

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

August 2021

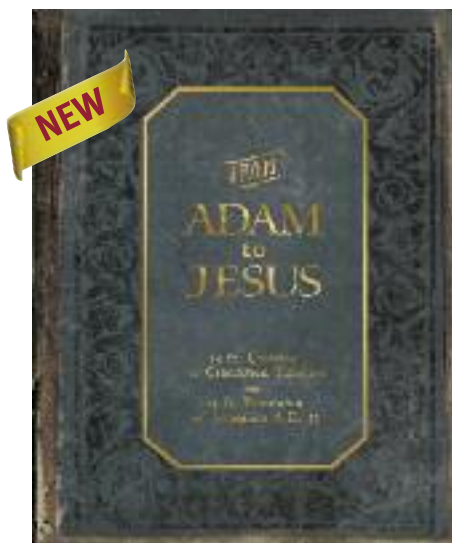
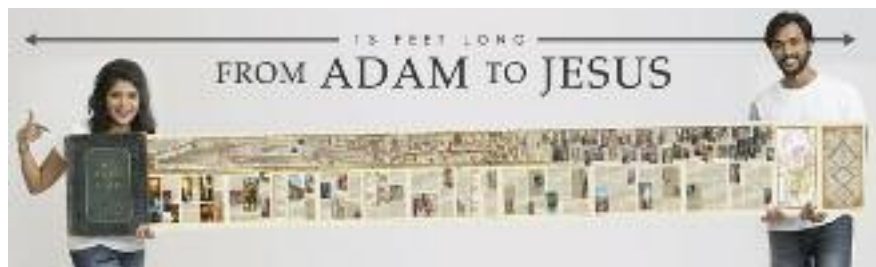
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The Altar and the Cross of Christ



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4 Editor's Note *By Fredi Winkler*



6 Cover Story The Altar and the Cross of Christ

By Samuel Rindlisbacher

Sin is the real problem facing mankind. It's what separates us from God. But God shows us a way out: it is the Cross of Calvary. And this is foreshadowed by the altar in the tabernacle.

15 On The Horizon

15 ISRAEL
New Israeli Covid Vaccine BriLife

16 CZECH REPUBLIC
9th Country to Boycott Durban Conference

17 ISRAEL
Second-Temple-Period Building Uncovered

18 ISRAEL
Inscription with Name of Biblical Judge Found

20 LEBANON
Worst Financial Crisis Since 1850s

22 ISRAEL
Lab-Grown Chicken: Taste of the Future

24 Action for Israel *By Arno Froese*

28 Ebenezer Home *By David Phillips*



Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



The most exciting question in Israel at the moment is, how long will the new government last? The differences in the eight-party coalition could not be greater. For a government of such different coalition partners to survive at all, requires at least one ideology that brings them together. The goal that united everyone was to finally overthrow Benjamin Netanyahu. This opposition to Netanyahu was based primarily on personal, not political motivation.

Almost all of the present governing bodies have been in coalition with Netanyahu before. And the experiences they gathered were seemingly so negative that they said to themselves: “Never again!” Netanyahu announced in

a speech that he certainly, and soon, would be in power again because this new government lacked internal cohesion. With these words, he provided the coalition with exactly the glue that will hold them together; namely, Netanyahu must not be allowed to return to power. As long as this danger looms, the various parties in the government, despite their serious differences, will probably continue to be willing to compromise and remain united—all opposing forecasts notwithstanding.

Why this opposition to Netanyahu? The reasons are complex, but what has proved to weigh particularly heavy is the fact that he relied, alongside his own Likud party, on the Ultra-Ortho-



dox parties as his power base. They received the financial support they wanted from Netanyahu, and in return, they hardly interfered in politics. This gave him virtually a free hand. But they did not secure a majority for Netanyahu, and he needed another party in his coalition. This added coalition faction then was seen more as a “stopgap” rather than a serious partner.

However, what angered those who were once in a coalition with Netanyahu the most, was the unequal apportioning of burdens. The majority of Orthodox Jews do not serve in the army because they have dedicated themselves to religious studies, yet they receive money from the State. Many Israelis are angry about the situation and are no longer willing to tolerate it. When the State was founded, the strictly religious Jews were granted this privilege, because at that time they were still a small minority. But in the meantime, they have grown into an immense power; therefore, the matter is to be regulated anew. Because

they had always been an influential part of the coalition government, they had also always been able to push through their demands.

