were submitted in 2019 alone, many of which have not yet been processed.

Both Portugal and Spain passed laws in 2015 granting citizenship to the descendants of Sephardic Jews, measures both governments said were intended to atone for the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula during the Inquisition.

The window for the Spanish law was supposed to close last year, but has been extended until further notice. The Portuguese law is open-ended. In both countries, the task of vetting applications has been handed over to local Jewish organizations.

-www.jpost.com, 7 November 2020

Commentary: According to Google, the first Inquisition started in 1231, when the pope ordered an “Inquisition into Heretical Depravity.” But this type of expulsion of Jews was not limited to one country, but practiced all over Europe. Now, wherever the descendants live, they have the right



Overall view of the Tagus river bridge and the city of Lisbon, Portugal (photo credit: REUTERS)

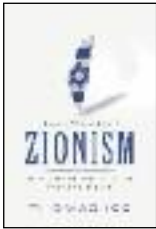
to receive the citizenship of the country — in this case, Portugal. The Spanish Inquisition began in 1478, authorized in a papal bull under the authority of Pope Sixtus IV. Estimates range from between 30,000 to 300,000 people being killed. It was not until 1808, when Napoleon conquered Spain, that he ordered the Inquisition to be abolished.

Why do Jews desire Portuguese citizenship? It is an EU country, and that is the most sought-after passport in the world. All of Europe is immediately open; for those residing in Israel, this is extremely beneficial.

In the background, however, there is more to it than meets the eye. Prophecy must be fulfilled. When Moses speaks to the children of Israel about the Promised Land, we read, “A land which the Lord thy God



careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year” (Deuteronomy 11:12). He gives the promise in verse 24: “Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.” This, incidentally, explains the chaos in the two countries north of Israel: Syria and Lebanon. Much of that area is Arab-occupied Israeli territory. 7387



(See *The Case for Zionism*, Item #2327, \$14.99.)



ISRAEL

Who Are the Geshurites?

Dating to around the time of King David 3,000 years ago, what may be the earliest fortified settlement in the Golan Heights was recently discovered during salvage excavations ahead of the construction of a new neighborhood. Incredible rock etchings of two figures holding their arms aloft – possibly at prayer with what could be a moon – were uncovered inside the unique fort, which was dated to circa 11th-9th century BCE.



The striking find is being tentatively linked to the Geshurite people, whose capital is recorded in the Bible as having been located nearby, to the north of the Sea of Galilee.

In a brief Hebrew video about the discovery, dig co-director Barak Tzin said that when the etching was found near the entrance of the fort, “We understood that we had something very, very important... We were astonished to discover a rare

NEWS IN BRIEF



BEST COUNTRY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Mastercard has ranked Israel as the best country for women entrepreneurs, for the first time in the four-year history of the rankings by the global payments firm.

In the 2020 Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE) Israel rose to first place from fourth in 2019.

The US, Switzerland, New Zealand came in second, third, and fourth this year, followed by Poland, the UK, Canada, Sweden, Australia and Spain in the ranking of 58 global economies.

Israel jumped to first place this year thanks to an increase in its support for small and medium-sized businesses, jumping 41 places in this category, the report said. The country has set out to double the number of its female entrepreneurs within two years, and is rolling out funding and networking initiatives to do so, the report said.

-timesofisrael.com
23 November 2020



and exciting find: a large basalt stone with a schematic engraving of two horned figures with outspread arms.”

Next to the etching was discovered a stone table or shelf, which the archaeologists believe was an altar, upon which was found another seemingly ritual object of a small figure holding what looks to be a drum.

This is an era of “foggy history” as small city-states attempted to fill the vacuum created by the splintering of the Hittite empire in the north and the Egyptian empire in the south.

