

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL

July 2021

\$2.25

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a black hat and long black sleeves. Their hands are raised and pressed against a rough, light-colored wall. The person's face is obscured by the hat.

## A Lament Part 2

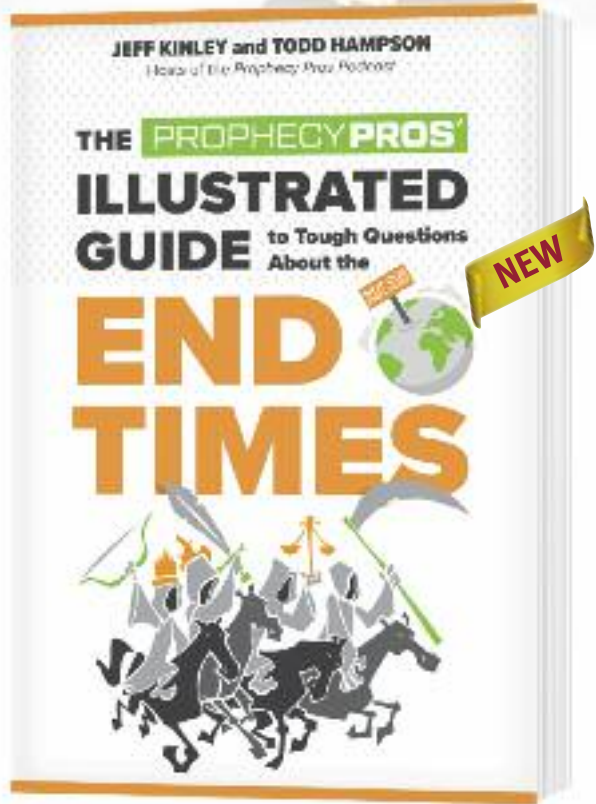
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# Clear Answers to Complex Questions

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# Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



Everything that has transpired in Israel within one month's time is probably only possible in Israel. It started with unrest in Jerusalem: at the end of the Ramadan month, the Palestinians in Gaza thought they had to get involved in what was happening and began to bombard Israel with rockets. The attacks got to be so massive that Israel was forced to retaliate in kind. The conflict then degenerated into an 11-day war which, like all previous wars, merely resulted in senseless destruction. Yet Hamas celebrated the whole affair as a victory. What a tragic irony.

At the same time in Israel, in areas populated with a mixture of Arabs and Jews, civil war-like riots broke out, leaving behind dead and wounded. And, parallel to these events, efforts were underway to form an alternative to Netanyahu's administration.

After all the clashes between Muslims and Jews, it was reasonable to assume that a government that would include a Muslim party could not be realized. However, the newly formed Islamic Ra'am party, which had four seats under the leadership of Mansour Abbas, was surprisingly still willing to join the new government. Immense difficulties among the Arab population had led to the conviction that a solution to the most burning problems—such as crime, murder, and others—could only be solved with help from Israel. To achieve this, of course an active cooperation within the Israeli government would be the best way forward. Up to the present, huge problems of the Arab sector such as illegal construction—even entire illegal villages in the Negev—have always only been pushed down the road. Now, finally, the potential for a solution may have been found.



That will cost the State billions—something that the far Right in the Netanyahu government wanted to prevent.

During these turbulent days, a new president was also being elected. Two candidates were up for election: one was for the first time a woman, Miriam Peretz, a widow and mother of two sons killed in the war. Despite her tragic fate, she has remained surprisingly positive and close to the people of her country. She did not come from the political establishment, but is very popular in Israel. The second candidate was Isaac Herzog, son of the sixth Israeli President Chaim Herzog. Initially, many expected that the woman would win the race, as this fits the current trend. But Isaac Herzog was elected with 87 votes, the highest number of votes ever received by an Israeli president.

The deadline for establishing a new government was midnight of this same day of presidential election. Shortly before then, Yair Lapid, leader of the largest party in the new coalition, notified the pres-

ident that he had succeeded in forming a government. He and his seven coalition partners had just under two weeks to work out the details, present it to the parliament, the Knesset, and then be sworn in.

For this to succeed and to prevent a fifth election process, national responsibility, goodwill, compromise, and foregoing of ego on the part of all coalition partners, will be necessary for the whole situation to turn out for the benefit of the people. If the undertaking works out, it will again, after a long time, be a government without an Orthodox Jewish Party.