At the presentation of the new government, spokesmen for the religious parties insulted their leaders in the worst way. They demanded that Bennett, who wears a kippa, take off his kippa because he was no Jew but a disgrace. With the Labor Party, which now is in the coalition, a Reform rabbi became the first in Israel’s history to be part of the Knesset. He also was demeaned as they denied him his Jewishness, stating that Reform Jews are not real Jews but are worse than Christians.

This demonstrates the worrisome extent to which Israel’s internal division has grown. A willingness to compromise for Israel’s unity has become an indispensable necessity. We hope and pray that the new government will be a beginning in this direction.

In this hope, greetings with Shalom,

David Winkler



The Altar and the Cross of Christ

SAMUEL RINDLISBACHER

The altar for burnt offerings in the tabernacle is a prophetic reference to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. How? And what does that mean for our lives?

◀ Exodus 27:1-8

“You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze. You shall make pots for it to receive its ashes, and shovels and basins and forks and fire pans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze. You shall also make for it a grating, a network of bronze, and on the net you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. And you shall set it under the ledge of the altar so that the net extends halfway down the altar. And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. And the poles shall be put through the rings, so that the poles are on the two sides of the altar when it is carried. You shall make it hollow, with boards. As it has been shown you on the mountain, so shall it be made.”

The people of our day are plagued by numerous problems. Fear dominates the minds of many. But what about the real problem: sin? Where should I go with my torn and troubled conscience? Or are we wrong? Is sin just a delusion of some religious fanatics? A relic of the dying Christian church? Have we let ourselves be deceived—does sin even exist? Wouldn't it be better to think of it as socially unacceptable behavior?

The Problem of Sin

These days, sin isn't talked about anymore. It's too old-fashioned and outmoded in our enlightened society, a sign of naïveté. The term is even disappearing from the vocabulary of Christian circles. But, like it or not, God hasn't changed. Sin is still sin to Him. The prophet Daniel confesses, “We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules” (Dan 9:5).

The Altar and the Cross of Christ

When Israel was wandering through the desert, anyone who sinned went to the tabernacle. The best sheep in his flock had to die, and its blood had to be shed.

Sin is the real problem facing mankind. It's what separates us from God. But God shows us a way out: it is the Cross of Calvary. And this is foreshadowed by the altar in the tabernacle. This is where God shows us how He wants to solve our problem: through the sacrifice and its shed blood. For "under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Heb 9:22).

When Israel was wandering through the desert, anyone who sinned went to the tabernacle. The best sheep in his flock had to die, and its blood had to be shed.

Through this, it was possible to obtain reconciliation. It didn't matter whether you were an employee or a boss, an intellectual or less educated—everyone had to go to the tabernacle. The one who was sacrificing had to bring the best sheep. Not a lame or crippled one, or one with even the smallest flaw. After it was cleansed, he would put a rope around its neck and lead it through the whole camp to the tabernacle . . . past family, friends, colleagues, and "next-door" neighbors. Everyone could see:

"There goes somebody who sinned."

It was humiliating to be exposed like this, to know that others were watching you.

But it was also



The altar was made of acacia wood and covered with sheet iron. It was square-shaped, with a length and width measuring 5 x 5 cubits each, and a height of 3 cubits.

healing, because everyone had to go to be forgiven. Nobody could judge you, because it could be his turn tomorrow. In the same way, there is only one way out now: solely through Calvary. Forgiveness is only possible through what happened on the Cross when Jesus Christ died.

In deep shame, our man now makes his way through the narrow streets of the encampment. He keeps his eyes on the ground, in the hope that as few people as possible will notice him. He wants to turn back, but his sins won't allow him to; they press in on him too hard. They burrow into him and won't leave him a moment's peace. He repeatedly thinks of turning back; he doesn't want the shame, much less the looks from his neighbors. But if he wants peace, he must go to the tabernacle!