Among the peoples fighting for a foothold were the Geshurites, a group of Arameans, whose capital city was in today’s Bethsaida, just north of the Sea of Galilee.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 11 November 2020

Commentary: Evidently, this discovery confirms Israel’s mingling with the nations—in this case, the Geshurites. Moses reports: “Jair the son of Man-

asseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashan-havothjair, unto this day” (Deuteronomy 3:14). Emil G. Hirsch writes in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* the fol-

lowing: “Geshur was a territory in the northern part of Bashan, adjoining the province of Argob (Deut. iii. 14) and the kingdom of Aram or Syria (II Sam. xv. 8; I Chron. ii. 23). It was allotted to the half-tribe of Manasseh, which settled east of the Jordan; but its inhabitants, the Geshurites, could never be expelled (Josh. xiii. 13). In the time of David, Geshur was an independent kingdom: David married a daughter of Talmi, King of Geshur (II Sam. iii. 3). Her son Absalom fled, after the murder of his half-brother, to his mother’s native country, where he stayed three years (ib. xiii. 37, xv. 8). Geshur is identified with the plateau called to-day ‘Lejah,’ in the center of the Hauran. There was also another people called ‘Geshurites’ who dwelt in the desert between Arabia and Philistia (Josh.



xiii. 2 [A. V. 'Geshuri']; I Sam. xxvii. 8; in the latter citation the Geshurites are mentioned together with the Gezrites and Amalekites)."

Over and again, we notice that the original inhabitants were not expelled, in violation of God's instructions. Such mixture later contributed to Israel's fall.

Here we are reminded of modern Israel. In their Declaration of Independence (14 May 1948), it says among other things, "It is moreover the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation as all other nations in its own sovereign State." Later, they appeal to the United Nations "to admit Israel into the family of nations." That is Israel's goal and dream, but only of temporary value: Israel was, is, and always will be special — not to be compared with any other nation on the globe.

7393

(See *The Harvest Handbook of Bible Lands*, Item #2366, \$39.99.)



RUSSIA

Israeli Hospital Orders 1.5 Million Russian Virus Vaccines

Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center has preordered 1.5 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine from Rus-

sia, where it is still in Phase 3 trials but has already been administered to tens of thousands of people.



CEO Zeev Rotstein said that the medical center would apply for Health Ministry permission to eventually use the vaccine in Israel, if the trials in Russia prove it is safe and can prevent infection, *Haaretz* reported.

"There is a pretty good probability that the vaccine is safe and a reasonable probability... that it is also effective," he said, but noted the full picture will only be clear when all the data is available at the end of the Russian trial, which is nearing completion.

Rotstein said that Hadassah is high up on the list of those ordering the Russian vaccine, though he admitted he is not sure if the entire lot will be delivered. A request to purchase a further 1.5 million vaccines has not yet been approved by Russian authorities.

Russia was the first country to register a vaccine when it announced it had a ready-to use product in August. At the time, Health Minister Yuli Edelstein said that Israel would be interested in talking with Russia about the vaccine, if it is shown to work.

While he admitted there is always a possibility that the Russians "are messing with us," Rotstein said he knows senior Russian officials who received the vaccine "and they didn't grow horns. They are walking



around without masks.”

The Russian vaccine deal came as Israel pushes ahead with Phase 1 trials in its own research for a vaccine for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

In June, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that Israel had signed a deal with Moderna for a future coronavirus vaccine, and Moderna’s Israeli chief medical officer Dr. Tal Zaks, predicted the Jewish state would receive its COVID-19 vaccine before June 2021.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 5 November 2020

Commentary: At this point in time, there is no end in sight to the race for effective coronavirus vaccines. The fact that an Israeli hospital ordered these vaccines is definitely noteworthy.

Russia prides itself as the first country to register the vaccine. With a population of 142 million, listed as the world’s ninth most populous country, its geography is mind-boggling: an almost 18 million square kilometers (the USA is 9.8 million sq. km). Life expectancy is relatively low: 71.9 years. The per-capita GDP for 2017 was listed as \$27,900. In contrast, Israel’s life expectancy is 83 years, with a per-capita GDP of \$36,400 for 2017.

