

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

May 2021

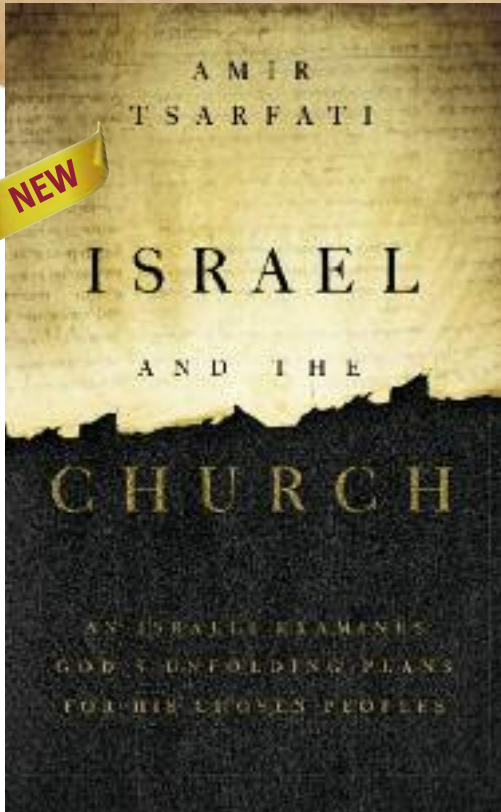
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Why Israel?

Part 2

30-Second Baggage Disinfection P.15 • Jewish Population Decreasing P.20

An Israeli Examines God's Unfolding Plans for His Chosen Peoples



Discover God's Master Plan for Israel

In his latest book, native Israeli and bestselling author Amir Tsarfati makes clear what the Bible says about God's unique master plans for His two chosen groups, Israel and the church. Amir gets to the heart of key questions, such as...

- Do the promises God made to the Old Testament nation of Israel still apply to the Jewish people today?
- Has God replaced rebellious Israel with the church?
- Now that the church exists, does Israel possess a distinct role in the present age?
- How are current events in Israel relevant to the church?

ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH ITEM #2376

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



The swearing-in of the 24th Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, was not the joyful event it should have been. In his opening address, President Reuven Rivlin said that during his term in office, this is the fourth time in two years that elections have been held in Israel, and that prospects for a stable government do not look good. He gave the mandate to form a new government within 28 days to Benjamin Netanyahu, who had received 52 endorsements. Actually, formation of a government should not be a problem, since the right-wing parties have won a clear majority. But three of the small right-wing parties were founded by former close party members of Netanyahu, who now oppose him. Whether they can be turned around by Netanyahu is questionable. And should such a government come about, the question that immedi-

ately follows is: how long will it last?

On another occasion, President Rivlin stated that Israel is presently in the biggest political crisis since its existence. Netanyahu will do everything he can to establish a government and stay in power. To that end, he will even approach the Islamic parties—something that up till now has been taboo in Israel, especially to the Right and Netanyahu himself. But this strategy is strongly opposed by a newly established ultra-right Jewish party, which is in alliance with Netanyahu.

If Benjamin Netanyahu should fail to establish an administration, then Yair Lapid, leader of the opposition with 45 endorsements, will be given this mandate. However, it is equally questionable whether he would succeed in forming a stable government.



So, the question naturally arises: What is the reason for this political crisis in Israel? One has to say, sadly, that the reason for the crisis lies first and foremost with Netanyahu. It is food for thought that at present, there are three right-wing parties founded by former close political associates of Netanyahu. This occurred following some strong controversy which disrupted their friendship. That fact speaks for itself, even without more specific details being known. In any case, we are dealing here with an ego-culture that seems to be on the increase in all quarters and which affects the unity and totality of the people.

Moreover, one needs to consider that Israel's population could not be more diverse and probably cannot be compared to any other country. Contrasts within the Jewish population range from the ultra-Orthodox to the secular. In addition, there is the Arab population, which is becoming increasingly politically active to direct attention to its own internal problems. A movement toward national

unity is urgently needed. However, the crisis does not seem serious enough for those in responsible positions to realize the necessity for action.