Do you have this same problem? People want peace, forgiveness, and rest for their conscience, but they avoid the Cross of Calvary. Some plunge headlong into their work; others relax with music and yoga. Many people can no longer fall asleep without “sleep aids,” and people rush from one event to the next on weekends. Even sports and hobbies have become more extreme and bizarre. When that no longer works, there are drugs on hand. By contrast, the possibility of real peace is ridiculed. But Jesus alone is the solution to our lost state.

People want peace, forgiveness, and rest for their conscience, but they avoid the Cross of Calvary.

A Fair Process

Every Israelite knew to flee to the altar in the tabernacle with his sin. Even the worst criminal had a chance of a fair trial. The Bible tells of a revolutionary who wanted to overthrow the government, but who had to flee upon being discovered.

“And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. And then it was told Solomon, ‘Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, “Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.”’ And Solomon said, ‘If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die’” (1 Kings 1:50-52).

Adonijah knew that he was guaranteed a fair trial at the altar, and it’s the same today. The only remedy for our troubled conscience, guilt, and sin is through

the Cross of Calvary. God forgives sins there! This knowledge also led the man in the encampment to lead his sacrificial animal to the tabernacle. He wanted to make things right with God. In the tabernacle, he put his hands on the beast’s head, symbolically passing all his sins onto the animal. Then he reached for his knife and opened its carotid artery. It died in place of the repentant sinner.

Exodus 12 describes a similar act. Here, a lamb once again had to die to save a human life:

“Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household [. . .] Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. Then they shall

Wherever the blood of the slain lamb was painted on the doorposts and lintels of the houses, lives were saved. However, the ones who thought that they could disobey God's command would mourn a loss in their immediate family the next morning.



take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it [. . .] For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and

on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike

the land of Egypt” (Ex 12:3, 5-7, 12-13).

Wherever the blood of the slain lamb was painted on the doorposts and lintels of the houses, lives were saved. However, the ones who thought that they could disobey God’s command would mourn a loss in their immediate family the next morning.


The man at the altar knew that the lamb must die for him to be forgiven of sins. In this way, the lamb is a reference to Jesus Christ. As John the Baptist says of Him, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Since many lambs were slaughtered each day in the temple in Jerusalem, that term was commonplace to the Jews. When John the Baptist calls Jesus Christ the “Lamb of God,” it becomes clear that He is the ultimate sacrifice; indeed, the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises and allusions. He is the sacrifice that is acceptable to God, and which makes further sacrifice unnecessary. The Letter to the Hebrews testifies:

“... not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Heb 9:12-14).

The Iron of Judgment

Let’s return to the man in the tabernacle, as he’s putting his hands on the animal’s head. He knows that he is the one who deserves death because of his sin. In a halting voice, he lists his wrongdoings: the many lies, the impure glances, the hatred in his heart, and the theft that he has also committed. In addition, his infidelity, his resentment. He lists it all, and symbolically transfers it to the innocent animal. Now when the animal dies, it becomes a reference to Jesus Christ. In the same way, my sins are the cause of Jesus’ death.



Only wood ash remains from the fire. This shows us the Lord Jesus' situation on the Cross.

The terrifying extremes that the Lord Jesus suffered as a result, reflect both the way in which the altar was constructed and the way in which the sacrifice was burned. The altar was made of acacia wood and covered with sheet iron. It was square-shaped, with a length and width measuring 5 x 5 cubits each, and a height of 3 cubits (a normal cubit was about 50 cm). An iron grate was placed halfway up the side of the altar. This is where the sacrificial animals were placed to be burned. In order to achieve the necessary high temperatures, the altar stood at a slight

elevation to allow for better air supply.

These details are all small indications of the brutal severity of what took place on the Cross, where Jesus Christ took away the sin of the world. There was nothing remotely romantic about it: just the hard ore that glows in the heat of the fire (an illustration of judgment) and burns everything with it. God's holy and righteous wrath against sin is revealed at the altar. Let's remember, however, that we are the ones who deserve God's wrath.

The Wood of Humanity

The wood references the person of Jesus Christ. He was completely

human: He experienced exhaustion, hunger and thirst, joy and pain. However, as the Bible says, He was also completely sinless (Heb 4:15). Because the wood of the altar was covered with iron, it could not burn—only the wood that was placed on the grate to burn the sacrificial animals. Exodus 27:8 draws our attention to this fact: “You shall make it hollow, with boards.”

