

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

February 2024

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How We Can Understand the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict



Christianity on the Increase P. 19 • Israel Accused of Genocide P. 20

Moscow Is Furious— and Plotting Revenge

As Israel's elite fighting forces and the Mossad go undercover, they detect the Kremlin is planning a major attack against Israel. Hunting for clues, Mossad agents Nir Tavor and Nicole le Roux plunge themselves into the treacherous underworld of Russian oligarch money, power, and decadence.

In this electrifying thriller, hostilities explode as Tavor and le Roux fight to prevent a devastating conflict. Will they be able to outwit their enemies, or will their actions have catastrophic consequences? And how can Tavor's Kidon team possibly survive when forces beyond the Mossad's control step in and turn the whole operation upside down?



OUT OF THE FAR NORTH ITEM #2418

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

An important legal advisor in the Israeli army remarked that never had a war been waged like the one Israel is leading against Hamas—a war in the midst of a civilian population living close to one another; with the enemy hiding behind civilians, using them as defense shields, and able to emerge from any building such as a school or hospital, or from an underground tunnel, at any moment.

Israel has now been accused of war crimes in Gaza at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. It should be the other way around: Hamas in Gaza should be charged with war crimes! This is an example of how in so many ways, values are being distorted in today's world. But in the end, the whole thing is likely to change into the opposite: providing Israel with an opportunity to denounce the

crimes of Hamas to the whole world.

The Hamas terrorists were proud of the incomprehensible evils of October 7, 2023. They deliberately filmed everything so they could brag about it, like trophies. They probably didn't count on many of the recordings later falling into Israeli hands, to serve as evidence of their atrocities. Atrocities that have been sanctioned by some Hamas sympathizers, but which are likely to arouse disgust and revulsion before the International Court of Justice.

And what happened in Gaza under the name of the Red Cross and the UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) has dragged the reputation of these international organizations into the deepest dirt. They obviously allowed themselves to be used by



Hamas for their purposes, instead of withdrawing in protest. But what can you expect when the employees of these organizations are often Hamas people? Besides, one has to consider that Hamas conducted a terror regime much like the Nazis: No one dared to resist who cared about his life.

Israel is waging war on six fronts. Not only in Gaza and Lebanon, but also in Judea and Samaria, the so-called West Bank. Israel is taking massive action against extremists and terrorists. One does not hear much about this, because Gaza and Lebanon are much more important. In addition, Israel is hunting down its enemies in Syria, Iran, and Yemen.

Israel has also announced that the responsible Hamas leaders will no longer be sure of their lives. Nowhere in the world will they be able to live in peace; Israel will hunt them down until all of them are liquidated. But who is going to pay for all of this? Does Israel have such resources?

The war is to be continued on a smaller scale, regardless of how

long it may yet last. Those reservists who are important for the economy, industry, and all that is involved there, will be discharged. Pressure on Hamas must be continued, until they are finally forced to an unconditional surrender. However, this will be difficult, since the terrorists are still holding civilian hostages; and beyond that, about 120 servicemen and women. It is possible that the Hamas leaders will end up being able to buy a free withdrawal to somewhere abroad, given the prisoners of war.

When we see that there are sympathizers around the world who, despite all that has happened, are still demonstrating for Hamas, then Israel is correct in saying that it is fighting for the free world. That is why we hope and pray that God may be gracious unto Israel, granting them a speedy and complete victory so they can once again stop the evil.

United with you in this hope and prayer, I send you belated warm greetings for a blessed New Year,

David Winkler



1948

How We Can Understand the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

BY FREDI WINKLER

Palestinians could have had peace and their own state some time ago. Why this isn't the case.



To understand the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, we need to go back to its historical roots. There is clearly a great deal of ignorance about its background, since the conflict is at least 76 years old. And many side unilaterally with the Palestinians, whose land the Jews allegedly stole. Below is a brief account of the most important facts.

The expired mandate

For 400 years, the territory of Israel was under Turkish rule and known as Palestine. This lasted until the end of World War I, when the entire region from Egypt to the Persian Gulf was conquered by the British. Great Britain then ruled the region for 30 years, under mandate of the League of Nations.

When the mandate came to an end in 1948, a decision had to be made: What would happen to the area of historic Palestine? Should the mandate be renewed, or should the country become independent?