Yair Lapid led the way with an example of renunciation: he gave Naftali Bennett, in rotation, precedence as prime minister for the first two years. May this model of waiving privilege for the good of the whole be the motto of this government.

Aware that God's blessing is necessary for the success of all political decisions, I greet you with Shalom,



# A Lament

## Part 2

**NORBERT LIETH**

## The Vine and Its Branch

“Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted by the waters: she was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters. And she had strong rods for the sceptres of them that bare rule, and her stature was exalted among the thick branches, and she appeared in her height with the multitude of her branches. But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the fire consumed them. And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty ground. And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation” (Ezek 19:10-14).

The vine is a different metaphor for the same thing: both the lioness and the vine describe Israel or, more specifically, Judah.

God planted Israel (Judah) in the Promised Land and made it

fruitful. He had blessed it very richly. It became handsome and strong; the surrounding peoples had their eyes on it. Great kings, “rulers,” emerged from it, and Israel’s good reputation became known worldwide. But it forsook God, assimilated with the nations, fell into idolatry, and even sacrificed children. It was finally “plucked up” by the “east wind” (that is, the Babylonian troops, who also burned Jerusalem in 586 BC). The vine, Israel, was transplanted to a barren, dry land. This points to the Babylonian exile. “Desert” is always a description of Israel’s situation outside its homeland. Likewise, everyone who lives outside of Jesus is in the desert.

The branch in verse 14 describes Zedekiah, Jehoiachin’s uncle (2 Kings 24:17), as the last king of Israel (specifically, Judah): “And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule.” Zedekiah was primarily to blame for the temple being

## A Lament Part 2

Don't always rush to blame God when we experience troubles, because the cause could be our own sin. And, it's not uncommon for our sin to also harm others.



burned in 586 BC. The prophet Jeremiah had previously prophesied to Zedekiah: “So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire” (Jer 38:23). Both verses show that the fire ultimately didn't come from God, nor from the Babylonians, although they burned the temple (Jer 52:12-13). The fire came from a branch of the vine and, thus, in actual fact, from the

vine—Judah itself. It was fully responsible.

Don't always rush to blame God when we experience troubles, because the cause could be our own sin. And, it's not uncommon for our sin to also harm others.

There's a Jewish parable that goes like this: A group of people are traveling together in a boat, when one of them begins to drill a hole in the bottom. The others ask indignantly, “What on earth are you doing?” The man replies, “This has nothing to do with you; I'm only drilling under my own seat.” One person sins, but everybody has to pay.

With the capture and death of Zedekiah and all his sons, the Davidic dynasty ended in disgrace. Since then, no descendant of David has sat on the throne in Israel. It was literally “the end of the story”: “...so that she [now] hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation,



Even through the Church Age, Jesus remains the Jew from the seed of David. He will return as such, and continue His rule for all to see.

and shall be for a lamentation” (v. 14).

Israel’s history has become a lament. The psalmist once said, “Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings” (Ps 9:11). And now, this dirge, this lament! Israel was supposed to point to God’s rulership and be a testimony to the nations (Deut 4:6), but now the nations point to Israel and its name has become a disgrace (Ps 44:15; Ezek 22:4). Israel was sent to bear fruit, and perished fruitlessly. That is truly a lament! Everything began joyously, and ended in sorrow.

All of this serves as a warning to us. Paul contrasts the fruit of the Spirit with the sterile works of darkness. “(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and right-

eousness and truth)...And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph 5:9, 11). Wouldn’t it be a lament if our works were to burn up in the end, just because we are unwilling to let the Holy Spirit work in us?

The Bible doesn’t teach that a Christian can lose eternal life, but he can: lose the victor’s crown (1 Cor 9:25) ...forfeit the prize (Phil 3:14) ...fail to receive a crown (2 Tim 2:5) ...suffer loss (1 Cor 3:15) ...be ashamed (1 John 2:28).

### Is It All Over for Israel?

Now that Israel is without a king due to Zedekiah’s death, and the rule of David has come to an end, the question arises: what about all the promises that the Lord has



## A Lament Part 2

Grace leads Israel to its goal; God's faithfulness heals it. The living and almighty God fulfills all His promises.

made to Israel? What about this example of God's promise: "Once I have sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah" (Ps 89:35-37; cf. Isa 9:6; Dan 7:14). Jesus Christ is the answer in every respect! For David's seed continued through Him, who came from the house of David. His seed shall remain forever. And in this seed, the throne of David was also preserved. This remained hidden at first, until the Son of David arrived for the first time. He endures forever through His resurrection as the Son of David, and lives for all eternity. "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel" (2 Tim 2:8). The Lord Himself said, "I Jesus...am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (Rev 22:16).