Only wood ash remains from the fire. This shows us the Lord Jesus’ situation on the Cross.

“... He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Is 53:2-3).

The devil was playing his hellish game, and sin was in full force.

“They open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted

within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death” (Ps 22:13-15).

Even the sun itself, as well as all of creation, couldn’t bear to see how Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was treated in such a way and publicly made “to be sin who knew no sin” (2 Cor 5:21a; cf. Luke 23:44). We can never fully grasp the scope of this event, let alone all of its deep dimensions. The altar also indicates this: the grate for the sacrificial animal to be burned was placed in the exact center of the altar, thus hiding it from bystanders and their curious glances. The Lamb was completely alone, exposed to the fire of God’s anger.

Through this event, God—in His own way—solves the problem of our sin. The Son Himself takes the punishment, pays for the world’s sins as the Lamb of God, and thus enables peace between God and men.

(MR0421/1153)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

New Israeli Covid Vaccine BriLife

The Israel Institute for Biological Research has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a US-based pharmaceutical company to help fast-track Israel's BriLife vaccine, the Defense Ministry announced.



ALTERNATE PRIME MINISTER and Defense Minister Benny Gantz visits the Israel Institute for Biological Research.

(photo credit: DEFENSE MINISTRY)



The "bri" is the first part of the Hebrew word for health; the "il" stands for Israel and "life." IIBR operates under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office and works closely with the Defense Ministry.

"This agreement is excellent news for Israel's citizens and highlights the unprecedented achievement of the Israel Institute for Biological Research," said Defense Minister Benny Gantz. "I anticipate that with this agreement, we will be able to complete the development of the vaccine and enable Israel to produce vaccines independently, because as we have seen

NEWS IN BRIEF



UNITED NATIONS FUNDED TERROR

A newly released report by Zionist watchdog group Im Tirtzu divulged that the United Nations has allegedly funneled millions to radical Palestinian groups that are linked to terrorist organizations and the BDS anti-Israel movement.

The report found that between 2016 to 2020, the UN contributed at least \$40 million to 19 Palestinian NGOs, nearly all of which support BDS and almost half have ties to Hamas or Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror groups, an Im Tirtzu press release announced.

The watchdog report noted that currently the UN is not fully transparent in its reporting, resulting in millions of dollars in funding left unaccounted for.

-jpost.com
14 July 2021



recently—the coronavirus is not going anywhere.”

Brilife is a vector-based vaccine. The vaccine takes the vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) and genetically engineers it so that it will express the spike protein of the novel coronavirus on its envelope.

Once injected, it does not cause a disease by itself. VSV does not infect humans; instead, the body recognizes the spike protein that is expressed on the envelope and begins to develop an immunological response. The vaccine will initially be delivered by traditional injection, NRx said in a release.

-www.jpost.com, 12 July 2021

Commentary: That Israel is first in line when it comes to biological research is not a surprise. Mr. Gantz’s statement, “the coronavirus is not going anywhere,” suggests that there is more to come, and Israel must be ready.

From Scripture, we know Jesus’ prophecy, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken” (Matthew 24:29). 7547

(See *Hidden Signs in the Olivet Discourse*, Item #1060, \$10.95.)



CZECH REPUBLIC

9th Country to Boycott Durban Conference

Czech Republic will not participate in the Durban Review Conference in New York in September, Czech Foreign Minister Jakub Kulháněk said, citing concerns about antisemitism and targeting Israel.



“I’ve taken this decision due to historic concerns regarding antisemitism and the misuse of the platform for attacks against Israel,” he tweeted. “We will continue to fight racism and discrimination and promote human rights.”

Antisemitism was rife at the 2001 Durban Conference’s NGO forum, where copies of the anti-Jewish conspiracy theory *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* were distributed, Israel was accused of genocide, and participants considered whether Hitler was right.

Israel was the only country singled out for racism in the statement made by UN member states participating in the conference. The US and Israel walked out.

Austria and the Netherlands [also] announced they would not take part in Durban IV due to the antisemitism at past conferences.