For President Rivlin, this day of ceremonies was obviously difficult. He did preside with dignity over all aspects as prescribed by protocol, but he didn't feel like celebrating. Once the official part of the occasion came to an end, he left and went home. He did not stay for the commemorative photos or the traditional festivities. For him, at 82 years of age, this was his last official act, as his term of office is coming to an end. He has been a worthy and popular president, who always sought the best for his people. How long will this impasse continue?

In all these thoughts, we are left with the firm confidence that God has a deeper purpose. He will reach His predetermined goal, even when it does not seem that way to us.

Strengthened in this confidence, I send you greetings with Shalom,

David Winkler



Masada fortress in Judean Desert



Why Israel?

Part 2

NORBERT LIETH

Israel Is on the Agenda Again

The little word “till” in Matthew 23:39 has great meaning. It functions as a bridge and makes it clear that the people won’t remain dispersed forever. In later times the Jews will return to their homeland again from all over the world.

And indeed, since 1948, after about 1,900 years of Diaspora, there has been a Jewish state again. Jerusalem has also belonged to the Israelites again since 1967.

The May 14, 1948 Declaration of Independence reads in part: “In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country. This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and reaffirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.”

The Jews being home again today in their own country and with their own state is a sign from God. Those of us with a different nationality should be

aware of this, because the Bible says, “And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isa 11:12).

An ensign is a banner or flag with a national emblem. The gathering of Israel into its homeland is such a sign. The prophet Jeremiah also says this and explicitly addresses the nations, the Gentiles: “Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock” (Jer 31:10).

Israel’s gathering from the nations into their own land is undoubtedly concrete preparation for Jesus’ second coming, since God says, “I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase” (Jer 23:3).

In the following passage, God also explains how He will do it,

Israel's gathering from the nations into their own land is undoubtedly concrete preparation for Jesus' second coming.

and that this repatriation will overshadow Israel's liberation from Egypt: "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land" (Jer 23:7-8).

And what happened after World War II? Thousands upon thousands of Jews returned to their homeland, and the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948. The living God inspired this in His servant Isaiah some 2,650 years beforehand: "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion tra-

vailed, she brought forth her children" (Isa 66:8).

God gave us an unmistakable sign in Israel's return to its own land, and it indicates we are living in the end times. By "end times" we don't mean the end of the world, but the time immediately prior to Jesus' return. These are the characteristics of the end times: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matt 24:6-8). "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are com-

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt 24:6-8).



ing on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26).

Politicians and environmental organizations around the world are trying so hard to get the impending and steadily increasing environmental damage under control. But from all the reports, one

thing becomes clear: there is perplexity and fear of what is to come.

JESUS, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Jesus, the focal point of redemptive history, came into this world, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead in order to give life to every-

one who chooses to believe in Him. Whoever lives without Jesus has no hope, and whoever dies without Jesus remains hopeless forever. The devil, who is also called the “prince of this world” in the Bible and who works in the “children of unbelief,” influences world politics. In his blind hatred, he wants to bring the whole world to ruin. But ultimately, as in every era, the profane politics of the nations and the conflicts in the Middle East are obliged to contribute to the fulfillment of God’s plan.

Are you caught up in fear, restlessness, and insecurity? Are you fearful for your future, or that of your family? The Bible says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned

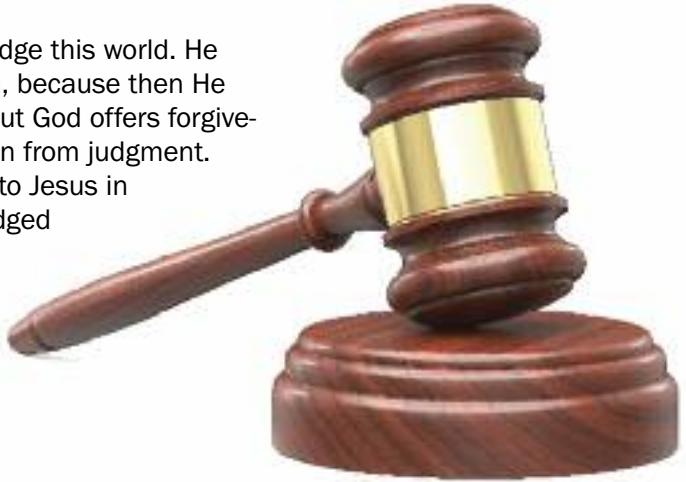
already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