How effective the Sputnik-V vaccine will be in Israel is yet to be seen. What Israel has done, and always does, is gather all the information available, and make the necessary purchases where a promise of success seems likely.

Biblically speaking, we are reminded of Jeremiah 8:22: “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?”

7392

(See *What Should We Think About Israel?* Item #2358, \$17.99.)



ISRAEL

Ten Million People by 2024?

A statistics report published on the eve of Rosh Hashanah estimated the population of Israel to be about 9.246 million, meaning that the population grew by 150,000 people over the course of [2020]—a growth rate of 1.6%.



Breaking the numbers down: 170,000 new babies were born, 44,000 people passed away and 25,000 people immigrated to Israel, with 20,000 being new olim.

Israel’s population is expected to reach 10 million people by 2024, 15 million by 2048, and 20 million by 2065.



The Jewish population is estimated at 6.841 million citizens (74%).

Israel's Arab population is 1.946 million citizens (21%) and 459,000 people (5%) were classified as belonging to other groups.

-www.jpost.com, 17 September 2020

Commentary: According to The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), in 1948 the population of Israel was 1.9 million, with 65% Arabs and 32% Jews. By 1975, the population had reached 3.5 million, of which 84.7% were Jews within Israel's borders. In 2020, the population grew to 9,246,000, with 74% being Jewish.

The Times of Israel reports that 25,000 immigrated since the last Jewish New Year, down from 38,000 the year before. Interestingly, of Jews above 20 years of age, 43% define themselves as secular, 21% not very religious, and only 11% said they were religious.

What is Israel's future as a Jewish nation? The prophet Amos concludes his book with these words: "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God" (Amos 9:14-15). 7349

(See *Prophecy for Ten-Tribe Israel*, Item #1083, \$14.50.)



NEWS IN BRIEF



GOLD AT GENETIC ENGINEERING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Students from Tel Aviv University took home the top prize in the world championship in synthetic biology, the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM).

Consisting of 12 students from a variety of faculties including the captain Karin Sionov and led by Prof. Tamir Tuller, the TAU team came in first in the Best Software Development category, and second place in the category of Foundational Advance, referring to proposed solutions to fundamental synthetic biology problems. In terms of overall ranking, TAU's team beat out teams from leading universities like Harvard, MIT, Cornell and Stanford.

"This is a very impressive achievement, which proves that TAU leads and excels in synthetic biology—not only in Israel but internationally as well," Tuller said in a statement.

-jpost.com
25 November 2020

“Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid” (Jeremiah 30:10).

BY ARNO FROESE

The Gathering of the Seed of Israel

It was almost 140 years ago, when in 1888 approximately 35,000 Jews arrived at the Port of Jaffa. The majority of the immigrants came from Eastern Europe, and a small number from Yemen. The first Aliyah was defined as “the political, national, and spiritual resurrection of the Jewish people in Palestine.”

During the first few years after the arrival of this first wave, almost half of them returned (left the country).

In the second Aliyah, some 40,000 Jews, mainly from Russia and Eastern European countries, came. Most of them were young

people inspired by socialist ideas; thus, they established communal agricultural settlements called “kibbutzim,” after the Russian “kolkhoz.” In 1909, Kibbutz Degania was established.

During the third Aliyah, again some 40,000 Jews arrived, primarily from Russia. That was between 1919 and 1923.

The fourth Aliyah, from 1924 to 1929, brought some 82,000 Jews, mainly Polish.

The fifth Aliyah, between 1929 and 1939, saw almost a quarter of a million Jews arrive in the Promised Land.

Aliyah Bet, from 1939 to 1948, was greatly hindered by the British

issuance of the White Paper, which permitted only a very limited number of Jews—75,000—to migrate to their ancestral land.

At the proclamation of the State of Israel, the population stood at about 600,000. Today, Israel's population is approaching 9 million.