-www.jpost.com, 12 July 2021



Commentary: The statement, “Israel was the only country singled out for racism,” hits the nail on the head. They are multiple reasons for the anti-Israel stance, anti-Zionism, anti-Semitism, etc., that we will not list here, but one thing is crystal clear: Israel is different. It was the Gentile prophet Balaam who declared: “How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied? For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations” (Numbers 23:8-9). 7548

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



ISRAEL

Second-Temple-Period Building Uncovered

In the first century CE, just decades before the Temple was destroyed by the Romans, Jerusalem was a booming city, buzzing with pilgrims and a frenzy of construction.



Remains of the magnificent 2000-year-old building recently excavated and due to be opened to the public
(photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM/THE JERUSALEM POST)

NEWS IN BRIEF



VOUCHERS FOR GAZA AID?

Israel is considering a voucher system for foreign aid to be disbursed to Gaza, as a safeguard against donations being diverted to bolster the Palestinian enclave's Hamas rulers and their arsenal, Public Security Minister Omer Bar Lev said.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett envisaged “a mechanism where what will go in, in essence, would be food vouchers, or vouchers for humanitarian aid, and not cash that can be taken and used for developing weaponry to be wielded against the State of Israel,” Bar Lev told Army Radio.

“The Qatari money for Gaza will not go in as suitcases full of dollars which end up with Hamas, where Hamas in essence takes for itself and its officials a significant part of it,” the minister added, echoing recent statements by Bennett.

-jpost.com
13 July 2021



Archaeologists uncovered the lavishly endowed building, which was erected around 20-30 CE. It was probably used to welcome important dignitaries and members of the elite on their way to visit the Temple Mount, they said.

"This is, without doubt, one of the most magnificent public buildings from the Second Temple period that has ever been uncovered outside the Temple Mount walls in Jerusalem," said Dr. Shlomit Weksler-Bdolach, the IAA's excavation director.

The building was located on the main road that led to the Temple Mount from the west, Weksler-Bdolach said.

Between the first century BCE and the first century CE, Jerusalem witnessed a lot of construction, as new buildings were erected, and old buildings were expanded.

"They did not know that very soon the city would be destroyed," Weksler-Bdolach said.

-www.jpost.com, 8 July 2021

Commentary: It's a remarkable statement by archaeologist Shlomit Weksler-Bdolach, "They did not know that very soon the city would be destroyed." Indeed, that's exactly what happened, precisely in accordance with the prophetic Word that Jesus uttered: "And shall lay thee

even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19:44).

This is a reminder to the Church as well. We live in a time incomparable to any other in history when it comes to comfort and luxury. Store shelves are stocked to the utmost with merchandise our grandparents knew nothing about. That's prosperity galore, which is precisely the forerunner of the great destruction that is to come, as we read in Matthew 24:21: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." 7549

(See 15 Future Events That Will Shake the World, Item #2285, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

Inscription with Name of Biblical Judge Found

An inscription dating back some 3,100 years ago bearing the name of a biblical judge Jerubbaal was uncovered in the excavations at Khirbat er-Ra'i, near Kiryat Gat in the Southern District of Israel, the Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced.



Inscriptions from that period—the 12th-11th century BCE—are extremely rare. All the dating has been carried out through both pottery typology and radiocarbon of organic samples found in the same archaeological layer.

The writing, inked on a jug, marks the first time that the name Jerubbaal has been found outside the biblical text. It is believed that the owner penned his name on the jug.

“The name Jerubbaal is familiar from biblical tradition in the Book of Judges as an alternative name for the judge Gideon ben Yoash,” according to Prof. Yosef Garfinkel and archeologist Sa’ar Ganor from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

“Gideon is first mentioned as combating idolatry by breaking the altar to Baal and cutting down the Asherah pole,” they explained. “In biblical tradition, he is then remembered as triumphing over the Midianites, who used to cross over the Jordan to plunder agricultural crops. According to the Bible, Gideon organized a small army of 300 soldiers and attacked the Midianites by night near Ma’ayan Harod.”

-www.jpost.com, 13 July 2021

Commentary: Saturated with repeated archaeological finds, the evidence for Israel’s history is undeniable.

Gideon lived during the time when the Midianites oppressed Israel. Judges 6:12 reads: “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” That was a surprising statement, as shown by his answer in verse 13: “And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord

NEWS IN BRIEF



TIKTOK RIFE WITH ANTISEMITISM

A recent study shows a 912% increase in antisemitic content on TikTok.