When Jesus Christ comes again, He will take control of governing in a way that is visible and tangible for everyone, and continue to rule on earth. Even through the Church Age, Jesus remains the Jew from the seed of David. He will return as such, and continue His rule for all to see. Ezekiel 20 shows us what to do next. Verse 34 describes Israel's return to the land. Verses 35-38 describe the judgment that occurs prior to entering the messianic kingdom. Verse 40 describes the redeemed Israel's future ministry in the messianic kingdom. Verse 44 reveals God's grace.

Grace leads Israel to its goal; God's faithfulness heals it. The living and almighty God fulfills all His promises. Let's reclaim the grace of God at work in and through Jesus, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph 1:7). (MR0221/1133)

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# Position of Israel on the HRC Special Session

BY AMBASSADOR MEIRAV EILON SHAHAR



**T**he Human Right Council opened its special session on “the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.” It heard calls from speakers for the Council

to establish an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate Israel’s alleged violations of international humanitarian law and alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021.

Israel rejects outright this draft resolution adopted [on] Thursday, 27 May 2021 by the United Nations Human Rights Council, a body with a built-in anti-Israel majority, guided by hypocrisy and absurdity. The draft reso-

lution that this Council will vote on has nothing to do with reality, has nothing to do with human rights, and definitely has nothing to do with promoting dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians.

Any resolution that fails to condemn the firing of over 4,300 rockets by a terror organization at Israeli civilians, or even to mention the terror organization Hamas, is nothing more than a moral failure and a stain on the international community and the UN.

Israeli security forces acted with the highest ethical standards, in accordance with international law, in defending our citizens from Hamas' indiscriminate rocket fire. Hamas is committing a double war crime—firing from civilian locations inside Gaza, at Israeli civilians. This resolution ignores that completely.

For years, the Human Rights Council has been creating a parallel universe where Hamas and Israel are given a moral equivalence, a parallel universe that has no grip

in reality. A universe in which politics prevails over human rights. This session and this draft resolution are no different.

After listening to the interventions given, Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar set the record straight: On May 7th, a senior Hamas leader, Fathi Hammad, said and I quote, “cut off the heads of the Jews with knives.” Just three days later, Hamas, a racist, genocidal terrorist organization, launched an unprovoked, unjustified attack against the civilian population in Israel, while cynically hiding military infrastructure in the midst of Gaza's civilian population. This constitutes a double war crime.

Over these 11 days, Israel did its utmost to protect all its civilians. For that, indeed, it used its advanced military protective systems, its civilian shelters and its laws and regulations in times of emergency. Israel will make no apologies for defending its citizens. Israel has the capabilities to defend its people in accordance with international law, and it will continue to do so.

There is no doubt that in this distorted reality, Hamas will not be held accountable for its war crimes and will not be the focus of this investigation.

There will also be no accountability for Israeli victims, while Hamas terrorists are in control of the Gaza Strip and are shielded by their partners in Ramallah and representatives in Geneva. Jibril Rajoub, Secretary-General of Fatah, said: “We do not condemn, on the contrary, we salute every form of resistance. These rockets shook their entity and drew a blow to their sense of security.”

The purpose of the Commission of Inquiry established by [this] resolution is to whitewash crimes committed by the terror organization Hamas, and to incriminate Israel’s actions to defend itself and its population. Israel cannot and will not cooperate with such an investigation.

States participating need to ask themselves, will they embrace this parallel universe? Will they vote to create a new mechanism, knowing how obsessively the Council

already deals with Israel? Israel does not need to remind of the numerous resolutions, special sessions and biased reports targeting the country.

Members of the Council voting yes are only perpetuating this distortion of reality.

*(Statement by the Embassy of Israel:  
Bern, Switzerland, 28.05.2021.)*

### **Commentary on the Statement by Arno Froese**

It seems almost impossible to think that normal, civilized, well-educated human beings sit at a table, discuss things, and come to the conclusion that a terrorist organization like Hamas should be supported, and Israel should be condemned. The United Nations Human Rights Council occupies itself with the promotion of human rights, helping develop international human rights law, and reviewing human rights records of member states. It serves as an international forum for dialog on human rights issues.