A just God must judge this world. He cannot tolerate sin, because then He would be unjust. But God offers forgiveness and protection from judgment. Anyone who turns to Jesus in faith will not be judged and will not come under God’s wrath. This is what the Holy Scriptures say: “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess 5:9). And, “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Rom 5:9).

ISRAEL, THE APPLE OF GOD’S EYE

The struggle for (or in opposition to) the State of Israel, as we are witnessing now, was announced by God as early as 520 BC: “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And

A just God must judge this world. He cannot tolerate sin, because then He would be unjust. But God offers forgiveness and protection from judgment. Anyone who turns to Jesus in faith will not be judged and will not come under God's wrath.



in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zech 12:2-3).

Why is all of this happening? Because Satan seeks to destroy God's plan for Israel, and thereby prevent the return of Jesus Christ.

God says, “he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye” (Zech 2:8b). The eye is a notoriously sensitive organ. Even the smallest foreign objects are extremely bothersome and generate a reaction. God said to

Abraham, “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” (Gen 12:3).

It has been bitterly proven throughout world history that individuals (or even entire nations) attract God's judgment when they oppose Israel. An Egyptian pharaoh had to learn it. The Amalekites of that time, who waged war against Israel, experienced it. Balaam also learned it when he was not permitted to curse Israel, but instead had to bless them. And yet, he later tried to seduce Israel into abandoning

In contrast to the curse that rested (and rests) over all who hate Israel, all those individuals and nations who have blessed Israel have experienced blessings, and continue to experience them today.

the Lord. Babylon experienced this, as well as the Persian Haman, who was hanged from the very gallows he had commissioned for the Jew Mordecai (Esther 7:9-10). Much later, Nazi Germany also experienced this when it raised its hand against the Jews. And, at the end of days shortly before the return of Jesus, the whole world will experience it.

JESUS CHRIST, THE JUDGE OF THE WORLD

The New Testament continues along these lines. When Jesus returns, He will judge the nations. One criterion will be how they behaved toward Israel: “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matt 25:40). It is written in Jude, “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying,

Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 14-15).

In contrast to the curse that rested (and rests) over all who hate Israel, all those individuals and nations who have blessed Israel have experienced blessings, and continue to experience them today. For example, the midwives who disobeyed Pharaoh’s orders and refused to kill the Israelite babies (Ex 1:20-21).

Whoever loves Jesus will also love His earthly people. The Holy Spirit dwelling in a person who believes in Jesus, is the same one that physically restored Israel in our day, and will restore it spiritually in the future (Ezek 37:9-

10, 14). Therefore, let's say with David in relation to Israel, "Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good" (Ps 122:9).

ISRAEL CANNOT PERISH

The people of Israel cannot perish: "Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD" (Jer 31:37).

As impossible as it is to measure heaven and probe the foundations of the earth, it's equally impossible for Israel to perish. The Apostle Paul writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: "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. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew" (Rom 11:1-2a). It couldn't be clearer that Israel has an eternal future!

Like every human, Israel is also incapable of keeping the Law of

Moses. If God had just stopped there, the Jewish people wouldn't have stood a chance. But, thank God, the Lord has a solution. In His infinite faithfulness, He holds fast to the promise He made to Abraham: "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise" (Gal 3:17-18).

If God—who would certainly have good reason to—didn't reject His people but still loves them, how can man presume to sit in judgment over Israel? "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am



with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness” (Is 41:8-10).

Jesus Christ will return in glory and power after a period of judgment, as described in Revelation. Then His people will know Him, repent, and accept Him by faith (cf. Zech 12—14).