Led by Dr. Gabriel Weimann of the University of Haifa and Natalie Masri of IDC Herzliya’s Institute for Counter-Terrorism, the two found that the rapid increase consisted of both antisemitic tropes, images and rhetoric.

The 912% refers to the number of antisemitic comments which grew from 41 antisemitic comments in 2020 to 415 in 2021.

The antisemitic rhetoric ranged from Nazi salutes, images of long, hooked noses depicting Jews, and diminishment of the Holocaust.

-jpost.com
12 July 2021



The Jerubbaal inscription, written in ink on a pottery vessel. (photo credit: DAFNA GAZIT/ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY)

bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

Then something strange is recorded. Gideon is instructed to do the impossible: “And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?” (verse 14). But not impossible with the Lord: “And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man” (verse 16).



7550

(See *Unearthing the Bible*, Item #2365, \$22.99.)



LEBANON

Worst Financial Crisis Since 1850s

Lebanon’s economic collapse is likely to rank among the world’s worst financial crises since the mid-19th century, the World Bank said in a damning report.



Lebanon defaulted on its debt last year, the currency lost around 85% of its value, and poverty is devastating a country once seen as a beacon of prosperity in the region.

The complete meltdown of Lebanon’s economy during the past 18 months is widely blamed on corruption and mismanagement by the country’s hereditary political elite.

Lebanon’s ruling class has failed to act on the country’s worst emergency in a generation, which was compounded by the coronavirus pandemic and a devastating explosion at Beirut port last August.

“Subject to extraordinarily high uncertainty, real GDP is projected to contract by a further 9.5% in 2021,” said the World Bank, dashing any hopes of a quick recovery.

“The sharp deterioration in basic services would have long-term implications: mass migration, loss of learning, poor health outcomes, lack of adequate safety nets, among others,” the report said.

“Permanent damage to human capital



NEWS IN BRIEF



In this file photo, anti-government protesters smash a bank window during protests against the Lebanese central bank's governor and against the deepening financial crisis, at Hamra trade street, in Beirut, Lebanon. (AP/Hussein Malla)

would be very hard to recover," said the World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor, whose previous report was entitled "The Deliberate Depression."

"Perhaps this dimension of the Lebanese crisis makes the Lebanon episode unique compared to other global crises," it said.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 1 June 2021

Commentary: Not too long ago, Lebanon was considered the Switzerland of the Middle East. Peace and prosperity were the accepted norm for its citizens. That, however, is no longer the case. Lebanon is in turmoil today.

Over 3,000 years ago, Lebanon was a friend of Israel. First Kings 5:9-10 reports: "My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them:

ANTI-COVID NASAL SPRAY

An anti-viral nasal spray called Enovid that was developed in Canada and tested in the UK can reduce the viral loads in confirmed COVID-19 cases by 95% in 24 hours and 99% in 72 hours, a press release said.

The Israeli-manufactured spray can be used up to five times a day after coming in contact with viruses, according to the release. It's suitable for children as young as 12 years old, and the Ministry of Health approved it in January this year.

The spray employs nitric oxide as a mechanical and chemical barrier against viral infection in the nose, which is where respiratory diseases like COVID-19 infiltrate the body.

*-jpost.com
11 July 2021*



and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household. So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.”

With the return of the Jewish people to the Promised Land, things have changed drastically. Lebanon has failed to reign in Hezbollah, a religious political party that a number of countries recognize as a terrorist organization. But there is more; much of Lebanon — and such is also the case with Syria — is Arab-

occupied Israeli territory. Subsequently, chaos and terror are not surprising. 7533

(See *Northern Storm Rising*, Item #2294, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

Lab-Grown Chicken: Taste of the Future

It looks like chicken and tastes like chicken, but diners in Israel are tucking into laboratory-grown “meat” that scientists claim is an environmentally friendly way to feed the world’s growing population.



In a small restaurant in a nondescript building in a science park

in the central Israeli town of Ness Ziona, diners munched burgers and minced meat rice rolls made with “cultured chicken” — meat grown in the adjacent SuperMeat production site.

The Chicken, as the eatery is called, is a testing ground of sorts for SuperMeat, hosting periodical test meals to generate customer feedback while waiting for regulatory approval.