A United Nations commission was established to clarify the issue. It recommended that the mandate not be extended: The differences between Arabs and Jews were too great, and thus it was best to divide the land into an Arab and a Jewish state.

The Arab refusal

The Palestinian Arabs opposed the division of land from the beginning. The Jews also reacted cautiously at first. The decisive person on the Israeli side was David Ben-Gurion. He saw the partition as the only opportunity for a Jewish state. He managed to win a majority among the Jews responsible for dividing the land at the time. Now they would have to overcome the biggest hurdle to forming a Jewish state: obtaining the two-thirds majority in the UN required to found a new state.

The UN partition plan for Palestine

According to the UN's partition plan, the Arabs would have received the majority of Palestine's land, because there were so many

more of them. So, they could have had their state from the beginning. But they were dissatisfied with the plan because they wanted to own everything, and would not tolerate an adjacent Jewish state. They declined.

This one-sided attitude meant war, which was clear to the Jews from the beginning.

War over Palestine

Palestinian Arab leadership was unable to wage war on its own.

It allied itself with four neighboring states—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon—as well as Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

From a human point of view, it's fair to say that the Jews had no chance of winning this war against such an overwhelming majority. But we can say that God willed it!

Palestinian leadership was convinced that the specter of a Jewish state would vanish within two weeks at most. They told their



Jerusalem, 1946: Memorial ceremony for Jewish soldiers who perished in World War II

Israeli Soldier, 1948



people that it would be best to flee cities like Jaffa and Haifa with mixed populations, since it would be impossible to distinguish between Jews and Arabs in war conditions. Many Arab Palestinians believed this propaganda; they packed their bags with essentials and locked their doors behind them. They fled across the borders to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, or the Egyptian-controlled Gaza Strip. They were told that they'd be escorted back in by the conquering armies within two weeks' time.

But nothing ever came of it. These Arab Palestinians were betrayed by their own leadership.

Who is responsible for the Palestinian tragedy?

Do the Jews bear any responsibility for this? Not at all! The Palestinians have only themselves and their own leadership to blame, for refusing to agree to a peaceful partition of Palestine.

To some degree, some of the guilt also falls on the neighboring states and others who took their side in the fighting. Some Palestinians blame the UN for consenting to the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. It's not for nothing that the UN has been concerned with the Palestinian problem since the State of Israel was founded. And the Palestinians blame the Jews for taking their land. But ultimately, they can only blame themselves. They were unwilling to compromise, wanting all or nothing. Extremists still hold this position to this day.

David Ben-Gurion reads the Declaration of Independence, 1948



Thank God that the Jews not only won the war (which lasted an entire year), but even managed to turn the position decisively to their advantage. Again, all we can say is God willed it, and God's time had come.

Israel only permitted the return of Palestinians who had fled in exceptional cases. Anything else would have been national suicide.

The founding of the Jewish State of Israel

In 1949, when a ceasefire was reached with neighboring states following the Israeli War of Inde-

pendence, the State of Israel was established, within its borders as defined in the armistice agreement. Its capital was Jerusalem. This begs the question, what would have happened had the Arabs won the war? Would a Palestinian state have emerged?

Most likely not. The neighboring states that entered the war had no intention of founding a Palestinian state; each of them hoped to conquer as large a piece of the land as possible for themselves. If they had won, war would probably have broken out among them over how to distribute the spoils.

The Palestinians could have founded their own state on the land that remained to them in 1949. But they were unable to do so, preferring to live under Jordanian rule in the West Bank and under Egyptian rule in the Gaza Strip.

A Jewish shoemaker and an Arab man in Israel, 1949

The rejection of Israel continues.

To the Arab world that surrounded Israel, the Jewish State was a foreign body, a cancer that needed to be removed. The rejection of Israel grew more and more aggressive. In 1967, Israel could see that massive preparations for war were underway among the Arabs. Knowing that the best defense is a good offense, Israel initiated the famous Six-Day War. Israel won a nearly unbelievable victory over Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The small nation conquered the entire Sinai Peninsula, the Jordanian-controlled West Bank, and the Syrian-controlled Golan Heights. This overwhelming victory was an immense embarrassment for the neighboring Arab states, and Egypt in particular. Egypt would not accept defeat, and secretly planned to take revenge.