THE CHANCE OF YOUR LIFE

In this article, we’ve briefly traced biblical prophecy, which runs through the whole Bible like a thread. It was fulfilled in the past, is being fulfilled in the present, and will be fulfilled in the future. It never contradicts itself. As God’s Word, the Bible is absolute truth. And God has a single purpose in everything: to

redeem man, forgive him, and draw him back into fellowship with his Creator. Since Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, heaven has been open to everyone. God Himself has opened the door, and says yes to everyone who in turn says yes to Jesus. God accepts everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus in faith, no matter how far they have fallen.

Those who put all of their trust in Jesus will not only be freed from their bondage to sin, but also from their guilty conscience and deep-seated fear, because they will obtain peace with God: “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1). Such people know that they are safe in all the storms of life. (NAI0221/1139)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

30-Second Baggage Disinfection

Alongside the x-ray machines that scrutinize our luggage at every airport in the world, we may soon see machines that provide 99.99% disinfection from germs on carry-on and checked bags.



Illustration of WarpUV's AirFort luggage disinfection system.

Image courtesy of WarpUV



Israeli biohazard disinfection startup WarpUV plans to start delivering AirFort machines this year to help airports contain the spread of bacteria, spores and the viruses that cause the common cold, seasonal influenza, Covid-19 and viruses yet to come.

WarpUV's AirFort technology was created in-house and tested in Tel Aviv University's microbial pathogenesis laboratory headed by Prof. Anat Herskovits. She also serves as WarpUV's head of microbiology.

It takes less than 30 seconds for AirFort's proprietary 3D array of ultraviolet lights to disinfect surface contamination from carry-on and checked bags, personal items and oversized bags and parcels before they enter an airport concourse or

NEWS IN BRIEF



KILLER GETS HERO'S WELCOME

Hundreds of residents of the Arab Israeli city of Baqa al-Gharbiyye held a welcoming ceremony for a resident who was released from prison after serving 35 years for the murder of an Israeli soldier in 1984.

Rushdi Hamdan Abu Mukh was a member of the terror cell that killed Moshe Tamam. The other members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine cell were all also Arab Israeli citizens, and all were given life sentences.

Video posted on social media showed Abu Mukh being given a hero's welcome and paraded through a main street in the city.

-timesofisrael.com
6 April 2021



the plane’s cargo hold.

“If you think about the multiple people who may touch the same pieces of luggage at an airport, just one infected worker or passenger who handled that bag could spread a virus far and wide,” Fischer tells ISRAEL21c.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have also classified these items as a risk of contamination, and not only related to Covid-19.

“The AirFort devices are designed to meet airports’ passenger flow—inbound and outbound—so we expect there will be a need for at least double the number of x-ray machines in airports,” Fischer says.

-www.israel21c.org, 22 March 2021

Commentary: Science will overcome Covid-19. And based on recent history, science will also overcome the next pandemic.

What becomes clearer with each new report relating to global health is the target; namely, global unity. Technology and science are making it possible. These tools are at the forefront in keeping the global economy functioning.


What is the future? More technology, more scientific advances, which will lead to a peaceful global society. That, however, is the greatest danger for the Church. While we are in this world, we are not of this world. We may make use of all that is being invented, produced, and offered to society. But our goal is different: not a *better* world, a *new* one. The old one has no future; the new one does, as documented in 2 Peter 3:13: “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 7478

(See *End-Times Super Trends*, Item #2342, \$15.99.)



Cancels Israel Boycott

Sudan moved toward repealing its law mandating a boycott of Israel in a cabinet vote.

 The cabinet voted to cancel the 1958 law, which forbade diplomatic and business relations with Israel, it said in a statement.

The Sudanese decision still needs the approval of a joint meeting of Sudan’s sovereign council and cabinet, which serves as Sudan’s interim legislative body.

Sudan was the third of four countries



Intelligence minister Eli Cohen with the President of Sudan al-Burhan, Khartoum. (photo credit: INTELLIGENCE MINISTRY)

to join the Abraham Accords, the normalization and peace agreements between Israel and several Arab and Muslim states negotiated by US President Donald Trump's administration last year.