Is it possible that the responsible parties are deliberately ignorant,

blind, and lack basic education? Do they not hear, see, or read news reports about the facts on the ground? Of course they do. So, why do they come to such a lopsided, totally unfair, and almost idiotic conclusion?

We know why. It is the hidden hatred of the God of the Bible and the people of the Bible—the Jews. Esther 3:8 reports: “And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king’s laws: therefore it is not for the king’s profit to suffer them.” There is some truth to Haman’s claim: “scattered abroad and dispersed among the people...and their laws are diverse from all people.” That is followed by a slight lie: “neither keep they the king’s laws.” That was a partial truth: “Mordecai bowed not, nor did him [Haman] reverence” (verse 5). We know how the story ends. The Jews

were not eliminated, but promoted. Esther 8:17 actually states, “And many of the people of the land became Jews.”

The God of Israel is still the same as He was over 2,500 years ago during Esther’s time. But the enemy of God—“the great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan”—has deceived the whole world. He will always oppose God’s plan.

The prophet Zechariah has this to say: “For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye” (Zechariah 2:8). The real reason behind anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and anti-Israel lies in the lack of “knowledge of the truth.” These poor people, who formulate these totally mind-boggling resolutions, need to be freed. And there is only one way to be free: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:32, 36). (NFI)



# On the Horizon



## ISRAEL

### Abbas Pays \$40,000 to Family of Terrorist

The Palestinian Authority handed the family of a Palestinian terrorist who murdered two Israelis 30,000 Jordanian dinars (\$42,000).



**Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas makes a statement as he attends the Revolutionary Council Meeting of Fatah Movement at the Palestinian Presidential Office in Ramallah.**  
(photo credit: FLASH90)



The money was provided by PA President Mahmoud Abbas to “complete the payment of the price” of the family’s house that was demolished by the IDF, according to Wafa, the PA’s official news agency.

The PA governor of Ramallah and El-Bireh, Laila Ghannam, handed over the money to the family of Muhannad al-Halabi during a meeting.

On October 3, 2015, Halabi, 19, attacked the Benita family near Lion’s Gate in Jerusalem’s Old City as they were on their way to the Western Wall to pray.

Halabi fatally stabbed Aaron Benita, the father of the family,

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### TUNNEL UNDER GAZA SCHOOL

A tunnel used by Palestinian militants in Gaza was discovered under one of the schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

The UNRWA Zaitoun Preparatory Boys’ School “A” and Elementary Boys’ School “A” was one of two of the organization’s facilities damaged during the 11-day Gaza war that ended on May 21.

At the end of May, UNRWA found what “appears to be a cavity and a possible tunnel, at the location of the missile strike,” the organization reported.

The organization condemned both Palestinians who built the tunnel and the IDF for its attacks, which it alleged caused damage to the school.

*-jpost.com*  
6 June 2021



and wounded the mother, Adele, and their two-year-old son, Matan. Nehemia Lavi, a resident who heard screams and came to help, was also murdered. His gun was taken by the terrorist, who was shot dead by police officers.

Ghannam thanked Abbas for paying “special attention to the families of the martyrs, prisoners and fighters,” Wafa reported.

-*www.jpost.com*, 7 June 2021

**Commentary:** In light of Israel’s fight against terrorism, the possibility of the establishment of an Arab-Palestinian state seems all but impossible. If such activity were to be done in secret, it might be a different story. There may be some who think that this is only logical, given that it is for the property that was destroyed to be replaced. But, in this case, it is a blatant message to Israel: we reward murderers.

Proverbs 17:13 reads: “Whoso

rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.” 7526

(See *The Remarkable Wisdom of Solomon*, Item #2223, \$12.99.)



## EGYPT

### Planning to Take Control of Gaza?

Scenes of dozens of Egyptian bulldozers, cranes and trucks entering the Gaza Strip have left some Palestinians wondering whether Egypt is planning to return to the coastal enclave it ruled between 1948 and 1967.



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi has pledged \$500 million to help rebuild the houses and buildings that were destroyed during the fighting.

“It will be hard for Hamas to initiate another round of fighting with Israel when there are many Egyptians inside the Gaza Strip,” one of the sources said. “If Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad start firing rockets at Israel while the Egyptian construction teams are working in the Gaza Strip, the two groups will get into trouble with Egypt.”

“There are many rumors that the Egyptians are planning to return to the Gaza Strip,” said a veteran Palestinian journalist in the Hamas-ruled coastal enclave. “Many people here are convinced that the Egyptian-sponsored reconstruction work is part of a plan to pave the way for a permanent Egyptian security presence in the Gaza Strip.”