The Yom Kippur War

Revenge came just six years later. Although Israel had received



warnings from various parties that war was coming, these warnings weren't taken seriously enough. Israel's superlative victory against the Arabs in the Six-Day War had gone to the heads of the leadership; they simply couldn't believe that the Arabs were capable of it. The Mossad, Israel's famous intelligence agency, failed on a massive scale. Jordan wisely withdrew from participation in the war against Israel.

Israel was attacked from the north and the south on Yom Kippur, 1973. As the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, nearly every soldier was on leave. The major tank battles of modern times were fought against Egypt on the Suez Canal and against Syria on the Golan Heights.

This time, Israel didn't achieve a true victory. Rather, it ended in more of a stalemate. If America hadn't helped Israel with weapons and ammunition, the outcome of the war would have been very hard on Israel. Egypt had restored its honor, a significant result for them.

Israel's dependence on the United States began with the Yom Kippur War. And as a result, Egypt (and later, Jordan) made peace with Israel, under the mediation of the US. This meant that they recognized the State of Israel—something impossible for extremists. Egypt's president Sadat was later assassinated by an extremist, for having dared to make peace with Israel. However, for the sake of objectivity, it's important to

point out that extremists of this kind also exist among the Jews. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist, for pursuing peace with the Palestinians.

The peace process with the Palestinians, mediated by the US

The peace process with the Palestinians began in 1978, with the so-called Camp David Accords, between US President Carter, Egyptian President Sadat of Egypt, and Israeli Prime Minister Begin. The so-called Oslo Accords followed later in the 1990s, under Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The planned peace process stalled, however, mainly because the Palestinians failed to do their part to ensure that the process continued.

The resistance and rejection front emerges.

For extremists on the Palestinian side, true peace with Israel was the equivalent of treason, because it entailed recognition of Israel.

IDF soldiers on a military jeep: Sinai, 1972



at the United Nations podium that Israel has no right to exist and that the Jewish State must be destroyed. The world listened to his brazen words and continued with business as usual, not taking any real action against it.

This is also the reason that Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority, did not sign the agreement negotiated under US President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, when it mattered most. In the eyes of the extremists, if Arafat had done so, he would no longer have been a Palestinian national hero, but a traitor to the Palestinian cause. With Khomeini's rise to power in Iran, extreme Palestinians gained a powerful advocate. From that point until now, Iranian leaders have proclaimed that Israel has no right to exist. Iran's former Prime Minister Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has said twice

Iran became the leader of the anti-Israel front and the main supporter of Hamas in Gaza. Today, Israel is fighting against national terrorism that is openly promoted by Iran, and motivated by Islam.

The Palestinian refugee problem

Entire UN organizations were founded to solve the problem of Palestinian refugees. However, you can't help but notice that they exist more to perpetuate this problem than to solve it.

There have been many refugee crises in the world that were solved. Take Germany as an example. World War II led to a wave of refugees—up to 15 million

people!—from the former German territories to the east. But nobody in present-day Germany promotes the idea of reclaiming those eastern territories, because it's clear how this loss came about. Germany started the war, and Germany lost it. Everyone knows that the consequences must also be borne.

So, what about the Palestinians? They also started a war and lost it. But many of them are still unwilling to accept the consequences.

The Islamic religious component to the Palestine conflict

Jerusalem is Islam's third-holiest site. Today, the Palestine conflict is no longer just a dispute between the Palestinians and Israel. Palestinians have understood how to turn the conflict into a problem that spans the entire Islamic world.

It isn't just Israel that is threatened by Iran's radical anti-Israel stance. All moderate Islamic states are increasingly in Iran's line of fire—especially Egypt and

Jordan, which have made peace with Israel. To radical and extremist Muslims, those nations are traitors to the pan-Islamic cause of liberating Islam's holy sites in Jerusalem from Jewish occupation.

The Islamic world is splitting.

Today, even Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States feel threatened by Iran. This concern gave rise to the Abraham Accords between Israel and a number of Arab nations. Many of today's more moderate Arab states have recognized that Israel is doing the right thing by confronting the threat that Iran poses. Not long ago, this would have been considered impossible. And yet, it's actually happening: Israel is allying with Islamic countries against the threat posed by Iran.

Why is the US investing so much in Israel?