"This is an important and necessary step toward signing a peace agreement between the countries," he said. "Cooperation between the countries will help Israel and Sudan and contribute to regional security and stability."

-www.jpost.com, 6 April 2021

Commentary: Sudan's population is listed as 47 million, mostly practicing Sunni Muslims. They speak the Arabic language. Income is low; GDP per capita has gone down in the last few years to \$3,958. Life expectancy is also low: 67 years.

Is Sudan mentioned in the Bible? A cursory internet search returns: "The name of the modern country did not acquire the name Ethiopia until the 20th century. It had been called Abyssinia."

Christianity Today notes, "This region of Africa, just south of Egypt, has significant ties to the Bible. From Moses' wife to the Ethiopian eunuch, people

NEWS IN BRIEF



LAST JEW LEAVING AFGHANISTAN

The man who has been known as the last Jew in Afghanistan for well over a decade is leaving for Israel, fearing that the U.S. military's promise to leave the country will leave a vacuum to be filled with radical groups such as the Taliban.

Zabulon Simantov, 61, said he will leave after this year's High Holidays season in the fall.

His wife, a Jew from Tajikistan, and their two daughters have lived in Israel since 1998. But Simantov has stayed in his native Afghanistan to tend to its lone synagogue, located in the capital Kabul, through decades of violence and political turmoil, including a period of Taliban rule and the country's war with the U.S.

Without him around, the synagogue will close, ending an era of Jewish life in the country that scholars believe began at least 2,000 years ago.

-jpost.com
5 April 2021



from the Sudan interacted with Biblical characters.”

When Assyria threatened to invade Jerusalem, Sudan (Ethiopia) was the reason the attack did not take place. J. Vernon McGee, in his commentary, writes: “Rab-shakeh returned to his master and found him carrying on a war with Libnah. And a threatening move of the king of Ethiopia kept him from returning to attack Jerusalem immediately.”

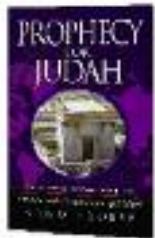
Doubtless, for Sudan (Ethiopia) it is extremely beneficial to have friendly dealings with Israel. It seems that more Arab nations are also considering a closer relationship with Israel.

There is more to come; Zechariah prophesies: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will

go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:23). 7481

(See *Prophecy for Judah*,

Item #1084, \$17.50.)



ISRAEL

First Heart Accessory Implant

The first cardiac accessory implant surgery in Israel was performed at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, highlighting a major medical technological advancement in the field of cardiac healthcare.

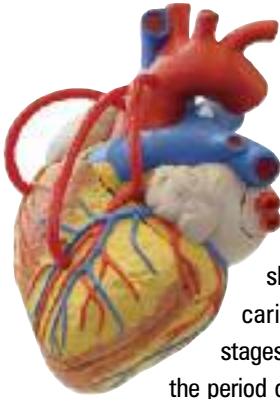


In this case, a patient required a cardiac aid, but this time, rather than being implanted using open heart surgery as is usually the case, the implant was simply inserted beneath the skin.

The patient was connected to a single ProtekDuo Cannula that allows unoxygenated blood to be drawn from the right atrium and returns oxygenated blood directly to the patient’s pulmonary artery all through a single tube attached to the patient’s neck.

“Thanks to this method we are opening a new window for the most difficult patients. The failure of the right ventricle has always been a great challenge for treatment. The use of the new technology allows the use of a right ventricle assist device and slow weaning from the device until the return to normal heart function,” said Dr. Yaron Barac.

“The artificial heart transplant implicitly reflects the unique collaboration between the array of cardiac and thoracic surgeries



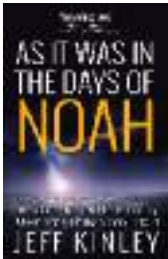
and the cardiology array at Beilinson Hospital which makes excellence from both worlds accessible to patients,” said Dr. Ben Ben-Avraham, a senior doctor in the heart failure unit at the hospital. “The use of the device requires a very high level of skill on the part of all staff members caring for the patient, throughout all stages—from the transplant itself, through the period of hospitalization in intensive care to weaning from the cardiac assist device. There is nothing more satisfying than the ability to give our patients the most innovative medical care available in the world.”