Until a few years ago, Egypt’s state-





**Building equipment, sent by Egypt for Palestinians, arrive in the southern Gaza Strip** (photo credit: REUTERS/IBRAHEEM ABU MUSTAFA)

controlled media had accused Hamas of helping Muslim terrorists who attacked Egyptian security forces in the Sinai. Hamas has strongly denied the charges, saying it does not meddle in the internal affairs of any Arab country.

“The Egyptians are working to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation and reunite the West Bank with the Gaza Strip,” a Palestinian official said. “That’s why they have invited representatives of several Palestinian factions to Cairo. The Egyptians support the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.”

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 7 June 2021

**Commentary:** Egypt’s assistance in Gaza is welcomed on both sides.

The first time Gaza is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 10:19: “And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha.” The last time Gaza is mentioned is in Acts 8:26, when Philip the evangelist interpreted the writings of the prophet

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### NO-NEEDLE BLOOD TEST

Israeli scientists have invented a method to perform blood tests without drawing a drop—and are launching their device into space for testing.

The scientists say their technology will enable the world’s first sample-free blood count tests, which assess the number and type of cells in a patient’s blood and normally require lab analysis of a blood sample drawn from a finger or arm. Their device scans the eye for a few seconds, and instantly provides accurate results, the researchers say.

“Opening up the possibility of needle-less blood tests is truly exciting,” Harel Baris, one of the Sheba doctors behind the new tech, told *The Times of Israel*.

He is sending the tech into orbit in October with Israeli space tourist Eytan Stibbe, hoping that zero gravity testing will help the development process.

-[timesofisrael.com](http://timesofisrael.com)  
7 June 2021



Isaiah, testifying that Jesus is the fulfillment. This resulted in the Ethiopian treasurer asking the question, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (verse 36b).

The Biblical Ethiopia, according to *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, could be located somewhere in the modern-day country of Sudan.

Early in Israel’s history, we read of the tribe of Judah conquering Gaza: “Also Judah took Gaza with the coast thereof, and Askelon with the coast thereof, and Ekron with the coast thereof. And the Lord was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron” (Judges 1:18-19). Amazingly, Judah “could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley.” From that point on, Gaza is often mentioned in relation to Israel’s fiercest enemy, the Philistines (no relation to Palestinians). Today, the problem still exists. Gaza is ruled by Hamas, declared by many countries as a terrorist organization.

Will Egypt be the peacemaker? The prophet Isaiah has this to say:

“Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him” (Isaiah 36:6).

From a temporary standpoint, however, Egypt’s involvement in

Gaza is seen positively by Israel.

7525

(See *Unwrapping the Pharaohs*, Item #2230, \$34.99.)



**ISRAEL**

## World’s First AI War

Having relied heavily on machine learning, the Israeli military is calling Operation Guardian of the Walls the first artificial-intelligence war.



Soldiers in Unit 8200, an Intelligence Corps elite unit, pioneered algorithms and code that led to several new programs called “Alchemist,” “Gospel” and “Depth of Wisdom,” which were developed and used during the fighting.

Collecting data using signal intelligence (SIGINT), visual intelligence (VISINT), human intelligence (HUMINT), geographical intelligence (GEOINT) and more, the



## NEWS IN BRIEF



IDF has mountains of raw data that must be combed through to find the key pieces necessary to carry out a strike.

“For the first time, a multidisciplinary center was created that produces hundreds of targets relevant to developments in the fighting, allowing the military to continue to fight as long as it needs to with more and more new targets,” a senior officer said.

The IDF carried out hundreds of strikes against Hamas and PIJ, including rocket launchers, rocket manufacturing, production and storage sites, military intelligence offices, drones, commanders’ residences and Hamas’s naval commando unit. Israel has destroyed most of the naval commando unit’s infrastructure and weaponry, including several autonomous GPS-guided submarines that can carry 30 kg. of explosives.

One strike, against senior Hamas operative Bassem Issa, was carried out with no civilian casualties despite being in a tunnel under a high-rise building surrounded by six schools and a medical clinic. Issa, a brigade commander for Gaza City, was the highest-ranking military figure in Hamas to be killed by Israel since Operation Protective Edge in 2014.