“This is the first time in the world people can actually have a taste of a cultivated meat product, while observing the production and the manufacturing process in front of their eyes,” said Ido Savir, SuperMeat’s chief executive.

“This way we’ll be able to reduce the amount of land, water use and so many other resources, and keep the product very healthy and clean,” he said, noting the high prevalence of diseases among chickens produced in factory-style production.

Producing meat in a cruelty-free way that does not harm the environment is a positive development that will “save the world problems,” said Rabbi Eliezer Simcha Weisz, a member of Israel’s Chief Rabbinate Council.

Savir believes the technology could change humanity for the better.

“It would increase food security for nations around the world, a very sustainable, animal-friendly and efficient process.”



NEWS IN BRIEF



Sous-chef Itamar Whiteson prepares a burger made with 'cultured chicken' meat at a restaurant adjacent to the SuperMeat production site in the central town of Ness Ziona (JACK GUEZ / AFP)

-news.yahoo.com, 21 June 2021

RESTORED SENSE OF TOUCH

A groundbreaking technology that can restore the sense of touch to nerves damaged as a result of amputation or injury has been developed by a team of scientists in Israel.

The technology, developed at Tel Aviv University and tested so far only in animals, involves a tiny sensor implanted in the nerve of the injured limb, and connected directly to a healthy nerve.

Every time the limb touches an object, the sensor—which does not require electricity, wires or batteries—is activated and conducts an electric current to the functioning nerve, recreating the sense of touch.

Unlike existing technologies that use sensors to replace damaged nerves, batteries and electricity are not required to power the new sensor, the scientists explained, as it works on frictional force—whenever the device senses friction, it charges itself.

-israel21c.org
12 July 2021

Commentary: There is no end in sight when it comes to Israel's inventiveness, technology, and creating something that is adorned with "first in the world." How successful this will be, time will tell.

Regarding the existence of planet earth and its environment, we have the clear promise in Genesis 8:22: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

"Is it kosher or unkosher?" the rabbis ask. The decision will be difficult. For believers, the answer is simple: "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake" (1 Corinthians 10:25).



(See *The Genesis Factor*, Item #2239, \$13.99.)

7540

“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

BY ARNO FROESE

These are the last words in the book of Judges. Why was there no king? Because the Lord God was Israel's king, their ultimate authority, their guidance and protection. But as we know, Israel rejected God from ruling over them.

When the prophet Samuel grew old, his sons “turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment” (1 Samuel 8:3b). The leaders of Israel united to express their desire 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).

The nation that was called by His name—the nation that was His people, segregated from all the nations of the world; a people destined to be above all the nations—

now requests to be just like all the other nations.

What a message to us believers today! Looking at Churchianity, one quickly recognizes that the desire of the Church is to be like “the nations”; that is, the world. The Bible says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). Yes, we live in this world, but we must always keep careful guard not to be of this world.

Israel in olden days rejected the Lord as their king, desiring an earthly king they could admire. They wanted to be just like the other nations of the world.

After Samuel carefully enumerated all the disadvantages of a king ruling over Israel, we read the de-

termination of the people: “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” (1 Samuel 8:19-20).

This tendency of Israel—desiring to be equal to the nations of the world—is self-evident when one reads Jewish history. Equality was their goal, but for about 2,000 years, they were bitterly disappointed and repeatedly experienced brutal segregation instead.

It’s quite ironic that an atheist by the name of Theodor Herzl became the spokesman for the Jewish desire to have their own homeland—to live, work, and exist just as all other nations on planet earth. His vision, as the modern founder of the Zionist movement, was expressed in his book published in 1896 titled *Der Judenstaat* (“The Jewish State”).

It was in Switzerland on 28 August 1897, that about 208 delegates and 26 press correspondents

attended this event called the first Zionist Congress. It was convened by Theodor Herzl.

Political Zionism was led by Theodor Herzl and Max Nordau in Russia. Later, Zionism developed into Practical Zionism, Synthetic Zionism, Labor Zionism, Revisionist Zionism, Cultural Zionism, Revolutionary Zionism, and Religious Zionism.