-www.jpost.com, 2 March 2021

Commentary: The word “heart” appears 833 times in the Bible; the first time in Genesis 6:5: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” The last time in Revelation 18:7: “How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” In both cases, it is not the

physical heart—the muscle that pumps the blood—but the seat of the person, the place where the spirit resides. In the above-mentioned Scriptures, the evil was in the heart, but destruction followed. 7470

(See *As It Was in the Days of Noah*, Item #2286, \$14.99.)



NEWS IN BRIEF



MOST KIDNEY DONATIONS TO STRANGERS

“We believe Israel has the fourth highest rate of live kidney donations in the world and the highest [per-capita] rate of altruistic kidney donations,” says Judy Singer, assistant director of Matnat Chaim (and an altruistic kidney donor herself).

“Since Matnat Chaim started operating in 2009, there’s been an almost 400% increase in living kidney transplants in Israel,” Singer relates.

More than 95% of live transplants are successful. Some 80% of recipients survive for five years and approximately half survive for more than 25 years.

-israel21c.org
6 April 2021



ISRAEL

Jewish Population Decreasing

The proportion of Jews in Israel's population fell below the threshold of 74% for the first time this year, data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) published in honor of Israel's 73rd Independence Day has revealed.



The report shows that close to the establishment of the state

in 1948, the Jewish percentage of the population stood at 82.1%, while today it stands at only 73.9%. On Israel's 70th Independence Day, the rate of Jews was 74.5%, a decrease of more than half a percent in just three years.

Since the establishment of the state, about 3.3 million people have immigrated to Israel, with around 1.5 million of them arriving since 1990 with the beginning of the great wave of immigration from the former Soviet Union. During this period, about 129,000 citizens born abroad also immigrated to Israel.

"The CBS data emphasize the strategic importance of a responsible immigration policy that will safeguard Israel's interests as a Jewish and democratic state," said Yonatan Jakubowicz, executive director of the Israeli Immigration Policy Center.

-www.jpost.com, 12 April 2021



Israelis celebrate Independence Day on the beach. (photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI)

Commentary: The goal is to remain "a Jewish and democratic state." That apparently may cause some difficulties in the not-too-distant future. There is, of course, a solution; more than 6 million Jews are living in the Diaspora. Based on Ezekiel 36:10, Jews from all over the world will eventually return: "And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded."

The article also reveals that, since the last Independence Day, Israel has grown by 137,000 people, with 167,000 newborns, 16,300 immigrants, minus 50,000 deaths.

Yet, a potential problem is quite visible; not only in Israel, but also in many of the progressive countries of the world. In several nations, the influx



of foreigners has upset the political picture, such as in Germany. Leading the nations of the world in foreign-born population is Luxembourg at 47.3%; Australia 29.9%; Switzerland 29.7%; Germany 16.1%; United States 13.6%. From this perspective, Israel is not unusual but follows the pattern of the global world.

Nevertheless, Israel is special; they are different. The prophet Amos proclaims: "You [Israel] only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2a).

And the prophet Ezekiel declares: "I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there" (Ezekiel 39:28b). That is Israel's future. 7485


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



ISRAEL

Not Lebanon and Gaza, But Egypt Hottest Border

While the borders with Lebanon, Syria and Gaza make most of the headlines, the actual border with the most action seems to be the one with Egypt.

 "Our commanders and soldiers are experienced in live-fire incidents more than any other front," the source said. "Once a week, during a smuggling attempt, they [the smugglers] shoot all over, and commanders and combat soldiers have felt here the bullets hovering near their heads."

The units protecting the border made a significant change in recent years in the way they deal with smuggling, the source said.

There was an 11% decrease in drug-smuggling attempts through the Egyptian border last year, according to the IDF.