In an interview with Channel 12, the head of the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency in Gaza, Matthias Schmale, acknowledged that while the “viciousness and ferocity of the strikes was heavily felt,” he had “the impression that there is a huge sophistication in the way the Israeli military struck.”

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 27 May 2021

**Commentary:** Tanks, cannons, and boots on the ground are more and more being relegated to the history books. So-called artificial intelligence (AI) played a decisive

## PHILIPPINES RECEIVES HELP WITH VACCINATION

A team of Israeli Health Ministry experts is expected to travel to the Philippines to aid in that country’s vaccination efforts, Philippines News Agency (PNA) reported.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. called Israel’s vaccination campaign “highly successful” and said that the Philippine government is looking to “adopt Israel’s interventions on increasing public uptake, which is to provide incentives for vaccine recipients and restrictions for those who are yet to get coronavirus jabs,” the agency reported.

When Israel first rolled out its vaccine campaign it offered inoculated Israelis a green pass that gave them access to a number of cultural, leisure and other activities while non-vaccinated individuals were not allowed in. The green pass program was recently canceled, after more than 5.4 million Israelis got the jab and because the country’s daily infection rate is now often less than 10 people.

-[jpost.com](http://jpost.com)  
7 June 2021



**An IDF tank takes part in military drills as part of the “Tnuva” multi-year plan.**  
(photo credit: IDF)

role during the recent 11-day war against Hamas in Gaza.

The advantage for the future is quite obvious: only Israel has real-world experience using the latest technology – in this case, artificial intelligence – to effectively pinpoint military targets.

We must also emphasize Israel’s official policy was and is to warn residents of buildings about an imminent attack, giving sufficient time to evacuate. Hamas, on the other hand, operates in a diametrically opposed way: they send rockets toward civilian targets without warning, with the publicly declared intention to kill Jews, no matter who.

Reading and hearing international news, the emphasis is always on Palestinian casualties, of which

some are civilians; they rarely mention that Hamas deliberately targets civilians.

Doubtless, Israel’s experience will be extremely valuable for the next confrontation with terrorist entities. 7527



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



## CANADA

### Court Reverses Settlement Product Labeling

Products of Israeli companies in Judea and Samaria can be labeled “Made in Israel” for sale in Canada, after Canada’s Federal Court of Appeals reversed a lower court’s ruling that would have required labeling of settlement products.



The court determined that a lower court’s decision was made improperly and was not binding. Rather, the decision should go back to Canada’s Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which had previously allowed wines made by Jews in Judea and Samaria to be labeled products of Israel.

Such labels are “false, misleading and deceptive,” Federal Court Justice Anne



## NEWS IN BRIEF



Labels, including the words, “Wine from the land of Israel,” are seen on wine bottles at Tura Winery in Rehelim (photo credit: REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun)

Mactavish ruled in 2019 following a petition against the CFIA by David Kattenburg, a freelance writer and science teacher who has called Israel an apartheid state.

“CIJA believes that current labeling practices are fully consistent with the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, as well as Canadian and international law,” said Shimon Koffler Fogel, president of Canada’s Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs. “We know this case is part of a broader campaign to boycott Israel and Israeli goods. Until there is a final-status agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, wines produced under the authority and regulatory framework of Israel should be labeled accordingly.”

“Consumer product labels exist to protect consumers,” RE-LAW LLP partner David Elmaleh said. “Weaponizing label requirements for political attacks against Jewish-owned businesses is not just a commercial threat to the targeted businesses, it also undermines trust in consumer safety information.”

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 9 May 2021

**Commentary:** What does “occupied territory” mean?

## FIGHTING BACTERIAL RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS

Researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) have developed a process by which “good” viruses can attack the systems of “bad” bacteria, according to a university statement.

The method discovered could in turn destroy and affect reproduction capabilities of the bacteria by blocking the replication mechanism of the bacteria’s DNA without damaging its own—distinguishing good viruses from the bad bacteria, which could be put forth towards a further understanding of bacterial mechanisms for evading bacteriophages and using bacteriophages to combat bacteria.

“We found that the ‘immune’ bacterial variants simply stopped repairing their DNA in ways that are vulnerable to the bacteriophage attack, thereby evading the bacteriophage’s destructive mechanism. Shedding more light on the ways in which bacteriophages attack bacteria, our findings may serve as a tool in the endless battle against antibiotic-resistant bacteria,” concluded Prof. Udi Qimron.