The United States knows that Israel is its only reliable Middle East ally. How many billions of dollars did the US invest in Iraq

The Palestinians started a war and also lost it. But many of them are still unwilling to accept the consequences.

and Afghanistan? And what did it achieve in the end? Essentially nothing. In fact, the opposite has happened: US intervention actually strengthened the opposition front. Today, there is a visible rift running through the Islamic world, separating moderate and radical Muslims. This rift extends to Europe and the US, and everywhere immigrant Muslims are living. The specter of a worldwide cataclysm is becoming more and more visible on the horizon of global events. The US is trying to prevent it, but the question remains: How long will its efforts be effective?

Why aren't Muslims emigrating to Islamic countries?

There are 22 Islamic Arab nations, and at least that many non-Arab Muslim nations. Why aren't Muslim refugees being welcomed into these states? Why aren't Muslims moving there? Because they're generally not

welcome in other Muslim countries. They actually prefer the liberal West. But when the rubber meets the road, they remain stuck in their extremist and radical mindset. This is becoming an increasing problem in the Western world.

What will become of Gaza?

After the terrible crimes that were committed in Jewish villages bordering the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, Israel has fully realized that the unconscionable group which calls itself Hamas must be dealt with.

We hope and pray that Israel will succeed. But even if it does, we need to remember that Israel is still under threat from the rest of the radical and extremist Islamic world, and the threat is becoming more and more global. Our only consolation is in the fact that nothing happens that God has not permitted. He is the final judge. (NAI1223/1365)



On the Horizon

NEWS IN
BRIEF



 **VATICAN**

Sheltered Over 3,000 Jews from Nazis

Newly uncovered documentation appears to confirm that Catholic convents and monasteries sheltered more than 3,000 Jews from the Holocaust following the Nazi takeover of Rome in 1943.

HAMAS INVESTED MILLIONS IN TUNNELS

Hamas used more than 6,000 tons of concrete and 1,800 tons of steel for the hundreds of kilometers of tunnels it built beneath the Gaza Strip, the IDF said, citing new intelligence. It also revealed new video footage of a tunnel in southern Gaza's Khan Younis where it believes hostages were previously held by the terror group.

The IDF said information recovered by troops in Gaza, along with the hundreds of underground passages that have been investigated so far, indicated that Hamas invested tens of millions of dollars in its tunnels project.

"The Hamas terror organization chose to invest these precious resources in building a terror infrastructure used to harm Israeli citizens and IDF forces, while cynically exploiting the civilian population in the Gaza Strip," the IDF said.

-timesofisrael.com
11 January 2024



Documents on the pontificate of Pope Pius XII are seen at the Vatican Secret Archives in Vatican City, Vatican. The Vatican Apostolic Library opened the Holy See's wartime archives on the pontificate of Pope Pius XII between the years 1939 to 1958.
(Franco Origlia/Getty Images)



The research was a joint project of the institute, Rome's Jewish community and Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust museum, in addition to two Catholic-affiliated universities. It was coordinated by Dominik Markl, a scholar at the institute.

The discovery appears to further complicate the already ambiguous narrative surrounding the Catholic Church and the Holocaust.

Much of the postwar scholarship, including work drawing on recently unsealed Vatican archives, has

argued that Pius XII was indifferent to the fate of the Jews. But some researchers favorable to the church have long maintained that, behind the scenes, it was working to save as many Jews as possible through back channels.

The Vatican, which [in 2022] hosted the director of Yad Vashem for the first time, has been active on other fronts when it comes to Holocaust remembrance. The church will beatify a Polish family murdered by the Nazis in 1944 for sheltering Jews, bringing the family one step closer to sainthood. Italy's far-right government also announced that it would build a new Holocaust museum in Rome.

-www.jta.org, 7 September 2023

Commentary: This is a refreshing story to read—the positive side of the Vatican regarding the Jews during the Holocaust.

Needless to say, there were thousands if not tens of thousands of human beings who recognized the horrific tragedy befalling the Jews in Europe, and did their utmost to save lives in danger of oncoming destruction.

That, however, does not change the facts regarding the powerful

rhetoric effectively presented to the public, which had the upper hand. This can also be seen when analyzing the Arab Palestinians and their support for Hamas. Some polls indicate that the overwhelming majority of Gaza residents are pro-Hamas.

The survey, which has a four-point margin of error (rather than the usual three-point), found that almost three-quarters (72%) of all respondents believe Hamas's decision to launch its attack on Israel on October 7 was "correct."

Less than a quarter (22%) said it was "incorrect."