NEWS IN BRIEF



JERUSALEM REMOVED FROM QUOTE

A move by the Disney Channel in a recent public service announcement (PSA) to replace "Jerusalem" with the "Holy Land" has been met with indignation by Jewish groups and on social media, with posters looking for answers from the entertainment corporation.

In the PSA, which ran on the Disney Channel, young teens talking about Passover all say in unison "Next year in the Holy Land."

"Next year in Jerusalem" is a traditional saying that closes the seder—a wish for all Jews to return to their homeland, just as they did after leaving bondage in Egypt.

-israelnationalnews.com
6 April 2021



IDF officials link the success in thwarting drug smuggling through the Egyptian border to rise of crime in the Bedouin sector inside Israel (Credit: IDF)

Smuggling attempts were thwarted 57 times, compared with 34 times in 2019, it said.

In 2019, some 70 tons of drugs were smuggled through the Egyptian border, and there was an average of 11 bags in a smuggling event, according to the IDF.

In 2020, the number dropped to 33 tons, and there was an average of 5.8 bags per smuggling event.

However, the success of the regional brigade does not come without a price. Cutting down the drug cartels in the South also cuts down the income of hundreds of families, which was steady for many years, and Bedouin families look for other ways to make money, according to the IDF.

"This is a wide phenomenon, and solving it requires a national operation," he said. "We need the entire system to focus

on investing in the Bedouin society... in education and in creating jobs. This [the smuggling] is a widespread phenomenon, and it requires a holistic, wider and deeper solution, which also includes sovereignty in the South."

-www.jpost.com, 15 March 2021

Commentary: Drug-smuggling is a multi-billion-dollar industry globally. The fact, however, that Israel — known to have the world's best intelligence and military forces — could not detect "some 70 tons of drugs smuggled through the Egyptian border" in 2019, clearly demonstrates the virtual impossibility of so-called "sealed borders." Fences and walls are in reality just a joke when compared with the cleverness of drug lords to get their destructive product to those who have come under the bondage of drug addiction.

David speaks of poison in relationship to his enemies, and exclaims: "Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely" (Psalm 58:4-5). 7469

(See Israel on High Alert, Item #2343, \$15.99.)



“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:8).

BY ARNO FROESE

Over 2,600 years ago, the prophet Isaiah wrote these words. The Old and New Testament red-letter edition of the Bible verifies these to be the direct words of God. An interesting fact is that the establishment of the State of Israel was birthed from Zionist philosophy, of which Theodor Herzl—the founder of the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland—was a self-proclaimed atheist. Also, of the 37 signers of the Declaration of Independence, virtually all were born, raised, and educated in countries dominated by Soviet communism.

Religion was a fiercely debated topic. Wikipedia documents:

A major issue was over the inclusion of God in the last section of the document, with the draft using the phrase “and placing our trust in the Almighty.” The two rabbis, Shapira and Yehuda Leib Maimon, argued for its inclusion, saying that it could not

be omitted, with Shapira supporting the wording “God of Israel” or “the Almighty and Redeemer of Israel.” It was strongly opposed by Zisling, a member of the secularist Mapam. In the end the phrase “Rock of Israel” was used, which could be interpreted as either referring to God or the land of Eretz Israel, Ben-Gurion saying, “Each of us, in his own way, believes in the ‘Rock of Israel’ as he conceives it.”

Excerpt from the Declaration: The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodor Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and pro-



claimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people—the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe—was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the community of nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel

and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the community of nations.

We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding, and to stand by them in the great

Another point of interest is that Britain and the US had placed an arms embargo on the entire Middle East. Thus, the Jews were left standing with a meager weapons arsenal. Hence, the Soviet Union to the rescue!

struggle for the realization of the age-old dream—the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the provisional Council of State, on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

Only three days later, the Soviet Union was the first nation to fully recognize Israel on 17 May 1948, followed by Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Ireland, and South Africa. The United States extended official recognition of Israel on 31 January 1949.

Another point of interest is that Britain and the US had placed an arms embargo on the entire Middle East. Thus, the Jews were left standing with a meager weapons arsenal. Hence, the Soviet Union to the rescue!