Another important person in the development was Nathan Birnbaum, who published political periodicals such as *Self-Emancipation!* He espoused “the idea of a Jewish renaissance and the resettlement of Palestine” (jewishvirtuallibrary.org). None of these founders and early thinkers saw the birth of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948. Theodor Herzl was born in Budapest, Hungary on 2 May 1860; he died only 44 years later, on 3 July 1904 in Austria.

Religious Zionism played a lesser part, since the overwhelming majority were Jews driven by the communist ideology expressed in the founding of kibbutzim, which they instituted in as

many places as possible in the land of Israel.

Communist kibbutzim have in the meantime undergone a drastic change. While the early leaders of the nation used their experience from the Russian kolkhoz (kibbutz) system to till the land and grow food, the new kibbutzim are centers of high-tech knowledge. An article on nocamels.com reports how kibbutzim became global powerhouses:

A kibbutz, by definition, is a collective community in Israel that was traditionally based on agriculture. But a century after the establishment of the first kibbutz, farming is no longer the main economic branch at some of Israel's 200 kibbutzim (the plural form of kibbutz). In fact, some kibbutzim have come up with such successful technologies and products, that their members—once socialist farmers—have become quite wealthy.

Founded in 1944, the pastoral Kibbutz Shamir, located in the Galilee, has traditionally relied on agriculture, like most kibbutzim. But in 1972 the Kibbutz founded Shamir Optical, which manufac-

tures lenses for eyeglasses. It's now one of the world's only manufacturers of multifocal lenses, a multi-billion-dollar industry, thanks to its groundbreaking technology.

In 2010, French optics giant Essilor acquired half of Shamir optics for \$130 million.

Netafim—which currently employs 4,000 employees around the world—opened two additional plants in Israeli kibbutzim Magal and Yiftah, as well as 13 international manufacturing facilities in 11 countries, with representative offices in 110 countries.

In 2011, the majority stake in Netafim was sold to German investment group Permira, a deal that valued the drip irrigation giant at almost \$1 billion.

Israel's uniqueness lies in the Jewish capacity to quickly change and adapt to present circumstances. That, incidentally, is what communist China does so well. They successfully operate a communist-socialist-capitalist system, capable of changing quickly.

Interestingly, Israel's leadership has been in limbo for the last few

years, which has become quite visible in recent months. Four national elections took place in just two years. Israel's parliament, the Knesset, consists of 120 seats. The March 2021 election gave Likud 24.19% of the vote, or 30 seats. Sixty-one are required to form a government; thus, only a multi-party coalition can establish a government. [In the meantime, a razor-thin coalition deal was reached, in which Naftali Bennett will serve as prime minister for two years.]

According to the Jewish Virtual Library, "at least 110 parties have won representation in government

throughout Israel's history." This really drives home the last sentence of the book of Judges: "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." And, in Israel's present circumstances, each party's own opinions must be bent or compromised in order to present a functioning, democratic government.

However, Israel is different; they have the Lord's unconditional covenant: "I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you" (Judges 2:1). (MC)

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Thank You!



“All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen” (Titus 3:15).

By David Phillips *Project Manager*

A special *Toda Raba* (thank you very much) from the Ebenezer Home’s residents and staff to the Midnight Call Ministries team. You have helped make all of this possible by blessing our



Arno Froese presents David Phillips and Samantha LaGoy of the Ebenezer Senior Citizens’ Home in Haifa with a ceremonial check* for the first \$656,000 collected by Midnight Call Ministries since July 2017, for the expansion of the home and the special projects mentioned monthly in the articles (*actual transfer by periodic international wires).

EBENEZER HOME



ministry as you have done these past years! We truly appreciate and love each one of you!

We also wanted to take a moment to thank **you**, our extended Ebenezer family, for going the extra mile with us ... and many miles since! It is with astonishment and a humble heart that we look back at what you all have accomplished. What an amazing gift and blessing to see the family of God pull together! We truly couldn't have accomplished this without each one of you. We do not take these gifts for granted; we realize this is the

kind provision of our Heavenly Father for His people in Israel. "I will bless those who bless you" is a promise from God to Abraham, that whoever blesses His offspring, He will bless. I am assured that our Lord will reward each one in a special way for your daily support, help, and prayers, as we continue to care for the elderly believers in Israel.

May He continue to encourage each one of you.

Stay tuned until next month, when we will share a special testimony with you all.



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