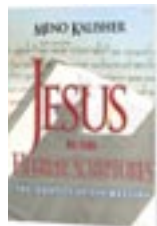
-www.cnn.com, 21 December 2023

From numerous other reports, we learn the dangers of indoctrination by the authority in charge.

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 19:15, "...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established" (Matthew 18:16). A warning to believers: Never must we permit ourselves to fall prey to one-sided opinions, whether from the right or the left.

8161

(See *Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures*, Item #2373, \$9.95.)





NEWS IN BRIEF



ISRAEL

Population Nears 10 Million

About 9.8 million people are living in Israel, with the population expected to reach 10 million by the end of [2024], according to data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics.



FLAG-ADORNED spectators watch the air show in the skies of Jerusalem on Independence Day.

(photo credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH 90)



By the end of 2048, Israel's population is expected to reach 15 million people.

Of the 9.8 million, 7.2 million (73%) are Jews and about 2.1 million (21%) are Arabs. Another 549,000 were from other sectors.

Separately, in an address to the nation before Rosh Hashanah, President Isaac Herzog called for a greater engagement in "inclusive, vibrant, and empowering" global Jewish dialogue, necessary to overcome and move forward from the challenges Israeli and Diaspora Jews faced in the past year.

"While our differences can be painful, they also point to an important comforting truth: we all care deeply about our Jewish people, and our beloved Jewish and democratic state of Israel. It is okay to have differences," he said.

-*www.jpost.com*, 14 September 2023

Commentary: One of the contributing factors responsible

SPYDER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and the Defense Ministry successfully completed an experiment in the Rafael-made SPYDER All-in-One air-defense system.

In an experiment carried out in Israel, scenarios simulating actual and potential future threats were enacted. The experiment included an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) interception under operationally challenging circumstances, which was hit directly and accurately.

The defense system is already operational in many militaries around the world and provides air defense solutions for various threats, such as drones, planes, helicopters, and even tactical ballistic missiles (TBM).

The new UAV interception capabilities can be added to another recent addition in SPYDER—an upgrade tailored to defend against ballistic missile attacks.

-*jpost.com*
10 January 2024

for the increase in Jewish population in Israel, is in fact Israel's enemies. The slogan, "From the river to the sea, make Palestine free," proclaims the hidden message of "Judenrein" (being free of any Jews). Quite apparently, the opposite is happening: increasingly more Jews are in the process of making Aliyah (returning home to the land of Israel).

Whether Jews agree or disagree with the philosophy of Zionism, in reality, it is the best answer at present for Jewish security.

One of the most popular Psalms is the 23rd. Even in these days, it's applicable for Israel: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." 8162

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



ISRAEL

Christianity on the Increase

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, around 187,900 Christians live in Israel, composing 1.9% of the population. This represents 1.3% growth from the year before.



Three-quarters (75.3%) are Arab Christians who make up 6.9% of the total Arab population.

Among the top 50 countries in which Christians were persecuted in 2023 were Yemen, Libya, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, and other Middle Eastern and Muslim-majority countries. Israel was not on the list.

In 2022, the total fertility rate was an average of 1.68 children per Christian woman. The number of children per Arab Christian woman was slightly lower, at 1.62 children per woman.

According to the CBS, Christian students tend to be educated, with 84.1% of the sector's 12th-grade students having become eligible for a matriculation certificate in 2022. More than half (55.1%) of the Arab Christians continued their studies toward a bachelor's degree within eight years of graduating high school, compared to only about a third (34.6%) of the total number of high-school graduates in the Arab school system and less than half (48.1%) in Hebrew education.

-www.jpost.com, 23 December 2023



Commentary: One of the most tell-tale signs is the growth of Christian young people. Our coworkers at Beth Shalom and Ebenezer Home have confirmed that at their local church in Haifa, it has become difficult to accommodate the ever-increasing number of youths.

Although some of the traditional church leaders have complained about a decrease in church membership in Israel, this article tells the opposite. We realize that indeed Christians are on the decline in the Western world, but not so in Africa and Asia.

The Jews are coming back to the Promised Land. The purpose? To meet their Messiah. One day, what the prophet Zechariah wrote almost 2,500 years ago will be fulfilled: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10). 8165

(See *Israel Always*, Item #2403, \$18.99.)