Czechoslovakia also trained 81 pilots and 69 ground crew specialists, some of them later forming the first fighter unit of the Israeli Air Force, and on Czechoslovakian soil a group of Jewish volunteers the size of approximately a brigade (about 1,300 men and women) were also trained, from August 20 until November 4, 1948. The Czechoslovak Armed Force's codename of the training (mainly) was «DI» (an abbreviation from “Důvěrné Israel,” literally meaning “Classified, Israel”). A Moto-Mechanized Brigade Group of Jewish volunteers trained in Czechoslovakia didn't take part in the 1948 war.


-en.wikipedia.org/wikilArms_shipments_from_Czechoslovakia_to_Israel

Israel today—mostly a secular nation—has changed dramatically. During the early days, they depended on the communist agricultural industry—kibbutzim. Today, Israel has become one of the giants

of high-tech. By all measurable statistics, Israel will probably become the leading nation in several fields.

But there is more, much more. Hosea 14:4 proclaims: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." The prophet Joel heralds: "The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD

your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more" (Joel 3:16-17).

Israel's future is guaranteed, and so is the future of the Church. All who have placed their trust in the already accomplished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross will be taken home to their permanent address: the presence of the Lord. "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). 

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Part 4 of “A Request for Prayer”

The Arabic Believing Community

“A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

By David Phillips *Project Manager*



This time, we would like to have a look at the Arab community, where demographics are rapidly changing, creating many challenges with caring for the elderly.

In Israel, there is quite a large Arab Christian community, who is very much integrated into Israeli society. However, many of the elderly, who are not used to

venturing out of the villages, still struggle with speaking Hebrew. Looking at the Arabic brothers and sisters, they fit into the demographic changes nationwide.

While the Arab elderly (65+) are much younger than the Jewish elderly (65+), they are more disabled and therefore have greater medical and nursing needs. An extremely important



measure of the need for formal services is an elderly person's functional ability, especially the ability to live independently. The percentage of Arab elderly who are disabled and need help with activities of daily living, is twice as high as that of the Jewish elderly population. At present, 30% of the Arab elderly (39% of the women and 20% of the men), compared to 14% of Jewish elderly (17% of the women and 11% of the men), need help in at least one ADL (ADL = bathing, dressing, eating, mobility in the home, rising and sitting, getting in and out of bed) (Faisal Azaiza, 2003). This poses significant challenges for our Arabic brothers and sisters.

In modern times, with lower fertility rates; women having more responsibilities outside the home; fewer people around the home to help meet these rising demands; and people living longer, many families can no longer care for their elderly loved ones. This often brings

with it a sense of guilt and shame. For many generations, this was their cultural norm; it was expected that the family would care for their loved ones and treat them at home, even at the cost of less professional care.

With demographic changes and with disabilities increasing with age, caring for elderly family members at home is often no longer possible. Families aren't prepared for the challenges that come with caring for a loved one full-time, and thus cannot properly care for them in the way that is required. They struggle with understanding the combined professional, emotional, and spiritual care that is required, and hiring a 24/7 nurse at home is much more expensive and not always possible, either. This leaves many grappling with guilt and shame.

Our Arabic brothers and sisters have the same daily needs as the rest of us. Our goal is to help them continue to embrace and overcome these cultural chal-

EBENEZER HOME



lenges; namely, by helping these families realize they are caring for their loved ones by seeking outside help and support when needed. There is no need to feel guilt or shame when extra assistance is required.

May the Lord help them overcome their cultural barriers and accept the support that the Ebenezer Home can offer. May they realize that their loved ones are being cared for in the most loving and tender way; being supported and surrounded by those of the same faith, while receiving the medical, physical,

emotional, spiritual and professional help that they need.

It is a joy to watch both Jewish and Arab believers dwelling in harmony in the Lord at the Ebenezer Home, as the body of Christ. Yeshua paid the price for all by shedding His blood for all. As I've expressed myself many times, "We cannot preach reconciliation; we live it." Once COVID-19 has passed and the borders open back up again, we invite you to come visit and experience this yourself.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer!



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