Why did the Jews come to the land Eretz Israel, after almost two millennia? The answer is simple: fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

When we read the very comforting words of God to the people of Israel, we notice that the last part is not yet fulfilled: "and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid."

Today, Israel has many reasons to be afraid. In the south, Hamas rules Gaza and has sworn not to rest until Israel is destroyed. In the north, particularly in the land of Lebanon, Hezbollah is the largest non-governmental military force anywhere to be found. Hezbollah's ideology can be summarized as "Shi'ite radicalism."

Wikipedia has this to say about Hezbollah:

In a 1999 interview, Nasrallah outlined the group's three "minimal

demand[s]: an [Israeli] withdrawal from South Lebanon and the Western Beqaa Valley, a withdrawal from the Golan, and the return of the Palestinian refugees." An additional objective is the freeing of prisoners held in Israeli jails, some of whom have been imprisoned for eighteen years.

"Our goal is to liberate the 1948 borders of Palestine ... The Jews who survive this war of liberation can go back to Germany or wherever they came from." He added, however, that the Jews who lived in Palestine before 1948 will be "allowed to live as a minority and they will be cared for by the Muslim majority."

Again, nothing will change the fulfillment of the prophetic Word. The time will come when Jacob shall be at rest and quiet.

UN Resolutions

The UN has become famous, or better yet, infamous, for lopsided condemnation of Israel. UN-watch.org/2019 reports:

In the current 74th session of the UN General Assembly (2019-2020),

all EU member states voted for one resolution each to criticize (1) Iran, (2) Syria, (3) North Korea, (4) Myanmar, and (5) the U.S., for its embargo on Cuba, and two resolutions on Crimea.

By contrast, EU states voted for 13 out of 18 resolutions singling out Israel. Yet these same EU states failed to introduce a single UNGA resolution on the human rights situation in China, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Belarus, Cuba, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Algeria, or on 175 other countries.

Israel indeed is singled out; but it's important to emphasize, by God Himself. Jeremiah in the

same chapter writes about the Great Tribulation: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it" (verse 7). Note carefully the words, "he shall be saved out of it." That is Israel's hope; that is Israel's future.

Along with Israel, the Church of Jesus Christ cannot be conquered; it cannot be annihilated. The Church Jesus is building will be prayerfully completed in the not-too-distant future. That will be the time when we shall be raptured from planet earth to be with our Lord forever and ever. (MC)

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**“Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all”
(Psalm 34:19).**



By David Phillips

Project Manager

Dear Family of the Ebenezer Home,

Greetings from all residents and the team in Haifa.

This past year has been one of the more challenging years for all of us. Many lost their jobs, experienced hard times, illness, financially cutting back, and having a lack



of faith in the government's social contract—quite depressing if looking at it from this viewpoint.

But for us at Ebenezer, it has been a faith-strengthening year because of all the events; especially looking back to see how the Lord took care of us and blessed us with an extended family globally! You all became very dear to us. Ebenezer's new van has proved to be a milestone. (See the pictures you have been waiting for; note that all residents could not be in the picture, due to Covid-19.) But already, the van has been a tremendous blessing to the Home!

For us at Ebenezer, we believe and pray that you too, whatever the circumstances may be, can sing this wonderful hymn together with us (forgive me for not having the space to quote all the verses):

Count your blessings;
 Name them one by one.
 Count your blessings;
 See what God hath done.
 Count your blessings;
 Name them one by one.



Count your many blessings;
See what God hath done.

Yes, sing the entire song and let us all be blessed by this powerful hymn.

Together, we thank our Heavenly Father for ALL the blessings we received in 2020! We thank HIM for every one of you whom He has led on our path, and for the way YOU blessed us with your prayers and support.

We pray that the Holy One of Israel, our Messiah Yeshua, will be with you and bless you in 2021 in a special way, as only He can do.

Let us lift up our hearts and be encouraged...
Maranatha; He is coming soon!



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