SOUTH AFRICA

Accuses Israel of Genocide

While nothing is surprising in the international realities in which we live, it is nevertheless ironic that the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the world's principal judicial organ, is being petitioned by South Africa, at the evident behest and initiative of the Palestinian leadership, to adjudge the State of Israel for the alleged crime of genocide against the Palestinian people of Gaza.



International Court of Justice in the Hague Credit:thehague • istockphoto



The irony emanates first and foremost from the nature and history of the very term "genocide"—a term coined in 1944 by a Jewish lawyer, Raphael Lemkin, to describe the Nazi atrocities against the Jews during the Holocaust in Europe.

The irony is all the more intense when one considers that the present armed conflict between Israel and Hamas broke out as a result of a repeated and declared

intention, as well as a distinct series of actions by Hamas, to annihilate not only Israel and its population, but also to direct its murderous designs against Jews wherever they are.

The terms of Hamas's own national covenant of 1988 amplify this intention by gleefully calling "to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine" and "to liberate Palestine and confront the Zionist project."

If this is not an intention to commit genocide, then one may ask what is?

Such calls for genocide against Israel and the Jews unabashedly and gleefully echo the aims of the Palestinian and Hamas charters.

Clearly, rather than harboring a 75-year-old genocidal intention, Israel has, throughout its short history, consistently sought to achieve peaceful coexistence and *bon voisinage* with its neighbors, including the Palestinians.

This is borne out by the many agreements reached, including the 1978 Camp David Accords and the 1991-1993 Madrid process that led to the 1995 Oslo Accords.

-www.jpost.com, 10 January 2024

Commentary: South Africa's application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), based on the Genocide Convention, is "utter nonsense." Realizing that Israel is militarily the superior power in the Middle East, it is not only ironic but also childish to assume that Israel violates the Convention. In plain words, to annihilate the population of Gaza is within Israel's capability. So, the question: why have so many Israeli soldiers (at time of writing, 210) been killed in Gaza? Israel's military is carefully instructed to avoid civilian casualties. In many if not all cases, buildings to be targeted were identified, and residents warned of impending destruction. Many did flee;

NEWS IN BRIEF



TOURISM SOARED IN 2023

Israel's tourism sector demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth in 2023, with 3.01 million tourist entries injecting a substantial \$4.85 billion into the country's economy. Despite facing the outbreak of war in October, the period from January to the onset of hostilities witnessed a 10% increase in incoming tourism from the United States, positioning it as the leading source country for Israeli tourism.

Tourism Minister Haim Katz expressed confidence in the industry's future, stating, "The period January 2023 to the outbreak of war saw a new record for incoming tourism from the US—the leading source country for Israeli tourism." Katz highlighted ongoing efforts to fortify the necessary infrastructure to ensure a swift and efficient response for the post-war period, aiming to jumpstart the economy and contribute to the country's rehabilitation and growth.

-jpost.com
9 January 2024



NEWS IN **BRIEF**



INTEL TO INVEST \$25B IN CHIP FACTORY

Intel has confirmed reports that it plans to build a new chip factory in the southern Israeli town of Kiryat Gat, where it already has a foundry called Fab28.

The California-based international company, one of the world's largest semiconductor chip manufacturers, said the planned addition is an "important part of Intel's efforts to foster a more resilient global supply chain, alongside the company's ongoing and planned manufacturing investments in Europe and the United States."

The new plant, to specialize in producing advanced chips for companies such as Apple and NVIDIA, is due to open in 2027.

Intel Israel, helmed by Yaniv Garty, was founded in 1974 in Haifa as Intel's first development center outside the United States. In 1981, Intel established its first factory outside the United States, in Jerusalem.

Today, Intel Israel claims to be the largest private employer in Israeli high-tech. It has development centers in Haifa, Petah Tikva and Jerusalem as well as the Fab28 in Kiryat Gat that produces the chips inside most of the PCs in the world.

-israel21c.org
27 December 2023

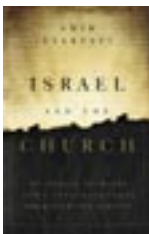
quite obviously, the terrorists stayed behind, hiding primarily in tunnels. When Israeli soldiers approached, they were easy targets.