-[jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)  
7 June 2021



Definitions are vastly different and mainly based on modern history. The website of the International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva, Switzerland) gives this explanation:

What is occupation? Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Regulations (HR) states that a “territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised.”

Going back historically, however, this opens a “can of worms.” After the First and Second World Wars, borders were drastically changed throughout Europe. Who occupied who was never answered.

Going back a little further, the 35 sovereign countries established on the American continent (North and South) can be considered “occupied territory,” if one applies international law uniformly.

Is the Canadian court decision a permanent one? Definitely not.

From a Biblical perspective, we know that all nations are involved

in the partition of the Promised Land; thus, the world will be judged.

Why? Because they “parted my land” (Joel 3:2b).

7510

(See *The Palestinian Right to Israel*, Item #2256, \$19.99.)



## ISRAEL

### Abandoned Arab Village Becomes Israeli Neighborhood

The Israel Lands Authority (ILA), the government body charged with public land management, announced on Jerusalem Day the opening of bids for construction companies to take charge of the development of the Lifta neighborhood in Jerusalem.



The development plan, once signed, will be in effect for 98 years, with the ability to extend the deal at a later point.

It will include 259 housing units, as well as areas sectioned off for trade and commerce, in addition to space for a hotel.

Lifta—*Mei Neftoach* in Hebrew—the western-most neighborhood in Jerusalem, was abandoned in 1948 and is the last Arab town inside Jerusalem from that



## NEWS IN BRIEF



### VOTE TO EXPEL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

The City Council of Belfast in Northern Ireland passed a motion calling on the governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland to expel Israel's ambassadors to those countries.

In addition to the vote in Belfast, the capital of the British region of Northern Ireland, pro-Palestinian students and activists staged a sit-in protest in front of the Foreign Ministry of Ireland in Dublin. They blocked the entrance for hours, waving signs urging Ireland to expel the Israeli ambassador.

But opposition parties voiced their disapproval of the motion.

"The Jews are the original indigenous inhabitants of Palestine and as such have the right to exist as a nation state," said John Kyle of the Progressive Unionist Party of Northern Ireland. "Israel is confronted by organizations which do not recognize its right to exist ... and this is antisemitism."

-jta.org

4 June 2021

time that has yet to be resettled.

Yakoub Odeh, 81, was eight-years-old when the town was abandoned, and expressed the anger felt by others: "We are in pain and in shock... This decision is illegal," he told Ynet.

"Mazal tov Jerusalem!" Former-Jerusalem Municipality councilmember Yair Gabbai announced on his Facebook page.

"After years of delays the ILA published a public bid notice for rebuilding the new neighborhood in Lifta."

Gabbai added that a synagogue will be added to the neighborhood as well, writing that "it is exciting and symbolic that this is taking place on Jerusalem Day."

-www.jpost.com, 10 May 2021

**Commentary:** Determined Israelis continue to develop territories conquered by military force. While this may be debated by various human rights organizations, Israel is establishing literal—in concrete—realities in the Promised Land. In time, this will make it all but impossible for the creation of an Arab Palestinian state in the Promised Land.

Viewing this development from recent history, there will be strong opposition, but the process of Israeli law will retain the upper hand. The decision is based on the declaration of "public land"; subsequently, available for development.

Based on the prophecies of Ezekiel, the country will be inhabited by Israel: "And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country" (Ezekiel 34:13). 7511

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

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

BY ARNO FROESE

The Luther Bible titles this three-verse Psalm, “Blessings of Brotherly Unity.” The exact date of the composition of this Psalm seems to be unknown. However, in the context of the previous and following Psalms, it becomes clear that it was the time when the tribes of Israel favored David, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 12. David became the undisputed favorite to be the “captain” for the children of Israel.

The twelve tribes were united under David. “How good and how pleasant it is that brothers dwell together,” says the *Tanakh*. This unity was designated for one people: the children of Israel, whom God led out of bondage

from Egypt into the Promised Land.

Let’s go back to the time of Abraham. The Lord had blessed Abram and his nephew Lot. Genesis 13:6 reports: “And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.” How did Abram deal with this conflict? He surely could have requested that his will be done; he was the older one, and he was the one God called. Let’s read verse 8: “And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.”



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This unity should also be exemplified within the Church. That's why Paul admonishes us in 1 Corinthians 1:10: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." That indeed fulfills our introductory verse: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

This type of spiritual unity is not brought about through an institution, an organization, or a system; it is a reality of the indwelling Holy Spirit within the Church—which, we emphasize, consists only of born-again believers. This unity is preserved by the Lord Himself. The work He has begun in us, He will also complete and perfect in due time.