This also goes for the so-called apartheid, a term coined in South Africa. Here are the facts: 2,080,000 Palestinian-Arabs are Israeli citizens, with all the rights and privileges that entails. Next question: do persons who qualify for citizenship need to give an oath of allegiance to Israel? The answer is a resounding no. Can Palestinian-Arab, Israeli citizens vote? Yes: public participation in voting is higher among Palestinian-Arab Israelis than Jewish Israelis.

In summary, South Africa should know better. They are the modern creators and practitioners of apartheid and genocide. We must add, the new countries in the Americas (North and South), as well as Australia, were established on the practice of genocide ("A good Indian is a dead Indian.") and apartheid (Native Americans forced onto reservations). Today, this has mostly changed to a form of democracy. For governments to integrate various groups of people in society is difficult, but steadily progressing.

How does all this relate to the Church? The Bible declares: "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). But "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (verse 19). 8164

(See *Israel and the Church*, Item #2376, \$16.99.)





Breaking News: Purchasing the Ebenezer Home!



By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

Yes, you read that right!!! But before continuing, I would like to share something with you from Scripture.

In the Bible, we find principles that guide us through our life and faith. One of these is the principle of multiplication. We see the Master, Yeshua, speaking about these principles and giving us many examples to learn from. In a spiritual way, He sends us out to make more disciples and bring forth spiritual fruit. In the physical sense, He gives an example of the servants who received the

talents. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 is what I would like to discuss here.

When the master left, he expected his servants to work with the talents he gave them, and to multiply them to bring forth more fruit. Many times, we will receive the opportunity to fulfill this principle of multiplication, as I'm sure you've found in your own life.

The more we invest in the talents He gives us, and the more opportunities we use, the more honor we bring to the



One who has left us with these talents.

In the September article, I addressed the opportunity we may have in purchasing a facility near the Ebenezer Home. Listening to the Master's voice, we knew that He clearly closed this door. We were very thankful for this, knowing it meant He had something better in store for us.

I also mentioned the option of us becoming the owners of the Ebenezer facilities, which would enable us to move forward with expanding the living space, allowing more elderly believers to be cared for. And yes, this door God opened wide!

The Ebenezer Home ministry consists of three facilities. Our primary facility (facility #1) is where the residents live. Facility #2 and #3 serve as accommodations for future residents, team members, volunteers, and a few rented apartments that contribute to Ebenezer's income.

Let's go back to the parable of the talents and how your gifts

have been multiplied. The owners will gift these facilities to us, so long as we pay the taxes—including grappling with a lot of bureaucracy—and we will not need to pay the purchase fee, which is far beyond our capability. Because of your gifts, we are receiving ownership of our facilities! *Toda LaEl* (Thank the Lord)!

We completed everything for facility #2 and are now the legal, rightful owners! By the grace of God, we could multiply your gifts by roughly 350% (which we pray to continue doing)!

Right now, we are working desperately on our primary facility (facility #1) and facility #3, which are more complex because of legal issues. The exciting news is that we have almost finished fundraising to pay for facility #3! We pray the same will happen soon for our primary facility, where the residents live.

This article may sound somewhat technical, but don't forget



that Yeshua spoke about 1, 5 and 10 talents. Sometimes I feel like I'm that servant who is receiving the talents, and have the responsibility to work with them in a God-fearing, responsible way. We do this by keeping our focus on our ministry's vision: providing elderly believers in Yeshua a home, and multiplying the living space to care for more senior believers.

His work will go on until the day He calls us home.

We are excited to share with you that at the time of this writ-

ing, we need roughly \$490,000 to complete the transaction of ownership of our last two facilities (our primary facility and facility #3). After we complete these last two transactions, we can move forward with our building and renovation project: multiplying the space we have, to create a better and larger facility. Please pray with us so we can finish raising the last needed amount. We have never been so close! Thank you for sharing our vision and multiplying what God has given you.



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

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“The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2).

BY ARNO FROESE

David is often called the psalmist, because about half of the book of Psalms was authored by him.

We all know that David was severely persecuted by King Saul, who had repeatedly made up his mind to destroy him. Interestingly, David does not mention the enemies by name, but expresses total dependence upon his God. He had all the reason in the world to complain about the horrible position he was in. While once a hero and a savior of Israel, he was now marked as *persona non grata*.

Our trust and total confidence, our hope for the future, is never based on circumstances; never based on what the world says, whether it be politicians, scientists, experts, historians, etc. For us, the all-encompassing answer

is always God, the Creator of heaven and earth. That is why the New Testament clearly identifies our real enemy; it's not the left wing or the right wing, the various political philosophies prevalent throughout the nations. What counts is the invisible activity: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Who rules this world? The god of this world. That does not mean those with whom we disagree, or whom our nation considers enemies. Our real enemies are “the rulers of the darkness of this world.” These “rulers of darkness” are in charge of planet

earth—yes, of your country too. I can “Christianize” my county a million times over, but it is still the devil’s territory. Why? The Bible answers: “He who sins is of the devil” (1 John 3:8a).

When we follow the men and women of God in the Bible, we quickly learn that they did not prioritize certain enemies, but their refuge, hope, and confidence always lay in who God is and what He says in His Word.

David speaks of the world of nations in Psalm 2:1-2: “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...” That identifies the whole world. We see a pre-fulfillment of the world’s nations against the Anointed about a thousand years later: “The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast

anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together” (Acts 4:26-27).

Gaza War

In a cruel manner, this war revealed the diabolical behavior of people who permit themselves to be indoctrinated by the father of lies.

At this point in time, it is not necessary to go into details; that was and is being done by the world press, whether negative or positive. We are not in competition with them, but we must emphasize what the Lord says about what is happening in the invisible world.

Six thousand plus years of recorded human history document the rules of war: Winner takes all. He dictates the future of conquered territories, and forces the inhabitants to obey the law of the conqueror.

On the American continent (North and South), the original inhabitants were eliminated at a

horrific rate. A real number cannot be determined; estimates begin at the low end of 5.4 million people, to as high as 70 million. What happened to their ancestral homeland? Thirty-five sovereign nations were established. To become a citizen of any of these nations, one is required to swear or sign an oath of allegiance. Winner takes all: The conqueror makes the laws.

That also was the case in Europe after the Second World War. The Soviet Union (with limited participation of their allies) fought Nazi Germany, losing some 27 million people (roughly 9 million military and 19 million civilian). The territory of the enemy—Germany, Austria, and Hungary—was reduced substantially. Yet today, no one speaks of “occupied territory”; no terrorist organization has been formed to “liberate” lands that had been conquered by the victor. The family of this author had the choice to either

sign allegiance to the victorious Soviet forces, or leave.

These laws, valid since the beginning of human history, suddenly changed in 1948, at the founding of the State of Israel. Territory conquered by Israeli forces is loudly and clearly proclaimed to be “occupied territory” by global media.

Thus, we come to the summarizing question: What is the power structure behind Israel’s territorial conflict? Psalm 2 answers: Presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, monarchs, and dictators “of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed.” The truth is, much of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, as well as Gaza is Arab-occupied Israeli territory. When the territorial issue is solved, there will be no more conflict in the Middle East.

Interestingly, in the south, some Bible scholars believe that much of the Sinai is Promised Land. Not so. How do we know?

When reading Exodus and Moses' summary in Deuteronomy, we find all the places listed where Israel traveled under the leadership of Moses. However, this great leader could not enter the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 34:4 testifies: "And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither." Based on this Scripture, the Sinai

Peninsula is not Promised Land but Egyptian territory.

When analyzing the spiritual movement behind the conflict in the Middle East, what is our task? We continue to pray for Israel, for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. It is important to remember the suffering of the Arabs in Gaza as well as the Jews in Israel. Above and beyond, we continue to pray for His Church to be strengthened, comforted, and to keep the faith until He comes again. ^(NF)

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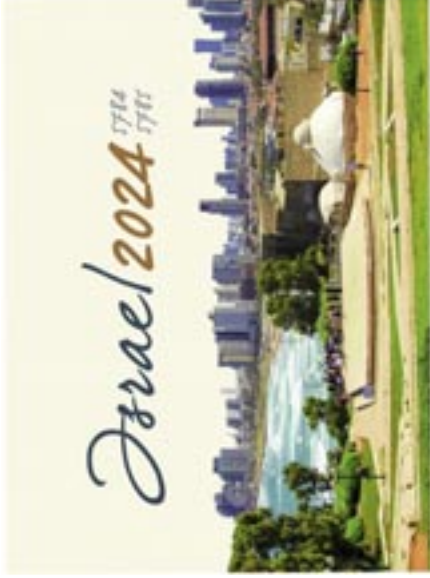
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