A recent article by the World Jewish Congress states:

As part of its 16th Plenary Assembly, the World Jewish

Congress (WJC) partnered with the Muslim World League (MWL) for a joint Muslim and Jewish celebration of Ramadan. The convening, featuring the MWL Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, WJC President Ronald S. Lauder and over 100 senior Jewish and Muslim community leaders from around the world, demonstrated a shared dedication to global interfaith collaboration and the cultivation of good relations between Muslim and Jewish faith communities.

Lauder opened by citing Psalm 133: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony."

He reflected on the significance of building interfaith relations, stating, "Relationships between communities, especially communities of faith, are sadly not always easy to foster and maintain. In fact, we all know that there has been strife among different faiths throughout history."

Echoing Lauder's emphasis on interfaith dialogue and coopera-

tion, Al-Issa noted that religion should be used as a tool to promote peace and unity rather than division: “We know that religion has always been used as an excuse for conflict, or that religions have been used to serve political purposes. I would like to say that this is against the essence of religion because religion promotes peace. I would like to stress that this friendly meeting is an opportunity to promote our common values, our human values.”

-[www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 27 April 2021

We are reminded here of the EU motto, “United in Diversity.” That is in the works, and it will come to fruition when religion becomes increasingly political—as politics becomes religion.

Israel’s tendency toward unity with the world is self-evident. First Samuel 8 reports that the elders of Israel came with a request to Samuel: “Behold, thou art old, and thy sons

walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (verse 5). After hearing warnings enumerated against having a king like the Gentiles, the elders were determined: “Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles” (verses 19-20). Note the words, “like all the nations.”


In modern times, when Israel declared its independence, they appealed to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in building their own state: “to admit Israel into the family of nations.”

As of 2020, Israel has diplomatic relations with 164 nations out of 192 members of the UN.

Israel is given to the Church as an example. We are a different nation, with no political attachments; we have no country,

no capital city, no government, no military force. We reside on all continents and are present in every nation on the face of the earth. We speak hundreds of different languages, practice diverse cultures, yet we are perfectly one in Jesus Christ our Lord. We are the spiritual habitation of God. The apostle Peter writes: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter

2:5). When this spiritual house is completed, the Lord our God will take possession of it and remove us from planet earth.

Israel will experience a national rebirth, and then will be fulfilled what was proclaimed by Zechariah the prophet: "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain" (Zechariah 8:3). 

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# Operation “Guardian of the Walls”



“When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 20:1).

**By David Phillips** *Project Manager*

On 10—21 May 2021, the operation called “Guardian of the Walls” took place in Israel.

This conflict, whatever the trigger may have been, has taught us again how sensitive our region here in the Middle East is. From missiles being shot into Israel, to violent demonstrations and riots within the country, we learned once more of our Heavenly Father’s grace and protection over His children.

Here at the Home, it was like a spiritual battle zone. Many of the elderly found themselves gathering together and praying more intensely “than in normal days.” Although we “only” had 4 rockets fired into our area, about 5 miles away, we saw very violent riots around the Home during a couple of

the days, with the mobs damaging everything that came in their path. The Lord really protected us in a special way. Except for 3 youth who tried to escape the police and climb our fence, we had no harm. We saw burning tires and trash bins all over the place here in downtown Haifa, but were kept by His grace, with nothing happening to us.

Thank you for your prayers for Israel, the Home, the residents and team. You have been part of the Lord’s protection. We have seen again how true these verses are:

“Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the

# EBENEZER HOME



moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul” (Psalm 121:4-7).

I think you have seen enough pictures and videos on the news, but experiencing it yourself is a completely different thing. This is how many of the residents describe it: some of the Holocaust survivors, and those who have gone through wars here in Israel, explained that many of the trembling moments of 80+ years ago, of a destroying mob going around in Nazi-occupied Europe, came flooding back. They would look at me and ask, “When will this stop?” The only thing

I could do was quote verses from the Bible and encourage them, “Do not be afraid of them, for the Lord God who brought you out of Egypt is with you.”

Right now, all is quiet. The war is over, and we press on. This time of conflict has showed us once more how we desperately need a new, larger Home for those who have no place to stay and be taken care of. Thus, this month’s donations will be dedicated toward the new building.

Thank you for your help, prayers, encouragement and support! All the residents and team greet you.



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